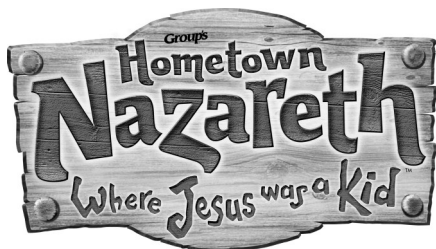




Meriden Messenger

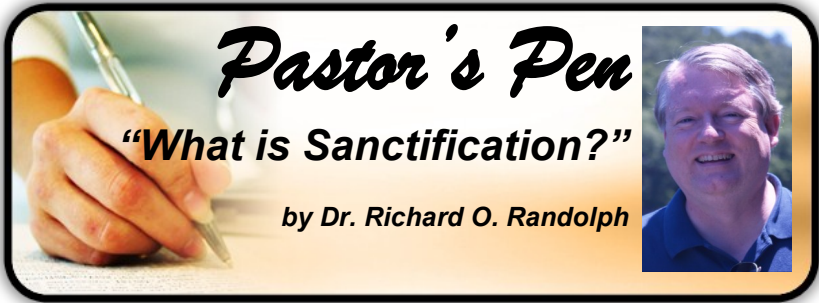
Meriden United Methodist Church August 2011



This year's VBS was a great success!

To find out more, check out Page 12!





For the last two weeks in July, I have been teaching a summer school course on clergy at Saint Paul School of Theology. In this summer school program, Saint Paul offers students two distinct courses that are taken together, in an integrated fashion. So, my clergy ethics course has been paired together with a course on John Wesley, taught by Dr. Hal Knight from the Saint Paul faculty. So, in addition to teaching on clergy ethics, the past two weeks have also given me a chance to refresh and deepen my understanding of John Wesley.

John Wesley lived from 1703-1791 in England. He was a priest in the Church of England, and he started a spiritual renewal movement, which came to be called "Methodism." This Methodist movement grew and grew during Wesley's life, and it eventually split away from the Church of England to become the Methodist Church. So, essentially John Wesley is the founder of The United Methodist Church today. As I have listened to Dr. Knight's lectures, I have been reminded of how much my thinking about the Christian life has been influenced by John Wesley.

One of Wesley's distinctive contributions was his understanding of "sanctification." For Wesley, it was not enough to just accept Jesus as your Savior and become a Christian. No, each of us must grow in our Christian faith throughout our lives. For Wesley, this growth was not a duty, but a gift from God and a joy. Wesley believed that we begin with the "faith of a child," which then grows to the "faith of a young adult," and then finally our faith grows to the "faith of a mature adult." Wesley called this process of spiritual growth, "sanctification." And, for Wesley, sanctification was a lifelong process.

One of the most important aspects of sanctification is the individual Christian's growth in love for God and for their human neighbor. John Wesley believed that each of us must literally work to grow in love. He divided this process into "works of piety" and "works of mercy". "Works of piety" included prayer, Bible study, worship, and receiving the Lord's Supper. "Works of mercy" referred to ways that we could love and care

for other persons. In one of his lectures this summer, Dr. Knight provided a list of the different “works of mercy” that the early Methodists did:

- ◆ Visiting those in prison
- ◆ Creating credit unions for the poor
- ◆ Teaching the poor trades; that is, work skills for getting a job
- ◆ Teaching literacy classes
- ◆ Establishing a free school for orphans who otherwise would not receive an education
- ◆ Establishing free health clinics for the poor
- ◆ Praying for healing for those who were sick or injured
- ◆ Feeding and clothing the poor
- ◆ Fighting against slavery

Listening to Dr. Knight’s lectures, I’ve been wondering: What would John Wesley think of our ministry at Meriden United Methodist Church? Imagine that one week Wesley came in a time-machine to visit us. What would he find? What would he think? I think that Wesley would be pleased that as a congregation we are involved in both “works of piety” and “works of mercy”:

