



## Circuit Writer

SEPTEMBER 2009

### *Our Journey Together*

September has become "Open House Month" in The United Methodist Church. The doors are open and there's no better time for you to invite/bring others to church. Churches can spend a lot of money in slick advertising or hold mega-events aimed at drawing people to church, but that isn't what works best. Time and time again it has been shown that personal invitation to persons with whom one is associated is the most effective means of getting people to church and of leading them to involvement and membership.

If you doubt this, look at our own experience over the last year and a half. Nearly everyone who has joined our church in that time has first come because someone they knew either invited them or brought them to an event or worship service here at UUMC. Someone commented to me recently that she thought she'd noticed a difference since we studied and emphasized Bill Hybels' *Just Walk Across the Room* in January of last year. While I can't vouch for that, I hope it is true that we are becoming more willing to take the initiative and strike up a conversation with another, listen to their story, share our story when given the opportunity, and invite him or her to UUMC.

Those who study these things tell us that we can most naturally invite our FRANs. It is your Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors who are most likely to respond positively to an invitation to join you at church. That's because you already have a relationship with them. You've earned a certain amount of trust and respect by your words and actions, and therefore, have the privilege of doing such things. Who is it among your FRANs that has no church home, is looking for meaning and purpose, is isolated and alone, or is facing challenges they shouldn't have to face alone? That person might welcome your offer to accompany you to church.

The younger generation is more likely to respond to an invitation to join in some act of service you are performing in the community. As you work alongside one another and get to know one another better, you may have the privilege of sharing your motivation for service and what gives your life meaning. Look for those times, be ready to respond, and let your love and care be an avenue to meeting the one you know as Lord and Savior. September is a great month for looking for such openings. It just might open the door to a relationship with Jesus and his church. Have a great month!

In Christ,

*Charlie*

### **PARENTS NOW WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Safe Harbor**

A variety of topics and speakers. Registration is \$7.50 per person if registered by Sept. 5. Activities for the children of attendees, also! Make checks out to UUMC. You won't want to miss this important day, parents.

## **Wonderful Wednesdays Are Back!**

Don't eat by yourself on Wednesday night. Beginning September 9, gather with your church family in Safe Harbor from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for good food, fun, and fellowship. For \$4/adult and \$2/child (maximum of \$10) you can have a good meal with other good folks.

After the meal you can go to choir practice, or attend one of two interesting classes:

With wit and wisdom, Nathaniel Langford will be leading a group through John Ortberg's *God Is Closer than You Think*. With insight, a deep understanding of scripture and humanity, and a gift for stories filled with wisdom and humor, Ortberg seeks to help persons discover God in the world around them. It beats looking for Waldo.

Charlie Langford will be showing presentations made by leading Christian preachers, speakers, and writers from two conferences sponsored by Renovare', a Christian organization started by Richard J. Foster which supports and resources intentional spiritual formation and deepening connections with God. Persons will see and hear the following this month:

- 9<sup>th</sup> – *What to do after you decide to do what Jesus said to do: Did you decide?* - Dallas Willard
- 16<sup>th</sup> – *If we're saved by grace then why should we do anything?* – John Ortberg
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – *Spiritual Formation: Discerning the next thirty years* – Richard Foster
- 30<sup>th</sup> – *THE JESUS WAY: What is it and why should I care?* – Eugene Peterson, plus an introductory devotion by Max Lucado

### ***Hey Kids!***

We're having a get-together for all UUMC kids (thru grade 5) and their friends and families.



**Sunday, Sept. 13**

**3:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Safe Harbor at UUMC**

We'll play games, have water fun, eat supper, cotton candy, watermelon, and make plans for the coming months ahead!

### **Social Lights**

Let's go to A. Mazen's  
Monday, September 21  
11:30 a.m.

(Located in the old Ruby Tuesday's  
building on Prien Lake Road)

### **Congratulations Graduate!**

Maureen Anita Baldauf graduated with honors from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She was the recipient of the Paris and Patla Award in Manual Therapy. This is presented in recognition of excellence in spinal and extremity manual therapy. Her family is very proud of her as she moves to California to start the next adventure in her life.

She is the daughter of Chris and George Baldauf.

