

The SPIRIT

Sharing the grace and love that is Jesus Christ

March 2010

Fearlessly journeying toward Easter

Dear Friends,

I am very excited about the Lenten sermon series “Be Fearless!” based on the book *Fearless* by Max Lucado, minister of writing and preaching for the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas. I will be using six chapters from the book to lead us forward out of our fears and into the hope and promise of Jesus Christ. Lucado has written:

We fear being sued, finishing last, going broke, the mole on the back, and the sound of the clock as it ticks us closer to the grave. Every season seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. And it feels dreadful. Fear sucks the life out of the soul, and drains us of contentment. Wouldn't it be great to escape it? According to Jesus, this is possible. The one statement he made more than any other was this: “Don't be afraid.”

Fear will always knock on our doors; we just have to make sure we don't invite it to dinner. Using this series guarantees that we will be approaching Lent in a positive manner, focusing on the active ways we can be engaged with Christ and live out our call to discipleship. Be sure to pick up your Lenten devotional guide, “Where in the World Is God?” at the entrance to the sanctuary. Give up some of your discretionary time this Lent and spend it with God, using this guide, every day.

We have sent out postcards inviting our new neighbors in the four ZIP codes surrounding us to join us for this series. Invite cards have been distributed in the bulletins to give to your friends and neighbors, too. Be aware that we may have visitors looking for a friendly face during this time. Remember, all of us are designated “greeters” and “welcomers,” not just the members of the Evangelism Committee! If you see people you don't know, introduce yourself and find out more about them. It doesn't matter if they aren't visitors; they will be happy that you are interested in them. If you see someone standing alone in Fellowship Hall, strike up a conversation and share your Christian love with him or her! Christ is calling us to be the church and to invite others to be a part of the body of Christ.

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Sheila*



Join a Dinner Group

Several people have expressed an interest in forming small dinner groups who will meet in homes or restaurants. Everyone is invited to join us for a get-acquainted/organizational gathering at the home of Paul and Sheryl Wilde Saturday, March 6, at 7 p.m. Please bring an appetizer to share. Groups are open to couples or singles. If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Sheryl Wilde at 422-8477 or sherylw@everestkc.net. If you are interested but cannot attend the organizational gathering, please let Sheryl or a member of the Family Ministries team know.

Who Dat?

Are we at a New Orleans Saints game? No, we're at Monticello UMC worship services! But many of us have slipped into a bad habit of not wearing our nametags or filling in *all* of the information in the registration books. (Yours truly is guilty...)

We have many new faces at Monticello UMC, and sadly, they don't have a clue who we are! Please make an effort to wear your

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Monticello United
Methodist Church
(MUMC) and
Monticello Christian
Children's Center
(MCCC)
23860 W. 75th Street
Shawnee Mission, KS
66227

Worship: 9 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m.

Church Ministry Office
(913) 441-1435
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
E-mail:
montumc@monticello-
umc.org
www.monticello-umc.org

Children's Center Office
(913) 441-1473

Church Staff
The Rev. Sheila Lawson,
Pastor
pastorlawson
@monticello-umc.org

Gayla Hougham,
MCCC Director
hougham@monticello-
umc.org

Doris Housh,
Music Director
housh@monticello-
umc.org

Sunday School
Classes meet at 9 a.m.

Primary
(3 years - 5th grade)
Meet downstairs in the
Music Room for opening

Youth Sunday School
6th - 8th grade: Library
9th - 12th grade:
Chapel Youth Room

Adults
Pathfinders: Chapel

*If you no longer wish to
receive this newsletter, please
call the church office.*

A message from Staff/Parish Relations

by Len Morizzo, Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson

Blessings to all! The Staff/Parish Relations Committee had its first meeting of 2010 and wanted to share with you our purpose, hopes and functions for this year.

Our purpose is to promote unity with the pastor, staff and congregation through focusing on encouragement and good communication and to strengthen, nurture and support the church's mission and vision so it is realized throughout the year and in all settings. The committee relates to all staff, both appointed and employed by the church.

At our first meeting we assigned each committee member to communicate with and mentor specific staff members. They will initiate contact with the staff periodically throughout the year to support ministry to our church and the congregation at large. It is the desire of each committee member to be someone with whom prayer requests and concerns or observations concerning the church can be shared.

The functions of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee include:

- ◆ Leading conversation between the congregation and staff/pastor about ministry direction
- ◆ Developing and recommending written policy, procedures and job descriptions of staff members
- ◆ Assessing job performance of staff/pastor annually
- ◆ Supporting lifelong learning and spiritual renewal for all staff (continuing education)
- ◆ Identifying and supporting individuals from the congregation whom God seems to be calling to ministry.

We all look forward to serving with you this year. Blessings and grace to all!

