



The Link



4th Avenue United Methodist Church, 318 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, Ky. 40203 502-585-2176
Official Supporter of the Fairness Campaign
Pastor: Rev. Jean Hawxhurst
August 2008

Some challenging Thoughts From Pastor Jean

I just finished reading an article in Lexington Seminary's newsletter, named The Bulletin. The article (Vol. 44, No. 2, "Caring for Our Space," p.6-7) was about a new professor, named Emily Askew, who joined the seminary faculty last fall as an assistant professor of theology. In her installation sermon, Dr. Askew asked her students to "recognize that the interpretations of space have theological implication for all issues and they affect the quality of life on earth." Issues of justice are reflected in how we see, and use, our holy spaces, so she suggested people train their eyes to see a vision of the Kingdom of God through the spaces in which they worship and live.

The article reminded me of the installation service of our friend Claudio Carvalhaes when he became an assistant professor of worship here at Louisville seminary. Interestingly, his sermon was on the very same subject. Dr. Carvalhaes talked about worship space as sacred space, but he also asked the congregation to think about who does not feel welcome in that space. He strung bright yellow caution tape across the baptismal font and across the front door. He also had enlisted people to silently walk around the worship space, wearing signs around their necks with words like "sexual abuse victim," or "sight impaired." Claudio wanted to make the point that we keep people out of our worship space by the subtle things we do.

Both of these young theologians seem to be calling thinking Christians to analyze our worship spaces, and I think that's a great request. Is our space welcoming to guests, and if not, how can we make it more hospitable? Do we use items in our worship that not everyone understands, and what do those items say? What does it mean that we have a balcony and a choir loft? What does it mean that the pulpit is in the center, and the font is off to the side? What are we missing, because we have gotten used to our space, that would be helpful to those who have not yet come through our doors?

Please help me think about these things and share your thoughts and suggestions. We are so very, very blessed by our beautiful worship spaces. Let's make sure we are using them in the best ways possible. And, let's always think theologically about what we are doing.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Jean.



Jean Hawxhurst

New Sunday School Class

A new small group class has started on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Upper Room. The class is open to all people who are not currently in a class and want to have open discussions about the Bible and theological issues. Chris Baker and Jack Steiner are leading the class and you are welcome to talk with them for more information.

New Bible Study

Dr. Dean Harper of St. Paul United Methodist Church will begin leading a new Bible study for our community and church. The Bible study will be held in the Art Room on Saturdays at 11:15 a.m., beginning on August 9th. Everyone is welcome.

Youth

Craig Tuck will be taking over the leadership of the Sunday morning class for youth. It meets on the second floor of the Education Wing at 9:30 a.m.

Grief Group

Dr. Wayne Anderson is now leading a monthly grief group for any persons interested. For more information contact Wayne at wrapjo@bellsouth.net. The next meeting will be August 10th.

Tri-covenant Justice Retreat

Our Tri-Covenant partner churches will join together for a Saturday retreat to look at how our different denominations make decisions on justice issues. We will talk about United Methodist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic views on social justice, and how we may work together in our community. The retreat will take place soon. Stay tuned for more information.

Wednesday Evening Forums

We are taking a summer break from our Wednesday evening forums, although Wednesday prayer time continues from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. every week. The United Methodist Women's annual picnic/potluck will be held on Wednesday August 27th to get us started again. After that, in September, we will start the forums up again in a very different way. We are working toward a coffee house atmosphere with a time of worship at the beginning. Stay tuned, it's going to be great!

Art and Spirituality

Our art shows continue to grace our Central Hall. We thank the needlework group for our current show. We are also having a great time with the weekly cooking classes. If you have an artistic talent you would like to share, please let Courtland Rose know.



Needlecraft's display

Thanks to Wilma Larkins, Carole Rhodes, MT Rose, Caryl Keeley, Paula Sammons and Gil and Bettye Schroerlucke for sharing their beautiful creations!

Landscapes by Lisa Schmitt will be on display from August 4th through September 7th. Her meet 'n greet will be after the worship service on Sunday, August 10th.

