

Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Jesus Christ

Two Sections, Section A

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## Inside A



### Helping in

Church comes up with solution to help older members up long ramps.

4A



### Going up

Missouri Conference camp goes where there are no cabins.

4A



### Celebration

Lewis Chapel celebrates 200 years of being in ministry.

5A



## Churches find place at MySpace

The third most popular Web site in the United States is MySpace, and the sixth is Facebook, according to Alexa Internet, a Web site that provides information on Web traffic. That means these social networking sites are now more popular than Internet shopping sites like e-bay and amazon.com. Churches have been starting to incorporate these social networks into their communication structure, not just because of their popularity, but also because of a useful function the sites provide.

Social networking sites like MySpace, Facebook, bebo and others let users create personal profiles that operate like very simple Web pages, and allow the user to easily and instantly change and update information on their site.

The "social networking" part comes from users being able to add friends to their network, which then links their sites. There's also a myriad of options for joining groups, putting out bulletins, subscribing to sites, etc.

The Revolution in the Heartland Central District has

been using MySpace for about a year and half. It started out as being a place for the pastor's blog, but soon became a significant communication tool for the church members.

"I'd say about half of our congregation is using MySpace," said Rev. Eric Huffman, pastor.

The value of the site as a communication tool is its reach and speed.

"We keep our Web site current, but someone manages it for us, so I don't have day-to-day control of its content," Huffman said. "With MySpace, I can disseminate information instantly, make changes as I need to, and include links to other pages. MySpace helps us be equipped for the way our generation communicates."

The Revolution is an ideal church to make use of the networks like MySpace. It's a four-year-old church that is based in Westport, and bills itself as an eclectic, diverse community that believes in putting faith to work.

In addition to communication within the congregation, Huffman hopes MySpace is helping to mar-

ket the church.

"It gets the word out about The Revolution to people who may not have heard of us," Huffman said. "When one of our church members becomes our friend, then all of their hundreds of other friends have a way to access us. It's a phenomenal way to get some free promotion."

You have to keep track of who your friends are, though. When you begin a MySpace page, it asks for personal information. Huffman used his own information when creating the site for the church, signing up as a 27-year old man. His inbox on MySpace started getting bombarded with advertisements web cams, pornography sites and online dating. Huffman said it was disturbing to think the church was taking part in or contributing to that content in any way. So they changed their profile from being a 27-year old man to a 98-year-old woman.

"Then the ads changed to mortgages and life insurance," he said.

Dawn Martin, youth director at St. Stephen UMC in Troy, has also had her problems with spam ads, and people introducing content

## What is MySpace?

MySpace is a popular social networking Web site offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music and videos internationally. It is headquartered in Beverly Hills, where it shares an office building with its immediate owner, Fox Interactive Media; in turn, the owner of Fox Interactive (and therefore MySpace), News Corporation, is headquartered in New York City.

MySpace has gradually gained more popularity than similar Web sites to achieve nearly 80% of visits to online social networking Web sites. It has become an increasingly influential part of contemporary popular culture, especially in English speaking countries.

## What is Facebook?

Facebook is a social networking Web site which was launched on February 4, 2004.

In the beginning, the membership was restricted to students of Harvard University. It was subsequently expanded to other Boston area schools (Boston College, Boston University, MIT), Stanford, and all Ivy League schools within two months. Many individual universities were added in rapid succession over the next year. Eventually most US college and many Canadian university students with a university (.edu) e-mail address were eligible to join. There was a separate network initiated for US high schools. Since 11 September 2006, it has been made available to any e-mail address user who inputs a certain age range. Users can select to join one or more participating networks, such as a high school, place of employment, or geographic region.

As of July 2007, the Web site had the largest number of registered users among college-focused sites with over 34 million active members worldwide (also from non-collegiate networks).

Above definitions come from [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).

## Ethnic youth camp captures values, traditions of black church

The 2007 Ethnic Youth Institute was held July 5-7 at the United Methodist Blue Mountain Camp site. The focus of the event is to capture the values of the tradition of the Black Church experience and help youth to understand it in the areas of worship and devotional life. The Black experience is rich in worship traditions, music, (gospel, spirituals, blues, jazz and rap), call and response, dance and Black preaching.

The best of the Black experience yesterday, today and hopefully tomorrow recaptures the humanizing elements of life and reminds people that Jesus wept (John 11:35), God laughs (Psalm 37:13), the elect cry (Luke 18:7), the angels say "Holy, holy, holy" (Revelation 4:8) and all the people of God will shout, "Alleluia, salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God." (Revelation 19:1)

2007 Event leaders were Mr. Arthur Penny, Rev. Dr. Henry Brewer, Rev. Ronald Graham, D. S. Pony Express District and Rev. Kim Payne. 2007 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> year of this event. Rev. Kevin M. Kosh is the coordinator.

Next year's event will be held June 30 - July 2, 2008 at the United Methodist Blue Mountain Camp Site. It's not too early to reg-



ister now

The cost of camp is \$100 per camper with one adult for every five youth. All adults must be Safe Sanctuary certified. Please provide a copy of certification with registration form, or \$170 per camper with no adult from church or parent. It is imperative that we have a signed registration form and enrollment card for each camper, as well as a group registration listing.

Please call me with your total camper and counselor count on or by June 1. You can bring all registration forms, Safe Sanctuary certification forms, group registration listing and payments the morning of departure.

