



Circuit Writer

JANUARY 2011

Our Journey Together

The new year is here!!! It's time for covenants, not resolutions.

Followers of John Wesley, as do many others, use this time of ending and beginning anew to reflect on the past, speak honestly with God about the life we've lived, and covenant (commit one's self and the coming year to God) with God who has committed himself to us. While this is akin to making New Year's resolutions, it is a much deeper and serious commitment.

Accordingly, whole worship services were designed for this holy endeavor. Wesley in his time borrowed freely from others and adapted the prayers and liturgies for the Methodists. The tenor of the service is set by the acknowledgement of God's sovereignty and grace and giving thanks for all God has done. Only then is the Christian life proclaimed a story of redemption from sin and consecration to God. All covenants are initiated by God and one is asked to recall the covenant made at his or her baptism. In light of the promises of God persons are invited to yield to God and pledge themselves to being his.

Consider this beautiful prayer ("A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" – UM Hymnal 607):

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me that what you will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low by you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to you pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

May we consider God's blessing, ours in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit, and determine whether we are ready to yield ourselves in this way to such a loving God.

Many years ago D. L. Moody said the world has not seen what can be done through a person completely at God's disposal and chose to be such a person. What about you and me? Is 2011 the time? If not now, when?

May God's richest blessings be yours in the coming year.

In Christ,

Charlie

New Day School Director

The Board of the University United Methodist Day School is pleased to announce Katie Redlich Stewart has been chosen as the school's new director. Her first day as director will be Monday, January 3, 2011.

Katie is the daughter of Joey and Janice Redlich and the fourth of their five children. A native of Lake Charles, and a proud graduate of McNeese State University, she was very active as a member of the Student Government Association, served as President of Chi Omega Fraternity and Co-Captain of the Cowgirl Kickers. As a 2003 graduate, she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education with additional certification in Mild/Moderate Impairments and General Education.

Katie has been married to her husband, Mark, a native of Spring, Texas, since June of 2006. Together they have two children, Mason Ray (2) and Madelyn Elaine (9 months). She enjoys spending time with family and friends, sewing and monogramming, attending McNeese football games and remains very active in the SWLA Chi Omega Alumni Chapter and her church parish.

Mrs. Stewart has experience in teaching both general and special education as well as teaching students with emotional and behavioral deficits. She has worked closely with classroom teachers to initiate strategies to enhance learning and personal interactions of young students, especially those with special needs. She looks forward to serving as the new Director, and working with the day school staff in implementing her philosophy of education, which seeks to embrace the unique needs of each child and help him or her to grow spiritually, intellectually and emotionally.

As you have the opportunity, please introduce yourself to Katie and let her know she has your prayers and support.

United Methodist Men AARP Speaker

Ron Kaspar will be speaking on AARP Tax-Aid at the monthly meeting scheduled for January 13. The regular monthly eat and meet will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Safe Harbor.

Centenary Choir — January 5

Centenary Choir will be in concert at First United Methodist Church in Lake Charles on January 5, 2011. The church will be hosting the world renown choir at 7:00 p.m.

The first half of the program features old favorites and concludes with the Choir's traditional Tenebrae factae sunt—a stirring vision and witness of Christ's final moments on the cross.

The program is free and open to the public.

Social Lights

Social Lights will have lunch at **Peking Gardens** restaurant, 2433 Broad Street on **Monday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m.** All ladies are invited to attend a Dutch Treat social.

Our Christian Sympathy to Families of:

Herman Spalding	Celila White
Noel Moss	Kathey Clement
Elaine Aquillard (niece)	

Congratulations

Heather Bryson - BA in Education from MSU in December.

Phyllis & John Scott - a grandson born December 15. John Wesley Lehnert, 7 lb./11 oz., born in Tallahassee, FL.

UMW ON THE GO...

- 1) **UMW Sunday** will be held January 23 as a combined service at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The guest speaker will be Linda Trouard from Wesley UMC in Sulphur. She will be speaking on "Give, Give, Give."
- 2) **A UMW Fundraiser** will take place after the combined service. Gumbo will be sold for take-out only. The money raised will be for missions.
- 3) **Recognition Pins** were presented at the UMW-UMM banquet to Jeff Lines and Beverly Langford for their ministries going beyond the call of duty.
- 4) **Manna Ministries** is still collecting and giving out food. Please be generous with your contributions.

Youth

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes for youth in the 6th grade and up will begin Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. The classes will be held each week on Wednesday and during the Sunday School hour. Core principles for our confirmation class are grounded in these three core principles:

- ◆ Confirmation is the continuation of one's faith journey, and the beginning of one's covenant relationship with the church — not an end unto itself.
- ◆ Confirmation is more than just a series of classes — confirmands must be fully engaged in the life of the church through worship, service, small groups and involvement in other ministries.
- ◆ Confirmation should emerge from their confirmation experience prepared for a life of Christian discipleship.

Please contact Mary Stager in the church office for more information.

"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). Youth will begin pre-selling tickets on Sunday, January 23 and Sunday, January 30 after each service in the coffee area. The proceeds 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

SUPERSTARS - Sunday Nights

Starting Jan 16th



"Kids Travel Guide" K to Grade 5

Sunday Nights 4:00 — 5:00 p.m.

It's a Bible study! Here's a trip worth making--so buckle up. These travel guides are essentials for leading children on the road to righteousness. This will take children on life-impacting explorations and engage them with activities, stories, prayer and much more. You'll help kids understand the Bible messages as they are brought together in imaginative and dramatic ways.

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.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers



Thank You!

Elva

Louis

Evelyn

Rick

Janet

Sandy

Diane

Anita

Janice

Cal

Charlie

Doris

Nell

Candy

George Ann



University United Methodist Church
3501 Patrick Street
Lake Charles, LA 70605

(337) 477-2003
(337) 478-8106 fax

www.universitymethodist.com

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford
Program Director	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
Church Sexton	J.C. Picard
Weekend Sexton	Robert Price

Address Correction Requested



What Good Is God?

In Search of A Faith That Matters

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?* Here he shares his own faith journey, and that of others, by giving the “story behind the story” and his own response in the midst of faith-challenging situations around the world. His honest exploration of the Christian faith in these situations, which have screamed at us from our TV screens and newspapers, may help you find answers to your questions about God as well.

On Sundays at 5:00 p.m. beginning January 23rd and on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. beginning January 24th, Charlie Langford will lead a discussion of Yancey’s journey and our own. Participants will be expected to have read two chapters in the book for each of the 10 sessions and come with an open mind and honest questions. Interested persons can contact Charlie for the schedule.