



The Grapevine

January 2012

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Tuesday-Thursday

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Words from Pastor Dave

What Do You Need Most In 2012?



A couple of days before New Year's Day a television station in Denver took their mini cam-

era out into the streets and stopped people on the streets to ask them this question: "What do you need most to make this new year a great year for you?" The answers were as varied as the people they interviewed. One man said, "An extra \$200 a week." Another man said, "a steady job." Another one talked about a new house. One lady said, "If I could just have better health." One person said, "If I could just find someone to love me, I would have a wonderful new year." As I listened to the answers that those people gave I thought, "I know people who have all those things they talked about and yet they still are not very happy." What does it take to make a happy new year? What do you need most to have a great year in 2012?

The Apostle John says in 1 John 5:4, "For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." He boiled it down to one word. He said what we all need most is faith. If you are going to have a great year in 2012, what you need more than anything else is faith in God. You need faith more than you need money, or hours, or material things, or even love. You have a heavenly Father who loves you. Put your faith in Him. Know that He loves you and that He wants to help you have real life. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith."

~Pastor Dave

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Trustees Update

Improvements to our heating system will begin soon! Your contributions toward caring for our church building are appreciated. Would you like to help with the planned projects? Mark donations as "Building Fund". Thanks!

Two Opportunities For Worship Every Sunday!

- 8:00 a.m. Casual Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship service and Children's Sunday School
- Holy Communion 1st Sunday of each month



JEFFERSON STREET PRESCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERS — ELI FAIRMAN

Eli Fairman, although born in Germany, grew up mainly in Colorado. He became used to being the “new kid” in school due to his father’s Air Force career. So he can certainly understand the anxiety some of our preschoolers will encounter on their first day of school. Eli loves competing in sports, especially football, wrestling and lacrosse. He is looking forward to completing his education and starting a family. Although young, Eli’s character is evident by his respect for others, empathy for those less fortunate and his recognition of virtue in almost everyone. Jefferson Street Preschool sees him as a strong, positive and encouraging role model for the students and feels very fortunate to have him on our team!

SCHOOL UPDATE

Christmas has come and gone! Each class had a Christmas party and put on a program for the parents. The program was held in the church sanctuary and was so very cute! The parents were all very impressed. This is the first such program for the school and with the positive feedback we are getting it will not be the last.

The “Parade of Lights” float was also a huge success. The children dressed as pirates and “sailed” down Main Street in their very own pirate ship.

Now after all the parties (and with 3 classes our teachers have partied a lot!), the school has been a little quiet while everyone has taken a much deserved break to celebrate the holiday season with their families.

The new semester will begin again on January 2 and we will be starting with some planning for the spring garden.

We are in need of someone to clean the school as our last cleaning person has moved on to bigger and better things. This is a job that takes about 2 hours. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to clean once a month on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, please let one of the preschool committee members know. We are trying to find several volunteers to clean once per month so we have some back up cleaners, if needed.

If you have questions, would like to volunteer or would like more information regarding the Jefferson Street Preschool, please contact one of the committee members:

Nancy Holloway - npaluh@msn.com

Sheila Newton - swnewt@comcast.net

Claire VanMeter - vanmeterc@gmail.com

Sandy Gormley - gormleys@earthlink.net

Visit the preschool website at: www.jeffersonstreetpreschool.com



FOOD BANK NEWS

2011 In Review

2011 has proven to be busy but fulfilling in the Food Bank. We are delighted at the support we have received from our congregation and the Louisville community in general. We offer our sincere thanks to each and everyone of you!

We need to give a special thank you to Mark Spangler's Superior Boy Scout troop. Their help in sorting food and toting those heavy boxes up and down our basement stairs has been most appreciated.

We have had food drive donations from four of our Louisville Schools -- Louisville Middle School, Coal Creek Elementary, Fireside Elementary and Superior Elementary. They stepped forward when their assistance was very much needed.

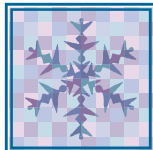
In addition, the Lafayette Methodist Youth Group had a wonderful food drive for us. These amazing young people not only collected and delivered a great collection of food, but they carried it down stairs and did all of the sorting. What a gift!