## September Birthdays

- September 1 Ida Mestepey, Georgia Heyd
- September 3 Ken Michel, Bob Anderson, Barbara Hurlbut
- September 4 Tommy Bogle, Charles Natali, Susan Hyatt
- September 6 Randy Morgan
- September 7 Blanche Gibbs, Melda Faye Duhon, James Watts, Carolyn Angelo, Hollie Greenlee, Brandon Abshire
- September 8 Hermie Spalding, Doris Hayes, Katy McDonald
- September 9 Cliff Stacy, Katie Gentry, Laura Stacy
- September 10 Sarah Rico, Tara Saulbeamer
- September 11 Betty Robinson, Fred McKee, Jackie Palmer
- September 12 Janie Montgomery, Anna Garrett, Paul Ellender
- September 13 Helen Hebert, Marj Robinson, Willyne Kestel, Debra Edens
- September 14 Neal Gerhart, Tricia Whitfield, Connor Carlson
- September 15 Susan Nagelhout, David Tarasiewicz
- September 16 Judy Hand, Tracy Smith, Danny Estaville, Joshua Woodward
- September 17 Merle Gould, Mary Sample, Greg Sonnier
- September 18 C.L. Callihan, Dale Couvillon, Jr. Kanon Lassere
- September 19 Brandt Cooley
- September 20 Flo Latimer, Bonny McDonald, Nancy McDonald, Erin Chestnutt, William Hale, Kathryn McKee, Lauren Salvador
- September 21 Marion Collier, Kelly Manuel
- September 22 Heather House, Kit Cleland
- September 23 Darryl Jones, Jackie Roach
- September 24 Sally Sawyer, D.J. O'Neill
- September 25 Velma Gilmore, Pam Duval, Brandon Smith
- September 26 Peggy Whatley, Melanie Melancon
- September 27 Gerald Stanley, Kameron Authement
- September 28 Frances Kittrell, Dody McCain, Kaley Guillott

(Birthdays continued)

September 29 Maude Jobe, Mike Brignac

September 30 Luna Alexander, Adel Murphy, Bryan Gregg

## UMW IS GOING GREEN!

Guest speaker for the next UMW General Meeting Thursday, September 3, at 6:30 p.m. will present many ideas on how we can individually "Go Green." Mrs. Myrna Freeman, UMW president of First United Methodist Church of Lake Charles, will be the speaker. She has done extensive study on the environment and of the Going Green program, and will explain the why, where, when, and how individuals can take part in this important project.

Myrna Freeman started out in 1966 in the now non-existent WSCS, in Wichita, Kansas, then in Denver, Colorado when the Freemans moved there. Next, it was on to Cimarron, NM. She was Conference Coordinator for Christian Social Action, after moving to Rhode Island and again became involved with UMW after moving to Lake Charles. She is UMW Vice President of the Lake Charles District and if elected, will become the Conference Coordinator of Education and Interpretation of the District.

As always, men will be welcome to attend the Sept. 3rd meeting. They can be quite important in helping our area GO GREEN.



## UMW On the Go...

Money is being collected by UMW for the Mission Candle. All this money goes to help feed and educate our children.

A challenge has been made by Nell Hayes for all UMW members to lower their food budget the next three months by \$5 each. This money would go to the Thank Banks. Also, a challenge has been issued to do some type of exercise each day. We do not "live to eat, but eat to live."

**University United Methodist Church**

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**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford
Program Director	Marj Robinson
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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

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER**

We're back to school and back in the newly remodeled youth room! Come see the changes we've made and help us make the finishing touches. We'll be meeting in the Youth Room every Sunday from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., except for September 6. We won't have youth that night so you can spend time with your families on the long holiday weekend.

***Saturday, September 12 is Fall Convo***

***10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.***

***The Wesley Center in Woodworth***

Registration deadline is noon September 7.

Fee is \$25 per person which includes lunch, T-shirt, and programming. Forms are outside Mike's office or register online at [www.la-umc.org/youth/](http://www.la-umc.org/youth/)

Come on youth, grades 7-12, let's go to Convo!

**Children's**

**Sunday School  
 Teacher Training  
 Sunday, Sept. 13**

Beginning at noon in the Children's SS Department

Lunch will be provided. For those who need Safe Sanctuary training, there will be a session immediately following the teacher training.

*Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number? How about a new e-mail address?*

*Please call Kathy in the church office at 477-2003.*