



“The Window” a monthly newsletter from
First United Methodist Church

“Loving God -- Loving People”

Reverend Dale Batcheler

Reverend Alexis Williams

August 2010

Notes from Rev. Dale,

As most of you know I am a grandfather of twins born to my daughter, Cathy and son in law, Dan. Jack and Abbey are quickly filling up my inbox with pictures and videos which I confess I have sent to my office computer for all to see. Thank you for your prayers as we awaited this special event in our family.

As I look at the pictures of Jack and Abbey, I can't help feeling God speaking to me reminding me he is the giver of life and through him the miracle of life becomes a reality. I also see how dependent these two newborns are on everyone around them for every necessity of life.

That serves to remind me that I am dependent on God for all that I have. Everything we have is God's on loan to us. Do we appreciate the generosity of God even when we do not deserve it? Do we understand the limitless love God gives us being sure we have what we need, but maybe not all we want? As I look at the picture of the twins, I realize their life is before them. God has given each of them talents, abilities and a purpose. It will be up to them to discover what those are, claim them, develop them and use them as they interact with others during the journey of their life.

I am also reminded that the possibilities of our life are often limited by us because of the choices we make. I am sure they will make some mistakes along the way, but I hope those around them as they grow up, give them knowledge by example and by teaching that will help them become everything God intended when he breathed into them the breath of life. What a joy it is to experience new grandchildren. It makes me think about my relationship with God and reminds me of the responsibility we all have to those we have contact with to lead so that their lives can be all that God intended them to be.

I will sneak away in mid-August to get my grandparent fix and try to drag Grammy Pat home.

God Bless.



AND



“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

Psalm 126:3

This Month's Usher / Greeter Teams

8:30

Danny & Diane Barker
Tony Lents
Ron Crosser
Pete Mink

10:00

John Swain
Mary Long
Frieda Reno
Arnold Whipple
Mary Cowdrey
Betsy Pridgeon
Mary Lou Wheeler

11:16

Niki & Brooklyn Casey



Announcing a 'Loving God — Loving People' Rally Day Project!

The Goal: 10,000 packaged meals!

Kids Against Hunger Outreach International is a non-profit corporation, formed in 2004 by a farmer in Union, that packages and ships meals to children and families in need. Our church is sponsoring a packaging event on Rally Day, September 12, and our goal is 10,000 meals. Together we can do it!

The first step will start in July. We are initiating a pop can drive. There are 3 ways you can help:

1. You may take your empty cans to the Redemption Center (401 East Nevada St.) and designate the refund money to go to First United Methodist Church. They will keep track of the money and pay our church!
2. You may take your empties there and bring the money to church to be put into our Rally Day project fund.
3. You may bring your empty cans to church, our committee will take them to the Redemption Center and place the money into the Rally Day project fund.

The second step will start in August. The sign-ups to package meals on Rally Day will begin. There are 4 ways you can sign up:

1. You may sign up and sponsor yourself (\$25) to package on Rally Day.
2. If you are unable to package that day, you may sponsor someone else (or several people.)
3. You may sign up, sponsor yourself AND someone else to package meals on Rally Day.
4. You may just sign up!

We are encouraging everyone to help package meals on Rally Day – young and old, families, even visitors! We hope to make this a joyous event that everyone will remember; a day of loving people because we believe in a loving Lord!

The good news is: the cost of a packaged and shipped meal equals the cost of 5 redeemed pop cans – a mere 25 cents! Each serving has rice, soy protein, dried vegetables and the daily recommended serving of vitamins!

Our children collected cans during Vacation Bible School – July 25 thru 29. What a great lesson for our children to learn: a little effort can feed the hungry! This is what people that love the Lord can do!

On Rally Day, September 12th, we, as a congregation, will package 10,000 meals that will be sent to children and families in need. Watch for more information. Please mark your calendars and get your pop cans organized! Let's do it!



