



Central

United Methodist Church

The Messenger

*Joseph Easley, Senior Pastor
300 Mary Street
Evansville, Indiana 47710-1292*

August 2009

CENTRAL PROGRESSES ON DEBT REPAYMENT

Through Vision 2012 Central Church continues its progress on debt repayment. \$900,838 was pledged in this four-year capital campaign. **\$341,461 was given toward Vision 2012 through June 30, 2009**, the end of the first year of the campaign. That total included almost \$123,000 in pre-gifts during May and June 2008, but did not include another \$2,480 in continued giving toward Touching Tomorrow Today after that campaign officially concluded June 30, 2009. These gifts were used in the following ways during year 1 of Vision 2012, (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009):

\$169,386	Payments on 1999 ONB loan
\$ 3,660	Interest on Housing Account loan
\$ 22,104	Interest to Endowment on FLC loan
\$110,000	Principal payment to Endowment on FLC loan
\$ 34,146	Money set-aside to fund the cost of the Outreach Director position
\$ 3,415	Tithe to Conference on the Director of Outreach Ministries' support
\$ <u>356</u>	Vision 2012 Offering Envelopes for 2009-10
\$343,067	Expenditures to Date

These gifts have allowed significant progress on loans taken out by the church in the last 10 years to complete building and remodeling projects. In mid 1999, near the completion of Phase 1 of expansion and remodeling, \$1,200,000 was borrowed from Old National Bank. That balance was down to \$86,996 at the end of June. We will retire that debt by the end of this year, through 6 regular loan payments, plus a small extra payment (ca. \$4,000) at the end of the year. Also to finish off that Phase 1 expansion the church borrowed \$61,000 in mid 1999 from our own Housing Account (kept in trust, per conference rules, for possible repurchase of a parsonage if requested by a future pastor, after a church has sold its parsonage and given a pastor a housing allowance). The agreement was to pay interest only (6%) on that internal loan until other loans were satisfied.

In late 2004 Phase 2 of expansion was approved, including the building of the Family Life Center, payment for additional lots across Mary Street and demolition as needed, building a new parking lot across the street, repaving the redesigned parking around the Family Life Center and mechanically upgrading the elevator. That project was supported by Central Child Care (\$125,000), several special gifts, the purchase for

stones in the Wall of Remembrance and Celebration and brick pavers in the Walk of Faith, other fund-raising projects, and a loan from the Endowment Fund. A total of \$550,000 was borrowed in 2005-2007, but repayments in 2008 reduced the FLC loan balance to \$440,000. This means of \$1,811,000 borrowed for phases 1 and 2 of expansion, over 2/3 of that had been repaid in the 10 years, and as of 6-30-09 the total of the balances on these three loans is down to \$587,996. It would require **Vision 2012** giving of about \$160,000 above remaining pledge amount over the remaining three years to totally wipe out our debt by mid 2012, but the debt would likely be down a level at which it could be managed in one of several simple ways.

I also need to note that we did get an emergency loan of \$100,000 for the roof replacement from the Endowment Fund to Trustees last winter, but this is to be repaid with 5% interest by Trustees through their Endowment distribution over the next 5 or 6 years. All in all, tremendous progress has been made in the last 10 years at Central and debt from that progress is being systematically reduced. We can celebrate having done it, give thanks to God, and look forward to having these debts behind us.

Your Pastor,

P.S. The July celebrations for the 90th birthday of **Patti's** mother and my dad went very well. They had great times. We got to visit with lots of other family, including our sons and their wives.

ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Please mark August 23rd on your calendar for the all church birthday party pitch in! The Nurture Committee will provide barbeque, drinks and paper products. Various groups within the church will decorate each table with a theme for the month and a birthday cake.

There will also be games with prizes and lots of fun. Just bring a covered dish and come ready to celebrate your birthday. Child care will be provided. If you have questions, please call **Margie Singer**, Chair of the Nurture Committee, or **Nancy** in the church office.

