



# The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 9

September 2016

## Prayer Warriors

After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel “jarring” to see “so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation photos,” writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it’s a modern-day version of the New Testament’s reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. “With that context in mind,” Barkhorn writes, “Facebook shouldn’t cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does.”

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, “Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, ‘We should really pray for this.’ ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away.”

### Inside This Issue

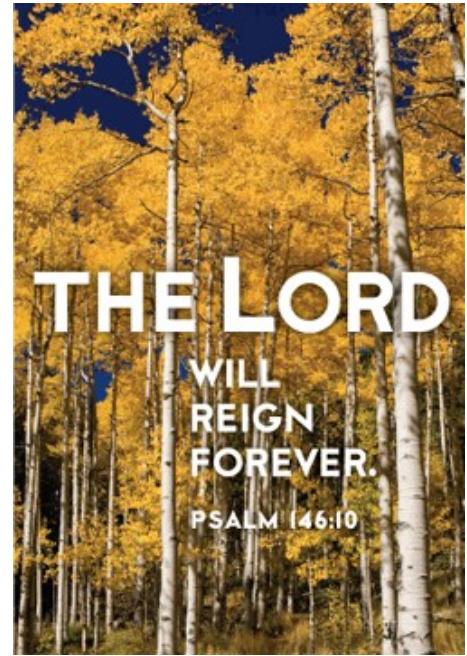
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## The Providence of God

The seed was sown long months ago,  
And through the winter’s cold and snow,  
We trusted that God’s care would bring  
The green and tender blade in spring,  
Which cherished by the sun and rain  
Of summer, now has yielded grain  
In autumn, when the reaper leaves  
His cot to cut and bind the sheaves ...

So God’s great mercies thus abound;  
His love still brings the seasons round;  
His blessings fill our happy fields,  
And all our land its increase yields:  
So if we serve him as we should,  
Our Lord will give us all things good;  
And he who doth the ravens feed  
Much more will give us all we need!

—Author unknown



### 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

## Our real work

It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.

—Wendell Berry, *Standing by Words*



## Pastor's Article

Who do you think was the most popular preacher in England and America in the eighteenth-century?

As a loyal United Methodist, you might think the answer would be John Wesley, but you would be wrong.

The most popular preacher in eighteenth-century England and America was a friend of Wesley's named George Whitefield.

Historian Kevin Watson writes,

By all accounts, Whitefield was the most dynamic preacher of his era. He traveled throughout England and the colonies in America, preaching to audiences that sometimes had tens of thousands of people. Whitefield was a better preacher than John Wesley. And in all likelihood his preaching resulted in the conversion to Christian faith of many more people than did John Wesley's. So why is it that today people often speak of the Wesleyan tradition, but never the Whitefieldian tradition? (For Watson's complete article, see <http://goodnewsmag.org/2014/11/the-heart-of-the-methodist-revival/>.)

The reason George Whitefield is not regarded as the founder of a movement that today has millions of followers all over the world is because Wesley organized his followers into small groups that met regularly and Whitefield did not. An early Methodist historian quoted Whitefield himself as saying, "My brother Wesley acted wisely; the souls that were awakened under his ministry he joined in class, and thus preserved the fruits of his labor. This I neglected, and my people are a rope of sand." (Watson, *ibid.*)

Here at Vicksburg United Methodist Church, we offer a number of opportunities for people to become involved in small groups of various kinds. We have Sunday School classes for all ages, including two adult classes: the Connections class which meets in the church library, and the Kum Join Us class that meets in the Fish Room downstairs. For youth, we have Helix for Middle School students and RAW for High School students. This fall we are starting Disciple Fast Track, a somewhat shortened version of the popular Disciple Bible Study that dozens of our members have completed over the years. For women, there is the Susanna Wesley Circle that meets in the morning and the Priscilla Circle that meets in the evening. For those who like to sew, there is Sew What Now, God? which meets on Tuesday evening, and Knit & Stitch 2gether that meets on Friday mornings. For those who like to make music, there is the bell choir and the chancel choir and the praise team. For those who like exercise, there is pickleball in the summer and volleyball in the winter. In addition, there are several short-term groups and classes that meet at various times during the year.

We learn from the experience of the early Methodists that it is very hard to grow in your faith all by yourself. We need a group to support us and encourage us! Whatever your interest, find a group that enables you to grow in your Christian faith and become a part of it. Your spirit will be glad that you did!

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe

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## Church Leaders

**Church Council** ~ Ken Franklin—Acting Chair (drkenfp@mac.com)

**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 (vrvlkr@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)

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



## Prayer Closet

### Blessed to Bless

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" John 14:12

Prayer joined with loving obedience is the answer to all ends and all things. Prayer joined to the Word of God makes all God's gifts sacred.