O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Psalm 96:1 NRSV

About the windows...

Progress is moving right along with our stained glass windows. Bovard Studios, who is doing the restoration, will be here the first week of August to install them.

Finance Report for June 2010



	Month	YTD
Income:		
Contributions	\$32,867	\$247,344
Building Endowment	5,000	\$5,000
Other	\$250	\$18,328
Total	\$38,117	\$270,672
Expenses:		
Operating	\$9,201	\$91,321
Payroll	\$34,111	\$190,180
Program/Missions	\$1,331	\$14,971
Total	\$44,643	\$302,472
Over/Under	-\$6,526	-\$31,800
Apportionments Paid	0	\$5,200
Debt Reduction Loan		
Balance 5-21-10	\$17,000	
Principle Paid	\$4,000	
Balance 6-15-10	\$13,000	

Just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV

Finance Committee Report

August is here and we are starting to look at the end of summer as fall is quickly approaching. At the rate we are going, we should have the Debt Reduction paid off this fall, we are down to \$13,000 left to pay off. Great work on paying this down - thank you.

June was a slow month for our giving and we had to use \$5,000 of endowment money to cover our expenses. That is the first time this year we have had to do that and we hope the last. July started out much better and we hope that will carry through the rest of the month. Because of the slow summer we have not paid anything against our apportionments, but we hope we can improve that to where we are paying into our apportionments this fall.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and also thank you for all you have done. It is our pleasure to continue to serve such a giving and caring group.

Co-Chairs, Daryl Gilmore and Kevin Miller



**Sunday, August 1
Communion Sunday**



**August Change for Change
will be for the Rally Day
project.**

Youth & Children's Update by Elizabeth Flickinger



It is hard to believe this is my last newsletter article. I have been so blessed to experience more of Jesus in this place and season of life. I have learned what it means to serve God in full-time ministry and many other invaluable lessons. I count it a great privilege to see God work in so many different ways. I know that God led me to FUMC, and I now look in anticipation to the next step He has put before me. I feel so blessed by you. Thanks for all of your love and support.

We had wonderful time at the wedding shower on July 18th. We both felt very loved and cared for. It's a wonderful blessing to have such a caring church family. Thanks for all those who put time and effort into the shower, and for all who came and celebrated with us.

Craig & Elizabeth



UMW News

- **Board Meeting** - August 5, 12:00 noon in Lower Tower Room (Vote on 2011 Budget and further programming for UMW)
- **No UMW Unit Meeting in August**
- **Bidwell Riverside in Des Moines** - On July 15, Sharon Owen, Bev Sloppy, Marlis Horgen, Karla Breed, Jo Ann Noack, and Edie Hodges ventured off as volunteers in the church van to Bidwell. Many bags and boxes were sorted and hung or placed in the receiving room for many people to choose from. What a reward to see smiles on many faces when they were shopping for needed items. Thank you Ron and Steve for loading the van with the wonderful donations brought in by FUMC members. We thank you all for your donations.

UMW Board

Upcoming Events:

- **September** - Pie Sale for the stained glass window project. Cinnamon rolls for sale at Oktoberfest Parade. Watch for details.
- **October 3** - Antique Harvest Tea 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- **November** - Soup Supper / Cookie Walk.
- **December 4** - Christmas Brunch 10:00 am



I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, thoughts, cards, and acts of kindness as I continue to seek strength. God has, and will continue to heal us all with His hand, in His time. Thank you Rev. Dale and others who visited. God bless my church family.

Dean Proffitt



Mallory Vivian Meyeraan

Parents: Kendall & Melissa Meyeraan

Big Sister: Keira Anne

Welcome New Babies

Eli Jon Randall

Parents:

Nic & Ginna Randall

Grandparents:

Bruce & Jan Randall
Bud & Maxine Randall



Jack & Abbey Harms

Dan & Cathy Harms

Rev Dale & Pat Batcheler

Help Needed for MS Bike Ride



On **Saturday, August 28**, Marshalltown will have approximately 400 bicyclists in town who are riding with "Cruise the Cornfields" which is one of 5 Bike MS events put on by the North Central States Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. These riders are coming from Cedar Rapids and Ankeny and pedaling over 150 miles in 2 days to raise awareness and funds to create a world free of MS. Over 400,000 American families must deal with the uncertainties of MS each day.

