

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### EVERY SUNDAY

Worship Services – 8:00 & 10:20 a.m.  
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.  
Youth Group – 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Study / Farquhar's – 7:00 p.m.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Glorify - 6:30 p.m.  
Youth Bible Study / Chapel – 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir Practice – 7:30 p.m.

### MEETINGS

See the UMW page for Event listings

**Outreach Committee**, Lounge  
Thursday, Jan. 3 at 7:00 p.m.

**Men's Bible Study** at Steve Solomon's  
Tuesday, Jan. 8, 22 & 29 at 7:00 p.m.

**Administrative Council**, Foundation Class  
Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 8:00 p.m.

**Nurture Committee Planning Retreat**  
Saturday, Jan. 12

**United Methodist Men** at Bobber Café  
Sunday, Jan. 13 at 7:00 a.m.

**Wesley Circle**, Lounge  
Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

**Mary Martha Circle**  
Thursday, Jan. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

**Board of Trustees**, Lounge  
Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7:00 p.m.



NELSON MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
407 East Spring Street  
Boonville, Missouri 65233

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# THE NELSON MEMORIAL MESSENGER

January 1, 2008

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Elmer D. McClafin, Pastor

Steve Hendrix, Editor

It was a box - a simple 12 by 4 by 6 cardboard box - covered completely in bluish green printed paper. It sat undisturbed under a pile of other, larger and more impressive boxes at the feet of my seven-year-old son, Bobby. Our family tradition is to start with the youngest and take turns opening up presents. It was Bob's turn to unwrap his third choice, so his sister called out to pick the blue one (the one she had bought for him.) Bobby started looking, but Laura directed him further to pick this particular box. She took her camera and was about to capture the moment, but first had to remind Bobby to turn around so that she could see both his face and the present.

Bob quickly unwrapped the box, and to his dismay it was a shoe box. Ian called out, "look Bobby, it's what you've always wanted, shoes!" Steven spoke up, "Go ahead and open it!" With the look of someone with uncertain expectations, Bob twirled the box around, opened it up and in an instant it happened. Christmas was made! You could see it in his eyes. There was not another thing we could have done that would have brought that moment. What was in the box? It was an "omnitrix." What on earth is an omnitrix? It's a watch filled with aliens! A watch, that when properly fitted on one's arm, can transform the wearer into a plethora of extraterrestrial life forms. And to make it even better, it comes with batteries and makes lots of noise!

A simple little gift, but it hit home for Bob. You never know what it is that will be the hit of the day. Sometimes it is a big prize like a bike or a video game system, but more often than not, it is the simple, but just right, gift that wins the day.

This year is just beginning, and there are a lot of unwrapped boxes out there – days, weeks, holidays, events, vacations, celebrations, and more. Some of these boxes we look forward to opening with great anticipation. Others we would rather

*(continued on the next page)*



leave under the tree in their wrapping. There are boxes that hold great treasure waiting for us. Our challenge this year is to seek those gifts. They may be gifts we give ourselves. They may come in the form of discovering something you never knew about yourself - a talent - a skill - a calling. The gifts may be from others whom we allow into our lives, letting them grow, encouraging them along the way, and receiving what they have to offer to us with gratitude.

But this new year is a gift in itself. Look before you, God offers us a new year full of possibility. The boxes are there to be opened, 366 of them, (that's right, it is leap year.) And each day take the gift that God offers to you, and cherish it. My prayer is that we may discover great gifts this year, and together we will commit ourselves to the journey of following our Lord day by day, box by box.

- Pastor E



**STEWARDSHIP**

	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 2	Dec 9
OF OUR PRESENCE:				
Sunday School	95	78	88	0
Worship	187	165	156	0
(8:00 a.m. / 10:20 a.m.)	(27/160)	(27/138)	(34/122)	(0 / 0)
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:	576	575	575	575
OF OUR GIFTS:				
General Fund	3420.16	1741.25	9306.30	0.00
Property Improvement	160.00	35.00	325.00	0.00
Capital Campaign	343.00	197.00	1607.00	0.00



**Estate Planning**

Anyone interested in attending an estate planning workshop, including ways to include church in estate planning, wills, etc., call or e-mail the church office.