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

- August 2 Communion
Scripture: John 6:41-59
Sermon: "Feed on Jesus"

- August 9 **Mike Warneke** preaching
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46
Sermon: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

- August 16 Scriptures: Philippians 2:1-13
Sermon: "Your Box of Theology"

- August 23 Scriptures: Hebrews 1:1-3a; 3:1-6; 8:1-9a, 13
Sermon: "Our Guide the Bible, Interpreted Through Jesus"

- August 30 3 Simple Rules Series Begins
Scripture: Leviticus 19:1-4, 11-18
Sermon: "First, Do No Harm"

"3 SIMPLE RULES" — WHAT IF WE LIVED BY THIS PROVEN FORMULA?

What if we could articulate a way to keep us on course as disciples of Jesus Christ with just a few easily-remembered principles? Would it help us stay on focus in our lives? Would it give us something to reflect on each day and measure our progress? Would it be something that we could use with a trusted small group of other disciples with whom we met regularly for support and accountability?

THREE SIMPLE RULES

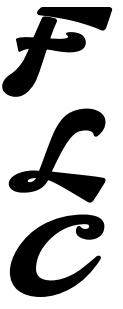
How valuable it would be, if we could create such a resource! But we do not need to invent it, because John Wesley already devised it for us. One of the great, almost-forgotten treasures of practical Christianity from our Methodist heritage was developed by Wesley 270 years ago when a small group of Christians ask for his advice for a discipline to help them grow in Christian life. What came to be "The General Rules" for Methodists (and has been re-designated as Three Simple Rules in a marvelous little book of that title by retired UM Bishop Reuben Job) are truly simple and helpful in guiding us as followers of Jesus: 1) Do no harm; 2) Do good; and 3) Stay in love with God.

Beginning the last Sunday of this month we will do an all-church focus on these 3 Simple Rules. We will actually take two weeks with each rule, one to understand its Biblical basis and its meaning and a second week to explore its application in our lives, so we will spend 6 weeks on these rules, August 30 through October 4. Worship and Rev. Easley's sermons will focus on these for 6 Sundays, appropriately concluding with communion the last Sunday. Most Sunday School classes and groups in the church also plan to use material on the 3 Simple Rules for their study during this time. Study literature is available on these for children, youth and adults, so all ages and the whole family can focus on the same theme.

Books for the adult studies are on order and will go on sale August 2 or 9. In addition to the study booklets, copies of Job's short book will also be available for personal reading and reflection. These will be available for \$6 and \$5 respectively, or \$10 for the pair. Even if you do not normally attend Sunday School, you may want to join the focus for these six weeks. It will be worth your time. Watch for details.

STATE APPROVES VARIANCE FOR VESTIBULE TO FINISH FLC

A state review approved a variance that will allow us to more simply add a glass and metal "vestibule" between the Family Life Center and the Child Care Infant/Toddler Wing. This passageway will allow people to go between the two buildings without getting out in the elements. It will also let the Child Care kitchen staff take food carts directly from the FLC, where the kitchen is, to the classrooms in the Child Care wing, and allow us to discontinue use of the dumb waiter put in 10 years ago to reach that area, saving us money maintaining it. We are in the process of getting a local building permit, which should be simple—although not much else has been—after which the work can probably be done in a weekend.



Remember the Family Life Center entrances now have a different locking system with a panic bar, with two different ways to unlock them. You need to know both ways to open them and relock them, if you are ever going to be in the position to either open these doors for an event or need to close up the church at the end of an event. Please have **Rev. Easley, Nancy Reid, Lisa Miner** or a custodian show you how to do this both with the key and with the small tool hanging beside each door. Contact the church office, if you have other questions on keys or locks after changes made in June.

