

THE MESSENGER

April 2005

Building Bridges To The Families Of Mulberry, Leading Them To Christ And Christian Commitment

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Pastor Tom Hoehner
 Pastoral Care Craig Overman
 Music Director Angie Schilling
 Pianist Esther Creamer
 Custodian: Sarah Wilson
 Admin. Asst.: Chris Gipson
 Nursery: Wendy Simon
 Wee Blessings Preschool:
 Director: Sarah Wilson
 Teacher: Sarah Wilson
 Assistant: Mary Kay Finnerty

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

Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 7 pm &
 Wednesdays @ 10 am & 2 pm

Church Office: (765) 296-3399
 Pastor's Home: (765) 296-3390
 Dial-A-Prayer: (765) 296-PRAY
 Abba's Place: (765) 296-2090

Office Hours:
 Monday-Wednesday: Noon-6:00 pm
 Thursday: Noon-5:00 pm
 Sunday: 9:45-1045 am

E-mail:
mlbymc@mintel.net
www.mumc-in.org

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF
EACH MONTH.

From The Pastor

Half of our Haiti team is lined up and we are still looking for 5-7 people who would be interested in going to Haiti the second week of July. Your cost is \$400 and our Mission Committee will raise the other \$600.

We will be putting on a Bible School for the Haitian children as well as doing a work project for one of the local churches. Contact Ryan Turner or Pastor Tom if you want to go.

Pastor Tom

There will be a "Spring Cleaning" day at the Church on Saturday, April 23rd, from 8 am to noon. Please join in making our Church look great!

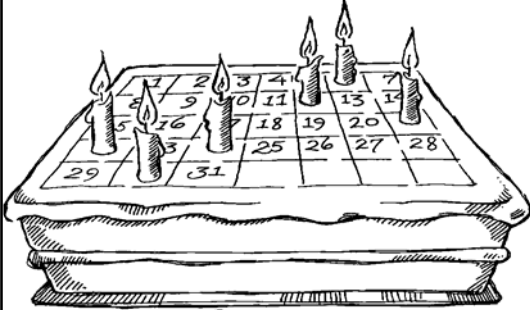


Space For Rent

Abba's Place is available for your next Family Reunion, Birthday Party or any special event you may have coming up. There is no charge for Church members in good standing. However, the Church would be overjoyed to accept a financial donation to cover the expenses of maintaining Abba's. Simply contact Chris at the Church office to arrange for rental.

April Birthdays

Ask Freida



Birthdays This Month

- 4/1.....Jan Dyer
- 4/2.....Beth Newhart
- 4/5.....Dave Kelsey
- 4/7.....Coriden Schilling
- 4/8.....Eric Lenehan
- 4/9.....Brienne Thayer
- 4/9.....Emily Waugh
- 4/10.....Jerry Kemmerer
- 4/10.....Tess Wilson
- 4/11.....Hattie Cullom
- 4/14.....Adam Garriott
- 4/15.....Ryan Walker
- 4/15.....Sandy Waninger
- 4/20.....Keith Haslet
- 4/27.....Evan Lenehan



Dear Freida,

What can I do when I'm discouraged?

Dear Discouraged,

Just get outside, start to pray, and think about what you have done good for others.

Sincerely,

Freida

Keep Your Child Safe On The Internet

MUMC now has an extra friend in cyberspace. It's name is mykiwe.com. From this website you can order the only true, safe Internet Browser. This will protect your children from viewing any inappropriate websites. As a bonus, MUMC will receive \$10.00 for every sale from this site. To find out more about this, go to www.mumc-in.mykiwie.com

Ministry Assistants

Meetings & Events

Traditional Service

Communion Steward: Becky Staley

Acolyte: Hattie Cullom

Greeters:

3 Joe & Kristi Walker & Family

10 Jerry & Wilma Fultz

17 Janie Garriott

24 Helen Hann & Claudia Timmons

Worship Leaders: 3rd & 10th-Coralee Judge
17th & 24th-Wayne Walker

Pray with the Pastor (8:30 am)

