



# The Steeple

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church  
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois



**JULY 2015**

I had the privilege of serving as Rev. Nicole Cox's mentor as she completed her last two years of the ordination process. I learned as much from Rev. Cox as she learned from me. Nicole is one of the most gifted pastors I have ever known. She along with CRAVE ignited within me a passion to reach out to young adults because we in the church need their passion and their commitment.

You might remember Rev. Cox from her service as the associate at Alton Main Street United Methodist Church and the Chaplain for Encounter.

On Thursday morning of Annual Conference, Rev. Cox provided our "*Morning Manna*," a meditation to begin the day. At the conclusion of her meditation, Nicole received a standing ovation because she so eloquently expressed the sentiments that so many of us hold. I'm including the meditation in this newsletter because I believe her words deserve a wider audience than those in attendance at Annual Conference.

Pastor Daryl

P.S. Rev. Cox was also elected as an alternate delegate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference!

## Keeping the 'united' in United Methodist

6/11/2015

**By Nicole Cox**

**Associate Pastor, Springfield First UMC**

Good morning Bishop and members of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference! What a wonderful honor to be with you all today! I am humbled, overjoyed, and a little nervous to have been asked to share with you.

For centuries, at least in my imagination, pastors have been using their children as illustrations for their sermons. And this morning shall be no different. Thankfully, my children are still young enough that they don't get annoyed when I use them as sermon fodder, so I have to capitalize on it while I can, right?

My son, Corbin, is 3 ½ and just a couple of days ago, he was trying to put together a toy and he couldn't quite get it to connect. He tried and tried and eventually had a break down and screamed "Mama! I can't do it! It won't stay together!"

I feel like this is the perfect illustration for the situation in which our church currently finds itself. There has been so much discussion over our church splitting and it has been quite disheartening. I cannot even count the number of blog posts, Twitter conversations, Facebook threads, etc., that I have seen discussing what the future holds for The United Methodist Church. I mean has the word schism ever been used as much as it has been the past few years to talk about the state of our beloved church? And I wonder, will we be able to keep it together?

I was born and raised in The United Methodist Church. I attended a United Methodist college and a United Methodist seminary. My life, like many of yours, is deeply rooted in our church. Discussions of schism break my heart and I long for a solution that will keep us together. It seems to me that we have forgotten that we are UNITED Methodists.

The apostle Paul reminds us of the importance of seeing ourselves as united. He reminds us that we are to work together as one. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and 24b-27, he says the following:

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. 13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

Then he ends with these beautiful words:

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor 25 so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. 27 You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.

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### *Continued from Page 1*

We know this passage right? We've heard it a million times. We've preached and listened to sermons on it. We've taught Bible studies about it. It is engrained in our minds. We are the body of Christ. And we work best when we work together. And we, my friends, have a lot of work to do....together. Jesus Christ has given us a mission, our mission...which I know you all know – let's say it together – “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This is what Jesus has entrusted to us. This is what Jesus has charged us to do. We are to change the world by making disciples in his name. We are to share his love and grace. We are to reach out to the homeless, the hopeless, the lost, the broken, the outcasts, those whom society has pushed aside and forgotten. We are to love them as Christ has loved us – unconditionally and without boundaries.

It's hard to focus on such a mission when we spend time and energy bickering over our differing views. We've allowed arguing over liberal vs. conservative values to take the forefront of our discussions. We've allowed ourselves to be distracted by ideologies, policies, and bureaucracies. And I think it must pain Jesus when we allow these distractions to keep us from our mission. We should not be tolerating ideas of schism. Instead, we should work together as the body of Christ and rally around our shared mission – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of this dark, broken, lonely world.

When we engage in causes of social justice, when we seek to bring a balance of good to the evil of the world, when we fight for those who cannot fight for themselves; that is when lives are changed, when disciples are made, and when the world is transformed in the name of Jesus Christ.

But if we want to tackle issues of social justice, we must work together. For, together we are greater than the sum of our parts. Together we have greater potential to complete the mission God has set before us. And there are so many wonderful examples of this happening in our denomination....too many to count!

A big example that comes to mind is UMCOR. For 75 years, the United Methodist Committee On Relief has been focused on alleviating human suffering around the globe. They do not focus on political beliefs or religious differences. They are simply laser focused on our mission. They are out changing the world in the name of Jesus Christ in over 80 countries around the world. They are bringing aid to those who don't have the basic necessities to live. They are mourning with families who have lost loved ones. They are helping lives to be put back together. This organization is an amazing testament to the heart of United Methodists!

Then there is Imagine No Malaria, a United Methodist initiative dedicated to eradicating malaria from the earth. To date, United Methodists have raised over 65 million dollars of our 75 million dollar goal. That is 88 percent of funding raised! And since 2007, the number of malaria related fatalities has decreased by almost half! How amazing! One of the most astounding parts of Imagine No Malaria is that the vast majority of donations have come in the form of small donations. That means people like you and me have funded the majority of the over 65 million dollars that has been raised. Talk about the Body of Christ at work! God is at work in us, friends!

