



"A multi-cultural congregation open to all."

# Transformation Times

September 2011  
Volume 1, Number 8

## 9/11 Remembrance Service Features World Trade Center Survivor



World Trade Center survivor and Kansas City resident, Shannon Loy, will be our guest speaker on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11 tragedy.

*Theme: "10 Years After Chaos: Remembrance, Faith and Hope"*



Come and honor the victims, heroes and their families.

Sunday, September 11 ~ Sunday school: 8:45-9:45 ~ Break: 9:45-10 ~ Worship: 10am

### T.N.T. FALL SESSION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 6: Meal at 5:30, Classes from 6-7:30pm

September 6 will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular session of Tuesday Nights Together (T.N.T.). This is your opportunity to participate in St. Luke's DiscipleMaker Ministry by strengthening your relationship with Jesus through Bible and other study groups. To sign up, contact Sue Kemp at 816-347-0388. Free childcare provided.

Classes available:

- SMART Weight Loss Class - (12 weeks)** led by Barbara Bruns, assisted by Linda Jones. This class is designed to help you with eating habits, foods you should and should not eat, high-fiber foods, triggers, holiday eating, the importance of drinking water and forming support groups. This is Christian nurturing for the body and mind. (No books)
- Transforming Bible Study: Parables of Jesus - (six weeks)** led by Rev. Dale Shotts. This study will allow participants to listen to scripture that will speak to each one personally by studying the parables of Jesus: The Sower/Seed, The Prodigal Son/Waiting Father, The Talents, The Good Samaritan, The Mustard Seed and Kingdom of God, The Pharisee and the Publican. (No books)
- Serving from the Heart - Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service - (eight weeks)** led by Bennie Russ. Participants will embark on a journey to discover certain truths: you are uniquely created by God, God has given you significant gifts, God has a plan and purpose for your life and as a Christian, you have been called to serve. This is a must-take study on your spiritual journey. (Books provided)
- Invitation to the Old Testament - (eight weeks)** led by Allan Marcotte. This study approaches the Hebrew Scriptures by inviting participants to hear the story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. (Books provided)
- Christianity and World Religions - (six weeks)** led by Steve Mills. The study book written by Adam Hamilton will answer questions people have been wrestling with about Islam, Judaism, Buddhism & Christianity. (Books provided)



# Reflections from Emonia

## SUMMER ADVENTURE/VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUCCESS

When we first started Summer Adventure/VBS, the question was: is it over yet? And now that it's over the question is: it's over already? What a difference a few weeks can make as you learn about the children and develop godly relationships with the campers and the staff. Here are few stories from Summer Adventure.

We had just completed training from the Missouri Health Department on *The Boss of My Body*, fire and gun safety when we had talked about **how it feels to be bullied**. We asked them to create PowerPoint presentations on what they had learned and then present to the whole group. The campers used the four computers that are in the Friendship Room to create some awesome presentations on these subjects. The presentations had content, were creative and well received by the whole group.

One day one of the campers from the older group was sent to my office to talk to me about his behavior. In talking with the camper I discovered I knew his pastor. I asked the camper if he thought his pastor would approve of the behavior he was exhibiting. His response was no. I suggested that we have his pastor come in and talk with all the young men about making the most of a bad situation. The camper was not as enthusiastic about the idea as I was. Calling the pastor, I told him of the situation and invited him to come and talk to the young men at Summer Adventure. He graciously accepted the invitation. I shared this wonderful news with the camper with behavioral issues and he couldn't have been less excited. As it turned out, the camper was concerned that the pastor would share with his parents what was happening at Summer Adventure.

The pastor came and met with the young men in the parlor and, apparently, they had a wonderful discussion. Afterwards most of the young men said to me, "Pastor E, you need to bring him back. It was great!" Even the camper who had misbehaved thought the discussion was a good thing - and it was! His **behavior changed** and he became an asset and a **potential future leader** for Summer Adventure.

In 3Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic), they had a day of silent reading. One day, one of the campers trying to find a book to read came upon an old, old Bible. He was interested in reading the Bible so I asked if he was familiar with the **manga Bible**. He was not. We walked to my office and I showed him the collection of manga Bibles that I have. The reading of that Bible became the topic of conversation for several days. Some of the leaders in the class told me immediately that the camper enjoyed that Bible very much; had even bookmarked it and was going to continue to read it during their silent reading. It was also the topic of discussion at lunch that day with Pastor Londia. At first there was some **teasing about the reading of that Bible** because it is in comic book form, but soon all the boys wanted it.