Of course, our own great congregation has faithfully filled their "yellow bags" almost every Sunday this past month and returned bountiful gifts to us for which we are most grateful.

Though I know we haven't mentioned everyone by name, please know that every donation of both food and time is very much appreciated.

Now we can relax just a little bit before getting ready for our next delivery which will be in March. We'll have more information on that for you next month!

Snow Removal Anyone?



With winter upon us we feel very grateful to have Jay Holloway as a member. Jay comes faithfully each snowfall and clears the walks and steps at the church for us. But it was really an eye opening experience when Jay was out of town during one of our recent snowstorms! We are looking for a couple of volunteers who would be willing to help with this job when Jay is not available (should we ever allow him to go out of town again!).

By the way, a snow blower was recently donated to the church, so the job just got a bit easier. Please contact Jay Holloway (npaluh@msn.com) or Stu Bray (braybunch@comcast.net), if you could help with relief snow removal. Thanks!



Find us on
Facebook

If you missed our Choir's recent Christmas Cantata (or if you'd like to re-experience it), you can find some video clips of the performance on our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/louisvilleumc.org>

The cantata composer, Pepper Choplin, found our page and watched our video! Here's what he had to say: "Hi folks. I listened to "Come Emmanuel". You did a fine job - good musicianship with a nice full sound. Thanks for singing my music."

Thanks for finding us on Facebook, Mr. Choplin!



LUMC'S NEWEST "SPONSORED CANDIDATE FOR MINISTRY" — MEET JANEEN HILL

You may contact Janeen at
janeen_hill@hotmail.com

To my LUMC family:

Thank you for the support and the love as I start a new part of my faith journey. I have just started, don't know the exact timing of things, but am moving forward. For over a year, there has been an inner prompting that won't go away - pushing me toward the decision to become a Licensed Local Pastor. My experiences with the choir, my church family, and with the youth group made me open to hearing the call.

Over time, there are a few experiences that stand out, when I look back to see how I got here today. I was raised in the Methodist Church, but took my faith for granted. When I was in the Peace Corps in Morocco, a Muslim country, feeling almost like an outcast as part of a minority religion, I made a conscious choice to follow Christ, always. I had to make that choice again, in the dark days following a divorce and fighting an addiction. I prayed that God would take my life and my will, and He was there - immediately, an almost physical presence of light and warmth. This has guided my life since that time. The mission trip I was able to take to Missouri left me feeling wrapped in grace for a long time, as nothing else ever had. The final experience has been working with the youth at Louisville UMC - realizing that this is my calling - to bring God and Jesus to life for others.

I'm excited to be walking on a new path. I look forward to sharing this with all of you as time goes on.

Peace,

Janeen



Youth News

The Youth had a Christmas Party on December 18 and enjoyed lots of food, fun and fellowship!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 8, 2012 — 4:00 p.m. Regular meeting — continuing our study on “Thinking Theologically About Money”

Friday, February 3—Saturday, February 4 — *Youth Leadership Conference* in Highlands Ranch — We will talk about this event at our January 8th meeting. Reservations are required, so we need to know who is interested in attending.

PARENTS: we will meet briefly after church on January 8th to talk about this event.

Annual Chili CookOff is coming up in February; *Murder Mystery Dinner* will be in April or May; and another *Youth Conference* event is happening in Denver in May — More details to come on all of these!

“Regular Meetings” are planned for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. *Friends are always welcome!*

Contact Janeen Hill at janeen_hill@hotmail.com, if you have questions regarding any Youth Fellowship events



New Year's Resolutions!

By Emily Spearman Cannon

Emily is one of LUMC's sponsored Candidate for Ministry. You may contact her at: ecannon@mtso.edu

Happy 2012, LUMC! It's the start of a brand new year, and you know what that means: it's time to make some New Year's Resolutions! Each new year brings with it a chance for a fresh start, so it's no surprise that millions of Americans vow to turn over a new leaf on January 1st. We promise to lose weight, get a better job, start journaling, stop smoking, finish a degree, pay off a bill...and *this* time, we're going to make it work! But somehow, that sense of motivation which gets us all revved up in January inevitably starts to fade within a few weeks, and more often than not it's totally gone by the time Valentine's Day rolls around.

