

# The Visitor

Of Independence First United Methodist Church

“Living Christ’s love by  
Connecting Faith to Life  
through

Passionate worship,  
Genuine fellowship,  
And tangible outreach”

[indepmo-fumc.org](http://indepmo-fumc.org)

JANUARY 17, 2012

## Doing Good On Purpose

*“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good...” Acts 10:38*

I attended a funeral recently where the officiate said this about the life that was being celebrated,

“She was all about doing good...not for the sake of good, but for the sake of benefit. Benefit, so later you didn’t have to go back and take the course all over again.”

What I believe the preacher meant by this was that this lady gave of herself in ways that *changed* people’s lives, she helped them *grow* beyond their obstacles rather than simply helping them limp along one day at a time. That sounded so right to me.

The mission of the United Methodist Church, and therefore the mission of our congregation is to, **“Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the *transformation* of the world”** (emphasis added). The fruit of discipleship, you see, is transformation all around us.

When young folks come to be married at the church (usually nonmembers) I tell them that the church wants to do a nice service for them, but more importantly, we’re interested in establishing a relationship with Jesus Christ through the church that can change their lives. We’re hoping to venture into a program that offers all-year food security to 25 neighborhood families (opposed to one meal a week), but which also has life-altering learning and community-building opportunities. We’re encouraging folks to not just passively attend worship for an hour a week, but to *Connect Faith to Life* by reading scripture daily, engaging in hands-on mission opportunities, by investing in the lives of others and sharing themselves as well. These activities work to transform souls, they are about doing good, not for goodness’ sake, but for the sake of benefit.

Our congregationally specific vision (how we go about accomplishing the mission) is that we’d be growing into a people known for: **“Living Christ’s love by Connecting Faith to Life through passionate worship, genuine fellowship and tangible outreach.”** As we work to achieve these goals (not just for our sake, but for the Kingdom of God within and around us) I believe God will anoint us with the Spirit and bless us with power that we’d be not only good folks who do good things, but a church that helps mend broken lives, a church that helps others bound over obstacles, a people who do good for the witnesses of Jesus Christ...on purpose.

Pastor Mitch

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tangible  
Outreach 2

News of our  
Faith  
Community 3

Learning  
Opportunities 4

Notes of  
Appreciation 5

Children’s  
Chapel update 6

Financial  
News 7

Mighty  
Warriors News 8

Days to  
Celebrate 9

February  
Calendar 10



## Tangible Outreach



# Meals on Wheels Benefits. . .

This year's focus at Christmas was to benefit Meals on Wheels of Independence which has been experiencing shortfalls with the economy. With sales of ornaments made by our children and some of the children from Thomas Hart Benton School, the Christmas Day Offering with First Presbyterian Church, a donation of \$200 from the Mizpah Class and proceeds from the Mission Christmas Tree the grand total was **\$1,187.00!**

Those who put cards on the Mission Tree and made donations: Beverly Shelton, The Jarvis', Fritz and Emily Kreisler, Gerald and Judith Gutekunst, Jim and Karen Anderson, Marge Fleming, Bob and Shirley Scott, and Jim and Delma Fern Harless.

Thanks to all who participated for making this such a successful endeavor.

# Men's Club News. . .

A mixed audience of 21 men and women heard an update on Van Horn High School at the Men's Club meeting Saturday, January 7.

Patrick Layden, assistant principal at Van Horn since the school became a part of the Independence School District in 2008, dealt with a wide range of issues. He outlined the improvement in areas such as academics, discipline and athletics, but he also said parental interest is not where it should be. He repeatedly emphasized the positive attitude of the students, told of the great improvement in the graduation rate and explained some of the current legal issues with the Kansas City District.

Those in attendance also learned of Mr. Layden's rich history with the Independence District in general and with William Chrisman High School in particular. He is a sixth generation graduate of Chrisman that dates to 1889 when a great-great grandmother was graduated. Also, he was a teacher and administrator at Chrisman for nine years before making the switch to Van Horn.

