

a monthly newsletter from

# *First United Methodist Church*

*"Loving God -- Loving People"*

February 2012

Pastor Dale Scritchfield

Pastor Craig Luttrell

## Seeking the Holy Spirit's Guidance

Have you been reading the Book of Acts with me as I suggested in last month's article? As I shared then, I recognize we need to take hold of the full potential power of the Holy Spirit as we move into 2012, which includes His guidance. The Bible I'm reading at home in my daily study of Acts is the Charles Stanley *Life Principles Bible*, and the article I'm sharing with you now includes excerpts from one of his *Life Principles*.

The Scriptures tell us that the only guide worth trusting is the Holy Spirit. He is the only one who knows our past completely, from the moment we were conceived to the present, and who also knows our future, from this day to eternity. Only He fully knows God's plan and purpose for us, today and for each day of our lives. Only the Holy Spirit knows what is fully good and right for you. Any other opinion can reflect only part of the full truth, which the Holy Spirit knows completely.

Jesus repeatedly referred to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth. Note what he said about the Holy Spirit's activity in your life: *"He will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come"*. (John 16:13)

The Spirit of truth is like an inner compass in our lives -- always pointing us toward what Jesus would be, say, or do any given moment. God desires to make his will known to you. He wants you to know what to do and when to do it. God would have us trust the Holy Spirit to be our daily guide!

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus guided every day by the Holy Spirit. After God poured out the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, they too found themselves lead in profound ways by the Holy Spirit. The verses below give you just a few examples of how the Holy Spirit dealt with His people in ways that provided very personal and specific guidance. What He did for them then, He desires to do for us today.

*Then the spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing.* (Acts 11:12)

*As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."* (Acts 13:2)

*Now when they had gone through Phrygia in the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.* (Acts 16:6)

You may ask, "Are there any conditions placed upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives?" Yes.

*First, we need to stay yielded to the Spirit.* We should say yes to the spirit when he prompts us to take a certain action or say a certain word. We need to give mental assent to the Spirit's direction, and then actually obey His prompting and follow through by doing or saying what he has called us to do or say.

The Spirit often speaks to us in the stillness of our hearts with a word of conviction or assurance. When the Holy Spirit is directing us away from something harmful, we very often have a heaviness or feeling of trouble, foreboding, or uneasiness in our spirits. When the Holy Spirit is directing us toward helpful things we tend to feel a deep inner peace, an eagerness to see what God will do, and a feeling of joy.

How can you know if you're yielded to the Holy Spirit? You are yielded to Him when you say to Him, "Here is what I desire. But if your answer to this is no, it's all right. I'll do what you say."

*Second we must believe for His guidance.* We are much more likely to hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to us if we're actively listening for him to speak. We are much more likely to see the Holy Spirit's direction if we are looking for His signs. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that God is a "rewarder of those who diligently seek Him". We need to be diligent in seeking his guidance, asking for it, watching for it, anticipating it, and receiving it.

The Holy Spirit has come to reveal the truth to us. He imparts to us what we need to know in order to live obedient and faithful lives. He empowers us to act on what we receive. Trust Him to guide you, now and always!

Come Holy Spirit! Come and take control!

Pastor Dale

## This Month's Usher / Greeter Teams

### 8:15 am

Dick & Sue Cope  
Janet Renoux  
Keith Noack  
Brice Lincoln  
Tony & Kay Lents

### 10:30 am

Meredith Miller  
Mike Kunc  
Chuck Wood  
Jay Oswood  
James York  
Jerry & Anita Ellingson  
Linda Tasler

### 5:00 pm

Ruth Jackson  
Elizabeth Luttrell



---

## Music News! by Janet Collison

The Music Department is in full swing! We are rehearsing and worshiping and praising our great and mighty God. We pray that the Holy Spirit is empowering the music and that it hits your ears and heart, you are blessed and strengthened. We pray that you are led into the mighty presence of Jesus - that your heart is filled with praise, adoration and peace. All glory to God!

## Meal Packaging Event

Outreach International has been invited to MCC on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. I was contacted by Marni Brown at MCC. She is the Volunteer Coordinator there and was very interested in sponsoring a meal packaging event for MCC students. The Student Senate has taken this project on in full force! Their goal is to raise \$13,500 to package 54,000 meals! They are looking for table leaders and that is where we can help because we know how to do it. Give me (Janet Collison) a holler if you are interested! I'm looking for at least a dozen people to jump in.