We are the body of Christ. God is using all of us to change the world together. We can try to do it on our own, but we won't be nearly as effective. For that woman in Nepal receiving help from UMCOR or the little boy in Liberia who no longer fears malaria - our unity is a necessity. For them, our unity is a life or death situation. We must unite and become the church that God desires us to be – and that is a church that is in the world doing good – by sharing the gospel and serving others.

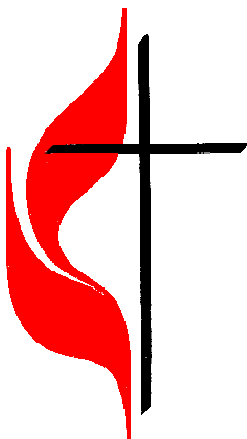
Are we always going to agree on the best method to make our mission happen? Of course not. I mean what other denomination do you know of that has both George W. Bush and Hillary Clinton as members? Or Beyoncé and Rush Limbaugh? We are a diverse church! And that means we hold varying views. But, that's okay. Because different ideas, different approaches will reach different people and more lives will be changed as a result. Since when do we have to agree completely with one another before we can work on the same mission? Let our agreement be on the love of Jesus Christ. Let our agreement be on the grace of God Almighty.

As we continue on in our Annual Conference journey, as we explore the importance of the healing circle; of repentance, forgiveness, love, grace, healing, and unity, may we remember that it starts with knowing that strength can be found in differences, that our church is fortified by variety of thoughts and beliefs. We are one body with many parts, seeking to serve God through our differences, united behind our shared mission.

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May God be with us as we engage in holy conferencing. May God show us new ways to keep the "united" in United Methodist. May he open our minds that we might be more accepting of our differing opinions. May he open our hearts that we would be moved to compassion for the least and the lost. And may he open our ears that we might hear his still, small voice giving us guidance and direction. God be with us as we seek to right the

wrongs of this world, to bring justice to the outcasts, to give love to the unloved, and to inspire hope for the hopeless. Amen.

## A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR LOIS WELCH:

On Thursday, July 16th there will be a Celebration Of Life Service for Lois Welch. The visitation with the family will be from 1-2:00 p.m. in the Parlor and the Service will begin at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary. You are all welcome to attend and share in celebrating the many years of this life well lived!

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Congregation... **you gave 26 lbs.** of school supplies for the Annual Conference Mission Project! Once again thank you for your generosity!
- **We appreciate the new chairs** purchased from Leon Davis' Memorial for our Awakening Services. They are far more comfortable than the steel folding chairs. The five round tables were used as we hosted a meal for our Vacation Bible School families after our June 20th Service. The round tables make conversations more possible. **Thank you Betty Campbell-Davis** for thinking of this project!
- **Christina Johnson** collected \$6,700 for Relay for Life and received recognition for being the 2nd highest fundraiser. **Her team** as a whole received the first place award, raising \$18,000 for Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. Well done.
- Congratulations to **Nicki Cummings & Brennan Perry** who were married at St. Paul on June 19, 2015. We rejoice that we could offer them a place for their wedding and we pray that their home and their lives will always be filled with the love God gives them.
- We rejoice with **Dennis & Marie Day**, dad & step-mom of Christina Johnson, who received their License in Ministry in Springfield, MO on Friday, June 19th. They are now officially ordained ministers. Congratulations!
- We offer our prayers and deepest sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones recently. These include the family of **James Meisenheimer**, cousin of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **John Carter**, uncle of Crystal Webb, friend of Christina Johnson; and the family of **Vivian Sinclair**, grandmother of Rev. Nicole Cox (former Assoc. at Main St. UMC). May God give you all the comfort you need in this grieving time.



## Saturdays at St. Paul in JULY 5:00 P.M. Service

Join us on SATURDAYS at 5 p.m. for Awakening! Awakening is St. Paul's newest worship service featuring a relaxed, contemporary theme with the Awakening Praise Band in a family friendly setting. The Holy Spirit has been at work, feeding us from the initial idea through the intensive planning phase. We hope you will join us (and bring your family, friends, & neighbors) as we praise God & celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done!



### Our JULY Speakers:

11th - Debra Fansler      18th - Tammy Iskarous  
25th - Debbie Tite

➔ JULY 4th - NO AWAKENING SERVICE!! ➔

## Sundays at St. Paul in JULY 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services



The 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park. Wear casual clothes and bring your lawn chair. Tailgate-At-Eight Fellowship with coffee, juice, and snacks is at 8 a.m. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is always held in the sanctuary. **"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided for the 10:30 a.m. service.**

**5** 6th Sunday after Pentecost. **Freedom Sunday.** **Communion celebrated.** Pastor Daryl continues the new summer sermon series, *The Stories of Jesus*. Today we consider the story of *The Treasure in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price* in Matthew 13:44-46.