New ministry for women

by Sheryl Wilde

This month a new ministry series begins at Monticello UMC: Girl Talk is open to all women who are interested in connecting with other women in a safe and caring environment. We will meet once a month to discuss, brainstorm, explore and resolve issues that are shared by many of us but are often left unspoken. We will come together and open our hearts in a relaxed, spiritual and fun attitude.

Our first gathering will be Monday, March 1, at 6 p.m. in the East Basement. Beginning in April we will meet once a month on the third Monday of the month unless there is a conflict with other activities. I will try to give you plenty of time to plan ahead. You may attend just the sessions that are of interest to you.

The topic for March will be "Don't Let Stress and Anxiety Lead to March Madness." Future topics will include "Reflections of Self-Esteem," "Reconditioning Relationships," "Facing Fear," "Mapping Our Lives," "The Faces of Anger," "Fun, Laughter and Healing," "Forgiveness — the Pathway to Peace" and "The Essentials of Time Management."

We invite you join us as we reach out to each other and lift up our hearts in love and friendship. For more information, feel free to call me at 422-8477 or e-mail sherylw@everestkc.net.



Mission and Outreach news

by Janet Williams, Mission and Outreach Chairperson

March offers opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. It can be as simple as donating a can of soup or giving a few hours of your Saturday to lend a helping hand at Grace United Ministries. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- ◆ Bring in nonperishable food items (no glass jars, please) to help feed the hungry — two Harvester's barrels will be in the entryway to the sanctuary through the end of this month.
- ◆ Join us for work at Grace United Ministries on Saturday, March 27. We work from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m., and lunch is provided. Through the continued dedication of volunteers in the rebuilding and refurbishing of this building, this ministry offers a community in need a promise for a better tomorrow.
- ◆ Make a donation to the Ark Campaign by writing a check to MUMC with "Ark" written in the memo line or by placing a cash donation in the bucket at the back of the sanctuary. This is truly a gift that keeps on giving.
- ◆ Join the Mission and Outreach team — for details, call me at 583-3993 or e-mail mrwjw@sbcglobal.net. We would love to have you join us (no dues, no initiations and no experience necessary, just a desire to help others).

Make these opportunities in March your mission. May God's blessings be with each and every one of you.

United Methodist Men

by Wes Moore, UMM President

Thank you to all who attended the Ron Williams concert sponsored by Family Ministries and the UMM Chili Cook-off on Jan. 23. Twelve pots of chili were provided by Rodney Evans, Art Howell, Steve Likes, Jay Nichols, Jason Powers, Brian Price, Jim Reynolds, Dick Shaffer, Cy Shockey, Paul Wilde, Mike Woods and me. The results of the judging were:

- ◆ **People's Choice**
Sweet Caroline by Paul Wilde, Champion
- ◆ **Five-Alarm (Hottest)**
1st Choice: Too Hot to Handle by Art Howell
2nd Choice: Hot Tamale by Jason Powers
3rd Choice: Surprise Ending by Jim Reynolds
- ◆ **Clark Kent (Mildest)**
1st Choice: Lois Lane by Jay Nichols
2nd Choice: Sweet Caroline by Paul Wilde
3rd Choice: Mild-Manner Reporter by Brian Price
- ◆ **Long Shot (Most Unusual)**
1st Choice: Chili Roast by Dick Shaffer
2nd Choice: Saucy Suzy by Cy Shockey
3rd Choice: Slingshot Sally by Mike Wood

Trophies were awarded to the champion and for first place in each category. Special thanks to Jason Powers for providing the trophies and his insight.

This was a great evening enjoyed by many. Plans have already started for next year, so don't miss what should be a fantastic evening in 2011. Again, thanks to Family Ministries for providing entertainment and the table decorations, drinks and trimmings and to all UMM members who participated.



Sewing for Others

The Doing for Others Circle (UMW Sewing/Craft Circle) meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Members gather for hands-on projects such as:

- ◆ Lap-robos for home-bound individuals and people in nursing homes
- ◆ Mini-quilts for babies
- ◆ Crafts
- ◆ Folding bulletins and helping with mailings and other projects as needed

Come join us anytime! Call Karen Gillespie at 712-8099 for more information.