**Details: Tuesday, Mar. 20, 1:00-7:00, MCC, 3 shifts of 5 tables - table leaders needed!**

## What Do Our TLC Calling Teams Do?

The TLC teams visit shut-ins in their homes and in the nursing homes. We do our work in teams of two people and each team is assigned 4 or 5 people to visit each month. We have sessions of training before we go out. We are looking for some additional people to join us.

Another part of our mission is to visit with people who have had a close family member pass away. The visits begin with a basket of fruit as soon as we hear about it. Then we have a series of Grief Books which are taken to the person three weeks after the death, 3 months after, 6 months after and then 1 year later. This is a special time to see how the grief process is going for them.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please talk to Ruth Jackson. There will be written information and sign up sheets at the Welcome Center during February. We are going to be going through the training at our monthly meetings, so that our current members can review. We will work together on this.

After the training we will have a commissioning time during one of the worship services for everyone working with TLC.

## Not Too Late To Join!

The Temple Builders Fitness Class has been a huge success and we've decided to continue for 6 additional weeks. 18 bodies are signed up. Attendance is steady and attitudes are high! This class focuses on strengthening and stretching our legs, arms and core. A bit of each class time is spent on balance. Class always closes with relaxation and prayer. So come! Jump in at any time! Bring a 'yoga-style' mat and expect to have a good time!

**Details: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:15-9:00AM, Fellowship Hall**



## “Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks”

This 7 week Bible Study by Priscilla Shirer will be offered on Tuesdays in the Oasis Room, from March 20 – May 1 at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm and 5:30 pm. Leaders will be Jenny Ahlemeyer, Judy Westphal and Ruth Jackson. Cost for the workbook will be \$14.00, payable at the first session. A \$3 donation is suggested for those not purchasing a workbook. Call or e-mail Cindy Mack (752-8015/ tcmack@mchsi.com) to register and/ or to order a workbook. Books ordered by 9:00 am on Tuesday March 6 will arrive in time for the first class. A second order will be placed on March 20, if necessary.

## Finance Report for December 2011

	Month	YTD
<b>Income:</b>		
Contributions	\$62,147	\$492,319
Building Endowment	\$0	\$15,000
Other	\$7,742	\$22,657
Total	\$69,889	\$529,976
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Operating	\$20,723	\$167,752
Payroll	\$34,184	\$380,672
Program/Missions	\$9,318	\$30,209
Total	\$64,225	\$578,633
<b>Over/Under</b>	\$5,664	-\$48,657
<b>Apportionments Paid</b>	\$3,000	\$24,000
<b>Foglemans (Missionaries)</b>	\$353	



## Finance Committee Report

2011 ended on a good note. December giving was very generous and January 2012 has also started pretty good. Thank you again for all of your generosity that has helped us accomplish so much in the last couple of years. As our Church continues to grow, I am sure you will be there to support it. We have paid all of our bills and have a surplus to start the year.

The Finance Committee this year has decided to include our full apportionments into our budget. In the past few years as we were working to pay off our debts, we have either left the apportionments out of the budget or committed to paying a portion of them and only included that small portion in the budget. We are on our way to achieving fiscal soundness not only on the local level, but also on the State and National level and this means that we are striving towards paying our apportionments in full and appreciate your giving to help us achieve our new goals.

For those of you who have turned in your pledge cards, thank you so much for your generosity. If you have not turned them in yet, we are still taking them. Our totals so far are:

Pledge Cards Received: 156 Total \$386,411  
 Last Year at This Time: 181 Total \$338,747

The Trustees have started a wish list of projects that they would like to accomplish over the next 5 years. These are projects that need to be done for the structural integrity of our building or to help us in our Ministries.

- Repair drainage along the west side of the Church: This project has been approved by the Finance Committee and the AD Council to be completed this year as soon as possible. We have most of the money for this project, but would encourage you to donate to cover the remaining expenses.
- Finish shower installation in the Church: We need to finish the shower installations in the Church to be used by Ministries such as Chrysalis and the Walk to Emmaus. We have some of the funds for this, but will need more to complete the project.
- Expand our hot water capabilities: We still need to expand our hot water capacity to accommodate the Kitchen during activities such as the Soup Supper and to supply the showers when that project is complete. This is a priority of the Trustees.