Because of the annual Valentine Dinner on Tuesday evening, February 7, the club will not have a regular meeting until Saturday, March 3. Regular meetings are on the first Saturday of most months. Breakfast is prepared by Jack Hill, Virgil Bybee and Don Rohr. There are no dues, but a collection is taken to offset the cost of the food. Don Rohr presided in the absence of President David Sage, who was in the hospital.

## Sharing in Sorrow . . .

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the loss of the following family members, loved ones and friends related to members of our Family of Faith. We share our sympathy, love and prayers with them.

Fern Willard, died December 27, 2011  
(Wayne Willard's wife)

Covene Ball, died January 12, 2012  
(Lavonne Vaughan's mother)

## Celebrating a birth . .

*Everleigh Brielle Mehner* was born to Heather Mehner on January 4, 2012. She weighed 7 pounds and was 18 1/2 inches long. Her maternal grandparents are Erin and Ron Dutro. We rejoice with the family in the birth of this healthy gift from God.

## Valentine Dinner . .

Gary Tannen, a singer and guitar player, will provide the entertainment at the annual Valentine Dinner on Tuesday night, February 7.

Dinner will be catered by Ann Falkenberg. The evening starts with hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Annual awards will be presented for Man of the Year and Family of the Year.

Tickets for the dress-up affair are \$10 each and are available from most members of the Men's Club, which sponsors the event.



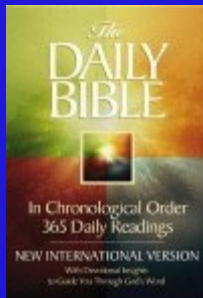
## The One-Year Chronological Bible

Our church has responded like gangbusters to Pastor Mitch's challenge to read the entire Bible in a year! The 20 Bibles we had flew off the shelves in no time, and others have purchased the Bibles on their own elsewhere!

Now we are looking for an opportunity to gather occasionally (maybe once a month?) to discuss what we are discovering, and to consider where God may be leading us as revealed through scripture.

Maybe we could brown-bag it or whip up a big pot of soup to share. Share your ideas with the office or Pastor Mitch, (he's super excited and rambling-on about what God might do in response to so many of us engaging the Word together.)

The Bible most of us are reading is a NIV translation called **The Daily Bible in Chronological Order: 365 Daily Readings**. It can be purchased online, or at most Christian bookstores. (Mardel's has it on sale for \$17.99 until Feb. 12 - if they don't have it in stock, they will order it for you).



## Last Call for Alpha Course...

Who is Jesus and why did he die? How does God guide us? What about the church? Who is the Holy Spirit? Does God still heal? Why and how should I read the Bible? How can we have faith? How can I resist evil? How do I pray?

Ever ask the Big Questions? We can help. Join us for the Alpha Course starting February 1, 2012. Sessions will be held each Wednesday from 6-8 PM; supper is served each week, and childcare is provided.

This course is driven by small-group conversation and is a perfect way to invite a friend or family member disconnected from their faith into a new relationship with Christ through the church. RSVP by calling the church office, 254-6900

A special introductory session will be held Wednesday, January 25th at 6:00 PM for those curious.



Genuine  
Fellowship  
Sunday,  
Jan. 29th

## Chili Cook-Off and Pie Contest. . .

If you haven't signed up to enter the chili cook-off, or the pie baking contest later this month, throw your name in the hat ASAP. Chili and Pie will be judged by "an extinguished" panel of judges, and prizes will be awarded. Even if you aren't into competitive cooking, bring a pot-luck dish along to share and stay for the fun.

What: The "For No Good Reason Except Good Company"  
Chili Cook-Off and Pie Contest

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Sunday, Jan 29. Showdown starts at High Noon...

Why: Why not?

How to enter: Call the church office at 254-6900



## Notes of Appreciation. . .

~ Thank you to the UMW for the gift to Mission in honor of my birthday. I appreciate the thoughtfulness. *Marian Plank*

~ *From the Residents at Hillcrest:* Thank you so much for inviting the families from Hillcrest to your Christmas program for snack and winter hats and gloves. It was greatly appreciated.