**12** 7th Sunday after Pentecost. **Birthday Sunday.** Pastor Daryl continues the summer series, *The Stories of Jesus*, with the story of the *Wheat and the Weeds* found in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. With this story, Jesus tells us why God allows good and evil to exist side by side within our world.



**19** 8th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl continues the summer series, *The Stories of Jesus*, with the story of *The Forgiving Ruler and the Unforgiving Servant* found in Matthew 18:23-35. We are reminded of the place of forgiveness in our life as Christians. We who have been forgiven so very much are called to forgive greatly.

**26** 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl continues the summer series, *The Stories of Jesus*, with the story of *The Laborers in the Vineyard* found in Matthew 20:1-16. We are reminded that while God isn't fair, He is just. All of us receive from Him what we need: Grace.

**AUGUST** **2** 10th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl is on vacation. Doug Pascoe will be our Worship Leader for this Sunday! Communion will be celebrated on August 9th.





### Nurses Notes for JULY 2015 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.!

Greetings Friends,

**Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."**

As you read this newsletter for July, I hope that I am surrounded by God's glory- high up in the Rocky Mountains in Estes Park! We are going to be enjoying our vacation visiting with Doug's parents in Fort Collins, Colorado. It will be a grand time enjoying the beautiful splendor of God's creation.

**I have wanted to write a newsletter on grief for some time.** Recently, I have seen many people who have had to mourn the loss of someone dear to them: a spouse, a mother, a child- there has been much sorrow. I think after hearing some of their stories that it is important to discuss grief, and how we can be an encouragement and source of comfort to our friends and family.

Losing someone you love is a very painful experience- although it is a part of life. There are many different emotions; pain, sadness, sorrow, and it may feel like the experience will never end. These are all normal reactions to a loss. There is no right or wrong way to grieve, and those of us who are around those who are grieving need to realize this, so that we can be a source of comfort and not add to their pain unknowingly.

Grief is natural. It is a suffering that we all experience when someone we love is taken away. The more significant the loss, the more intense the grief will be. Most of us associate grief with the loss of a loved one but grief can be caused by any loss: the loss of a job, a divorce, after moving to a new home or community, the loss of health, or even retiring from a career you loved. For this newsletter we will focus on the loss of a loved one.

**Realize that everyone grieves in their own way.** It is a personal and individual experience. How people grieve depends on many things such as their life experiences, how they have coped in the past, their faith, and their personality. Grieving takes time. It is a process- and not everyone will walk through the process in the same amount of time. You cannot hurry or force the person through the grieving process- in fact you can cause the person great distress if you try. There is no "normal" time allotment for grieving. Some people can start to feel "better" in a couple of weeks or months. For others grief may last for years. It is important for you to be patient with your loved one or friend and allow them to walk through the process.

**Be willing to listen.** This is the art of just practicing presence. You don't have to press the person to talk if they do not feel like talking. You can provide comfort by just being there- just a squeeze of the hand or a reassuring hug can go a long way. Most everyone worries about what to **say** to a grieving person. But knowing how to **listen** is much **more important**. **Many times, well-meaning people avoid talking to their friend or family member** about the death for fear of saying the wrong thing. The person needs to feel that the loss is acknowledged and that their loved one has not been forgotten. If they open up about the loss let them know that you are there to listen. Don't redirect away from talking about the death. Allow them to talk and express their feelings. Accept what they are saying and tell them that it is okay to cry, get angry, or totally lose it. Whatever you do, don't try to reason with them or tell them how they should or should not feel. Allow them to express their feelings without fear of judgment, argument, or criticism.

**\*\*Please do not ever tell a person who is grieving, "Now you know that (enter person's name) would not want you to cry. They would want you to be happy and move on." Really? How insensitive!**

**Offer comfort and reassurance.** If possible, share your own experience if you think that it may help, but don't claim to know what they are feeling, as everyone's grief is different.

**Take some initiative.** Don't wait to be asked; offer to assist in any way that you can. The person in grief is not thinking about day-to-day things that need to get done. You can offer to run errands, shop for groceries, drop off a casserole or other type of food, stay in the home, take the phone calls and answer the door, offer to drive them places, take them on a walk, do housework, or maybe even help with funeral arrangements.

**Offer ongoing support.** Grieving continues long after the funeral is over and the cards and flowers have stopped. The length of the grieving process varies from person to person. But in general, grief lasts much longer than most people expect. Friends may need support for months or even years.

