



# Uniondale United Methodist Church Messenger

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## October

### *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

8<sup>th</sup> – Bernie & Lura Burke  
18<sup>th</sup> – Linda Houtz  
28<sup>th</sup> – Jean Bartel

## Upcoming October/November Events

Sunday, Oct. 19 – Food Bank Collection  
Saturday, Oct. 25 – Faith Circle @ parsonage @ 1:00  
Sunday, Oct. 26 – Children “Changing the World”  
Friday, Oct. 31 – Trunk or Treat 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Nov. 2 – Communion  
Sun. Nov. 2 – Charge Conference – Ossian UMC 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Nov. 9 – Kids conducting the Service  
Sunday, Nov. 9 – Chili Cook-Off @ 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday, Nov. 16 – Special Thanksgiving Food Bank collection  
Sunday, Nov 23 – Community Thanksgiving at Prospect UMC @  
6:30 – Pastor Troy speaking

*Keep your words sweet - you  
never know when you'll have  
to eat them!*

*Don't forget to save and bring to church:*

Pop tabs  
Empty toilet tissue rolls  
Items for food pantry

## Thoughts from the past.....by Mary Etta Blessing

### Our Vietnamese Adventure

Have you ever wondered why a Methodist Church would have a wall hanging like the one in the back of our church? Have you heard of a group called "The Noodle Makers"? Are you aware of a former Sunday School class called "New Adventures"?

All of these have a common bond. At one time our Pastor was Rev. Kent Biller. It was during his time with us that he became interested in the Vietnamese people who wanted to come to the U.S. In order to come they had to have a sponsor here to take care of them. Our church family decided to take on this project. I'm not sure how it was accomplished, but eventually a young couple was sent to us. They were Twin and Munn; last name I have no idea! Claude Koons instantly became their mentor and their friend and they walked right into the hearts of Regine and Claude.

This is where the New Adventures Sunday School and the "Noodle Makers" came into the project, for the class agreed to be responsible for their rent. There was an apartment in Uniondale above the George Schwartz garage and that is where they lived.

However, we had to find a way to make that money so the "Noodle Makers" was born. It was decided to make and sell noodles. Only two of us had ever made noodles in that quantity – so it was a brave undertaking! We bought 2 noodle machines, one to roll out the dough and one to cut the noodles and started, using 12 eggs to a batch. We learned much as we made them, worked up a big market for them, and so were quite successful.

We made enough money to also buy the white tables for the basement. They are so lovely and we hope will be treated with "tender, loving care", for a lot noodles were made to be able to purchase them.

Twin and Munn eventually moved to California where other Vietnamese families were located but kept in touch from time to time. They had a baby girl and named her Regine after Regine Koons.

This brings me to the wall hanging. They presented it to our church in gratitude for what we were able to do for them. It is very precious to those of us who were so involved in that wonderful project!

We also were able to get and sponsor a man and his two sons, enabling them to come to the U.S. John and Evelyn Hanni became their mentors and loved them like their own too. They eventually ended up in the west somewhere and one boy became quite involved working with an oil company. He did come back once to visit the Hanni's and our church.

A little more about "The New Adventures" Sunday School class. We had a cozy little corner in the basement where we loved our Bible lessons, but we also did many fun things together. We had camping trips, taffy pulls, stew made in a big black kettle over an open fire. We baked cookies at the church and sold them, a dozen to a package. Marjorie McAfee was in charge of the ovens! We accepted the project of cleaning a mile of highway once a month, took flowers and small gifts to shut ins and always took ham to any family who had had a death. Loved and supported each always. Just ready for any "New Adventure" that came along.

Pete Espich and Kenny Griffen were the teachers who got it all started years ago. Sadly, death has taken its toll and we are no more, but I'm sure each of us were better persons because of being part of that unique group called "New Adventure"!

Who would have ever imagined a little town in the middle of nowhere, called Uniondale, Indiana, and a small Methodist church of caring people who loved the Lord could accomplish so much!

## *Focus on Christ and Find Joy*

There's really no easy formula for appropriating joy. Joy happens in us as God restores us, teaching us to abide in Him as He works in and through us.

Joy is not something that you can buy. You can't get it from a book or a conference. You can't absorb it as if by osmosis by hanging out with people who seem to have it. You can spend your life trying to eliminate all pain and stress from your world in the vain hope that joy will take its place, but it won't. You can beg for it, pray for it, and bargain for it to no avail. Joy comes only when you live in relationship with the source of joy.

Remember the promise of John 15:4? "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." You can't go out and work on joy. We are called to rest in the One who is joy. Without Him there is no fruit, no joy.