We will depart Union

Memorial United Methodist Church  
11141 Belt Avenue  
promptly at 9:30 a.m.  
Please arrive at North Park UMC between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m.

If you have any questions, please call Union Memorial United Methodist Church from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 314-367-8314.

In God,

Rev. Kevin M. Kosh, Pastor  
Union Memorial UMC

P. S. Campers will need:  
Bibles, sleeping bags/pillow, face and bath towels, personal hygiene items and \$10 lunch money.

**Top: Rev. Henry Brewer and D.S. Ronald Graham celebrate holy communion. Below: Arthur Penny was leader of the fishing session. Left: The Youth Institute gather outside the dining hall.**



## McFee to lead worship workshop in Columbia

Join other churches Sunday, October 14, 2007, from 1:30-4:00 at Missouri United Methodist Church for an energetic and informative workshop that will help clergy and laity deepen and broaden their understanding of worship. Marcia McFee will explore:

- the historical and theological background for worship
- a variety of models and experiences applicable to a range of styles, including traditional and contemporary worship
- ideas to help congregations create vibrant worship in any style

with integrity

Cost - \$25 for first three individuals, \$15 for each additional person per congregation.

Registration can be placed via e-mail at [information@moumc.org](mailto:information@moumc.org).

## Empower

There are certain words that I like to say. I'm not sure why. Synergism is one. I like the way it sounds. It's a word that implies no limits. It has mystery in that one doesn't discover what is possible until two diverse ingredients (people or situations) are put together. In a way, it communicates hope.

Another of my favorites is empower. Webster defines ... "to give official authority or legal power to". Wikipedia translates ... "to give permission or power to do something, to give the confidence to do something". John Maxwell, in his "Leadership Promises for Every Day", says "to increase the ability of others without decreasing yourself". I find this last translation by Maxwell to be most intriguing. Can we really train our potential replacements without undermining the self worth that we receive from performing the work ourselves?

The end of the quadrennium is just around the corner. (Now don't start thinking like a "short timer" because there is so much work to do!) It is time to be thinking about who could replace us. Some of us have been "recycled" for multiple quadrennia. There have been a certain number of chairs and a certain number of "experienced" people. Every four years, we have jumped up and scrambled to new chairs. We rationalize our actions through efficiency, accumulated knowledge, and relationships. Unfortunately, we may be clogging up the leadership evolution of our church. And as the leadership ages ... so goes the congregations?

Maxwell says, "... to increase the ability of others without decreasing yourself". If I give up my job, what will I do?

To empower someone means you have a say in the future. And anytime we can use our Gifts for Kingdom development, we will experience fulfillment beyond our expectation. An investment in another person also activates the synergism (doesn't that word sound good!) that their unique Gifts combined with ours creates. Only God knows the limits. It's

a gift to us to participate in the discovery.

Empowerment can be so compelling that next steps "bubble up" effortlessly. How many times have you looked at a reoccurring problem only to treat it in the same way that you always have. Then, by some odd circumstance, you benefit from the life focus of a new acquaintance. Giving them permission to participate ... a "new way" emerges. Ideas flow like a swollen creek. Next steps are so obvious that you can't understand why you never saw them before. What could have been anticipated as "someone taking my job" turns into a collaborative experience where all feel fulfilled.

Empowering others for Kingdom work is God's plan. God has promised to provide all the gifts necessary to do God's will for any ministry setting. Cooperation is a blessing from God. It allows the Holy Spirit room to work. Ministry opportunities are limitless when we empower those God has called to be servant leaders.

I have been blessed over the years to experience personal growth as well as spiritual community growth. Personal growth has been invigorating when I have been used by God to do God's will. It doesn't compare to the feelings of watching a community of believers grow with whom you have had influence. First of all, I have never found that you can give too much of yourself away. The Spirit always finds a way to fill you back up. Second, the surprise results of blending unique, individual spiritual gifts (dare I use the word synergism again?) is awe inspiring.

Through empowerment, we prepare for the future. The biggest impact we can have on the future is to empower others to live into it.

Larry Fagan,  
Conference Lay Leader



Larry Fagan

[www.moumethodist.org](http://www.moumethodist.org)

**VISION: GROWING, FRUITFUL, VIBRANT CONGREGATIONS  
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

# VBS children donate 1,000 bottles of water

Quenching the thirst of those in need during the current heat emergency is a little easier thanks to kids from two Pacific churches. Participants in the joint



Rev. Dan Stratmann takes a pie in the face during a VBS event.

Vacation Bible School of Pacific United Methodist and Pacific Presbyterian Churches capped a fun-filled week by collecting and donating more than 1,000 bottles of water to Loving Hearts of Franklin County. The water is being distributed to those in need throughout Franklin County.

"It's amazing how God works," says United Methodist Pastor Dan Stratmann. "When our Vacation Bible School leaders chose bottled water as their mission project, no one knew we'd face this heat emergency the very next week. It gave our kids an incredible opportunity to see their efforts make an immediate impact on people's lives."

"Jesus said that when you see someone thirsty and give them something to drink, it's just like you're doing it for him," notes Presbyterian Pastor Mark Strothmann. "Doing this mission project as part of their Vacation Bible School experience brings that home to our kids in a very concrete way."

The two pastors demonstrated their support by adding an extra incentive to the mission effort. As a reward for reaching their goals, the Bible School kids were allowed to pelt their pastors with cream pies at the Bible school's wrap-up barbecue.

