



# The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 2

February 2016

## Staying fed

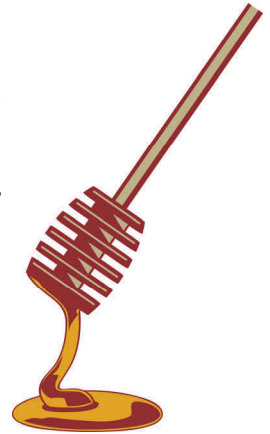
“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103, NRSV).

Recently I was confronted with this question: If you fed yourself with food the way you feed yourself with God’s Word, would you still be alive? It gave me pause.

Do I eat *enough* spiritually? – feast regularly enough on Scripture to keep up my energy and the health of my soul? Do I eat *nutritiously*? – take in a balanced meal of law and gospel, comfort and commandments, prophecy and promise? Do I pass up spiritual *junk food*? – set aside empty calories that lead to disease, in order to hunger for what truly gives life? Do I drink enough *Living Water* to avoid faith dehydration? And once in a while, do I *splurge on dessert*? – savor the sweetness and joy of belonging at God’s table?

What abundance God sets before us. May we never skip a “meal”!

—Heidi Mann



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## Ash Wednesday Service

An Ash Wednesday service of ashes and communion will be held in our sanctuary on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days (not counting Sundays) of preparation for Easter. Whatever you plan to do as your observance of Lent this year, worship is an important part of our spiritual growth. I invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service as we begin this season of repentance and reflection together.

### Church Staff

- Pastor**  
Dr. Bufford Coe
- Administrative Assistant/  
Financial Assistant**  
Kathy Rix
- Choir/Praise Band Director**  
Tamra Stamm
- Custodian**  
Paul French
- Heart & Hands Teacher/  
Director**  
Amber Morris
- Heart & Hands Teacher**  
Kelli Young
- Heart & Hands Assistant**  
Amber Smith
- Kids Hope USA Director**  
Barb Bladt
- Youth Director**  
Hank Stamm
- Newsletter Editor**  
Kathy Rix

## An Early Start to Spring Cleaning

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it’s an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for “spring.” So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. “Lent cleaning” lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith – and it’s never too early for that.

From Newsletter Newsletter February 2016

If we are to accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man’s religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men. —William Barclay



## Pastor's Article

Ministry Shares are the first mile of mission giving for all United Methodists. They form the framework for the rest of our connectional ministry and mission. When we give our money so our congregation can pay its Ministry Shares, we are giving to causes such as these:

### World Service Fund

The World Service Fund is the essential core of the United Methodist global outreach ministry, underwriting Christian mission around the world. By giving to World Service we empower United Methodist evangelistic efforts, stimulate Bible study and spiritual commitment, encourage church growth and discipleship, and help God's children everywhere.

### Africa University Fund

This vital fund supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa—serving students from 21 countries, all across the continent of Africa. Africa University provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.

### Ministerial Education Fund

Men and women choose the ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way of helping them answer that divine call. Our United Methodist seminaries lead the effort to proclaim God's word in a world desperately in need of that message.

### Black College Fund

The 11 U.S. historically Black colleges and universities supported by The United Methodist Church have played a unique role in U.S. higher education. Their graduates—teachers and doctors, ministers and bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs—are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States.

### Episcopal Fund

Bishops have always had a very special role in our church...elected and consecrated to speak to the church...and from the church. The apostle Paul called it "a noble task," but it is practical, too, since our bishops oversee and promote the church's spiritual and temporal interests as well.

### Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

United Methodists acknowledge that we are but a small part of the worldwide Christian church—the living body of Jesus Christ. Our unity with other Christian communions is affirmed as we witness to a common Christian faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.

### General Administration Fund

This fund underwrites and finances general church activities that are administrative in nature, rather than program-related—like General Conference, the legislative branch of the church. The General Council on Finance and Administration coordinates and administers the finances of the church, receives, disburses and accounts for the church's general funds, safeguards the denomination's legal interests and rights, compiles and publishes denominational statistics and maintains the church's records.