Taken from Joy for a Women's Soul

*Psalm 130:7 "Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption."*



### **Pre-School News**

The preschool has had a great first few weeks, we are in full swing. Charlie and I have a great group of kids. We have our shy ones, loud ones, hyper ones and talkative ones but overall they mix really well! We finished our evaluation (testing to see what they know), and jumped right in to A. We learned about apples, and apes! We also started B this week (9-22-14) we have learned about bubbles and got to use our water table for the first time this year! Next week we are on to the letter C and cupcakes! Speaking of cupcakes, we celebrated on Wed (9-24-14) with a cupcake party; we were celebrating our 4th place win in the Street Fair Opening Night Parade Float Contest!!!! How awesome is that? God is definitely good. We won \$100 and the kids all got certificates! I would like to thank everyone who helped make the float possible, the Evans, Drayers, Swinefords, Powers, Sunny Park Dairy and all of our students and parents, although we may have jogged the whole parade we still had a blast!!!!

Blessings,  
Miss Jennifer



## Committee Reports

**The Education Committee** – What a GREAT fall kickoff. Everyone had such a great time. Sunday School is off to a great start. Everyone wore their shirts and the kids had so much fun playing in the bounce house, playing kickball and just enjoying being together as a church family. We had great food, great fellowship and just amazing weather. I feel so blessed to have found such an amazing church family. We have some great things planned coming up through the holidays for Sunday School. I just wanted to thank everyone who is willing to teach during Jr Church and Sunday School. We are still in need of teachers to sign up for the rest of the year. We have made it easy for anyone to jump in and teach. All of the supplies will be laid out before class starts. If you can help sign up on the book at the back! Thanks, Tonia

**The Trustee Committee** – The bell tower is finished. The crew that we hired was very professional. They worked hard, respected the church property and were just over all professional. The bell tower looks amazing. You can look on the church Facebook page and see pictures of the work as they went. I have an estimate to have the asphalt sealed. I will submit the estimate to the church board to be voted on when we have our October meeting. The basement is in need of a fresh coat of paint to finish up down stairs, we will get together to schedule a paint day. Anyone who is willing to volunteer to finish the job as a group would be appreciated. We could have a carry in with food just to make the job easier. Food always makes it more fun! Just wanted to take a minute to thank Pastor Troy for building the fence to corral our little ones during Sunday School.

**Faith Circle Update** - Our first meeting will be at 1:00 p.m., October 25th, hosted by Mindy Drayer at the parsonage. All women are invited and encouraged to attend this special time of fellowship, food, and fun. Please come, share your talents, and be a part of what the women of UUMC are doing to further the Kingdom of God.

**Vision/Evangelism/Worship Committee Report** – The Vision/Evangelism committee met on September 29th to finalize plans for the remaining events of 2014. The Trunk or Treat event will take place on October 31st. This year we are inviting the Uniondale Community Churches to participate! Plan your themes now!

The Second Annual Chili Cook-off will take place on November 9th after church. Activities for the children are planned and other food to share may be brought in if you do not want to enter the chili cook-off. More details to follow! Schedule of events through the end of the year:

- Oct 19**            Food bank collection
- Oct 25**            Women's Circle at parsonage @ 1 PM
- Oct 26**            Children "Changing the World"
- Oct 31**            Trunk or Treat @ TBD
  
- Nov 2**             Communion Sunday
- Charge Conference at Ossian UMC @ 7 PM
- Nov 9**             Kids doing the service
- Chili Cook-off @ 11:30
- Nov 16**            Special Thanksgiving food bank collection
- Nov 23**            Community Thanksgiving at Prospect UMC @ 6:30 – Pastor Troy speaking
  
- Dec 7**             Communion Sunday
- Dec 14**            Pre-school Christmas Program
- Dec 21**            Pancakes and Pajamas @ TBD
- Food bank collection
- No Sunday School
- Dec 24**            Christmas Eve Service @ 11:00 PM
- Dec 28**            No Sunday School

September Budget Summary	September Actual	September Budget	September Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	2,876.00	4,197.33	(1,321.33)	30,304.06	37,775.97	(7,471.91)
TOTAL BUDGET EXP.	4,920.07	4,197.36	(722.71)	41,650.02	37,463.34	(7,986.48)
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>(2,044.07)</b>	<b>(0.03)</b>		<b>(11,345.96)</b>	312.63	

Dear friends,

Our campus pastor at White's, Amy, shared this devotional with us this week and I wanted to share it with you ☐

I have spent lots of hours this past year....worrying. I am not proud of it, but confession is good for the soul. This devotion spoke to my heart about worry and how God wants me to handle it. I pray you will be inspired as well.

God Bless, Mindy

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."