FUMC would like to bless these riders by helping with the lunch at the park. This year, we have offered to prepare sandwiches (maid-rites) and provide cookies, bars and fruit. The sandwich items are being donated to us if we cook the meat. Volunteers are also needed for set up, serving and clean up as well as welcoming the riders into the Park. Please let the church office know if you can help in any way. Talk with Barb or Pam if you have questions.

Beloved,

This summer we have been trying something new. We have taken worship to the Mega-10 Park every Thursday at 6:00 pm. There has been grilling, singing, and a very brief teaching followed by discussion time. We are still a small group, but it continues to grow steadily and we are reaching people who do not come to a Sunday service at all. Our vision is to continue this worship service in the park for a few more months and then seek an alternate indoor location. The reality is that so many find walking into a church building difficult, and so many find waking up early on Sunday morning difficult. We are trying to provide a safe place for these people to come. We also long for those who know nothing about Christ to come and find a place where they can ask their questions.

The other new thing we are doing is making changes to the Marketplace (11:16) service. We will be experimenting with worshipping in the Chapel as well as doing more multi-media stuff. Our vision is to create a worship service that is more intimate and allows for discussion. We will continue to be a come-as-you-are service, but we are no longer considering ourselves a 'seeker service'. The people who come to this service will find a place no matter where they are on their walk with Christ. The music will continue to be cutting edge, probably a little louder than our other services, but the messages are going to be challenging for all disciples.

This summer has been a huge time of transition for us, but I know we are in God's hands. If I have learned anything it is that God can do so much more through us when we quit trying to control anything and just take each step that He gives us to take. I invite all of you to adopt this attitude in your lives and see what God can do through you.

Blessings, Rev. Alexis

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Study group will be using Beth Moore's "Believing God" this fall. Groups will meet at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm and 5:30 pm in the Bible Study Room, from September 14 – November 16. Sharon Owen, Judy Westphal and Ruth Jackson will be leaders. The requested donation is \$20 for those needing a workbook, or \$5 without, payable the day of the first class. You may register for this study and/or order a book by contacting Cindy Mack at 752-8015. Books ordered by 9:00 am Tuesday, August 31 will be available at the first session. A second order will be placed on September 14 if needed. This study is open to the whole community, men and women.



Ringers Needed

The "Alleluia Ringers" handbell choir is always looking for new members. All you need is the ability to read music and to be able to have excellent attendance at rehearsals. The only other requirement is the desire to have some fun doing it! We rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:00 pm and play once a month for both the 8:30 and 10:00 services. Come help us ring praises to God on the bells! Contact Jan Randall at 752-1811 if you are interested.

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

Psalm 95:2

AUGUST

Conference Phone Numbers

The Iowa Conference: www.iaumc.org
515-974-8900

District: wendylubkemen@iaumc.org
515-967-7639

Monthly Meetings:

Trustees: Thursday, Aug 5 at 5:15 pm

SPRC: Thursday, Aug 12 at 5:30 pm

Finance: Tuesday, Aug 10 at 5:00 pm

Ad Council: Tuesday, Aug 17 at 5:30 pm

Church Conference: Oct 24 at 2:00 pm

If you'd like to receive the newsletter online, please call the church office.

Ice Cream Social

Albion Methodist Church

Sunday, August 8

4:00—6:00 pm

At the Albion City Park

Pie, ice cream, drink for free-will donation

Entertainment:

Joan Greufe & Phil Gould



Shop at Theisen's - Earn Money for FUMC

Shop between August 16 - 22

Bring original receipt to the church by August 29
(you may request a duplicate receipt at time of purchase)

Theisen's will donate 5% of net purchase to our church.