These are just a few of the things coming up for you to keep in your thoughts and prayers.

Again we would like to thank you for all you have done and hope that we have another fantastic year here at First United Methodist Church.

Respectfully, Co-Chairs, Daryl Gilmore and Kevin Miller

## Local & Global Missions by Barb Matya

- Thank you to Sandy Patterson, Shirlee Rohrs, Jon Muller and the confirmation groups for helping me at the Soup Kitchen in January.
- Gave \$200 to help with the Total U Girls' Conference
- Gave \$200 to the Women at the Well Anniversary Celebration which pays for 8 people to attend dinner. Let Barb know if you would like to attend on February 4 at the Conference Center in Des Moines.
- We will continue to support our 5 missionaries at the same amounts as we have in the past.

---

## Youth & Children's Ministry Update by Elizabeth Luttrell

The New Year is in full swing! Thank you for your support of our youth and children. God is definitely at work in the lives of our students! Please keep us in your prayers.

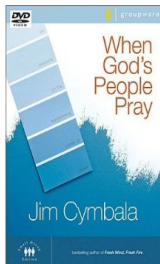
Our children are continuing to meet for Sunday school and music each week. We are praying and considering more family activities. Contact Elizabeth with ideas!

Youth Group meets each Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 PM. All youth grades 7-12 are invited to join us! We have snacks, worship, games, teaching, and small groups! The last Wednesday of the month we'll be doing volunteer work at Southridge Nursing Home. In February, we will discuss sex & dating. We hope to have a panel of adults to share about Godly relationships or Godly singleness. Contact Elizabeth if you're interested!

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be a "mini" lock-in for grades 7-12. We'll have pizza, games, and UNDERGROUND CHURCH from 5:30-11:00 PM. Invite friends!

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** is the **TOTAL U Girls Conference**. The conference will be from 1:00-8:00 pm at Marshalltown Community College (Dejardin Hall). ALL girls in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to attend for a day of fun with faith, fashion, and friends! Staci Mason of Pursuing Womanhood Ministries ([www.pursuingwomanhood.org](http://www.pursuingwomanhood.org)) will be the keynote speaker. She will be presenting on Fear of God, Purity, Beauty, Humility, and Bravery. Please contact Elizabeth with questions or to sign up ([elizabeth@thewebunwired.com](mailto:elizabeth@thewebunwired.com) or 752.3668 Ext. #15). You won't want to miss this amazing day!!

***"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."***  
**1 Corinthians 12:4-6**



### When God's People Pray – Beginning Monday February 27

*Pastor Dale's goal was to place more emphasis on the Holy Spirit and on prayer in 2012, and here is the first opportunity to join in that effort.*

Our God loves us deeply and longs to be in a relationship in which we receive the spiritual and physical blessings he wants to give us. We, as individuals and as churches, suffer great loss when we fail to ask God for these blessings. The blessings can change our lives, invigorate our churches, transform our communities, and even alter the course of history! Best of all, they are available to every believer and every church if we will only pray for them in faith and obedience.

In this study, Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle shows us truths about prayer that God has used to turn his own church from a tiny, struggling inner-city congregation into a vital, thriving community of believers who pray with passion, focus, and faith.

Jon Muller and Pastor Dale will co-lead this new 6 week prayer study that will meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm. The six sessions are:

1. God's Hearth for Us
2. The Amazing Power of Prayer
3. Obedience in Prayer
4. The Word of God and Prayer
5. Why Prayer Matters
6. Creating a Prayer Ministry in Your Church

Please consider joining us in this potentially life changing study. Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex soon to reserve your book and place in the class. Cost of the book is \$8.

## UMW News:

**Thursday, February 2 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Tower Room** - will be another opportunity for input at the Organizational UMW Board Meeting to set goals and plans for 2012. All UMW Board members should plan to attend. Anyone is welcome to also attend. We anticipate this to be a two hour meeting.

**Alter Flowers for 2012** - Call the Church Office (752-3668) to sign up to purchase Altar Flowers for Sundays. The cost is \$25.00 for the 2 bouquets. This is a very important mission as the flowers are taken to our hospitalized members or shut-ins.

## Hospitality News

Our usher and greeter teams are doing a fine job on Sunday mornings handing out bulletins and welcoming those who attend the services. Thank you to each of you!

