



Circuit Writer

OCTOBER 2009

Our Journey Together

Chances are you are not looking for more things to do, more bills to pay, more calories to consume, or more frustration. But, you just might be looking for more meaning in your life, more significance in your church activities, and more depth in your relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

If so, you will benefit from participating in our stewardship program, "40 Days of Transformation." All of you are asked to read the 40 daily readings in Dr. John Ed Mathison's book, *Treasures of the Transformed Life: Satisfying Your Soul's Thirst for More*. Each family unit will need a copy of the book and they are provided free of charge. We will benefit from the insights and wisdom gained during Dr. Mathison's long tenure as Senior Pastor of the Fraser Memorial UMC, Montgomery, Alabama.

There will be Sunday school classes and small groups seeing a video presentation by Dr. Matheson and discussing the week's reading. Persons in these groups will need a "Participant's Workbook" (one per individual) to guide their study and exploration of the significance of the week's readings. It is hoped that most of you will be in such a class or group. If you would like to host one in your home, let us know in the church office.

The messages in worship during this time will be related to each week's reading. They will seek to further emphasize an important aspect of each week's focus. This series will culminate on Commitment Sunday, November 15.

As did last year's materials, the readings, groups, and sermons will lead us to reflect on how we will live out our pledge to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, and service. Plan on being here and participating fully, especially if you are hungering and thirsting for more!

In Christ,

Charlie

Children's Choir has started again!

Susie Arrington invites all children, age 3 years through 5th grade, to be a part of our Children's Choir. We will meet at 4:30p.m. on Sunday in the choir room.

We will be preparing for two performances:

October 25-For a celebration of the new United Methodist Children's Home at the actual site where the children's home will be located on LA 27

December - Date to be decided - A Christmas musical

Please come be a part of this group. We will have a light snack following Choir Rehearsal. Questions call Marj Robinson at the church office at 477-2003.

Five or Six More Needed

The Louisiana Annual Conference is seeking to have 1,200 members (approximately 1% of our membership) gather in Alexandria on Saturday, November 14, for a Rethink Evangelism event featuring dynamic and gifted speaker Tony Campolo. It will be an exciting event filled with singing, worship, small group discussions, and two presentations by Dr. Campolo. At the conclusion, attendees will be asked to commit to seeking to bring one person to Christ during 2010.

You may find that a scary proposition. While it is challenging, it need not be frightening. What “rethinking evangelism” is about is building relations with and serving others, listening and appreciating first, and only then speaking of one’s faith as he or she has the privilege of doing so. My understanding is that we are looking for something like what George Barna lifts up in his book, *The Seven Faith Tribes*:

“It is not our duty to force everyone in America to worship the God of Israel. It is our duty to personally worship Him and to be so changed by that experience that other people marvel at the transformation happening within us.

“We have not been called to treat every public gathering as a forum for evangelism. We have been called to use every public gathering as a chance to respect, love, and serve people.” – pp. 188-189

“What would it look like for followers of Christ to be salt and light in this country? Maybe it would include the following:

We would take the initiative to develop and nurture genuine caring relationships with people of other tribes—not for the purpose of converting them (for it is only the Holy Spirit who can bring about conversion) but simply to honor God by loving and appreciating them.

We would listen to the life stories and heartfelt concerns of others, learning more about ourselves by gaining insight into the lives of others.

We would let our actions do our evangelizing rather than our words, in recognition that effective evangelism is by invitation, not intrusion.” - pp. 190-191

These are some of the possibilities Barna mentions, but you get the idea. Don’t you want to be a part of such an endeavor? Charlie is looking for 5 or 6 more persons to join the three who have already signed up for this event. It costs \$25 per person (\$30 at the door). Talk to Charlie about this if you have questions about this and/or are sensing God’s Spirit nudging you to be involved in this significant enterprise.

Prime Timers

Wednesday, October 7

11:00 a.m.



Lunch and a speaker

Come join us!

Operation Christmas Child

University will be collecting shoeboxes this year for children to be sent to foreign countries. Simply get a shoe box, determine what age group and sex of child you would like to buy for, get a brochure from the church, fill the box, and bring it to the church. You can include \$7 for shipping in the box or you can go online and give the shipping money.

Ideas for the boxes are school supplies, hygiene items - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, hard candy, lollipops (double bag all candy), mints, gum, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, etc.

Please don’t include any chocolate, war-related items, medications, glass, or aerosol cans.

