



# Meriden Messenger

Meriden United Methodist Church September 2011

**Looking for  
for things to  
do and ways  
to serve?  
Look no  
Further than  
MUMC!**



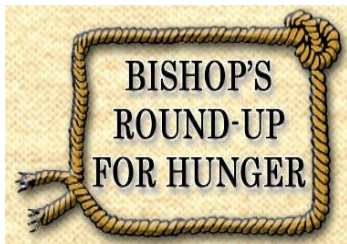
*New*  
**Choir Members  
Welcome!**



**United  
Methodist  
Women**



**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**  
*Make the Connection*



**BISHOP'S  
ROUND-UP  
FOR HUNGER**



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**



Well, I am impressed and excited!! I have been the pastor at Meriden United Methodist Church for two months now. I have participated in Vacation Bible School, visited the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men, both the middle and senior high Youth Groups, as well as all of the Sunday-School classes. I have met with all of the church committees. Through these opportunities, I have begun getting to know all of the individuals and groups within our church. Of course, I still have a lot to learn. But, the common theme that I keep coming back to is this: **Meriden United Methodist Church is richly blessed with laity leadership that is extraordinarily talented, exceptionally creative, spiritually mature, and deeply committed to Christ.** I am convinced that God has big things in store for us and that our future is bright.

Given this bright future, it is important that we take some time to plan carefully how we will focus and serve God in the future. We need to be careful about how we do this planning. Frequently, churches can slip into what many of us call “scarcity thinking.” That is, when we begin thinking about our future, we begin by focusing on our problems and limitations, instead of our potential. Naturally, focusing on what we don’t have limits our vision. It also demoralizes us, so that we develop an ethos of negativity, which is totally at odds with our belief that through God all things are possible. With “scarcity thinking,” we envision a future horizon that is covered by dark, ominous clouds of doubt and fear.

Instead, of “scarcity thinking,” I hope that we can engage in “blue sky” thinking. “Blue sky” means that we imagine a future horizon which is clear of those clouds of “scarcity thinking.” Instead of imagining everything that can go wrong, we imagine everything

that can go right. Instead of limiting our vision of the future, we expand our vision of the future.

I first encountered the term, “blue sky thinking,” when I worked as Program Director at the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Berkeley, California. When we started thinking about a potential new program, the staff would get together and say, “Let’s ‘blue sky’ this.” In other words, let’s dream about all of that we could accomplish with this potential initiative, instead of focusing on what could go wrong. I think that “blue sky thinking” helped the Center be very successful during my tenure as Program Director, including landing a \$16 million grant to develop science and religion programs around the world.

To get us started on “blue sky thinking,” I am going to ask our Staff-Parish Relations Committee to organize a series of small group meetings this fall. I envision 8-10 of us meeting together for an afternoon or evening. These small meetings will provide a forum for me to get to know you better (and vice versa). But, they will also provide an opportunity for us to share with one another our hopes and dreams for MUMC. (During these meetings, I’ll be taking notes on these hopes and dreams so that we can share them with everyone in our congregation.)

In addition, during the fall I will be studying the context in which we do local ministry at Meriden UMC. In particular, I plan to study the demographics of our community and the projections for how our demographics will probably change in the future. For instance, is there new housing that will probably be built and, if so, where? I’m also intrigued by where members of our MUMC congregation live. So, I plan on doing that type of research this fall.

In addition to “blue sky” thinking in small groups and researching our ministry context, MUMC will need to do a “**SWOT**” analysis. In a “SWOT” analysis, we will need to investigate four areas:

**S–Strengths:** What are the internal strengths and resources that we have as a congregation? I’ve already indicated that we are blessed with tremendous laity leadership. But, what are our other strengths as a congregation that will carry us into the future? *Cont. Pg 4*

**W–Weaknesses:** What are the internal weaknesses and limitations that we have as a congregation? I realize that I have strongly counseled against “scarcity thinking.” On the one hand, it is important that we do not begin our future planning with “scarcity thinking” or that we allow it to dominate our thinking. On the other hand, in order for our planning to be realistic, we must take into account our internal weaknesses and limitations so that we can plan how we intend to address those needs. For instance, there already seems to be a consensus within our congregation that parking around the church could limit our future growth. That’s a weakness that we need to think about and address in our future planning.