Cooking Classes in The Fellowship Hall Kitchen will continue in August. Please let the chefs know if you plan to attend. The schedule is as follows: (Please notice changes in times)

- * Friday, August 1st - 2 - 4 PM — Jacqui Lovett...Friday
- * Tuesday, August 5th - 2 - 4 PM - Tasha Coffey & Jake Marino
- * TBA
- * Tuesday, August 19th - 9 - 11 AM - Touria Lemfarrege - Oceanside Restaurant, owner/chef
- * Tuesday, August 26th - 2 - 4 PM - Sally Rose

Thanks to the July chefs for all their hard work and great dishes! Paula, David Stewart, & Carol Rhodes. Edy and her daughter, Lisa, prepared a Tea Room setting. Lisa actually operates a Tea Room in Virginia.

Children's Ministry

Our children are important to us, and Sami Baker is doing a wonderful job leading in that ministry. However, we are now required to follow all Safe Sanctuary rules, and we need more people to help out on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to have a background check done, so you can volunteer, please see Pastor Jean. If you have already had your check done, please see Sami to let her know when you can volunteer.

MSW Intern

We will be blessed this school year to add another wonderful addition to our ministry at Fourth Avenue. Jimmy Rittmann is a Masters of Social Work student at the University of Louisville. He will be doing his practical field work with our neighborhood, and he will have an office in our building. Pastor Sarah, who is also an MSW, will be his supervisor. Jimmy will be working mostly with our Open Door ministry guests, but he will also be available if you have a question about social services in the city. We continue to be so blessed!

Community Back-to-school Party

The Children's Ministry Team of Christ Church UM has volunteered to help us again this year with the third annual back-to-school party for our neighborhood children and children from the district Hispanic Ministry. It will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday August 6th. As you will remember from previous years, this is a great time to get to know some of our neighborhood children, and to help them with needed school supplies for the upcoming year. Watch the bulletin announcements for more details.

Newcomers' Class

If you are new to the United Methodist Church, or new to Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church, you are invited to attend our next newcomers' class. It will be held August 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 9:30 a.m. in the Upper Room. Dr. Charles Brockwell and Pastor Jean will be the teachers, and you may ask them if you have any questions.

Church Calendar

Aug. 1 – Small Group Kick-Off Cookout in Central Park
Aug. 5 – Trustees – 6:00 p.m.
Aug. 6 – Back-to-School Party – 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 9 – New Saturday Bible Study – 11:15 a.m. in Art Room
Aug 9 - UMM - 9:30 am
Aug. 10 – Newcomers' Class – 9:30 a.m. – Archives Room
Aug. 13 – Stewardship Committee – 6:00 p.m.
Aug. 16 – Progressive United Methodists of Kentucky – Place - DuVal Center
Aug. 17 – Newcomers' Class – 9:30 a.m.
Aug. 17 – CLOUT House Meeting – 12:30 p.m.
Aug. 23 – HELP Ministries Yard Sale in garden
Aug. 23 – Nurture Team Ice Cream Social – 1:00 p.m. in the garden
Aug. 24 – Newcomers' Class – 9:30 a.m.
Aug. 27 – UMW Potluck
Aug. 28 – Ad Hoc Community Meeting – 3:30 p.m.
Aug. 31 – Newcomers' Class – 9:30 a.m.
Aug. 31 – MIRACLE SUNDAY

Church Needs

- C a tenant for our third floor Education Wing offices.
- C volunteers for the children's ministry program.
- C someone interested in taking on the project of remodeling our bathrooms.
... if you can help with any of these, please see Pastor Jean.

Thank You's

- U to Steve Wenger who volunteers to help the Trustees with handiwork jobs around the church building.
- U to Russell Behanan who has served our music ministry well these last months.
- U to Gil Schroerlucke who rebuilt two different railings to keep us safe.



Gil at work on the railing

- U to the anonymous donors who recently gave beautiful multi-cultural artwork to our church.
- U to Derby Printing for printing bulletin covers and fellowship cards for us at no cost.
- U to our Open Door volunteers.
- U to all those who have recently been chefs in our cooking classes.

The Methodist Mountain Mission truck will be at 4th Ave. Aug. 12th. Bring your items to church before then.

Church-wide Yard Sale to Benefit Help Ministries

On Saturday, August 23rd we will join our ecumenical partners again for a large yard sale! Christ Church Cathedral, The Cathedral of the Assumption and Fourth Avenue will hold this giant yard sale in our Fourth Avenue garden area.

Please start collecting items, and watch the bulletin for directions for when and where to deliver them.