Sound System

9 a.m. service
March 7: Stan Lawson and Paul Elliott
March 14: Steve Likes and Ken Sokol
March 21: Paul Elliott and Dave Batchelder
March 28: Paul Elliott and Stan Lawson

10:30 a.m. service
March 7: Dick Shaffer and Robby Satterwhite
March 14: Stan Lawson and Andy Cockrum
March 21: Steve Likes and Andy Cockrum
March 28: Robby Satterwhite and Dick Shaffer

Financial Update

(Through Feb. 21)

February offerings:
\$23,666.09

Budget needed year-to-date:
\$47,632.48

Surplus year-to-date:
\$4,272.48



Greeters

9 a.m. service

March 7: Ken and Debi Sokol

March 14: Connie and Dave Batchelder

March 21: Rodger and Susan Smith

March 28: Keir and Dustin Mercer

10:30 a.m. service

March 7: Robby Satterwhite (PL), Susan Cockrum (S), Vivian Triebel (FH)

March 14: Terri Satterwhite (PL), Maurine Messinger (S), Johnnie Lee Kueker (FH)

March 21: Pat Lavery (S), Sondra Korth (FH)

March 28: Jill and Len Morizzo (PL), Lois Flinn (S), Betty Hunter (FH)



If you would like to contribute ideas, personal faith stories, articles about upcoming events, etc., for the April newsletter, please send them to Ami Johnson at johnsonami@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for articles is March 15.

Prayer requests from February

Feb. 7

◆ Debby Likes' cousin, Ramsey Austin, passed away Feb. 3 from liver failure.

Feb. 14

◆ Barb Blackburn, the aunt of MCCC employee Kendra Taylor, passed away.

◆ Isabel Kindermann, Maurine Messinger's 88-year-old cousin, has fallen three times in 10 days and was hospitalized with severe back pain.

◆ Elaine Washburn requests prayers for Kathleen, who is still in pain and unable to go home.

◆ Michelle Crago Buessing, a 32-year-old friend of Sara Evans, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is undergoing rounds of chemotherapy and will undergo surgery afterward. Please pray for strength for Michelle and her family as she faces all the "unknowns." Please Lord, be there to comfort her and help her get through this.

◆ Continue to pray for the people of Haiti and the relief efforts there.

◆ Celebrate the joy of new babies and grandmas.

Feb. 21

◆ Bob Valazquez, a teacher at Mill Valley, underwent surgery for very aggressive prostate cancer. Please pray for healing.

◆ Shawn Wiard, a nephew of Vivian Triebel's son-in-law, was in a one-car accident and is in intensive care at KU Medical Center.

◆ Please pray for Roy Housh, Dave's father, who has decisions to make regarding his health.

◆ Stan and Pastor Sheila Lawson are the proud new grandparents of Owen Alexander VanDeven, born Feb. 16. Owen weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces.

◆ Art and Marilyn Howell are celebrating the safe arrival of their great-grandson, Brandon, born to their granddaughter Brandi on Feb. 20.

Feb. 28

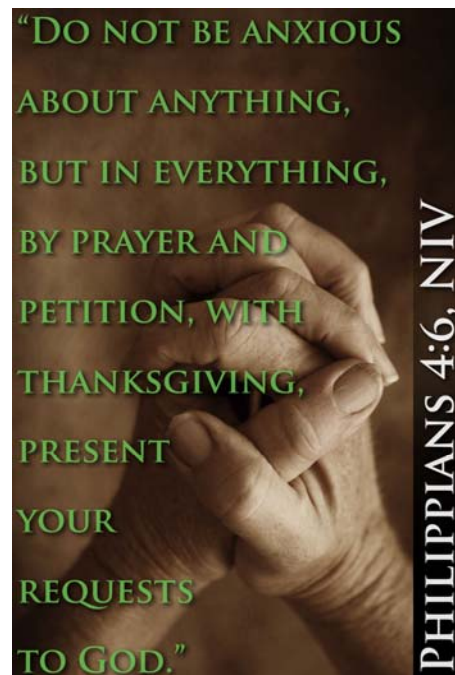
◆ Please pray for Rick Bush, the husband of MCCC teacher Alice Bush, who has been hospitalized with internal bleeding.

◆ Dave Housh's sister and brother-in-law, Anne and Bob Becker, lost their apartment due to a fire.

◆ Mary Housh, Dave's stepmother, has gone home from rehab. Dave and Doris hope that Dave's father, Roy, will be able to join her in about 30 days.

Prayers for our brave men and women in the military:

Matt Alcanter, Chad Brown, Roget Davis, Louis Edwards, Michael Hedges, Trevor Leahy, Chris Lee, Jon Lynn, Bill and Ray Mangas, Aaron Murphy, Ryan Petersen, Eric Stanley, Andrew Strange, Donny Williams



"DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD."