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July 01 Poston, Terry  
 July 01 Chester, Layne  
 July 02 Funke, Maggie  
 July 02 Bacus, Mark  
 July 02 Campbell, Steve  
 July 02 Rich, Taylor  
 July 04 Sullivan, Pat  
 July 04 Fincher, Terri  
 July 04 Mormino, Brynleigh  
 July 04 Mormino, Peyton  
 July 05 Hart, Zoe  
 July 05 Bourne, Colton  
 July 06 Acton, Phil  
 July 06 Hickerson, Jim  
 July 06 Campbell, Luke  
 July 07 Ford, Alex  
 July 08 Russell, Carol  
 July 08 Ford, Nate  
 July 08 Sims, Stella  
 July 09 Stamper, Carol  
 July 09 Mayer, Deb  
 July 10 Ballard, Mildred  
 July 10 Standefer, Drew  
 July 10 Toner, Ella  
 July 10 Toner, Emma  
 July 11 Bartony, Clayton  
 July 12 Lewis, Herrell  
 July 12 Hamlin, Matthew

July 14 Hendricks, Carter  
 July 15 Harper, Emma  
 July 15 Voorhees, Jaymie  
 July 17 Redden, Donna  
 July 18 Bailey, Alysia  
 July 18 Griffin, Sarah  
 July 19 Cameron, Cathy  
 July 21 Martin, Connie  
 July 21 Uzzell, Robin  
 July 22 Hinkle, Evelyn  
 July 22 Demond, Dell  
 July 22 Crandall, Cory  
 July 22 Challandes, Chris  
 July 22 Emerick, Daniel  
 July 22 Spurgeon, Evan  
 July 23 Ford, Diane  
 July 23 Hale, Donovan  
 July 23 Bunt, Kynlee  
 July 24 Bunt, Kathy  
 July 24 Cameron, Chris  
 July 24 Henderson, Gretchen  
 July 24 Wood, Tony  
 July 24 McLain, Anna

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

*"Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!"*

July 24 Sims, Giuliana  
 July 25 Schilling, Rhonda  
 July 26 Crews, Kathy  
 July 27 Burrows, Alice  
 July 27 Kissack, Joy  
 July 27 Clark, Edith  
 July 28 Toner, Kristen  
 July 28 Brown, Marie  
 July 28 Phelps, Adam  
 July 28 Betts, Caleb  
 July 28 Lusicic, Addison  
 July 28 Birmingham, Ashlyn  
 July 28 Parker, Maddox  
 July 29 McLain, Randy  
 July 30 Plummer, Tim  
 July 31 Scott, Virginia  
 July 31 Brueggeman, Kyle  
 July 31 Williams, Lindsey



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 05 Franklin, Don & Vivian  
 July 06 Hubbard, Glenn & Paula  
 July 07 Voorhees, Tom & Ruth  
 July 08 Williams, Randy & Jan  
 July 08 Ward, Paul & Gerry  
 July 09 Crews, Greg & Kathy



July 09 Mormino, Paul & Brandy  
 July 11 Scroggins, Ryan & Joanna  
 July 13 Gowan, Josh & Amy  
 July 15 Spurgeon, Ryan & Jenny  
 July 22 Brown, Robert & Gina  
 July 23 Helmkamp, Rick & Amy  
 July 24 Herndon, Matt & Allison  
 July 31 Link, Mike & Kathy

## Changes and Additions to the Current Church Directory

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS:** Mrs. Vi Potter 100 Glenhaven Gardens, Apt. 218, Alton, IL 62002, 433-7762; Mrs. Mary Herndon 395 E. Edwardsville Road, Apt. 246, Wood River, IL 62095, 259-6429.

If you are going to move soon, give the church office advance notice of your new address.  
Also, remember to update us on your new phone number. Thank you!



### MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

July's Loose Change Project is the Lessie Bates Neighborhood House in East St. Louis.

The Methodist Church established this center to minister to the Croatsians early in the last century. Since then the Neighborhood House has ministered to the new waves of immigrants and poor in East St. Louis. It is one of the few remaining institutions in East St. Louis offering social and health services.

# DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 2015 STEEPLE, Mon., July 20th!

## Annual Coat & Shoe Collection

For several years we have collected new and used, serviceable coats and shoes for Riverbend Head Start & Family Services families in our area. We begin this in the fall. The general guidelines they have given us are for new or gently used items:

► **Coats and Jackets - sizes 2T to 7-8**

► **Shoes - infant sizes to children size 1**

This is just information to remind you that if you go to yard sales, have grandchildren with outgrown shoes and coats, go to Goodwill, or however you come across such items, you may want to buy them for the fall collection during the summer. When the worker from Head Start picks the items up in early November they are distributed within the week to low income families in our area.



## THE UNITED METHODIST VILLAGE SPONSORS 2ND ANNUAL GOLF CHALLENGE!

**Friday, July 17th**  
**Spencer T. Olin Golf Course**  
**Alton, IL**

***Sign-up information on bulletin board.***

### JULY Ushers (10:30 a.m.):

**July 5th:** Diane Murbarger, Norma Shaffer  
**July 12th & 26th:** Deb Fansler

Please Call the Head Usher if you will help!

