

The Compass

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church

January 2010

“Plans to Make Plans”

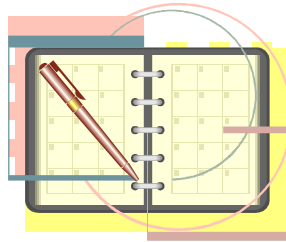
I have no idea what the movie was about but I still remember the lyrics from the “Theme to Mahogany” that Diana Ross sang: “Do you know where you’re going to? Do you like the things that life is showing you? Where are you going to? Do you know? Do you get what you’re hoping for? When you look behind you there’s no open door? What are you hoping for? Do you know?”

It is much easier to spout off the things we do not desire than to focus on what it is we do desire. That is largely because we tend to be more reactive than proactive. The security in airports will be “beefed up” again because of the recent terrorist plot. Many people will go on diets because the scales across the nation will read higher (personally I think that has to do with barometric pressure more than anything else.)

Don’t get me wrong. Reaction is good. I am particularly happy that when needs are expressed in our congregation we react. This past month Decision Hills and several people from our congregation helped a family receive three truckloads of wood so that the family could stay warm through some cold months. The response to the “Bless a Home” ministry was phenomenal when gifts upon gifts were showered on ten families we will likely never know.

Reaction is so good we might lean into the thought that it is what we do best. We might not be able to define what we are hoping for other than to meet the opportunities and obstacles as they arise and address them as they come. So much of our lives are reactive or routine that we don’t do a whole lot on the planning side other than how to meet what is coming up on the routine or how can we react to some challenge in our lives.

When I ask my son Barry about what he is planning to do he likes to answer “I have plans to make plans.” His stock phrase when I would like to know what is going on so that I might involve him in some “project” where his gifts (one of which, he can lift really heavy stuff) would be most welcome. But I would like to borrow his phrase for our congregation – we have plans to make plans.



Church meetings (okay, all kinds of meetings) are often seemed as time wasters where decisions are slow in coming and where some like to hear themselves talk.

There will always be a place for such meetings because discussions around decisions are vital to the ongoing life of any organization. Another vital piece to the life of an organization is determining what is important to an organization and crafting some plan to achieve what is important. During the next six months please consider participating in the Administrative Council meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anybody is invited to come.

Our discussions will be centered on what it is we believe our congregation should focus on for the coming months and year and then what we need to do to implement that plan. You can plan on being done no later than 8:30 and more likely around 8:00. If you cannot attend but would like to add to the discussion, please put something in writing and get it to myself.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

God’s Peace-
Pastor Randy

3rd Annual SHEPHERD'S DINNER

On January 10, 2010 11:30am

The SHEPHERD LEADERS will be hosting the
3rd annual SHEPHERD'S DINNER!

The menu will be:

yummy shepherd's pie, salad and a delicious desert.

The food will be deeee-lishous, and the fellowship will be top notch!

Shepherd leaders will be calling people in their group so be prepared to let them know if you and/or your family will be able to attend.

\$2/person 6yrs and over, \$1/child under 6—Extra donations to go to NOW projects

Church Conference

It is sneaky, I know, but following the Shepherd's Dinner there will be a short (really, it will be short) Church Conference meeting. A Church Conference (a/k/a Charge Conference) is where anyone who is a member of the congregation can exercise the right to vote on Church Conference matters. In this case it will be approving a budget, membership changes, approval of lay speakers and election of committee members. There is an additional item to approve the congregation to continue the Legion Nights ministry through December. Pastor Randy will preside over the meeting. Even if you are not an "official member" you are still encouraged to attend. Assuming there will be little discussion around these topics, the meeting should last for about fifteen to twenty minutes after the Shepherd's Dinner on January 10th. (For those who don't wish to participate in the Church Conference, there will be a "fair warning" so that you can skedaddle if need be before the Church Conference commences.)

