

January 2012

# Circuit Writer



Whiteland United Methodist Church



Happy New Year! May the Grace and Peace of a Risen Savior be upon and bless you!

2012 is here! Are we ready? A better question might be what will we do differently this year than last year? Do we know where we are going? How are we going to get there? The future is bright for us because we have hope. Hope in a risen Savior. Hope in a loving creator. Hope in a Holy Spirit that works in and through us. We are a people of hope and of the future.

Last month, I wrote of James Harnish's concerning leading a congregation to new life. There is one more thing from that text that I would like to share with you. "... when survival becomes the primary motivation for change, the congregation will inevitably turn in on itself and become so centered in its survival needs that it will be ineffective in responding to the real needs of real people in the world around it...New people who come in contact with the congregation immediately sense that the church is not so much interested in using its resources to meet their needs as it is interested in using them for its own survival." This year presents to us the opportunity to side step the issues of survival and concentrate on our mission. **We are to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** Living this out means putting all of our resources into accomplishing this mission. It also means saying yes to everything that supports and contribute to the mission as well as saying no to those things which does not support or contribute to it.

John Wesley once said, "Faith in Christ is not barely a speculative rational thing, a cold, lifeless assent, a train of ideas in the head; but also a disposition of the heart."

As United Methodists, we believe transformation of our hearts begins with a personal commitment to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. I experienced a recent example of this. Toward the end of December I received a phone call from a man who had attended church here over forty years ago. He shared with me the stories of his youth and how several people from this congregation had formed and shaped him into the person that he is today. He shared how those brief formative years had influenced him throughout his adulthood. After sharing his story, we toured the building and as we walked more memories came back. He told me a story involving a Mr. Sexton who had taught the youth. He said that he can still remember those lessons even though they occurred over forty years early. As our time ended, he said that he had come back just to say thank you and share in some of the things had he had been blessed with as a youth. I got his name and address so that we can remain in touch. He was transformed through a relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship was founded through the efforts and dedication of a few who heard calling them to service.

I write this just to say that if you are fearful of the future, remember that you are influencing the future every time you share your faith with another person. That sharing can take the form of a story, a silent presence or in this case as a youth leader. This member no longer lives in the area and all of his ties to this community are gone. Yet, the seeds that were planted here so many years ago have taken root and bore fruit. Perhaps, the future that God would have us seek will be written on the hearts of those whom we share God's love with today. We may never see the end result. Yet, this child of God who was taught the ways of the Lord came home one more time to say, "Thank you!"

Peace,

*Pastor Ed.*

**JANUARY EVENTS**

1st	12pm Kenneth Demaree's Birthday Celebration 12:30pm UTS Praise Team Practice
2nd	6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615
3rd	1pm WUMW 6:30pm Daisy 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm WUMC Staff Parish meeting
5th	5pm Free Community Meal @ UTS 5:30pm Tutoring @ UTS 6:30pm Girl Scouts
7th	8am-10:30am Girl Scout pancake breakfast
9th	6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615 7pm Finance
10th	6:30pm Daisy 7pm ACT Drama Team rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts
12th	5pm Free Community Meal @ UTS 5:30pm Tutoring @ UTS 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Prayer Shawls
14th	8:30am Scrapbooking
15th	4pm Emmaus Reunion Group
16th	6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615 7pm Trustees
17th	6:30 Clover 4H 6:30pm Daisy 7pm Boy Scouts
19th	5pm Free Community Meal @ UTS 5:30pm Tutoring @ UTS 6:30pm Girl Scouts
21st	Church Becoming
23rd	6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615
24th	6:30pm Daisy 7pm ACT Drama Team rehearsal 7pm Boy Scouts
25th	7pm Administrative Board
26th	5pm Free Community Meal @ UTS 5:30pm Tutoring @ UTS 6:30pm Girl Scouts
30th	6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack 615
31st	6:30pm Daisy 7pm Boy Scouts

