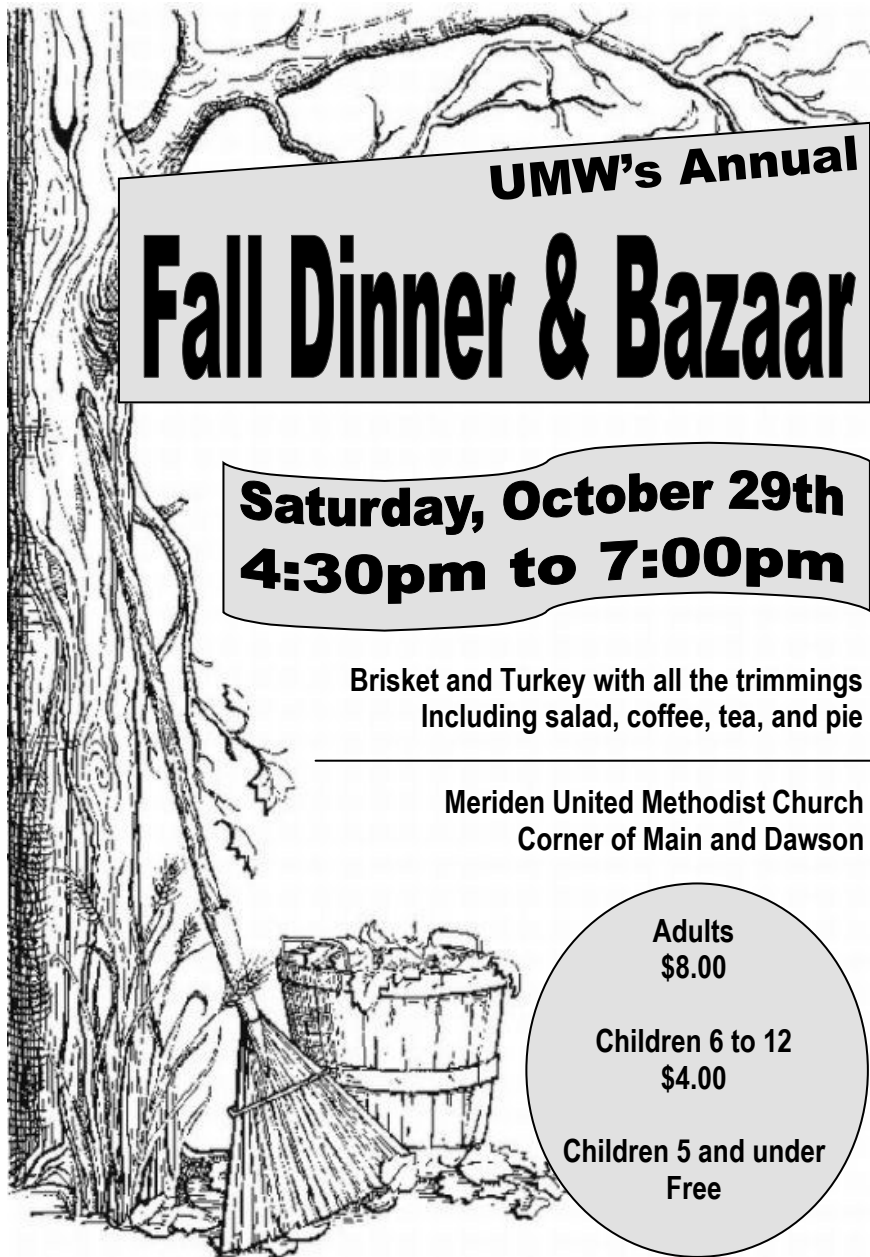




Meriden Messenger

Meriden United Methodist Church

October 2011



UMW's Annual

Fall Dinner & Bazaar

**Saturday, October 29th
4:30pm to 7:00pm**

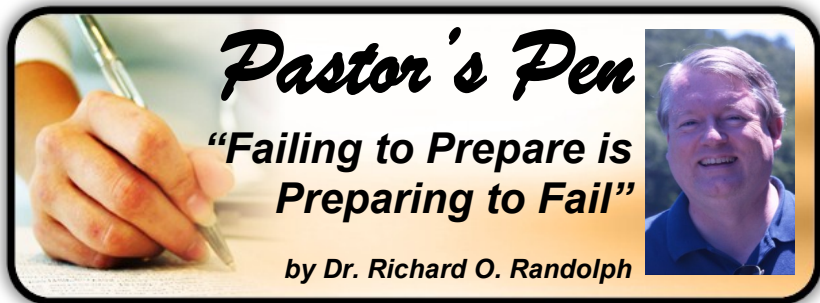
**Brisket and Turkey with all the trimmings
Including salad, coffee, tea, and pie**