Prayer is not simply to receive things from God, but to make those things holy that have already been received from Him. It is not merely to receive a blessing, but also to be able to give a blessing. Prayer makes common things holy and worldly things sacred.

Prayer receives things from God with thanksgiving and hallows them with thankful hearts and devoted service.

*I think You, Almighty God, that prayer and loving obedience are the answer to all things in this life. I praise You for all the blessings received from Your hand. Amen*

## Vicksburg Ministry Alliance Prayer Service

The Vicksburg Ministry Alliance is again sponsoring a prayer service at the Vicksburg Administration Building on Sunday, September 11 at 3:00 p.m. The Administration Building is located at 301 South Kalamazoo Street in Vicksburg.

This thirty-minute outdoor service held at the beginning of the school year has become an annual tradition. It allows people from the churches in our community to come together and pray for the students, parents, teachers, administrators, and staff of our local schools. Everyone is invited.

The churches that make up the Vicksburg Ministry Alliance include Chapman Memorial Church of the Nazarene, Country Christian Evangelical Free Church, Fulton Christian Church, Grace Community Church, Lakeland Reformed Church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, St. Martin's Catholic Church, and Vicksburg United Methodist Church.

In the event of rain, we will meet at Grace Community Church which is next door to the Administration Building.

## Mission Moments

### SCCS Pantry Recipient of Simply Give Program

The South County Community Services (SCCS) Pantry has again been selected for the 2016 fall *Simply Give* program at the Meijer Store on Shaver Rd. The campaign is now through September 24. Double match days will be on Thursday September 1 (Hunger Action Day) through Saturday, September 3.

Your individual \$10 donation triggers a \$10 donation from Meijer for food-only purchases for use in the SCCS food pantry. On Double Match Days Meijer double-matches each \$10 donation with \$20. In other words your \$10 donation turns into \$30 if you donate between September 1 and September 3. Simply pick up a card and scan it when you check out. Keep the card as your receipt.

### Great Gospel Sing Out

The 28th annual GREAT GOSPEL SING OUT will be October 9, 2016 at 3:00 pm at Vicksburg UMC. Mark your calendars now. To date the Sing Out has raised over \$450,000 for UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief).

### Louisiana Floods

As the map below shows, historic flooding has occurred in Louisiana. Lives were lost and thousands of homes have been destroyed. Your support to UMCOR disaster relief will help for the long term recovery of the area. For immediate disaster relief please donate to the American Red Cross or United Way of Southeast Louisiana. (See map for the parishes included in the disaster area.)



## Red Cross Blood Drive Coming

**When:** Friday, September 16, 2016—11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Vicksburg United Methodist Church

**Needed:** Volunteers to work the blood drive; Food donations



For more information, see the information sheets at the Welcome Center.



## Announcements for the Good of the Order



**Newsletter Deadline:** The deadline for the October issue of *The Visitor* is Monday, September 26, 2016. Items must be received, preferably via email, by end of day to be included for October. The newsletter will be distributed with the Good News on Thursday, September 29.

**Watch Your Email:** We will be migrating to a new outgoing mail service (No, the church email address WILL NOT CHANGE). This new service will not limit the number of outgoing messages but it does require that you actively request to be on the email list. So, you will be receiving an email soon with the subject, "Reply Required for New Email List." Further instructions will be included in the email.

**New Directories to be Printed:** First, thanks to Vera and the Caring Ministries team for all the work they are putting in on this. Last month it was reported that we would be printing new directories in August. Now it looks like it will be closer to the end of September.

**Scrip Cents Order Dates:** The dates for Scrip Cents orders for the next month are: September 1 and September 15.

### Fall/Winter Hours

#### Office Hours (Start 9/6/16)

Monday–Thursday: 8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Summer is almost over so it is time to think about the coming year. Office hours will change as of September 6. The new Worship Schedule will start on September 11.

#### Worship Hours (Start 9/11/16)

9:00 a.m. Celebration & Praise Service  
9:50 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. PIT CREW  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

### Meet Bishop David Alan Bard

Rev. Dr. David Alan Bard was elected bishop at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in July and has been assigned to Michigan starting September 1. He has been serving at First United Methodist Church in Duluth, Minnesota since 2005 and has been in ministry for more than 30 years.