In addition to the mission



Pacific United Methodist and Presbyterian Church kids load some of the more than 1,000 bottles of water they collected.

project, participants in the joint Bible School enjoyed songs, crafts, games, and stories all inviting them to "Take the Plunge" and

"make a splash with Jesus." Over 50 children took part in the week-long event. They ranged in age from four years old to fifth grade.

# Kirkville UMC addresses many local missions

By Denise Comstock

The First United Methodist Church in Kirkville has an extraordinary presence in the community when it comes to missions. Some of the mission activities that First UMC has done and are currently implementing are:

## Dental Kits

Provided 150 dental kits to the local Head Start. Supplies for dental hygiene kits are collected and assembled. These kits are then given to the local Head Start agency for use in their classes.

## Birthday Offering

Each year a birthday offering for the minister, Rev. Jimmie Robinson, is taken. The neat thing about this birthday offering is that Rev. Robinson gets to designate where the offering goes. This year more than \$2,065 dollars were given in honor of Rev. Robinson. This money was divided between two missions. The first being Strength For Service, devotionals for servicemen, a United Methodist Men project and the second was Nothing but Nets, mosquito netting for the prevention of malaria. While this year

wasn't designated for local missions, in years past it has been. This is a wonderful way to show your pastor how much you care about him/her and at the same time make a significant difference in a mission project.

## Food for Kids

Boys and girls on free and reduced lunches during the school eat well but what happens to them during the summer months? The First UMC doesn't wonder about that anymore because they are feeding those children. For seven weeks during the summer, volunteers prepare sack lunches and then distribute them in four local parks throughout the city. This is the third year they have been doing this feeding program called Food for Kids.

It requires over 400 volunteers and thousands of pounds of food. The first year the church served 1,996 lunches, the second year it served 3,482 lunches. As of this writing they are halfway through the third week and they have served almost 2000 lunches. They have many hungry children that greet them in the parks, thankful

to be fed. One little guy looked up at the volunteer and said can't you come on Saturday and Sunday too? The children are given good food, kind words, and lots of smiles. Tucked into each sack lunch is a daily prayer that the child reads or the volunteer reads to them. This local mission project is **huge**. It requires dedication, commitment and time. It would not be possible without God's help and with God's help it is amazing how everything just works.

## Emergency Relief

The church has Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month. Offering plates are placed near the altar and worshippers are given the opportunity to donate. This money is kept in the church office for local emergency relief. This has been anything from gas money for stranded travelers to paying for a prescription medicine.

## Food Depot

A specific food item is indicated for the month and collected at the church. These items are then donated to our local Christian Community Food Depot. So for



Youth at First UMC in Kirkville work hard at the Food for Kids mission project during the summer.

one month the church might collect instant potatoes, another month might be canned peas or peanut butter. Whatever the need might be, they try to collect.

## Back to School Project

If you have more than one child you know how expensive it is to get them ready to go back to school in the fall. The First UMC in Kirkville recognizes the stress of this fall ritual and tries to help ease the financial burden for families in the county. For the 17th year, First UMC Kirkville will be hosting a Back to School event. Families are made aware of this event by notices distributed in food baskets and local media. Children, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, receive school kits that contain basic school supplies appropriate for each grade level.

These school kits cost between \$7 to \$10 dollars each. The last two years 500 kits were prepared. The day of the event, children are lined up and eager to pick out their own special school kit. The goal is to not only help ease the financial burden for families but also to have every child start school with the basic tools for learning, be on an even level with their peers and have their self esteem intact.

Perhaps some of these missions would be a good fit for your local church and community. It is amazing what can happen when Christians reach out to their neighbors. For more information on any of these projects please contact the First United Methodist Church, 300 East Washington, Kirkville, MO 63501, phone # (660) 665-7712.

## THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE REVIEW

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## Backpacking takes campers to new heights

Missouri Conference United Methodist camps has a camp secret, and this secret needs to get out. It seems that many people are unaware of one of the best camping experiences offered to youth; Colorado Backpacking Camp. Campers in grades 10-12 travel to Colorado high up in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

Now this is no ordinary church camp experience. This camp is on the move. Campers travel to Colorado Springs to Garden of the Gods and hike amongst the awesome red rock formations set

against the back drop of Pikes Peak. The white water rapids of Brown's Canyon on the Arkansas River provide a thrilling rafting trip that is unforgettable. And that is only the beginning of the fun.

Hiking up and camping in the Rocky Mountains is an indescribable, true mountain top experience that rounds out camp. With backpacks loaded, campers hit the trails for three solid days of hiking in some of God's most beautiful creation. Campers see the mountains from a vista not able to be seen in a car. These kids accom-

plish something that most folks would never dream of doing.

And what an accomplishment. Last July campers hiked over Fancy Pass at an altitude of 12,400 feet. Don't forget they were each wearing a 40-60 pound backpack. Now that is a challenge. A challenge faced and conquered by drawing on inner strength, encouragement from fellow campers and God. Talk about personal and spiritual growth.

Many youth have taken part in this unique camping and spiritual growth experience since Bev and

Jerry Boehmer first shared their love for Colorado and hiking over 20 years ago. There are kids who have hiked for three or four years in a row until they are too "old" for the camp. A few kids have even fallen in love with Colorado and now make their home close to the mountains they hiked as a youth.