### JULY Head Usher:

**DOROTHY KASINGER**

Please Call the Church Office (259-5210)  
if you will help be a greeter!

### Average Attendance for JUNE 2015

Early Service	57
Late Service	46
Sunday School	40
Visitors	7
4 Awakening Services	45



## JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 6/30/2015	<b>\$17770.80</b>
Designated Giving:	through 6/30/2015	<b>\$1358.50</b>
	Capital Improvements	685.00
	Loose Change	102.50
	Flowers	73.00
	Youth	40.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	150.00
	Brad Fester/Wycliffe	100.00
	Elevator	100.00
	Charles McKnelly	100.00
	Upper Room Donations	8.00
Trustees Emergency Fund		<b>21.00</b>
Heifer Project	(VBS Mission Project)	<b>118.00</b>
Intern Stipend from IGRC		<b>1350.00</b>
Ball game tickets		<b>400.00</b>
1 Great Hour		<b>10.00</b>
Total:		<b>\$21028.30</b>





## VBS OFFERING

During the G-Force Vacation Bible School, the children collected \$118, enough to purchase a Heifer goat. People around the world love goats. Goats do well on rocky, unproductive land; browsing on weeds and brush other animals can't eat. They produce rich, nutritious milk--usually four quarts a day--that can be made into cheese and yogurt. Heifer project participants usually keep their goats in roomy zero-grazing pens, carrying fodder and water to them. That way, goats' sharp hooves won't damage fragile terrain, and they don't risk injury and disease.

Since goats are hardy and adapt well to different climates, the only shelter needed is protection from rain, wind, and cold. With a Heifer goat a family can expect two kids a year. After passing on a female to another family in need, these offspring can be an ongoing source of income for school fees, medicine, clothing, and home improvement. And all for about one-sixth of what it would cost to keep a cow. Well done, Vacation Bible School children!



We return this year with **TAILGATE AT EIGHT** for the outdoor service! We invite you to come just a little early, at 8 a.m., and receive a free cup of coffee, tea, or juice and a snack at the serving center. And you will also have time to greet each other before the service begins! Rain brings it all inside... Volunteers are needed!



**WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES**  
**ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER**  
**at 8:15 a.m.**

**beginning**

**JUNE 7th-SEPTEMBER 6th**  
**Pastor Daryl will be preaching a**  
**summer sermon series on**  
**The Stories of Jesus**

**"TAILGATE-AT-8" (T8) AT 8 A.M.**

(In case of rain, service is held in the sanctuary!  
10:30 a.m. service is held, as usual, in the sanctuary)

### The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



For those mornings when getting out of bed is as terrifying as walking on water, the answer is still Jesus. ■ **Timothy 1:7; Psalms 23**

**YOU can make a difference!**

**Try it this summer!**







open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



**ST PAUL**  
united methodist church

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171020936311281/>

**CRAVE Facilitator - Betsy Blacklock 618.259.3858**  
[betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com](mailto:betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com)

**CRAVE** - 9:15 a.m. Sunday morning:  
Currently meeting with Iris Uzzell's class  
Wednesday Small Group: 8 p.m.  
@WR McDonald's...All ages welcomed!

During the John Wesley Fellowship Luncheon at Annual Conference, **CRAVE**, our Young Adult group, received the 2015 Denman Evangelism Award for Laity. **CRAVE** was honored for their work in starting the Awakening Service that reaches out to people in our neighborhood. The Denman award is among the highest honors any United Methodist may receive.

In order to understand why this award is so significant for us, please read this sketch of Harry Denman's life from ASK:

**Harry Denman** was a noted Methodism lay leader and evangelist within the Methodist Church who emphasized the life taught by Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount. Denman strongly challenged modern materialism and prejudice by exemplifying and teaching a simple life, and by personally relating to all people, regardless of race, gender, or economic means. His personal property was very limited; for example he usually had only one pair of shoes and refused to wear a watch, preferring to ask for the time as a way of starting a conversation. Articles that were given to him were generally given away to the needy. He was a close friend of another well-known evangelist, Billy Graham who called Denman "one of the great mentors for evangelism."

He was born Sept. 26, 1893 in Birmingham, Alabama of Hattie Leonard & William Harry Denman, who immigrated from Gloucestershire, England. He earned a bachelor's degree from Birmingham-Southern College in 1921, and a master's degree

in social work in 1930. In 1936 he received an honorary doctorate from Athens State University in Alabama. In 1915, Denman became secretary of the Birmingham Sunday School Association, a post which he held until 1919, when he became church manager of the First Methodist Church in Birmingham.

In 1938 he was elected secretary for the Department of Evangelism in the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Then, in 1939, he became the General Secretary of the Commission on Evangelism, later known as the General Board of Evangelism, of the newly formed The Methodist Church. As the general secretary, he also had responsibility for the publication of *The Upper Room*, a devotional publication. He was also a member of the Jurisdictional Conferences in 1940, 1944, 1948, and 1952.

