



The Link



Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church, 318 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, Ky. 40203 502-585-2176
Official Supporter of the Fairness Campaign
Pastor: Rev. Jean Hawxhurst
January 2009

Mission Statement: To share the love of God in the heart of the city.

From Pastor Jean

The first day of January is such an arbitrary start date for a new year. The Jewish calendar says the new year begins on Yom Kippur, which in 2009 will be September 28th. The Christian calendar says the new year begins on the first day of Advent, which in 2009 won't come around until November 29th. From a religious, liturgical perspective, January 1st is just a day like any other day.

And yet, because of a very valid history, our culture puts a great emphasis on January 1st. It is the day to begin resolutions. It's a day that represents a new start, and a clean slate. We Christians understand that kind of fresh beginning, because we recognize a new start as being the gift Christ gives to us. So, we will install our new church leadership on the first Sunday of January. We will have a training session for all new leaders on the second Sunday of January. We will look at new goals for the year and set our hearts toward new accomplishments for the sake of God's Kin-dom.

It would be great if we set some spiritual goals for the new year of 2009. What if we were to commit as a congregation to take a deeper look at the spiritual disciplines of our faith in this new year? I believe it could help our faith mature and bring us closer to God. (And, it is one of our church goals set by our "Congregational Assessment Team," because they think it is something from which we could benefit. I agree!)

So, each month between January and Advent I will offer us a different spiritual discipline on which we can intentionally focus. One month it will be fasting, for example, and another month it will be Scripture reading.

For January, I propose our congregational spiritual discipline be participation in the Sacraments of the Church. In our Protestant tradition, we have two recognized sacraments, because they were acts in which Jesus participated in the Scriptures. They are Baptism and Holy Communion. Through baptism we become members of Christ's universal Church. We participate together in proclaiming our faith and in being adopted into God's family. Through Holy Communion we are bonded to the life and power of Jesus Christ, both personally and communally. As Augustine suggested, when we receive the sacred meal, we become what we are.

Think about the sacraments in a new way this month. Let them be for you tangible connections with our Savior. As Charles Brockwell said to me today, "Let's be Methodist" as we focus on these disciplines.

Blessings,
Pastor Jean

2009 Lay Church Leadership

Lay Leader Ann Jones
Leadership Council Chair Bob Boutell
Nurture Team .. Mavis Abraham and Paula Sammons
Witness Team Judy Morrison
Outreach Team Courtland Rose
Justice Team April DuVal
Worship Team Jacquelyn Craig
Education Team Bob Boutell
Technology Team Jack Steiner
Health Ministries Christy Gonzalez
Trustees Chairperson TBA
UMM President David Stewart
UMW President Caryl Keeley
UMYF President Anya Decius
CLOUT Representatives Carol Rhodes and
..... Courtland Rose
Wesley Manor Rep. Bob Boutell
KY Homes for Children Paula Sammons
UL Campus Ministry Rep Mac Sout
HELP Ministries Mary Anne Tenfelde
Stewardship Committee Chair: James Craig
At Large Stewardship Members: Chuck Klinehans,
..... NaTasha Johnson, James Craig,
..... Jacqui Lovett, Pam Anderson,
..... Trustees' rep., SPRC rep., Financial Secretary
At Large Trustee Members: Teddi Noel,
..... Carol Rhodes, Ed Wakefield, Joyce Wilmoth,
..... Tommy Sharpe, Gil Schroerlucke,
..... Michael Coffey and Larry Curry
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair:
..... Richard Beliles
At Large SPRC Members: Bob Boutell,
..... Janie Christensen, Charlie Wilmoth,
..... Erica Smith Deal, Ryanne Luttrell,
..... Laura Curry, Karen Newbold, Fade Iyun,
..... Stanley Keese (Jr.)
At Large Lay Leadership Members: ... Larry Curry
..... Lindsey Christensen, Mia Maudlin,
..... Joyce Wilmoth, David Stewart, Les Gross
At Large Leadership Council Members: April
..... DuVal, Gil Schroerlucke, Peggy Bennett,
..... Jose Gonzalez, Russell Behanan,
..... Ronald King, Isa Harriston, and Tola Iyun
Annual Conference Delegates: Caryl Keeley,
..... April DuVal, and Ann Jones.

Leadership Training

On Sunday, January 11th at 12:15 p.m. (after worship) all elected outgoing and incoming church leaders are invited to a special pot luck lunch at training session. All committee chairs, team chairs, representatives to community organizations or other groups within the church, and at large members are asked to attend.

We will begin with a pot luck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Then, Pastor Jean will spend some time with the leaders, talking about her expectations and their questions. Time will also be given for outgoing and incoming leaders to talk with each other and make a smooth transition.

Please sign up in the front office, so we can know who is coming, and so you can see what other people are bringing for lunch!

