

Word of Grace

*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it*

Psalm 24:1 (New International Version)

Vol 124 No 9 September 2009

Missions and Health & Wellness

The Back to School Clothing Give Away was a fruitful exercise in cooperation between these two ministries. The best benefit? Children of our community were served with grace.

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Missions Ministry

Bishop's Round-Up for Hunger needs/lists and Angel Food ordering & delivery schedule

Christian Education

Wednesday Night Youth begins Sept 9! Also, Ladies' Night Out starts Tuesday, Sept 1.

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Membership

Coffee with the Pastor begins Sept 13 - watch for your invitation coming soon.

Health & Wellness

Meals of Grace cookbook scheduled to debut Sept 19 at the Fall Festival.

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Calendar of Events

Also on this page: In the Word Bible-reading chapters for each week of the month, the Flint Hills Prayer Calendar, Bowling Fundraiser and a bunch of opportunities to serve at future events like the Fall Festival. Sponsorships for the Youth Choir are also needed.

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Business Recruitment and Retention

All the years I worked on various Chambers of Commerce, those words lurked in the shadows of events sponsored by the Chamber. One time a large corporation, Georgia-Pacific, had a production plant near the community that I was on the Chamber Board. Rumors circulated through the community. Georgia-Pacific was going to shut down the plant. The community, the city council and the chamber were all in a panic. Hundreds of jobs were on the line and the loss of a major contributor to the local economy would have a devastating impact on everyone. People started attending the city council demanding that something be done. Chamber meetings went dragged on and on, lamenting the community's plight. Conversations erupted, tempers flared and everyone was blaming everyone else for the loss of a major part of the economy. Generally, the populous agreed that the economy

was already in trouble and there was no hope in sight.

Fortunately, cool heads prevailed and began to meet with community leaders to develop a plan to meet the apparent challenge. Group meetings, research and planning added up to an idea, an idea emerged as a plan, a plan gave way to implementation, and the city rallied a concept that appeared to meet the challenge to the economy. Without going into great detail, it worked. As far as I know, the Georgia-Pacific Plant is still in northern Wyoming, cranking out sheet rock from harvested gypsum nearby. Why? Because a little community banded together and responded to an evolving economic situation.

Friends, we are at our best when the challenges facing us are at their worst. Now we can sit around and whine and bellyache about issues such as health care, or we can get involved. Today we have one of the greatest tools for information in human history. The Internet can provide enormous resources. I guarantee you that our democracy was not developed around a people who went uninformed and

uneducated. We provide free education to maintain a strong voting public, and we have the Internet. We are not helpless unless we sit around and do nothing. More importantly, we are Christians and the Holy Spirit is present to lead us into all truth (*John 14*). God gives us assurance that we can persevere (*Romans 8*). "Evil will only win when good people do nothing" (*Edmund Burke*). Good people of Grace, make democracy work. Use the intellect that God gave you. Get informed and be involved.

Shall we pray: *Lord Heavenly Father, I pray that you will lead your people in this crucial time. I pray that your Spirit will show us the truth, and we will rally behind the direction that you would have us to take. O God, you never leave us alone, and certainly not now in this important hour, rather inspire our hearts with your love and help us to reach out to others and declare them our sisters and brothers in Christ. Praise you, God, for what you are going to do. In Jesus' name. AMEN*

Pastor Earl

Missions and Health & Wellness Ministries

The Back To School Event held on August 8 was a huge success thanks to the hard work of many people. Our children are such a precious gift, and their success in school is so very important.

We served 287 children from 135 families. We were able to give out 2,947 articles of clothing and –eventually – 287 pairs of shoes. We also gave out 100 Health Care Kits, assisted by Hilda, an Americorp worker from the Flinthills Community Health Center. The book *What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick* was available in English and Spanish.