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & CELEBRATIONS**

2nd	Randi Stocker Kenneth Demaree
3rd	Myra Bell
5th	Linda Allen Barbara Craig Norma Fansler
7th	Del Allen
8th	Virgil Coburn
9th	Kenneth Coy
12th	Kathy Houseman
13th	Justin Kinney
14th	Stephen Camden
15th	Eileen & Matt Mathews Anniversary
17th	Gary Coleman Dorothy Hayes
18th	Sommur Skaggs Linda & Del Allen Anniversary
20th	Dave Ketterer
21st	Jane & Tim White Anniversary
30th	T.J. Karon

**WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9am	Adult Sunday School (FH) Youth & children (upstairs)
10am	Worship
11am	Children Sunday School
11:15am	Worship at UTS
5pm	Senior High Youth
5:15pm	UTS Praise Team (UTS)
6:30pm	Adult Choir Practice

**Just a Quick Reminder!**

If you or the group you participate in uses the Church facilities for meetings, please remember to shut off ALL the lights when you leave! Also if you use the upstairs classrooms, please return the thermostat to the temperature it was on when you first got there. Thank you!

With the upcoming year the wonderful staff of Guardian Angel Daycare is looking for some assistants. Mainly just 1 or 2 people who are able to fill in when needed. If you or someone you know may be interested in helping out you can contact Linda Wuest at 535-0679.

...There's a change in the weather

There's a change in the sea

So from now on

There'll be a change in me.

My walk will be different, my talk and my name,

Ain't nothing' about me gonna be the same...

An old friend visited Whiteland last weekend and gave us a copy of the July 1st Bulletin for 1962. You wouldn't believe the changes that have taken place since then. For example: Sunday School attendance was 163.

Change is inevitable and this is the time of year when we all get pumped up to change all sorts of things about ourselves. We call these things our New Year's resolutions for more than three months?

Speaking of changes, 2012 will be a year of major changes in our church. We invite you to be involved in these changes. With God's help and your prayers, presence, gifts and service, we can do this!

**Keith Conrow**

**UMW Welcoming 2012**

To start the year off, the women will have circle meetings on Tuesday, January 3rd, at 1pm in the Annex. And on Wednesday, January 4th, at 7pm in the home of Sandy Eddy. Call Wilma Mitchell or Vicki Camden for info and/or a ride.

A wonderful time was enjoyed by all in the attendance at our Christ-

mas party on Wednesday, December 7th. The "goodies" were very tasty and plentiful so they were shared with the church's shut-ins (after indulging ourselves!).

The singing program by Francie Bond was most! Her husband provided background music and they make a very good team.

We received a thank you letter from Fletcher Place Community Center. They were most appreciative of the donations from our generous November 20th collection. Thank you for your items.

**Vicki Camden**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Mission Committee News**

Thanks again!! This time for hats, gloves and scarves. They will be needed when old man winter brings on the snow and frigid temperatures.

The money that was collected when ornaments were hung on the Sanctuary tree, will be given to the Benevolence Fund as the number of persons needing help continues

to grow.

I thank God for our caring congregation and look forward to His blessings in the New Year as we humbly serve and grow disciples.

As always feel free to call with questions or suggestions,

**Violet Money**

(317-535-4715)





Whiteland United Methodist Church has been nominated to participate in the Indiana Conference's Fruitful Congregation Journey- Small Church Initiative beginning February 2012.

**The Fruitful Congregation Journey-Small Church Initiative** is a team-based, leadership development discovery process that helps churches to more effectively carry out the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This process will help healthy, small churches build the leaders necessary to discern their next steps toward producing more effective ministry for the future. This process is also helpful for churches that are stuck or declining. It will help them build a leadership team to identify the areas that they need to focus on in order to move forward into greater effectiveness and to become more fruitful. In either case, this process allows churches to customize the directions and outcomes to fit their church's particular ministry context. It is not a "cookie-cutter" approach.

