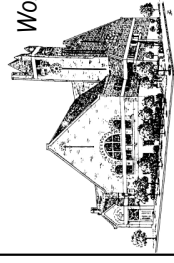


Our Mission Statement

United Methodist Church is a Christ-centered fellowship called to offer the best we can possibly give to God, as we care for our community and world through...

- ...worshipping, glorifying, and honoring God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ...inviting all to grow in the knowledge of the Lord.
- ...living a Spirit-filled life through our actions and words.
- ...offering the love of Christ to everyone.

- G – Growth through making disciples of Jesus
- R – Reaching our community and world
- A – A family where all people can belong
- C – Christ-centered worship and learning
- E – Excellence for God's glory



Worship & Education Center - 219 W. Mulberry
Offices - 212 W. Walnut
Kokomo, IN 46901

Sunday Worship: 8:15 am & 9:25 am

Phone: (765) 457-5329

Web page: www.kokomograce.org

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

Stephen A. Beutler Chris Roberts
Larry Newberg, Visitation Pastor

Our Missionaries

Oscar Ramos, Hispanic Ministry of North Indiana Conference
Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries
Dr. Robert Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone

Specialized Ministries

T.J. Knowland, Youth Director
Randy Manning, Director of Music
Barbara Hobbs, Pianist/Organist
Jacque Hunt, Ensemble Director
Debbra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse
Phill Montgomery, Counselor
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager
Carisa Durham, Childcare Provider



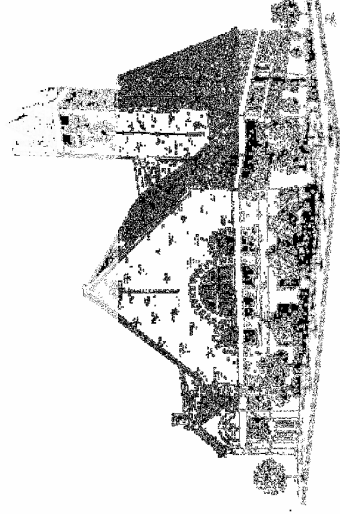
Deuteronomy 5:16

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 13

NONPROFIT ORG.
USPOSTAGE PAID
KOKOMO, IN
PERMIT NO. 91

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Jesus Christ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:8-10



Grace Notes

May 2007

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

"For such a time as this" – so what is this time? This is a time when we need to discuss the deeper issues that lay at the foundation for such atrocities as the massacre on the Campus of Virginia Tech – and the implications for our response as the body of Christ.

This is a time when...

- a record number of students were killed in a college campus shooting;
 - the number of teens in foster care has increased by more than 200,000 in the last 20 years;
 - about 6 million children under age 12 have been diagnosed with depression and are on medication for it;
 - urban youth swarm the streets because Daddy has abandoned them and Mama's strung out on crack;
 - 1 in 12 young people are the victims of violent crime;
 - substance abuse among young adults has increased as much as 10% in the last decade;
 - technology and acquaintances on My Space masquerade for true intimacy and significant relationships;
 - there is a considerable rise in young people who suffer from emotional disturbances manifested through eating disorders, self-mutilation and violence.
- And this is also a time when, for the most part, the institutional church with its traditional families wants nothing to do with "that" kid who abuses substances;
- or who dresses inappropriately;
 - or who uses street language and grooves to rap and hip-hop;
 - or who is promiscuous or pregnant;
 - or who is emotionally disturbed and anti-social;
 - or who has darker skin or an accent;

- or who wears all black, metal, chains, piercings, tattoos, or "Bling bling";
- or who isn't familiar with the most basic of Bible stories.

The church stays away from "those" kids, lest they negatively influence the church's kids.

This is a time when research has proven that the primary impact of a significant adult relationship other than a parent in determining the success and positive adjustment of at-risk young people is great, and yet very few churches engage the youth of their communities.