Congratulations

- 4 Russ Behanan for being elected to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC.
- 4 to Jackson Dean/Jean Craig who was baptized in July.
- 4 to April DuVal for whom the new DuVal Center on Fourth Street was named.
- 4 to Pastor Jean who was elected as the Vice Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Kentucky Conference.
- 4 to Karen Rankin and Ron Newbold who were married in July.



Ron and Karen cut their wedding cake.

August Birthdays

- August 5 - Vivian Mitchell **
- August 8 - Norvin Fust
- August 12 - Clyde Bennett **
- August 12 - Elizabeth Rector
- August 13 - Elizabeth Bruce **
- August 15 - Lorene Humphress

** Although they are no longer with us, we remember Vivian, Clyde, and Elizabeth in our thoughts and prayers on their "special" day!

Memorials and Honorarium

Gifts to the church in memory of Harold Williams have been given by Polly Bennett, Rev. Bill Bowling, Mary Kay Carter, Ila R. Decker, Mrs. Alton Lawhorn, Lucy Mitchell, Gil & Bettye Schroerlucke and Charles & Joyce Wilmoth

A gift to the church in honor of Jackson Craig was given by James and Jacquelyn Craig.

Miracle Sunday

Miracle Sunday was started several years ago when our congregation was experiencing financial difficulties. Those of strong faith in the church knew if we believed in a miracle, God would provide. A special Sunday was designated, the congregation prayed, everyone offered what we could, and the church financial situation was greatly improved. Over the years, the tradition of believing in God's grace continued, and in the 1990's the specific concern of a new roof was named as the need for a miracle.

Again, the money came in and the roof was completed. In more recent years, our financial situation has improved, but there was still no extra money in the budget for additional repairs and improvements to the building and campus. Miracle Sunday came to the rescue again when we needed our parking lot paved, when the balcony in the parlor began to sag and we needed several repairs to beams. Two years ago, the miracle came in the form of new pieces of technological equipment to enhance our ministry, and last year's money was generously given to improve several things on the St. Catherine side of our building.

We are still in process of working on the St. Catherine improvements. The security video camera was installed so Jeanne Parcher can see who is ringing the office door bell, but we have not yet received final approval from the city planning commission for the hoped for lift and awnings. Our Trustees assure us progress will be made very soon. This year our Stewardship Committee is going to sponsor Miracle Sunday again, but this year we hope everyone will give toward the general operating budget. We are running a

deficit, which is normal for this time of the year. But, with an unexpected large LG&E bill, and the economy turning downward, we want to make sure we are able to continue the quality of ministry we have once again achieved. Please prayerfully consider giving an “above-and-beyond” gift for Miracle Sunday on August 31st. We believe God believes in us, and we hope you believe, too!

Open Door Update

The ministry continues to be a blessing to our neighbors, and we continue to be greatly blessed with wonderful volunteers and financial gifts. For the last several months, under Jacqui Lovett’s leadership, we have been able to add a piece of fruit with every lunch. There are also groups around the city who are volunteering to make healthy casseroles for some of our Saturday lunches. If you want to help out, see Jacqui!

Cooking Class

The Cooking Class recently took the form of a Tea Party led by Edy Johnson and her daughter Lisa who actually runs a Tea Room in Virginia.



The “Tea Party” in action.

David Stewart’s cooking class created a beautiful rendition of Monkey Bread pictured below.



The next "Grief Support Group" will meet at 9:30am on Sunday, August 10th, in the Library.

“It Takes A Family”

Jackson Craig’s recent baptism was a family affair. Jackson had something to say about it though no one can figure out what that was.



Congratulations to Fourth Avenue charge conference member Rev. Lisa Schmitt, who has passed her certification for membership in the Association of Professional Chaplains. Lisa is a staff chaplain at University of Louisville Hospital and may now include the initials BCC (Board Certified Chaplain) in her professional signature. It's a stellar achievement. Way to go, Lisa!

An Ice Cream Witness

On Saturday, July 19, the Nurture Committee served free ice cream cones to passers by. Several community people stopped by for a chat and seemed appreciative of the free ice cream cone. Just another way Fourth Ave. lets its witness happen. One man asked for a Bible while another a bus ticket. Still others just said “thank you” and moved on. We’ll repeat this activity on Aug. 16th.