Monticello UMC Events

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6 PM Girl Talk-EB 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	2 6 AM Election Day-FH 6:30 PM Disciple 3-EB 6:30 PM Pack 3751 Committee Meeting-CCR 6:30 PM Troop 351 Meeting-FH 7 PM Den 3, Pack 3551- Chapel Library	3 9:30 AM Doing for Others Circle-FH 1 PM Mary Martha Circle- FH 6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice-S 7 PM Neighborhood Association Meeting-FH 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	4 1 PM Front Porch Ministries 6 PM Girl Scout Troop 3613-FH	5	6 9 AM UMW Unit Meeting-FH 7 PM Dinner Group Meeting at Paul and Sheryl Wilde's Home
7 8:30 AM Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser-K, FH 9 AM Worship/SS 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Connections-FH 11:45 AM Trustees-CH	8 6:30 PM Finance-FH 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	9 6:30 PM Den 10, Pack 3751-CCR 6:30 PM Troop 351 Committee Meeting-FH	10 6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice-S 6:30 PM Den 4, Pack 3751-FH 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	11 1 PM Front Porch Ministries 6 PM Girl Scout Troop 558-EB	12 6 PM Den 5, Pack 3751-FH	13 Noon Safe and Sacred Training- CCR
14 9 AM Worship/SS 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM COM-FH	15 Spring Break 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	16 Spring Break 6:30 PM Troop 351 Meeting-FH 7 PM Den 3, Pack 3551- Chapel Library	17 Spring Break 9:30 AM Doing for Others Circle-FH 6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice-S 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	18 Spring Break 1 PM Front Porch Ministries 6 PM Girl Scout Troop 3613-CCR	19 Spring Break	20 7:30 AM UMM-FH
21 9 AM Worship/SS 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Leadership Training-S	22 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	23 6:30 PM Disciple 3-EB 6:30 PM Troop 351 Patrol Leader Meeting-FH	24 6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice-S 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	25 1 PM Front Porch Ministries 6 PM Girl Scout Troop 558-EB 7 PM UMW Spirit Circle at Jill Morizzo's Home	26	27 8 AM Grace United Ministries Workday
28 Palm Sunday 9 AM Worship/SS 10:30 AM Worship	29 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	30 6:30 PM Disciple 3-EB 6:30 PM Troop 351 Meeting-FH	31 6:30 PM Adult Choir Practice-S 7:30 PM AA Meeting-CCR	April 1 Holy Thursday 1 PM Front Porch Ministries 6 PM Girl Scout Troop 3613-FH	2 Good Friday (MCCC is open)	3 9:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt-FH, EB

Help Prepare the Monticello Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for Easter



Lilies in 6" pot for \$9 **Hyacinths** in 6" pot for \$9
Tulips in 6" pot for \$9
(\$3 goes to Apportionments)



Payment at time of order is required.
We have a limited number of plants, so get your order in early!

✂-----

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Number of lilies _____ x \$9 = \$ _____

Number of hyacinths _____ x \$9 = \$ _____

Number of tulips _____ x \$9 = \$ _____

Total amount due: \$ _____

Please check one:

Donate my plants to the church to be planted _____

I want to take my plants home after the Easter service _____

Please make checks payable to:

Monticello United Methodist Church, with "Easter Flowers" noted in the memo line

Orders must be received by Monday, March 22, 2010.

For questions, please contact the church office at 441-1435.



23860 W. 75th Street
Shawnee Mission, KS 66227

Return Service Requested

Worship Service
9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages
9 a.m.

*Taking Christ's love
to our neighbors
through
spiritual growth,
fellowship and outreach*

O LORD
of hosts, HAPPY
is everyone who trusts in
YOU.



United Methodist Women

by Candace Shockey, UMW Communications Secretary

The church was filled with wonderful people wearing Love Ribbons on Feb. 14 as Monticello UMW members hosted and led the worship service. The guest speaker was Theresa Swartwood from Cross-Lines, and Steve Likes was honored with a special Mission Recognition Pin. He is our special Valentine — thank you, Steve, for all that you do.

Our monthly unit meeting, led by President Doris Housh, took place Feb. 13 in Fellowship Hall. Karen Gillespie presented the program. On Feb. 25 Laurie Powers hosted and Maxine Reynolds co-hosted Spirit Circle, and Shirley Nichols provided an inspiring program. Thank you, ladies, for your hospitality. KC District Mission was held at the Basehor United Methodist Church in Bonner Springs on Feb. 27. Those who attended got to partake in a Sudanese lunch.

February was chock-full of goodies, and March will also offer an exciting array of activities:



March 3: Mary Martha Circle, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall

March 6: Unit Meeting, 9 a.m., Fellowship Hall; program about Legislative Event for Action in Faith, hosted by Susan Cockrum

March 25: Spirit Circle with hostess Jill Morizzo, co-hostess Debby Likes and program by Gladys Carns

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nametags so those you greet will learn your names. Also, when you sign the registration book (that means everyone), please take time to complete your address. The books are intended to be passed both directions, allowing all those attending to see the names and addresses of those sharing the row with them on Sunday morning. You might be sitting next to a neighbor and not even know it!

Let's make every effort to be a truly welcoming church!

*Blessings,
Debby Likes,
Evangelism
Chairperson*