This is a time, for the most part, when the institutional church is completely out of touch with the culture of today and has absolutely no clue how to reach the marginalized, at-risk populations. And I only wish I was exaggerating.

I have served "that" church –

The church that kicked out the kid who was caught selling drugs;

The church that told the emotionally disturbed kid that he couldn't come back unless a parent accompanied him;

The church that outcast an unmarried young adult when she became pregnant;

The church that literally closed its doors on a group of people who wanted to share an alternative style of worship;

The church that stared down the youth who dressed creatively;

And the church that refused to let a visitor sit in a 'family-designated' pew.

I realize that many of you were probably expecting more of a word of hope, not words of seemingly chastisement. However, we are the leaders of our church. And as leaders, what we need most is not a message of hope, but a wakeup call that reminds us of our mission to BE hope.

Continued from page 1

Of course, we can't and shouldn't blame the church or anyone or anything else for the actions of the Virginia Tech shooter. I remember hearing a professor speak shortly after the Columbine shootings. Likewise, he did not place the blame on the failures of an institution, the parents, the media, violent video games or any other entity. However, he did speak of the deep responsibility that should be ours in acknowledging our role as mentors who have at least the possible capability to stop such atrocities through successful intervention and outreach to high-risk students. He suggested that more often than not, we simply pretend not to see these persons and ignore their cries for help.

These words ring true for the church. We can no longer sit complacent in our pews, but must answer the call for such a time as this. The greatest tragedy is that we respond in such a time as this in the midst of an isolated incident of crisis while we pretend not to see the crises that constantly surround us on a daily basis.

When the coming months have gone by and the church feels like it has done its part to comfort families who have lost loved ones and lead them toward the path of the peace and forgiveness of Christ, will we forget that this crisis didn't begin at Virginia Tech and it still hasn't ended?

Or, will we finally realize that, "for such a time as this," the church must finally begin the active pursuit of intimate and significant relationship with ALL people within AND BEYOND our church walls, just as God ceaselessly pursues us.

For such a time as this is our call to finally wake up to the cries of marginalized, disenfranchised, at-risk people who desperately need the church to show them a God and a love that is big enough for even them. For such a time as this...

Written by Angie Williams, Director of Youth, Young Adult and Single Adult Ministries in the Virginia Annual Conference. She shared these thoughts following the Virginia Tech tragedy

LADIES NIGHT WITH UNITED METHODIST MEN

The following youth presented an outstanding musical program for all to enjoy. Rachael Bates, Katelyn Kingseed, Melanie May, Kasey May, Dave Sirmons, Sam Sirmons, Bryant Toles and Leonte Wilson. One of the numbers was from the musical they will be presenting May 10, 11, 12 at Kokomo High School. They sang "Green Eggs and Ham Sam I Am" We can be very proud of our youth and their commitment to God and the church.

ADDED GRACE MEETINGS

Added Grace May Meeting

Added Grace will meet at 11:30 AM on Tuesday May 1, at Grace Church in Fellowship Hall. Suzanne Davis will be our host for the meeting and our speaker will be Karen Altergott with Family Services of Kokomo. Her talk will be entitled "Domestic Violence and What We Can Do About It". The cost of the meal will be \$5.00. Reservations can be made with Peggy Hobbs by telephone at 452-4394.

Added Grace June Meeting

Added Grace will meet at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, June 5 at the Golden Corral Restaurant. John and Mary Lou Snead will be your hosts. Come join the fun as Kay Stough leads us in light and entertaining exercises (seated, using paper plates.) Many of you know Kay as the Fitness Instructor for Morning Stretch at the Senior Center. Reservations can be made Sundays May 27 or June 3 with Peggy Hobbs or by calling her at 452-4394.



DR. TOM SCHERSHEL WILL SPEAK ON BOARD OF HEALTH ISSUES

The speaker for Grace UM Men May 21 will be Dr. Thomas Scherschel, Chairman of the Howard County Board of Health. Dr. Scherschel will help us understand the work of the County Health Department, and answer questions on such issues as septic sewer systems, immunizations and vital (birth and death) statistics.

