

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

700 Southway Blvd East
Kokomo, In. 46902
765-453-0555

John Walls, Senior Pastor

August 2009

Dear members and friends of the St. Luke's UMC:

I want to begin this newsletter by saying "thanks again" for the way that our new church family has made our family feel so welcome. It is a joy to be here, and we're having a great time getting to know each of you and becoming acclimated to the city of Kokomo—especially as we are learning about the various aspects of the "City of Firsts"!

Prior to our appointment, I had been to the St. Luke's church various times for conference events or meetings and we had traveled through Kokomo a few times; consequently, I was only familiar with the by-pass. Since arriving, I have gone out on my motorcycle a few evenings and "ridden with a purpose" to familiarize myself with the community and learn my way around the city (at least, that's what I've told Melinda when she has that "honey-do" list in her hand—"sorry dear, but I really need to find St. Jo hospital in case I get an emergency call tonight"). What I've discovered is that Kokomo has a whole lot more to offer than what "meets the eye" when you're just passing through on the by-pass. (For example, the beauty of Highland Park and the hanging flower baskets on Sycamore street in the historic downtown area).

So it is with the St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Day after day, people go past the church (what a great location!) and have no idea that there's a whole lot more than "meets the eye." Even though we have a very advantageous location and a beautiful sanctuary in which to worship, those are *not the most important things* we have to offer. In order for a person to discover the really significant qualities of our church, they have to "look deeper" by coming to worship and fellowship with us. When they do, they will discover (like my family) that the congregation at St. Luke's is loving, caring, warm, hospitable, mission-minded, and grounded in the Word of God and prayer!

The sad reality is that many of the people around us will never discover the "true riches" of our church on their own. Many will continue to "drive by" on a daily basis with no thought of coming in to "look a little deeper." That's where each of us can begin to make a difference. A few years ago, someone coined the term *FRANgelism* (kinda like *evangelism*) but this word has a particular focus. The *FRAN* is an acrostic that stands for: *Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors*, and I believe that most of us have people in our circles of influence who: 1) fit these categories, and 2) are not actively involved in a local church. In the weeks ahead, I'm going to ask each of you to prayerfully focus on inviting a *friend, relative, associate and neighbor* to come and experience our church family and to discover the true riches of life in Jesus Christ.

Let's pray that God will bring renewal and revitalization as we work together to reach out to those around us in *His Name!*

Onward and Upward

Pastor John

Gospel Echoes

Jim's Jottings

August 2009

The Biblical record is a joy to read. God has, through his many servants, created readable lessons of entertainment, information, the ultimate announcement of salvation in Jesus and words of edification for building up of the redeemed for service in this life. In this writing, I will consider some of the words of edification. Recently, I ran across an article on the words of the letter to the Ephesians about the writer's analogy of the Christian warrior's battle uniform as compared to the Roman soldier's battle dress. We find this record in Ephesians 6: 10-18. Let's break down the passage to mine some gold from its words. The Ephesians writer begins the passage with a call to the reader/hearer to: (vs.10) **"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."** This call is important to each believer because it represents a call to arms, but not a call for us to arm ourselves. We are to be clothed in "His mighty power". This image is more like the concept of a gentlemen being dressed by his "livery" or dresser. The mighty Holy Spirit of God empowers us to be clothed with God's power to act and live. The writer then invites us to (vs. 11) **"Put on the full armor of God..."**, why?, **"...so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."** All too often we hear of the fall of a prominent individual who has held up the banner of faith and fidelity. The devil is constantly scheming to undermine the life of the believer. He is relentless in his pursuit of our destruction. **"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood"...** Correct, our daily struggles are not against the neighbors whose cat uses our flower pot for his litter box, it is not against the traveler who blows her horn at the stoplight, it is not even against politicians we disagree with. In short, our battle is not against people, however their shortcomings. That idea is part of the devil's lie. We are directed to pray for our enemies. **"but, against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."** __Jesus said: **"...If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!** Matthew 6:23b

Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground and when you have done everything to stand. Here the writer is telling us that we have a responsibility to present ourselves daily to the livery (Holy Spirit) to be spiritually dressed (ie; to be prepared) to face the battle of the day. Otherwise, we will be like a Roman soldier who upon waking simply exits his tent, picks up his pack and proceeds down the road eating a breakfast flatbread, unprepared for battle. The writer admonishes us to: **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.** The Roman soldier's belt was always tight when the soldier went into battle. It helped keep the breast plate in place and carried the scabbard which housed the sword. A. Skevington Wood in his commentary on Ephesians also says that the understanding of truth by the Biblical writer may have been what the psalmist describes as "truth in the inner parts"; Psalms 51:6 **"...with the breastplate of righteousness in place..."**, The "breastplate (*thorax*)", according to Wood, covered the soldier's body from the neck to the thighs. An early writer Polybius tells us that it was known as a heart-protector. Popular material for its manufacture could be chain-mail or bronze. Jesus is our breastplate of righteousness. We are to put on Christ. **"...and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.** Wood tells us that the soldier's feet were shod with well fitting boots "thickly studded with sharp nails". They were intended to have the soldier capable of marching up to twenty miles a day without soreness because of an ill fit. We are to be well fitted to carry the gospel of peace to others at anytime and ourselves be peaceable.

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." On the left arm, kept at his left side the soldier carried a long, rounded shield called a *scutum*. Used properly, it well protected the soldier himself and in concert with others it formed what was known as a 'Tortoise' formation. Just as the Roman soldier fended off the blows of a sword or flaming darts, the Christian's faith repels the flaming arrows of the evil one. **"Take the helmet of salvation..."** the Biblical writer admonishes. A Roman helmet is a good analogy because the Roman soldier's helmet was designed to fit the man well, cover the head and protect the back of the neck. It also provided covering for the front of the face and neck. We are to fill our minds with a covering of scripture. This is our responsibility to place into our minds the Biblical words that can be recalled later. The Holy Spirit accepts the responsibility of recalling to us what we have learned as needed. We also should be asking the Holy Spirit each day for His protective covering over what we see, what we hear, what we speak. **"...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God"**. Last, but certainly not least, we must "take up" the sword of the Spirit. Hebrews 4: 12 tells us: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword..." The sword the Roman soldier carried was double-edged so either way the soldier swung the sword it would cut and harm the enemy. We, like the Roman soldier must pick up the weapon and use it appropriately or we will be missing the last piece of our armor.

As we take up our cross each day let us be just as diligent to ask the Holy Spirit to prepare our whole person with a spiritual defensive shield that leaves us with no opening for a spiritual attack from the evil one.

Under His Wings

Jim Lamb

ST. LUKE'S NEWS YOU CAN USE....

HOPE CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, August 4th, in the church parlor at 1:00 pm. Jan Adler will do the calling; Lydia will offer devotions; Mary Miner will provide refreshments. Joan Kellar and Lois Hoban will serve communion in August. Melinda Walls will share the lesson. This month our "Special Word" is "Light." "Your words are like a flashlight to light the path ahead of me, and keep me from stumbling." Psalm 119:105

NOAMI CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, August 4th, at 7:00 pm at the home of Carolin Smalley.

KOKOMO RESCUE MISSION has received fewer TOY donations for KRM Red Ribbon Christmas so far this year. We need toy cars and trucks, blocks: Mega and Duplo, games and puzzles, clothes and accessories for GI Joe action figures. (Gently used.) Please NO plush toys, of these we have an abundance. Please take to KRM warehouse, behind Care and Share store. Fran Jones

Thank you for all who sent condolences by phone or cards at the loss of my brother, please know they were greatly appreciated.
Barbara Lewis

DID YOU KNOW... That in 2006 11% of the households in Howard County experienced food shortages. That's 4,000 households. In 2009 with the loss of jobs, problems with the "modernization" of the food stamp program, rising gas prices, foreclosures etc. it's expected that this number will double. The Buddy Bag is a way you can help. Each week a bag of groceries will be given to elementary students on Friday to help get them through the weekend. They expect 400 students to sign up for the 2009-2010 program. All children receiving bags will remain anonymous as a way of respecting their privacy.

