



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 7

July 2016

The Gift of Grace

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too.

—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

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Love's Freedom

Love is the power to grant freedom without desiring to limit or inhibit its exercise. It is the power to give freedom without any will to take it back. And it is only Omnipotence that can refrain absolutely from trespassing upon freedom. Only God can give and not take back ... [God] suffers within himself the entire consequence of allowing man absolute freedom. That is his love

Thus, the existence of evil and suffering in the world is a proof, not that God is either good but powerless, or all powerful but not good. On the contrary, it is a proof that God is both loving and omnipotent. Only absolute love could grant unhindered freedom, and only omnipotence can endure the operation of that freedom.

—D.R. Davies

Church Staff

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Dr. Bufford Coe

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Custodian
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Heart & Hands Teacher
Kelli Young

Heart & Hands Assistant
Amber Smith

Kids Hope USA Director
Barb Bladt

Youth Director
Hank Stamm

Newsletter Editor
Kathy Rix

Mission Moments

Generous Hands and **South County Community Services** are partnering together to help children prepare for a successful new school year. They will be hosting the 9th Annual Back to School Bonanza on August 6, 2016. The Bonanza is a free event offered to the children in the South County area who are in need of assistance. Children receive free backpacks filled with school supplies. Bubs 73 Foundation provides lunch for all families attending the event. They will also feature bingo, educational games, crafts, face painting and additional community resources. One of the highlights of the Bonanza is a free haircut for attending kids.

You can help by donating school supplies (pencils, notebooks, crayons, markers, etc.). There are complete lists of items needed on the mission table, one for elementary, the other for middle/high school. Place items in the baskets in the hallway. If you would like to make a more personal impact, you can volunteer to help with games, face painting, crafts, and more!

Please contact Sheri Louis at 269-370-7965 or email her at slouis916@aol.com, if you are interested in putting smiles on kids' faces this year!

Thanks again for supporting your community!



Pastor's Article

Four new United Methodist bishops will be elected at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference meeting in Peoria, Illinois, July 13-16, 2016. The North Central Jurisdiction covers nine states from Ohio in the east to the Dakotas in the west. It is one of five regional jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church in The United States. Jurisdictional Conferences usually meet once every four years. Four of the bishops currently serving in the North Central Jurisdiction have announced their retirements following the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference, including Jonathan Keaton who served as bishop of the Michigan Area from 2004 through 2012 and Deborah Kiesey who has served as the bishop of the Michigan Area since 2012.

The West Michigan Conference will send four delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, including Lansing District Superintendent Kenetha Bigham-Tsai, Laurie Dahlman from Millwood UMC in Kalamazoo, Pastor Laurie Haller of First UMC in Birmingham, and Nichea Ver Veer Guy from Trinity UMC in Grand Rapids. Both Kenetha Bigham-Tsai and Laurie Haller have been endorsed by the West Michigan Conference as candidates for the office of bishop. The four delegates from West Michigan will join 180 others in Peoria to participate in the election process. Delegates will meet with nominees, talk with other delegates, hear reports, and cast ballots until four persons are elected.

Following the election of four new bishops, assignments will be made of all newly elected and continuing bishops to the nine episcopal areas within the North Central Jurisdiction.

Michigan will welcome a newly assigned bishop on September 1, 2016. He or she will serve for the next four years with the possibility of being reassigned for a maximum of twelve years.

Another important matter that will be considered at the Jurisdictional Conference is the authorization for the Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conferences to come together to form the Michigan Annual Conference by 2019.

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe

Prayer Closet

Be mindful of who you address in prayer

It is a great mystery to speak to God and to be able, in our earthly lifetime, to converse with Him when He is in Heaven. Familiarity blinds us to the marvelous and solemn nature of this divine reality. Those who have had the grace of Christian education learned to speak to God as soon as they learned to speak to men; they entered into conversation with their Father in Heaven before they had time to be astonished at the boldness of such an undertaking. And because this very familiarity with God can make us lose the sense of its reality, we must constantly meditate on the great value of prayer, considering how the Father counts it as being of great worth, how He looks for it, and considering the great place it occupies in all Scripture, especially in the Gospels. Jesus taught us to pray, and we have to place ourselves in such a state of receptiveness that His teachings find a new and a willing soul.

