



**THE
METHODIST
First United Methodist
Church of LaGrange, IL**

**January 11, 2012
Vol. XXXVII
No. 1**

GOOD TO GREAT

Have you ever thought about moving our church from Good to Great? Some can remember when First UMC of La Grange was a great church and others might respond and say that we are still a great church. I would like to see our church as an even greater church. I am not envisioning First UMC as a mega church but a church that is growing by leaps and bounds.

One of my goals for the next 18 months is to provide educational opportunities for all the church leadership and those who want to know more about how the church operates. I hope to accomplish this through workshops offered through the annual conference at other local churches and workshops specifically designed for our church. This year I began my reading program with the book entitled *Good To Great* by Jim Collins. You might think that this is an unusual choice as opposed to selecting a church growth text or something on theology. The *Good to Great* text fits into my plan to strengthen the church.

The book is designed for secular companies and businesses of all sizes, but I think that it is a rich resource for my purpose. I approach the church as a business with two main goals or purposes. Some people object the idea that the church is a business because they envision a church focused totally on growth and "making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." While I truly agree with this stance, I always expand upon this thought. The first goal of the church is to reach people for Christ to help transform the world. The second goal is the secular related business of the church. While we are making disciples for Jesus Christ, we are also caring for our employees, overhead and operations, maintenance and expansion of our facilities. Our mission includes not only the various organizations and causes we support through our work and finances, but we also operate The Methodist Preschool and Parents Day Out programs, etc., which are both ministry and business.

Collins presents the agreement in *Good to Great* that it is not simply the personality of the leader that moves a business from good to great, but it is the leader's quiet determination to succeed. A well-informed pool of leaders will move our church from good to great and even greater. It is our working together with one main goal in mind and that is to strengthen our church in the number of members and our finances. Cliff Christopher, author of *It's Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*, said that people give to a cause or a church because they believe in the work of the organization.

The first step from good to great is the Chicago Southern District training event scheduled for **January 28, 2012 @ 9 am- 4 pm. It will be held at the Faith United Methodist Church, 15101 80th Avenue, Orland Park, IL 60462.** The theme for the day is: **Developing Bold Leaders: Reclaiming our Territory.** Something new and exciting is being offered this year! Along with some of the traditional workshops, there will be sessions to equip us with new and innovative ways to make disciples for Christ, revitalize our congregation and engage our community. I need a team of people to attend with me to experience this learning event. Registration begins at 8 am. The cost for the event is \$10.00.

Dr. Shields

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JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JANUARY 15

Sermon: "When God Calls"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

JANUARY 22

Sermon: "Ok, Ok, I Will Go!"

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

JANUARY 29

Sermon: "Who Is This Man?"

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Sermon: "More Than a Miracle Worker"

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

**January/February Upper Room Devotionals
are available in the church office and by the library door.**

CHURCH FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOYS

"Henry came home from the hospital and is doing very well. He will be out of school for a couple of weeks but will get assignments to work on at home. Thanks to everyone for their prayers and concerns." -Ruth Hursh



Congratulations to Kim & Chris Stromer for the safe arrival of Henry Toms on December 31st. Proud grandparents are Tom & Cynthia Zolk.

CONCERNS

Gary Wilhelm and his family who are making decisions about cancer treatment for his mother.

Beth Wagner's brother, Alan Kitzer, in chemo for leukemia and her mother, Helen Racan, recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Lincoln Metcalfe in Plymouth Place Healthcare.

Gary Lewis recuperating from knee replacement

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Don & Sue Johnston who will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on January 29th!



ALTAR FLOWERS

Dates for altar flowers are still available. Open first quarter dates include January 22; February 5, 19 & 26; and March 4, 11 & 25. Email (office@fumclg.org) or call Jan in the church office for a form.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SMALL GROUP

The Wednesday Afternoon adult small group will begin meeting again on January 18 at 4:15 p.m. in the Parlor. We will start with the study ***Questioning Capital Punishment***. In this five-session, video-based study, Sister Helen Prejean will spark a faithful discussion about the death penalty and state-sponsored execution. According to one participant—“No matter which side of the issue one is on, it makes you think.” If you are interested, please contact Rev. Talbert (atalbert@fumclg.org).

FIRST SUNDAYS

Some of you may have been in church on New Year's Day when Rev. Shields announced that we would be bringing the children in for Communion beginning the first Sunday in February. You might remember that we have discussed this idea off and on for the past few years at teacher's meetings. Here's how it will work:

On first Sundays, children will go directly to their Sunday school classrooms at 10:15 a.m. There will no longer be Chapel; at 10:45 a.m., teachers will gather the class and take them to Fellowship Hall. It is expected that Rev. Shields will direct the ushers to bring the children forward at about 10:50 am to be served at the first tables. Teachers will return with the children to the classroom to wait for parent pick-up or to let the child sign out at 11:15 am. Please let your child's teacher know if your child is on a gluten-free diet and should not receive the bread.

We are excited about the children sharing The Lord's Supper with the rest of the church family! Including young people in the congregation when the sacraments are celebrated is an important part of their spiritual development. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Rev. Talbert.

A WORD OF THANKS

As our Advent/Christmas mission project, the Sunday school collected hats, scarves and gloves for Marcy-Newbery Center, a National Mission Institute of The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church on Chicago's near west side. Parent's Day Out also participated in this project and we collected many warm winter hats, scarves, and gloves or mittens for children. Thank you for your generosity.