During the last week of Summer Adventure/VBS, we wanted the afternoons to be fun. Bennie Russ, who taught Bible study each day, suggested that we have a **Bible Bee**. She prepared questions from what had been taught over the past nine weeks. I can't begin to tell you how excited the campers were about this Bible Bee! We had four groups of children go by age to the stage and answer questions on the Bible. The first group was our youngest group. Now, you would think it wouldn't take much to eliminate most of the participants in that group. Wrong! Bennie ran out of questions because four of those young campers knew their Bible. Bob Cummings was there that day and he laughed and said he didn't know the answers himself. It was awesome!

These are just a few stories of what happened at Summer Adventure this year. There are many more. Thank you for providing a place and time for the children of the community to learn more about God. And a big hardy **thanks to all who gave of their time and talents for the children**.

Be blessed and be a blessing,  
Pastor E

# What's Going On?

## 9/11 SPECIAL GUESTS SHARE FAITH EXPERIENCES

Words cannot express how excited I am that we have secured 9/11 survivor Shannon Loy as our guest speaker for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary remembrance.

Because the presentation is emotionally draining, Shannon and husband Brian are unable to speak twice on this horrific subject on the same day. We have agreed to one combined worship service so all have a chance to hear.



All are encouraged to wear their name tags. Call the office if yours is misplaced. This is a perfect INVITING OPPORTUNITY to bring an un-churched friend or relative to an eyewitness account of how faith in God grows in the midst of utter chaos ... and beyond.

## "INVITING" OPPORTUNITIES

Here are calendar dates for everyone to invite un-churched friends or relatives to fellowship and worship. Participate in efforts to reach our Mission/Vision goals:

- ✓ September 11: 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary remembrance of 9/11 tragedy.
- ✓ October 30: Pumpkin Fest holiday fun for the local community.
- ✓ November 6: Veteran's Day/Retire the Flags ceremony after worship.
- ✓ December 21 & 24: Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services.

## OCTOBER CHURCH CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual church conference. This year Yolanda Villa, Heartland Central district superintendent, is holding cluster conferences. We will meet with 10 other churches on Saturday, October 22, 9 to 11:30am, at Blue Ridge UMC, 5500 Blue Ridge Blvd. Plan to vote on pastoral support and new church council leaders.

## MISSIONS AWARD RUNNER-UP

Our church nominated Sue Love, missions director, for the Missouri Conference Marble Mission Award. Sue was such a strong candidate, our church was encouraged to submit her name again next year. When you see Sue, thank her for all the work she does for those in need all year long. The nominations letter noted her nine-year commitment, including the CAC transition house purchase and rehab, school clean ups Sparkle and Project Shine, Community Ministry Task Force and the Summer Feeding Program, food and clothing pantries, VIM trips, special offerings, Mozambique Initiative and BackPackSnacks among others. Here is an excerpt of the letter:

*"Sue is a tireless advocate for the poor as a master coordinator, recruiter, supervisor and hands-on, down in the trenches worker. Her let's get it done approach motivates others to get involved in transforming the world. She takes seriously her responsibility to continuously educate the congregation on local and global needs. She never takes credit for her efforts and keeps others informed with good communication. She embodies the scripture, 'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven' Matthew 5:16. Please give Sue your consideration."*

## SUMMER ADVENTURE APPRECIATION

How do you say thank you to those who do so much? For every volunteer and staff in whatever category you filled, and for whatever time period, thank you for supporting the Summer Adventure ministry. You did the kids a world of good.

See you in Church,  
Pastor Londia

## MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

### A message from Sue Kemp, adult ministry director

You Won't Want to Miss This! Put **RALLY DAY** on your calendars for Sunday, September 18 during the Sunday school hour. Adult and Youth Class are challenged to **INVITE** friends to church and then to share in the special activities being planned for this event. Watch for details to come in The Scoop and thru your Sunday school class leaders. Be thinking about the people you are going to **INVITE!**

### A message from Jason Dattilo, youth ministry director

Rock The Light is September 2-4 this year at Youthfront in LaCygne, Kansas. The theme of this year's event is *Entertain, Engage, Enlighten*. This is a weekend long festival of faith and music. If any youth is interested in going, please let Jason know by August 31. New youth who will be entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend. Just a reminder that the youth are now selling donuts and coffee out of the youth room. Please stop in on Sunday morning for a donut or drink. This is an ongoing youth fundraiser. We appreciate your support.



