

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church Sullivan, Missouri

April 2008

Steve's Scribbles

One of the things that makes United Methodism unique is its "connectionality". This means that each UM congregation does not act as an entity unto itself - we act as a part of a larger whole. It is this connectionality that allows us to address the needs of the world as a large, unified body, rather than many small, individual congregations. We can do more when we are connected than we could do as an individual congregation.

That's what our Apportionments are all about. They are our part of the larger whole, our giving that, combined with the giving of other UM churches, helps to make a difference in the lives of people all over the globe.

Take, for instance, our **World Service Apportionment**. The total World Service budget is \$1,980,360.00. Grace UMC's portion of that is \$3,089.00 (which doesn't seem nearly so large when compared with the total World Service budget!). The World Service fund is the heart of the UMC's denomination-wide ministry, which supports Christian mission and ministry worldwide. The work of the World Service Fund includes:

- Supporting a network of missionaries and others who serve in the name of Christ;
- Supporting specific local church work with children, youth, singles, students, persons with physical and mental challenges, adults, and older persons;
- Enriching congregational life with worship, retreat and camping resources, leader training, and stewardship development;
- Providing leadership and coordination for denominational ministry with youth;
- Certifying United Methodist professional Christian educators, communicators, and musicians;
- Assuring that UM's speak and work to help encourage a more ethical, just, and humane world;
- Expressing our commitment to God's reign through ministries of peace and justice, and efforts to build a church and society truly inclusive of all persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or challenging condition.

Whew! That's a lot for our giving to do! And yet, it happens, when we give of our best to God, and our giving is combined with that of United Methodist Churches all across the world. Thank you for your giving, and your support of the global ministries of the United Methodist Church!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Worship in April

We continue to hear portions of Peter's letter of encouragement, offering us direction for living in a post-Easter world!

Sunday, April 6 - Holy Communion
Rev. Rachel Williams, guest preacher

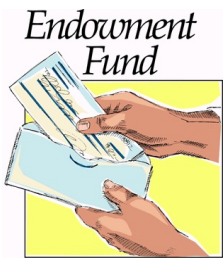
Sunday, April 13
1 Peter 2:19-25
"Do Good, and You'll Always Get What You Deserve"

Sunday, April 20
1 Peter 2:2-10
"God's Own"

Sunday, April 27
1 Peter 3:13-22
"Uncommon Ground"



Endowment Fund



We have a new name plate on our Remembrance Plaque. Shirley Gilbert gave us \$1,000.00 in memory of her parents William Cletus and Gladys Reed. The money was put into the Endowment

Building Fund. The interest on that money will help maintain our building as long as the church exists.

As members of Grace Church, we promised to support the church with our tithes and offerings. The Endowment Committee thinks the church should

practice what it preaches and share its earnings too. This year we are tithing the earnings of our General Endowment Fund. We are giving \$350.00 to missions. It breaks down like this:

\$100 for the VIM trip to Mexico

\$100 for Meramec Mission

\$100 for our sister church in Nova Mambone (They had a devastating flood)

\$50 for Nothing But Nets

It is good to be able to reach out and help others.

Alice Morris

A Thank You To Sydney Williams

Sydney the bags you created for our shut-ins at Easter time were very well received. We even learned that some of the ladies keep the pictures because they are just too pretty to dispose of. You made all of them smile. Thank you Sydney we all appreciate what you do to Share God's Love. Your Church Family and Friends...Grace UMC

A Note of Thanks

Thank you all for the Easter cards. It was fun opening them all. Also thanks to Pastor Steve, Ginny, Mina and Raeleigh for delivering them.

Thank You

I would like to thank Pastor Steve for his recent visit, the church for their cards of well wishes, and the UMW for the lovely Easter card, and a big thanks to Ginny Gilhaus for gathering the church services on video for me. Our church family is great - we are all blessed! Thanks to all.

Louise Jones

Military Prayer Requests

Doug Archambo, Texas
Nathan Shelton, North Carolina
Shawn Stumpe, Iraq
Jake Rice, Afghanistan
Michael Richards, Iraq
William Burkhardt, Iraq



God Bless,
Mary Poole

Vacation Bible School

Can you believe it? VBS will be here before we know it. If you participated last year as a teacher or helper, or if you think you might like to participate this year in any way, please plan on joining us for lunch and our preliminary discussion of VBS on Sunday, April 20, immediately after church. We have more and more children every year, and need more and more people to help. Hope to see you for lunch on the 20th.



Golden Rule Scoop

Believe it or not, days at Golden Rule will quickly come to a close. It is hard to believe that April is fast approaching. Before you know it-May will be here and school will be over. At this time, we continue to grow. We enrolled a new student two weeks ago, which makes a grand total of 46 kids in the after school program. The Lord truly loves this program!!! Oops! We are enrolling another student as I write this article. GRAND TOTAL: 47.



From time to time, people want to know if the church financially supports this program. Golden Rule is financially stable and does not receive any monies from the church. Tuition payments and money from the ice cream booth provides Golden Rule with the necessary income. Our money is spent on salaries, food, insurance, taxes and other things needed to help with the operation of the program. Also, we pay \$100 per month to the church for utilities. It is the success of this program that allows us to be in "good shape".

Another reason for the success of this program is the moral support that we receive from the members of Grace United Methodist Church. I am very thankful to the people who were instrumental in the conception of this program. What a wonderful, safe, environment to send children.

Wee Ringers - New To Grace

Bell Choir



Easter Sunday was the debut of a new group of musicians at Grace UMC: The Wee Ringers. These are children ages 3 through 12 who ring handbells. The first song we picked was apparently the most difficult in our list of songs, but they did a great job of watching the director, who some would say is a Ding-A-Ling herself. Wee Ringers rehearsal is during the first 20 minutes of Kid's Choir (on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.) And during the first few minutes of Sunday School. If your child would like to join the Wee Ringers, the Kid's Choir (for K-6) or both, you are more than welcome to come make a joyful noise on Wednesday evenings.

Music for the Wee Ringers costs \$25.00 for each song. Wee would joyfully and noisily accept any donations for new music. Thank you very much.

Children's Education Committee

Children's Education Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. Items to be discussed include VBS, Children's Church and teachers.

It's Our Time!

April is one of those months with a fifth Tuesday, and that means it's time for another trip down to Centenary United Methodist Church to help them with their ministry to homeless

Thank you for your expressions of care and sympathy during the time of grief and loss for the Bandy family. Although both Ralph and Julia were under hospice care, Ralph's death on February 22 followed by Julia's on March 13 were a heavy burden of loss for their children and grandchildren. We are grateful for the love that sustained us in our grieving.

Marje Bandy

persons! We will leave from the Grace UMC parking lot at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, April 29, to go to Centenary UMC. After serving the homeless, and helping with clean-up, we will return to Sullivan about 7:30 PM. No special skills are required; just a willingness to serve, and a desire to share God's love with others! If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Steve.

