

TOWER UPDATE

MID-DECEMBER 2014

HIGH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Library Corner

Check out these new and old books:

Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good - Jan Karon has brought us a new addition to the Mitford series featuring the ever popular Father Tim.

The Time Keeper - Newest best seller by Mitch Albom

Other Mitch Albom books you may have missed:

Tuesdays with Morrie, for one more day, Five People you Meet in Heaven, Have a Little Faith, First Phone Call from Heaven.

Remember your church library does not charge fines for overdue books!

HOSPITALIZED RECENTLY and giving High



Street Church as their preference: Stan Sollars, Evelyn Coulter, Molly Wolfe, and Sydney Wuff (*IUH Ball Memorial Hospital*).

TOWER TOPICS DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission is
12:00 Noon on Mondays

Submit By:

January 6 Mid-month

January 20

February 3 Mid-month

February 17

Issue Date:

January 14

January 28

February 11

February 25

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

This is the last issue of Tower Topics for the year 2014. Don't forget that the mid-month issues are distributed around the church in the main hallway, room 101, narthex, chapel, and in the church office. If you don't get it emailed to you please stop by and pick up a copy. Deadlines for Tower Topics are on Tuesdays and distribution day's on Wednesdays.

Christmas Eve Open House

The Koinonia class is seeking help from other congregation members who might be available on Christmas Eve to help with the annual Christmas Eve Open House. There are 4 time slots for which help is needed: 10am - noon - set-up; 8pm - 9pm- last-minute preparations; 9pm- 10:45pm - serve during open house; AND ESPECIALLY(!) - 10pm - till done - clean up. If you can help at any of these times, please call, text or email Kelly Wolfe at 744-5451 or rbrianwolfe@aol.com.

Additionally, donations of cookies, candy, cheese balls, and crackers will be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off any time before 10am on Christmas Eve.

Thank you in advance for your help in continuing this tradition which many High Streeters consider an important part of their Christmas celebration!!!

Getting Closer to God

Dear Friends in Christ:

As part of our second step in the Fruitful Congregation Journey, I am participating in a peer mentoring group. We pastors of similar size churches going through this step in the FCJ process meet monthly at the Conference Office in Indianapolis. We come, having read an assigned book each month, to support and encourage and learn together.

This month's book is Managing Transitions by William Bridges. Written not for the church but for the business world, Bridges writes about understanding and negotiating change. He offers insights into our reluctance to change. For example, new beginnings mean endings, and we don't like endings usually. He even takes some time to discuss the five stages of grief; for one real difficulty in change is we are losing something.

Frequently Bridges relies upon Moses and the Hebrews in the wilderness to illustrate the lessons to be learned in going through transitions. We know that Moses led the people into the wilderness in order to get out of Egypt. But Bridges makes the point that the forty years spent in the wilderness were about getting Egypt out of the people. Before the people were actually ready to enter the Promised Land, they had to get the old land of slavery and its ways out of their system. Thus, one of the difficulties of the wilderness (which he calls the "Neutral Zone") is that what used to work in Egypt no longer works in the wilderness, and at the same time, what will work in the new Promised Land can't be fully realized while still in the wilderness. It can be, therefore, rather chaotic and frustrating. The temptation, therefore, is either to return to Egypt or to rush into the Promised Land before we are truly ready. But the wilderness experience is needed in order successfully to negotiate the transition.

All of which brings me to the beginning of the Gospel According to Mark where we locate one of our readings for this Advent season. There we find John the Baptist. He obviously has not been dressed by Calvin Klein. We won't find John the Baptist in business casual wear. No Dockers found here. And he has this rather peculiar,

unappetizing diet. (Although I guess if I were eating locusts, coating them with wild honey doesn't sound like a bad option. Catsup probably was not an option.)

What is John the Baptist doing? He's calling the people to prepare for the One who is coming. This One will make their lives new. This One will change the world.