The ice cream witness



The Tenfelde Garden Party

By Mary Ann Tenfelde

As of press time we do not have a final total on the amount raised at Tenfeldes' annual garden party for the Open Door. Some people were still making donations on Sunday, but the total received at the party itself was \$1002.00. We had approximately 20 people from 4th Ave. attend and a total of approx. 75 friends and neighbors were present all together. The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all.

What a joy it was to see everyone enjoying the day and meeting new people. We want to thank everyone for coming and making the day so special. We love to celebrate all the beauty that God has made possible for all of us to enjoy.

The Open Door is in the process of purchasing a new 49 cubic foot True commercial refrigerator for the kitchen and we hope to have the existing dishwasher serviced so it can be back in operating condition. This ministry has been so blessed and continues to thrive at a time when it is needed more than ever in our neighborhood. Thanks be to God for all his many blessings! Thank you to all the many volunteers that make this ministry possible.

A Bit Of History

By Sally Rose

Circle Fellowship Class

Before there was the Keystone Circle Fellowship Class, there were the Circle Fellowship and the Keystone Classes. You've heard a little about the Keystone Class heritage in a previous LINK. We now do the same for Circle Fellowship.

Many members of the Circle Fellowship Class had been in Maude Maston's Christian Co-Ed Class for teens. Some of us even met our spouses there! Eventually we moved on to college and jobs.

The Circle Fellowship Class was formed in 1949 to meet the changing interests of members, now married couples and working persons, college students and returning World War II veterans.

Dr. Duncan King and Ashar Tullis taught the class. Members of the class shared the teaching responsibilities when Ashar left after 20 years. We chose our own lesson material with books that addressed a broad range of Christian thoughts and ideas. A stimulating class, we tolerated and encouraged creative thinking and discussion.

We raised our many children together at Fourth Avenue....even to the extent of trying together to steer some away from the wrong direction.(The 60's brought challenges for many of us!)

We formed a theatrical group called The Fellowship Players (I think). Duncan was one of its Directors. Many members of the church acted in the plays. Others became stage hands, costume and set designers, make-up artists and baby sitters..

We had a banquet every year and enjoyed being in members' homes or on overnight trips to Camp Piomingo.

Original members of the class who are still at



A snapshot from the past of Circle Fellowship
Sitting: L to R: Dick Ernst, Sally Rose, Jack Mather, Mary K. Mather Standing L to R: Judy Ernst, Mary Alice Bush Dobbs,

Fourth Avenue are; Charlie and Joyce Wilmoth, Jeanne Parcher, Mary Alice Bush Dobbs, W.D. Bruce, Sally Rose, Mary K. Mather, Gloria Hall and Dick Ernst.

We have continued through the years, with a changing and growing membership, to search for better ways to lead effective Christian lives and to address issues of social justice and contemporary challenges that face Christians in our community and in the world.

The Keystone Class merged with the Circle Fellowship Class two years ago. This brought an important new dimension to both classes. We now call ourselves The Keystone Circle Fellowship Class.

Health Notes

Ila Cornett Decker, Parish Nurse

According to several ongoing studies, listening to music plays an important role in regulating heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate during medical treatment and may be helpful in reducing feelings of fear and anxiety that can interfere with healing.

Walking is inexpensive, one of the easiest ways to be physically active and can be done almost anywhere and anytime. Walking can give you more energy, reduce stress, help you relax and lower your risk of chronic diseases such as, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. For more information, click on the International Council on Active Aging Web site at <http://www.icaa.cc/walkinghome.htm>.

Middle age is not too late to adopt a healthy diet and lifestyle to positively affect your heart, general health and longevity, says Dr. Dana King of the Medical University of South Carolina. King and colleagues studied some 16,000 men and women, ages 45 to 64, and found heart-healthy habits -- diet, exercise, maintaining a good weight and not smoking -- reduced their risk of death by 40% and their risk of heart problems by 35%.

Two Safe Sitter classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 28 and Saturday, August 9 at Norton Suburban Hospital, Medical Plaza III. These classes are for kids ages 11 to 13 interested in learning how to handle emergencies when caring for younger children. The cost of this one-day class is \$30. For additional information or to register, click on www.NortonBaby.com <<http://www.nortonbaby.com/>> .

In an effort to prevent high school dropouts, the Mayor of Louisville Metro and the Superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools are hosting Graduate Greater Louisville: High School Dropout Solutions Summit from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30 at Bellarmine University. For additional information, click on http://www.louisvilleky.gov/oyd/dropout_summit.