Like most people, I've broken a resolution or two in my day—but that doesn't stop me from making new ones every year! (Hey, you can blame it on the Methodism: John Wesley believed that Christians are supposed to be on a constant journey towards perfection, so resolving to improve ourselves in the coming year is actually very appropriate!) Here are a few things which I hope to accomplish in the new year...and the motivators which will (hopefully!) keep my good intentions from fizzling out before springtime!

Tithe every month—Its undeniable: local churches need money to function. There were times in college where I neglected my tithing, but at this time in my life I really have no excuse. My husband has been blessed with a full-time job, I have a generous scholarship which has kept me out of debt in seminary, so giving a portion of that bounty back to God is the *very* least I can do. And putting money in the collection plate every month also reminds me that there are millions of people in this country who don't even have an income to tithe on...and there but for the grace of God go I! (Full disclosure: we're currently giving 5%, but I hope to get that number up to 10% by the end of the year!)

Treat my body with love and respect—According to TIME magazine, three of the most popular New Year's resolutions are body-related: we Americans are constantly resolving to lose weight, get fit, and eat better. I've made all those resolutions myself in the past, but this year I'm replacing them with a more holistic goal...I just want to treat my body in the way God wants me to treat it. To me that means keeping it active and feeding it a balanced diet, while also allowing myself an occasional treat

(and not beating myself up when I slip up.) It also means that I will work on appreciating my body rather than constantly critiquing it. My body may not be flawless, but at least it's functional! My limbs work, my brain works, my heart works...so why focus on the negative when there's so much to be grateful for?

Do something nice for someone else every day: Yes, I know this sounds cheesy, but even the smallest acts of kindness can bring joy to a person's day. It doesn't have to be a grand gesture; I just want to do little things to let people know that I love them. I want to give out compliments, bake for my neighbors, greet a sales clerk by name, offer to help someone with a difficult task...at least one gesture every day by which I can show God's love to my sisters and brothers.

Will I be successful in all three of these resolutions? I hope so! Will there be days where I miss the mark? Absolutely, but that's part of secret resolution #4: allow myself to make mistakes, and trust that I am loved—by God, family and friends—even when I fall short. None of us are perfect...but that doesn't mean we have to stop trying! Have a great January, LUMC, and I pray that you all experience God's grace and love in this new year!

Thanks LUMC!!

Each year our church grants scholarships to several students who are engaged in the pursuit of higher education. We received these words of thanks from this year's recipients:



Courtney Peverley: I just wanted to say thank you for the scholarship money. I am very appreciative! I won't be seeing you all until March, so Happy Christmas!

Caroline Peverley: Thank you so much for the scholarship. I'm less than a week from finishing my second to last semester of college, and I'm really looking forward to my next semester of student teaching! I'll be student teaching full time with 8th grade Algebra and Geometry classes at a local middle school. Thanks again, and I'll see you over spring break!



Colton Spearman: Wow! Thank you so much. My current schedule of classes, broadcasting on the college radio station and being co-president of my fraternity doesn't leave much time for having a job. So this scholarship money is greatly appreciated!



In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
 May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as
 we put our hope in you.

Psalm 33:21, 22



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
 The people of The United Methodist Church™

AFTER DECEMBER SLIPS AWAY

—DONNY OSMOND

*The season comes but once a year
 A gift of precious wonder
 For all who hold it dear
 But past the sights
 And colored lights
 Lord, far beyond December
 I will remember*

*After the carols fade away
 After the Yule fire dies down
 When there are no longer dreams to open and see
 Because You are hope and joy and peace
 Because You're the only gift I need
 In my heart the season will remain
 After December slips away.*



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WANT TO GET A HEAD START? The newsletter
 deadline for the next issue is Sunday,
 January 22nd. Please email any articles,
 pictures, email address changes or
 suggestions, to the editor:

donna@thespearmans.com

Send mailing address changes to:

sheilaspangler@earthlink.net