Women are always welcome to attend programs of UM Men. Advance reservations are needed only for the 6:00 p.m. catered meal. Reservations may be given to Val Harris at 453-6952.



Have a blast at a week of camp with your friends along with 300 other high school students at Epworth Forest. Find an answer to that question your heart has been asking. Spend a week hanging out with a cabin full of other senior highers, doing all of the things you love to do.

- Incredible worship with the band "Abandon"
- Moving drama
- Dynamic speaker
- Discover your faith
- Build your relationship with Jesus Christ
- Share in small groups
- Jump into the challenging new obstacle course
- Amazing water sports including tubing, speed boating, kayaking and swimming
- Exciting activities including basketball, sand volleyball, dodgeball, ultimate frisbee, softball, soccer, crafts, carpet ball, board and card games and lots more
- All meals and lodging included in cost.

June 24-30

Cost: \$135 (The total cost is \$275 and Grace UMC picks up half that cost)

Total cost due by May 24 so get your fee in now

Jump in and find your space at InSTITUTE.

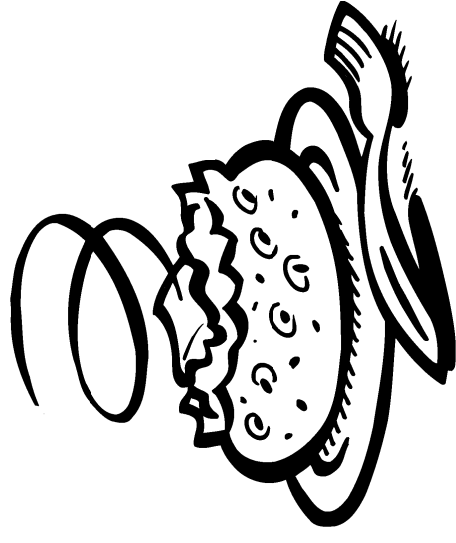
www.impact2828.com



UMYF Schedule For May 2007

May 6	5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Morrison Bells Meals UMYF
May 20	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	"Spud Lunch" Meals UMYF-Sr. High

SPUD LUNCH



The Senior & Junior High Youth of Grace Church will be hosting a Spud Lunch on Sunday, May 20th 2007 at 12:00 noon. Free will donation accepted to benefit summer activities.

THE YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER JOINING THE TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP WITH SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, OR WITH SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS. CONTACT ERIK AUZINS, PASTOR CHRIS OR TJ KNOWLAND.

We promise to uphold our church by our presence

March 25
259

April 1
261

April 8
748

April 15
243

April 22
258

Giving As God Has Given

March 25
\$12,570.97

April 1
\$18,777.24

April 8
\$16,687.39

April 15
\$41,646.55

April 22
\$15,241.56



Enjoying his birthday cake

Greetings from the Ransoms in PA

It's hard to believe that we have been away from all our friends at Grace

church for almost six months! We miss you and hope that you are all doing well and continuing to work at spreading the Gospel of Jesus throughout Kokomo and the world.

We are pretty settled in here in Pennsdale. The congregations have welcomed us (and especially Elijah!) with open arms. We are sharing this full-time appointment. Rob is keeping busy with most of the administrative areas of the church. Grace Marie is focusing her time on Elijah, visitation, Elijah and most recently the church choir. One church has recently started up a choir again and Grace Marie said she'd help, so they made her the director!

Elijah is doing great. He is walking, running, and saying a few words—Daddy, Mamma, Grandpa, and thank you. Elijah can also communicate pretty well with sign language for words like: please, thank you, hungry and more. If you would like to keep track of us at your leisure, you can log on to our website:

www.ransomsr.us There are pictures, movies and other miscellaneous info there.