The lives of many young people as well as the lives of the "old" people that lead the camp have been impacted through this camp. Those of you who are nature lovers can appreciate the experiences that can be had in the wilderness

away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

This back packing camp is in need of replacing some of its worn out tents and back packing equipment. If you would like to make a contribution to help with this need, please contact Lee Walz in the Camping Office. (1-888-271-1999) Please share this article with others in your church and especially youth who might be interested in an adventure. Help to let out Missouri Conference Camps best camp secret....Colorado backpacking.

## Scooter improves access to church

The trustees of First United Methodist Church in De Soto were considering how to make the sanctuary more accessible. There was already a ramp from the street, but it was so long that most disabled persons were simply exhausted from walking up it. The sidewalk up to the ramp is over 100 feet and the ramp itself is another 50 feet.

An elevator was impossible for design and financial reasons. Then came the idea of a scooter - the type available in supermarkets all around the county. The trustees polled the disabled members and found that they were all mak-

ing use of the scooters for their shopping in nearby stores and would be comfortable using one at church. A scooter was purchased. A younger member of the church meets the disabled at curbside where they transfer onto the scooter and ride into the sanctuary. Then the scooter is gladly driven back to curbside to receive the next rider.

"Our scooter allows for more older members to attend worship without the physical problems of walking up ramps," said Rev. Jan Reimers. "This is an idea that works for us and we think others might benefit.



Chair of trustees Gene Humphrey begins to descend the ramp will pastor Jan Reimers watches.

**Advertising space is available in the Missouri Conference Review**

Display ad rates start at \$100. Ads are available in black and white, with a spot color or in full color. The Missouri Conference Review has a circulation of about 7,000 United Methodist leaders in the state of Missouri. For more information: Call (573) 777-1205, or e-mail fkoenig@moumethodist.org.

## Lewis Chapel UMC celebrates 200 years



Part of the congregation of Lewis Chapel have their picture taken in the sanctuary.

The written records of the congregation of Lewis Chapel prior to the building of the first church in 1862-63 were lost in the fire which destroyed that building.

There are, however, some historical records, including that of St. Louis County and the Methodist Church in Missouri, that provide information about its early years. In addition, long-time members and records of other churches with which Lewis Chapel was associated in the past provide clues to the early church.

The earliest records from various sources including general history of both county and church, is of John Clark, who preached to Protestant groups during the Spanish occupation and who extended his preaching points as far as Fox Creek. He later joined the Baptist Church.

The Territory became part of the United States in 1804 and evangelization by major denominations escalated. Methodist missionaries did not settle in one place. They were assigned to a specific circuit, often 200 miles wide by 100 miles long, a practice which gave rise to the term, "circuit rider."

In 1807 The Rev. John Travis was assigned to the Missouri Circuit and through his work, a class led by the Lewis family was established in this area.

Later records show the class was known as the Hamilton Class and writers of Methodist history note that Rev. John Travis, with William McKendree, Presiding Elder, held a quarterly conference in 1807 at the spot where Lewis Chapel now stands.

Other records substantiate Reverend Travis's activity in the

territory which now comprises the State of Missouri and show that the Meramec Valley was believed to be more auspicious for evangelization.

Across the Meramec River and a mile above the spot where the first Lewis Chapel stood, a small stream called Hamilton's Creek empties into the Meramec River. At this point was also an important crossroads, fords, and later a ferry. It was from this point, where the village of Glencoe now stands, that pioneers embarked on the journeys that took them further to settle in parts of the north, south and west.

There is historical evidence that the Hamilton Class continued to report to the Quarterly Conferences, either at Manchester or to the Union Circuit in Franklin County between 1837 and 1859.

Reverend E. E. Burton, living in Manchester in 1939, connected the Lewis family with this Hamilton Class through the minutes of a Quarterly Conference of September 9, 1854. Noted in the

record of February 24th, 1855, is the mention that a member of each point on the circuit was appointed on the 'Tract Society', the representative from Hamilton Creek is Martrom Lewis.

The first Lewis Chapel was completed in 1863. Martrom Lewis passed away on April 8th of that same year. In the published notice of his death it is mentioned, Lewis had been a member of the

Methodist Episcopal Church for over forty years. He is buried in Crescent Cemetery.

As the roads were built and railroads changed the habits of its members, a more accessible site in Crescent was chosen for a new building.

Around December 1, 1932, the Rev.

J. H. Kern was assigned as Assistant to Rev. Earle Lock, pastor at Eureka. Rev. Kern was placed specifically in charge of Lewis Chapel congregation.

The Board of Trustees, meet-

ing in January of 1933, resolved to rebuild the church which had burned the morning of July 23, 1923.

The first worship service was held in the newly-completed sanctuary an Easter Sunday, 1935. In 1936, a new furnace was installed and in September 1939 new pews were added. The building was dedicated on October 8, 1939. In 1940, the memorial windows were dedicated.

The new building provided the means to establish new traditions. Among them, monthly fellowship suppers, the Community Christmas party and the annual Ham Dinner included not only members of the church but of the community.

Making apple-butter was established in 1939, with Mrs. Grace Stevens overseeing the work. The 1977 Homecoming booklet notes, Florence and Bob Mason provided the use of their home for this activity noting that the party in the yard is a happy, hard-working group.

Rev. Kern, concerned for the men of the church and community who were in the armed forces in World War II, undertook the publication of a small newspaper to send news from home to the men and women in the service. This publication, edited by Mrs. Julia Kouns, continued for eight years.