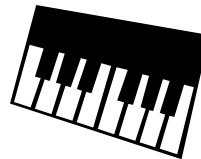
WORK ON NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES THROUGH DANNY WALKER

Volunteers from Second Ave. UMC in Altoona, PA were in Evansville for a mission work camp July 18-24. Their pastor Matthew Lake is a seminary friend of **Danny Walker**, who hosted the group at Centenary UMC, where he is now pastor. **Mike Warneke** worked with **Danny** to find low-income owner-occupied houses in our area for their work team. One of those helped is a member of the US Class. Central was also the staging area for the workers and their supplies. Central took a special offering July 19 to help Centenary with the cost of materials.



NANCY LEHMANN FAREWELL

Nancy Lehmann resigned at the first of July. There was a reception in her honor after worship on July 19, her last Sunday of playing. We thank her for wonderful music—and humor—she has brought to Central in over 10 years as Organist and seven years directing the Hand Bell choir.



THERMOSTATS ADJUSTED

We had Shekell Heating and Air make a service call July 15 and found the main reason the church had seemed so cold was that the thermostats had not been adjusted from their winter settings, so they were indeed overcooling in most of the areas of the church. They have now been adjusted, so the temp should be better. It will never be perfect for everyone, but we try to do what is reasonable and comfortable for most people. Let the Trustees know now and in the future, if you think there is a problem. If you are still cold, try sitting different places because temp and air flow are not the same everyplace in the Sanctuary.



**Join Central's Team
Komen Race for the Cure**

Big changes await participants in this year's **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure**. The race date will now be on **Saturday, September 19** (5K run/walk begins at 9 am), and the race location has moved to **downtown Evansville**. Central UMC has formed a team, so gather your family and friends and get registered.



Online registrations are encouraged by logging onto www.komenevansville.org. The online process of registering as a member of our team (Central United Methodist Church) is fairly simple. If you prefer not to register online, registration forms will be available at church during the month of August. Team registration deadline is September 4, and the registration fee is \$25.00 (ages 12 and under \$15). Timed participants pay an additional \$5. If you cannot participate, you can still support the race through making a pledge in support of a participant on our team. For more information, contact Central's team captain, **Ruth Randall** (425-0326) or randall5356@insightbb.com. Join today and support the fight against breast cancer!

WELCOME to **Alexander Charles Garcia** who was born on July 10 at St. Mary's Medical Center. He is the son of Jesus and Elizabeth Garcia and the grandson of **Charles and Susan Guard**.



TRINITY'S ARTS IN AUGUST

Trinity United Methodist Church will again offer an "Arts in August" series. Outstanding concerts will be held at 3:00 p.m. on the first four Sundays of the month. Those featured are: August 2, Kirk Rich, Organ; August 9, Mary Dicken, Harp; August 16, two award-winning singers; and August 23, Nino Cocchiarella. See flyer on the bulletin board for details.

**MIKE WARNEKE
RETURNS FROM MISSION PROJECT**



Mike Warneke was to return to church July 30 from a trip to Africa. He was in Uganda July 20-29 with a Sweet Sleep team to build beds for orphans. Thanks to all for their prayers and support during this trip.

**REV. EASLEY ON
"ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY" PANEL**

The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library is again having a "One Book One Community" program this fall. This year's book is Life on the Color Line, the memoirs of Gregory Williams of growing up in the early 1950's. His mother was white, his father mixed-race but he had passed for white, and as a little boy the author assumed the family was white. Moving with his father back to the father's hometown of Muncie, IN was when he learned of his black heritage, in the midst of a very segregated time, he did not fit well in either group. It sounds like an interesting book, and **Rev. Easley** has been asked to be part of a panel discussion on it at a kick-off event, 7:00 p.m. August 25 at Barnes and Noble.

PRAY FOR CLUSTER CONGREGATIONS

When you pray for Central, remember to pray for the other churches in our Center City Cluster: Fairlawn UMC, St. John's UMC, St. Lucas UCC and Trinity UMC.