Cross Roads Quilters

Cross Roads Quilters began in 1994 when they made a quilt for a Decision Hills auction. Since then the following have been made and presented:

CARE QUILTS (congregation) 5; MISSION QUILTS: Hurricane Katrina – 10; Food Shelf – 3; Link – 2; Decision Hills – 13; Women's Shelter – 20 pillow cases and 23 small teddy bears; PASTOR FAREWELL QUILTS (Cox; Ellis; Redman); BABY QUILTS – 34; WEDDING QUILTS – 14.

Members participating in this mission are: Mae Barker; Lylas Boonstra; Deb and Leah Embretson; Lorraine Ericson; Jeanette Fixsen; Gertrude Fluck; Robbie Johnson; Pat Kaiser; Sandy Koppen; Kay Ruhl; Mary Jane Swenson; Dorothy Taylor, and Wanda Zaska. Apologies, if anyone has been omitted.

Thanks for your help in God's work.

Our Stewardship Last Month:

	Attendance:	General Fund Offerings	Building Fund
Dec. 6	118	4987.00	175.00
Dec. 13	125	2628.00	715.00
Dec. 20	129	2849.50	6115.00
Dec. 27	71	1329.00	730.00
Average this month	110	\$2948.38	\$1933.75

Average General Fund offering per Sunday needed to meet our 2009 Budget is \$2809.

Our average offering per Sunday to date this year is \$2693.03.

Thank you... so much for the generous Christmas gift that you gave us. You are doing a great job of “taking care of the Levite” and his family. We also have appreciated the many other ways you shared Christmas gifts with us. As always your ongoing support of prayers and words of encouragement are appreciated. It is great to be in ministry alongside of you.

God’s Peace-

Randy, Sandy, Barry and Abby

Legion Nights

Join the crowd and invite a friend to Legion Night on the first Saturday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. It is a great time to get together and have fun. It is also a great opportunity to invite those persons that have drifted away from God to get back into a community of believers. One of the purposes of Legion Night is to provide an opportunity to create a point of entry for people you know that are no longer part of a church community. For whatever reason the spiritual part of their lives have had a disconnect. It is our congregation’s desire to specifically reach out to people who might fall into that category and help them to reconnect to a deeper relationship with God.

Sometimes people have had a negative experience with a church or no longer believe there is any relevance in being a part of a church. Almost all of us know of at least one person who matches that description. Invite them to a Legion Night. They will mix with people who in many ways are just like them- people who are looking for a way to make sense out of life and have fun doing it.

Decision Hills Happenings...

DHC Cross Country Ski Day Saturday, January 16

Grab our cross-country skis or snowshoes and head out to Decision Hills Camp outside Spicer, to enjoy the beautiful trails at the camp. George Lake offers a great route as well, and back to the camp for hot chocolate and a fire. All ages welcome! A free-will donation will be accepted toward helping with on-going camp upkeep. Email or call the camp at 320-796-5510 or sarah@decisionhills.org if you plan to take part.

Make Your Foursome for the Decision Hills Snow Golf Benefit Saturday, February 13

Form your four-some and raise a team minimum of \$200 to participate in the 1st Annual DHC Snow Golf Benefit! Tournament details will be available on the camp website at www.decisionhills.org after January 1st. A dinner celebration and prizes will take place at the end of the day. Tee off is at 1:00 pm. Email or call the camp at 320-796-5510 or sarah@decisionhills.org if you plan to take part.

Dear Friends of Decision Hills,

Thank you so much for you financial gifts to support our camping ministry during this critical year. Your church’s gift of \$1063.54 will help us through the winter and into next summer’s camping season. Decision Hills Camp has been and will continue to be a wonderful place for people to come and experience God in a way that might impact them forever.

Thank you for your support,

Sarah and Terry Lockwood

The Link Update

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who contributed – with your time and energy, talents, and financial resources over the last year in order to assist people facing tough situations in our community. Did you know that approximately 30% of households in our community do not have adequate income to meet their basic needs?

As we work to meet the mission of The Link, we must make our own new year's resolutions, or in other words, **goals for the year**. Here they are: 1) To increase our visibility in the community at large. 2) To secure sustainable funding sources for project administration. 3) To increase opportunities for neighbors to develop relationships with each other through service projects and events.