**O–Opportunities:** In this analysis, we will look beyond our church and explore the opportunities that exist outside our congregation. For instance, are there potential new ministries that we could establish that would serve our community and help build the Kingdom of God? The basketball clinics that we have established under the leadership of John Olson would be an example of how we have recognized and responded to an opportunity in the past.

**T–Threats:** Threats are the flip side of opportunities. In this analysis, we will look beyond our church and examine whether there are threats external to the church that we should be mindful of.


After we have (1) “blue skied” in small groups, (2) examined the context for our ministry, and (3) completed a SWOT analysis, then I would like for us to establish some long-range goals. Although we are free as a congregation to establish any number of long-range goals, I would suggest that we think in terms of 3-5 goals. In other words, what are 3-5 major accomplishments that we would like to achieve?

After we have established our major goals, the final step in our planning process should be to develop a strategy for achieving these goals. A good strategy will include a series of steps that we need to take in order to realize each goal, along with plans for taking each of the steps along the way. A good strategy should

also include timelines for how we expect to progress along the steps toward each goal.

This fall, I will be working with the Administrative Council to determine the best way for our congregation to do a SWOT analysis, achieve a congregational consensus on our long-range goals, and develop strategies for achieving those goals. In the meantime, I will be doing some analysis of our context for ministry. I am also looking forward to small group meetings this fall, where we can “blue sky” our future as a community of faith. I expect that this entire process should be completed by 1 March 2012.

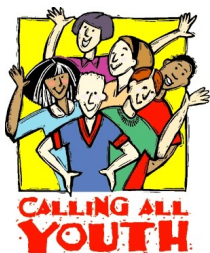
Given the extraordinary leadership in our congregation and how bright our future can be, this planning process should be a lot of fun. It should be an opportunity to share our hopes and dreams for MUMC with one another. Through this planning process, I believe that the Holy Spirit will be present, opening our eyes to all that God has in mind for us and guiding us to a faithful response to God’s plans for us.

	<p><b>Budget Time!</b></p> <p>Budgets for all functional committees need to be turned in by September 18th to the Finance committee.</p>
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**UMW Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 1st at 6:30pm**

The United Methodist Women will meet at 6:30pm on September 1st for their monthly meeting and fellowship. Sharon Williams is the hostess and Karolyn Conaway is in charge of the program. A light meal will be served. All women of the church are invited to attend!





## HS Youth Group

Now meets at the church on Sundays at 6:00pm. All High School youth are invited and encouraged to attend. Bring a friend or a neighbor!

## 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. To complete the School Kits we need only **wide-line notebooks (not wire bound), small blunt scissors, colored pencils, glue sticks, and washable markers (8 colors)**. We have plenty of pink erasers, crayons, and #2 pencils.



If you would like to provide items for Health Kits they include: a bath towel, a washcloth, a large comb or brush, a bar of soap, a tube of toothpaste (packaged), shampoo, deodorant, and body lotion.



## 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 is a sign up sheet on the landing with more information. Sign up today!

## September Birthdays

9/02	Delores Anspaugh	9/14	Miranda Mullins
9/03	Amber Grahem	9/14	Jennifer Harvey
9/04	Darin Lawhorn	9/15	George Rickel
9/08	Stacy Jo Fleeker	9/16	Sue Elniff
9/09	Doug Fiebig	9/17	Remington Stiles
9/10	Peggy Creech	9/18	Lloyd Grahem
9/10	Donelle Stevens	9/18	Kimberly Coover
9/10	Hank Wulfekoetter	9/19	Adrienne Bell
9/11	Jerry Bragg	9/20	Claudia Long
9/11	Perry Kessler	9/22	Aaron Swank
9/11	Sarah Gwinn	9/26	Gary Johnson
9/11	Jade Brake	9/26	Harry Mullins
9/13	Betty Ann Anderson	9/28	Cheryl Lawhorn
9/13	Danielle Welborn	9/30	Becky Rogers
9/13	Lloyd Wickersham		

