

# RESURRECTION NEWS

Resurrection United Methodist Church  
16320 Eastwood Cutoff Road, Louisville KY 40601  
Jan 2012

## GLEANINGS: A Theology of Safety?

*FROM An Unstoppable Force, by Irwin McManus*

### Your Favorite Gift?

"But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

The greatest gift you will ever receive will never be found under a Christmas tree. It is far too valuable to be stored in any other place but in the depths of your heart.

-- Author Unknown

The church has given rise to a variety of pop and bumper-sticker theologies – the kinds that give us comfort for all the wrong reasons. One in particular has both misguided the church and diluted the calling on every believer who is shaped by it: “the safest place to be is at the center of God’s will.” This promise was well intended, but it is neither true nor innocuous. When we believe that God’s purpose, intention, or promise is that we will be safe from harm, we are utterly disconnected from the movement and power of God... Somehow we have missed the reality of the biblical experience. From Abraham to Paul, those who followed God were subjected to great dangers. Paul (1 Cor 11:23-28) describes his journey with Jesus as anything but safe: *“Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked. I spent a night and a day in the open sea; I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, from bandits, from my own countrymen, from Gentiles, in the city, in the country, at sea, and from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep. I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food. I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”* The truth is that the center of God’s will is not a safe place but the most dangerous place in the world! God fears nothing and no one! God moves with intentionality and power. To live outside of God’s will puts us in danger; to live in his will makes us dangerous... Paul also declared *“To live is Christ and to die is gain.”* Following Jesus is a dangerous undertaking. He was willing to die on our behalf... The only way we can truly follow God is to die to ourselves and to live for him. Only dead men can follow the God of the Cross.

My prayer for each of us in 2012 is that we will choose to lay down our comfortable lives in service of the risen Christ in radical, unexpected ways. With all my heart I believe that our faith should move us to attempt the impossible, and that adventure and excitement and true JOY will be the result. God bless us, every one! Sandra



## Tis The Season to Be Thankful!

### REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Happy New year to all! As we move into 2012, my wife Cathy will be leading the Finance team and I will move over to the Trustee team. In 2011 our church was very blessed in regard to our finances and I would like to thank each of you for your generous offerings. Offerings in 2011 totaled \$119,845 and expenses totaled \$124,889. There were several major improvements made in 2011 such as the new sewer

installation-\$10,940, roof repairs - \$6,433 and a new projector for the sanctuary - \$3,000. All of these were paid from our operating account and we did not have to dip into our "reserve" account. We also supported a number of mission opportunities such as Redbird, EACM, Honduras, KY UM Children's home as well as other various missions. In addition we have saved up about 5,\$400 for a part-time worship leader in 2012. Thank you again and I look forward to another blessed year in 2012. Marty

### REPORT FROM UFOs: Blankets for Babies

The UFOs have been making blankets to be given to preemies that are born at Baptist Hospital East. One of the problems with premature births is keeping the babies warm. That is why the fleece blankets are so important for the care of the preemies. Also, it is a bit of warmth and comfort that doesn't reek of "hospital." It helps the family feel that the babies have a little bit of home with them even though they are still in a healthcare environment. Thanks to everyone who gave donations to purchase fleece, we have made and given around 50 blankets to date and still have fleece to continue the effort; however, if you have not had an opportunity to contribute and would like to be a part of this ministry now is a great time to get good deals on fleece. One and one quarter yards of fleece is all it takes to make 4 blankets. If you can sew, would like to make blankets but can't make it to UFOs, it is easy and we can help you get started. Help us spread the warmth of Christ's love to the preemies at Baptist Hospital East.



"No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." -- Unknown.