Please join us at Coffee Time in fellowship hall after the morning services. It is fun to catch up with others in our church family over a cup of coffee, cappuccino or tea and a little something sweet. Volunteers are always needed to make coffee and serve, so if you would like to donate some time, please see me.

Pam Vinson, Hospitality Chair

*"If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."* 1 John 4:12



## Total U Girls Purity Conference

Saturday, February 18th, 1:00-8:00 PM at MCC DeJardin Hall for girls grades 5th – 12th.

Interested in being a part of this multi-denominational girls' event? Here are some

Serve the Day of the Event:

Run a Booth (where girls can learn about taking care of their bodies, about growing in their relationship, etc.)  
can participate in a fun activity)

Prayer Team

Hospitality Team Member

Food Preparation

Small Group Leader during the Conference

or Before or After the Event:

Small Group Leader at Follow Up Events: (February 28th, March 6th, 11th, 20th, 27th, April 10th)

Sponsor a Student to attend (\$10.00)

Buy a *Lies Women Believe* book from Stepping Stones Christian Bookstore (pay at the store and we will give out to girls at the conference). If interested, please contact Elizabeth Luttrell ([elizabeth@thewebunwired.com](mailto:elizabeth@thewebunwired.com) or 752.3668 Ext. #15) or Jana Brinkman ([jana.b@mchsi.com](mailto:jana.b@mchsi.com)).



2011 Event

## The Slow Fade... from Pastor Craig

When we held our 'pastor's coffee meetings' several months ago, Pastor Dale and I asked the church what you would like to see happen in the next five years. The vast majority of responses revolved around bringing more people into the church, specifically younger people and younger families. Our church rightly recognizes that in order to prevent what I call *the slow fade* we must bring more young people into the church. This is the only way to ensure this ministry will last beyond the next ten to twenty years.

The most difficult aspect of attracting younger people is that we, as a church, must embrace a willingness to change. We cannot continue to do things exactly the same as we have in the past and expect new, younger people to adapt to the way we do things. It has been shown that one of the primary, shared characteristics of churches that have been forced to close their doors is an unwillingness to adapt and change.

Pastor Dale and I have been and will continue to encourage the implementation of some changes we believe are appealing and engaging to younger adults. We will also be trying to provide new opportunities for connectedness so younger adults may be encouraged to plug into the life of the church. I understand that change is almost always painful and difficult. Having recently celebrated our first year of marriage, Elizabeth and I can attest to that fact! But ultimately the blessings that accompany change outweigh the difficulties.

The truth of the matter is we are faced with a serious choice. We must adapt in order to grow or remain exactly the same and slowly fade. Recent church closures right here in our own community serve as a haunting reminder of this reality. My prayer for our church is that each one of us will devote plentiful thought and prayer as to what we hold as crucial and what we are willing to change.



### Monthly Meetings:

**Trustees:** Thursday, Feb 2 at 5:00 pm  
**SPRC:** Thursday, Feb 9 at 5:30 pm  
**Finance:** Feb 14 at 5:00 pm  
**Missions:** Tuesday, Feb 21 at 4:00 pm  
**Ad Council:** Tuesday, Feb 21 at 5:00 pm




**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 22 7:00 pm**  
**Ashes & Communion**

### United Methodist Scholarships Available

General & Seminary scholarships are available through the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. Applications are available at [www.iumpf.org](http://www.iumpf.org) and must be completed by March 15, 2012.

**We are compiling a list of people who would be willing to provide rides to our members for appointments. Call the office if you can help.**

**Our sympathy to  
 Scot & Stephanie Bauder  
 in the death of her brother  
 Ruth Jackson in the death of  
 her mother Doris Sheils**



**Aaron, Benjamin & Grant Fitz,  
 Joshua Coleman  
 Todd Eipperle  
 Scott Vial  
 Steve Schrader - Welcome Home  
 & Thank You!!**

**Weather Policy**  
**If Marshalltown schools close because of bad weather, the church office will be closed.**

**Please notify the church office of any address or e-mail changes or if you desire to be removed from the mailing list.  
 If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Barb Matya at [bmatt@thewebunwired.com](mailto:bmatt@thewebunwired.com)**

**Please contact Barb Matya if you would like to help at the Sound booth or Computer in the Sanctuary**



**Shawl Ministry**  
**Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 am**  
**In our Library**  
**Call Kathy Braga with questions.**