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

I want to thank all from our church who selflessly donated their time and braved the cold on December 8th to bell ring for the Salvation Army. The cost of gas and other rising expenses have definitely put low income families in a pinch. The Salvation Army is the last resort for some families. You might not have known that several of our church members play an active role in the local chapter. Thanks to Ann Hartmann for her overall charge of the bell ringing project in Boonville, Mary Ellen McVicker and all who contributed to the Stable Home project that raised over \$400.00 for the local Salvation Army fund, and Darren Walker for closing the stands each Friday and Saturday evening, as well as picking up and depositing the kettle money.

*Tim Von Engeln*

**Many Thanks...**

Thanks to all who loaned their Nativity Sets for the "Stable Home" project for the local Salvation Army. There was \$400 in donations which was given to the local chapter and 138 Nativity sets on display. Thanks to Rick and Judy Powell, Maryellen McVicker, Laura McVicker Wax, HESSIE WATTS, Alta Chipley, Ben Phelps, and Tim Von Engeln for unpacking and then repacking all the sets.

The Living Nativity on the west lawn also set an attendance record. Thanks to the Methodist Men for assembling the stable, to David and Donna Wrenn for setting up the electrical works plus Karma Haller and the Youth group for manning the stage. Thanks also to Wiley McVicker and David Wax for bringing the dows, donkey and sheep to the display and to Dr. McVicker for caring for and feeding the animals for the entire year. This was the 26th annual display.

One Boonville citizen who is not a member of the church was overheard to say, "Well you know it isn't Christmas until the Methodist Church has their Living Nativity." Isn't it great that the community thinks of this event in that manner?

Thank you for your prayers, e-mails, visits, phone calls, cards, and pedicure during the month-long recovery from my right hip revision surgery. What a wonderful church family you are!

*Bill Campbell*  
(and Bev and Tiffany)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Just to update you on what was going on the end of 2007, neither circle met in the month of December. However, we as a group met for a Carry-in-Luncheon in Fellowship Hall. It was Thursday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m. Mary Martha was in charge on the kitchen, while Wesley took care of the decorating and preparation of the dining room. Christmas cactus was the table decorations, which later found their way to our courtesy list shut-ins. Hessie Watts provided us with the Program, it was a Christmas theme. Food was collected and donated to Harvest House (since the Food Bank is in question). It was voted on to give \$100.00 each to the Harvest House, the Ministerial Alliance, and the LOCAL Salvation Army (as our local Mission giving). There were three guests from the AME church and one from New Franklin. A total of 22 attended. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by those who attended. We are now looking ahead into January 2008. Yes, it is hard to believe, but it is here. I pray that you all had a blessed holiday season and are looking forward to what a new year will bring.

WESLEY CIRCLE will meet this month on January 15th, in the church lounge, at 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Hessie Watts is our HOSTESS, and Nell Smoot will provide us with the PROGRAM. Likewise, MARY MARTHA CIRCLE will meet on January 17, at 1:30 p.m. (weather permitting). HOSTESS will be Patty Johnson, CO-HOSTESS: Alta Chipley, DEVOTION: Mary Wrenn, and Lucy Farrell with the PROGRAM.



Our new Yearbooks are in the works and will be completed soon for 2008. We would like to thank Margaret Hopkins, and Steve Hendrix, as well as anyone else with the participation in getting these books together. You all do a wonderful job, which requires many hours of preparation. THANK YOU!!

Please prayerfully consider joining us this New Year, we'd certainly enjoy having you.

God Bless!

*Tina Zeller,*  
Communications Coordinator, UMW

General Fund Financial Information		
2007	Annual Budget:	251,687.00
	Contributions needed to date:	237,166.60
	Actual contributions through December 9:	230,351.93
	Weekly need:	4,840.13
2008	Annual Budget:	248,342.00
	Weekly need:	4,775.81

### Capital Improvement Campaign Update

Campaign Goal:	175,000.00
Pledges to date:	65,935.00
Contributions to date:	40,472.33

## ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Juanita Scott scholarship application is now available. These applications must be returned to the Church office no later than February 1, 2008. To receive an application, please contact:

Lucy Farrell at 882-2470,  
Sandy Halford at 882-3940, or  
John Ward at 882-6784.

## Monthly Service Opportunities

Please plan on meeting with Pastor Elmer in his office at 7:45 a.m. for 8:00 service and 10:00 a.m. for 10:20 service.