The Fruitful Congregations Journey- Small Church Initiative consists of the following three steps:

1. Shared Learning Experience (6 sessions, 12 months)
2. Consultation/Intervention Process (approximately 12 months)
3. Implementation of Prescriptions (12-18 months)

More information will be available on the Church website ([www.wumc-in.org](http://www.wumc-in.org))

*(I read this on the UMC.org website and thought you might like to read it as well. Pastor Ed.)*

### **The smell of Christmas is not always pretty**

By Bishop Sally Dyck\*

Imagine this. You go to church, and the pastor dumps a bag of manure in the center aisle. Soon the stench begins to overwhelm the other aromas: the cologne people received in their Christmas stockings, pine branches, candles burning.

That might be the best Christmas sermon you could receive: a sensory message that jars your thinking about what Christmas is.

You see, the Christmas story begins with a certain stench. It's not just the cattle in the barn, but an economic situation where the emperor is taking a census to increase taxes in an already depressed economy. Political situations where people live as captives. Personal situations, such as Mary giving birth away from home. Her new family being homeless.

Christmas was born in stench.

For many people this Christmas, life stinks. Today it stinks that Grandma has Alzheimer's and sometimes doesn't even recognize your voice. It stinks to get that cancer diagnosis. It stinks to endure surgery. For some, it stunk long before the economic downturn, before they lost their jobs, before they wondered if anything would ever be the way it once was, before they got cancer, before the divorce, before bad things happened. For others, the stink is fresh and new, overpowering in its physical and spiritual pungency. We've all faced times in our lives and with each other that stink.

But life stinks sometimes, whether we made the stink ourselves or it just happens to us like a pile of manure being dumped on our parade.

Yet, even in the midst of the stink, the message of Christmas is: God is with us . . . and there must be a pony in there somewhere!

But how will people know God is with us and there's hope, like getting that pony, unless we who claim faith in Christ Jesus share that love with them?

It's a sweet-smelling Christmas for others and us when we share the love of God, the love of family and a faith community, and a hope that only comes from Christ Jesus to make a difference in a world that sometimes really stinks.

\* Bishop Sally Dyck is episcopal leader of the Minnesota Area

## Meet the staff of Guardian Angel Daycare!

### Director: Mrs. Linda Wuest

Mrs. Linda Wuest has been with Guardian Angel Daycare since the first day we opened the doors in 1997, became the Director in 2000 and also has worked at pre-school since 1998. She has lived in Whiteland since 1980. She and her husband have 3 grown daughters. She has also received her C.D.A.. Mrs. Wuest is a member of Greenwood Christian Church. During her free time she enjoys playing with her grandchildren, reading, gardening and walking thru Brown County with her husband of 37 years.

### Paula Murrell

Paula Murrell has lived in Whiteland since 2002 with her loving husband. Mrs. Murrell and her husband have been married since 1987 and they have 2 wonderful children. She has been with GADCM since 2009. Previously she worked as a school bus driver for 3 years and a bridal consultant for 15 years. Mrs. Murrell is a member of Friendship Baptist Church, working as a teacher, a member of their choir, and assisting with the children's nursery as the assistant director. She loves reading, taking her children to sports activities, exercising, and listening to music.

### Renee McCoy

Renee McCoy received a Bachelor of Science Degree at Purdue University. She graduated high school in Franklin and now resides in Martinsville. She has home schooled her son for nine years. He attends IUPUI. The fall of 2005 is when she joined the GADCM staff. Her extra time is spent gardening, walking, scrap-booking, reading, and serving in various ministries.

### Heather Jenkins

Heather Jenkins has lived in Whiteland for seven years. She has been working at GADCM since 2010. She and her husband have 2 wonderful girls that attend Whiteland Elementary. She is currently going to school to become an elementary teacher. Mrs. Jenkins loves working with all the children, including reading silly stories. She attends Southpointe Church in Whiteland.

