



Meriden Messenger

Meriden United Methodist Church November 2011

Imagine...

- ♥ A place that meets you right where you're at as a mom, a woman, and a friend.
- ♥ Learning how to be better equipped as a parent through speakers and discussion.
- ♥ Growing through a supportive network of moms who "get it" - from newborns to teens. Serving not only your family, but also your community through outreach opportunities.



What is BBM?

Building Better Moms (BBM) strives to build a community of moms who learn, grow, and serve together. BBM meets monthly in a large group setting to listen to a speaker and in small groups to connect with one another through faith, fellowship and food!

Where is BBM?

Starting next September...right here in Meriden! Carrie Bramlett recently traveled to Leadership Institute in Kansas City to learn more about the program and to bring it back. She is looking for just two enthusiastic moms ready to help co-lead this effort! There is minimal time involved in getting started and the girls at Church of the Resurrection have even offered to help with materials and a mentor!

If you are interested in helping and/or would like more information, you can watch a video at www.cor.org/bbm and then contact Carrie in the church office by November 15th to get started on Phase 1!



The fall is my favorite season of the year. I just love this time of year, the brilliant autumn leaves, the crisp, clear air, and the mild temperatures. In my commute from Overland Park to Meriden this fall, I have especially enjoyed driving by where farmers are harvesting their corn and soybeans—and, now beginning to disk up their fields for the next planting.

For me, autumn is just an awesome, spectacular time of year! I always feel especially close to God in the fall, when I see a brilliant red maple tree or breathe in the clear, crisp air or see a farmer driving his combine through the fields. Christians have always affirmed the goodness of nature because we believe that in some sense God is the Creator.

There are two creation stories in the Bible's Book of Genesis. The first account is the most familiar, "six-days story" and it appears in Genesis 1:1-2:3. In this story, humans are created in God's image and charged with the task of taking care of the rest of nature, as a steward, who takes care of an owner's property (see verses 26-30). Then God looks over all of creation and affirms its goodness: "God saw everything that he had made and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." (verse 31)

Whereas the "six-days story" depicts God as a cosmic Creator, the second account depicts God as an earthly gardener. The "garden story" appears in Genesis 2:4-24. In this account, God creates man (*Adam*) and then, out of love for man, God plants a beautiful garden. God gives the beautiful garden to the man: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." (v. 15) The Hebrew verb, which we translate into English as "to till it" is *abad*. This is an odd verb to use in the context of verse 15 because *abad* literally means "to

serve” as when a servant serves the Queen. So, we can read verse 15 to mean literally that humans were created **to serve** nature.

Why does the Bible contain two separate creation stories? I believe that God gives us two separate creation stories because each has something important to say about humans’ relationship with the rest of nature. Taken together, the two stories explain that humans are to be **servant-stewards**, taking care of nature, which is God’s good Creation.

As we continue to move forward with our “Blue Sky events” this fall and as we look ahead to our collective strategic planning next year, I hope that we can begin to think strategically about how Meriden United Methodist Church can become better **servant-stewards**.

Here are three things that we might consider:

1. An energy audit for our buildings. In addition to becoming more sustainable, we could also save some money.
2. A recycling program. In the church office, we already recycle paper. In the kitchen we work at recycling plastic and aluminum, but we could be doing this on a much larger scale.
3. We might consider becoming a certified green congregation, fulfilling the certification requirements of a national program, such as “Green Faith,” see <http://greenfaith.org/programs/certification>

And the winner is....KU!

The Wildcats scored a major victory over KU on the field last week, but in the church KU was the clear winner! KU fans did the best to help their team win with 279 items while KSU fans® contributed 155 items. A total of 434 items were collected!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the challenge for God’s Storehouse. And thank you to everyone who helped load, transport, unload, sort, and shelve all the products too! Everything is greatly appreciated!

Hanging of the Greens

November 20, 2011



Come help us continue the special tradition of the Hanging of the Greens to decorate God’s house for Advent - the period of preparation leading up to the actual celebration of the Christ Child’s birth. Help “deck the walls” immediately following Administrative Council on November 20th; we’ll listen to carols and sing along as we decorate.

faith
love
hope

Current Sermon Series

Dr. Randolph is currently preaching a seven-part sermon series, entitled: “Becoming a Virtuous Christian.” Virtues are the values that define who we are as persons. They are the attributes of our character that others see in our lives. Virtues strengthen us as Christians to live ethically in a way that reflects Christ in what we say and do. That is, virtues give us moral strength to make ethical decisions, even when those decisions make us unpopular or those decisions are not in our own best interests. More than that, virtues give us clarity of vision so that in confusing and difficult decisions we can see clearly what we ought to do as disciples of Christ.