## September Anniversaries

9/01	Warren & Kathy Swank
9/04	Jerry & Sharon Bragg
9/05	James & Semetha Chapman
9/06	Clay & Peggy Hardesty
9/08	Dale & Claudia Long
9/17	Cecil & Colette Grahem
9/24	Brian & Stacie Adams



*To add birthdays and anniversaries please notify the church office.*



### Vision Statement

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

## Looking Ahead to October...



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

- Sunday, October 2nd, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet after worship services.
- Wednesday, October 5th, UMW will have their monthly meeting at 9:30am.
- Friday, October 7th, we will host the FCA 5th Quarter.
- Sunday, October 9th, the Trustee Committee will meet after worship services.
- Tuesday, October 11th and 25th, the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging will meet at 10:00am.
- Sunday, October 16th, the Administrative Council will meet at noon, after the potluck.
- Monday, October 17th, the Men's Breakfast will be served at 8:30am.
- Sunday, October 23rd, the Outreach committee will meet after worship services.
- The newsletter deadline is October 23rd. We will be mailing and folding the newsletter on Tuesday, October 30th at 10:00am.
- Saturday, October 29th, the UMW will host their annual Fall Bazaar and Dinner.

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 5:30pm.

Please check out our online calendar at [www.meridenumc.org](http://www.meridenumc.org) to see all of the activities going on at our church in October 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.

**First Place 4 Health** is beginning a new session in September - Better Together. If you would like to attend and would like a book, please call Blanche Wulfekoetter at (785) 484-3149 or email at [wulfekoetter@gmail.com](mailto:wulfekoetter@gmail.com)

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!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
Sept. 4th	Steve Scott Tammy Scott	Nicole Welborn
Sept. 11th	Mike Shenk Jan Shenk	Janice Schaeffer
Sept. 18th	Gary Johnson Eileen Johnson	Bob Overstreet
Sept. 25th	Bob Stapel Twila Stapel	Joye Mullins

# September 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>For a full view of the calendar including what parts of the church are being utilized, please visit us at <a href="http://www.meridenumc.org">www.meridenumc.org</a> and click on Church Calendar. Click on the event for locations and times.</p>		
<p><b>Communion 4</b> 11:15am Staff/Parish Relations</p>	<p><b>Labor Day 5</b>  Office Closed</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 &amp; 5:30pm Body &amp; Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>
<p><b>11</b> 11:15am Trustees 1:00pm Eastern Star</p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>13</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 4:15 &amp; 5:30pm Body &amp; Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>
<p><b>Potluck 18</b> 12:00pm Admin. Co.</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast</p>	<p><b>20</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 &amp; 5:30pm Body &amp; Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>
<p><b>25</b> 11:15am Outreach Committee</p>	<p><b>26</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>27</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 10:00am Jayhawk Area Agency 4:15 &amp; 5:30pm Body &amp; Soul Fitness 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p>



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

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 6:30pm UMW Mtg	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Boy Scouts 9:30pm FCA 5th Quarter	<b>3</b>
<b>7</b> 6:00pm HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:30pm Body&Soul Fitness	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>14</b> 6:00pm HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>15</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:30pm Body&Soul Fitness	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Boy Scouts 9:30pm FCA 5th Quarter	<b>17</b> Quilting Group
<b>21</b> 10:00am Life-touch Meeting 6:00pm HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:30pm Body&Soul Fitness <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>23</b> 5:00pm Rehearsal Dinner	<b>24</b>
<b>28</b> 6:00pm HS/MS Youth Groups 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 9:00am Women's Exercise Group 4:15 & 5:30pm Body&Soul Fitness <b>Fold/Mail Newsletter</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30pm FCA 5th Quarter	

## Electronic Giving

Effective September 1st, our church will offer alternative methods of giving - automatic bank transfers, credit card, and debit cards.

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. Meriden UMC relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis.

For more information check our church web site or contact the church secretary.



## 5th Quarter at MUMC

It's that time of year again. Football season! The local Fellowship of Christian Athletes will once again be hosting a 5th Quarter session at Meriden UMC after Jeff West home football games.