MARKETPLACE 2012

Marketplace will be held July 9-13 with Marketplace Sunday on July 15th. This year, we will be embarking on another Holyland Adventure to ***Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity***. With amazing music, Bible-times crafts, and Daniel as their Bible teacher, our young people will be invited to travel back to Babylon and join Daniel—torn from his home and forced into the king's service.

Kids and adults will find that they're not much different from Daniel and his friends, who kept their faith during difficult times. They will leave the city of Babylon knowing that:

- Day One: When things change, God is with you.
- Day Two: When you need help, God is with you.
- Day Three: When you're afraid, God is with you.
- Day Four: When you're lonely, God is with you.
- Day Five: When you're thankful, God is with you.

Please check future Methodists and Sunday bulletins for information on volunteering and registration.

Peace & Blessings, Allyson

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Rehearsals resume next Wednesday, January 18. The choirs will sing on **January 29, February 26, March 18, April 1, and May 13**. There will be no rehearsal on March 28 during Spring Break.



BIBLE RIDES

Chuck Graening offers rides to and from the airport for a suggested contribution of \$50. The funds raised go to the purchase of the Bibles for the third graders each year and other special needs of the church. Please call Chuck at 708.218.1031 to make your arrangements or if you have any questions.

ONE EIGHTY NEWS:



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The majority of our church's youth ministry communication happens via email. If you don't currently get email newsletters from Hattie but would like to, email hstahl@fumclg.org to sign up!

Appalachia Service Project (ASP):

- Annual Chili Cook off - Sunday, Jan., 22nd
 - don't delay, register your chili entry in the church office, or with Hattie
 - \$5/person, \$15 max for families.
 - All you can eat chili!
- First Trip Prep Meeting (mandatory for participants & a parent), is Sunday, Jan. 29th, at 11:45 am
- **SAVE-THE-DATE - 2nd Annual ASP Dinner & Silent Auction, "A Night Under the Stars" is March 10.** Tickets will be on sale with ASP youth in February for \$30/person.



First Fridays (5th & 6th graders):

- Jan. 13, 5-7:30 pm @ the church. \$5.
- Feb. 4 - Chicago Wolves outing.



Junior High 180 (7th & 8th graders):

- Resumes Wed, Jan. 18, 6:30 - 8 pm
- Empty Bowl Project - come make a bowl for this Community Fundraising event. Jr High bowl making is Sunday, Jan. 22, 5:00-7:00 pm at Village Potters.



Senior High 180 (9th-12th graders):

- Sundays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Empty Bowl Project - come make a bowl for this Community Fundraising event. Sr High bowl making is Sunday, Jan. 22, 7:00-9:00 pm at Village Potters.

***Winter Retreat sign-up deadline is January 22.
Email Hattie for a registration form.**

***Contact Hattie with questions**

SEW WHAT QUILTING

We will resume meeting on **Tuesday, January 17th**. Please join us to machine piece and hand quilt. Our meeting time has changed; **we will meet from 6:30-8:30 pm** in Room 205. Please call Martha Barry at 708.354.1950 for more information.

EMPTY COOKIE PLATES WANT TO GO HOME

Thanks again to all who helped make the Cookie Walk a success by baking and buying (and cleaning up)! There are still several empty tins and platters that need to be picked up. They will be in Fellowship Hall for a week or two. Please take yours home (and fill it up with cookies next year)!

UMW TEAM MEETING

The UMW Team meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18 at 3:00 PM in the Agenda/Kee classroom.

NEW COFFEE FOR 2012

The coffee cart will have three new items starting this week.

ORGANIC GREEN TEA

"A satisfying, delicate green tea with a social conscience."

ORGANIC LOVE BUZZ (WHOLE BEAN)

"Created by a genius in Philadelphia, this secret recipe delivers a sweet, sultry and smooth coffee with an unexpected bite and lasting finish. A smorgasbord of roasts in a combination of Latin American beans so fine it will make your heart pound. Feel the love!"

CAFE SALVADOR (DRIP GRIND)

The coffee we drink at coffee hour is now available to take home! *Quantities are limited.* Don't be left out in the cold (without coffee and tea to warm you up)!



TGIW RESUMES JANUARY 18TH

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

- 4:15 - 5:15 **Adult small group study**, Parlor
- 4:15 - 5:15 Study/Board Game time for K-6th grade Nursery
- 4:15 - 6:30 **Childcare** available, Nursery
- 4:30 - 5:00 **Angelus Choir** (K-4th grade), Choir Room
- 5:00 - 5:30 **Wesley Choir** (5th - 8th grade), Choir Room
- 5:15 - 6:15 **TGIW Dinner** Served, Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 - 6:00 **Game Time** (K-6th grade), Activity Center
- 5:55 - 6:25 **TGIW Worship**, Fellowship Hall
(*Parents, please make sure your kids are with you
you at this time for family worship!)
- 6:30 - 7:30 **Handbell Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 6:30 - 7:15 **Confirmation**, Room 208
- 6:30 - 8:00 **Junior High 180**, (7th & 8th grades)
Jr High Room
- 7:30 - 9:00 **Chancel Choir** (adult) Rehearsal, Choir Room

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers: The Congregation

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Addison Shields, Jr.

Minister of Education: Rev. Allyson Talbert

Youth Minister: Hattie Stahl

Administrative Assistant: Jan Bondiman

Financial Coordinator: Sue Simek

Network Administrator: Matthew Kaiser

Building Manager: Tom Zolk

Minister of Music: Gary Wilhelm

Organist: George Felty

Children's Choirs Director: Janelle Riopell

Night Custodian: Joseph Schranz

Preschool & Parents Day Out Director: Sue Skahill