“Works of Piety” at MUMC

- ◆ Sunday morning worship
- ◆ Discipleship Bible Study
- ◆ “Growing in Faith” Sunday-School class
- ◆ “First Place 4 Health” Sunday-School class
- ◆ Financial Peace University
- ◆ Children & Youth Sunday-School classes
- ◆ Youth Group
- ◆ Vacation Bible School



“Works of Mercy” at MUMC

- ◆ Youth mission trips
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity work project
- ◆ Support for God’s Storehouse, especially at Christmas
- ◆ Buying generator so that our church can be a resource in an natural disaster

If John Wesley were able to visit us at MUMC, I think that he would be pleased with our works of piety and of mercy. But, Wesley always believed that there was room for growth. So, as he got back into his time-machine, he would leave us with this question: “How can you grow further in love for God and neighbor? What new works of piety and of mercy is God calling you to do in Meriden?”

Choir News

It has been HOT, HOT, but cool insider where we have been listening to our *"Christmas in July Music."* Come and join us on Wednesday, September 7th, at 7:00pm for our first practice and be part of this music praise!



We hope that the music we bring will be more than a pleasurable listening experience, but a tool to help draw you to a place of worship. *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* and make that *"Joyful Noise!"*

We still need all of those "Best Choice" labels. We will be cashing them in to go towards our music. Have a safe and wonderful rest of the summer. *"Soon and Very Soon"* September 7th will be here and we want you to be a part of the *"Joyful Noise!"*

Keep Singing,
Claudia

UMW Meeting

Wednesday, August 3rd at 9:00am

In place of the regular meeting, UMW will be traveling to Grantville for a school of mission study. This will take place on August 3rd from 9:00am to 12:00pm. All the women in the church are invited!



Mission Statement

"We share God's love through: committed worship and open fellowship; nurturing all to be ever better disciples of Jesus Christ; serving others from what God has given us."

August Birthdays

8/03	Travis Grahem	8/15	Carrie Bramlett
8/03	Charlotte Payne	8/16	Lorri Mahoney
8/07	Jennifer Greene	8/18	Gayle Lolley
8/08	Larry Elniff	8/18	Mike Mullins
8/09	Terry Bell	8/20	Matt Anderson
8/09	Sarah Weishaar	8/20	Randy Scott
8/10	Raelane Schnacker	8/21	Sharon Wellman
8/10	Irene West	8/22	Katherine Petesch
8/11	Frankie Farrant	8/23	Joanne Lacey
8/12	Elisa Mullins	8/23	Ian Mullins
8/12	Dustin Smith	8/23	Leschia Sidener
8/12	Bob Stiles	8/26	Katie Grose
8/13	Lonnie Schnacker	8/26	Brad Reynolds
8/13	Ida Swank	8/28	Chris Scott
8/13	Jay Wellman	8/29	Lonnie White
8/14	Anne Kessler	8/31	Connie Overstreet
8/14	Georgene Watson		

August Anniversaries

8/01	Keith & Mary O'Donnell
8/04	Scott & Jennifer Davids
8/06	Mike & Janelle Ross
8/09	Jeff & Sue Brun
8/10	Steve & Gayle Lolley
8/16	Michael & Dreanalee McClurg
8/22	Richard & Becky Rogers
8/26	Grant & Jenni Greene
8/27	George & Beth Ricketts



To add birthdays and anniversaries please notify the church office.

THANK YOU!

It was two years ago this month that Gary had the stroke that turned our lives upside down. During these two years our church family has been there for us by supporting us with prayers and many acts of kindness. We appreciate it all! Thank you all very much!



Gary and Joyce Hazelton



Highway Cleanup

It's time to clean up the highway once again! Please meet at Jeff West Junction at 8:30am on July 30th to help keep our highway clean!