"Leadership matters," said Bard when asked what type of episcopal leader he wants to be. "I'd be very committed as a bishop to try to find good leaders for every congregation. I would also really like to help a conference identify what it is doing well and build on that and from there look at places where they'd like to grow in new areas. I think it's important to ask churches to look at who they are and their community, and identify one or two things they could do differently that would make an impact." Bard has a wife, Julie, and three adult children. In his free time, he enjoys music, reading, baseball, and walking outside. Read more at <http://news.michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2016/07/Bard-Bio-revised3.pdf>.

A welcome service is being planned for Sunday, October 16 at Kalamazoo First UMC.

### Discipleship Fast Track Begins September 8

Fast Track is an adaptation of the original, bestselling *Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*. It is ideal for busy people who want to fit a comprehensive Bible study into their schedule. Classes will meet on Thursdays for a total of 24 weeks beginning September 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fish Room.

We will be studying the Old and New Testaments for 12 sessions each. Daily preparation is manageable, with only 3–5 chapters of the Bible to read each day. Weekly sessions last 75 minutes. Join us, won't you? Contact John Cleveland, 649-1405, or the Church office, 649-2343, to let us know you're interested. (We just eliminated the "but first" syndrome for you!)

### G.R.O.W. Groups (Grief Recovery Outreach to Wholeness)

#### 2016 Fall Schedule Announced

If you have experienced the death of a loved one, friend or co-worker, you may have some questions about the feelings and thoughts you are having at this time. You may feel, "out of balance"..."can't seem to let go"..."I cry a lot"..."I blame myself" or other similar feelings.

There are two groups scheduled—one during the day and one during the evening. Both groups meet for 6 sessions. The dates are: August 31, September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5. No fee for any session.

#### Daytime Group

10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.  
Kalamazoo Senior Services, Inc.  
918 Jasper Street, Kalamazoo

#### Evening Group

6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.  
Portage Public School Administration Building  
8107 Mustang Dr., Portage.

#### Topics Covered

Introduction to the Grief Process, Your Story...  
Loneliness vs. Being Alone...with options  
Tears Are Healing/Total Body Health Responses  
Anger, Guilt, Stress in the Grief Process  
Grief Management—Setting Realistic Expectations  
Coping With Reminders—The Holidays, Anniversaries &  
How Do I Know I AM Getting Better?

Call or email Dana Naumann (Langeland Family Funeral Homes) to register or for more information. Phone: 269-343-1508. Email: [dana@langelands.com](mailto:dana@langelands.com)



## Education Page

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Curriculum is ordered, the floors have been stripped and polished to shine, bookshelves were rearranged and supply closets cleared out and restocked. Teachers are refreshed, reenergized and ready to start a new season! We must be close to the start of Sunday School!

On Sunday, September 11 we begin afresh a new Sunday school year. Classes start at 9:50 and run for approximately 1 hour. (Elementary classes and Middle School classes sometimes finish earlier.) We try to have everyone out so that all have time to make it to the sanctuary if they wish to attend the 11:00 worship service.

We will continue to offer the 6 classes that we have been offering for the last couple of years: Pre-K—First Grade with Miss Katie, Second Grade—Fifth Grade with Miss Lisa, Middle School with Matt Barton, High School with Hank Stamm, Kum Join Us with John Cleveland and the Connections class (the Dailey's would like to be replaced as the lead learners for this class). The Pre-K through Middle School will begin in the Taylor room all together with an Eggo waffle breakfast. The classes will divide after breakfast to catch up with each other from life over the summer. Don't see a class that fits you? Start a new one!!

The children's classes will again be using curriculum that follows the preaching texts from *Seasons of the Spirit*. The Middle school will be using material from Lifeway publishing titled *Foundations*. This study is a video-driven Bible study for middle school students that lays a foundation for encountering God in His Word through the great stories of the Bible, told in chronological order.

We hope to see you all on the 9th. Invite your neighbors and friends. We are one of the best kept secrets—let's not be.

### From the Preschool

Only a few weeks of summer left! We have to admit we're getting excited about the back-to-school frenzy that is September! Heart and Hands Preschool has been hearing from interested families and has had several new enrollees. We offer low cost morning co-op classes and a state-funded afternoon class as well as scholarships for up to 1/2 the price of tuition! We still have room in all three classes.

Please continue to spread the word to friends, family, neighbors, etc. With kindergarten being all day, every day, preschool is more important than ever. Having a high quality preschool experience like ours will prepare children for what is to come and set them up for success. Please call Amber Morris at 269-649-2343 ext. 106 or email [heartandhands@vicksburgumc.org](mailto:heartandhands@vicksburgumc.org) to set up a visit and/or to find out more about our programs.

### Kids Hope USA

It's September and school is starting, some students will be needing extra help. Special is how they need to feel about themselves. Sharing God's love through relationships is His Will for us. Self-esteem grows when a child knows that they have worth and value. Sixty minutes once a week is a great opportunity to make a positive difference. Someone can change a child's life by providing hope for them when they have none.

