



Have you ever noticed how children stories and fairy tales begin? They start, "Once upon a time..." and end "...they lived happily ever after." Sometimes people would like to live their lives as if they were living in a fairy tale. "Once upon a time"-lets you know something about the story. From these words we realize that a story is coming where the main character is faced with struggles brought on by someone evil, usually a witch or sorcerer, and the main character has no control over what will happen to him or her. But when all seems lost, a hero comes to rescue the person, usually a prince. By an act of the hero, the victim is freed and the two go off to live happily ever after.

But this is just a fairy tale and life is not like that. Do you know how many people want to live life as if it were a fairy tale? These people see themselves as victimized by others and are waiting for someone to rescue them. They think that if they just find the right person, all will be right in life and they truly believe they will live happily ever after. I have seen this philosophy played out in marriages and especially seen it while counseling couples for their wedding.

The problem with this idealized thinking is this: they have done nothing wrong, but they are the victims of another person. When we have this belief, we cannot deal with the real world because we are living a fantasy. Waiting for Prince Charming or in the case of a man, Princess Charming, leads us into despair. This is because we are waiting for someone else to solve our problems for which we have taken no responsibility. And the "happily ever after" never comes.

As this new year commences, let us look at life as a

reality and help others to live like that. Our story begins like this "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Then our story teaches us that we are the ones that have sinned. We may have been tempted by the evil one, but we are the ones responsible for doing wrong or not doing right. Christ came not to save one individual for each story, as in fairy tales, but to save all people. We do not have to wait for someone to rescue us, Christ died for all people. By accepting our responsibility for sin and by receiving Christ into our life, we begin the new story of eternal and abundant life with Christ. We don't have to wait until the end of the story, because we live in peace and harmony with God from that moment.

Taking responsibility and taking appropriate action is the keys to success in living. Look at what has happened in our economic world. No one wants to take responsibility. Many people were doing wrong, yet no one acts responsible. The icing on the cake was when the CEOs of the auto industry came to Washington in private jets using thousands of dollars and asking for a bailout . Spending all that money from a distraught company was not the responsible thing to do. We need a reality check on our lives. As we begin this new year, let us live responsibly as Christ taught us and let us admit and confess our sins and live life as God wants us to do. Have a wonderful new year and may God's blessing us help us to bless others.

Pastor Dave

January Sermons

4th: Communion
Isaiah 60:105 & Matthew 2:1-12
"STAR LIGHT; STAR BRIGHT"

11th: Genesis 1:1-5 & Mark 1:4-11
"Beginnings"

18th: I Samuel 3:1-10
& Mark 1:14-20
"It's For You"

25th: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 &
John 1:43-51
"I Don't Want To"

Thank you...

The Worship Committee would like to thank all who have served our church as greeters, communion stewards, worship leaders, and acolytes in 2008. You each have helped to make this church a home and worship service special.



Wee Blessings

Let me begin by saying what a wonderful job the children did on their Christmas program at the Mulberry Retirement Home. We are so proud of each of them and we know that everyone enjoyed hearing and seeing their beautiful smiling faces!

It's hard to believe that we are saying goodbye to 2008 and welcoming 2009. The children did so much during the last four months and we have much more planned for the last four months and we have much more planned for them in the coming year! The Three's will continue to work on shapes, colors, using a pencil and scissors, learning their Bible Stories and verses and all their wonderful art projects! The Four's will continue to work on their letters, numbers, numbers, writing their names, starting three part patterns, learning their phone numbers, their Bible verses, and their art projects as well. We hope that all of you have visited the Library to see the children's art!

This is a time to count our blessings and we are so thankful for all of you and your support! We truly appreciate Mrs. Gray coming and reading to the children. We are also so thankful for all the volunteers that come and make our parties so much fun for the children and for those who send goodies in for the children to enjoy! Moreover, we are so thankful for the Steering Committee that supports and guides us during this exciting journey.

Merry Christmas and we wish you all much happiness for the coming New Year!

God Bless,

Patty, Donna and Mary Kay



Mulberry United Methodist Women

We finished off the year with a bang: the UMW Christmas

Auction was a **huge** success. We raised over \$600 to give to needy families during this Christmas season! May God bless all the generous people we have in our congregation: 38 men & women of whom were present at the auction. The December meeting is always lots of fun with good food and a variety of items to be auctioned—a lot of “friendly” competition ☺

We'd like to thank John Harden for again being our GREAT auctioneer and to Cathy Harden, Susie Kelsey, and Sarah Wilson for being hostesses.