Bishop's Round Up School Kits

It's time to collect school kits for Round-up. We need the following:

- ✓ 2 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- ✓ 2 wide line theme books or notebooks (not wired)
- ✓ Scissors - small, blunt
- ✓ 1 box of 24 crayons
- ✓ 1 box colored pencils
- ✓ 1 tube of glue
- ✓ Washable markers (8 colors)
- ✓ Erasers (pink)



An Opportunity for Growth in Church Leadership

Every fall, the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, located in Leawood, Kansas, offers a two-day leadership conference. This is a national conference, attracting clergy and laity from across the country. This year's conference is September 29-30. The conference will feature several invited keynote speakers, but the heart of the conference is the specialized workshops. Some of these workshops will focus on topics, such as Young Adult Ministries, "Becoming Better Moms," Media in Worship, "Church Budgeting in Today's Dynamic World," and "Addicted to Hurry-Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down." For a full list and description of all the available workshops, see their website, <http://li.cor.org/workshops/>.

Dr. Randolph will be attending, and he would like to invite MUMC folks to attend with him. If you're interested in attending or would like to have more information, please contact the church office or Dr. Randolph by email at Richard.o.randolph@gmail.com or telephone at (913) 481-6722.



Financial Peace Volunteers

Financial Peace University will wrap up its classes at the end of August. We still need childcare volunteers through August 21st. If you are interested and can help, there is a sign up sheet on the landing. We are also looking at starting another session in the near future. If you or someone you know is interested in taking this class, please call Jodi Starr at (785) 220-7417. At this point, she would just like to know what the interest is.



August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	1	2 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 6:30pm Boy Scouts
Communion 7 6:00pm Financial Peace University	8 6:30pm Cub Scouts	9 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency
14 11:15am Outreach 11:15am Trustees 6:00pm Financial Peace University	15 8:30am Men's Breakfast	16 9:00am Women's Exer- cise Group 6:30pm Boy Scouts
Potluck 21 12:00pm Admin. Co. 4:30pm Baker Anniversary 6:00pm Financial Peace University	22 6:30pm Cub Scouts	23 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency Newsletter Deadline
28	29	30 9:00am Women's Exercise Group Fold/Mail Newsletter

For a full view of the calendar including what parts of the church are being utilized, please visit us at www.meridenumc.org and click on Church Calendar. Then click on the event for locations and times.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00am UMW Meeting in Grantville	4 9:00am Women's Exercise Group	5 5:00pm Irene West 90th Birthday	6
10	11 9:00am Women's Exercise Group	12	13
17 6:00pm HS/MS Youth Groups	18 9:00am Women's Exercise Group	19	20
24 6:00pm HS/MS Youth Groups	25 9:00am Women's Exercise Group	26	27
31 6:00pm HS/MS Youth Groups			

9:00am: Sunday School

9:45am: Welcoming Time

10:00am: Worship Service

11:00am: Fellowship Time


Looking Ahead to September...

Here are some upcoming events in August you might want to remember...

- Choir Practice resumes on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00pm
- Tuesday, September 13th and 27th, the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging will meet at 10:00am.
- On Sunday, September 11th, the Outreach and Trustee Committees will meet after worship services.
- On Sunday, September 18th, the Administrative Council will meet at noon, after the potluck.
- On Monday, September 19th, the Men's Breakfast will be served at 8:30am.

The Women's Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 10:00am.

Please check out our online calendar at www.meridenumc.org to see all of the activities going on at our church in August and beyond!



Budget Time!

Budgets for all functional committees need to be turned in by September 1st to the Finance committee.



Vision Statement

"Sharing God's love within our community and into the world community."

Sunday School

We have classes for 3-4 year olds, Kindergarten-1st grades, 2nd-3rd grades, 4th-5th grades and 6th-7th grades. Our classrooms have been renovated with lots of color! Sunday School is from 9:00 to 9:45. Come join us and bring a friend!