January			
Date	Liturgist	Prayer Family	Ushers & Greeters
6 (1st)	Sharon Mellor	David and Donna Wrenn	David and Kay Bradley  Nancy and Leigh Parker
6 (2nd)	David Wrenn		
13	Mike Maxwell	Tim and Gayle Von Engeln	
20	David Wrenn	Larry and Karen Kay	
27	Elvin Farquhar	Tom and Betty Maxwell	

February			
Date	Liturgist	Prayer Family	Ushers & Greeters
3	Tim Von Engeln	Larry and Judy Long	John Ward / Steve Solomon  Earl and Karma Haller
10	Tom Maxwell	Tim and Gayle Von Engeln	
17	Earl Haller	Bob and Cindy Koch	
24	Ricky Powell	Tom and Betty Maxwell	

It is your responsibility to switch with someone else on the list if you have a conflict for your appointed week. Thanks.

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH

### District Leadership Training

**District Leadership Training Sessions** are January 20 (Harper Chapel) and January 27 (Community). Gathering begins at 2 PM, with the opening at 2:30 PM. Training sessions will at 3:15 PM, and will include sessions for Council chairs and lay leaders, evangelism, finance and trustees, staff-parish relations, and worship. Our theme is *“And I will show you a still more excellent way”* (I Corinthians 12:31b NRSV). We are asking everyone to come prepared to think and talk about how the 5 Vital Practices are related to their particular ministry!

In **preparation for the district leadership training** events in January, Mark Dumas is requesting the following information:

- + Examples of what we are doing in our district regarding pastoral letters and first time visitor gifts
- + Newspaper ads or mailers that are used in advertising local services
- + Special events congregations are using to promote their church
- + Budgeted amounts for advertising and the size of the community being targeted
- + Ideas of what we have used and what has worked that has inspired others to try our church
- + Examples of really bad ideas that we should warn folks not to use because they had negative results

**Please send the examples or items to:** Mark Dumas, 201 Monroe St., Jefferson City, MO 65101, (573) 635-6886, mdumas@jcfumc.org

The District Council is “growing into a new way” of working with local congregations. Instead of being primarily a program-oriented group (we plan events, provide leadership, and invite congregations to participate), **we are becoming more of a “conduit” where you can share your questions and triumphs in ministry**, and we will help local congregations make connections for the questions and share your ideas that triumph! For our **January meeting, we will focus on Passionate Worship**. Tell us how you relate the other four vital practices to your passionate worship (with Advent/Christmas, this is a time when most of us have our most “passionate” worship services), as well as where it is a struggle so that we can help each other grow in faith and love.

## Some Grateful Angel Tree Thoughts

As we reflected on the twelve years we have been a part of Angel Tree I thought of the blessings that have been a part of this program. Many who have attended the Angel Tree party in St. Louis are aware of the blessings that are registered by the children as they receive their gifts.

However, sometimes we miss the many blessings that are received as a part of the year long program. Just to mention a few:

The blessings of the actual purchase process. One of our families' children gave up receiving their Christmas gifts so that their Angel Tree child could have a gift.

Many have shared the outreach opportunity that takes place when talking with sales personnel during the purchase of the gifts.

Each child will also be offered the opportunity to attend Angel Tree camp, similar to our support for Sagrada Bible Camp.

Additionally, many of the children will be offered mentoring opportunities in the St. Louis area.

The Nelson family also makes it possible to touch the lives of members of the St. Louis church family.

And finally, the blessings received by our youth that attend the St. Louis party.

We also need to thank the many behind the scene family members who yearly support this important ministry. Betty Maxwell for organizing the program, Debra Windsor who spends literally hours on the phone with the Angel Tree sponsors soliciting gift requests. The many United Methodist Women who help package the gifts for delivery, and last but not least the generous transportation of the gifts for more years than can be remembered, by Jack Bell. We also thank Karma, Earl and the Youth Group for their help.

We also deeply thank each of you who sacrifice your time and resources to make this program possible. May the Lord bless each of you who have been a part of this important Matthew 25 ministry.



## Church-Wide Study Beginning in January

Beginning in January we will offer small group studies on Rick Warren's study, Forty Days of Purpose. The study involves reading a short chapter of his book, The Purpose Driven Life, each day for 40 days. It also includes attending sessions of a small group meeting weekly for seven weeks to view a video by Rick Warren followed by a discussion of the book and the video. The sessions will be offered on various weeknights at homes of people who will host a study. Each evening session will be from 7pm to 8pm with a social time available afterward. Sessions will also be available on Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour if any of the adult Sunday School classes so desire. By the end of the seventh week you will better know God's purpose for your life and will better understand the big picture – how all the pieces of your life fit together.