Elizabeth's Farewell Reception

Sunday, August 1st

9:30 - 10:00 am

Brunch will be served by our Youth.

Everyone is invited!

Please bring cards and love gifts to thank Elizabeth for her service with us.

Wednesday Night Discussion on Sunday's Sermon

6:00—7:00 pm

Lower Tower Room

TLC Ministry

We are in need of TLC visitors to make monthly visits to our members in nursing homes. Contact Ruth if you are interested. This is a ministry that will bless you!



Park & Praise

Thursdays, 6:00 pm
(weather permitting)

Mega-10 Park

(6th Street behind the Y)

Bring a lawn chair and experience outdoor worship.



Potluck Friends

Sunday, August 29 5:30 pm

Program: Rev. Alexis on Park & Praise Service

Hosts: Max & Sandy Patterson, Ivadeen Proffitt

Everyone Is Welcome to Attend!

Local & Global Missions by Barb Matya

- Thank you to Janet Collison and the Choirs for helping in the Soup Kitchen in July. Our next open dates are Saturday, August 21, Monday, August 30 and Wednesday, September 15. Let me know if you can help.
- The MS Bike Ride will once again come to Marshalltown **Saturday, August 28**. We are planning to donate desserts / fruit for the riders at Riverview Park. If you would like to help serve or bake, please let me know.
- We need people to help sew school bags for Ingathering and Christmas stockings for Metro Ministries. We have fabric for both, just need sewers or decorators.
- Items needed to fill **Ingathering School Kits**:
 - 3 Notebooks, approx. 8 ½ x 11 wide ruled
 - (210 to 250 sheets total) spiral or bound
 - 1 30 cm metric ruler
 - 1 box of 24 crayons (ONLY 24)
 - 1 2 1/2" eraser
 - 1 blunt scissors
 - 1 hand pencil sharpener
 - 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- August is our month for the HOC Supply Closet. Please see the list of items below and you may leave your non-food items in the cart in Fellowship Hall or the box by the north entrance..

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'." Acts 20:35

Soup Kitchen Numbers

2008		2009		2010	
Served	Volunteers	Served	Volunteers	Served	Volunteers
1246	244	1042	196	1064	218
1230	203	736	199	1010	224
1600	263	1294	216	1298	256
1462	241	1094	226	1244	219
1323	244	1143	188	1241	201
1317	218	1353	279	1602	192

Supply Closet Families Served

	2008	2009	2010
Jan	412	469	527
Feb	360	436	439
Mar	465	521	540
Apr	449	519	539
May	456	483	578
Jun	452	601	602

August is Our Supply Closet Month

August is one of the months for FUMC to contribute to the "Supply Closet" at the House of Compassion. This is a list of essential items for families that cannot be purchased with food stamps. The cost can put a strain on those with limited or fixed incomes.

Please bring items and place them in the cart in Fellowship Hall or in the box by the north entrance.

Thank you for helping our local less fortunate families.

God who gives generously to us, wants us to give to others.

From the Upper Room

Baby Supplies	Cleaning Supplies
Baby Powder	Laundry & Dish Soap
Baby Lotion	SOS Pads
Diapers	Toilet Cleaners
Baby Oil	Ajax, Comet, etc.
Baby Wipes	Disinfectants
Personal Supplies	Paper Products
Hand & Bath Soap	Toilet Tissues
Toothpaste & Brush	Garbage Bags
Deodorant	Kleenex
Nail File / Clippers	Paper Towels
Dental Floss	Other Items
Sanitary Products	Socks
Shampoo / Conditioner	Dish/Bath Towels
Disposable Razors	Aspirin Products
Chapstick / Vaseline	Cold Medicine
Combs / Brushes	Bandages / Gauze / Tape