The youth participated in **Mystery Week Aug 1-5**. They went to the slot car track, bowling, swimming and to the comedy club. They averaged over 20 people each night. They look forward to sharing more good times together. We thank the adults who helped.

### A message from Donna Gregory, early childhood director

Hello from the Early Education Center! We are gearing up for preschool which begins September 6 for children ages 3 to 5. Children who are enrolled in full-time care attend preschool at no extra charge. Parents also have the option of enrolling their child in morning only preschool (8:45 to 11:45). A few openings remain for the part-time program.

In September preschool will take orders for nuts (pecans, walnuts, peanuts, etc.) for your baking and gift-giving needs. Prices are not yet available, so please watch the bulletin and the Scoop for further information. We currently have a few full-time openings for infants, toddlers and 3 year olds. For information about enrollment call Donna Gregory at 816-763-8507.

### A message from Keith Curington, music director

Our Music Ministry is gearing up for another great year! All youth and adults with a love of music are invited to participate! Rehearsals begin on September 7.

**Chancel Choir** ~ This choir rehearses on Wednesday nights at 7:30 in the sanctuary. They participate weekly in the 8:30am worship service and usually perform cantatas at Christmas and Easter. Director: Keith Curington

**Chancel Chimes** ~ A handbell choir that performs once a month at the 8:30am worship service. They meet for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 6:15. You do not need previous experience to be a part of this choir. Director: Brenda Kueck

**Gospel Choir** ~ This choir provides special music at the 11am service twice a month. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 6:30. Director: Keith Curington

**Praise Team & Praise Band** ~ Persons in this team are considered "lead worshippers" who lead the music at the 11am service. See Keith Curington about participating.



## MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

### A message from Sue Love, missions director

Serve 2011 September 10-11 is a state-wide effort to have United Methodists engage in serving in their own community on the same weekend/day all across Missouri. St. Luke's is planning projects to help those who serve/served by helping veterans, families of active military or firefighter families, for example. More detail will be forth coming about location and specific jobs. Volunteers will gather at the church and be provided information, lunch and drinks to take along, and a blessing before heading out to their assignment. Save the date and plan to join us for Serve 2011.

**Project Shine** was a shining example of how the church and community working together make a big impact. On Saturday, July 23 more than 230 volunteers came to help spread mulch, landscape, paint inside and out, strip courts and tracks, make shelves, repair doors and hang white boards just to mention a few of the jobs accomplished at Dobbs Elementary. The neighbors and the neighborhood association worked alongside teachers, school employees and their families along with St. Luke's members, families and friends to transform a school.

Thanks to the dedicated work of Garry Kemp and Frank Stormer who helped coordinate with the school and school district; the volunteers who worked the week before to get the prep done so Saturday workers could come in and be immediately put to work, and the Dobbs principal and staff for their assistance and availability over the past month. Dobbs truly shines from the front entry to the back playgrounds and track, the new look in the classrooms and art rooms and the stunning wall graphics/murals that were provided by Dave Taylor and Ed Howe. Many thanks to all for your contributions toward the success of Project Shine. Don't forget to turn in your service hours.

**Back Snack** will begin its fifth year of serving the Hickman Mills school district and your help is needed. **If you have an hour to an hour and a half to give once a month to help bag the packs of food provided by Harvesters to feed children on the weekends, sign-up to help at the Welcome Center.** Truman Elementary is our partner school and we have been packing food bags for 100 kids each week.



Festival of Sharing

**Festival of Sharing** is October 15, 2011 at the Missouri State fairgrounds in Sedalia. This year's theme is *Growing, Sharing, Celebrating God's Abundance*. Our September communion offering will go to support Festival of Sharing. Each year we ask for Sunday school classes and small groups to make kits to take to Festival of Sharing. \*This year the most needed kits are emergency clean-up buckets and the personal hygiene pack for use/distribution in the United States and the health kit for international use secondary to the large and ongoing number of disasters world wide.