The Lyon County Health Department provided dental checks and vision checks as well as information from the health department for children's health care. Seventy children ages 1 to 18 received free dental screening. Millie Bergstrom with the School Sealant Program was able to do this with the help of a few volunteers, all in three hours! Fifty of these 70 children reported having no dentist and only 22 of the 70 had seen a dentist in the last year. Twenty-four out of the 70 needed immediate dental care for untreated decay. Fifty-nine percent of the students had NO Dental insurance coverage, 24% had Medicaid, 13% had Healthwave and 4% had Private insurance. Thank you, Millie, for your time and dedication!

-Thanks also to the Vision Center volunteers who conducted vision screening on over 70 students. It's vital to be able to see to learn!

A big thank you to everyone. Your time and talents are priceless!

Missions Ministry

Bishop's Round-Up For Hunger Needs

The Bishop's Round-Up for Hunger is a project of Global Ministries in the Kansas East Conference of the United Methodist Church. Many items are gathered from

churches and distributed to those in need within the state and abroad.

August 17- September 13 Health Kits

During this 4-week period we will be asking our members and friends to help provide health Kits.

-New Items Only-

1 bath towel, 1 bar of soap, Shampoo
1 washcloth, 1 tube toothpaste
Deodorant 1 comb or brush, 1
toothbrush (packaged), Body lotion

Wrap inside bath towel and tie securely or put in a two-gallon self-closing bag.

Bags may be picked up in the cart marked "Round-Up Health Kits" located in the new entrance way.

September 14-November 8 Food

Need Level: CRITICAL

Food Commercially Prepared - No
Commodities or Glass Jars

Suggested items:

Canned fruit, corn, green beans
macaroni & cheese, mixed vegetables,
tuna, cereal (that children like), peanut
butter, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, 1lb
dried beans, crackers, ramen noodles, 1
lb. rice, soup, canned meat, toilet paper,
paper towels

Angel Food Ministries September delivery & order times:

Monday-Thursday 10 am-4 pm

Friday September 11 4 pm - 6 pm

Saturday September 12 11 am-1 pm

No orders may be placed after 1 pm on
Monday, September 14

Delivery date is Sat., Sept 26 at 8:30 am

The September menus may be picked up in the church office, or you may go to emporiagrace.org and follow the link to angelfoodministries.com.

Christian Education

Wednesday Youth Night- Youth are

invited to an evening of worship, Christian study, and fun! This ministry is designed for youth ages 5-18.

When: Wednesday Evenings

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Meal: 6-6:30 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Begins: September 9, 2009

Contact Person: Kathy Williams
(481-1932)

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF PERSONS TO HELP PREPARE MEALS FOR WEDNESDAY EVENINGS. IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT KATHY AT 342-2240.

Ladies Nights Out Beginning on **Tuesday.**

September 1 Connie Cahoone will facilitate a study on the book of Philippians, focusing on discovering God's perfect peace. Call the church office to sign up.

Membership Ministry

Coffee with the Pastor - An opportunity for the congregation to know Pastor Earl and for him to get to know the congregation better. Starting September 13 at 9 am and every Sunday morning thereafter (until all have been invited) persons of the congregation will be invited to come have coffee and bread with Pastor Earl. Watch your mailbox for your invitation! The Membership Ministry would also like to ask for donations of mini loaves of whatever kind of fruit/nut bread you would like to make. These will be used for the Sunday morning get-togethers.

COMING SOON: MEALS OF GRACE

Remember those wonderful Sunday meals we had after the morning service last winter? Hot, steaming bowls of soup, heavenly bread and delectable desserts, all at the hands of Lola Collinge, Wes Patterson and their dedicated helpers. Many of us clamored for their recipes, and our wish is about to come true. *Meals of Grace* will be available for \$10 per copy, starting Sept 19. Copies will also be available after morning worship service through October – or while supplies last.

UMW NEWS

Where is Mongolia?

Come and learn on Saturday, October 24, at 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Helen Sheperd, a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries, is serving in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She is back in the United States sharing her mission with various churches. We are blessed to have Helen share her struggles and joys as a nurse bringing the message of Jesus to the young and old in Mongolia since 2002. Everyone is invited to attend and share in her message. Snacks will be served. Mark your calendar--see you there!