You can sponsor a Buddy Bag for a full year for \$110. Or, you can give whatever you feel comfortable with for a partial year. Consider helping KUO!

I AM IN THE PROCESS of updating the History cabinet and have found that we are lacking pictures from the recent past. If you have any that I can copy, please let me know. Identifications and dates would be extremely helpful. Starting 01/01/2010. I would like a couple of pictures from ANY church event. Again, names and dates! If you have any historical material to donate, please call me at 455-2998. Alice Richey

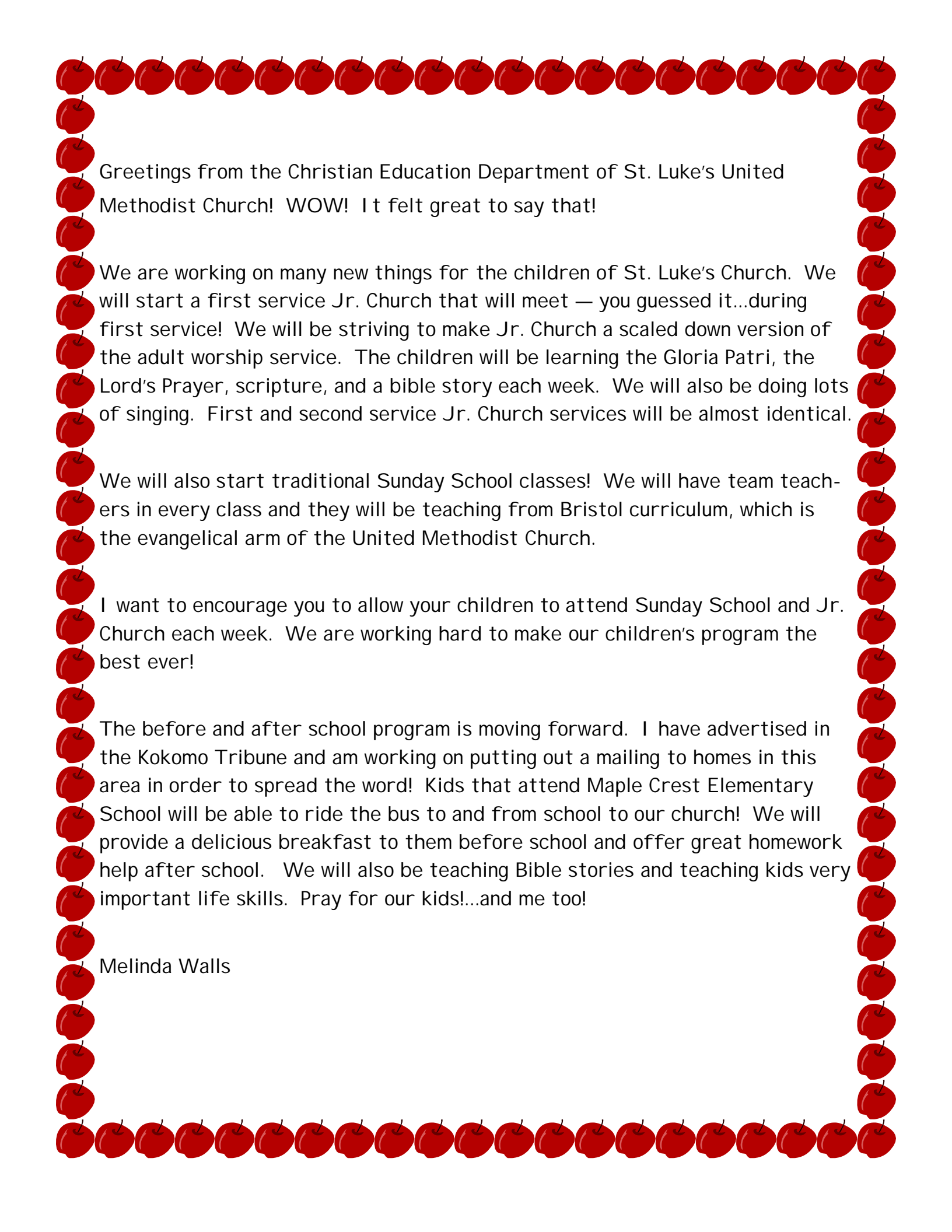
NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Counties of Howard, Grant, Tipton, Clinton (except Rossville and Mulberry), Boone, Hamilton, and Madison;
plus Galveston from Cass County and Miami, Bennett Switch, Converse, and Amboy from Miami County.