### A message from Jerry Cornell, facilities director

On **September 17** starting at 8am we will have a **work day at the church**. It will be divided into work groups with the Trustees serving as group leaders. Below are the tasks that we want to accomplish. Please set aside this date so we can complete all these tasks in one day:

1. Stripe the parking lot and add new handicap and guest parking on the north side of the building.
2. Replace the mulch on the north side of building with river rock.
3. Paint the eaves around the outside of the church (those that can be painted from the ground or with a ladder) and paint the storage shed.
4. Trench and place drain tubing from the rear of the parsonage and remove shrubs by lower door. Also attach downspout in front area of parsonage.



On another note, if you **have a repair that needs to be completed** and is not an emergency, there will be a log in the Facility Maintenance mailbox for you to list what needs to be accomplished. This will allow us to help ensure that repairs are made.

# September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday 8am Prayer Group; 8:30 & 11am Worship; 9:50am Sunday School; 5pm Youth Monday 7pm Boy Scout Troop Tuesday 10:45am Contemplative Prayer Wednesday 9am Quilters; 5pm LOGOS; 6pm Wed. Jam; 6:15pm Chancel Chimes; 6:30pm Prayer Group, Gospel Choir; 7:30pm Chancel Choir Thursday 7pm Devoted Stitchers; Cub Scouts Friday 7pm Celebrate Recovery				1 6:30pm UMW Unit	2	3 7-10am Country Breakfast
4 Holy Communion 9:30am Blood pressure check	5 Office Closed	6 5:30pm TNT Begins	7 5pm LOGOS Choir Rehearsals start	8 12pm WOW Circle 7pm Susanna Cir.	9	10
11 8:45-9:45am Sunday School <b>10am Worship (9/11                      remembrance)</b> 5:30pm Joanna	12	13	14	15 9:30am Hannah & Rebekah Circles	16	17 8am Workday at St. Luke's
18 9:50am Rally Day 12:15pm Singles Lunch	19 7pm LIFE Circle 7pm Book Group	20	21	22	23	24
25 11:30-2pm UMW 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	26 6:45pm Staff Meeting	27	28	29	30	

# Festival of Sharing Kits ~ Bring by October 9 to Donation Station

**CWS = Church World Service (used around the world)**

**MO = Missouri Kits (stay in Missouri)**

**\*Most Needed kits**

## School Kits CWS

1 blunt scissors	1 30 cm. ruler (12")
1 pencil sharpener	6 pencils with erasers
1 large eraser	1 box 24 count crayons
Spiral or bound notebooks (200-210 sheets total)	

## \*Health Kits CWS

1 hand towel (16x28)	1 washcloth
1 wide-tooth comb	6 band-aids
1 metal nail clippers	1 toothbrush
1 bath size bar of soap	1 toothpaste (4-7 oz.)

*Put items in one gallon zip lock bag.*

## Layette CWS

6 cloth diapers	2 t-shirts (no onesies)
2 washcloths	2 gowns or sleepers
2 diaper pins	1 sweater / sweatshirt
2 receiving blankets	

*Bundle items in blanket and diaper pin.*

## \*Emergency Clean Up Bucket CWS

2 pairs of latex gloves	1 pair of work gloves
1 scrub brush	50 clothes pins
7 assorted sponges	5 scouring pads
5 gallon bucket with lid	5 dust masks
18 cleaning towels (Easy Wipes)	
50-78 oz. dry laundry detergent	
12 oz. liquid concentrate cleaner (Lysol)	
25 oz disinfectant dish soap (Dawn)	
Clothesline (2-50 ft. or 1-100 ft.)	
24 ct box heavy duty trash bags	
6-14 oz. insect repellent (drops or lotion)	

*Purchase liquids in plastic bottles. Pack in bucket.*

## Paper Products Kit MO

2 packages of toilet tissue (4-double rolls)  
 3 rolls good quality paper towels  
 2 large rectangular boxes of facial tissue

*Place all items in tall-sized kitchen trash bag.*

## Baby Bundle MO

2 receiving blankets	1 sweater/sweatshirt
2 undershirts or onesies	2 diaper pins (if cloth)
8-12 diapers (cloth or disposable) <i>newborn-6 month size</i>	
2 sleepers (1 piece or gown)	

*Put in 2 gallon zip lock bag.*

## Student Dental Kit MO

Toothbrushes: 2 adult soft, 4 child soft  
 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. +) 1 dental floss