Be on the look-out for the 2009 MUMW Brochure with the dates and times of the upcoming events for next year. It should be out in February. Our next meeting will be in March. Have a wonderful winter!

VILLA DINNER

The United Methodist Women helped prepare the 4th annual Christmas dinner for the Luther Villa residents and their families. This year the women of Gloria Dei and Trinity also participated by providing salads and desserts. Many thanks to those who worked on behalf of UMW: Roger Lewis, Dick Howe, Jerry Doyle, Barb Seager and Wilma Howe. The families look forward to this fun evening together and were most appreciative of the efforts of all those involved!

**Wee Blessings Preschool resumes
Monday, January 5th**



HATS OFF!

Congratulations to three of our college students who graduated in December: Tyler Remaly, Kathy Seager and Brianne Thayer. We wish you the best in your next part of life's journey. ☺

Kids Under Construction
Will begin
Wednesday,
January 7th
See you there!

Mission News

Looking ahead to 2009, we are asking for your prayers for support and guidance. We wish to send a work team to Southern Indiana sometime this summer to help with the continued disaster relief from the 2008 flooding.

We have made some initial contacts and are waiting for information. Once we have received this, we will have a better idea of where and when to go and how many to send. Please pray for guidance for this endeavor.

Thanks again to everyone for buying holiday pies. After all money was counted, we made a profit of \$1220 which will go to local missions.

Next meeting is January 14th at 7 p.m. at the church.

Thanks for your tremendous support!
For the Missions Committee,
Deb Schutz

SUPER SUNDAY

In the past few weeks as we prepared for the celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus our lessons were based on the stories in the Bible as well as our families. We talked about the **nativity**: What is represented in it? Why? What kind does your family have at home? Did you notice the one our Church has? Another topic was **tradition**: What does your family do every year in preparation? What does that mean to you? Why is it important? What does the Church do? How important is the music? What is your favorite Church song? We focused on the **giving, not the receiving** and how to give meaningfully and how we don't have to *buy* gifts. (This is not easy with this age group: 4 yrs. thru 4th grade!) I have been very pleased with the discussions in our class. Our attendance peaks at 12 kids, that is awesome! We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Barb Seager

Christmas Cantata

Our community was blessed this year with the United Methodist Church and Trinity Church combining to perform "Together for Christmas". The choir was composed of 29 singers with the addition of 6 readers. Their voices reached many with the expression of the joy of Christmas, the most Holy Season. The group performed at both Churches--to the delight of those who were in attendance. The support system consisted of the audio-visual team and those who helped set the stage. Our appreciation to ALL who helped make the cantata a success ☺

Small Steps - Large Steps

The trustee's met during January of 2008 and planned out what we would like to accomplish for the year. Some of the projects listed in the following notes were not on that list but were needed.

When we met in January, Pastor Dave asked if we were *Incorporated*. We were not and he highly recommended it for the main reason that is if we were ever to be sued, that the Chairperson of each committee, Ad Board Chair, and the pastor could be listed as defendants and possibly lose all of what we have worked for all our lives. We contacted Mr. Gene Robbins, Attorney, and filed necessary papers and forms and became "Mulberry United Methodist Church, Inc" on May 21st of 2008.

During this time we were also contacted by Mr. Truman Wampler's son-in-law inquiring if we were interested in the property to our south, 204 South Main Street. We indicated that we were but only if the price was acceptable. We purchased this property in early May and proceeded to start upgrading it to a more livable condition. The trustee's and other volunteers made it much more livable and were able to get it rented by November 15th. This property will be rented until funds are available to pay it off and then it will probably be leveled for parking or some sort of expansion.

Also, on the trustee's list was a project to upgrade, repair or replace the sign in the front of the Church. It was decided to have a presentation of our needs and this happened in early June. We were very fortunate to be able to raise the necessary funds in about two week. The sign was ordered and the UMM group proceeded to demolish and remove the old sign. There were a few hang-ups and problems getting the sign in but it is now up and illuminating the area with great messages. Our appreciation goes out to the Garriott family and other generous donors for this project.

During an AD Board meeting the Trustee Chair mentioned that we have had an electric stove donated to us by the Reddix family for the use in ABBA'S but the electrical service was not adequate to have it wired. It was suggested that we have a Church Garage Sale and the funds be donated to have the electric upgraded. The garage sale was in the middle of September and approximately \$1100 was raised. With the cost of installation and building permits, the total raised was exactly what was needed and this upgrade was completed on December 10th. We now have use of an electric stove to use at ABBA'S.