3 Marlene Boyd & Claudia Timmons

10 Shelly Surbur & Mark Newhart

17 Coralee Judge & Gene & Linda Marshall

24 Judi Hoehner & Cathy Harden

Blue Jean Service

Children's Church

3 Sarah Wilson

10 Kendra Synesael

17 Lindsay Reddix

24 Sandy Reddix

Greeters:

3 Jay & Mary Kay Finnerty & Family

10 Glenn & Sarah Wilson & Family

17 Ryan & Deb Turner & Family

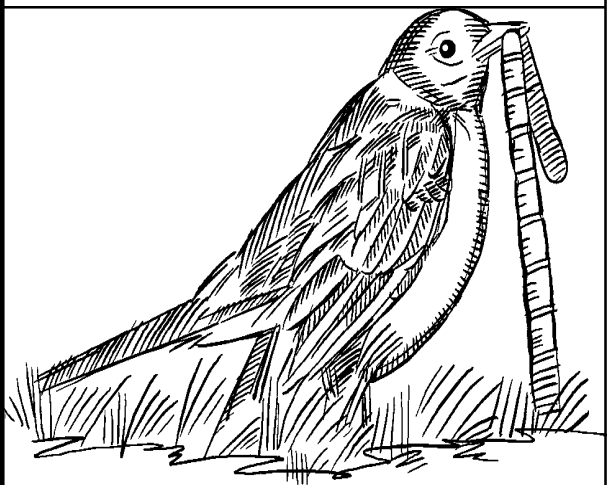
24 Elaine & Cassie Walden

- 4th** Missions Committee 7 pm @ the Church
- 4th** Worship Committee/Community Church Service Committee 7 pm @ the Church
- 7th** UMW 7 pm at Coralee's home
- 7th** CC Chamber of Commerce 5:30 pm @ the Church
- 7th** Mulberry Festival Committee 7 pm @ the Church
- 11th** Administrative Board 7 pm @ the Church
- 16th** Java Jam 7 pm @ Abba's Place
- 23rd** Spring Cleaning 8-12 am @ the Church
- 24th** Corporate Prayer 6 pm @ the Church
- 27th** 55 & Very Alive 12:30 @ the Church

Weekly Calendar

- Sun:** 8:45 am Traditional Service
- 10 am Sunday School
- 11 am Blue Jean Service
- 4:30 pm Youth @ the Church
- Mon:** 6:30 am Men's Bible Study/Breakfast @ the Corner Restaurant
- Tues:** 5:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 9 am Craft Ladies @ the Church
- 7 pm Bible Study @ the Church
- 8 pm AA Meeting-Church Basement
- Wed:** 10 am Bible Study @ the Church
- 2 pm Bible Study @ the Villa
- 5:10 pm Kid's Club @ the Church
- 2nd & 4th Sat. each month:** 7 am Men's Bible Study/Breakfast @ the Church

Tuesday & Wednesday Bible Study will not meet the weeks of April 4th and April 11th.



APRIL

MUMC Vital Signs

	Offering Received
Jan. 30	\$4,523
Attendance 144	
Feb. 6	\$3,334
Attendance 150	
Feb. 13	\$3,521
Attendance 134	
Feb. 20	\$3,995
Attendance 133	
Feb. 27	\$4,619
Attendance 149	
March 6	\$5,908
Attendance 144	
6 Week Offering Ave.	\$4,316
6 Week Attendance Ave.	142

UMW

Sarah Thies was the speaker for our February meeting here at the Church. She shared a number of pictures and adventures. We were impressed with her visit and glad that we could be helpful in giving her the opportunity to go on a mission to Panama.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 7th, at the home of Coralee Judge, 7:00 pm. This will be a Book Review.

Saturday, April 23rd, will be

Thank You!

Stone Soup Food Pantry would like to thank Boy Scout Troop #336 for their Food Drive contribution. Also, a big THANK YOU to the MUMC congregation and the citizens of Mulberry for their generosity in giving to the hungry. If you know of a family or someone who is hungry, please refer them to the food pantry. They may call 296-6632 and ask for Chris, or 296-3390 and ask for Pastor Tom.