### Carla Walters (also a teacher for the preschool)

Carla Walters has lived in Whiteland since 1997. She began working at GADCM in 2000 and also at the Preschool in 2004. Mrs. Walters received her C.D.A. in Early Childhood. She is married and has 5 children, 3 are grown and 2 still in school. Mrs. Walters enjoys participating in messy ooey gooe activities with the daycare. Mrs. Walters attends Friendship Baptist Church. She is a 4-H leader and enjoys reading, scrap-booking, and watching her son play football.

### Debbie Tomey (also a teacher for the preschool)

Debbie Tomey has lived in Whiteland for 26 years. She and her husband have 3 grown children. A daughter and 2 sons. She has been with GADCM since 2009 and Guardian Angel Preschool since 1996, and has enjoyed every minute! Mrs. Tomey attends Fairhaven Christian Church. She enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, flea markets, antique shops, Colts football, and car shows.

## Meet the teachers of Guardian Angel Preschool!

### Director: Lisa Campbell

Lisa Campbell received her education degree from Indiana University in Indianapolis. She has lived in Whiteland her entire life. Mrs. Campbell graduated from Whiteland High School. Lisa and her husband have 2 grown daughters. She has worked with Guardian Angel Preschool since 1993. Mrs. Campbell is a member of Bluff Creek Christian Church, and enjoys camping, Colts football and her two dachshunds.



### Linda Fagras

Linda Fagras received an associate degree in Early Childhood Education. She has lived in Whiteland most of her life and graduated from Whiteland High School. She and her husband have 3 grown children, 2 sons and 1 daughter. She has worked with Guardian Angel Preschool since 1994. Mrs. Fagras is a member of Franklin Memorial Christian Church. She has been a 4-H Leader since 1980. She enjoys sewing, baking and making crafts.

I would just like to thank the members of WUMC for the Christmas card and gift!!

**Allison Belcas**

**Thank you to the members of the congregation  
from the Fisher family for the gift they received.  
It was a blessing and very much appreciated.**

### 2012 Daily Bible Reading Plan

*In response to a question concerning a daily bible reading plans, please find below one type of bible reading plan. If you do not currently read your bible and would like help in doing so, please feel free to follow this one. Each month a new set of scriptures will appear in the newsletter. There are many such plans available on-line and in print, I would encourage you to find one that fits you.  
Peace, Pastor Ed.*

Jan 1	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28	Col. 1:9-20	Luke 2:22-40
Jan 2	1 Kg 19:1-8	Eph 4:1-16	John 6:1-14
Jan 3	1 Kg 19:9-18	Eph 4:17-32	John 6:15-27
Jan 4	Josh 3:14-4:7	Eph 5:1-20	John 9:1-12, 35-38
Jan 5	Prov 2:1-15	Col 3:12-17	John 6:41-47
Jan 6	Isa 49:1-7	Rev 21:22-27	Matt 2:14-21
Jan 7	Deut 8:1-3	Col 1:1-14	John 6:30-33,
Jan 8	Gen 1:1-2:3	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:29-34
Jan 9	Gen 2:4-25	Heb 1:1-15	John 1:1-18
Jan 10	Gen 3:1-24	Heb 2:1-10	John 1:19-28
Jan 11	Gen 4:1-16	Heb 2:11-18	John 1:29-42
Jan 12	Gen 4:17-26	Heb 3:1-11	John 1:43-51
Jan 13	Gen 6:1-8	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:1-12
Jan 14	Gen 6:9-22	Heb 4:1-13	John 2:13-22
Jan 15	Gen 7:1-10, 17-23	Eph 4:1-16	Mark 3:7-19
Jan 16	Gen 8:6-22	Heb 4:14-5:6	John 2:23-3:15
Jan 17	Gen 9:1-17	Heb 5:7-14	John 3:16-21
Jan 18	Gen 9:18-29	Heb 6:1-12	John 3:22-36
Jan 19	Gen 11:1-9	Heb 6:13-20	John 4:1-15
Jan 20	Gen 11:27-12:8	Heb 7:1-17	John 4:16-26
Jan 22	Gen 12:9-13:1	Heb 7:18-28	John 4:27-42
Jan 22	Gen 13:2-18	Gal 2:1-10	Mark 7:31-37
Jan 23	Gen 14:1-24	Heb 8:1-13	John 4:43-54
Jan 24	Gen 15:1-11, 17-21	Heb 9:1-14	John 5:1-18
Jan 25	Gen 16:1-14	Heb 9:15-28	John 5:19-29
Jan 26	Gen 16:15-17:14	Heb 10:1-10	John 5:30-47
Jan 27	Gen 17:15-27	Heb 10:11-25	John 6:1-15
Jan 28	Gen 18:1-16	Heb 10:26-39	John 6:16-27
Jan 29	Gen 18:16-33	Gal 5:13-25	Mark 8:22-30
Jan 30	Gen 19:1-29	Heb 11:1-12	John 6:27-40
Jan 31	Gen 21:1-21	Heb 11:13-22	John 6:41-51