*Place in a zip lock gallon bag.*

## Family Food Pack MO

2 cans Spam	6 cans tuna
2 lbs. rice	2 lbs. pasta
6 cans assorted vegetables	2 cans pasta sauce
6 cans assorted fruit	6 packages of mac & cheese
2 lbs. dried pinto beans	2 jars peanut butter

## \*Personal Hygiene MO

Toothpaste (6 oz. fluoride)	Toothbrush
Bar of bath soap	Shampoo (11-14 oz.)
Skin lotion (11-14 oz.)	Washcloth
Deodorant	Hand towel
2 disposable razors	Comb or Brush

*Tighten lids and place in two gallon zip lock bag.*

## Readin' & Writin' Pac MO

6 new pencils w/erasers	2" eraser
1 child's metal scissors	12" ruler
1 box 24 count crayons	2 ink pens (medium)
6 folders with pockets	1 pencil holder
2 spiral or tape bound notebooks (140 total sheets)	

*Small items in pencil holder, then all in 2 gallon zip lock bag.*

## Prison Kits for Women MO

12-16 oz. Shampoo (alcohol free)  
 (Brands: Suave, Equate, Herbal, Alberto VO5, Style)  
 2-3 oz. Deodorant (alcohol free, no roll-ons)  
 (Revlon Hi & Dri, Lady Mitchum, Almay Clear Gel)  
 1 Toothpaste (alcohol free - 6-6.4 oz. size)  
 (Ultrabrite, Colgate, Crest, Aquafresh, Gleem)

*Place items in plastic bag.*

## Backpack of Love MO

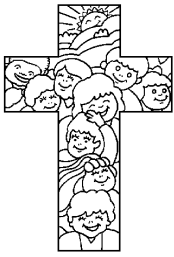
1 small backpack or duffel (no wheels)  
 1 t-shirt (child medium or large or adult small)  
 1 notebook and pencil or 1 color book with 24 crayons  
 1 narrow tooth comb 1 child toothpaste  
 1 child's (soft) toothbrush 1 travel pillow  
 1 pair socks 1 toy 3 pairs of underwear  
 1 small stuffed animal

*Pack in backpack.*

## Youth Personal Care MO

3 oz. hand sanitizer	3 ink pens
1 calendar/address book	1 journal
1 pocket size tissues	1 chap stick
1 toothbrush	1 washcloth
1 small permanent marker	1 deodorant
1 travel pillow	1 fleece throw
1 box medicated facial cleansing pads	
1 small package feminine pads or tampons or	
1 men's body spray	
Travel Size - 1 <i>each</i> : lotion, shampoo, conditioner, hair gel/ spray, toothpaste	

*Pack in 15 x 22 drawstring bag in solid color fabric.*



### A message from Andrea McMurry, LOGOS coordinator

Calling all children in grades one thru six! Our fall session of **LOGOS** will be Wednesdays, September 7 thru November 16 from 5-7:30pm. The evenings include recreation, Bible study, meal and worship. The cost is \$45 a session. Scholarships are available.

For more information, pick up a brochure on the Information Center. Register at the parent/child meeting on Wednesday, August 31, at 6:30pm or contact the church office at 816-763-8444.

### Message sent to Jason Dattilo and the Youth Mission Team following the Sikeston Work Trip

Workers: Adrianna Booker, Isla Jones, Kyra Jones, Elizabeth Smallwood, Baylee Houk-Watskey, Travis White, Bryant Hardison and Ryan Barton. The adults workers were Jason and Nicki Dattilo, Carl Gustafson, Barbara and Jim Bruns and Bonita D.

*"You guys are the best! I am completely amazed at what you were able to accomplish while at Mission Missouri this week. Your kids are so experienced and dedicated with a tremendous work ethic and commitment to getting the job done and doing it so well. I know that has come about because of the servant leadership you have through Jason and all the adults who care enough to pour out your lives like you do. With our deepest gratitude we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It means so much to see this kind of progress and it encourages me once again that this project will be completed and we will be serving hurting people out of that wing. I think you have a good idea of the kind of work that goes on here and now you will all know that you are a part of it every day. We love you and ask God to bless you abundantly. I pray all your dreams are realized for the work you also do right there in KC and through your church. We love you much!"*

*Thank you*

Jane Pfefferkorn, Executive Director, Mission Missouri House of Liberty, Addiction Treatment Center



Sunday, August 14, was Promotion Sunday. Children and youth moved to their new classes. Students in third grade were given Bibles in the 11am worship service. Those receiving Bibles included: Josh Connell, Major Edwards, Adrianna Haynes and Ashley Waddell.