It is important to begin every prayer very carefully, remembering whom we are addressing; prayer can never be words and gestures addressed to no one, words that are unheard even by the speaker, and are empty of thought and feeling. So, we must first of all consider seriously to whom we are going to speak, and for what reason.

Fr. Joseph-Marie Perrin, O.P.

Church Leaders

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

Finance ~ Don Dailey (ddaileysu@gmail.com)

Trustees ~ Ken Akin (gm-ken@outlook.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 (jessjean317@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

Lay Leader ~ Ken Franklin (drkenfp@mac.com)



Announcements for the Good of the Order

Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for the August issue of *The Visitor* is Friday, July 22, 2016. Items must be received, preferably via email, by end of day to be included for August.

Building Usage Forms:-Reminder Many groups already have turned in Building Usage Forms for the upcoming year. To those who have, thank you. However, the new policy is that EVERY event must have a Building Usage Form completed before it goes on the calendar. This is due to several miscommunications during my short tenure, and I am a firm believer in having documentation to support every action. So, if you have not turned in a form for the upcoming meetings (beginning in September), please do so ASAP.



The Building Usage Forms are found in a manila folder located at the right-hand side of the mail boxes. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in this.

New Directories to be Printed We will be printing out a new directory report in August. We are finding that, for many people, the address and/or phone numbers and/or emails we have on file is/are not correct. So....if any of your information has changed within the last year, please complete one of the yellow **Personal Information Update** forms found at the Welcome Center. Once completed, leave it in Kathy's in box in the work room. Please make sure your information is correct by the end of July, 2016, in order for me to get all changes entered into the database before printing the new directories.

Scrip Cents Order Dates The dates for Scrip Cents orders for the next month are: July 7 and July 19.

Summer Hours

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Summer is upon us. The hours for both the office and the worship services have been adjusted. These hours will be in effect throughout the summer.

Worship Hours

9:30 a.m.	Pit Crew
10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship
11:15 a.m.	Celebration & Praise Worship

Russian Missionary Coming

Rev. Hyo Won Park, from St. Petersburg, Russia, will be here on Friday, July 1, 2016. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner in the Taylor Room. Dinner will be followed by an exciting program presented by Rev. Park.

Rev. Park's work involves planting new churches in Russia that can become self-sufficient within the United Methodist connectional system.

So.....

Bring yourself.

Bring a dish to pass (beverages and table service provided).

Bring your eagerness to hear about Rev. Park's work in Russia.

Time to Tweet

Thanks to Andrea Read, VUMC now has a twitter account. She invites everyone to follow the account.

Account name: @VicksburgUMC
 Password: vicksburg2343

We are told that an Instagram account is in the making (with a little luck).

Don't forget Pickleball

When: Each Thursday through the end of August at 6:30 p.m.
 Where: The FLC (unless it is decided to move outdoors)
 Who: Anyone 12 years old through you're-never-too-old.
 Questions: See Ken Cron



Education Page

Vacation Bible School

CAVE QUEST 2016

While we will be exploring Jesus as the Light of the World deep within the caverns of caves, we also will be exploring if we have the faith to walk on water when we explore the story of Peter and Jesus. I've got it on kid authority that this is an awesome experience! Come and see for yourself either as a helper or as an observer. Registration forms are in the cave at the top of the steps in the church or on-line at:

<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/vicksburgumc>

The dates have not changed: **August 8th to August 12th**, from **9:00 to 11:50 each morning!** Plenty of fun while we study the Biblical stories of Jesus as our Guiding Light!

Students are accepted from Pre-K through entering 5th grade. Volunteers are accepted from entering 6th grade through the age of a child at heart.

Questions: contact Miss Lisa, church_ladi@yahoo.com or 269-649-0602. Come and learn more about the Cave Snotties!



