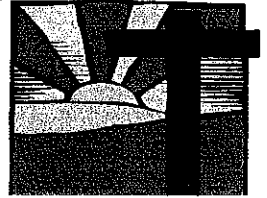


Uniondale Messenger

Volume 8, Issue 9

September 2011

**Back to School and
Other New Beginnings**
By - Connie Hix



Birthdays & Anniversaries

6th- Mindi Herstad
6th- Peggy Kite
10th- Opal Gilbert
12th- Suzanne Kellam
14th- Elaine McAfee
15th- Norman Jackson
16th- Mary Cook
24th- Kim & Sue
Chaney
30th- Gerry & Linda
Houtz

There's an excitement like none other in the air on the first day of school. You can see it on young faces as they look shyly up at their new teachers. You can smell it in boxes of new crayons and freshly sharpened pencils. You can hear it in the loud nervous chatter of middle schoolers surging into new unfamiliar buildings. Every year the same scenario unfolds across the country and around the world. The names and places may be different, but it's a scene that we all recognize, one that leaves us with our own distinct feelings.

Most teachers feel that jolt of excitement the day before the students come. They stand in their classrooms admiring the newly prepared bulletin boards and book shelves, knowing that so many are depending on them. Parents are torn. Some can't wait for their rowdy little ones to get back to school. Others have enjoyed the relaxed summer break and hate to see their children go back.

I have been blessed for most of my life to be a part of that first day of school excitement in one way or another. I remember loving school as a child and looking forward each fall to the first day back. Later, as a parent, while I knew my sons were ready to go back, I hated to see them go. The fleeting days of summer vacation seemed so precious. For the past twenty years I have been a teacher, blessed to have touched countless young lives, and to have had an impact on many of their parents, as well.

For me, as a newly retired teacher, it is now a whole new world. As I play catch up in my often neglected home, yard, and flower garden, I wonder what lies ahead. What does God have in store for me? What role does He now want me to play? Whatever it is, I'm sure He will tell me in due time. Until then, as the bus goes by each morning, I'll be enjoying my tea on the deck, smiling at my new beginning.

**MS benefit September
18th at 6:00 pm at Dillman
Church.**

The benefit will be supporting a BIKE MS team from the Warren area that will be participating in a bike tour September 10th and 11th . The benefit will start at 6 pm and include music and entertainment by the Schweikhardt family and friends. There will be light refreshments offered concluding the evening. The money raised by the benefit will go the Multiple Sclerosis society helps each person address the challenges of living with MS through their 50-state network of chapters. The Society helps people affected by MS by funding

To: YOU
Date: TODAY
From: GOD
Subject: YOURSELF
Reference: LIFE

This is God. Today I will be handling All of your problems for you. I do Not need your help. So, have a nice day.

I love you. And, remember.... If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do Not attempt to resolve it yourself! Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. I will get to it in MY TIME. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not

cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, and providing programs and services that help people with MS and their families move their lives forward. The evening's guest of honor will be Bridget Schweikhardt, who was diagnosed with MS in 2001. The BIKE MS team consist of Troy Drayer, Andrew Brauchla and Emily Jones. For more information on the benefit or if you would like to participate in the BIKE MS event contact Emily Jones at 260-403-3010 or to make a online donation to the team visit www.nationalmssociety.org.

~~MS~~ ~~MS~~ ~~MS~~

yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now. Should you decide to send this to a friend; thank you. You may have touched their life in ways you will never know!

Now, you have a nice day.
God

God has seen you struggling,
God says it's over.

Confessions of a single girl, living in a small town...

September begins my favorite time of year... (Spring is a close second because it means that the snow and cold weather are going away!!) One of the reasons why I love this time of year is because school starts. And yes, I enjoyed school. I **ESPECIALLY** loved buying school supplies. It was better in elementary school because you had to get crayons, markers and colored pencils. You had to get an art box, a new school bag and gym shoes. (Shoes that wouldn't leave marks, of course!!) I loved getting my supplies organized into the art box and then getting my bag all ready to go for the first day. Even now, I love seeing all the school supplies out in the stores, ready for kids to choose which ones they want. It sort of brings out the "inner" child in me. When I'm working, I always have to make sure that I have that perfect pen to use...or a certain color of sticky note for my notes. I had to buy a new binder earlier this year and I had so much fun picking out the style and color. I've even been known to swipe a pen or 2 from our office manager's office...hey, she keeps a thing of pens for people to use!! I just continued using it in my office :) Anyway, I think it's easy to take life too seriously...we get busy doing, that life starts to past us by. And although there are times when we need to be serious, I feel that we need to laugh and let our "inner" child escape, even if it's only for a few minutes. So whether that means coloring with your son or daughter, or getting your face painted at the school carnival or even buying school supplies, take a minute to step back and truly enjoy life. God wants us to enjoy life. And if you ever want to buy me flowers, I'd love a bouquet of sharpened pencils...(or colored pencils)!! :)

Amanda



Let's Not Forget...