### We saw the light — in the sanctuary on August 17

Many thanks to the following who braved the high sanctuary ladder to replace burned-out bulbs: John Childs was assisted by Ron Russell, Don Eatherton and Wil Abram. Jerry Cornell, maintenance and facilities coordinator, gathered the workers together to make it happen.



### St. Luke's United Methodist Women is turning 50!

On Sunday, September 25, all are invited to join us as we celebrate 50 years in mission with women and children. A light lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:45pm. Following lunch, the program will include a short talk about our history and recognition of past presidents. There will also be a slide show and displays. The celebration will conclude by 2pm.



### Staff

Lead Pastor: Londia Granger Wright  
 Associate Pastor: Emonia Barnett  
 Pastoral Assistant: Bobbie Stone  
 Adult Ministry: Sue Kemp  
 Youth Ministry: Jason Dattilo  
 Missions: Sue Love  
 Community Health: Barb Bruns  
 Communications: Angela Fleming  
 Office: Andrea McMurry  
 Facilities: Jerry Cornell  
 Early Childhood: Donna Gregory  
 Music Director: Keith Curington



## 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REPORT

Joyce Eatherton, lay delegate

### WORKSHOP #1: Renovate or Die

In this workshop Bob Farr, director, Congregational Excellence, put forth the idea that today's church is not our grandparent's church. He said that in order for churches of today to survive they must change to come in to line with the current culture. A major point for this workshop was that this is where regular church attendees may only come one out of six Sundays, where we have 4-5 generations in a church, where it's easier to send money directly to flooded or tornado ravaged communities than to an agency, and churches need to be more missional than institutional.

Bob went through many of the ideas he presented when he visited our church on previous occasions. He talked about the life cycle of a church, the consultation process, the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations as presented by Bishop Schnase, and how the church needs to focus outward rather than inward as we have done in the past.

### WORKSHOP #2: The Conference Budget - Where Your Giving Goes

Kendall Waller, treasurer, and Lynn Dyke, finance chair, gave us a copy of the proposed budget for 2012 and showed the areas that are supported with our apportionments. It encompasses everything from church camps to campus ministries to salaries for the district superintendents and other conference employees. They explained that each church's share of the conference budget is based on a percentage or decimal which is figured from their operating expenses as reported on year-end reports for the last three years. From this, certain expenses are deducted such as those for capital improvements, mortgages and money given to local charities. The Council on Finance and Administration reviews this decimal formula each year. No church apportionments can increase or decrease more than 30% a year.

In 2010, 85.24% of all apportionments were paid. Rounding this to 86%, a stabilization factor was created whereby 14% was added to certain budget areas that must always be paid, such as salaries and health insurance for conference employees. Thus, when a local church does not pay its full apportionment it creates a hardship for all.

As with most organizations at this time some cutbacks have needed to be made. One such example is that after 2009 retirees are no longer getting a stipend to help cover the cost of health insurance.

Note: This workshop gave much good information, but it is a large subject and the presenters were only able to scratch the surface in the time allotted. I do feel, however, that I know more than before about this important subject.

*Annual Conference was held June 3-6 in Springfield, Missouri. The theme was "Extravagant Generosity."*

### Our Mission:

To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### Our Vision:

Invite, Grow, Serve.

### What's Inside?

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"A multi-cultural congregation open to all."

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Welcome New Members!



Welcome to **Elizabeth Lark** who joined July 24 and **Essie Prince** who joined July 31.



This summer Jim Downing, lead pastor of First United Methodist Church in Sedalia, added our

church motto, "**Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.**" to the panel above the main entrance doors. Thanks, Jim.

The following youth completed **confirmation classes** this summer and officially joined the church on August 28 during 11am worship: Ryan Barton, Colin Brown, Ava McMurry, Makayla McNeal and Stevie Houk-Watskey. DeVion Thompson became a member earlier this year. Jason Dattilo, youth director, taught the confirmation class.

We welcome them to our church family. We would also like to thank the adults who assisted: Bob Cummings, Ed and Sue Burr and Sandy Grider. Youth in seventh grade and older are invited to attend future confirmation classes to learn more about the church and their faith.