In 1992, with the church at its lowest point, an influx of new members brought renewed vitality and vision to the struggling congregation.

The congregation began improvements to the building. In 1995, restrooms were added, a new well was completed in 1996, and a utility shed purchased for additional storage.

For most of its history, Lewis Chapel was part of a two-point charge. In 1997 the congre-

gation appealed to District Superintendent, Dr. Murrell Cunningham, to allow them to become a separate charge. Bishop Ann Sherer agreed and in 1998 Rev. Maryann Hamer was appointed to serve as pastor of the charge.

The church continued to grow in strength and vision. Major improvements to the building were undertaken. Work on a new roof and soffits was completed in 1999. Shortly thereafter new sidewalks and railings and driveway improvements were added.

The congregation began to offer additional seasonal worship services as a means of inviting the community to worship. Mission and ministry activities increased with weekly Bible studies, prayer meetings, and entering a covenant of prayer and financial support with Nzilo United Methodist Church in Mozambique.

In 2000, a major refurbishing of the sanctuary began. New front doors were installed and flooring in the narthex was refinished. Later in the year, the tile ceiling of the sanctuary was removed and replaced with drywall. New carpeting and pew cushions and repair of all of the stained glass windows completed the re-decorating.

Today, a warm, welcoming congregation at Lewis Chapel gathers each Sunday and on special occasions for worship and fellowship. Together they continue to live out their vision of making Lewis Chapel a church grounded in the scriptures, faithful in the means of grace and one that follows Christ's command to make disciples who will be welcomed and enabled to experience God's love in a creative, supportive fellowship.

### Celebration

During the week-end of September 15 and 16, 2007, the Congregation of Lewis Memorial Chapel United Methodist Church will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the congregation.

The festivities begin with the Annual Ham Dinner on Saturday, September 15th, from 4 to 7 p.m. The dinner is an annual fund-raiser and will be open to the public.

On Sunday, September 16th, we continue the celebration at the 9 a.m. worship service. Reverend Nancye Dunlap, Gateway Central District Superintendent, will bring a message from the Scripture.

Following the worship there will be time for refreshment and fellowship.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. Reverend Cleo Kottwitz will portray for us the life of Circuit Rider, Reverend Jacob Lanier. A hymnsing and special music follows his presentation.

Lunch will be served about noon on the church grounds.

## MySpace continued from page 1A

that isn't appropriate.

"MySpace is scary. I won't let my own (12-year-old) son use it," Martin said. She's disturbed by the number of requests to be friends (part of your online network) from people she doesn't know, that in reality are disguised promotions of online pornography sites. She does let him have a bebo site, which she believes has less objectionable material, and she monitors the site.

That doesn't mean Martin doesn't recognize the value of using MySpace herself. She said she might not have ever started using a social networking site if the youth in her church hadn't pushed her to do so about a year ago. Now she uses MySpace, Facebook and bebo.

"It's a way to reach the youth in their world," she says.

Martin estimates that about 95 percent of the youth that she sees on Sunday morning are using one of the social networking sites. But she also uses the sites to connect with the much larger group of youth that have a relationship to the church through youth group activities, but don't attend worship. She learns things about them that she wouldn't otherwise know.

"One girl mentioned she was going to a funeral, so I asked about it and learned one of her grandparents had died," Martin said. "She ended up having a bad experience with the preacher at the funeral, which generated a discussion on the site."

There are 122 people who are part of the St. Stephen UMC's youth group MySpace site, 80 who are part of the bebo site, and a similar number who are part of Facebook. Several people are signed on to each one, but most primarily just use their favorite. Martin spends about an hour each day checking the sites.

"I might have two to five messages on each one," she said.

She finds that the youth are more likely to read and respond to message she sends them via a network than they would to a regular e-mail. During the summer, some of the youth stay up all night chatting on the sites.

The social networks are becoming popular for youth and young adult ministry directors. Kimberling City UMC has a MySpace account set up for their

church youth group.

"It can be an extremely effective tool for students because they check it everyday -- sometimes several times a day," said Kendra Fredrickson, coordinator of youth ministries. "It also helps you get to know them in a way they may not share with you at church."

The downside, Fredrickson said, is the time you can spend on it.

"Sending individual messages to each person about an event coming up takes so much longer than a group text message or e-mail, and it's easy to get caught up in reading profiles and jumping from one person to the other," she said. "Still, it's worth it, it's just not necessarily quick."

People who are starting new ministries are hoping to get a boost from the Internet social networks.

Keith Vessel, associate pastor at Missouri UMC in Columbia, has just launched a Facebook page for the church, and hopes to tie it into The Gathering, a new Saturday evening service that the church is launching Oct. 13.

"I hope through this site we can create discussions so we are connecting with our community seven days a week, not just on Saturday evening or Sunday morning," Vessel said. "I believe that if you want to engage the community, you've got to meet them where they are, not just expect them to come to you."

Elizabeth DeWitt, Missouri Conference event planner, has just started using MySpace as a way to reach out to young adults.