From the Preschool

We still have spots open in our AM 3s and 4s parent co-op classes as well as our 5-day PM class. Help us spread the word to friends and family in the area!

Did you know that if you or someone you know has qualified for GSRP preschool with the public schools, and has been put on a waiting list or isn't quite ready to be in school all day, you can attend our afternoon class here at Heart and Hands Preschool for FREE! We participate in funding from GSRP and Kalamazoo County Ready 4s to provide free preschool for families making up to \$94,000 per year. Please contact Amber Morris for more information at 269-649-2343 ext 106 or heartandhands@vicksburgumc.org.

Pictures are of our graduating students from both AM and PM classes.



July UMW Calendar & Events

4		Happy 4th of July!
7	11:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
7	12:30 p.m.	UMW General Meeting—Show & Tell
14-16		Mission U at Albion College in Albion MI
28	7:00 p.m.	Priscilla Circle—Hostess Aurelia Reed
31		Deadline for 2016 Reading Program



Save the Dates

Sometime in September: There will be a Priscilla Circle “No Bake” bake sale. More information is on the UMW bulletin board in the narthex as well as in upcoming newsletters.

Coming This Fall—3 x 8 Groups

Plans are being made to develop some small-group (8 people each group) dinner parties (will meet 3 times) in an effort to get to know others better. Please let us know if you would like to help with this project. If so, please contact Vera Walker (vrwlkr@yahoo.com) or Barb Addis (Bb1a2b3@aol.com).

—Caring Ministries Team



7/1	Matt Franklin	7/15	Matt Luegge	7/26	Don Puckett
7/2	Barbara Hosner	7/16	Beth Deryke		Isaac Jukes
	Summer Williams	7/17	Madeline Wilke		Jager Luegge
7/3	William Smola	7/18	Randy Stafford		June French
7/6	Monroe Agnone	7/20	Kamden Oomen	7/27	Loren Tarnor
	Rev. Timothy Dibble	7/21	Carl Williams	7/28	Kearah Williams
7/7	Judy Imanse	7/22	Rev. Bufford Coe		Rollie Read
7/8	Doug Sponseller		Meredith Smola	7/29	Marvin Starbuck
7/9	Kathryn Starbuck		Mike Harrison	7/30	Jeremy Howard
7/10	Alexander Ensing	7/24	Erin Williams		Thomas Hoy
7/12	Ben Hambright		James Jukes		
	Mcclintock Read	7/25	Dennis Sherman		
7/13	Raina Willoughby		Greg Burke		
7/14	Al Hosner		Jessica Stevens		

7/1	Jack & Sharon Hosner	7/19	Matt & Andrea Luegge
7/2	Mel & Marian Zimmerman	7/20	Hank & Tamra Stamm
7/4	Matt & Jill Barton	7/23	Mike & Sharon Pendola
7/9	Robert & Nancy Harper	7/25	Lee & Susan Halladay
7/15	Rev. Timothy & Fiona Dibble	7/26	Greg & Mardi White
7/16	Delano & Myrna Forsythe		



From the Trustees

Church Water Supply

Your church has city water service and mandatory testing is required by the state. This does not include testing water inside a structure that could be unsafe (as in the Flint water crisis) because pipes may be of lead, wood, or copper with soldered joints. Because parts of our church are nearly 150 years old, and types of service pipes are unknown, your Trustees decided to have our water tested by the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Department.

They took samples from the 2 kitchens, 2 drinking fountains, and the preschool sink. They tested for lead and copper levels and all the test levels came in either undetected or very low.

Being well under the maximums established by the government, we have safe lead and copper water levels. The complete report is on file at the church office. If you have any questions about this report, please contact Trustee J.R. Fulton.



Vicksburg United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Worship

Blended Worship ~ 10 am
Celebration & Praise Worship: 11:15am

Church Office Hours

Mon–Thurs: 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Alive in Christ, and it Shows!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG

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Cartoon Corner



Bible Quiz

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD"?

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 12:13.)