So, where is John the Baptist? He's in the wilderness. If the people are to be prepared for the One who will change their lives and the world around them, they need to let go of some of the old ways. So we find them coming out of the countryside and Jerusalem to receive the baptism of repentance and forgiveness. They are entering the wilderness, that neutral zone between what has been the way they were used to and the new Way to come.

We know about change. Sometimes change comes not at our bidding. The neighborhood or the community changes around us. The culture itself changes. A loved one dies. We lose our job. Construction delays and detours us. And sometimes change comes at our bidding. We get married. We decide to have children. We change jobs. We go back to school. We retire. Whether the change comes at our bidding or not, life changes for us. We enter a period of transition. We enter a wilderness.

But here's the other reason John the Baptist located himself in the wilderness. As we read the Bible and hear God's people tell their story over and over again, we discover that it was in the wilderness that they felt the presence of God most closely. John the Baptist is calling the people back to God.

May the transitions in our lives and in our life together be ones wherein we discover God's presence with us as he guides and provides as only he can.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dale

STAIN GLASS

HAS ANYONE NOTICED THE ADDITION OF STAINED GLASS IN THE ENTRANCE FROM OUR PARKING LOT?

We need to thank Helen Hoops for the idea of adding something relevant to Church in this area. Helen had bought pieces of glass that were from the High Street Church explosion in 1978 at a rummage sale. Isn't that a God Thing! After several years she found that one of our church members did stained glass work, it was Marsha Nuerge. We prayed, connected and the serving began.

Helen gave the pieces to me to design a glass hanging for this area. Our church has recently adopted Worship-Connect-Serve to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This has been very much in my heart and I asked Helen if it would OK to elaborate and expand from one hanging to three hangings.

WORSHIP: The cross made from the explosion glass and the praying hands.

CONNECT: Hands connecting in friendship.

SERVE: Out reached hands willing to serve our Lord in his world.

This is how these three hangings were designed and produced. Helen and I have prayed over these hangings and ask that they forever remind us to: Worship, Connect, Serve to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In God's Love!
Marsha Nuerge

THE STORY OF THE STAIN GLASS

Many years ago on the streets
Of Adams and High,
An old stone church
With a tower that reached the sky...

Had a gas explosion
In the winter of '78,
And people of High Street Church
Wondered 'bout its fate.

The decision to restore the church
Quickly became their prayer.
And believers worked together
To repair with love and care.

And soon church doors opened
For morning worship time.
The tower stood straight and tall,
bells ringing their chime.

But in the winter of '78
When the stain glass windows fell.
No one knew the shattered glass
would someday come back to dwell.

Someone had the vision
And picked up the colored parts,
fragments of the stain glass windows
would someday show God's heart.

For the chips of glass were sold
In a brown bag for change.
Waiting for God's timing,
Pieces to be arranged.

The hands, the foot,
the golden colored scroll,
Would someday hang in a window
To be seen by all souls.

For the old stone church broken
So long ago in despair,
Has found a new way to communicate
God's love and care

For the message of broken pieces
In a window hanging high,
is reminding us of a story
that will meet the eye.

That God can take a broken life,
A life of misery and pain.
Shape the broken pieces into
A life of gain.

And the bits of glass are a witness,
No one remembers the tragic loss.
For the cuts of glass reveal God's heart
In the shape of the Cross.

2014 Deborah Musick



CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR AFRICA UNIVERSITY

During this season of Advent, we will be sharing in the sermons about Africa University and our part as a church in our Indiana Conference's campaign to endow a chair in Agriculture and Natural Resources and to provide additional scholarship funds. High Street's goal is to raise \$10,000 in this three-year campaign.

Our bucket offering in December and our Christmas Eve offerings will go toward this campaign to change young lives on the continent of Africa.

Africa University is a private, international higher education institution located just outside of Mutare, Zimbabwe and founded in March 1992 by the United Methodist Church. The University welcomes students from all nations of Africa without regard to race, class, ethnicity or political and religious affiliation. The University's annual enrollment is almost 1,400 students from 25 countries.