September Events

Our regular weekly schedule:

Sun

8:45 am Sunday School Music
9 am Music/Sunday School
9:15 am Sun School

10 am Worship Service
6:30 pm Interactive Worship Service
Interactive Worship: A time of singing praise, prayer and discussion about anything the group wishes.

Mon

6 pm Cub Scouts
7 pm Boy Scouts

Tues

9 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Girl Scouts

Wed

5:30 pm Worship Planning Ministry
6 pm Youth Group begins Sept 9
7 pm Voices of Grace

Tuesday September 8

7 pm Phebe Group

Wednesday September 9

2 pm Abigail & Joanna
5 pm Abundant Harvest

Thursday September 10

4 pm-6 pm Angel Food orders
7 pm Finance Ministry

Friday September 11

2 pm-6 pm Angel Food orders

Saturday September 12

11 am- 1 pm Angel Food orders

Sunday September 13

9 am Coffee With The Pastor
12 pm Membership Ministry
12 pm Health & Wellness Ministry

Monday September 14

6 pm Trustees Ministry

Saturday September 19

7 am-2 pm Fall Festival

Sunday September 20

11:30 am Church Council
1 pm Education Ministry

Tuesday September 22

9:30 am-5 pm District Meetings

Wednesday September 23

1:30 pm Create to Share

Thursday September 24

5:30 pm SPRC
5:30 pm Parish Visitors
5:30 pm WOW Group

Saturday September 26

7 am Angel Food Distribution

Sunday September 27

Crop Walk

4 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday September 28

5 pm Abundant Harvest

Looking Ahead

September 19 Fall Festival

October 10 Bowling Tournament

October 31 UMW Rummage Sale

November 5 Simple Gifts Concert

November 14 Mexican Dinner

December Chili Feed

FLINT HILLS DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

September 6 Saffordville

September 13 Ogden Friendship House

September 20 Olpe

September 27 Mission La Esperanza

Let us pray. *Heavenly and merciful Father, we lift up the Flinthills District of the United Methodist Church. Always we seek your guidance as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray for the churches, ministries, and United Methodist organizations, that they will listen to your wishes for them so that their activities will be pleasing to you and help them to foster discipleship. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

IN THE WORD

Sept 6 Haggi 1-2, Zechariah 1-5

Sept 13 Zechariah 6-12

Sept 20 Zechariah 13-14, Malachi 1-4

Sept 27 Matthew 1-7

Fall Festival- Mark your calendars for September 19. A variety of activities will be available to keep you busy and entertained from 7am to 2pm. The parking lot will be full of art, crafts, jewelry, home décor and service organizations. Activities will be available for kids, including the Art Mobile, petting zoo and games. Stay all day for breakfast, lunch and entertainment provided by local musicians. And be sure to visit the silent auction and bake sale. Invite all of your friends for a day of fellowship.

Help Needed

Please help us make this community-wide event a huge success. Volunteers are needed to help with breakfast, lunch and assisting with the many activities planned throughout the day. Please lend a hand. Stop by the church office to sign up or call Brent Windsor (785-554-6056) and say, "I'm ready to help – give me something to do."

Children's Choir- The Grace Children's Choir is looking for generous Grace Members to help support this vital part of our congregation. With the departure of Pam and Sue - very important members of our family – children of Grace need your support so that we can continue to offer this vocal mission. Please consider offering your financial support by making a dedicated donation to help fund a Children's Choir Director. Please contact Brent Windsor, Kitty or Pastor Earl with questions or to make a dedicated donation.

Calling All Bowlers (and Non-Bowlers)

Join your friends at Grace for an afternoon of bowling, fellowship and prizes. Awards will be given for high team score, high individual score, low individual score, most gutter balls, and most creative team costume.

Date: Saturday, October 10

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Format: 4 – person team 9 pin no tap

Cost: \$80/team (\$20/person) – includes 3 games and shoe rental

Teams: Limited to the first 24 teams

Pick up your registration form in the church office. Tell your friends. Everyone is invited.