The tentative schedule for the seven-part series is:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oct 9th - Hope | Nov 6th - Temperance |
| Oct 16th - Faith | Nov 13th - Spiritual Growth |
| Oct 23rd - Love | Nov 20th Wisdom |
| Oct 30th - Justice | |



UMW Meeting Special Guest Speaker! Wednesday, Nov. 2nd at 9:30am

The United Methodist Women will meet at 9:30am on November 2nd for their monthly meeting and fellowship. Melissa Moss will be the Special Guest Speaker. She was in the Peace Corp for 2 1/2 years. She was stationed in the Pacific Rim with a mission of health and education. Come here and see her story! All women of the church and guests are invited to attend!

for the
LOVE of
the

Keeping it
Simple & Fun

GAME



Games such as Basketball are simply the toy department of life. They provide us with distractions from our daily lives. We use them as a way to be connected to something that we can be a part of. Basketball is a simple game that requires discipline, commitment, and a willingness to work hard to have success and fun.

With that in mind, John Olson has once again started the Jr. Tigers Basketball Club. Boys and girls, from 3rd grade through 6th grade are already signed up and ready to start! The clinic starts November 5th and runs through December 17th at the JWHS Gymnasium.

The actual competitive basketball season starts in January with dates to be determined! So be on the lookout for a fantastic way for your children to learn about basketball as well as life skills all in one clinic!



Bishop's Round-up for Hunger

November 19, 2011 at the fairgrounds in Lawrence is the date set for the Bishop's Round-up for Hunger. We have been collecting items for School Kits and Health Kits. For those of you who do not completely understand what the Bishop's Round-up for Hunger is all about, please, read on.

The annual Bishop's Round-up for Hunger, an event unique to the Kansas East Conference, is a time for United Methodists to provide for people in need. A project of the Board of Global Ministries in the Kansas East conference, the Round-up gathers supplies like food, health kits, cash, layettes (baby kits), birthing kits, diapers, clothing, paper items and bedding for around 30 missions and agencies in Kansas and beyond.

The Round-up also works with Heifer International which buys high-quality animals for people and with the United Methodist Youthville Animal Therapy program which collects young beef cattle, pigs, and horses for their Farm and Ranch Program, a program that helps hurting children heal by involving them with nature and animals. In total, the supplies and donations earned from this event value near \$400,000 a year. As you can see, the Bishop's Round-up is a successful way to love the poor and hurting in areas both near and far from us.

Highway Cleanup

It's time to clean our section of the highway again! Please join us at 8:30am on November 5th at Jeff West Junction to get started! We hope to see you there!



November Birthdays

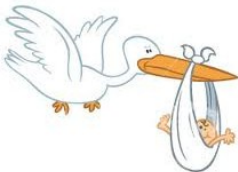
11/01	Kylan Sidener	11/20	Joshua Davids
11/04	Daniel Monhollon	11/24	Nathan Swank
11/05	Glenda Hunt	11/24	Bill Mitchell
11/05	Dalton Ricketts	11/25	Kyler Wellman
11/06	Eden Randolph	11/26	Callie Ballenger
11/09	Catherine Schnacker	11/26	Marjorie McClurg
11/14	Pam Pollom	11/27	Chris Anderson
11/14	Mitch Wulfekoetter	11/27	Nathan McClurg
11/16	Rhonda Bell	11/30	Lucia McKeithan
11/17	Debra Adams	11/30	Ainsley Stiles
11/19	Kristina Schnacker	11/30	Justice Randolph

November Anniversaries

11/04	Jerel & Nieta Devor
11/11	Alan & Melody Monthey
11/11	Glenn & Ida Swank
11/12	Dr. Richard & LaGreer Randolph
11/13	Max & Pat Scott
11/23	Scott & Sherri Heald
11/27	Lonnie & Lise' White
11/28	Rick & Laura Anderson
11/28	Norm & Marybeth Bramlett



To add birthdays and anniversaries please notify the church office.

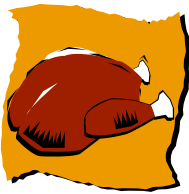


It's a Girl!

Andy and Nikki Bell are the proud parents of Kaylea Marie Bell. Kaylea was born Thursday, October 13th at 7:01pm, weighing in at 6lbs and 13oz and 19.5" in length. Kaylea is the little sister of a very proud Payton. The Bell family now resides in Hoyt, KS.