Thursday Luncheon Schedule

- Dec 11 - Madison County Music Makers
- Dec 18 Delaware County Extension Chorus
- Dec 25 Closed - Merry Christmas
- Jan 1 Closed - Happy New Year
- Jan 5 - Senior Supper at MCL at 4:30

Upcoming Youth Events

December 14- caroling with bells 4:00
Christmas celebration and white elephant gift exchange 5:00-8:00 at the Wolfes'

December 20- Christmas program dress rehearsal 10:00 in Parish Hall

December 21- Christmas program 9:45 with reception to follow
The Grove 6:00-8:00

December 28- Christmas Vacation (no Grove)

Just A Reminder!!

The end of the year is fast approaching so all contributions for the year 2014 must be received in the church office or postmarked by Dec. 31st for them to count towards your 2014 pledge. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at the church office.

Thank you,
Cherish Hensley
Church Administrator



High Street Church Staff E-mail Addresses

- Church: info@munciehighstreet.com
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- Rebecca Swander: angels.on.high.hsumc@gmail.com

Advent/Christmas 2014

THEME: **Grace appears**

THEMATIC PASSAGE: *The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. It educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives right now by rejecting ungodly lives and the desires of this world. At the same time we wait for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our great God and savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to rescue us from every kind of lawless behavior, and cleanse a special people for himself who are eager to do good actions.* Titus 2:11-14

OFFERING EMPHASIS: Africa University. We have pledged \$10,000 as a church in support of our Indiana Conference's effort to endow a chair in Agriculture and to provide scholarship funding for this United Methodist school in Zimbabwe that draws students from all over the African continent.

DECEMBER 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Pastor Dale preaching on "Planting Oaks" based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11.

The 8:30 service will feature our Christmas Orchestra.

DECEMBER 21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Pastor Dale preaching on "Planting for Peace" based on 2 Samuel 7:1-11 & Luke 1:26-38.

Children's Program at 9:45 in Parish Hall.

7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service with a reception to follow

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

12:00 noon Communion Candlelight Service in the Chapel

8:00 p.m. Family-Oriented Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

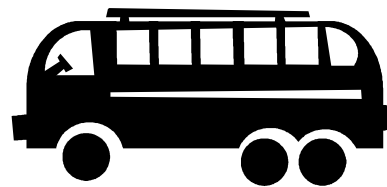
9:00 – 10:45 p.m. Christmas Reception in Parish Hall

11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Carols

DECEMBER 28 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

One service at 9:30 a.m.

High Street Travelers



FRI JAN 9 INDIANA PACERS V. BOSTON
\$50 Adult/ \$25 Youth

MAR 1 – 7 NEW ORLEANS, LA
\$579.00 DBL OCC
6 NIGHTS – 7 DAYS / DELUXE MOTOR
COACH / 10 MEALS / TOURS
FINAL PAYMENT DUE 1/1/2015

MAY 5 – 7 HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL
\$349.00 DBL OCC
2 NIGHT – 3 DAYS MOTOR COACH / 4
MEALS / PARADE / GARDENS / TULIPS!!!

JULY 6 – 17 ALASKAN CRUISE TOUR:
SOLD OUT!

OCT 7 – 14 CALIFORNIA RAIL DISCOVERY
\$2495.00 DBL OCC
6 NIGHTS – 7 DAYS / RT AIR / 2 RAIL
EXPERIENCES / 9 MEALS
NAPA WINE COUNTRY / LAKE TAHOE / SAN
FRANCISCO TOURS ++

After EVERY 3rd paid trip you receive a \$25 voucher towards a future trip. Reservation Policy:

- 1) Contact High Street UM Church at 765/747-8500
- 2) Payment MUST accompany reservation.
- 3) Cancellations made within 7 days of trip are NOT guaranteed a refund.