Historically, we have also had problems with the roof leaking at ABBA'S and as much as we sealed and coated it, the leaking continued to get worse. We had a roofer come and talk at a trustee meeting to explain what and how we might solve this problem. Financially, we were not ready to proceed but at each sign of rain we had to run up there and place buckets all over certain area's to catch the leaking water. We bit the bullet and decided to have the roof replaced and that was completed in early December. After waiting to make sure there were no leaks, Dave Miller volunteered his company, Serve-Pro, to clean the very dirty and stained carpet. A big thanks to him!!!

Other small items of note was that we also installed a new hot water heater at the Parsonage, had the water softener rebuilt in the church and stripped and sealed the basement floor. Also a new ice maker was installed.

We have many other projects and when time and money allow, we will be taking care of them. Please let a trustee know if there is something that you feel is needed. Some times we don't see everything. The Trustee's would like to thank UMM, UMW, and all other volunteers who have helped us through some of these issues. Without you much of this would not have happened.

Trustee's

Worship Assistants

Communion Steward: Nancy Doyle
Traditional Service 8:45 a.m.

*If you are unavailable on your date, please call the office at 296-3399.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Prayer w/ Pastor</u>
1/4	Matt & Wendy Simon	Nancy Doyle		
1/11	Roger Lewis			
1/18	Ron & Patty Wright			
1/25	Vicki Hastings			

Blue Jean Service 11:00 a.m.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Prayer w/ Pastor</u>
1/4	Ken & Barb Synesael	Mark Newhart		
1/11	Katherine Townsley			
1/18	TBA			
1/25	Paul & Sandy Reddix			

If you would like to fill a spot in any of these positions during the year, please see the sheets in the foyer or call the office, 296-3399. Thank you!!

Attendance & Offering

<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Attend.</u>	<u>Sun. School</u>	<u>Gen. Fund Offering</u>
10/19	201	51	\$2,607
10/26	169	57	\$2,339
11/2	189	64	\$3,258
11/9	219	65	\$2,784
11/16	192	63	\$3,652
11/23	190	64	\$2,216
11/30	181	59	\$2,196

*General Fund Offering does not include money designated to specific funds, groups or activities.

January Birthdays

1/3 Paul Reddix	1/18 Macy Kraner
1/3 Debbie Turner	1/18 Drew Schilling
1/3 Linda Ward	1/19 Larry Boyd
1/8 Kara Simon	1/19 Wendy Simon
1/10 Jerry Fultz	1/20 Cindi Cullom
1/10 Joshua Surber	1/21 Randy Cornell
1/10 Ryan Surber	1/23 Jim Cullom
1/12 Zeke Gouvan	1/25 Marie Myers
1/15 Pat Simon	1/25 Craig Seager
1/16 Ellen Miller	1/26 Kaleb Fultz
1/17 Opal Cullom	1/30 Margarita Gipson
1/17 Julie Pearcy	

If your birthday is not listed,
please call the church office at 296-3399

**Deadline to submit
articles is the 15th
each month.**



MUMC Staff, Services & Contact Information

Pastor: David Hummel
Choir Director: Mary Lou Clendenning
Pianist: Esther Creamer
Organist: Angie Schilling
Nursery: Sherry Gouvan
Custodian: Jerry Fultz
Admin. Asst: Wendy Simon

Bible Study: Tues. 7 pm & Wed. 10 am
Women's Bible Study:
Tue at 6 am at the Church
Men's Bible Study 7 am 2nd & 4th Sat.
Youth Group Sun. At Abba's 4-5:30

Wee Blessings Preschool:
Director & Teacher: Patty Wright
Teacher: Donna Kirkpatrick
Assistant Teacher: Mary Kay Finnerty

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-1:30
Church Office: (765) 296-3399
Pastor's Home: (765) 296-3390
Abba's Place: (765) 296-2090
Church Email: mlbymc@mintel.net
Web-site: www.mumc-in.org
Food Pantry: By Appointment
Call Church Office

Traditional Worship: 8:45 am Sun
Sunday School: 10:00 am Sun
Blue Jean Service: 11:00 am Sun

