

Aurora United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

August 2011

As Our Story Unfolds

As we enter into the last full month of summer, I have been reflecting on the journey we have taken as a church family these past few months. We have been involved in many activities as a church, and I have been amazed at how God has been working through us. Walk with me as we recap these past few months. I'm sure you will agree that our presence in this community and the world has helped to prosper the work of Christ.

Rummage Sale

We started our summer off the last week of May with the Rummage Sale. Our brothers and sisters in Christ put many hours into organizing and running the sale and we were able to clear out our closets. All these efforts provided a way for low income families to acquire clothes, toys, furniture, and electronics they normally

would not be able to buy. I am sure this rummage sale was an answer to prayer for some people in our community, especially considering the economic state of our country right now. As we work to fulfill the mission of Christ, we continue to do our part by helping those in need.



Annual Conference

June was another month filled with moments of proclaiming the saving message of

Jesus. Toward the beginning of the month, we as a church found ourselves at our Annual Conference being encouraged by Bishop Hopkins to reach out and find ways to help those in need. His interest this year is to be intentional about helping the poor. This message came at the right time because we as a church put his words into action as a group of us spent a week in Philippi,

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WV building a home from the ground up for a handicapped couple in need.

Building in Philippi

The two days I was in Philippi, I was amazed at the amount of work a group of 50 people can get done when they come together in the name of Jesus for a common purpose. I was so pleased to hear that by the end of that particular week in June the mission team was able to hand this wonderful couple the keys to their new home. This is just another way that we as a church are fulfilling the mission of Christ by providing adequate housing for people in need.

Vacation Bible School

Now, if this wasn't enough for a small church to accomplish, we also found ourselves providing a week-long Vaca-

tion Bible School to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with young children. As we prepared and planned for this week, I was amazed at how we came together as a church family to provide what I believe to be the best vacation Bible school I have ever experienced. It is my prayer that we succeeded in our mission for the week: to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ with the young people of Aurora.

Community Harvest

On the heels of an amazing week of Vacation Bible School came the Community Harvest Fourth of July Food Drive. Our efforts on July 4th, along with the efforts of eight other churches within our community, succeeded in collecting many canned goods and non-perishables, along with over \$6,500. All the money and food have been donated to the Aurora Food Pantry to provide aid to families in need. What an incredible thing to see all the churches in Aurora unite in the name of Christ to stamp out hunger in our community!

Thanksgiving in Israel

As I left for an educational tour to the Holy Lands follow-

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| <p>Contact Us: Pastor Jared Priset 330.221.1401 jpriset@yahoo.com Aurora United Methodist Church 241 N. Aurora Rd/ PO Box 627 Aurora, Ohio 44202 Office: 330.562.7866 Fax: 330.562.2820 auroraumc@windstream.net</p> |
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ing the July 4th Food Drive I was thrilled at what we have been doing as a church family. Reconnecting with old friends and walking in the footsteps of Jesus, I found myself thankful. I know that the opportunity to refresh and refuel in Palestine is not an opportunity many people get. So for that, I was thankful. Touring Israel and reflecting on the state of the church in the world, I found myself so thankful for my pastorate at Aurora UMC. I am so thankful for how you have opened your arms up to my family and me, and how we have been working together this past year to be a city of refuge for our community.

Isn't it thrilling to look back at where we have been and also to look forward to see where we are going? I love the memories I make and share with other people and I love just as much the new adventures that await me. As I spend time reflecting on the yesterdays and anticipating the tomorrows, I like to see the points in my journey where God's story intersects with my own. **Is it possible to make God's story my own?** This is a question I ask myself often. If I am truly working to fulfill

the mission of Christ in this world, then how can I align my story with God's story? In order for me to understand God's story I need to immerse myself in the Holy Scriptures. **Does that make sense?**

As I sit at my desk to write this article, I find myself excited about this new year ahead of us. Aside from the new membership class that is starting August 7th, we are also looking to implement small group Bible studies this fall. I am excited about taking our church family through the Word of God. I am excited about this because the Word of God teaches us God's story.