-- Philippians 4:6-7 (The Message)

This afternoon, while finishing up details for our Sunday worship, this wave of anxiety washed over me. So this afternoon, I escaped. When I get anxious, I also get this gnawing feeling that I desperately need something: typically Heyerly's Donuts. I eat my feelings. As of late, I'm trying not to eat. But my old self reared its ugly head and so instead of going inward and waiting for the Lord, I went shopping.

I thought I needed a necklace for the dinner, so I went downtown to look. As I perused the jewelry, I realized very quickly that although I still have a lawyer's taste, I now have a chaplain's wallet. It was then I heard the words of this worship song come over the speakers in the store:

"All of You is more than enough for all of me.

For every thirst and every need.

You satisfy me with your love,

and all I have in You is more than enough."

This may not have been the best song to play in a place that sells retail. But man, did it minister to me. I realized once again that I was trying to do something that would give me that artificial high and affirm I was okay.

Here is the truth: I already have Who I need. You do too. No donut, necklace, or change of address will ever fill the void. There is nothing missing: I am missing my Savior.

The Lord Jesus is teaching me to breathe. Teaching me to stop frantically trying to fix. Teaching me to get face down on the ground and say these words over and over until the anointing returns:

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Come, Holy Spirit, Come."



Amanda and Natalie are organizing an exercising night for all those interested.

More information to come!

## I Believe in the Word of God

One of the affirmations of faith in our United Methodist Book of Worship (#884 in our Hymnal) is “A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church.” It contains this important affirmation:

We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.

That affirmation is an important way of describing what the many denominations of the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition believe about the Bible. The Bible is central to our faith, it is the first and most important of the truths of the “Wesley Quadrilateral” (the others being Tradition, Reason and Experience) and John Wesley was known for saying he was a man of “one book” (even though he read and studied many books).

As United Methodists, we revere and respect the authority of Scripture. We understand that the Bible “contains” the Word of God. That means we are not Biblical literalists and we try to avoid turning the Bible into an idol. Rather, we study, pray, conference and interpret the Bible together in order to grow in faith and to become more Christ-like, because Jesus Christ is the Word of God, as the first chapter of the Gospel of John clearly states.

### Inspired words

The Bible is a compilation of the inspired words of people of faith who witness to the Word of God, but the Word of God is Jesus Christ. This distinction is important, because it reminds us that God alone has the whole Truth, and God has chosen to reveal that Truth in the person, life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. None of us humans are capable of fully understanding or interpreting without error the Word of God. Rather, we all must be guided by the Spirit of Jesus Christ to grow in our understanding of the revealed truth of God.

This is why the church has often modified its interpretations of Scripture through the years – not because the Scriptures have changed, but because the Spirit of Christ has helped us to discern the Truth in the Scriptures. Three examples come to mind:

1. The church moved from endorsing slavery to opposing slavery as we have further understood the truth of Scripture, especially Paul’s words that in Christ there is no longer slave or free, male or female, Gentile or Jew. We are all new persons in Christ.
2. The church moved from banning women in ministry to allowing women in ministry (at least in most Christian denominations), because we have realized that women have been leaders since the very beginnings, as described in the Letters of Paul, and because we have grown to understand that ministry is based upon spiritual gifts and not upon gender.
3. The church moved from ministry being limited to the priests to the “priesthood of all believers,” which embraces God’s gifting all persons for ministry – thus our United Methodist Church honors the ministry of lay leaders and teachers like you.

The current issue of our day that calls for deeper study and interpretation is the whole issue of human sexuality and the related issue of the meaning of marriage. Christians on all sides of this debate claim the authority of Scripture, which is a way of saying that they have differing interpretations of Scripture as they seek to know the Word of God.

Whether or not the Spirit of Jesus Christ is leading us to new understandings of the meaning of marriage is something I do not know. Certainly our culture is changing, and the Church and our pastors face pressures today that were not a part of the ministry when I began 40 years ago. I believe our UMC will maintain our traditional stance on marriage, but I also know that many deeply sincere Christians sense the Spirit of God leading in new directions. I believe that time will tell whether this movement is of God or not. In the meantime, I advise our pastors to remain faithful to our Discipline and our United Methodist position on marriage – in spite of the decisions of other denominations or the changes of our secular society.

I also remind us all to be careful to avoid the sin of religious hypocrisy which Jesus so clearly condemned. I am dismayed that so many heterosexual people have damaged marriage by their infidelity and immorality. Before we focus upon the “splinter in the eyes” of homosexual people who want to be legally married, the heterosexual community needs to remove this “log from our own eyes.” I am not comparing sins, just warning us to avoid the sin of hypocrisy, because that is such a clear teaching of Jesus in the Gospels.

Personally, I regret that the on-going debate about sexuality has so distracted us from our primary mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I long for us to get re-focused upon that mission, and I pray that the Word of God will guide us to be faithful.

From Bishop Michael J. Coyner,

Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church