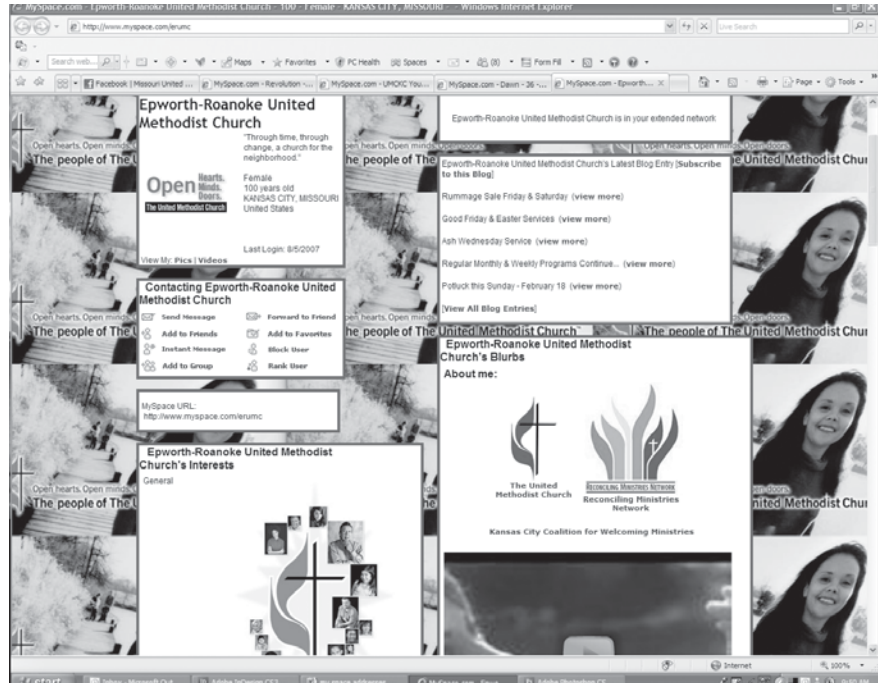
"There wasn't really a group in the church for people who are my age, so I wanted to try some ways to build a group," she said.

DeWitt is a member of Community UMC in Columbia, where her father, Gary, is pastor. She's been working down a list, sending MySpace invitations to everyone in her demographic.

"Some of the responses have been unkind," she said. "But others have said they are interested in coming to our church, so I would say it's been effective."

Less than two weeks into having the site up, 26 people had already signed on as friends, only two of whom were involved with the church before.

The Gathering, a new United



Methodist Church in St. Louis, has a group on Facebook.

"We discovered several people in the church were using Facebook to communicate with each other, so we set up a group for the church," said Rev. Matt Miofsky, pastor. It's helped communication between the church and the parishioners.

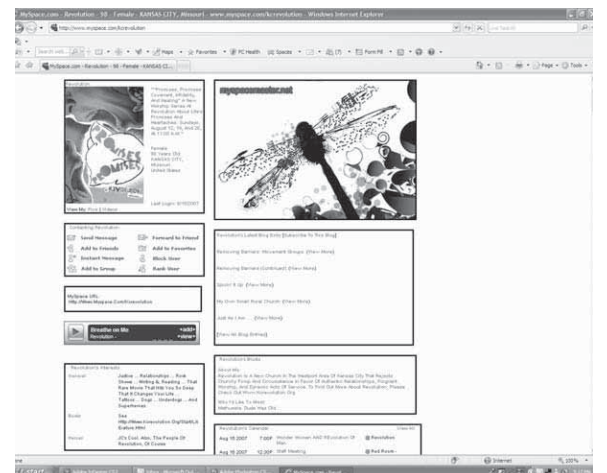
"It's a version of pastoral care for a different generation," he said.

The networks level the playing field between large and small churches because they don't require much staff time to establish or update. Rev. Jeannie Himes, pastor at Epworth-Roanoke UMC in Kansas City, said that last year at Annual Conference, someone mentioned it could be a good idea to establish a MySpace page for a church.

"My lay member, Michael Briggs, said, 'I can do that,'" Himes said. Soon Briggs had the page set up. The page is very well designed, and welcomes people to the church. The church averages 27 in attendance a week, and has a diverse congregation. Himes said she doesn't know if they've had any people come to church because of the MySpace page, but many visitors do come because of their Web site.

"We have had some former members who have moved away get back in touch with us after finding us on MySpace," Himes said.

Ben Banbridge, ministry leader



**Top: Epworth Roanoke UMC and (below) the Revolution UMC, both in the Heartland Central District, use MySpace sites as outreach tools.**

of the Salvage Yard in Joplin, has been using MySpace for the outreach ministry for about a year and half, not long after the ministry started. The Salvage Yard is a downtown nightclub in Joplin that features live Christian music on weekends, and a worship service on Sunday nights. It's a ministry of Saint Paul's UMC.

"It's been a very effective tool for us, because a lot of people into music and bands use MySpace," he said.

The Salvage Yard also has a Web site, but the calendar for upcoming concerts is on MySpace.

"It's a quicker, easier tool than

### Some MySpaces in the Mo. Conference

<http://www.Myspace.com/>

kcrevolution  
thesalvageyard  
erumc  
umckcyouth  
communityumc  
ststephenumcyouth

the Web site for adding things and making changes," he said.

The Salvage Yard MySpace site gets a lot of traffic, and now has 868 people in its network.