On January 31, 1949 Denman incorporated The Foundation for Evangelism. The founders included Denman, who was the General Secretary of The General Board of Evangelism at the time, and a dedicated group of elected members of the General Board who wanted to directly support evangelism ministries within the Methodist denomination. Created as a non-profit entity, the Foundation for Evangelism is most notable as the home to the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards given to clergy and lay persons for outstanding service in evangelism. It also provides funding for the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism program which supports chairs of evangelism at various United Methodist related seminaries around the world.

In 1965, Denman retired from The General Board of Evangelism and The Foundation. He accepted his final salary from the General Board and donated it to The Foundation for Evangelism. He then traveled extensively in the United States and throughout the world to preach and conduct evangelistic meetings. He died November 8, 1976 in Birmingham, Alabama at the age of 83.



### **Parish Nurse article -- Continued from Page 5**

**Continue your support over the long haul.** Stay in touch with the grieving person, periodically checking in, dropping by, or sending letters or cards. Your support is more valuable than ever once the funeral is over, the other mourners are gone, and the initial shock of the loss has worn off.

**Don't make assumptions based on outward appearances.** The bereaved person may look fine on the outside, while inside he or she is suffering. Avoid saying things like "You are so strong" or "You look so well." This puts pressure on the person to keep up appearances and to hide his or her true feelings.

**Realize that the pain may not ever fully go away.** Be sensitive to the fact that life may never feel the same. You don't "get over" the death of a loved one. The bereaved person may learn to accept the loss. The pain may lessen in intensity over time, but the sadness may never completely go away.

**Offer extra support on special days.** Certain times and days of the year will be particularly hard for your grieving friend or family member. Holidays, family milestones, birthdays, and anniversaries often reawaken grief. Be sensitive on these occasions. Let the bereaved person know that you're there for whatever he or she needs.

**Look for warning signs.** It's common for a grieving person to feel depressed, confused, disconnected from others, or like he or she is going crazy. But if the bereaved person's symptoms don't gradually start to fade—or they get worse with time—this may be a sign that normal grief has evolved into a more serious problem, such as depression. Encourage the grieving person to seek professional help if you observe any of the following warning signs after the initial grieving period—especially if it's been over two months since the death.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| * Difficulty Functioning in daily life  | * Inability to enjoy life           |
| * Extreme focus on the death            | * Hallucinations                    |
| * Excessive bitterness, anger, or guilt | * Withdrawing from others           |
| * Neglecting personal hygiene           | * Constant feelings of hopelessness |
| * Alcohol or drug abuse                 | * Talking about dying or suicide    |

Don't let discomfort prevent you from reaching out to someone grieving. Now, more than ever, your support is needed. You might not know exactly what to say or what to do, but that's okay. You don't need to have all of the answers or give advice. The most important thing you can do for a grieving person is to simply be there; your support and caring presence will help him or her cope with the pain and slowly begin to heal.

### **Blessings- Eileen**

*May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."*

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**



## **JULY - Church of Rock** **(COR) Youth News**

Psalm 136:26 – "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever."

**Youth meet on Sundays @6:30 p.m. at  
SPUMC in the Youth Room!**

**Contact Kevin Rader at  
(618) 303-0044 for other JULY info!**





## SUMMER SMALL GROUP ON SUNDAYS AT 5 P.M.

We continue to meet every other Sunday during the summer at 5 p.m. Each time, we look at the story behind one of our most beloved hymns and how the words and music nurture our faith. The study is structured so you can drop in anytime during the summer and be blessed by your participation.

July 12: HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

July 26: IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

August 9: JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

August 23: COME, THOU FOUNT OF  
EVERY BLESSING



## CAMPING...CAMPING... CAMPING

There are a variety of camping opportunities for all ages (beginning with 1st grade) at any of our six campsites. There are horse camps, treehouse camps, night owl camps, Bible camps, archery camp, sailing camp, just girls camp, and more.

**Dani Wilson** will be a counselor all summer at Little Grassy. She would love to have you join her at camp. Information on all our camps is available in the Church Office. We have funds available to assist you to go to camp through the Herman Camping Fund!



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Even though we have been pretty quiet on this issue the last month or so rest assured we are actively pursuing developing a plan to present to the congregation. We have a 12-member Steering Committee that has met twice to begin the process. We have seven sub-committees as part of our campaign structure and we have identified six individuals to chair the sub-committees. We are hoping that by splitting up the work additional members of the congregation will be willing to assist in very specific and limited, "focused" tasks necessary in implementing a successful campaign. Hopefully, if you are approached by one of the sub-committee chairs, you will be willing to lend us your expertise for the good of St. Paul UMC. One of our members has put together a very thorough "Capital/Comprehensive Campaign Communications Plan" and we are combining tasks from this plan with other information we have gathered from the UMC and several experts in order to design a thorough, comprehensive plan.