Place a rubber band around the box and have it to the church **no later than November 11.**

Is Your

Pledge

Up to Date?

October Birthdays

October 1	Pat Fruge
October 2	Jeri Searle, Hugh House V
October 3	Laurie Connell, Stephanie Burkhalter,
October 4	Eldina Winegeart, Jennifer Swann
October 5	Emma Roach
October 6	Ron Kemerly, Jonathan Harvey
October 7	Liz Bourgeois
October 8	Perk Kane, Jr., Jason Hay, John Sweeney
October 9	Murphy Tyson, Dennis Hermann
October 10	Dagmar Lindsey, Ned Wilson, Hannah Cole
October 11	Martha Fontenot
October 12	Kathy O'Neill
October 14	Leslie Blanchard, Brandon Richard
October 15	Flaury Ney, Joyce Broussard
October 16	Owen Jones, Mary Claire Pugh, Robert Estaville
October 17	Mary Murphy, John Edwards
October 18	Marci Alpha
October 19	Jean Reid, Kathy Peltier
October 20	Richard Darling
October 21	Pam Dees, Kevin Hodge, Will Shannon
October 22	Barbara Sweeney, Mary Jane Hillebrandt
October 23	Ginger Caldwell, Quinn Burkhalter
October 24	Donna Jones
October 25	Melanie Kramer
October 26	Ardena Stacy
October 27	Patsy Bult
October 28	Sandra DeWitt, Erin Gilpin
October 29	Jack Richard, Barbara Bond, Amy Kratzer, Kaitlyn Lassere
October 30	Eva Jane Newell, Barbara Kile, Ken Connell, Shannon Haese, Taffee Dees, Molly Hand
October 31	Harley Hebert, Wayne Hall, Elmer Roach



UMW ON THE GO

Manna Ministry Baby Shower was a big success. University furnished many needed items for the pantry. Plan to bring food or money to the church any time for this wonderful ministry for the community.

Operation Christmas Child is a project sponsored by the UMW to fill boxes for needy children in all parts of the world. The push is on for October and be ready to deliver your box or boxes to our church by Nov. 12. Select a child of any age and fill a box full of school articles, games, clothes, and toys.

“Going Green” was the program put on by Myrna Freeman on Thursday, Sept. 3 for the general meeting. She told how to keep our environment safe and clean. Gayla Abshire decorated in “Going Green” and the members of the Nell Hayes’ Circle furnished refreshments.

Mission Candle—University can burn over five minutes on the mission candle—a project for the needy all over the world. The offering was over \$200.

A challenge has been given by Nell Hayes, the president, for each member to lower their food budget by \$5.00 for September and October and give that money to our Thank Bank offerings. Eat less and give more to missions!

Seth Trahan will be the guest speaker on Thursday, Oct. 1 for the UMW General Meeting at 10:30 a.m. in Safe Harbor. He will speak on “Improving Our Health.” Lunch will follow. Also, at 9:30 a.m. that day, the UMW Executive Board will meet in the Stonerollers’ Class.

Church Workday

Saturday, Oct. 3

Church Birthday and Cake Auction

Sunday, Oct. 4

One service at 11 a.m. and covered dish lunch to follow



University United Methodist Church

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford
Program Director	Marj Robinson
Dir. of Youth & Out. Min.	Mike Brignac
Chancel Choir Director	Dr. Darryl Jones
Safe Harbor Music Leader	Jahn Saucier
Organist	Steven Branch
Office Manager	Randy Morgan
Staff Assistant	Kathy Harmon
Day School Director	Julie Hebert
Church Sexton	J.C. Picard
Weekend Sexton	Robert Price

Address Correction Requested

**Trunk or Treat**

Friday, October 30 from 6-8 p.m.

We need trunks, lots of candy, and lots of kids!

Bring candy to the church office between now and October 30.

Contact Marj Robinson
 to volunteer.

**YOUTH Happenings**

Join us every Sunday afternoon, 4:30 until 6:00 in the youth room. This month we're giving a final push to raise as much money as possible for the American Heart Association's Heart Walk. Bring in any donations you have and help us sell hearts and bears Sunday mornings.



On Friday, October 30th, we will be helping out at the church's Trunk or Treat event. But wait, there's more! Immediately following T or T, we'll start our Lock-in at the church, which includes a scavenger hunt. Call Mike Brignac, the church office, or check out www.universitymethodist.com for permission slips and details.

American Heart Association

Heart Walk - November 7

Support the Youth Team

Their Goal \$1200