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts	9:30am 6:00 Yo 7:0
Communion 6 11:15am Staff/Parish Relations 4:00pm Charge Conference 	7 5:00pm Daisy Scouts	Election Day 8 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6:00 Yo 7:0
13 11:15am Finance 11:15am Trustees	14 6:30pm Cub Scouts	15 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6:00 Yo 7:0
Potluck 20 12:00pm Admin. Co. 1:00pm Hanging of the Greens	21 8:30am Men's Breakfast 2-8:30pm Director Pictures 5:00pm Daisy Scouts	Newsletter Due 22 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness	
27 11:15am Outreach Committee	28 6:30pm Cub Scouts	Fold Newsletter 29 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6:00 Yo 7:0



9:00am: Sunday School
 9:45am: Welcoming Time
 10:00am: Worship Service
 11:00am: Fellowship Time

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>10am UMW Mtg 1pm HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10am HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veteran's Day</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Boy Scout Overnighter Church not available from Friday at 4:00pm to Saturday at 12:00pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10am HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Quilting Group</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10am HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>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.</p>		



Looking Ahead to December...

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

- Dec. 2nd and 3rd - last two days available for Directory Portraits. Sign up online now!
- Dec. 1st - UMW monthly meeting at 6:30pm.
- Dec. 3rd - Friend's of the Library Quilt Show
- Dec. 4th - Staff/Parish Relations Committee at 11:15am
- Dec. 10th - Quilting Group All Day
- Dec. 11th - Christmas Cantata, Finance and Trustee Committees meet at 11:15am.
- Dec. 13th and 27th - Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging meets at 10:00am.
- Dec. 14th-17th - God's Storehouse Christmas
- Dec. 18th - Children's Pageant and Administrative Council will meet at noon, after the potluck.
- Dec. 19th - Men's Breakfast will be served at 8:30am.
- Dec. 25th - Outreach committee at 11:15am.
- Dec. 22nd - Newsletter deadline. We will be mailing and folding the newsletter on Dec. 29th.at 10:00am.

The Women's Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 10:00am. The choir practices every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

HS and MS Youth Groups meet every Wednesday at 6:00pm. Body and Soul Fitness meets each Tuesday and Thursday at 4:15pm and 5:45pm.

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

Please remember any activity in the church needs to be scheduled in advance through the main office.

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.

Would you like to be a greeter or a liturgist? Please contact Marilyn Overstreet or the church office and we will add you and your family! Thanks so much for volunteering!

Date	Greeters	Liturgist
Nov 6th	John Corum	Susan Welborn
Nov 13th	John & Susie Olson	Nancy Lord
Nov 20th	John Corum	Claudia Long
Nov 27th	Helen A. / Georgene W.	Pam Farrant



Love to Mop?

Do you have a passion for mopping? Have you been looking for an outlet? Then look no further! We need volunteers to mop the gym floor once a month.

There's a sign up sheet on the landing. Sign up today!



Directory Time!

To prepare for this, the church secretary will be sending out directory forms to update your current information. Please return the forms as soon as possible so the directory is current as possible.

The dates for portrait photography are:

- ⇒ Monday, November 21, 2011 2:00pm to 8:30pm
- ⇒ Friday, December 2, 2011 2:00pm to 8:30pm
- ⇒ Saturday, December 3, 2011 10:00am to 5:00pm

We will have volunteers before and after services in November to help you sign up. Or just go online and sign up today! www.meridenumc.org and click on the link!

This year, we are also opening our doors to the surrounding community, friends, and relatives that would like to have their portrait taken. They will receive a free 8x10 portrait and the option to purchase additional pictures if they choose. It's free to all!

It's been over six years since our last directory, so plan to update your family portrait and the directory!

If you would like to volunteer to help sign up people after worship services or check people in on one of the portrait sessions days, please contact either Pat Scott, Pat Welborn, or Carrie Bramlett. You will receive a coupon for helping out!

Choir News

In honor of our Veterans, in November the Choir will be doing "Let Freedom Ring." Don't miss this beautiful medley of songs that will make your heart burst in pride for the red, white and blue!



Save the date!! December 11, 2011 is the date we have chosen for our Christmas Cantata entitled "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem." This joyous Christmas celebration in music comes with classic Christmas songs "Beautiful Star" and "A Night to Remember" and favorite carols like "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." Take this message of God's love and shine it as a message of hope wherever you may go. There is still time for you to join us for this beautiful piece!

We are looking for some extra specials too. Call the church office to book your special time. We would love to have you or a guest! Please continue to save those "Best Choice" labels for us!

Keep Singing,
Claudia



Scheduling Conflicts

It has been brought to the church secretary's attention, that once again the gym and/or church is being utilized without first securing the time on the calendar. The church is growing and we need to make sure everything that happens in the church is on the calendar and approved no matter how small. It's very frustrating for the people who do schedule in advance to find their time/area occupied by someone else.