Journey through The Story

For our study this year we are going to use the resource entitled, "*The Story*." This is basically the whole Bible told in one continuous story from the beginning of time until the end. I will let our author, Randy Frazee, share with you how "*The Story*" came to be. "As we journey through *The Story* in the days and weeks ahead, we will learn that heaven and earth are woven more closely together than we ever dreamed. All through the story of the Bible we see two

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MUSIC NOTES

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HANDBELL CHOIR

The hand bell ringers will practice regularly on Sundays at Noon beginning September 18, 2011. Junior High and High School students and ADULTS are welcome to participate. First performance October 30th.



PRAISE TEAM

Instruments / voices lead worship music in contemporary arrangements; practice Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

When the Praise Team performs, Sunday morning warm-up will be at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.



ADULT CHOIR and ENSEMBLES practice Wednesdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 10:00 am, beginning August 31st . Our first Sunday to sing will be the service on September 11th .

**High School students and ADULTS
are all invited to participate.**



*The Women of the Aurora United Methodist Church
cordially invite all ladies and girls to a*

TEA

Sunday, August 14 2011 at 2:00 PM

*Cheryl Chlysta, Branch Manager of the Aurora Memorial Library,
will present a program on*

Xtreme Librarians here and abroad

during the tea.



A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Philippi Mission Trip

There will be an activity, during the program, for all young ladies under the age of six.

Seating is limited

First come, first served

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parallel and beautiful stories unfold. There is an **Upper Story**. God is real, he is present, and he is working on our behalf. Heaven is breaking into the world more than we recognize, and the story of God's seeking love, perpetual grace, and longing for relationship with ordinary people is breathtaking. There is also a **Lower Story**. We live on earth. We make mistakes, run from God, and resist his overtures of love. Sometimes we get so mired in the Lower Story that we fail to recognize God's presence breaking into our world. We forget that the God of heaven longs to have a growing relationship, a friendship, with us....God's story and our story are really one in the same."

The Story is broken into five movements and each movement will be its own separate small group study throughout the year. It is not my intention to make you commit to a whole year's worth of small group sessions, but rather to take it one movement at a time. If you feel led to navigate your way through the whole story with me that is

wonderful, but if you find yourself only wanting to spend time in one, two, or three movements that is fine, too. Our first 8-week study will begin September 4th and we will start by looking at the "Story of the Garden" and the beginning "Story of Israel." I plan on offering two different times each week so as many people as feel led can be a part of this time together. Each week I will offer a Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening time to meet together. Sunday afternoons will be from 2-3pm at the parsonage and Wednesday evenings will be from 7-8 pm at the church. Pick whatever day and time works best for you. It is so important to immerse ourselves in the Word of God. I can't think of a more fun way of doing it than navigating through the Bible together and learning about how God's story and our stories line up. Here is the schedule for the first 8-week session:

Sundays, 2-3 pm at Parsonage

September 4, 11, 18, 25

October 2, 16, 23, 30

Wednesdays, 7-8pm at Church

September 7, 14, 21, 28

October 5, 19, 26

November 2

We are entering another chapter as a church family this fall. How will our story continue to unfold? How will we continue to offer a desperate world the message of hope found in Jesus Christ? How will we continue to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned? How will we let God's story and our story unfold together? Let's get excited together and let's continue to win the world over in love by learning and sharing the saving message of Jesus Christ!

Blessings,
Pastor Jared

Joan Tiefel is a Christian counselor who is offering her services to our church. She specializes in:

Marriage: To create **Hope** by working with couples to eliminate feelings of being trapped, criticized, disrespected or unloved.

Family: To **Help** parents understand and work through child-related issues

Personal: To experience **Healing** from unmet expectations, failed relationships or struggles with insecurity, guilt or shame.