"If everyone gives just a little, there will be plenty for all."

CONGRATULATIONS!

A BIG "CONGRATULATIONS" to Andy & Michelle Albitz, who were blessed with a baby boy on February 17th, 2005; Austin Alexander Albitz. Mother, Father and Baby are all doing well. Austin is the third addition to the MUMC family this year!

Wee Blessings News

The month of March has flown by. Spring Break was a break everyone needed and deserved. In the month of April, we will start testing the four year old class to prepare for Parent/Teacher Conferences. These times and dates will be announced later. I can't believe it is that time of year already.

At present, the four year old class is doing a tremendous job with their letters. We practice writing each letter on the dry erase board and on paper. We read about each letter and the sound it makes and we listen to a tape of the Letter People-they really enjoy this! Mr. Gg, for example, likes Gooney Gum on his Garden Gate. Mr. Nn has a noisy nose. Mr. V has a Very Violet Vest and Miss E exercises! This makes learning fun!

The three year old class is working on numbers. On Wednesday, they color their number page to be put in a number book. On Friday, they color a paper that has a picture of (example) three cats at the top of the paper. At the bottom of the paper there are many balls of yarn, but they only color 3 of them. They practice one number for two days. They are doing a great job.

Our Bible stories are, of course, all about Easter and how Jesus died on the cross and rose again on Easter Sunday morning. I want all the children to know WHY we celebrate Easter and how it is Springtime and how the trees, plants, grass, etc. kind of died in the winter and rose or came back to life again, just like Jesus. We talked a lot about how we like Easter candy, eggs and gifts that we receive, but most important—WHY we celebrate this beautiful event.

I hope and pray that everyone had a BLESSED and BEAUTIFUL EASTER!! I love Springtime and how everything comes back to life again. God planned it this way just as He planned for us to have new life in Him. Everyday is a new and exciting walk with Jesus!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wilson

Java Jam!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for April 16th-it's the next Java Jam!! Trevor Harden and the Worship Band from Christ United Methodist will be performing; and, we will have a return performance by Keith Hughes, from Lafayette. There will also be a third performer-to be announced! The show begins at 7:00 pm.

If you've ever been to one of our Java Jam coffee house nights, you know how fun and entertaining they are. If you haven't, then be sure to come this time-you're in for an enjoyable evening. Be sure to bring your friends and neighbors!

**MULBERRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MINUTES**

PRESENT: Jerry Fultz, Ryan Turner, Craig & Cheryl Overman, Rita Cornell, Chris Gipson, Barb Seager, Tom Hoehner, Andy Albitz, Amy Thayer, Dania Remaly, and Recording Secretary, Sarah Wilson

Craig opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes were approved as read.

BRIDGE BUILDERS: 46 cards were sent. Made and gave 12 Valentine plates to the shut-ins. \$30.50 was budgeted. Donations=\$46.55

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Studying the crucifixion.

MISSIONS: No expenses thus far. Will be sending checks out. We are up to 6-8 people for the Mission trip. The trip will be the second week of July. Easter breakfast will be the first fund raiser for the trip. Each individual will pay \$400.00 out of pocket and Missions will pay the rest-which will be about half the cost of the trip.

WORSHIP: The Beach Party is the 19th of March. Easter services will be: Sunrise service and regular service with breakfast in-between. The Triple F class will prepare the meal and donations of coffee cakes will be taken. Missions will serve and clean up. Cheryl had the surveys for the two services to come together. 95% of the surveys say yes to a combined service. Overall, a high percentage of surveys say that both services are great and the people are being fed. Will have a Maundy Thursday Service and Jesus will be there. The next project will be the Pictorial.

PASTOR PARISH: Will have a meeting on March 23rd. Paul is on vacation and could not be here.

TRUSTEES: Will fix Esther's piano bench. Craig has a friend that could give an estimate on the roof at Abba's.

FINANCE: The General Fund balance: \$3,643.63. Organ Fund Balance: \$296.68. New Building Fund Balance: \$10,777.68. Would like to see separate balances for New Building Fund and Abba's Place. Can get balances from church computer. Could add column to provide balances for both of these accounts and then we would have it on paper. Most of Abba's money comes from rentals.