We miss you all and think of you often. (Rumor has it that we may have visitors from Kokomo soon!) Take care of yourselves and keep in touch!

Peace & Love,
Grace Marie, Rob & Elijah

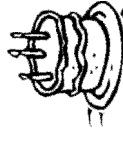
I would like to express my appreciation to Pastor Steve for his visit while I was in the hospital for my surgery and to the members for cards and prayers during my time of need.

*Truly Yours,
Bill Moberly.*

May Anniversaries



10th	David & Betsy Durham	27 yrs
16th	Phil & Joanne Lynn	20 yrs
17th	Bill & Phyllis Cox	32 yrs
18th	Jack & Teresa Amos Verlon & Elise Rohrer Jim & Debbie Mitts	51 yrs 44 yrs 16 yrs
19th	Joe & Betty Edwards-Pencek Bruce & Lee Ann Hughes	28 yrs 30 yrs
21st	Wayne & Ann McAninch	9 yrs
23rd	Shannon & Christi Russ	8 yrs
25th	Homer & Sue Harrison	18 yrs
27th	Rich & Ann Bradshaw	33 yrs
28th	Gerry & Maryellyn Harlow	



May Birthdays

1-Ben Bradshaw	20-Richard Halfast
2-Sharon Calhoon	21-Beverly Snodgrass Tonia Orr Katie Wall
3-Jessica Foust Mary Louise Nolan Don Fields Julia Mills Chad Hartzog	22-Tristan Good 23-Roseland Rayl Larry Moss
4-John Auzins	25-Lloyd Johnson Carolyn Elleman Bob Brockmann
5-Gerry Good Blake Reed	26-Bonnie Eads 27-Bob Wall Joan Ingels Galen Hodge Norma Raber
6-Ralph Baer Delaney White	28-Sue Kay Becky Hamilton
9-Liz Harper Zach Cunningham	29-Dorothy Johnson Sarah Wiley Gail Estes Kirk Daniels Christopher Hartzog
10-Ron King	30-Frances Daniels
11-Tim Garner	31-Phyllis Sharp Chris Hedges
12-Chris Riesen	
13-Bernard Ampe	
14-Betsy Brownfield	
15-Dick Emry Julia Parrish Stefani Vande Lune	
18-Sharon Bassett Daniel Conley	
19-Kathleen Taylor David Emry Matthew Orr Andrew Orr	



Mother Daughter Banquet

Tuesday, May 15, 2007
6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Tickets: \$7.00 Big Girls \$3.00 Little Girls
Theme: "Once Apron a Time"

To the Ladies of Grace: Here's your chance to get all dolled up, have a night out with the girls, and be served a delicious meal both prepared and served by some big, strong, handsome men. Can't beat that!

We'll be educated on the history of aprons by Jean Simpson of the Greentown Historical Society, and we'll be entertained by Kay Stough's Kitchen Band.

Tickets are on sale in Fellowship Hall after the 9:25 service. This is simply a night of fun with no strings attached – except for the ones attached to your apron which you will want to wear for the apron parade. For more information please contact Dianne Wagaman at 459-4524.

Local Missions Outreach Day

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Supporting missions is the work of United Methodist Women. On this date we will visit one or more of our chosen local missions. More details will be made available as soon as they are confirmed.

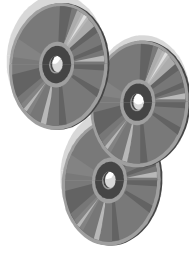
Upcoming Events:

School of Christian Mission July 11 – 14
School of Christian Mission July 11
Drive-In Day

Praise: Over \$300.00 was made selling Noodles and Cinnamon Rolls. (Sweet!)

CD's or tapes are available for each Sunday Worship Service.

Contact the church office for more information.