Kids Hope USA is a mentoring program that partners VUMC with Tobey Elementary. Members of our congregation tutor at-risk students for one hour each week during the school year. These one hour sessions are at the school during regular school hours. Each mentor/student match is supported by a prayer partner who prays specifically for them. Wonderful things happen to the students and the adults in this program.

If you would like more information please contact Barbara Bladt at 649-2275, we would love to have you join us in this ministry.

Sign up now to volunteer as a Kids Hope USA mentor or prayer partner. Show up with your time and your prayers.

### Forum for Leadership Excellence

Congregations want to support their pastors, but do not always know how. Pastors love their congregations, but they do not know what to ask of them to garner support. Everyone wants to thrive together.

Join other Kalamazoo District churches for a clear and engaging session designed to help pastors and congregations bridge communication gaps and set mutual goals and expectations. On Wednesday, September 7 from 7-8:30 p.m., Dr. David Keck, author of the best-seller *Healthy Congregations, Faithful Pastors: Covenant Expectations for Thriving Together*, will provide the training at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 7028 Oakland Drive in Portage.

David Keck, Ph.D., is the chaplain of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and an ordained Presbyterian minister. He has pastored churches in addition to serving as a chaplain, has and taught history, theology, and pastoral care. Dr. Keck earned his master's degree and doctorate from Harvard University and his Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School.



## September UMW Calendar & Events

5		Happy Labor Day
15	9:30 a.m.	Susanna Wesley Circle
17	9:00 a.m.	District Annual UMW Meeting
18		Vicksburg UMW Recognition Sunday
22	7:00 p.m.	Priscilla Circle: Hostess Marilyn Schutter
27	Evening	Rummage Sale Set-up
28-29	9:00 a.m.	Rummage Sale Drop-off Dates
30-Oct 1	9:00 a.m.	Rummage Sale



### Save the Dates

**Susanna Wesley "No Bake" bake sale:** Look for envelopes the first two services in September.

District Annual Meeting: September 17 (see below).

Fall Rummage Sale: September 28-October 1 (see below).

## Susanna Wesley Circle Meeting

Susanna Wesley Circle will meet on Thursday, September 15 at 9:30 am. In the Taylor Room. Hostesses will be Janet Noel and Sharon Steinacker. Light refreshments will be served, followed by devotions and a short program.

We would like to invite any lady in the church—young or old—to join us for fellowship. This circle began as a young mother's group, but has evolved into a group for all ages to get together. If any mother with small children is interested in joining us, we would be glad to provide child care during the meetings. Call LaVon Rolfe (649-1638) if you need child care for the programs.

## District Annual Meeting on September 17

### Hats Off to the Past, Present and Future

Saturday, September 17th – 10:00 – 3:00 at Water's Edge UMC, New Buffalo. Register by Sept. 12th (online or mail). Registration forms, information on program and maps are on the UMW bulletin board in the Narthex and also in our church office.

## From Caring Ministries

### 3 x 8 Groups—First Meeting

You are invited to join us in the Taylor Room for a dessert and get acquainted time on Friday, September 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. At this time we will form our groups and find out what we have in common. Times and places for meetings in October and November will be set. Babysitting can be available if you let Vera Walker know ahead of time. Join your church families for this time of getting to know you.

### Other Items

**Prayer shawls** were delivered to those suffering from illnesses in our church family and **gift bags** are being delivered to newcomers and visitors. Tape delivery to shut-ins is an ongoing process. All who are receiving them are doing ok. If you know of someone in need, call Chuck Walker at 327-4869.

If the **coffee hour** is to happen this fall we need a volunteer to set it up the program and organize other volunteers. We are in need of people to man the **Welcome Center** for both services this fall. If you are interested in helping out, contact Vera Walker at 327-4869.

## Fall Rummage Sale

YOU DO THE MATH! Good stuff + fantastic prices + very good cause = Our Fall Rummage Sale!

Need: Clean, gently-used clothing, electronics, jewelry, tools, toys, decorations, books, movies, CD's, small appliances, furniture, holiday decorations, household items, crafts, etc.

Also Need: YOU! We need volunteers- men and women – You choose the days and hours – no previous experience required! Also, clean, large paper grocery bags and food for the worker!

Drop off dates: Wednesday, Sept. 28th (9-6) and Thursday, Sept. 29th (9-noon).

Sale Dates: Friday, Sept. 30th (9-6) and Saturday, Oct. 1st (9-3).

Questions?: Call Beth Aitken at 649-4300 or Jo Ann Cain at 649-2197.