Forty days is a very significant time in many Biblical events. Many times when God wanted to prepare someone for his purposes, he took 40 days. Don't miss this opportunity to take 40 days and participate in a small group of church friends, reduce your stress, simplify your decisions, and increase your satisfaction. So like those Biblical figures who were spiritually strengthened or sustained in 40 days, sign up for a study group, take 40 days, and see what transformation may take place in your life.

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Tear here and place in offering plate

\_\_\_\_ I will participate in a Forty Days of Purpose study session.

\_\_\_\_ I am willing to host a study. No training required. Be a study participant, not the leader. Be willing to open your home to a group of up to 10 people for seven weeks in a room with a TV and DVD player and serve a snack afterward.

\_\_\_\_ I will invite/bring one or more neighbors or friends who are currently not attending church on a regular basis to the study. (This is a wonderful, safe, friendly, non-threatening, opportunity for outreach to our friends and neighbors!)

My preference for a session day is:

Monday       Tuesday       Wednesday (church, nursery provided)

Thursday                       Sunday morning (church, nursery provided)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print name(s)

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>-1-</b> Dorothy Cook Heather English	<b>-11-</b> Gabrielle Schler Jordan Schler	<b>-21-</b> Alex Breashers
<b>-3-</b> Marnie Rogers	<b>-12-</b> Robert Langlotz	<b>-22-</b> Kimberly Vinson
<b>-4-</b> Marcey Caldwell	<b>-13-</b> Sandy Rohrbough	<b>-23-</b> Noah Rogers Larry Schler Gina Silvey
<b>-5-</b> Dana Reagan	<b>-14-</b> Robert Miner	<b>-25-</b> Avery Reardon
<b>-6-</b> Tom Halford	<b>-15-</b> Mike Maxwell Marie McClure	<b>-26-</b> Gwyneth Davis Lorraine Lymer Heather Silvey Barbara Wright
<b>-7-</b> Christina Koch	<b>-16-</b> Kennedy Renfrow Lisa Zaugg	<b>-30-</b> Brittany Gerke Carl Ludlam Elizabeth Vanderhoof
<b>-8-</b> Brad Simmons	<b>-17-</b> Kayla Schmidt	<b>-31-</b> Mary Browning
<b>-9-</b> Cindy Thomas	<b>-20-</b> Jack Bell Addyson Reardon	
<b>-10-</b> Ted Mellor		

Please help us update the Birthday List by notifying the Church office if your name is missing. Thank you!

# PRAYER LIST

*Mindful of my need to pray and the great opportunity, which exists when people of faith pray together, I will lift up the following in prayer:*

## CONTINUED PRAYER

Bill Campbell ( <i>health</i> )	Ted Mellor ( <i>health</i> )
Family of Roselyn Coley ( <i>grief</i> )	Jennifer Metzger ( <i>health</i> )
Ruth Coleman ( <i>health</i> )	Lee and Sheri Phillips Family ( <i>Adoption</i> )
Richard Robbie Franklin ( <i>health</i> )	Pat Roberts ( <i>health</i> )
Dennis Geiger ( <i>health</i> )	Christine Schmidt & Family ( <i>health</i> )
Anna Halford ( <i>health</i> )	Gertrude Simmons ( <i>health</i> )
Jean Haller ( <i>health</i> )	Family of Sarah Jane Weed ( <i>grief</i> )
Mark Mellor ( <i>health &amp; healing</i> )	Tom Wood ( <i>health</i> )

## Prayers for Government, Armed Forces, and Disaster Relief Personnel

Shannon Challender ( <i>deployed to Afghanistan</i> )	Melody Von Engeln ( <i>Missionary in Japan</i> )
LT. senior grade Jimmy Fueemmeler ( <i>stationed at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA, EA18G Growler training</i> )	Covenant Church of Gondola, ( <i>Mozambique</i> )
Major Jeremy Gettings ( <i>deployed to Iraq as Marine Harrier Pilot</i> )	Interchange Freedom Initiative ( <i>appeal</i> )
Robert Mike Grissum ( <i>deployed to Iraq</i> )	
Aaron Von Engeln ( <i>deployed to Afghanistan</i> )	President of the United States Men & Women of our Armed Forces Leaders of the World