Think Green!

By Courtland Rose

Since signing the Covenant and becoming a member, we attended our first Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (KIPL) organization gathering on Saturday, July 19 at the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center. A strong representation of faith-based communities shared what their respective group was doing to lessen their affect on global warming as part of their journey of caring for God's creation.

A light lunch comprised of locally grown produce purchased from a local grocer was served. During the lunch hour, a video, Lighten Up, (produced by The Regeneration Project), about global warming was shown. A brief energetic discussion followed its showing.

The next meeting is November 1. To learn more about KIPL, visit www.kentuckyipl.org. Another recommended site is www.thegreeningoflouisville.org

Bats Game

Thanks to all who came out to the Bats game in July. Fourth Avenue had over 40 people in attendance and a great time was had by all!

(Note: The following appeared in the newsletter of the First UMC Madison, WI. where our son, Keith, is pastor. I thought you might appreciate it. It is written by one of the church's staff. Ed.)

"About two weeks ago, Dennis Anderson called me as he was leaving the building to get some lunch. He asked me if I had hired someone to wash the Northex windows. My reply was, "No, why? He then told me that there was a gentleman washing the windows with his own equipment. A few minutes later I went down to check out the situation. What I discovered was a friendly, soft-spoken gentleman who greeted me warmly as he was packing up his cleaning supplies. I probably had a quizzical look on my face, because he then began to tell me this story. He explained that a couple of years ago, he had been homeless. At some point he made his way to our church and was given help at our Food Pantry. He also told me that he had had a very encouraging conversation with the Pastor. In the intervening months, he was able to get back on his feet. He has started his own office cleaning business and his wife completed her schooling and now has a good job in the medical field. With a beaming smile he reported that they recently closed on a small condominium in Sun Praire. He then said that, with his fortunes turned around, he felt compelled to give back to those who helped him during his time of need. What I found so touching about what he had done was the fact that he simply started cleaning the windows. He expected neither recognition nor compensation. This was a gift to us, freely given. Like grace."

The Quit Impulse

By Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew

(The following article by Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew was copied from *The Kindred Connection* - the newsletter of the Parents Reconciling Network who state "We envision a United Methodist Church which in both policy and practice accords all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, full participation in the life of the church.")

The quit impulse--we all know it. The United Methodist Church upholds the ruling that clergy can deny congregants membership for being gay? I quit. Prospect Park UMC is ripping out half the pews? I quit. Our pastor is leaving after three short years? Well, then, I will too. There are a thousand good reasons for quitting an institution as flawed as the church. Shall I name a few? The appointment system which strips congregations of their self-determination, the patriarchy which perpetuates domineering images of God and unhealthy governing bodies, rampant homophobia, exasperating committee work... Need I go on?

I don't blame anyone for jumping ship. Each fresh injustice triggers in me the quit impulse-- I'm out of here! Anger, impatience, self-righteousness, fear, and despair grab the upper hand and faith, for a time, disappears. I'm glad for these emotions, I even wallow in them, because they inform me of my moral bearings. They reflect my deep engagement with life. If I was complacent or uninvested, I wouldn't care.

But each time I feel the quit impulse I must discipline myself to enter a period of discernment. While quitting a relationship is appropriate if it is abusive or no longer life-giving but quitting because of human foibles and institutional malfunctions and the angry impulse to show them often solves nothing. Individuals will always disappoint.

Institutions will always malfunction. The poor we will always have with us. While other churches look golden, they're not. Ditching religion entirely brings its own problems. If my body and spirit aren't being damaged, I must discern instead where God is working in this mess. I must return to faith.

Faith, as I understand it, is not blind trust that everything will work out or that the authorities know best. They most certainly don't. In adverse times, God asks of us a proactive faith which may include quitting the church but never means quitting the journey. God calls us into deeper trust in ourselves, our community, and a love far greater than us. What is solid here? What is sustaining? Our innate sense of justice. The slow work of social change. Friendships across years. The daily practice of opening our hearts. The challenge of inclusive welcome. This journey is hard, hard, hard. I'm grateful to you, my companions on the journey, and to our faithful God

(The church has never been perfect and never will be. If it were, it would not allow the likes of you and me in it. Ed.)

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