



First United
Methodist Church
116 W. Broadway
Alexandria, IN 46001

Address Service Requested

Rev. Jean Brindel, Pastor
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Services – 11:00 a.m.

Our church website: <http://www.alexfirstumc.org>
Church email: alexfirst@sbcglobal.net
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.;
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Office phone: 765-724-3411; FAX 765-724-9592

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Alexandria First United Methodist Church

REFLECTOR

...Open Minds...Open Hearts...Open Doors

September 2011

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REACHING OUT WITH VBS

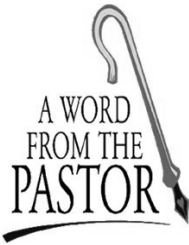
Hometown Nazareth Vacation Bible School was a complete success!! With the combined efforts of five area churches, we were able to reach 55 kids and raise \$477 for the local ERF. Our days in Hometown Nazareth included trips to the marketplace to make homemade wind chimes and learn about Joseph's carpentry methods. We also paid daily visits to Mary's house where we learned about some of the stories of Jesus' childhood and his first miracle! The tribes were even able to convince her nosy neighbor Eunice to believe that Jesus was God's son! We completed our week with a singing performance for family and friends. Thank you for all of the support you've given and we're already looking forward to next summer's VBS!



YOUTH GROUP BEGINS

The Education Committee met on Sunday, July 31 to discuss plans for a Middle School Youth Group.

The group is planning its first outing **September 11th**. Kids in 5-8th grades are invited to a youth kickoff to be held at the home of Dan & Leslie Richardson 1-4:00 p.m. Bring a friend and a bathing suit. We are hoping to build a program in which these pre-adolescents can grow into Christ and fellowship with friends while making some amazing memories! The Junior Youth group will continue to meet most Sundays, beginning September 18 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the church.



At the writing of this article, my tomato plants have no tomatoes. Blooms - yes, tomatoes - no. This time of year I'm usually trying to give them away, but not this year. I'm not sure if it was the heat, the date I planted them, or if they are just not good plants. It really doesn't matter much which it is, because I'm buying tomatoes.

Last year the crop (all three plants – I live in the city and use a part of my flower bed), had problems too. I decided it was the type of plant, so this year I purchased a different variety, used a different fertilizer and water them more. The petunias are happy, which I guess is something, but no tomatoes.

So, now it is on to next year; I'm looking at the soil and wondering if I need to use more fertilizer, get a different "new" variety of tomato or simply plant more petunias.

The church is a lot like that too. As a congregation we try to grow in our faith, and we also work pretty hard at bringing new people into the church. We have dinners, offer classes, invite our friends to worship, and do a lot of things to raise up new people for Christ. And guess what, it is working!!

The good news is that, the efforts of this congregation are indeed fruitful. Attendance is up and giving is up. A new youth group is beginning on Sept. 11th for Jr. High age kids. And, this is really important, since January, there have been four adults who have joined the church all by confession of faith, and a confirmation class of four youth.

I'm going to take a page from this congregation. I'm going to rework the soil, put down more nutrients for next spring and keep at it, oh yes, and trust that God is faithful.

In the mean time, I'll buy some tomatoes and water the petunias and enjoy the wonder of God's blessing. Oh yes, and continue to celebrate God's faithfulness as we look to next year.

THE BRASSWINDS REBUILDING

Ron Beard has been working hard to find a replacement for our first chair trumpet player Dr. Fred Owen. Fred was a musical inspiration for the band and is sorely missed. If you know any trumpet players, call Ron or David Steele.

The BrassWinds debuted in 2002 with musicians of all ages. It has been in continuous existence since that time. Frequent appearances during the church service, seasonal concerts and guest appearances have made the band a success.

CHOIR TO START SOON

Choir practice will start again the first Thursday after Labor Day, September 8th. Practices will be from 6-7:00 p.m. on Thursdays, and from 10:15-11:00 on Sundays. **If anyone is interested, but cannot come to the Thursday practice, they can always come to practice on Sundays.**



"As a new choir member, you must take an oath that you will never appear on 'American Idol.'"

SUMMER RECESS ENDS FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS SUNDAY CLASS

The Social Concerns class began meeting August 21 at 9:30 and opened with Fellowship time. Coffee and pastries are always available and are furnished by Eleanor Wilson. Sally Cuneo is still around to help.

A quick survey of the class indicated that the class desired to maintain its current format. Martin and Donna Koob said, "Why change a good thing."

Bill Gaither was a hit earlier this month and Gloria is still in line for her appearance. Others this year will include Chris Young, Sheriff Ron Richardson, religious scholar Tim Miller, Quinn Pickett (yes, he was lost, but now he is found), Fred Harting, church musician and many others. If you like lively church music, George Smith and David Steele will accompany as we sing the favorites.

A new hymn from an early Methodist Episcopal hymnal will be introduced. The unusual text says, "He is a drunk." Hymns were different then and the piece was donated by one of our members who was a well known business man.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS CHURCH INCREASED GIVING

The Finance Committee reports that the church members have stepped up and giving has been great. Increases by many have filled the coffers so our bills can be paid quickly.

This year, for the first time in a long time, tithes are paid (apportionments) and we have been building a reserve of funds for future programs.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Methodist men invite all men of the church to join them for a breakfast meeting to be held Sunday September 4th at 8:00 a.m. We will be discussing our annual meal we serve to the community. Tentative plans are for the meal to take place October 15th.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please help us keep our prayer list updated of any changes, additions or names that might need to be removed. Contact the Pastor or church office.



Current Request: Anna Wormer (cancer surgery), Betty Follis (broken hip – at Manor Care, room 104), Dorothy DeVoe (recouping

at Morrison Woods, room 208), Rose Loy (mother of Leslie Richardson hospitalized with infection)

Ongoing Requests: Jeanette Guthrie (knee replacement), Mike Robbins, Kaye Cox, Emily Owens, Dan Campbell (brother of Irene Campbell), Brent Bridwell

Battling Cancer: Heather Beardsley (friend of Vickie Griffin & Donna Townsend), Marvin Davis, JoAnne Thomas

Shut-ins: Irene Campbell (Summitville Convalescent Center); Hazel (Hanlin) Glentzer (Alexandria Care Center), Brent Bridwell

Service Personnel: Pray for peace, pray for military personnel



September 2011



Sunday School
9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m.

Birthdays!!

- 1 Barbara Garringer
- 13 Ona Kay Sigler
- 16 Dorothy DeVoe
- 26 Jon Cooper
- 28 Kandi Alexander
- 29 Jill R. Scott

Anniversaries!!

- 5 Jim & Ona Kay Sigler
- 24 Dennis & Becky Owen



www.Alexfirstumc.org

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	3
4 United Methodist Men Breakfast 8:00 am	5	6 Nominating Committee 1:00 pm Trustees 3:00 pm	7 Congregational Care 9:00 am	8	9 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	10 Wedding of Andrew Sizelove & Laura DeLong
11 Youth Kickoff (grades 5-8) at home of Dan & Leslie Richardson 1-4:00 pm	12	13 Strategic Planning Cmte. 6:30 pm	14	16	16 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	17
18 After Worship Fellowship Jr. Youth Group 5-6:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	24
25 Jr. Youth Group 5-6:30 pm	26	27	28	29	30 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 pm	