One of the important pieces of our early discussions with the committee was to discuss the use of a consultant in facilitating and directing our campaign proposal to the congregation. After much discussion and at this point the committee has decided to attempt putting a project plan together using our in-house expertise from several congregants. After two meetings the committee will have put together a working group, a "Make the Case" statement covering the need for such a campaign, and begin the process of putting together some of the "nuts and bolts" of such a campaign. The trustees are aggressively pursuing local contractors to develop "concrete" numbers related to the total cost of our project.

On July 9th a delegation from the church will present information relative to our needs and our thoughts about a campaign to the UMC Mississippi River District Church Location and Building Committee in order to obtain a required approval from the UMC to proceed. We will begin a "hard" launch of our campaign with a church-wide Church Conference at which time all available information, including total cost and budget for the project, will be shared with the congregation so that congregants can formally vote to proceed with the campaign including funding of the project or to cease the process.

We certainly appreciate all the hard work and the expertise that has been a part of this process thus far and at this point we ask only that you give prayerful thought and consideration to the direction and future of St. Paul United Methodist Church. May God bless you and bless our efforts.





## Annual Conference Wrap-up

6/15/2015

**By Paul Black - IGRC Director of Communication Ministries**

**PEORIA** – The Illinois Great Rivers Conference was held June 10-13, under the theme, *Healing the Circle*, which included an Act of Repentance toward Indigenous People.

The conference also approved a proposal to close three of the conference's five campsites due to declining headcounts over the past 10 years. Discussion was passionate and spirited as four counter-proposals were also debated.

### Act of Repentance

Conference speakers Rev. Fred Shaw and Rev. Dr. Thom White Wolf Fassett prepared lay and clergy members for the Friday service by recounting the history of relations between the white population and Native Americans through the years.

The audience sat quietly as the two speakers told stories from American history that many said they "had never heard before."

During the Act of Repentance, three IGRC pastors — Rev. Dan Lybarger, Rev. Gary Billiot, and Rev. Danira Parra told of their personal experiences via video.

Lybarger recounted the history which took place within the IGRC borders. Billiot shared from his own personal experience in the southeastern United States and Parra shared her story growing up as a person of both Native American and Hispanic heritage.

"It was easier to be seen as Hispanic, although I am only one-fourth Hispanic," Parra said. "When you are Native American, it's like you don't exist."

Parra noted that Illinois has the largest Native American population of any state without a reservation and challenged the IGRC.

"We have had a wonderful mission partnership with a third-world country in Africa," Parra said.

"But we have Third World countries in the United States. They are called reservations."

She challenged the conference to adopt a reservation — "just one" — in a mission partnership and she asked the United Methodist Women to adopt "just one" mission project that could build a relationship similar to the UMW's relations with Cunningham Home and the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.

Pieces of burlap and a container of ashes were placed on tables and participants shared the imposition of ashes as part of the service.

An impromptu offering for Dayspring UMC in East Peoria — the state's only Native-American United Methodist Church — collected \$9,618.15, which will be used to assist the congregation in completing its building and paving its parking lot.

### Special offerings

In addition to the impromptu offering, special offerings were received for: the Making Dreams Possible Scholarship campaign (\$35,603); the Laity Session offering for the John Kofi Asmah School in Liberia (\$5,609); the Ordinals' Holy Land Pilgrimage (\$5,626); and the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College, one of 11 historically Black Colleges (\$6,166); and 165 conference churches filled a trailer of 4,797 pounds of school supplies and \$890 in monetary contributions for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center which will be sent as school bags to a Native American school in the Dakotas.

The conference was recognized by the General Council on Finance and Administration for its payment of 100 percent of general church apportionments for the 12th consecutive year and for \$6.8 million in disaster relief by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

*Continued on Page 13*





*Annual Conference Wrap-Up Continued from Page 12*

## Camping proposals

In the end, the conference session voted 492-292 to adopt the proposal of the Commission on Camping and Retreat Ministries and urged the Commission to grant a non-profit group, Jensen Camp Foundation, the right of first refusal on the sale of Jensen Woods Camp in Timewell, Ill. The other two camps closing will be Living Springs Camp in Lewistown, Ill., and Epworth Camp in Louisville, Ill.

During the debate, supporters of the various campsites urged delay of any action to sell the campsites, enabling supporters to develop strategy plans or put into place local management of the site while the conference would remain owners of the property.

"Let our past be our guideposts not our hitching posts," said the Rev. Beverly Wilkes-Null during the debate. "As a parent of a camper, I understand the difference between ministry and real estate."

## Delegates elected

Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference were elected during the respective clergy and laity sessions. Elections were completed in the allotted four hours.