**BEING A UNITED METHODIST
IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5**

Sometimes I think we make it too hard to understand. We throw around words like "connectional" and "itinerancy" and a hodgepodge of alphabetical terms (like UMC, UMW, GBGM, GBOD, BOOM, etc). Sometimes we make it hard for our own United Methodist people to describe how we United Methodists are followers of Jesus.

So here it is, in simple **1, 2, 3, 4, 5** ways to describe how we United Methodists live our Christian faith:

1 We have **ONE** mission statement: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We have all agreed on this statement, it is Biblical, it is in our Book of Discipline, and it is the mission statement of our new Indiana Conference.

2 We believe in **TWO** forms of holiness: personal holiness and social holiness. That is why we United Methodists work to bring individuals to a Christian way of life, but we also work to change our society.

3 We try to live by the **THREE** Simple Rules: do no harm, do good, stay in love with God. John Wesley gave us those rules, all clergy agree to them when they are ordained, and all United Methodist people are called to follow them.

4 We believe that truth is found by the **FOUR** sides of the Wesley Quadrilateral: Scripture is primary, and it is interpreted by Tradition (what the church has taught), Reason, and Experience. We are a Biblical people, but we also see the importance of learning from the Christian teachings of the past, using our minds to think through our faith, and bringing our own experience of God into our understanding.

5 We know that our congregations flourish when we engage in the **FIVE** Practices of:

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- Extravagant Generosity

There it is. Five steps to being faithful United Methodist followers of Christ. Those **FIVE** describe what is unique about being followers of Jesus in the Wesleyan Way. Once a person has committed to follow Jesus, these Five Steps are the hallmarks of The United Methodist Church.

Maybe those of us who lead the UMC, both laity and clergy, would do well to focus on those Five steps and to use that common language. I plan to do so, and I invite you to join me.

*by Indiana UMC Bishop Michael Coyner
from his E-pistle, July 6, 2009*

SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON

There will be a Senior Citizens Luncheon Thursday, August 20th at 12 noon in the Garden Room. Please bring a covered dish. **Mike Warneke** will be speaking on his trip to Uganda. Call **Velma Berry** with any questions, 477-5871.

FIRST BAPTIST SEEKS PT CUSTODIAN

First Baptist Church of Evansville has an opening for a custodian, for about 20 hours per week doing general cleaning etc. Interested persons may call the church office, mail or email a resume or come by and fill out an application during church office hours (8-4 M-Th., 9-12 Friday).

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Mary Pauline Flener
 Mattie Woods
 4 Brenda Miller
 5 Doris Thompson
 6 Amy Huey
 Joy Mundy
 7 Emily Adams
 8 Matthew Schreiber
 9 Barbara Brooks
 Flossie Wilson
 10 Joseph O'Bryan
 11 Nicole Juliano
 Grace Patterson
 12 Susan Herring
 14 Pam Dugan
 Gideon Warneke
 16 Lynn Kratzer
 Alicia Pittman
 Mary Lou Robertson
 Kristy Rodgers
 17 Matthew Dillow
 Andrew Pfender
 Connie Romain
 18 Hal Bootz
 Daniel Romain
 20 Libby Pittman
 21 Judy Boettger
 22 Susan Gerding
 David Wegner
 23 Agnes Hall
 24 Nellie Truitt
 25 Anna Schreiber
 26 Velma Berry
 Harold Pittman
 Gloria Simmons
 Chelsea Vonhor
 Ray Yonts
 27 Jeffrey Romain
 28 Robert Lee Jarrett Jr.
 Mark Schmitt
 29 Letta Fraccaro
 Quentin Martin
 Stan Schmitt
 31 Jacob Dillow
 Penny Kane
 James Patterson



WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

A JUSTICE MOMENT

Two months ago in The Messenger, I started an attempt to provide some clarification for Central members about the work of CAJE. I want to take a moment now to continue this process. CAJE is affiliated with a national network of organizations called the DART Center (Direction Action and Research Training Center). CAJE operates on our local modifications to the DART model that is designed to bring congregations together in order to make an impact on social injustice in our community. CAJE has been in existence since 2002 and Central is a founding member.