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe

## Church Leaders

**Church Council** ~ Jim Thompson (thompsonjim@comcast.net)

**Finance** ~ Don Dailey (ddaileysu@gmail.com)

**Trustees** ~ Ken Akin (ken@redneckswapmeet.com)

**Personnel** ~ Andrea Read(readandrea28@gmail.com)

**Pastor Parish** ~ John Cleveland (Jcleveland327@gmail.com)

**Caring Ministries** ~ Barb Addis (Bb1a2b3@aol.com) & Vera Walker (vrwlkr@yahoo.com)

**Global Missions** ~ Tom Aitken (twaitken@att.net)

**Memorial** ~ Ken Franklin (drkenfp@mac.com)

**Worship** ~ Brad Addis (braddis109@aol.com)

**Preschool Advisory Board** ~ Jessica Hawkins (jessijean317@hotmail.com)

**Wills & Trust** ~ Chris Morris (morrisslaw@ameritech.net)

**Nominations** ~ Pastor Buff Coe (buffordc@aol.com)

**Abuse Prevention** ~ Hank Stamm (henrystamm3rd@yahoo.com)



## Prayer Closet

We have each been given a rich legacy of the power and importance of prayer, both in Scripture and throughout Christian history. Every generation needs courageous believers who will trust God at His Word and pick up the baton of intercession, continuing the powerful legacy of faithfully standing in the gap and seeking His heart in prayer.

*Father, I come before you and thank You for the great legacy of prayer that has come before us. I ask You to pour out Your Holy Spirit on me and Your church. Draw me into a daily, more intimate walk with You. May prayer become as natural to me as breathing, and may You work through my prayers to help bring about Your kingdom and Your will in my heart, my home, and my generation. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

—Steven and Alex Kendrick, Excerpts from *The Battle Plan for Prayer, 2015*

## Mission News

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### Plus Ten

With your help the hungry are doing OK during the Holiday season, but like the rest of us, they need to eat all year long. The +10 program is the fund raiser that addresses local hunger all year long. By picking one or more weeks during the year to donate \$10 or ten dollars worth of food you support Generous Hands and South County Community Services throughout the year. The Sign Up sheet is on the tall mission hutch near the office. You can designate funds or food to either Generous Hands or SCCS. Undesignated funds are split equally between the two organizations. Make checks payable to VUMC, put +10 in the memo line along with your designation if desired or place the food in the basket in the hall by the library.

Personal items for South County are needed throughout the year. Lists are on the Mission table. Baskets are in the hall by the Library.

### Cash for Throwaways

While signing up for +10, notice the Jars on the shelves. These jars represent Cash for Throwaways. Spartan labels provided \$80 to the church last year. Box Tops for education through Indian Lake School, VUMC and other donors provided over \$500 for Generous Hands. Please keep them coming in.

### Missions

Your donations to Missions, supports all six lanes of the Conference Mission giving. Make checks payable to VUMC memo line Missions. Another way to support Missions is the Dollar bills with the number seven on them. See the mission table for details.

### 2016 calendars

If you have too many 2016 calendars, put them on the mission table in front of the office, we will see that they get to a place where they will be used.

As always, **Thank You**, for all that you do.

The Mission Team



## Finance Corner

The January meeting was the first Finance Committee meeting with Don Dailey as chairperson of the committee. During the meeting, Andrea Reed was voted in as vice-chairperson. The position of secretary was tabled until the February meeting in the absence of current secretary Ken Franklin. We were also introduced to Kathy Rix, our new receptionist and finance secretary, on her first day working for VUMC. It is nice to be starting the year with most of our team in place.

As is typical, we reviewed and approved finance reports. While we were able to approve November's reports, the December reports still need to be balanced so that we have good end of year numbers. We recognized the efforts of Sue Epley and Andrea Reed to keep all of the books while we searched to fill the finance secretary position. With Kathy's involvement, the December and January reports should be back on track at the February meeting.

We were pleased to have J.R. Fulton present to us about some Pfizer stock that was left to the church. The stock has a value of about \$11,000 and will be sold as soon as the chairperson of Trustees signs off. Pastor Buff commented that some work needed to be done to identify any intended uses of the funds by the donor.

Finally, we discussed the need to provide information to the congregation regarding our finances. The VUMC Finance Committee meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 7pm in the library, and are open to any church members who wish to attend. For those who would like to receive finance committee correspondence, including agenda and minutes, please email Don Dailey at [ddaileymsu@gmail.com](mailto:ddaileymsu@gmail.com) and we will add you to our supplemental distribution list. As always, we welcome your questions and strive to provide full transparency into the church's finances.

Through your gifts and tithes, VUMC, continues to support our communities with the love of Christ.

God Bless!