PASTORAL CARE: Visiting people.

MEMORIALS: No report

UMM: Going well. Have about 10 men who come faithfully.

UMW: The meeting for April will be a book review. Sarah Thies gave a nice presentation on her trip to Panama. Putting together UMCOR care packages. Possibly put information about our Church in the Interpreter newsletter.

YOUTH: Jr. High Class chose not to use the empty Sunday School room. Sr. High will have two bands come to play and have supper. Chris and the Sr. High class will have games at the Beach Party. Going to a hockey game on Friday, March 18th. Discussion was brought up about hiring another Youth Director. This is something we need to look toward. Youth is growing. Need mentor for the person hired. Will still use the 3 month probationary period when someone is hired. Will need someone local for this part-time position. Keep advertising low-key. Put feelers out and the PPR Committee will discuss. Cheryl will ask the Sr. High what they want. There is a need for this position.

KID'S CLUB: On the downswing-this week is a Pizza Party. After Spring Break there are only 5 meetings left. FCA was great for both Abba's kids and the Church kids!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Dania reported that we need a teacher for the 101 Discipleship Class. There were 10 kids in Super Sunday last week.

OLD NEWS: There were 4-5 people for the copier training. Chris thinks the copier is great.

Building Assessment: Craig met with Michelle Cobb. She gave him proper forms to get started. Craig will ask people to be on the Investigative Committee. He will have committee set up by next Ad Council. Jerry stated that if we ever build or expand and no longer need Abba's Place, that his boss wants to buy it.

Advertising/Phone Book: Ryan had a handout. Talked to a woman and she said we only have line ads that have phone numbers. Chris did cancel other advertising. Ryan made a motion to keep the advertising cancelled and only have the line ads. Chris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Accountability Committee: Barb had a hand out. Discussed Abba's rental policy. Need one for Church/basement rentals. Need mentors and committee people to hand down committee responsibilities. Officers for coming year should be published in the January Newsletter. Ad Board will go over and study what Barb and her committee proposed and Barb will have polished rules for the Board. Ryan will dispose of the sand. Pastor Tom needs a bucket of salt for ice. Milk jugs need to be put in the dungeon room. Old TV needs to be removed. Chris will remove TV. Paint cans need to be removed that are by the furnace. April 23rd will be CLEAN-UP day. It will be from 8:00 am-12:00 noon. Will need a list of Parsonage and Church jobs to be done. Sunday will be "Authority Sunday". Pastor Tom brought up a scenario of a legal defense fund for the local law enforcement. More information will be in the Sunday bulletin. A discussion was brought up about the Denny Cramer Service. Next year when he comes would like to see him minister to our church people but not exclude outside people. Don't sit visitors in any certain section or place. The popcorn machine at Abba's was donated by the Turners. Web page is great! Use the term "offering" in the newsletter when showing money amounts. Barb announced that Wee Blessings gave a donation to the copier expense since we use the copier and paper.

MEETING ADJOURNED

KID'S CLUB NEWS

The Kid's Club K-5 met at the Church for a special program by the Clinton Prairie FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). The FCA kids sang songs, encouraged audience participation and presented several skits. It was great having the "big" kids demonstrate how they can have fun being Christians and sharing the good word. A big "thank you" to the FCA for taking time for us!!

Kid's Club K-3 has started their last unit: "Let's Applaud Friends of God". We have learned about King Josiah, who led the people of Israel back to obeying God and how David and Jonathon were good friends even through bad times. We celebrated the coming of Easter with the movie "An Easter Carol" (a parallel to "The Christmas Carol") and a pizza party!

The 4th & 5th grade Kid's Club spent the month of March "Divin Into Jesus." We learned about baptism, prayer and putting others ahead of ourselves. Jr/Sr High School students Aaron Crider, Erin Overman and Melissa Cook helped us out by becoming our improvisational troupe. They acted out some situations that we might encounter at school or at home and how to handle them the way God wants us to. They did a great job. Many thanks to them. Thanks also to Lindsay Reddix for helping us out the past few weeks.