Mulberry United Methodist Church Lay Development Report 2009

Administrative Council

Chair	Ryan Turner	Trustee Chair	Dan Remaly
Pastor	David Hummel	Worship & Fellowship	Chris Waugh
Lay Leader	Tom Simon	Missions Chair	Deb Schutz
Annual Conf. Lay Member	Linda Marshall	Youth Member	To Be Announced
Recording Secretary	Becky Farley	Bridge Builders	Barb Seager
Treasurer	To Be Announced	UMM Rep.	Tom Simon
Financial Secretary	Betty Campbell	UMW President	Carol Nagy
Membership Secretary	Nancy Doyle	Memorial Chair	Amy Thayer
Finance & Stewardship	John Harden	Administrative Assistant	Wendy Simon
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Steve Pearcy	Evangelism Chair	Coralee Judge
Abba's Place Board	Myron Chezem	Education Chair	Patty Wright
Wee Blessings	Barb Seager		

Bridge Builders (Evangelism) Chair: Barb Seager

2009 Michelle Albitz	2010 Mary Fultz	2011 Patty Wright
Lori Thies	Linda Ward	Barb Seager

Missions Chair: Deb Schutz

2009 Rachel Moore	2010 Paul Reddix	2011 Becky Farley
Deb Schutz	Ryan Turner	Elaine Simon

Fellowship & Worship Chair: Chris Waugh

2009 Amy Thayer	2010 Wilma Howe	2011 Vicki Hastings
Sherry Gouvan	Becky Farley	Mary Lou Clendenning
Betty Skiles	Chris Waugh	Barb Synesael
Roger Lewis	Kevin Garrett	Rita Cornell

Altar Guild: Vicky Hastings, Dania Remaly, Cathy Townsley
 Prayer Coordinators: Sherry Gouvan, Coralee Judge
 Audio Video Team: Jim Cullom, Tom Simon, Sr, Matt Simon, Kevin Garrett
 2nd Service Worship Team Coordinator: Chris Waugh
 Musicians: Ester Creamer, Angie Schilling, Andy Schilling, Chris Waugh, Andrea Burke

Staff Parish Relations Chair: Steve Pearcy

2009 Steve Pearcy	2010 Jon Paddock	2011 Cathy Harden
Bob Waugh	Michelle Albitz	Ronnette Peden

Ex-officio: Lay Leader-Tom Simon; Lay Member to Conference-Linda Marshall

Trustees Chair: Dan Remaly

2009 Matt Simon	2010 Deb Turner	2011 Dick Howe
Dan Remaly	Kevin Garrett	Angie Schilling
Bill Fultz	Wayne Walker	Nancy Doyle

Lay Development (Nominations) Chair: Pastor David Hummel

2009 Jade Kas	2010 Marlene Boyd	2011 Andy Albitz
Janet Fisher	Janice Dyer	Jeff Weber

Ex Officio: Lay Leader-Tom Simon, Sr.

Finance & Stewardship Chair: John Harden

Financial Secretaries: Betty Campbell
 Treasurer: Andrea Burke
 Assistant Treasurer: Wendy Simon
 Pastor Parish Chair: Steve Pearcy

Trustees Chair: Dan Remaly
 Ad. Council Chair: Ryan Turner
 Lay Leader: Tom Simon
 David Miller & 2011 **Jerry Fultz**

Evangelism Committee Chair: Coralee Judge

2009 Wayne Walker	2010 Kevin Garrett	2011 Mark Newhart
Betty Campbell	Cindi Cullom	Beth Newhart
Rita Cornell	Becky Farley	Coralee Judge

Education Committee Chair: Patty Wright

2009 Sarah Coffman	2010 Sherri Gouvan	2011
<u>Sunday School Teacher/Class Rep.</u>		
FFF-Wayne Walker	Hope-Cindi Cullom	Discipleship 101-Dania Remaly
Joy-Coralee Judge	Senior High-Chris Waugh	F.R.O.G.S.-Wendy Simon
Super Sunday-Barb Seager		
<u>Kids Under Construction Directors-</u> Cathy Harden, Carol Nagy, Becky Farley		
<u>Children's Church</u> – Jan-Apr: Betty (Perry) Skiles; May-Aug: Rene Kemmerer ; Sep-Dec: Elaine Simon		
<u>Children's Time/Sermon-</u> Patty Wright	<u>Vacation Bible School-</u> Ronnette Peden	

Youth Team: Kevin Garrett, Matt Simon, Wendy Simon

Java Jam: Kevin Garrett, Cathy Harden