MENTORING PROGRAM UPDATE: Our August 4th training is at Central Middle School (corner of Apperson and Superior) in the Media Center (on the 2nd floor). There are three times: 7:30-8:30 am, 12-1pm, or 5:30-6:30pm. Mentors only need to come to ONE of the training times.

JOY FELLOWSHIP will meet on Friday, August 7th, in the narthex at 11:00 am to go on a luncheon mystery trip. Plan to join us. Please call Glenda at 453-1860 or Eula at 453-6397 for a reservation so that we will have drivers available for this special outing.

JOY FELLOWSHIP, senior group, will meet on Friday, August 21st, at 11:00 am at the church. Jan Hinkle, founder of Bright Star School in Kenya, will tell about the school and her recent trips there. Following the program, there will be a carry-in lunch. Chicken salad will be provided. Please bring a covered dish, a friend, and a bingo prize. Hope to see you there!



Greetings from the Christian Education Department of St. Luke's United Methodist Church! WOW! It felt great to say that!

We are working on many new things for the children of St. Luke's Church. We will start a first service Jr. Church that will meet — you guessed it...during first service! We will be striving to make Jr. Church a scaled down version of the adult worship service. The children will be learning the Gloria Patri, the Lord's Prayer, scripture, and a bible story each week. We will also be doing lots of singing. First and second service Jr. Church services will be almost identical.

We will also start traditional Sunday School classes! We will have team teachers in every class and they will be teaching from Bristol curriculum, which is the evangelical arm of the United Methodist Church.

I want to encourage you to allow your children to attend Sunday School and Jr. Church each week. We are working hard to make our children's program the best ever!

The before and after school program is moving forward. I have advertised in the Kokomo Tribune and am working on putting out a mailing to homes in this area in order to spread the word! Kids that attend Maple Crest Elementary School will be able to ride the bus to and from school to our church! We will provide a delicious breakfast to them before school and offer great homework help after school. We will also be teaching Bible stories and teaching kids very important life skills. Pray for our kids!...and me too!

Melinda Walls

Parish Nurse NEWS Slow Dance

[Received this via email: written by a teenager with cancer in a New York Hospital]

Cindi Myers RN...July 20th...I just got back from California. I was with my sister and brother-in-law, as we grieved the loss of their daughter, [my niece]. She was something else, Let me brag just a bit: at 23, she had graduated from college to become an elementary school teacher, she was Sunday School teacher, VBS coordinator, had been on 12 mission trips to Mexico, and Louisiana, had done 2 Invisible Children 'camp-outs' on the public grounds in LA, and went to 2 Africa Mission Trips, the last Kenya, Africa Trip was where she died. I have waded through my many emails, and received this from Nancy Boughton. It's good enough to be from your parish nurse. Bottom line;

"Don't forget to **"Be Still and KNOW that [HE] is GOD!"** Psalms 46:10
and to 'Stop and smell the roses along the way'!

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round?
Or listened to the rain slapping the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight?
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down. Don't dance so fast.
Time is short. The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask "How are you?" Do you hear the reply?
When the day is done Do you lie in your bed
With the next hundred chores Running through your head?

You'd better slow down Don't dance so fast.
Time is short. The music won't last.

Ever told your child, We'll do it tomorrow?
And in your haste, Not see his sorrow?
Ever lost touch, Let a good friendship die
Cause you never had time To call and say, 'Hi'

You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast.
Time is short. The music won't last..

When you run so fast to get somewhere
You miss half the fun of getting there.
When you worry and hurry through your day,
It is like an unopened gift.... Thrown away.

Life is not a race.
Do take it slower
Hear the music
Before the song is over.



