

| ITEMS OF INTEREST |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Calendar of Events | 2 |
| Happenings | 5 |
| Library Corner | 3 |
| Stewardship Report | 4 |
| Young at Heart | 5 |
| Youth Activities | 4 |

## Wednesday

Prayer Group
Begins at 9:30 a.m. Church Prayer Room

Come and Pray With Us!

## Everyone Welcome!



WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE Wednesday 10:00 a.m.


## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I thought a little update might be helpful to everyone as we move forward on a couple of projects of high interest.

The elevator project is on schedule and doing well in spite of one unexpected setback. Many of you have noticed a rather large pile of dirt just to the north of the sidewalk under the canopy entrance. This is the result of the need to install a new section of sewer line. We knew the line ran across the area of the elevator pit and would have to be moved. What we did not know was that one end of it was badly deteriorated and needed to be replaced. This work has been accomplished and the elevator pit is fairly complete. Soon the walls of the elevator shaft will be making their way upward awaiting the arrival of the actual elevator which is under construction by the manufacturer.

I want to thank everyone for supporting their commitments to the Elevator Capital Campaign. We have had sufficient funds on hand to cover all costs up to this point. We have also secured the loan for this project and those funds are available for use as soon as they are needed.

The other project of some interest is our second worship service. The launch team is developing the preliminary plans and establishing timelines for this new service. It is the hope of this team to be able to offer an additional worship experience by the fall of this year. Over the next several months, additional services will be scheduled on a occasional basis to give those who are working in this new worship experience a chance to work together and clean up any bugs before we start a week-to-week commitment.

While these changes are exciting and needed, they are changes and they will impact our lives in ways both expected and unexpected. Some of them we will celebrate and some of them we may not - which is perfectly normal.

Healthy living things grow and growth means change. We are a healthy, vital church with a great mission and the blessing of God to fulfill that mission. As we move together into a new future, may God grant to each of us the grace to do our part.

## FEBRUARY 20I4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS




## The Library Corner: "A New Habit for a New Year"

"A New Habit for a New Year"-does that phrase strike a bell? It was Pastor Larry's sermon title on a cold and snowy Sunday-January $5^{\text {th }}, 2014$. He noted that regular churchgoers gain strength and inspiration from attending weekly church services, but there's still more! We can have a deeper connection to God, and a spiritual life that nourishes us on a daily basis. Sound good? Our opportunity for growing our spiritual life is as close as the nearest devotional or prayer book, and all it takes is a little planning.

We lead busy lives. We may not be able to do a devotional practice every day. But, as Pastor Larry points out, perhaps we can do so once or twice a week. Once this new habit is formed, we may wonder how we ever did without that extra opportunity to feel closer to God.

If you don't have a devotional or prayer book, try one from our Church library. Or perhaps try out two or three, just to find what kind of devotional speaks to you at this point in your life, and what you may eventually like to buy for yourself. We have resources for a variety of ages and stages. Some examples:

The Beginner's Bible, for Pre-Schoolers, is organized into 365 devotions. "Snuggle up for time together with God and your little one."

Day by Day Devotions: 7-minute character growing devotions for kids (for ages 6-10) by Karyn Henley. It has weekly topics and Bible readings, plus ideas for activities.

One Year Devos for Teens by Susie Shellenberger. Devotionals centered around thoughts and encouragement for tough issues and real life situations for teens.

15 Minute Devotions for Couples by Bob and Emilie Barnes. They promise: "Through these devotions you will begin to see God doing a marvelous work in your lives. Each of your hearts will be opened to the other , , ,"

Experiencing God Day By Day by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby. They state: "This book [does] not take the place of God's Word in your life, but introduces verses for you to consider and meditate upon. The Holy Spirit is your Teacher, and He will impress things upon you heart as you read the devotional thoughts."

A Guide to Prayer for All God's People by Rueben Job and Norman Shawchuck. They tell us "this book was prepared out of our own joy in finding the living God as a faithful, loving companion in our lives." Each day's entry includes prayers, Scripture, and readings. It makes a wonderful devotional companion.

The Power of Praving Through the Bible by Stormie Omartian. Omartian selects Bible verses and adds a short Bible study and devotional prayer. She says "I hope . . .they will encourage you to see every verse of God's word as source of inspiration to draw you into a closer walk with the Lord through ongoing prayer." This book is in large print.

This is just a sample of the devotional and prayer books available. Look for them on the library table upstairs, or downstairs in the library. As Pastor Larry says--start a new habit today that will bring only reward-the reward of growth in relationship to God.