VUMC Finance Committee

## New from the District Office

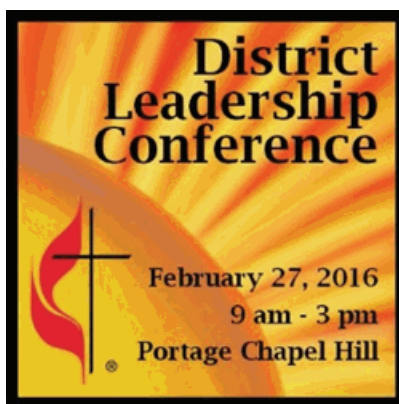


### New Kalamazoo DS Announced

Bishop Deborah Kiesey has announced that Rev. Dwayne Bagley will serve as the new District Superintendent for the Kalamazoo District, effective July 1, 2016. Rev. Bagley is currently the pastor at Mason First UMC.

"I look forward to partnering with the people of the Kalamazoo District as we seek to play our role in the new thing God is doing in Michigan," says Rev. Bagley.

Read more at <http://news.michiganumc.org/2016/01/new-kalamazoo-ds/>



The Kalamazoo District Leadership Conference will be Saturday, February 27 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Portage Chapel Hill UMC. Bishop Deb will speak in the morning on Wesleyan Discipleship in a multicultural world. In the afternoon, DS John Boley will share a vision for the District and an update on the creation of the new Conference Workshops will be offered on SPRC, Worship, Racism, Covenant Discipleship, Evangelism, Conflict Resolution, Methodis History, Social Media, Camping Campaign, and Children's Ministry. Online registration is available at [www.kalamazoodistrict.org](http://www.kalamazoodistrict.org). The deadline for registration is Monday, February 15, 2016.



## Sunday School News

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For the season of Lent, the entire Sunday School Department will be following the study of *The Way*, written by Adam Hamilton. The study comes out of a preaching series Adam used a few years ago using his walk through the Holy Lands as a guide. There are study guides written for each level, Adult, Youth and Children.

If you have never come to a Sunday school class before, you might want to check this short term study out. If you have been absent from class, now would be a great time to get back into the habit! Even if you cannot attend every Sunday, we encourage you to come for at least some of the study. We will be using Adam's study guide and DVD in the classroom, while the lead learners will have the book.

We will begin this study on February 14<sup>th</sup> and culminate on Easter Sunday. (Since Easter is not at the front or back of Spring Break week, we will hold classes that morning).

The Lead Learners are excited to be taking this journey together and hope you will consider joining us!

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## Personnel Committee

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We are thrilled to announce that our new Administrative/Financial Assistant has joined us. Kathy Rix started on Monday, January 18. Because we were without an assistant for five weeks, Kathy has been extremely busy learning our financial and administrative procedures while also attempting to catch up (and sometimes correct) some of the responsibilities that come along with the job. Although extremely busy, Kathy continues to smile and is excited to be in the position. Prior to joining us at Vicksburg United Methodist Church, Kathy was the Associate Registrar at Western Michigan University until she retired in 2013.

Kathy Rix's office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Kathy will not be in the office on Fridays.

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## Preschool Enrolling for 2016-2017

Heart and Hands Preschool set a new record this current school year for students enrolled with 40 students in our three classes combined! We would love to continue our growth trend next year. We are now officially enrolling for the 2016-2017 school year. Please help spread the word to your families, friends, and neighbors.

We will be offering three different classes:

3-year-old class:	Tue/Thur 9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
4-year-old class:	Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
4-year-old class:	Mon-Fri-12:45 p.m.—3:45 p.m.

Our informational Open House will be held 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2016. Enter through the door with the Heart and Hands sign above it.

Contact Amber Morris (269-649-2343, ext 106 or [heartandhands@vicsburgumc.org](mailto:heartandhands@vicsburgumc.org)) for more information or to set up a visit during the school day.

## Vacation Bible School

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Save the dates of August 8 – 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendars for this year's VBS! We will be using Group Publishing's Cave Quest this year ~ instead of Climbing Mountains, we will be exploring caves! There is a spot for everyone ~ from student to helpers to leaders ~ no age limit on this fun week.

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## February UMW Calendar & Events

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7		Subs available during AM for pick up
14		Happy Valentine's Day!
10		Ash Wednesday
18	9:30 a.m.	Susanna Wesley Circle ~ Hostesses - Bev Fenwick & Lori Lash
25	10:00 a.m	Executive Team Meeting

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## Kitchen Supervisor(s) Needed

We are in need of one or more persons to help keep an eye on the kitchens. For the responsibilities involved or for more information, please talk with Vera Walker or Marie Ketvirtis.