Norm Jackson
801 N. Huntington
Warren, IN 46792

Margaret Hassler
37446 Carson Street
Farmington Hill, MI 48331

Maxine Crum
River Terrace
300 Caylor Blvd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Helen Trout
801 Huntington Ave.
Warren, IN 46792

Doris Emily
The Woodlands at River-Terrace
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt 214
Bluffton, IN 46714

Prayer Petitions

Our Country
Foster Children/Foster families
Our Servicemen Abroad
Our Missionaries
Norman Jackson
Helen Trout
Opal Gilbert
Unemployment
Campus Life students/directors
Students and Teachers
Homeless people
Crops & Farmers
Illnesses

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Vision/Evangelism Committee - The committee last met on July 13th. At this meeting we set dates for the outdoor concert and ice cream social (September 17th), start of Refresher classes (September 18th), and discussed other events. We reviewed the visitor information packets and visitor gifts. These are now ready for new visitors and some were handed out to the congregation. Also discussed were music and specials sharing during service that will start on September 18th, and the status of the monitor mounting project which is now complete except for the new audio/video work station. We made plans to send out postcard to the Uniondale community by September 1st. Additionally we are exploring the possibility of starting a women's group and a men's group. We made some final revisions to the Church's Vision Statement. It now reads:

"Uniondale United Methodist Church's vision is to be a refuge to the surrounding Community from the bombardments of everyday life, by providing a welcoming, friendly, and Christ centered atmosphere along with a back-to-the-basics traditional approach to service, music, fellowship, and community outreach."

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 7th. The Vision/Evangelism Committee is always open to your suggestions, ideas, and thoughts! (Submitted by Bill Hix—Chairperson)

Missions Report: So far this 2011 year, Missions has contributed \$500.00 to Youth For Christ. Our church supported Amanda as she ran/walked the mini-marathon in Indianapolis this past May. Youth for Christ provides spiritual guidance for our area youth. We are currently gathering school supplies for Operation Classroom. This outreach sends supplies to United Methodist Schools in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Future missions support and giving are: Karing for Kids, Bashore Children Home, House of Hope, and Word Made Flesh. (Submitted by Deanna Ezley—Mission Chairperson)

Education Report: Our committee met on August 8th at the parsonage. We discussed the need to create two classes for Jr. Church. The younger 0-3 class will stay in the preschool room and the 4 & up will go downstairs. On August 27th, our volunteers cleaned, sorted and organized the three classrooms downstairs. It looks great and will meet the growing need of our children. Starting September 18th, the Jr. Church classes will join for Sunday School using lots of music and movement, to teach our kids about Jesus.

Pastor Troy will be starting a 4-6 week study of "What's It Mean to Be Methodist?" for our adults during Sunday School. This will begin on September 18th.

We encourage our congregation to help with our children's programs by signing up to teach or help during Jr. Church. A GROWING CHURCH STARTS WITH THE CHILDREN!!! (Submitted by Mindy Drayer—Education Chairperson)

WORSHIP REPORT

The worship committee hasn't met formally, but we are hoping parishoners will share any ideas they may have for morning worship. Comments or suggestions??? Please see Mindy Drayer, Barry Jamison or Kent Herstad.

ITTY BITTY EINSTEINS PRESCHOOL UPDATE

By Jennifer and Jessica (teachers)

We had an outstanding open house on Tuesday, August 30th, at the church. We officially have 11 children registered for preschool and will be starting on Wednesday, September 7th. We are looking forward to a fun, filled year of learning our ABC's and 123's and much, much more! We have a potential 12th student, but we need your help!! His mother is a single mom, which 3 children, working from dawn to dusk job just trying to make ends meet. We are asking for a monthly sponsor to cover his supplies and tuition. Please see Jennifer Shuman or Jessica Kahn for any questions or additional information. If you wish to remain anonymous, please send check or cash to P.O. Box 49, Uniondale, IN 46791. Please feel free to send any amount to sponsor him. Our one-time registration fee is \$25 and our monthly tuition fee is \$60.

Thank you for your prayers and support!
Jennifer and Jessica



**Uniondale United
Methodist Church**

5857 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 115
Uniondale, IN 46792
Pastor Troy Drayer

Phone: 260-543-2256
Email: tmdrayer30@gmail.com

We're on the web!!!
www.uniondaleumc.com



UPCOMING EVENTS!!

- Sept. 4** Labor Day Sunday – wear your work clothes—Communion
- Sept. 11** Troy is riding his bike for MS; Barry will be attending his brother's wedding in AZ.; Special speaker and Mindy will be leading music
- Sept. 17** Ice Cream Social and out side Entertainment. We are looking for church talent. Ladies choir, instrumental specials. More information coming...stay tuned!
- Sept. 18** Church Kick-off - special music—Adult and children Sunday school and Jr. Church – new and exciting things coming!!!!