Saturday Bible Study

We continue to be blessed by Dr. Dean Harper of St. Paul United Methodist Church with a quality Saturday Bible study. The study is open to all members and anyone in the community. The new time beginning in January will be 12:30 to 1:15, and it will meet in the art room. We are currently working our way through the Second Testament. You do not need to make a reservation – just show up!

Epiphany

This year's Tri-Covenant Epiphany celebration will be held on Thursday, January 8th at 6:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Assumption. We are asked to bring a green salad or fruit. Sign up in the front office. Phone 582-2971 for more information.

Who's Missing

Your Nurture Team would like to ask us all to look around us and think about who is missing among us. Are there people you usually see in the pews on Sunday morning, or who you usually see in the groups you attend, who are not there, please take a moment to give them a call. Part of being church means to walk with journey with each other. If someone is missing, even for a couple weeks, we are diminished. Please do your part to keep us all connected.

Wednesday Open House

The Wednesday Open House will begin again in January! Many thanks go to Jose Gonzalez for leading our praise and worship time, and to Peggy Bennett and Carol Rhodes for creating our snack suppers. In January we will study a series entitled "What's so Amazing about Grace?"

The Staff Parish Committee will meet at 5:00 PM on Thursday, January 15.

Richard Beliles, Chairperson

Loving God's Creation

As a member of Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, Fourth Avenue is committed to doing our part to care for God's creation. Here are some tips from Louisville Gas and Electric that will do just that – and save you money!

- Don't preheat when cooking slow-roasted turkey or ham.
- Don't preheat when cooking slow-roasted turkey or ham.
- Use the oven light and window instead of opening the door to check on food.
- Use your microwave when possible, since it uses 50% less energy than an oven.
- When cooking on the stove, make sure your pan matches or is slightly larger than the heating element to avoid wasted energy..

Help Ministries

HELP Ministries, the ecumenical local area ministry for our Old Louisville and downtown area, is doing well at its new location at 1031 South Fourth Street, less than half a block just north of our church building. If you would like to volunteer to welcome clients or help with paperwork please let our HELP representatives, Mary Anne Tenfelde and Pastor Jean, know!

Budget Update

As of the end of November 2008, our congregational budget deficit was a little over \$6,000. Your Stewardship Team is hopeful we will be able to make up that difference in December and balance our church budget. Also, as of this writing our pledged giving for 2009 is running about 6% above what it was for 2008. This is news to celebrate! Thank you so much for your commitment to the ministry of Christ through this Church. When we work together, in the name of Christ, good things happen!

Memorial Giving in December

Gifts in memory of Jean Benz have been received from Judy and Russell Behanan, Mary K. Carter, Mary and Reiss Heady, Juanita and Bob Kissling, Sally Rose, Gil and Bettye Schroerlucke, Judy and Scott Strows, Ray Thomas and Joyce and Charles Wilmoth.

A gift in honor of Gil and Bettye Schroerlucke has been received from Jack Steiner.

January Birthdays

1	Ginny Rodriguez
6	Andrew Smith
10	Edna Marion
13	Annie Haigler
14	April DuVal
16	Mia Maudlin
17	Courtland Rose
23	Ann Jones
24	Sam Pelly
26	Ashley Smith
27	Adam Baker
29	David Stewart
30	Carol Hughes
30	Paula Sammons
31	Richard Beliles

The 4th Ave Justice Ministry Team will host a "Best Soup" fundraiser in the parlor on Sunday January 11 after the worship service 2.

"Art and Spirituality"

Many thanks to Laura Curry for her December art show in Central Hall. In January the photography of Pastor Jean's brother, David Hawxhurst, will be shown.

Church Calendar

- Jan. 1 – Church Offices closed
- Jan. 3 – Bible Study at 12:15 in art room
- Jan. 4 – Leadership Installation and Holy Communion
- Jan. 5 – New time for Worship planning: Mondays at 4:00 p.m.
- Jan. 7 – Prayer in the Chapel at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 7 – Wednesday Open House at 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 8 – Celebration of Epiphany at the Cathedral of the Assumption at 6:15 p.m.
- Jan. 10 – Bible study at 12:15
- Jan. 11 – Leadership Training Lunch at noon
- Jan. 14 – Prayer in the Chapel at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 14 – Wednesday Open House at 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Garr's Lane UMC from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Jan. 17 – Bible study at 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 19 – Church Office closed in observance of M.L. King Day
- Jan. 21 – Prayer in the Chapel at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 21 – Wednesday Open House at 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 24 – Bible Study at 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 28 – Prayer in the Chapel at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 28 – Wednesday Open House at 6:00 p.m.
- Jan. 28 – Leadership Council at 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 31 – Bible study at 12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 1 – African American Pot Luck and Sing-a-long at noon

News from the United Methodist Women

by Caryl Keeley, President

As I look back over the year, I see so much that the UMW has accomplished. It really takes your breath away. I will focus on one mission each month. This month I choose "The Shoe Box Mission." Each of the boxes consist of hard candy, small toys, crayons, pencils, coloring book, reading book, and other small things a child would enjoy. These boxes are sent to the missions in different countries. This is only one of the fun things we are privileged to do each year. Thank you to the wonderful Fourth Avenue Women.