## Newsletter Deadlines

Deadlines for the upcoming issues of *The Visitor* are as follows:

March:	Due on or before Friday, February 19, 2016
April:	Due on or before Friday, March 18, 2016
May:	Due on or before Friday, April 22, 2016

## Mail Bag

### From the Wesley Foundation at WMU

You are invited to join us at the Wesley Foundation VIP Open House on Sunday, February 14th from 1:00–3:30 p.m. You will be the first to see the new ministry center at 820 Rankin Ave. Kalamazoo, 49006.

Please join us for a tour of the new ministry center and to enjoy refreshments as we thank you for helping to make the new Wesley Foundation a reality.

Please RSVP to 269-344-4076 or wesleyofkalamazoo@gmail.com.



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thursday, February 25, 9:00 p.m.** Final Thursday night worship at the current Wesley building.

**Sunday, February 28, 5:00 p.m.** Final worship and celebration at the current Wesley building, followed by a meal at 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 11, 3:00–7:00 p.m.** Community open house for the new ministry center for all who would like to attend.



### From Clarence and Margaret Haines

Thank you, our church friends, so much for the pretty Poinsettia plant you delivered to our door for Christmas. We appreciate your kindness and thinking of us.





February Birthdays		
2/1	Julie Griffin Marianna Hiemstra	2/18 Jill Barton
2/2	Charles Myers	2/19 Anna Sponseller Frances Howard
2/3	Anessa Read	2/20 Laverne Swinehart Kristopher Dibble
2/5	Steven Dibble	2/21 Betty Gruber
2/6	Rex Bragg	Adalynn Brundige
2/7	Laurie Nic Avery Slancik	2/25 Daniel Wiloughby
2/8	Tom Hardy Hayden Hayes	2/26 Diana Girolami Andrew Falconer Taylor Linebaugh Lilly Puckett
2/9	William Valencourt Noreen Heikes	2/27 Judi McNett
2/11	Todd Dibble	Sara Carrier
2/14	Alexandria Oswalt Lauren Burke	2/28 Edward Haberle Christopher Young Brian Eberstein
2/17	Cande Vermeulen Jolene Cron Katie Hillenbrand Audrey Linebaugh	



### February Anniversaries

- 2/14 James & Joan Smola
- 2/17 Charles and Vera Walker
- 2/18 Larry & Sally Kohler
- 2/22 Billy & Barbara Adams



## Membership Classes

All adults and high school students who are interested in joining Vicksburg United Methodist Church are invited to attend four orientation sessions that will be held at 9:50 a.m. beginning Sunday, February 28. \*

These Classes will prepare persons to become members of our church family and the global United Methodist Church. Persons may choose at the end of the classes whether or not they wish to join. The classes may also be of interest to persons who are already members, but want to learn more about The United Methodist Church or our local congregation.

Our new members will be welcomed into the congregation during the worship services on Easter Sunday, March 27. For more information, contact Pastor Buff.

## Confirmation of Your Faith

Any middle school students who wish to be confirmed in the spring of 2016 should contact Pastor Buff as soon as possible.

Confirmation is the process through which middle school students make their personal profession of faith and are received as professing members of the church, whether they were baptized as young children or not. Each student will be matched with an adult mentor who will guide him or her through the confirmation preparation.

The students will be confirmed on the morning of Sunday, May 15. For more information, contact Pastor Buff.

For future reference, we expect to offer a group confirmation program in the winter and spring of 2017.





## Vicksburg United Methodist Church

217 S Main St  
Vicksburg MI 49097

Phone: 269-649-2343  
Fax: 269-649-2538  
E-mail: reception@vicksburgumc.org

### Sunday Worship

Worship ~ 9am  
Sunday School ~ 9:50am  
Worship ~ 11am

### Church Office Hours

Mon–Thurs: 8:30–12:30, 1:00–4:00

## Alive in Christ, and it Shows!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG](http://WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG)

# The Visitor

Volume 23, Issue 2

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## Cartoon Corner



## Bible Quiz



At a time of deep struggle in Elijah's life, God made his presence known to him. How?

- A. In a strong and destructive wind
- B. In an earthquake
- C. Through fire
- D. Through silence

Answer: D (See 1 Kings 19:9-12, NRSV.)