Worship Leader - Rick Runge - rrunge@frontier.com

## Acolytes

February 2 - Tyler Doody \& Cub Scout
February 9 - Caitlin Doody \& Maddie Bean
February 16 - Cadence Brown \& Alex Baughman
February 23 - Conner Twenhafel \& Adam Barringer
Sunday Stewards
Dick Graff

Ron Moutardier
Rick Runge
Rob Williams
Welcome Hostesses
February 2 \& 9 - Jennifer O'Donnell \& Terri Yates
February 16 - Patti Shields \& Carolyn Sauer
February 23 - Emily Finke \& Allison Brown

## Prayer Request Readers

February 2 - Wilma Westerfield
February 9 - Mary Jane Williams
February 16 - Emily Hargraves
February 23 - Mason Schingel
Ushers
James Bean
Todd Doody
Jay Graff
Kyle Hargraves
London Watson
Jennifer Watson

HELP FEED OUR YOUTH
If you can help out feeding the youth groups, please signup on the signup sheets in the kitchen, on the refrigerator.


February 2 - Youth Sunday Practice with Ricardo - 3:00-4:00
February 9 -Youth Sunday Practice- 3:00-5:00
Youth Group - 5:00-6:30
February 16 - Youth Sunday Practice - 3:00-5:00
February 22 - Youth Sunday Run Through - 1:00-4:00
February 23 - Youth Sunday - Be at church by 8:15am
Youth Group - 5:00-6:30
*CYF: Christian Youth Fellowship (3rd - 5th grade)
*JYF: Junior Youth Fellowship (6th - 8th grade)
*SYF: Senior Youth Fellowship (9th - 12th grade)

Stewardship Report by the Numbers
January-December 2013

| 73 | Number Giving Units - PLEDGED |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\$ 262,065$ | AMOUNT GIVEN |
| $\$ \quad 3,590$ | AVERAGE PER PLEDGED GIVER |
|  | 81 |

Top 10 Service \& Missions Supported

| Imagine No Malaria | $\$ 2,063$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Our Neighbor's Table | $\$ 1,241$ |
| Little Grassy Camp | $\$ 802$ |
| Benevolence Fund | $\$ 3,770$ |
| Adult Mission Trip | $\$ 8,279$ |
| Methodists on a Mission | $\$ 18,282$ |
| Christmas Dinner | $\$ 2,289$ |
| Feeder of the Pack | $\$ 4,358$ |
| Illinois Masonic Home | $\$ 2,195$ |
| Murphysboro Food Pantry | $\$ 2,405$ |

Other important numbers the congregation should know:
\$125,000 of the Church's investments were used to pay down the Renovation Loan in 2013. The outstanding balance of the Renovation Loan is $\$ 45,937$. The Church's remaining investments are valued at $\$ 115,685$. Only the income generated from investments can be used by the Trustees for building expenses.

The Elevator Capital Fund drive exceeded \$200,000. The Elevator account had a balance of \$54,277 at the end of the year. Since pledged income for the elevator comes in over the next 3 years, a 10 year Ioan of $\$ 159,500$ has been approved by the Church Council to assure timely payments. The loan should be paid off in three years as pledges are received.

The year ended with $\$ 20,308$ of uncommitted operating funds which will roll over to help fund the budget for 2014 . The approved 2014 operating budget is $\$ 389,940$.


## Saturday Book Club Meeting

February 15th at 10:30am Church Library

## Contact 559-0329 or ehargraves88@gmail.com

We will be discussing We Are Water by Wally Lamb. From the New York Times bestselling author of The Hour I First Believed and I Know This Much Is True, a disquieting and ultimately uplifting novel about a marriage, a family, and human resilience in the face of tragedy.


Thanks to all the hostesses that served in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings during this past year. You were always willing to meet and greet all those who walked through our church doors. I have enjoyed serving as your chairperson and know that Carolyn Sauer and Patti Shields will do a terrific job in the New Year. Thanks also to Teresa Gilbert, Christine Nolan and Mimi Rice for all their input and help.

New Book Study Starting
February 10th
6:00-8:00pm
Every other week
Unglued by Lysa Tyrkheursts
 Love in Christ Janice Crews

Wére glad you're here!

## OUR NEIGHBORS' TABLE



[^0]| Young at |
| :---: |
| February 11th |
| 12:00 noon |
| Fellowship Hall |
| Wear Red for Valentines |
| MENU |
| Spaghetti \& Meatballs |
| Salad \& Garlic Bread |
| Cherry Cheesecake |
| \$5.00 |
| PROGRAM |
| "How to Improve our Protection from Crime Events |
| in our Home." |

MUMC OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Phone: 618-687-2317 Fax: 618-687-2604
E-Mail: murphysboroumc@frontier.com

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School:10:10 a.m.

Ministers $\qquad$ The Congregation
Pastor. Larry A. Gilbert
Coordinator of Ministries.....Earl R. Renshaw
Discipleship Coordinator.....Teresa Gilbert
Financial Secretary. Christine Nolan
Custodian
Pat Sullivan
Organist. .Micah Mayes
Choir Director Ricardo King
Nursery Attendant. Tania Cruz


[^0]:    Last Sunday of Each month