RELAY FOR LIFE
JUNE 15-16,

3:00 pm - 3:00 pm

KOKOMO HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

Relay for Life is a community gathering where everyone can participate in the fight against cancer. Teams camp out at Kokomo High School and take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event - because cancer never sleeps. Relays are an overnight event, 24 hours in length.

Relay for Life brings together millions of people to raise money to help prevent cancer, save lives, and diminish suffering from the disease. While you're raising much needed funds, you'll also be raising awareness of cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and patient support. Relay brings people together from all walks of life with the common goal of eliminating cancer.

GUMC will again have a team this year, "Graceful Walkers." You can sign up for the team or contribute in the fellowship hall during May, on line at www.acsevents.org/relay/in/howard or by calling Mel and Barb Hobbs, 452-3159.

CELEBRATING MISSION GIVING

Just a reminder about our new way of helping local organizations: As you shop, please pick up one or two items a week to help the following organization that you would like to support. The shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall is the present collection point for needed items listed below. Your support of these Local Ministries is greatly appreciated. Grace's Mission Ministry Members will take these items periodically to each organization.

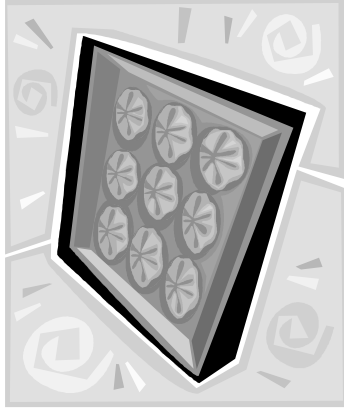
- 1. Open Arms**
Currently needing feminine products and condiments (such as ketchup, mustard, and mayo)
- 2. Kokomo Urban Outreach (Jeff Newton)**
Currently needing jars of peanut butter.
- 3. Nesting Doves**
Currently needing newborn diapers and grocery cards.
- 4. CAM**
Currently needing toothpaste, TP, shampoo and deodorant.

Also, we are very proud to support Jeff Newton in his Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministry. Grace Church has recently given KUO a little over \$5000 to help with a 2007 budget shortfall, \$5000 to help pay the salary of a person working for the Crisis Childcare Center housed at here at Grace Church and \$2500 for new laptop computer, projector, and other supplies. Jim Williams is a faithful helper to Jeff Newton and his Sunday evening programming. Several other Grace member serve Sunday evening dinners and if you are interested, Jim would be more than happy to tell you more about it. Several members gave candy and Easter baskets to Jeff Newton. We need to celebrate his vision of serving people by providing their basic needs and Grace's participation in this outreach ministry. We join together to spread the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ Our LORD.

On a few other quick notes, we sent \$1000 to Bo School in Africa for scholarships, \$500 to Nothing But Nets, collected \$819.48 for "Nails for Sale" which was sent to UMCOR for Tornado relief victims, and over \$500 worth of items to CAM, Nesting Doves and Open Arms and Kokomo Urban Outreach. We are a loving and generous church. Let us continue to strive to see others in needs and reach out to provide them with the love of Jesus Christ. The Mission Ministry Team is grateful to all who support these endeavors through their budgeted giving, plus all the extra needs brought before them. In Matthew 25 it tells us, "For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home, I was naked and you clothed me..." We are called to freely give to those less fortunate. Grace Church needs to celebrate our giving and caring spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.

MARATHON COOKIE BAKE

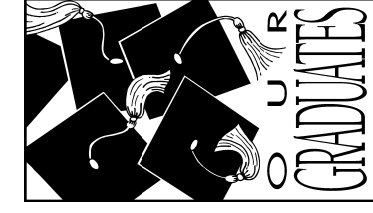
On Friday evening, April 20, 2007 around a dozen of the Senior High Youth got together and baked 151 dozen chocolate chip cookies and placed them in bags (six in a bag) during a Marathon Cookie Bake for the Kairos Prison Ministry. If you are unfamiliar with the Kairos Prison Ministry, it is similar to the Great Banquet and the Em-



maus Walk in that it is an Ecumenical Ministry meant to spread the Love of God. The cookies are given to the men when they come to their