## Upcoming Events in the District

### Save the Dates!

### Central District Conference

Sunday, January 15, 2012  
at Indianapolis Christ UMC  
3:00 p.m.

Please put this date on your calendar so you don't miss it!

### Leadership Training in the Central District for all Lay Leadership

Thurs, Jan 26, 7-9 pm or  
Sun, Jan 29, 1:30-5 (2 sessions)



**District Lay Leader Training When and Where:** Thursday Jan 26, 7-9 pm at Avon UMC and Sunday Jan 29, 1:30-5 pm at Plainfield UMC (2 sessions)

**Topics:** Staff /Pastor/Parish Relations, Worship, Missions, Finance, Administrative/ Church Council, Social media and communication, clergy spouse support.

**Why attend?** Here is the description of the session on Worship: *Of all the things a church does, worship is the unique heart of everything. The purpose of the workshop is to help Worship Chairs and Worship Leaders to enhance the experience for all worshippers, and to provide practical answers to the real everyday questions every worship leader has to face. Come prepared to ask lots of questions and have lots of interaction.*

Of the Social media and communications session: *Social Media can be a powerful tool for outreach and ministry. Many churches are unsure how to begin or make the most of the opportunities they have. In this workshop we'll talk about the Why, What and How of basic social media. We'll also help you develop a social media strategy and give you resources to sharpen your skills and increase your impact.*

There is much more that will be offered and you have three opportunities to take in as much information as you want -- one class on Thursday night; choose two on Sunday afternoon.

### Our Life Together

February 16-17, 2012

St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis

Annual Spiritual Retreat for all Indiana UM clergy

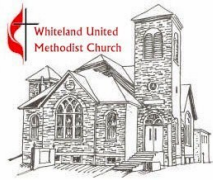
Registration begins 12/1 at [www.inumc.org](http://www.inumc.org)

### Lenten Kick-off Breakfast

Feb 25, 2012, 8:00 a.m.

University of Indianapolis

Plan now to be there!



Whiteland United Methodist Church  
 309 Main Street  
 Whiteland, IN 46184

### USHERS, GREETERS, NURSERY ATTENDANTS & LITURGISTS SCHEDULE

JANUARY	1ST	8TH	15TH	22ND	29TH
<b>USHERS</b>	Steve Sowder Jerry Lasiter Glenn Havemn Clarence Money	Jack Privett Clarence Money Nolan Mitchell Dean Houseman	Clarence Money Wayne Fansler Merrill Eddy Jerry Lasiter	Steve Sowder Jerry Lasiter Clarence Money Kenneth Demaree	Jack Privett Clarence Money Nolan Mitchell Dean Houseman
<b>GREETERS</b>	Jack and Joan Privett	Merrill and Sandy Eddy	Ruth Kelsay and Glenna Harmon	Wayne and Norma Fansler	Clarence and Violet Money
<b>NURSERY ATTENDANTS</b>	Louise Brinkman		Barbara Demaree		
<b>LITURGISTS</b>	Violet Money				