Tours are open to the Public, clubs & groups. All trips are deluxe motor coach unless noted. High Street Travelers is sponsored by and a mission of High Street United Methodist Church 219 So High St Muncie, IN 47305. COORDINATOR-Deb Heeter
EMAIL: dheeter601@comcast.net

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

December

	1 9:30 AM Update Bridge 12pm Mah Jongg 12:00 PM TT Deadline 1:30 PM Food Pantry 4:30 PM Senior Supper 4:30 PM Preschool Board 6:30 PM Young Adults	2 6:45 AM Renovaré 8:30 AM Staff 10:00 AM Pastoral Staff 11:00 AM Mary Circle 1:30 PM Food Pantry	3 9:00 AM Travelers Trip 9:15 AM Wm. Bible Study 9:30 AM Mommy & Me 5:45 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Kids Choir 6:30 PM Resound Mercy 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 8:00 PM AA's	4 8:00 AM SHIP 10:30 AM Bld Pres Chk 11:30 AM Thurs. Lunch 4:00 PM Mary Jane Luick 4:30 PM Wesleyan Circle	5 8:00 AM Merdian Health Services making candy	6 9:00 AM FCJ Town Hall 9:00 AM Youth making goodies 9:30 AM Kid's Holiday 11:00 AM Trumpet/Organ Rehearsal
7 Brown Bag 8:30 AM Trad. Worship 9:30 AM Coffee 9:45 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday Sch 9:45 Children's Rehearsal 10:30 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 4:00 PM SAF - Youth 6:00 PM Miller Wedding 7:00 PM Miller Reception	8 9:30 AM Update Bridge 12pm Mah Jongg 1:30 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Young Adults	9 6:45 AM Renovaré 8:30 AM Staff 10:00 AM Pastoral Staff 11:00 AM Ruth Circle - Crabtree's House 1:30 PM Food Pantry	10 9:00 AM M&M Bible Study 9:15 AM Wm. Bible Study 1:00 PM Elder-Law 5:45 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Kids Choir 6:30 PM Resounding Mercy 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 8:00 PM AA's	11 8:00 AM SHIP 11:00 AM Lunch Activity 11:30 AM Thurs. Lunch 7:00 PM Church Conference	12 10:00 AM Westminster Fellowship 1:30 PM Naomi Circle	13 9:00 AM Orchestra Rehearsal 9:00 AM Decorating Stage 11:00 AM Trumpet/Organ Rehearsal
14 8:30 AM Trad. Worship 9:30 AM Coffee 9:45 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday Sch 9:45 AM Children's Choir 10:30 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Contemp. Worship 3:00 PM Church Caroling 5:00 PM Youth Christmas at the Wolfe's House 5:30 PM Women's Group	15 9:30 AM Update Bridge 12pm Mah Jongg 1:30 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Young Adults	16 6:45 AM Renovaré 8:30 AM Staff 10:00 AM Pastoral Staff 10:30 AM UMW Meeting 1:30 PM Food Pantry 5:30 PM Martha Mary - Ruby Tuesday	17 5:45 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Kids Choir 6:30 PM Resounding Mercy 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 8:00 PM AA's	18 8:00 AM SHIP 11:00 AM Lunch Activity 11:00 AM Preschool Party 11:30 AM Thurs. Lunch	19 8:00 AM Working on Stage Decorations 11:00 AM Preschool Party	20 8:45 AM Children's Choir 9:30 AM Children's Rehearsal 11:00 AM Trumpet/Organ Rehearsal
21 8:30 AM Trad. Worship 9:30 AM Coffee 9:45 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday Sch 9:45 AM Epworth Class Party 9:45 AM Christmas Program 10:15 AM Reception 10:30 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship 6:00 PM The Grove 7:00 PM Longest Night 8:00 Reception	22 9:30 AM Update Bridge 12pm Mah Jongg 1:30 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Young Adults	23 6:45 AM Renovaré 8:30 AM Staff 10:00 AM Pastoral Staff 10:30 AM UMW Meeting 1:30 PM Food Pantry	24 8:00 AM Office Open 12:00 PM Christmas Eve 8:00 PM Family Christmas 9:00 PM Reception 11:00 PM Candlelight	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 9:30 AM One Service	29 8:00 AM - 12 PM Office Open	30 8:00 AM - 12 PM Office Open	31 8:00 AM - 12 PM Office Open	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	