All Jeff West Middle Schoolers are welcome to stop by the church from 9:30pm to 11:30pm on September 2nd, September 16th, September 30th, and October 7th for food, games, movies, and fellowship!

September 2nd, be ready to watch the movie, Soul Surfer! We hope to see you there!

Also, we would love to have as many adult volunteers! If you would like to help out, just show up on Friday ready to have some fun!



# HOPE + Forgiveness

In his sermon, “Care and Maintenance of Your Pastor: A Congregational Guide,” Dr. Randolph listed five ways in which MUMC can support him as your minister. These five ways can be summarized in the acronym: **HOPE + Forgiveness**.

**H – Honesty:** Be honest with your pastor – but be *gently* honest.

**O – Open:** Be open to your pastor. Listen to his suggestions and the reasons behind those suggestions.

**P – Prayer:** Pray for your pastor – pray daily.

**E – Encourage:** Look for ways to encourage your pastor. When he has done a good job or contributed meaningfully, let him know.

+

**Forgive:** Be willing to forgive your pastor when he makes a mistake. As the Apostle Paul writes, “But we have this treasure [ministry] in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” ~ 2 Corinthians 4:7





# European Pheasant and Trap Shoot

## A Joint Fundraiser for Meriden UMC and Habitat for Humanity

Help provide an affordable, quality home for a family in need. Join Habitat for Humanity and Topeka United Methodists at Muddy Creek Game Birds!

*Muddy Creek Game Birds*

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

Pheasant Hunt starts at 8:00am

Trap Shoot starts at 9:00am

Lunch will be served with a Field Hunt afterwards.

### **Pheasant Hunt**

\$180 per shooter  
30 spots available  
\$80 deposit saves spot

### **Trap Shoot**

\$40 per shooter  
Pay in advance to save spot

Send deposit along with your name, address, phone number, and email to:

**Don Schaeffer**  
118 Sunrise  
Ozawkie, KS 66070  
(785) 250-8206  
dandj69lizzie@yahoo.com



Muddy Creek Game Birds is located at 8721 NE Brown Road in Meriden, KS.



## 5 Things To Do in September

The excitement of September can be found in the kids going back to school, parents with a few hours of free time, and the changing of the season. Here are five things you must do in September.

1. **Visit the beach.** Indian summer is one of the best pleasures in life. Just when you think the weather is colder and you pull out your sweaters, the sun comes blazing back and makes you wish you hadn't closed your pool. The beach is empty and it's all yours this time of year. Take a picnic and enjoy an afternoon.
2. **Go to a football game.** You don't have to spend a fortune and see an NFL team, you can relive your youth and go to a local football game. See the excitement of the teens, the flirting at the fence, the band, a cheap hotdog, and some hot chocolate. It's a great and inexpensive night and you are supporting your local school.
3. **Take a class.** Any class that catches your interest, jewelry making, computer classes, a foreign language, or maybe a salsa dancing class. It will be fun to expand your horizons and meet new people.
4. **Visit a Renaissance Fair.** You'll love the actors walking around in costume, knights jousting, giant turkey legs you buy and eat with your hands and the magic shows. It's a fun and interesting place to take your kids or your friends.
5. **Grow some Garlic.** Plant garlic and enjoy these tasty bulbs in Spring or Summer. Imagine all the delicious pasta, bread and soup you can make with your own fresh organic garlic. If garlic isn't your thing, plant some pansies. Just get back to nature and grow something yourself. It gives you great satisfaction!

## Choir News

Summer went by fast and was it ever HOT, but it will be *cool* in the Choir Loft with some cool songs like, "I'm So Glad, Let Freedom Ring, God and God Alone" and our Christmas Cantata *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem!*



Sometimes there is nothing better to remind us of His redeeming grace and love than the lyrics of an Amazing song. Let your light shine and join us on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00pm. There's lots and lots of room!

Keep Singing,  
Claudia

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## 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, starting September 6th, MUMC will host Body & Soul Fitness classes with Blanche Wulfekoetter instructing.

The classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from September 6th 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 5:30pm 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!