**Meriden United Methodist Church
Corner of Main and Dawson**

**Adults
\$8.00**

**Children 6 to 12
\$4.00**

**Children 5 and under
Free**



The title for this month's "Pastor's Pen" comes from the legendary college basketball coach, John Wooden. If measured by national championship titles, then Wooden is far and away the most successful men's college basketball coach, ever. Wooden, who died last year at age 99, won 10 NCAA national basketball championships over a 27-year coaching career at UCLA. [Wooden's 10 national championships are more than Duke (4) and Kansas (3) combined.] Interestingly, John Wooden always considered himself a teacher rather than a coach.

If we think about what it means to "prepare," then certainly planning must be considered the first step in any preparation. That's why I think our small-group "Blue Sky Events" are so important this fall. These are small group meetings at individual's homes, usually with light snacks. They will offer an opportunity to talk with me in an informal setting so that we can get to know one another better. They will also be used as a chance to share with one another our hopes and dreams for Meriden United Methodist Church. Through these Blue Sky Events, we hope to include everyone in planning the next chapter in our church's life.

The first of these Blue Sky Events was held Sunday afternoon, September 18th. We met at the home of John and Susie Olson. After some refreshments and a little conversation about me and how I came to be the minister at MUMC, we began to share our hopes and dreams concerning the future of our church. As we talked, I wrote everyone's suggestions on white paper so that we could see what we had said and so that we would have a permanent record of the discussion. As I wrote, I became more and more excited about the future of our congregation. There

were so many hopes, dreams, and ideas.

When the Blue Sky Events have all been held, I will provide a report that lists every single suggestion made at all of the events. But, for now, I want to provide just a sample of five dreams from the first Blue Sky Event. While all of the suggestions are very important, the five samples that I have picked out are hopes and dreams that I had never thought about—just to give everyone some ideas for your own Blue Sky Events:

- ⇒ Develop an elementary after-school program; perhaps beginning with a once-a-week program and then expanding it to additional days as the program grows.
- ⇒ Strengthen our connections with the senior members of our congregation, especially those who are unable to attend worship regularly.
- ⇒ Provide nursery care **during** Sunday-school as well as during Worship
- ⇒ Establish a community garden as a way of reaching out to those around us
- ⇒ Establish a “lake ministry” at Perry Lake on weekends during the summer

There are 8 planned Blue Sky Events for this fall. There are sign-up sheets at the church so that persons can select which Blue Sky Event to attend. So, if you haven't done so already, I strongly urge you to sign up for one of these events.

Following the fall Blue Sky Events, we will incorporate everyone's suggestions into a strategic planning process during January and February. By March 1st, we expect to have identified and committed to 3-5 core goals that we will seek to achieve over the next five years.

When you step back and think for a moment, John Wooden's saying is rather obvious. Of course, it's true that “Failing to Prepare is Preparing to Fail.” This is true in all aspects of life. Of course, in the life of our church, we have a specific understanding of what it means to succeed. For the Church—and for individual Christians—to succeed means to faithfully follow where God is leading us. When we set aside time for planning as we are doing this year, then the core question becomes,

Where is God leading Meriden United Methodist Church in the future?

How do we discern where God is leading us? I firmly believe that God speaks to us through everyone in our community of faith. Everyone

... whether you are 5 or 95;

...whether you have been a member of MUMC for 40 years or have never formally joined our congregation;

...whether you have held every office within MUMC or never held an office at all

—God can speak to our church through your voice.

That's why it is important that everyone participate in a Blue Sky Event. God is speaking to us through the hopes, dreams, and ideas of everyone. We need you. We need to hear what God is saying to us through you.