The first step in the DART model which we have adopted is called the listening process. The primary goal is simply to listen and record congregation members' concerns about the community. The more that we can engage members in sharing their thoughts and concerns about the community, the more our feedback to the CAJE group is representative of the voice of Central members. There are a number of ways our team has tried to draw people together to share their ideas; talking one on one, having house meetings (small gatherings at individual homes), meetings between and after Sunday services, and evening gatherings at church. All of your attendance and participation over the years has been greatly appreciated and very helpful.

We haven't finalized plans on how to conduct the listening process at Central this year and would appreciate any ideas from you on ways we can make this process the most accessible for you. Please share any ideas you have with any of our team members, myself or **Linda Henzman** team co-chairs or the church office.

Bill Seymour

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thanks to everyone who helped with VBS this year. We had a great turnout and I know the kids had a wonderful journey. The food, crafts, music and stories were all so well done. Our volunteers are awesome! We would also like to thank Aldersgate UMC for allowing us to use the decorations left over from their VBS. That was a great help.

VBS

Nancy Reid and Amanda Schreiber

SANTA CLAUS CAMP



This was another great year for our neighborhood kids at Santa Claus Camp. Central Church sent 9 kids to camp this year! I would like to express my thanks to the church for keeping camp scholarships in the budget, thanks to **Dawson Schmitt** and **Stan Schmitt** who helped with transportation, and thanks to those who donated money for camp when it became clear that we would go over our budget. Santa Claus Camp is an amazing opportunity for the kids to grow in faith in a safe and non-judgmental environment. Thanks again to all who make this possible.

Nancy Reid

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club will go swimming on August 9th. We'll have lunch at church and then head for the pool. Watch your mail for details!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>August 2009</h1>						1 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 NA Meeting - Library
Services Every Sunday: 8:30 A.M. Contemporary Service 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Traditional Service						
2 Communion	3 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 6:00 Trustee Mtg. - Ch O Rev. Easley on vacation → 8-09	4 9:00 Church Staff Mtg. 6:30 Emmaus Prayer Group	5 11:00 Wednesday Friends - Trinity Room	6 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 6:00 Worship Team Mtg. – Library	7 Staff Dress Down Day	8 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 NA Meeting - Library
9 	10 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 4:30 Outreach Team Mtg. – Library 6:00 Executive Church Council - Library	11 9:00 Staff Meeting 2:00 Small Accountability 6:30 Mission Team Mtg. - Lib 6:30 Emmaus Prayer Group	12 11:45 JNIA - Trinity Room	13 7:30 JACC Mtg. Library 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 12:00 Mary-Barb Brooks/Martha Elizabeth Circle - Library	14 5:30 Young Adult Small Group – Trinity Room	15 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 NA Meeting – Library 5:00 Birthday Party – Garden Room (Ramanathan)
16	17 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 7:00 Bea Conder Circle - Hostess, Evelyth Wright	18 9:00 Full Church Staff Mtg. 5:45 Nurture Team Mtg. - ch-o 6:30 Emmaus Prayer Group	19 11:00 Wednesday Friends - Trinity Room	20 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 12:00 Senior Citizens – Garden Room 12:00 Messenger Deadline 7:00 Endowment Brd. Mtg. – Library	21	22 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 NA Meeting - Library
23 5:30 Church Wide Birthday Dinner – FLC	24 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 6:00 CAJE Team Mtg. – Lib.	25 9:00 Church Staff Mtg. 6:30 Emmaus Prayer Group	26	27 9:00 Quilting 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack 5:15 Flood of Justice – Church Office	28 5:30 Young Adult Small Group – Trinity Room	29 9:00-12:00 Indoor Playground 12:00 NA Meeting - Library
30 5:00 Shalom Neighborhood Dinner – St. Lucas	31 9:30-12:00 Food Pantry 9:30-12:30 Rack Shack		