# Conference Calendar

Start Date	Event	Location	Phone #	Coordinator
8/24/2007	Camping & Retreat Ministries Executive Committee	Camp Galilee	(573) 442-7909	Tammy Calcote
8/24/2007	Global Connection Team meeting	Conference Center	(816) 331-4531	Paula Kling Mary Ann Cieslak, GC UMW President
8/25/2007	Gateway Central UMW Mission Team Meeting	Union Memorial UMC	(314) 895-3143	Dorothy Brucks
8/25/2007	Basic Lay Speakers Course	Branson UMC	(417) 725-1959	Dorothy Brucks
8/25/2007	Advanced Lay Speaker Training	Branson UMC	(417) 725-1959	Dorothy Brucks
8/31/2007	Delegation to General Conference	Conference Center		Larry Fagan
9/6/2007	Mid-State District Council	Conference Center		Nick Campbell
9/7/2007	Youth Leaders Retreat	Camp Clover Point, Lake of the Ozarks State Park	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
9/7/2007	Missouri College Connection Float Trip	HO HUMM Campground	(573) 291-9122	Beverly Boehmer
9/8/2007	Gateway Regional District UMW Mission Team Meeting	Libertyville UMC	(636) 397-0393	Katie Willis
9/8/2007	Values Team	Conference Center		Jerry Ruth Williams
9/8/2007	Mid-State Lay Speaking Courses	Community UMC	(573) 817-1332	Mike Sykuta
9/8/2007	MO Conference UMMen Quarterly Exec Committee Meeting	Conference Center	(573) 441-1770	Bill Mooney
9/12/2007	Boundaries Training	Conference Center		Bill Koch
9/13/2007	Next level of church growth: Strategic planning that works!	St. Louis airport, Marriot Hotel		
9/15/2007	Mark Twain District Mini-School of Mission	Monroe City UMC		Debbie Tanzey
9/20/2007	Office of Creative Ministries Board	Conference Center		Max Marble
9/22/2007	Mid-State Lay Speaking Courses	Community UMC	(573) 817-1332	Mike Sykuta
9/25/2007	Northern Glow Retreat	Camp Jo-Ota	(660) 699-2393	Rev. Barbara Lovelace
9/27/2007	MO East Walk to Emmaus (Men)	Rickman Center		
9/29/2007	UMW annual meeting		(573) 472-4061	Shirley Warner
9/29/2007	Staffing for Excellence	Schweitzer UMC	(417) 869-7878	Rev. Kendall Waller
10/4/2007	Show Me the Way Walk to Emmaus (Men)	Maranatha Retreat Center	(417) 886-9304	Carol Smith
10/5/2007	Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Training	Camp Galilee	(660) 464-0254	Lucinda Kenagy
10/6/2007	VIM Training	Camp Galilee	(660) 464-0254	Lucinda Kenagy
10/8/2007	VIM Team Leader Training	Camp Galilee	(660) 464-0254	Lucinda Kenagy
10/11/2007	Show Me the Way Walk to Emmaus (Women)	Maranatha Retreat Center	(417) 886-9304	Carol Smith
10/12/2007	Missouri PAUMCS Annual Meeting	Conference Center	(877) 736-1806	Dala Dunn

## Joplin, Sedalia seminars to help move ministry forward

It's coming in September! Two opportunities to MOVE your ministry forward! A great day for laity and clergy to get at least one big idea toward a strategic next move. St. Paul's UMC Joplin and First Church of Sedalia are team-

ing up once again to offer a day of training, inspiration and more! Last year nearly 10 percent of the Missouri Conference churches attended the MOVE Conference. Now it's back with more ideas and even more practical ways you can

join with God to move your congregation forward.

Attend the MOVE Conference 2007 with a group from your congregation. You'll get some big ideas you can put to work in your ministry! September 17 or 24: Same

presentations, two locations. Pick the one that works for you! Pre-registration is required. For more information see the flier on the Missouri Conference Web site by going to [www.moumethodist.org/move07](http://www.moumethodist.org/move07) and then clicking on file.

## Job Postings

### Lead Musician

Mt. Zion UMC in St. Louis is looking for a keyboardist to accompany the Casual Service. Must be able to accompany and lead a contemporary choir, be familiar with contemporary music, able to lead songs, able to play with the praise band (without written music) and have improvisational skills. This position is 10 hours per week. Send resume to Mt. Zion UMC, 1485 Craig Road, St. Louis, MO 63146 or [mtzionumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtzionumc@sbcglobal.net)

*The following three positions are at Fenton UMC, 800 Gravois Road, Fenton, MO 63026; phone number: (636) 343-5010, e-mail [fentonumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fentonumc@sbcglobal.net). More extensive job descriptions are available. Positions are negotiable. Salaries are negotiable. Please call or send resumes to the church office.*

### Choir Director

We are currently seeking a part-time choir director whose primary responsibilities are to direct the chancel choir at our 11:00 Sunday service, provide leadership for our praise group at our 9:00 Sunday service, and rehearse both groups on Wednesday evening.

### Accompanist

We are currently seeking a part-time pianist, organist, and/or keyboardist to accompany our two Sunday morning worship services and rehearse with our Chancel choir.

### Dir. of Children/Youth Ministries

We are currently seeking an energetic person to develop and oversee a mid-week children's program, and oversee our Sunday evening mid-high and senior high youth program. This is a part-time position that has the possibilities for full time later.