I am truly excited about the future of Meriden United Methodist Church. But to be successful we need to plan for our future. And, to plan well, we need everyone to share their hopes, dreams, and ideas.

Future Dates for Blue Sky Events

Wednesday, October 5th (1:00pm-3:00pm)

Delores Porter's Home, 413 W Prairie Bend Court, Meriden

Sunday, October 9th (4:00pm-6:00pm)

The Schaeffer's Home, 118 Sunrise, Ozawkie

Sunday, October 16th (4:00pm-6:00pm)

The Johnson's Home, 6647 Shawnee Lane/Lake Ridge Estates (Perry CC)

Sunday, October 23rd (6:00pm-8:00pm)

The Monhollon's Home, 5200 NE Kendall Wood Dr., Topeka

Tuesday, November 1st (2:00pm-4:00pm)

The Fleeker's Home, 7696 Anderson, Meriden

Thursday, November 17th (7:00pm-9:00pm)

The Overstreet's Home, 301 Sioux Drive, Ozawkie

Christians in Action

The Youth Groups will be attending CIA this Saturday, October 1st. It's being held at Asbury-Mount Olive UMC in Topeka. Our group will work at food pantries, clean inside churches, do lawn work outside churches and in the East Topeka neighborhood, pick up trash and perform various odd jobs with several community organizations.



KSU vs. KU

The Outreach committee is hosting a Wildcats v. Jayhawks food drive for God's Storehouse leading up to the KSU v. KU football game. Please place your donations in the appropriate area outside of the gym doors. Pastor Richard has agreed to wear the attire of the school with the most food collected during services on October 23rd. Help support your community and your team today!

UMW Meeting

Wednesday, October 5th at 9:30am

The United Methodist Women will meet at 9:30am on October 5th for their monthly meeting and fellowship. Margie Payne is the hostess and Marybeth Bramlett is in charge of the program. All women of the church are invited to attend!



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."





Bishop's Round Up for Hunger

November 19, 2011 is the date set for the Bishop's Round-Up for Hunger. Each year we have tried to supply several School Kits and Health Kits. Thanks to the generous donations of the congregation, we have filled all of the School Kits.

The Outreach Committee is asking for items to complete 12 health kits. The items needed for each kit are 1 large comb or brush, 1 bar of soap, 1 tube of toothpaste, 1 packaged toothbrush, 1 shampoo, deodorant, and body lotion. If you can donate some of the items it would be appreciated. Dollar Wise and Country Market have items for a dollar or less. Thank you for your help!



Body & Soul Fitness Classes!

We care about the health of your body - and your soul. Our goal is to encourage you to pursue both physical and spiritual fitness, wherever you are in the world. With that in mind, MUMC hosts Body & Soul Fitness classes with Blanche Wulfekoetter instructing.

The classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays through December 1st. The 4:15pm class will be a Dance Blast class. The aerobic section of this class will be similar to Zumba and the strengthen portion will use Pilates.

The 5:45pm class will be a classic Cardio/Strengthen class that will incorporate a more athletic style using intervals and weights. Come see what these classes are all about!

October Birthdays

10/02 Audry Mullins	10/12 Doug Sidener
10/03 Sarra Mahoney	10/12 Betty Stiles
10/03 Sharon Monhollon	10/15 Jared Heller
10/04 Eli Murphy	10/17 Rick Anderson
10/05 Mike Shenk	10/19 Alan Monthey
10/06 Lise' White	10/21 Joshua Johnson
10/06 Marybeth Bramlett	10/21 Steve Scott
10/06 Jeanne Kessler	10/22 Greg Johnson
10/06 Rosemary Wickersham	10/28 Blake Ross
10/06 Betty Majors	10/29 Jennifer Davids
10/08 Christy Ketchem	10/29 Hal Payne
10/09 Maxwell Tuck	10/31 Colette Graham
10/09 Brenda Eichinger	10/31 Kim Wright
10/12 Tyler Johnson	

October Anniversaries



10/01 Philip & Lisa Duniven
10/07 Doyle & Pam Pollom
10/24 Jeff & Angie Feyh
10/30 Darold & Catherine Schnacker
10/31 Eldon & Isabel Adams

To add birthdays and anniversaries please notify the church office.