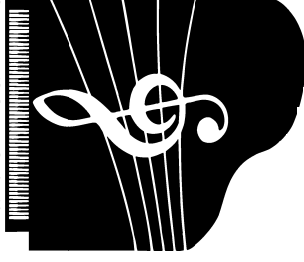
weekend. They are showered with cookies and are given cookies to take back to share with the other inmates. Our youth actually baked only a small portion of what is actually needed for each weekend. 6000 dozen cookies are baked and bagged for each Kairos weekend and shared with the men to show the Love of God. If you would like to do a cookie bake similar to this, please contact Jeff and Bobbie Egloff.

For the record, not one of the cookies meant for the men was eaten by a single youth! (Rumor has it Bobbie baked cookies for them to be eaten during the cookie bake).



May 20 is Graduate Recognition Sunday. If you have a member of your family who is graduating from High School, college, or graduate school, please let the church office know so we may recognize them and celebrate their accomplishment.

Make Music a Part of Your Life



The Jr./Sr. High Youth Choir sang on Sunday April 15th and again at the United Methodist Men's "Ladies Night" Dinner on Monday April 23rd. Thanks goes to Mike Lang, Marleta Newberg, and members of the Kokomo High School Choir for their participation.

The Vesper Handbell Choir played two pieces on April 22nd. They played the processional hymn "Lift High the Cross" with the organ and congregation. They also played "Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling" as an offertory.

On upcoming Sundays the Altar Choir, Jr./Sr. Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Chamber Ensemble and the Gospelairees will lead our worship services.

Summer is approaching and we are looking for special music during these services. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact Randy Manning or one of the church office staff.

National Day of Prayer

**Thurs., May 3
12:00 pm -1:00 pm**

The Annual National Day of Prayer will be held on May 3, from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Howard County Courthouse. It is scheduled to take place on the steps at the entrance of the Courthouse, however, in case of rain those wishing to participate are invited to meet in the Courthouse lobby. All members of our congregation are invited and encouraged to participate. If you are unable to join with those who may gather at the Courthouse, please remember to take some moments on May 3rd to pray for our nation, it's leaders and those in the armed forces, We should also pray for our local and state officials, as well as our community, it's churches and people.



WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE 2007 "AMAZING FREEDOM"

O.K. Ladies, the time is getting close! The Women of Faith experience is such awesome time for fellowship, learning and praising the Lord together! You won't want to miss it! If you are wanting a ticket to attend the Women of Faith Conference on August 3 and 4, please pay Cindy as soon as possible. Decisions, decisions! Several of you have expressed interest, but until you pay for a ticket, your spot may not be held. Talk with Marleta Newburgh, Kathy Reber, Amy Auzins, Becky Reed, Jayna Beutler, Susan Garner or Linda White about going, if you'd like a personal account from last year.

The important info is listed below:

When: Friday, Aug. 3 from 7-9 and Saturday, Aug. 4 from 9-5

Where: Ft. Wayne Coliseum

Cost for a ticket: \$65, checks written to Grace UMC, given to Cindy Lovegrove, our church secretary

We have 25 tickets available. Please call Cindy to reserve your ticket soon. She is holding them on a come first, pay first basis.

Contact person: Susan Garner at 453-1819

Featured speakers are: Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg, Luci Swindol, Thelma Wells, Sheila Welsh and Nicole Johnson with special guests: Allison Allen and Nicole Nordeman.

Hotel info: For those who are interested in spending the night in Ft. Wayne, eleven rooms are being held at downtown Marriott for around \$100. per room. under Grace UMC. You might talk to a friend, sister, etc.... and see if you want to room together. If you are interested in a room, please call Susan Garner or e-mail her at skgarner@insightbb.com and she will give you the Marriott phone number, so you can transfer the room into your name.