**February Change for Change is for Our Library**



**Wednesday Night Discussion on Sunday's Sermon  
 6:00—7:00 pm  
 Lower Tower Room**

**Fridays from noon - 1:00 pm**  
 The Chapel will be open for anyone who would like to come in and pray.



**Communion Sunday  
 February 5**

## 2012 Committees

### Endowment Fund:

Pastor Dale Scritchfield

2012	2013	2014
Kenny Lewis	Reese Gibbs	Darryl Peter - Chair
Steve Paullus	Ed Matya	George Taylor
Bob Backes		

Also: Representatives of Trustees and Treasurer (Karen Berger) or Finance Representative

### Board of Trustees:

Pastor Dale Scritchfield, Finance Secretary Dawn Muller

2012	2013	2014
Jerry Ellingson	Mary Schrader - Secretary	James York
Glen Christen	Rick Legg	Brad Braga - Vice Chair
Brad Etter - Chair	Kathy Gilmore	Kendall Meyeraan
Leon Townsend		

### Staff Parish Relations:

Senior Pastor (Dale Scritchfield), Lay Leader (Jon Muller)

2012	2013	2014
Duane Meyer - Chair	Jana Latham	Julia IntVeldt
Brad Clement	Dorothy Stone	Lawrence Mann
Bob Berger	Carrie Barr	Karen Duden

Also: Lay Member to Annual Conference (Kay Lents)

### Finance / Stewardship

Senior Pastor (Dale Scritchfield), Finance Secretary (Dawn Muller)

2012	2013	2014
Chuck Wood	Ron Ohrt	Kevin Miller - Chair
Richard Youds	Al Brennecke	Echo Nuese
	Daryl Gilmore	Jane Markey
		Francis Porter

Also: Representatives of Trustees (Brad Braga), Treasurer (Karen Berger), Administrative Council Chair (Greg DeSaulniers), Lay Member to Annual Conference (Jon Muller), SPRC Representative (Duane Meyer), Endowment Chair (Darryl Peter).

### Nominations

Pastor Dale Scritchfield

2012	2013	2014
Janice Springer	Dawn Muller	Kay Lents
Erma Meyer	Al Brennecke	Jody Wunsch
	Mary Schrader	Mary Miller

Also: Lay Leader (Jon Muller), Receptionist (Pam Vinson), Administrative Assistant (Barb Matya)

---

## Sermon Recordings are now online: [http://sermon.net/FUMC\\_Marshalltown](http://sermon.net/FUMC_Marshalltown)

After many months of talking and dreaming about having our sermons available on the internet, that is now a reality. Our hope is that our sermons might touch some who want to check us out without committing to attending a service, (kicking the tires so to speak); and that our "snow birds" might listen to the preaching from their home church while they are out of town. Our goal is to have the previous Sunday's sermon uploaded to the internet by the close of business on Tuesdays. From this link, [http://sermon.net/FUMC\\_Marshalltown](http://sermon.net/FUMC_Marshalltown), you will be able to listen to the sermon directly from your computer, leave comments that will come back to us, or download the sermon into iTunes and listen on any mp3 player at a later time and place that is more convenient for you. Hopefully in the not too distant future we will be able to post video podcasts of those sermons, and then create DVD's that we can make available to our elderly members confined to nursing homes.

Our first preference is to have you here worshipping with us every week. But if you can't join us on a given Sunday morning, perhaps you will receive a Word from listening to the sermons from our pastors that will touch your spirit and warm your heart.



**First United Methodist Church**  
202 West Main Street  
Marshalltown, IA 50158-5893  
Phone (641) 752-3668

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MARSHALLTOWN, IA  
PERMIT #30

**Return Service Requested**

**Worship Schedule**

8:15 am—Celebrate with Praise  
10:30 am—Traditional Service  
5:00 pm—Marketplace Service  
5:45 pm —Food & Fellowship  
6:30 pm —Bible Studies  
Nursery available for all services.

[www.fumc-mtown.org](http://www.fumc-mtown.org)  
[fumc@thewebunwired.com](mailto:fumc@thewebunwired.com)

*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*  
Ephesians 2:10

Please turn in articles for the March newsletter to Barb Matya by February 10th.  
[bmatt@thewebunwired.com](mailto:bmatt@thewebunwired.com)