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Wehrly's World

Form follows function. Some wise sage gave me this advice many years ago. Over the course of my years as an ordained pastor, I've discovered that many churches believe they must fill in every blank of Charge Conference forms and consequently have many people listed for jobs where the church has no ministry. I've found a better way to structure the church leadership is to determine what ministries are being done, then have God determine who needs to fulfill the leadership in order for that ministry to be accomplished. Thus, **form follows function.**

Your Ministry Team has decided to adopt this approach. At the August meeting, they decided that they (the Ministry Team) could function as both the Lay Leadership Committee and the Finance Committee. In the church structure, most members of the Ministry Team are on the Finance Committee, so the thought was, "why double up meetings?" Additionally, decisions made by the Lay Leadership Committee must be approved by the Ministry Team, so again, "why double up meetings?" As the church structure was being discussed, members of the Ministry Team realized there are fewer people willing (and able) to serve in leadership positions; so the decision was made to ask six persons to be on the Staff Parish Relations Committee and six other persons to serve on Trustees.

It is hoped that with this streamlined organization, we will be more faithful with Christ's mandate for us: 'Make disciples.'

See you in church.

Calendar (check the web site for updates)

September

- 15 next Tuesday afternoon **LIFE group**
- 20 next Sunday evening **LIFE group**
- 21 Ministry Team meeting, 7 pm
- 22 Staff Parish meeting, 7 pm
- 30 Signal Hill Fire Department in parking lot

October

- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 12 Columbus Day, church office closed

Worship Singers meet Mondays at 6:30 pm.

Senior High Youth every Thursday at 6:30 pm and every Sunday at the parsonage by 6:10 pm to attend St. Matthew UMC Youth Service.

LIFE groups underway



The two adult LIFE groups held their first meetings in early September. The Sunday evening group meets at the home of Paul & Kanda Vallina. The Tuesday afternoon group is hosted by Liz Reichert, assisted by Barb Martin.

The senior high youth began their LIFE group on September 10.

A group originally planned for Wednesday afternoon was not formed due to a lack of persons willing to host and facilitate. In addition, Pastor Peter Wehrly has indicated that the Tuesday afternoon group could be split, since it is currently too large for good conversation.

"That is our next step, after all," Wehrly said. "We want to form more groups so that we can involve everyone in the church in building their relationships with God and with each other."

If you would like to participate in a group or feel led to facilitate one, contact Pastor Peter Wehrly at pastor@signalhillumc.org or 397-7780.

UMW hosts 80 at District meeting

On September 12, the Signal Hill unit of the United Methodist Women hosted a meeting for the Mississippi River District UMW. Guest speakers included Conference UMW President Sally Smith; Women's Division representative Carolyn Yockey; Lucille Stevenson, Cunningham Children's Home representative; and William Kreeb, executive director of Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. Special collections were taken for Lessie Bates Davis and Cunningham.

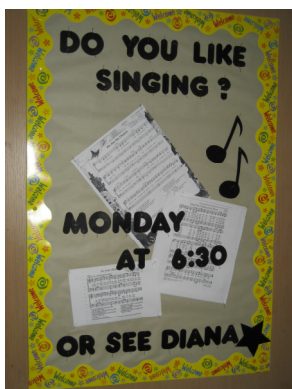
Go to the "News" section of the web site for a report by Edith Beach, SHUMC UMW member.



Remember our mission collections!

Everyone is encouraged to bring nonperishable food and cleaning products to our shopping basket for distribution to Bethany Place, Violence Prevention Center, and St. Clair Co Emergency Fund. Watch the bulletin for more specific details on the needs of these ministries. Thank you!

Worship singers practicing weekly



Several members are meeting on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm at the church to rehearse worship songs with Music Director Diana Starr. The rehearsals include review of three praise & worship songs that begin the service, the "song of faith" just prior to the Scripture lesson and sermon, and the "sending forth song" at the

end of the service.

"Our worship leaders have a very important role in worship," explained Pastor Peter Wehrly. "Under their leadership, we are invited to come into God's presence and be unified in the Spirit."

Wehrly, Starr, Susan Meister, and Pat Kueper will attend a Worship Seminar on Saturday, September 19, at St. Matthew UMC, Belleville.

If you would like to rehearse to sing on Sunday morning, contact Starr at music@signalhillumc.org or leave a message at 397-7780.

Quilt Ministry celebrates anniversary

Just one year ago, lay speaker Donna Reid spoke to the Signal Hill UMC congregation about the prayer quilt ministry she was involved in at Mount Olivet UMC in West Quincy, MO. Shortly thereafter, Joyce Burnette expressed her interest in the ministry to Pastor Wehrly, and the Signal Hill UMC Prayer Quilt Ministry was launched.



The quilt Reid brought with her was tied and given to Dr. Phil Auner. The first SHUMC quilt was tied on November 16 and given to Richard Smith. Joyce reports that, over the past year, 25 quilts have been given to persons both within and outside the congregation.

In August, guest speaker Beth Fender was so impressed by the ministry that she took a sample quilt back to her home church, Jacksonville Grace UMC. "I was so touched by the symbolism of the whole congregation coming forward to tie the quilt during the worship service," she said.

"This is when you know a ministry is making a difference!" exclaimed Pastor Peter Wehrly. "When you can 'pay it forward' – what a blessing!"

Those who have cut quilt squares are Edith Beach, Lucy Sudol, and Velma Thompson. Sewing them together are Burnette, Jan Hollinberger, Fairy Meek, and Lucy Sudol. Those giving fabric include Janise Chamblin, Barb Ford, Helen Wimmer, Beach, Burnette, Hollinberger and Thompson.

Everyone urged to use daily devotional

September/ October **Upper Room Devotional** booklets

(including large print editions) are available in the entry way of the church. The Upper Room has daily Scripture passages and devotions that help readers engage in a daily discipline of Bible reading and prayer. "We need to bathe ourselves in Scripture and prayer so that we can be the church God is calling us to be," Wehrly said. "I encourage everyone to do this daily devotional." The on-line version is at www.upperroom.org/Devotional/



SHUMC youth group resumes meetings



The SHUMC Senior High Youth Group resumed regular meetings on Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 pm. The meetings open with a light meal and continue with small group participation similar to that being done by the adult LIFE (Living in Faith Everyday) groups. Dowell Holdgraf and Pastor Peter Wehrly are the adult facilitators of the group.

Trustees busy with building-related issues

In late August, crews from AmerenIP installed new gas lines and valves at the church, which required major excavation in the church and parsonage parking lots.

In addition, for several weeks during heavy rainstorms, the north-south hallway next to the sanctuary has flooded repeatedly. On one occasion, the flooding was severe enough to go into the glass office and ruin the carpeting, which was removed by the Trustees. After checks by the roofing company, plumbers, and heating/air conditioning firm, it was determined that part of the problem was that the drain in the hallway air unit was backing up and it was cleaned. However, more flooding recently in the same place has seemed to come from overhead and ruined ceiling tiles. The Trustees are investigating.

Earlier in the summer, the elevator from the entry area to Fellowship Hall stopped working. A technician fixed the faulty equipment after a couple of weeks of diagnostics and repair. In addition, Charlie Burnette has been doing electrical repair on several wall switches.

Rev. Peter J. Wehrly, Directing Pastor
Diana Starr, Music Director
Kim Hutchison, Administrative Assistant

Church office hours: 8 – 1, Mon - Thurs
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