Sunday School Class In Session

by Connie Meyer

The New H.O.P.E. (Have One Peaceful Existence) Sunday School Class offers a variety of topics from liturgical scripture study to current religious topics. The most recent book studied in New H.O.P.E. was *Christianity ForThe Rest Of Us* by Diana Butler Bass. The class started the Advent season by reading and discussing *Christmas From The Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Please come and join us on the second floor down from the music room.

New Members



Michael Catron

Michael Catron was received into membership on December 7. Michael, who transferred from Brandenburg UMC, is our Director of Music Ministries and resides at 1101 Breckinridge Street. He is a student at the UL School of Music.



Kevin Check

Kevin Check was received into membership on December 7 by reaffirmation of faith. Kevin, who helps often in our Open Door Ministry, resides at 947 S. Third Street.

Poem by Sally Rose

Dear Lord
You gave us free will
But we forget
We are
Your hands and feet
In this earthly life

Keep nudging us
On the better path;
One that makes us
Forget ourselves
And
Think of others

May we fill the air
With our prayers
So that
A swell of peace
Invades the world

Forgive us all
Our failure
To love
As you

Have loved us

Surround those in
pain
With an abundance
Of love
So they can endure
And heal

We thank you
For our joys
As well as
Our sorrows,

For we know
You are always near

Go with us
Into the world
As we try
To do your will.
In Christ's name
We pray

Amen

Getting To Know You

(We are hoping through The Link to help us get to know each other a little better. In this issue Joyce Barnett takes the first step. A few words about Jeanne Parcher)

Jeanne parcher is the church secretary and office manager. She is also a faithful member of Fourth Avenue. A native of Iowa, Jeanne has been a member of the church since 1948.

Jeanne would like to see the church continue in its growth and attract new members who will bring fresh ideas to the church family.

Sometimes stop and let her know she is appreciated.

Community Connections

By Craig Tutt

I have had the pleasure of making a few visits to church members this week. Specifically with those who live in the immediate area of our church. It has been a joy and I will hopefully continue scheduling these visits over the next few weeks and months. Of course I am looking forward to visiting some of you at home, but I really want to hear from those who live in the neighborhood and who better understand and see the needs of our immediate community.

For example, I am learning that many of you are already involved in neighborhood and community groups around Old Louisville and the St. Catherine neighborhoods. As it turns out, these folks are working with people in the neighborhood who want to address issues of crime, poverty, property, and needs our neighbors might have. So, when events or needs arise, I want to be sure to communicate to our church what our neighborhood is doing and how we might participate as fellow neighbors. I may periodically send emails, make announcements, or share word of mouth about certain events and happenings that will keep us in touch with our neighborhood. These will be sometimes informal, but always important.

In closing, I would also ask you to keep our neighborhood in your prayers. I'm not sure where this focus will lead, but I do know that we are a church that tries to "share the love of God in the heart of the city."

A Bit Of Wisdom

From "Tommy" Thomas

Why Do We Say That? *"It's raining cats and dogs"*

It's Raining Cats and Dogs unfortunately, the story behind this popular expression is far from warm and fuzzy. Back in the 17th century England, poorly designed gutter systems sometimes caused stray cats and dogs to drown during major downpours. After a storm, it wasn't uncommon to see dead animals in the street, which led people to conclude they actually come from the sky like rain.

Caroling at the Airport

Every year David Stewart gathers carolers from our congregation to sing at the airport on the day the soldiers from Ft. Knox are released to go home for Christmas leave. The photos below are of the group who sang this year.



Some service men joined in the singing



Members of the Louisville Orchestra were there as well



"Let's be sure we're on the same page."

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
318 W. St. Catherine Street
Louisville, KY. 40203

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Many thanks from the Open Door Volunteers to Mary Ann Tenfelde (and Dan) for the lovely Appreciation Dinner. Volunteers from Fourth Ave., Summit Heights, St. Paul and Christ churches were present. A wonderful ham dinner was prepared by Mary Ann, chair of the Open Door Committee and Jack Steiner, coordinator of the Open Door ministry.

The next meeting of the Grief Support Group will be February 15th. There will be no meeting in January.

The Thanksgiving Affair

On Tuesday, November 25, Fourth Ave. and Christ church UM invited the men of the Healing Place for a Thanksgiving dinner. Members of the three groups sat down together at beautifully decorated tables in the Fellowship Hall and enjoyed a sumptuous hearty turkey meal. As each person completed the meal, he went upstairs to the candle lighted parlor. There a heavily laden dessert table awaited each one's choice. Following dessert, a worship/communion service was conducted by the pastor in the sanctuary.

As the evening ended, participants, having eaten, talked, and worshiped together as neighbors, left the church with feelings of peace and good will (in their hearts.) Approximately 200 persons participated