Children's classes:

- Pre-K – 9th grade meet in the basement of the church

Adult classes:

- “First Place 4 Health” meets in the parsonage.
- “Fit 4 Life” meets in the gym

Nursery is available during worship for 0–5 years of age.

Date	Greeters	Liturgist
Sept. 4th	Steve Scott Tammy Scott	Nicole Welborn
Sept. 11th	Mike Shenk Jan Shenk	Janice Schaeffer
Sept. 18th	Gary Silversmith Marty Silversmith	Bob Overstreet
Sept. 25th	Bob Stapel Twila Stapel	Joye Mullins

A Big VBS Thank You!

The week of July 11-15 brought many young visitors to MUMC for the VBS experience, “Hometown Nazareth – Where Jesus was a Boy.” Our “town” had many daily visitors and workers that helped make this experience fun and rewarding for all in attendance.

We averaged 40 children each day of the week. The children were divided into age specific groups—each group was assigned a “tribe” name from the twelve tribes in the bible. Each day began with a celebration that included singing and focus points. Each tribe then retired for their ‘hometown huddle’ where they learned bible verses and ways in which to apply them to everyday life. A visit to the areas of town took place in the time we called “marketplace.”

The marketplace included Mary’s house where the children heard wonderful stories from Jesus’ Mom, Mary. **Blanche Wulfekoetter** played the part of Mary and **Lori Rodecap** shared her talents as Eunice, the unbelieving neighbor. **Yvonne Hewitt and Marybeth Bramlett** helped as “understudies” who occasionally filled in for these ladies.

Children also visited the food market for great snacks. Each day, **Angie and Nicci Feyh** served up fresh fruit, yogurt, crackers, muffins, bread and cheese to represent what Jesus might have had as snacks when he was a boy. In addition, some “modern day” frozen treats helped us beat the heat!

The craft area changed daily to the farmers field, the potters shop, an olive oil shop, a carpenter shop and the bead shop to allow each child to make a wide variety of interesting crafts. Thanks to **Nancy Lord, Claudia Long, and Pat Scott** for their work in the shops each day.

Fun and Games were lead by **Casey Woodward and her son Bryan**. The kids had great fun with these unique and highly engaging games! Laughter and excitement were evident in the games area of town. **Nicole Welborn and Katie Chase** filled in for Casey and Bryan on Friday.

After the marketplace, students would then return to their ‘hometown huddle’ area for additional discussions and teaching points. They shared “God Sightings” with their tribes and took part in the lesson for each day.

Each day ended with a Celebration where the residents of our Nazareth town sang songs and enjoyed each others company!! Special thanks go to **Katie Grose and her daughter Sarah** for their leadership in

teaching the songs and actions we shared in worship on Celebration Sunday.

Each tribe had a leader and most had a helper or two. Many other helpers floated from one area to another filling in wherever they were needed.

The tribes and their leaders were:

Dan tribe— Margie Payne	Benjamin tribe— Crystal Welborn
Gad tribe – Karolyn Conaway	Judah tribe – Betty Majors
Levi tribe – Marilyn Overstreet	Joseph tribe – Jenni Greene

Helpers included:

Dr. Randolph	Jill Tuck	Betty Stiles
Joyce Fleeker	Pam Pollom	Susan Welborn
Katie Chase	Madison Greene	Cassidy Sands

Technical and construction assistance by: **Les Grose and John Welborn**. Welcoming and Registration: **Carrie Bramlett** – also our SUPER Photographer, **Marybeth Bramlett**

Special thanks to Carrie for all the extra work she did to make the week a success! I was so grateful to everyone who dropped by (**Doug and Leschia Sidener, Steve Kruse, Sharon Monhollon**) as well as those who accepted the call to come to work each day. The week was very rewarding and uplifting! We have such a wonderful church family who are willing to “answer the call” whenever it comes. Please note all the names listed and take time to share your Thanks for their leadership and dedication to promoting our church and our community.

Grace and Peace, Pat Welborn