March 16th was our "Movie On The Ceiling" night. The kids watched an Easter movie while lounging on their bean bag chairs-and the screen was on the ceiling! They were also treated to Domino's pizza. It was a fun and comfortable evening.

Administrative Council

The Administrative Council meets monthly on the second Monday of the month. This meeting is open to the entire congregation. All Church business is conducted within this meeting and any input is welcome, however, only Chairpersons of all committees have a vote on all motions. Printing the minutes in the monthly newsletter helps keep members informed of what is happening and changing within the Church. If anyone has questions or input, but cannot attend the meeting, we encourage you to contact the chairperson of that committee. They will be more than willing to listen and explain how decisions are made within that committee. All chairpersons can be found on the bulletin board near the Administrative Assistant's office or you may ask Chris to help you.

Jerry Fultz
Chairperson
Administrative Council



WHO ARE WE?

Have you ever wondered how our Church, Parsonage and Abba's Place stay in operable and good condition? Who services something when it breaks or needs repaired, replaced or re-done? Who keeps the water softener filled with salt? Who does someone call when something needs fixed? An idea of how much just one project in 2004 cost—replacing the Plexiglas on the outside windows clear at the top of the Church—\$625.00—WOW! We also pay for the quarterly insurance, and it has skyrocketed in 2005. The next major project that is on the list is the roof at Abba's. This will be a great financial burden, but it must be done. It leaks all around the vault and there is a new leak every time it rains. There is a lot of up-keep, especially when it comes to old buildings and no extra money coming in. We need your HELP! If you would like to donate to ABBA'S new roof or any other important building project, please designate this on your offering envelope or send to: (answer to: **WHO ARE WE?** below). This committee loves our Church, Parsonage and Youth Center, as we all do, so let's keep them beautiful!!

Answer: The Trustee Committee

Super Sunday Class Bakes Super Special Cookies!

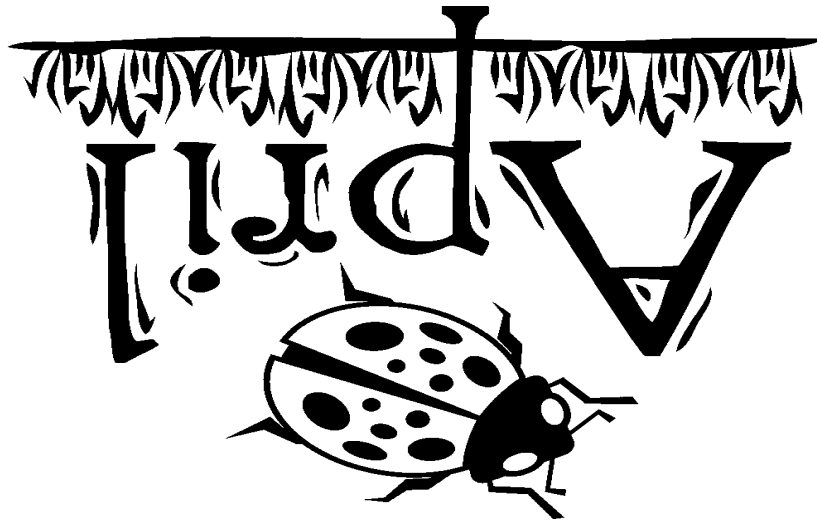
The *Super Sunday* class made special Easter cookies! Each ingredient had a Bible reference to the crucifixion, ie, the salt represented the salty tears of Jesus' followers, the sugar represented the sweetness of the victory over death, the vinegar was what the guards gave Jesus when He was thirsty, and the egg whites represent life. Each child helped crush the nuts for the cookies by "beating" them with a wooden spoon to represent the treatment of Jesus by the guards. The next week in class we opened our cookies to find that **they were hollow**-just like the tomb. What a great way to hear the lesson of Easter! We also saw the movie: "The Three Trees" and learned that what we want in life may not be what Jesus has in His plan for us. Still, our lives can be fruitful and meaningful.

MULBERRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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