St. Luke's Vitals for the Month of
JULY



ATTENDANCE

07/05/2009

9:00 193

11:11 72

Total: 265

07/12/2009

9:00 194

11:11 76

Total: 270

07/19/2009

9:00 206

11:11 85

Total: 291

07/26/2009

9:00 208

11:11 84

Total: 292

July Attendance

1118

OFFERING

07/05/2009

\$13,750.31

07/12/2009

\$11,231.00

07/19/2009

\$6,866.41

07/26/2009

\$7,214.05

Total JULY Offering

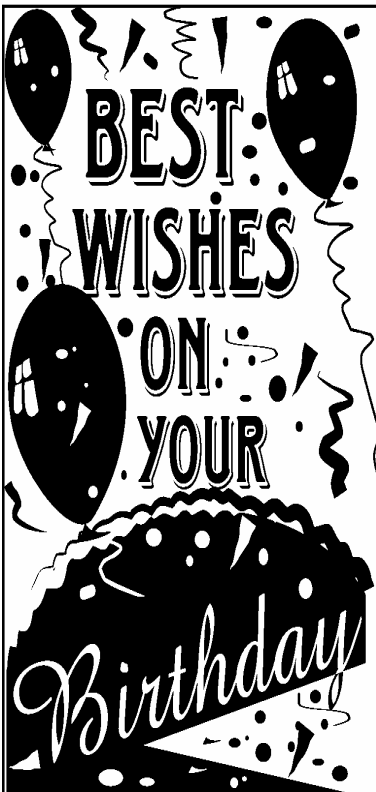
\$39,061.77

Needed this Month

\$43,210.32

Difference

(\$4,148.55)

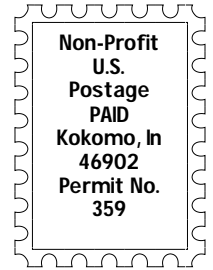


Betty HINKLE, Gene PEARSON, Bill RAMSEYER, Anne FITZGERALD, Tyler WILLHITE, (1); Tom DINWIDDIE, Vicky WOODBURY, Stacy HANDY, Grant GIBSON, Elaina GIBSON, Mark HENDERSON, Liz MILLER, Dominick NIX, Matt DITMER, John ARMSTRONG, Allison MYERS, Valerie PORTER, Josie JOHNDROW, Margaret CONWELL, Marsha ANDERSON, Jeanie SOZANSKY, Ramona SMITH, Tracie PUCKETT, Ben CHAPMAN, Adam MOORE, Sandra NAGY, Betty OYLER, Linda WOLFE, Shannon WESTRAY, Carey CLOUSER, John MANSUR, Meredith BASZNER, Rachel HARRIS, Laura MANSUR, (13); Doris PITMAN, (14); Lauryn FACKLER, (16); Jordan NIX, Trevor MICKLE, (17); Fred STEELE, (18); Livy DOWNEY, (19); Christie GARBBER, (20); Betty MAYES, Taryn FACKLER, Gabriela GUZMAN, Benjamin DROWN, Ethan DROWN, (21); Julia SALKIE, (23); Paul WAGNER, Maci RODY, (24); Pat HUDSON, Steve RUSHTON, Rene JONES, (26); Wyatt CONYERS, (27); Susan TANNER, (28); Betty SCHWARTZ, Sharon JOHNSON, Cindy SURYANTORO, (29); Zachary BENSON, (30); Ashley TEDLOCK, (31).

Happy Birthday to you!



United Methodist Church
700 Southway Blvd East
Kokomo, In. 46902
John L. Walls, Senior Pastor



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICE NEWS

TUESDAYS in August

August 4
August 11
August 18
August 25

On Tuesdays I need a volunteer from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm to answer phones and sit in the church office while I am away at our weekly Staff Meeting.

FRIDAYS in August

August 7
August 14
August 21
August 28

On Fridays I need a volunteer to stuff the bulletins from 1:00 pm until they are finished.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.



BULLETIN DEADLINES ARE THE THURSDAY OF THE WEEK AT 8:00 AM.

Please stick to the above deadlines.