Clergy elected to General Conference are (in order of election): Rev. Sylvester Weatherall, Spoon River District Superintendent; Rev. Andy Adams, Champaign Quest UMC; Sara Isbell, Chatham UMC; Rev. Robert Phillips, Peoria First UMC; and Rev. Chris Ritter, Geneseo First UMC.

Laity elected to General Conference are (in order of election): Rhonda Whitaker, Neoga Grace UMC; Bunny Wolfe, IGRC Coordinator of Missions and Outreach; Bobby Davis, Maryville St. Luke UMC; Kimberly Woods, Braceville UMC; and Steve Schonert, Olney First UMC.

Joining the General Conference delegation to form the IGRC Jurisdictional delegation includes:

Clergy: Rev. Randall Robinson, Danville St. James UMC; Dr. Roger Ross, Springfield First UMC; Rev. Janice Griffith, Executive Assistant to the Bishop; Rev. Rose Booker-Jones, Iroquois River District Superintendent; and Rev. Beth Fender, IGRC Coordinator of Discipleship and New Streams.

Laity: Larry Weber, Fairview Heights Christ UMC; Marian McCray, Granite City Namoki UMC; Anish Hermon, Normal Hope UMC; Fred Iutzi, Carthage First UMC; and Carol Sims, administrative assistant to Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund.

Alternates are Rev. J. Keith Zimmerman, retired; Nicole Cox, associate pastor, Springfield First UMC; Rev. Dennis Price, Troy UMC; Melissa Calvillo, Carthage First UMC; Carolyn Yockey, Normal First UMC; and J. LaVon Wilson, Springfield Grace UMC.

## By the numbers

Total 2014 membership is 129,587, down 2,338 from 2013. Average worship attendance for 2014 is 59,200, down 1,669. Professions of faith for 2014 is 1,915, down from 2,202 in 2013. Giving to missions for 2014 was \$1,119,528, compared to \$1,472,900 in 2013.

Bishop Jonathan Keaton ordained nine elders in full connection and three deacons in full connection. He commissioned nine provisional elders and one provisional deacon. Two pastors had their orders recognized and became provisional elders and one was elected to associate membership. A total of 25 pastors, representing 584 years of service, retired. Ten churches, totaling 1,498 years of ministry, have closed or are closing following annual conference.





## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WRAPUP

Dear Church,

We want to extend a big "thank you" to you for sharing your children with us this week. We have had a wonderful time at our **VBS G-FORCE: God's Love In Action**. This year your children experienced an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program that gave them the opportunity to discover God's Love In Action. They were navigators exploring how to serve God and others with active love.

After a high energy opening of praise songs, the navigators made their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons revealed five action words (move – act – care – follow – share) for following God's plan for our lives. Your navigators were taught Bible verses that will move them in their faith, long after VBS is over.

We expanded on what they discovered by participating in a variety of activities: Crafts; Music; Science; Outdoor Fun; Yummy Snacks; Indoor Action Fun; and a Sponge Bob Movie about moving, acting, caring, following, and sharing.

We were blessed with an average of 50 children per day and 20+ youth/college students to help lead each group or station. We were also blessed with many adults who were able to volunteer their time this year. Throughout our week, we were able to raise **\$118** for our mission project, "Heifer Project."

I want to thank everyone who donated their time, money, food, craft items, talents, ideas, or children to our special week. And thank those who in **any way** made our VBS a great week for the children. Our program works because our church is such a great family! I am already looking forward to next year! Thank you again for this opportunity to serve and God bless you all!

*Jamie Gwaltney*

(VBS Photos in the next Steeple!)

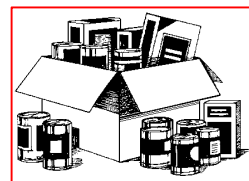
## Food and School Supply Collection---

Each year in the summer the Outreach Ministry Team sponsors the collection of school supplies and a food drive. Due to a suggestion from one of the school nurses who help disburse the school supplies, we began collecting the supplies and food earlier. **It starts July 5th, with members of the Outreach Ministry Team distributing bags and information at the end of both services, and continues through August 9th.** This is so school supplies can be distributed to the children before school starts.

The school supplies go to schools in the districts of Bethalto, Roxana, and Wood River/East Alton. These are then distributed to children who need supplies which families cannot provide. Paper, crayons, scissors, erasers, folders, and binders are always needed. Stores which sell the supplies have school lists for reference. Place the supplies in the coat area/hallway where we traditionally gather items for various collections.



We will distribute food collected to the two area food pantries: Operation Blessing in Wood River and Community Hope Center in Cottage. These are the two food pantries to which our church refers people for food. There is always a heavy demand for food from the pantries. Their help often makes it possible to feed a family until the next income arrives or food stamps are available. This past year the pantries are facing increasing numbers of requests due to the rise in prices and difficulties in our economy. Any amount we give is always appreciated.



**The school supplies and food will be distributed the week of August 9th.**