~ Thank you so much for the poinsettia, cards, carolers during the Christmas holidays—friends and their caring are one of God's greatest gifts. *Una Wheeler*

~ Thank you to Dexter Harvey for gifting the church with 2 cemetery lots at Floral Hills.

~ Thank you to all who prepared and shared in the Staff Christmas Luncheon. It was greatly appreciated by all.

~ Thank you to our talented and hard working painters and interior decorators for making the church look so beautiful during the holiday season and all year through. We are so blessed as a church to have such hard working volunteers and stewards of God's church.

## How Awesome!!!



Thank you to our resident artist, Mr. Steve Woolf, for the awesome new wall painting in the Children's Chapel! We invite everyone to come by and take a look at this wonderful new addition to Children's Church. We were all in awe to find this wonderful surprise Sunday.

Love, Lucy and Friends.



## Blood Drive

Monday, June 11, 2012

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church's

Westminster Hall

(Please put this on your calendar)

## FUMC 2011 Financial update thru 12/31/11

### GENERAL BUDGET

Staff payroll	\$171,907.15
Property Maint./Utilities/Insurance/etc.	52,595.18
Apportionments	25,068.00
All other expenses	15,474.72
Total Expenses	265,045.05
Total Income	251,780.19
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-13,264.86</b>

### HALLWAY REMODEL

Amount yet unfunded                      \$826.62

We will be putting carpeting down over the tile. The majority of the cost will be covered by the contractor. Additional cost to us will be around \$650 - \$800.

### HALLWAY FURNITURE

Amount unfunded                              \$2,794.44

**If you have not yet returned your pledge for 2012, please prayerfully consider a pledge amount for the year. It would be a great help in finalizing the 2012 budget. The proposed budget for 2012 has been reduced \$17,000 from what 2011 actual expenses were, in an effort to come close to balancing the 2012 budget.**

### **Year End Statements on their way . . .**

As you prepare to file your income taxes, you will need your giving statement from the church. Every effort is being made to see that you get them in a timely manner.

# Mighty Warriors News...

Happy New Year!



And what a year it has been already! I just got back from a 10-day expedition to Northern New Mexico where I was studying the interactions between Christianity and the Pueblo Indian cultures. I went with six other students from Saint Paul School of Theology, and we stayed at McCurdy School, a United Methodist mission outside Espanola, NM. For over a week, we jetted off to different pueblos, churches and archaeological sites and had the chance to experience nature in the high desert mountains. We also talked with several tribal elders and religious leaders and got the chance to hear wonderful stories about the area. It was an awesome experience, to be sure, and it helped me see the value in the Native American tendency to intertwine spirituality with all

aspects of life. I hope to live out some of the lessons I learned from these very wise people and let it permeate my beliefs going forth. I would love to talk to you about my trip, so if you have any questions about it, just let me know!

Our youth group year is about to launch as well! We are heading out to Springfield this weekend for our annual jaunt to WOW, the Missouri Conference's giant youth weekend. We are taking 12 youth down for the festivities, and your prayers for an awesome experience would be very appreciated. I am excited for this year because the event lineup is totally epic and is headlined by Gungor, a great Christian Band. Plus, I have invested in a cot this year, so no more sleeping on an air mattress that the youth deflate in the middle of the night! Then again, they are devious buggers (you know who you are!), and I am sure that they will find some way to get to me. I guess I will find out. . .

I look forward to the rest of this month and seeing what God has to offer! Take care!

In Christ, *Bryson*

## Just a reminder!!!!

This Friday, January 20th at noon - The Sunsetters will gather for their monthly meeting. A lunch of soup, sandwiches and desserts will be shared.

Following the planning meeting for 2012 (come with ideas for the group) we will play games including Bingo.

Don't miss out on this time of fun and *genuine fellowship* for those in their "golden years!"