How can you help? 1) Talk to people you know about our work! 2) Invite us to come and speak to your groups/ clubs/ businesses. 3) Give- of your time, talent and financial contributions. Complete a volunteer interest survey today or contact us to find out about opportunities to help.

What's New? Come and visit us at the New London location- at this office people have access to household items, the food shelf, computer with online access, and coming soon- laundry facilities! In partnership with the food shelf and the United Way, we are developing more space in order to offer more donated goods to people- bedding, baby items, small appliances, etc. We are also developing a community meal project to begin this spring. Contact information: Michelle Peterson, Director

(320)796-2522 or (320)894-1681 email: fkc_michelle@tds.net

"Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other"

SOS—Red Bird Mission

Greetings from the Red Bird Mission School. We are a small school located in the mountains of southeast Kentucky. We are a private Christian school that serves grade K-12. Our school is totally funded by donations from individuals, churches, and businesses. Due to the decline in donations we are experiencing a budget shortfall this year of 1.2 million dollars and unless we raise this amount of money we will not be able to open our doors for the 2010-2011 school year.

We at Red Bird Mission School need your help! Not only do we need your support now, we need continuing support. Red Bird School is very unique in the sense that we are one big family. Most of our students go through 12 years of school together. We form bonds and friendships that last a lifetime. We also teach the word of God. One of our students said "I love going to Red Bird School. I have so many friends who are just like family to me. It's a great school to go to learn about God and get an excellent education." This is just one of many quotes students have made over the years. We need your continued support in order to keep our doors open. Please Continue to support Red Bird School.

SOS Committee
Red Bird Mission School
15420 S. Hwy 66
Beverly, KY 40913

Dear Church Women,

Thank you !

We received your donation of \$100.00 to Habitat for Humanity of West Central MN. Thank you for supporting our work of building homes for people in need. In a world of uncertainty and strife you are making a this a better place for all of us!

God Bless!

-Joline Hovland

Dear Pastor,

Our daughter Alexandra (from Germany) stayed at Claudia Thompson's and Jessica Fortney's house this year. You and your community greeted her very friendly in your divine service. Thank you for your help and love. So we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you and the people who belong to you.

Best Wishes-The Grudnio Family

Weekly Hospitality Ministries

	Jan 3	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31
Greeters	Gerdes/Hagen	R.Johnson/Muetzel	Nibaur/M.Hanson	C.Kluver/M.Kluver	Solheid/ Springman
Ushers	Ryks	O'Brien	R.Wright	D.Wright	Ruhl
Readers	Wiegmann	D. Wright	G. Young	Zaske	Baker
Coffee	Lockwood/ Zachariason	Baker/D. Wright	Wolf/Hagen	Barker/Zaske	Schlitters/Vissor
Nursery	Bonnema	Rohloff	R.Solheid	J.Fortney	C.Duke

*If you are not available to serve when you are scheduled,
please ask another person to fill in for you.
Thank you for your willingness to serve!*

	Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28
Greeters	Knisely/Laughlin	Wiegmann/Leither	Maurice/Wosmek	Ruhl/Kaiser
Ushers	Palmer	Pflipsen	Rohloff	B Erickson
Readers	Bergstrom	Bonnema	Broman	Carlsen
Coffee	Blokzyl/Broman	Evermanns/Engelsons	Feeken/Wosmek	Kaiser/M.Hanson
Nursery	A. Knisely	J.Baker	B.Kluver	Bonnema

Janurary Birthdays

Cindy Nibaur 2nd	Judy Zachariason 22nd
Angie Wiegmann 3rd	Jordan Baker 26th
Sheryl Nelson 4th	Matt O'Brien 27th
John Laughlin 6th	Kendra Pflipsen 27th
Jeanette Fixsen 9th	Adam Nibaur 28th
Scott Doty 13th	Troy Rohloff 30th
Pat Solheid 14th	
Eric Bjonfold 15th	
Brian Nelson 15th	
Jodi Evenson 22nd	



Janurary Anniversaries

Gerald & MaryJane Young 18th

Have a Happy Day!

*****Make sure to check the kiosk for community wide events!*****

**Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church**

3400 113th Ave NE
Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339
www.crossroadsspicer.com

January 2010