



Circuit Writer

FEBRUARY 2011

Our Journey Together

How's your vision? Some of us have had cataracts. They develop over time and one hardly notices that his view of the world has dimmed and become less clear. Those of us who have had cataracts have experience the amazement of realizing anew how beautiful and colorful the world really is. We had thought we were seeing accurately.

The same may be true about our vision as a church. We may be seeing through clouded lenses. That is something the Annual Conference is trying to help us address.

On the recent survey, you were asked to respond to three statements about "mission field." I am not certain we even understand what that means. Several of you indicated you think we "have a clear sense of a mission field," yet some of these same people said we were "seeking clarity on the current mission field." Some put that as their choice and others chose "are unclear about the current mission field." I think these are mutually exclusive. So what is this all about?

A mission field is a focus for ministry. A church's mission field is that area or group of people that God has called that church to be in ministry to/with. For whom are we here? The temptation is to say "Everyone!"

The problem with that is that no church can be everything to everybody. Trying to do that leads a church to be like a scatter shot from a shotgun, rapidly dispersing and diminishing in impact. Rather we are called to be more focused like a rifle firing a bullet at a target. We may not always hit it, but at least we know what we are trying to hit.

With that in mind, I will take the deliberations of our church into account and address this in terms of our vision statement which we say every week and many of us know by heart. As we look to the future, my messages during February will address each image: cross & flame, Good Shepherd, lighthouse, and bridge, in light of our understanding of the mission field(s) to which God calling us. May God give us eyes to see the world He loves and our place in it as He does.

In Christ,

Charlie



Day School



Jambalaya & Mardi Gras Parking Fundraisers

Jambalaya Fundraiser

Thursday, February 24

Pork & Sausage Jambalaya

Served: 3:30 — 6:00 p.m.

\$5 plate

(Plate includes jambalaya,
green beans & roll.)

Ticket sales 2/13 & 2/20 after each service
or by calling the Day School @ 478-4347.

Drive thru available at back of church!!

Mardi Gras Parking

Tuesday, March 8

Sel Mart Parking Lot Rates

\$50 Front Row

\$25 Second Row

\$10 Third Row

**University Church
Parking Lot — \$5**

Contact University Day School at 478-4347

United Methodist Men Helicopter Speaker



Jeff Lines will be speaking on the History of Helicopters in Louisiana at the monthly meeting **February 10**. The regular monthly eat and meet will be held at **6:00 p.m.** in Safe Harbor.

Social Lights

Mazen's Mediterranean Restaurant

(217 W. College)

Tuesday, February 15

11:30 a.m.

All ladies are invited
to attend a Dutch Treat social.



Rev. Marsha Gail Alexander

Asbury College

Anda, Pangasinan 2405

Philippines

Our Christian Sympathy to Families of:

C.A. Verret

Holy Habitats

Wesley Auction & Dinner for Missions

February 26, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

Tickets \$15

Available @ MSU Wesley Ctr. & University Methodist

UMW ON THE GO...

- 1) **UMW general meeting** will be held **Thursday, February 3 at 10:30** in Safe Harbor with **Janet Allured** speaking. A luncheon will follow prepared by the Adams-Creel Circle.
- 2) **District UMW Mission Study** will take place at First Methodist on Tuesday, February 1. Dr. Doug Ezell will lead the study on "For the Love of God: John's Letters." Registration at 9:00; concludes at 3:30.
- 3) **Special thanks** to the men that helped make the UMW gumbo fundraiser gumbo a success — Randy Morgan, JD Morgan, Tommy Gilmore, Louis Hoffman and Weldon Hoffpaur.
- 4) **Manna Ministries** is still collecting and giving out food. Please be generous with your contributions.
- 5) **2011 Spiritual Growth Retreat** at Wesley Center on February 18 & 19, 2011. The theme is "The 5 Senses of the Soul" led by Debbie Covington.

Children & Youth

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes have started, and we have three great kids—Randi Paige Morgan, Kailyn Sonnier, and James Bulhof. Please keep these kids and their mentors and parents in your prayers.

"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" Fund Raiser

Feed the football fans in your home on February 6. The UUMC Youth Group will be selling \$7 bag lunches (Ham & Turkey Sub with all the fixings, chips, and a dessert). The youth will be selling tickets on Sunday, January 30 after each service in the coffee area, or call Mary in the church office at 477-2003 by Tuesday, February 1 to reserve your tickets. Proceeds from the fund raiser will be given to Manna Ministries and Youth Mission.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

If you are in grades 6 to 12, join us on Sunday nights for Youth Fellowship at 5:00 p.m. in Safe Harbor. We mix it up with games, snacks, a short devotion, and time to just hang out with friends.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

During February, the kids will be studying The Lord's Prayer, The Birds of the Air, The Golden Rule, and The Greatest Commandment. If you want to see what they are doing, just stop by and see all the fun activities.

SUPERSTARS - Sunday Nights

K to Grade 5

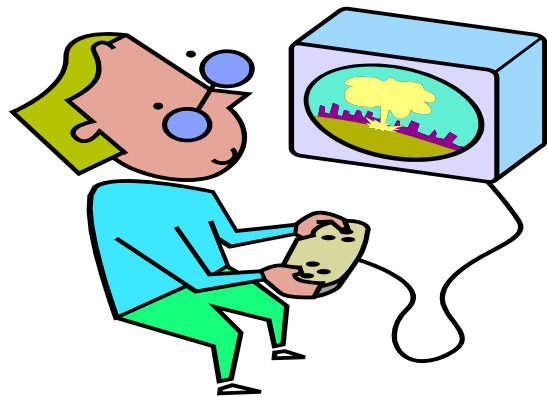
Sunday Nights 4:00 — 5:00 p.m.

Bible study for kids. Join us for "God's People Celebrate." Worship God through a year of holidays and celebration—Holy days, games, art activities and Bible verses. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Stager in the church office at 477-2003.



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

What does the Bible say about **OUR** lives? In our Youth Sunday School class, we do many different things and have many different studies. Our Sunday School hour is a great time where we catch up with each other, find out how our week went, share our prayer concerns, and grow deeper in our faith as a group. All youth in grades 6 to 12 are welcome and encouraged to join us at 9:40 a.m. on the second floor in the Youth Room.



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www.universitymethodist.com

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford
Pastoral Assistant	Marj Robinson
Youth, Children, & Family Ministry Dir.	Mary Stager
Chancel Choir Director	Dr. Darryl Jones
Safe Harbor Music Leader	Jahn Saucier
Organist	Steven Branch
Office Manager	Randy Morgan
Staff Assistant	Glynetta Phenice
Day School Director	Katie Stewart
Church Sexton	J.C. Picard
Weekend Sexton	Robert Price

Address Correction Requested



What Good Is God?

In Search of A Faith That Matters

Sunday's at 6:00 p.m.

Philip Yancey never dodges the hard questions about the Christian faith in daily living. His latest book addresses the question often voiced in the midst of troubling and devastating situations: *What good is God, if this can happen?* His honest exploration of the Christian faith in these situations may help you find answers to your questions about God as well.

Participants will be expected to have read two chapters in the book for each session and come with an open mind and honest questions. Interested persons can contact Charlie.

February 6 — no meeting (Super Bowl)

February 13 — Part 3: Green Lake: Professional Sex Workers

February 20 — Part 4: Cambridge: Remembering C.S. Lewis

February 27 — Part 5: Bible College: Student Daze