SHOP THE SALE! We have lots of good stuff and bargains! All monies earned will be used to help the needy both locally and around the world! Help us make a difference in people's lives!



## September Birthdays

8/28	Jerry Fulton	9/9	Carla Bland	9/22	Millie Hackett
	Marlene Sherman	9/11	Todd Janer	9/22	Lori Ensing
8/29	Mike Hamilton	9/14	Paige Janer	9/23	Julie Oswalt
8/31	Jo Ann Cain		Tamara Young	9/24	Michael Hoy
9/1	Gary Corsaut	9/15	Cynda Buckallew	9/25	Cathy Johnson
	Kylie Tuinier		Rodger Hughey		Sharon Pendola
9/2	Mark Rusk		Susan Moberly-Hayes	9/27	James Barrett
9/3	Carmen Moreno-Parsons	9/16	Nanci Linebaugh		Mary Burke
	Kelsie Tuinier	9/17	Charles Walker	9/28	Betsy Myers
	Wyatt Hardy	9/19	Ashley Dibble		Beverly Nimmo
9/4	Emily Corsaut		Harold Lash		Carl Pauli
9/5	Aurelia Reed		Keith McClish		Jessica Hawkins
9/5	James Tarner		Ronald Avis	9/30	Kim Hardy
9/8	Megan Burke	9/20	Jody Tuinier		Morgan Wood

## September Anniversaries

8/28	Fred & Jodee Nelson	9/19	Christopher & Stacy Emmert
9/1	Jeff & Kristen Hossink	9/25	Robert & Carla Bland
	Ryan & Kris Miller	9/27	Shirley & William Valencourt
9/2	Robert Parsons & Carmen Moreno-Parsons	9/29	Greg & Becky Berndt
9/5	Ronald Wolak & Cheryl Lee		James & Phyllis Barrett
9/14	Carl & Denice Pauli		Ronald & Sharon Steinacker
	Loren & Holly Tarner	9/30	Daniel & Caryn Zonyk
9/18	Joe Hayes Sr. & Susan Moberly-Hayes		

## Mail Bag

### From Alex Cannizzaro:

Thank you so much for awarding me a scholarship to help further my education. Knowing that I am a part of a church that strongly supports its members trying to complete higher education is very comforting and I proudly call VUMC my home.

Thanks again.



## Community Tailgate

Many years ago, Vicksburg United Methodist Church made the decision to stay at its current location in the heart of the Village of Vicksburg. In part, that decision was made to stay connected to, and involved with, the village community.

On September 9th, we will be showing our Bulldog school pride with a booth at the yearly Community Tailgate party hosted at the football stadium. The event runs from 4:30 – 6:30 prior to the first home game of the season. We will be one of many booths sponsored by local businesses, churches and other non-profit groups. The hope of this event is to show our Bulldog pride as well as to showcase the many diverse opportunities this community provides.

Pastor Buff and Lisa will be manning a booth along with Amber Morris from the Heart and Hands Preschool. Many tailgaters have items to give away that help attract others to their booths that serve as great promotions. We hope to do that too (Lisa has some great ideas). If you would like to help cover the costs of these hand outs, monetary donations would be most welcome. Just indicate on your envelope or check “Community Tailgate” and finance will see that it goes towards that event.

Come on down on Friday evening. Free hotdogs and pop are always included at this event. But come early. Last year over 500 people showed up and cleaned out the supplies! Come see what is being showcased in your community this season. Support your church, support your schools, and let’s support our football team as well! They made it into the playoffs last year. Watch them head for that goal this year!





# 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

Celebration & Praise: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.  
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

### Church Office Hours

Mon—Thurs: 8:30 a.m.—12:15 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

**Alive in Christ, and it Shows!**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG](http://WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG)

# The Visitor

Volume 23, Issue 9

September 2016

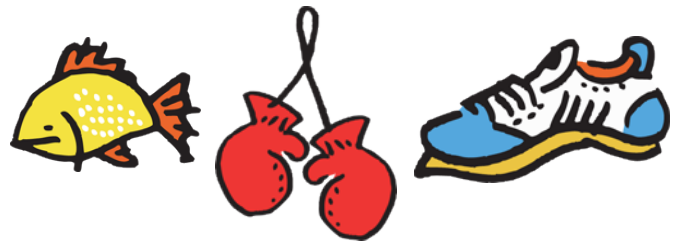
## Cartoon Corner



## Bible Quiz

Which of the following sports does Paul use metaphorically to describe the Christian life?

- A. Fishing
- B. Running a race
- C. Boxing
- D. Both B and C
- E. All of the above



Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.)