# LOOKING AHEAD IN 2012

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<p>Jan 29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck Lunch after morning worship at RUMC.</p> <p>Celebration at St. Luke's Baptist Church. 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Feb 14: Valentine's Day</p> <p>Feb 15: SALT TEAM 7:30</p> <p>Feb 22: Ash Wed. service: 6:30</p> <p>Feb 26: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>March 4-25 LENT</p> <p>March 18 – Spring Clean-Up Day.</p> <p>March 25 – Back-up date for Spring Cleaning.</p>	<p>Apr 1: Palm Sunday</p> <p>Apr 1-9: Holy Week</p> <p>Apr 5: Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 PM</p> <p>Apr 6: Good Friday Service: 6:30 PM</p> <p>April 8: EASTER!</p> <p>APR 18: SALT TEAM</p>

## STATUS REPORTS:

- **New Worship Leader:** Position has been posted with the KY. UM Conference and on seminary placement boards (Southern Baptist, Louisville Presbyterian, and Asbury Seminaries)
- **Website:** We have a new host and web design, which will save us about \$450/year. The site content is in development and the site should be up by the middle of February.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH:

- **Sunday School: 9:30 Sunday mornings.** We are doing an in-class Bible study on prayer. The discussion is great, and the class is growing. There is room for you!
- **Wednesdays at 6:30 – 7:45** Prayer Meeting and Bible study on Paul's Letter to the Romans. We are reading through the book of Romans, discussing as we go. Lively conversation, lots of laughter, and much wonder at what God has done for us!



## WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!

Dale and Marilyn Lang became part of our Resurrection family on Christmas Eve, 2010, when they first attended our services. They made it official on Dec 18! They were long-time members of Crestwood United Methodist Church but moved to Gardiner Park about 7 years ago. They are the proud parents of two daughters who live in the Louisville area. You won't see them for a while since they are in Florida for the winter, but we are delighted that they have decided to join us at Resurrection and we look forward to good times with them!

# THE CONFERENCE CONNECTION

## UNITED METHODISM 101 ON-LINE COURSE

Whether you've been a United Methodist for five decades or five weeks, you may be surprised at all there is to discover about our denomination. United Methodism 101 is designed for anyone else wanting to know more about the denomination and its history, teachings and structure. In this course, you will learn more about United Methodist history, structure, beliefs, and ministries.

The course includes five modules, each with many interactive features. Each module takes about one hour to complete. Move through the modules at your own pace. The course is organized for busy people who want a quick overview. Links to additional resources are provided for further study. Each of the five modules should take 20-30 minutes to complete, and interactive exercises will be presented throughout. The five modules are:

- Introduction and Overview ← You are currently here
- History
- Theology and Beliefs
- Organization and Governance
- Present and Future Challenges of the church

The United Methodist Church, through United Methodist Communications, welcomes you to this exploration of the church's rich history and tradition, connectional nature and organizational workings, and the challenges facing all United Methodists

### Pre-register

No participants will be admitted once the course begins, so please pre-register before Wednesday, Feb. 1 at this website: <http://secure.umcom.org/Store/product/productinfo/united-methodism-101-um101/970?cid=189&tr=y&aid=10171347>

**Cost:** Cost: \$9.99

**Dates:** Feb. 1 – March 14

## SPRING MISSION PROJECT: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



The Louisville District, under the leadership of Christ Church United Methodist, will sponsor a Habitat for Humanity build in 2012. Resurrection has pledged a financial gift of \$500 for this effort and has committed to working at least two week-ends on the project. Christ Church will host an organizational meeting on Thursday, February 2, at 9am. RUMC will have a representative at the meeting and will bring details of the discussion back to the congregation. I am hoping many of us will take advantage of this opportunity to serve our community and get to know our fellow Methodists in Louisville a little better!

## OUR GUIDE FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY

Henry Ward Beecher once said, "Sink the Bible to the bottom of the sea, and man's obligation to God would be unchanged. He would have the same path to tread, only his lamp and his guide would be gone; he would have the same voyage to make, only his compass and chart would be overboard."

I was reminded of that recently in regards to the cruise ship running aground in Italy and the disaster that followed. A deviation from the ship's charted course caused it to hit the rocks, and a deviation from the Bible's charted course for our lives can have similarly dire consequences. The Bible is the lamp and guide for our path and the compass and chart for our voyage. We dare not head off on life's journey without it. -- Rev. David T. Wilkinson