Braided Breads



The Youth Groups are selling Braided Breads. If you are interested in purchasing some very yummy bread, please see a middle or high school youth to get your order placed!



Vision Statement

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

October 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes
Communion 2 11:15am Staff/Parish Relations	3 5:00pm Daisy Scouts	4 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts	9:30am 6:00 Yo 7:0
9 11:15am Trustees	10 5:00pm Sorority 6:30pm Cub Scouts	11 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
Potluck 16 12:00pm Admin. Co. 1:00pm Anderson	17 8:30am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Daisy Scouts	18 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts	6:00 Yo 7:0
23 11:15am Outreach Committee	24 6:30pm Cub Scouts	25 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
30	31 		For a fu please v



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

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1
5 7pm UMW Mtg 8pm HS/MS Youth Groups 10pm Choir Practice	6 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness	7 6:30pm Boy Scouts 9:30pm FCA 5th Quarter	8 Lolley/Zerbe Wedding
12 7pm HS/MS Youth Groups 10pm Choir Practice	13 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness	14	15 Quilting Group
19 7pm HS/MS Youth Groups 10pm Choir Practice	20 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30pm Boy Scouts	22
26 7pm HS/MS Youth Groups 10pm Choir Practice	27 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness Fold Newsletter	28	29 4:30pm UMW Fall Bazaar/Dinner

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



Looking Ahead to November...

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

- Sunday, November 6th, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet after worship services.
- Wednesday, November 2nd, UMW will have their monthly meeting at 9:30am.
- Sunday, November 13th, the Trustee Committee will meet after worship services.
- Tuesday, November 8th and 22nd, the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging will meet at 10:00am.
- Sunday, November 20th, the Administrative Council will meet at noon, after the potluck.
- Monday, November 21st, the Men's Breakfast will be served at 8:30am.
- Sunday, November 27th, the Outreach committee will meet after worship services.
- The newsletter deadline is November 22nd. We will be mailing and folding the newsletter on Tuesday, November 29th at 10:00am.

The Boy Scouts will be hosting an overnighter at our church on November 11th and 12th, so the church will be unavailable for any other activities during those days.

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!

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
Oct 2nd	Bob & Shirley Ketchem	John Olson
Oct 9th	Bob & Shirley Ketchem	Bob Hassler
Oct 16th	Don & Janice Schaeffer	Twila Stapel
Oct 23rd	Clayton & Sharon Williams	Marilyn Overstreet
Oct 30th		



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 will be Monday, November 21, 2011; Friday, December 2, 2011; and Saturday, December 3, 2011.

We will have volunteers before and after services in October and November to help you sign up. And this year, you will be able to log into our website after October 15th and sign up yourself!

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!



Note of Thanks

To MUMC, Thank you so much for the book bags for the “free” school supply drive. Before the morning was over we ran out of them, as well as many other supplies. There were 321 students from 13 school districts that came that day. God has really blessed this project through the giver and the receiver. He gets all the praise and glory!

Sincerely,
Dennis & Ronda Turner, Valley Falls First Christian Church

Choir News

Choir is in full swing and we would love to have you be part of the Choir!

We have new *Ready to Sing* books that we will be singing out of with songs like "In Times Like These," "Savior, Healer, Friend," and "I'm So Glad" just to name a few. Sometimes there is a certain song, arrangements sung or played that can bring us to new heights in our connection between our spirits and God's Spirit and impact our lives in many ways. Remember songs like "Do Lord," "This Little Light of Mine," and of course "Jesus Loves Me." They somehow transport us to a moment in time. So come and join us and make another moment and memory with us.

There is nothing like delivering the "Good News" in a song! Come on in on Wednesdays evening at 7:00pm. We'd love to have you and all are welcomed!

Our Christmas music is here too! Keep saving those Best Choice labels for us.

Keep Singing,
Claudia



NEEDED: Halloween Candy

We need Halloween candy to be used at our booth at Trunk or Treat. Please place your donations in the candy box on the landing.

We also need volunteers to help pass out the candy on October 30th. Contact the outreach committee if you would like to participate this year!