**The Missouri Conference Review accepts postings for paid positions from churches in the Missouri Conference at no charge. Postings may be published in two issues, space permitting, and should be limited to 75 words. E-mail [fkoenig@moumethodist.org](mailto:fkoenig@moumethodist.org) call (573) 777-1205 or mail Fred Koenig, MO Conference Editor, 3601 Amron Court, Columbia, MO 65202.**

## New Orleans still needs much help

By Diane Graslie  
Wentzville UMC

Several women from Wentzville UMC recently returned from a volunteer mission team to New Orleans. Diane Graslie, Debbi Head, Sharon McNeil and Jean Murry spent a week in the still devastated area. It has now been 23 months since Hurricane Katrina destroyed that area, with little improvement having been made.

Operation Blessing hosted the team and provided sleeping quarters, all meals, 24/7 security, laundry facilities and all equipment and supplies needed for their work while there. They teamed up with two Americorp groups, a team of six from Indiana, a team of six from Nebraska, a team of six from the Ozarks and a lady from Canada during the week.

They worked on a community center, boxing ring, playground and soccer field for several days. They assisted an elderly lady who was actually in her mobile home when the levy broke. Her trailer was three feet above ground level. She told us the water level inside her mobile home rose to be waist

deep. She was trapped inside for several hours and was rescued out her front window by a neighbor who had a boat.

Her mobile home has since been removed and she is living in a smaller FEMA trailer. We helped her by hauling appliances and other debris to the curb for removal by the city. We also took apart the steps and front porch that had been attached to her mobile home.

We teamed up one day with the New Orleans Mosquito Control Board and drove around to abandoned swimming pools and ponds that have become prime mosquito breeding spots. We made sure that each pool had Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) and a sign instructing home owners how to care for their pools - if and when they get a chance to move back into their homes. We teamed up another day with the Rodent Control Board and baited 543 sewer drains with rat bait in the hardest hit areas that are now almost completely abandoned.

New Orleans is no where near close to being recovered. In the areas that were hardest hit, only



Ruined choir robes hang at Brooks United Methodist Church in New Orleans nearly a year after Hurricane Katrina in this August 2006 file photograph. United Methodist bishops distributed \$2 million in February to assist Gulf Coast churches and pastors affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A UMNS photo by Mike DuBose.

one in every six or seven homes has even begun to rebuild or clean up. In the poorer areas the numbers are even worse. It is so easy for us who live so far away from there to forget that tragic storm - but those who lived there

are reminded daily. Road conditions are horrid; many street signs are merely spray painted onto a piece of board. Some streets have no signs at all. The residents who are now living in FEMA trailers have been told they are going to

have them taken away from them in August. There is still a critical need for help in New Orleans. These are Americans - different races, skin colors and economic levels who need our help.

## Women's prison kits delivered to the Chillicothe facility

Many churches across the state of Missouri put together prison kits each year and bring them to the Festival of Sharing. The kits are so important to the women who receive them. A recent delivery of 525 women's prison kits were delivered to the inmates of the Chillicothe facility.

Inmates at the prisons are pro-

vided with initial hygiene supplies upon entry to the facility, but any additional supplies can only be obtained from the prison canteen using funds deposited by friends and family. The economic situation of many of the inmates loved ones prohibit them from depositing money into this account.

Religious organizations such as the Festival of Sharing help to supplement this shortfall. Prison kits can only be delivered when

there are enough for every incarcerated person. The kits contain basic hygiene supplies, note paper, and envelopes. (See complete list below.)

There are over 2,600 women in the Chillicothe and Vandalia facilities. So it takes many dedicated people to assemble enough kits for every woman. Your church still has time to collect prison kits for this year's Festival of Sharing. If each church in the state were to bring five prison kits to the

Festival of Sharing there would be enough kits to distribute to the Vandalia sight. Encourage your Sunday school classes, youth or other small groups to contribute a prison

kit to this year's festival of sharing! Together churches can make a difference!

### PRISON KITS

for women in Missouri prisons  
**1 Shampoo** (12-16 oz. size, alcohol-free only)

\*Acceptable brands: Suave, Equate Herbal, Personal Care Herbal, Alberto VO5, Style

**Emery Board** (not a metal nail file)

**Deodorant** (2-3 oz. size, alcohol-free only, no roll-ons, no men's brands)

\*Acceptable brands: Revlon Hi & Dri, Lady Mitchum Clean Gel, Crystal Clean Deodorant, Almay Clear Gel, Simple Basic Clear Deodorant

**1 Tube toothpaste** (6 - 6.4 oz. size, alcohol-free only)

\*Acceptable brands: All types of Ultrabrite, Colgate, Crest, Aquafresh and Gleem

**1 Pencil** (unsharpened, no

advertising)

**Writing Paper\*\* for 5 letters, 6"x9"**, (no note cards)

**Envelopes\*\* for mailing 5 letters** (white standard size, not business size)

\*This is only a partial list of alcohol-free, acceptable brands of products included for your convenience.

\*\* Please pack paper items carefully so they do not arrive in a crumpled condition.

**Toothbrushes and stamps are NOT allowed** as part of these kits. These kits will be inspected and transferred to another bag for delivery to the prison. Items not listed above or items not fitting the specifications above will be removed from the kit. Place only these items in a plastic grocery bag, tie the handles. Put filled bags in boxes labeled "Prison Kits." Please also label with the number enclosed.



Pictured above is a photograph of the correctional facility at Chillicothe and a sketch of the correctional facility at Vandalia. (Images from MO DOC).

Visit the Office of Creative Ministries Web site at [www.umocm.com](http://www.umocm.com).