Please call Joan at
330.348.4000 or visit
www.mychristiancounsel.com

Prayers and Concerns of the Congregation

Church Family

Randy Adams
Bob Bartlett
Ada Davidson
Harold & Anne Hartman
Kathy Koller

Debbie & Lynn Krebs
Mary Krebs
Joe Landals
Kareen Montez
Alvira Neverman



Friends and Relatives

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| Thomas Bounds (Lambertson) | Walter Krebs (Krebs) |
| Terry Bartlett (Bartlett) | Larry Palcko (Shartle) |
| Jeanne (Reulbach) | Nick Perry (Ivars) |
| Rae Ellen Campbell (Reulbach) | Joe Repp (Repp) |
| Lindsey Davis (Leach) | Ken Shartle, Jr. (Shartle) |
| Peter Kautzman (Reulbach) | Julia Shurman (Ross) |

If you have asked for prayers on behalf of yourself or one another, please update us monthly by completing a prayer card. Requests with no update will be removed from our active list after four weeks.

Weekly Activities

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|--------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Sundays | 9:15 am | Membership Class |
| | 10:30 am | Worship |
| Tuesdays | 7:00 pm | BSA |
| Wednesday mornings | | Bulletin Deadline |
| Wednesdays | 6:30 pm | TOPS |

Events - August 2011

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|----------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday, 8/1 | 6:00 pm | Praise Team Practice |
| Thursday, 8/11 | 6:00 pm | NOW Meeting |
| Saturday, 8/13 | 12-6 pm | Set up for Tea |
| Sunday, 8/14 | 8:00 am | UMM Breakfast |
| | 2-4 pm | Women's Tea |
| Thursday, 8/18 | 8 pm | Ad Council |
| Sunday, 8/21 | 10:30 am | Hymn Sing with Praise Team |
| Sunday, 8/28 | 10:30 am | Bell Quartet in Worship |
| Wed., 8/31 | 7:30 pm | Adult Choir/Ensemble Practices Begin |

Copies of Rob Sicker's report on the 2011 East Ohio Annual Conference are available in the church office. This is the one distributed during a worship service in July.

New Membership Class!!!

What are Methodists all about? Who is John Wesley? What is required of Methodists? These are a few of the many questions that we will look into as we meet to discuss our very rich heritage as a United Methodist Church.

Starting **Sunday, August 7th** and running throughout the month of August we will be meeting before church (9:15-10:15am) to learn a little bit about Methodism. If you have any interest in being a member of our church, please come and be part of this class. Even if you are already a member, but want to hear again the story of our church, please feel free to come. All are welcome! On September 4th we will be receiving new members during our worship service.

New Members class sessions: August 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th at 9:15-10:15 am.



Drivers to pick up at
Independence Village:

- 8/7 Steve Ivars
- 8/14 Randy Adams
- 8/21 Ra Walker
- 8/28 Steve Ivars

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8/2 Brian Haydu
Henry & Sue Haydu
- 8/5 Kathy Koller
- 8/6 Brian Krebs
- 8/11 Eric & Erin Matson
- 8/16 Arlene MacDougall
- 8/18 Lisa Brogan
- 8/20 Mike Lambertson
- 8/22 Carol Ineman
- 8/23 Stephanie Cook
- 8/26 Kasey Taubler
- 8/28 Betty Strack
- 8/29 Maggie Priset
- 8/30 Bethany Lambertson
- 8/31 Alice Radovick

Congratulations!!!!

Congratulations to Brent, April, and Oliver on the birth of Simon Abner Nenadal, born July 25th at 7:01pm, 8 lbs 10 oz, 21.25 inches long. Both Simon and his mother, April, are doing well. Praise the Lord!

UMM breakfast meeting will be August 14. Cooks are Pastor Jared and Steve Ivars.

**Those Serving God
and His Church**

Liturgists

- 8/7 Stephanie Cook
- 8/14
- 8/21
- 8/28

Coffee Hosts

- 8/7
- 8/14
- 8/21 Rebecca Walker
- 8/28 Cooks

Nursery Ministry

- 8/7 Traci Piero
- 8/14 Lisa Brogan
- 8/21 Marcia Bossart
- 8/28 Traci Piero

Greeters

- 8/7
- 8/14
- 8/21
- 8/28

Altar Flowers

- 8/7 Mary Ann Hockman
- 8/14 Erin Matson
- 8/21 Marti Kast
- 8/28 Denise Radovick

**Center of Hope Collection
Peanut butter**

Aurora United Methodist Church

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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world