

McPherNotes

MCPHERSON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

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(Twelve Month Later, from Page1)

Passages students (grades 6 and 7) next month, with future mentoring to include high school and college students. This program will have the potential to connect scores of people in one-on-one relationships of accountability and prayer and friendship along the journey of faith.

Most of all, I am grateful that I can give witness to the **sustaining grace of God** over the past twelve months. You have been patient, prayerful, and kind with this rookie senior pastor. I have benefitted from the unconditional love of an amazing husband and partner in ministry, without whom I would be unable to serve. I have been overwhelmed by the support, counsel, and correctives from this congregation. And I look forward to the next twelve months and all that God will choose to do through us all as we daily yield ourselves to Him.

• **Choir Preview Night** •

If you've been considering joining the Celebration Choir (or re-joining!), we'd love you to come for a relaxed, no-strings-attached evening—August 26 at 6:00 pm.

Rebekah and the choir are planning some new, exciting music for fall and the glorious season of Advent, too! Come join us in the choir room on Aug. 26.

Childcare is available. Please call or e-mail Rebekah at 241-7176 ext. 106 or rneighbors@macfmc.org

We're on the web
www.macfmc.org

Weekly Events

Sundays

8:30am-Choir, Praise Team & Orchestra Rehearsal
9:15am-Sunday School
10:10am-Community Café
10:30am-Worship Service
5:30 pm-College Age/HS Cookout
6:00pm-Cell Groups

Mondays

6:00 pm-Financial Peace University

Tuesdays

9:00-11:00 am-Play Date at Jan's
1:00pm -Staff Meeting

Wednesdays

6:00pm-Choir Practice (starting Aug. 12)
7:00pm-"Teach Us To Pray"

Thursdays

8:00-9:30am-TOPS
9:00-11:00 am-Play Date at Jan's
9:00am-Overeater's Anonymous
6:15 pm-Vocal Team Practice
6:30pm-Full Band Rehearsal

Saturdays

7:00am-Men's Prayer Group

August 2009 at a Glance

August 2	12:00 pm	BASIC Potluck
August 4	6:30 pm	Wedding Coordinator Meeting
August 5		JOLT! All Star Sports
August 10	7:00 pm	Financial Peace University Preview
August 11	7:00 pm	Pastor's Cabinet
August 12	8:15 pm	Trustee Meeting
August 13		Deadline to Sign Up/Pay for Financial Peace University
	7:00 pm	Women's Ministry Team Kickoff
August 15	4:00 pm	PlayDate Family Fun Event
August 16	9:15 am	Promotion Sunday for 3's-1st Grade
	10:30 am	Next Step Sunday (new members, baptisms)
		Passages Sunday
	6:00 pm	Back to School Party for Gr. 1-5 at Jan's
August 19	8:15 pm	Finance Committee
August 20	7:30 pm	BOA
August 24	6:00 pm	Financial Peace University Begins
August 26	6:00 pm	JOLT! Back to School Bash
August 30		Welcome CCC Students and Parents
	12:00 pm	Biluminous Potluck
August 31	6:00 pm	Financial Peace University

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MCPHERSON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 1, Issue 8

August 2009

Twelve Months Later...

There's an old hymn entitled "Count Your Blessings" that comes to mind as I look back on the past year of ministry among the good people of McPherson, Kansas. I am grateful for the privilege to serve God in this community and look forward to the next year. Following are just a few reasons for thanksgiving and celebration:

Prayer: God is at work among us and through us only as we seek Him in prayer. I am grateful for the solid core of pray-ers who are committed to our Wednesday evening prayer service and for all who seek a deeper relationship with Christ through prayer. The McPherson Free Methodist Church's identity in Christ and mission for Christ can only be realized as we remain on our knees before God.

Leadership: The quality and character of lay leaders among us, both past and present, is stellar. I was reminded of that fact this past month as I met for the first time with the 2009-10 Board of Administration (Greg Fields, Mike Craig, Jeff Johnson, Anne Gemmer, Barb Claassen, Eugene Brandt, Mary Hawkins, Don Rose, Mike Reimer, Jennie Hall, Cliff Hawkes, Phil Nelson). This team represents well the larger body of individuals and families gifted to serve and willing to lead.

Staff: Zach, Dallas, Jan, Rebekah, Eugene, and Pat are not only delightful to be around...they are fully committed to the ministries before them.

It's such an honor to watch this group come together and cultivate an atmosphere of trust and respect that frees them to serve and grow as a team and as individuals.

Missions: I am eager to see how the new Missions Team under the leadership of Jennie Hall will challenge us as a church body to see and respond to both local and global needs and service opportunities, as well as increase our awareness of ways to add to the existing support of career missionaries around the world.

Outreach: Pastor Dallas is helping to re-tool and re-launch an Outreach initiative, with the assistance of chairman Cliff Hawkes, that will sharpen our focus on the needs beyond our walls, as well as sensitize us to how we can better respond to and follow up with those who enter our doors from week to week.

Outreach McPherson: And speaking of outreach, what a remarkable response to the needs among us during these days of recession (or the long, slow climb out of one). This ministry is growing exponentially, with an immediate need for more volunteers. I'm thankful for a church that cares about the community in this way, and for the ongoing work of this compassion ministry.

Financial Peace: I am so grateful for the launch of Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* at our church later this month. Cal Hawkins, with assistance from Royal Mellinger, will oversee this 13-week program and we

hope to have a large number register. Karl and I have been through the program and we have seen how the biblical principles of Ramsey's teaching, when properly applied, can transform a family's financial future.

Our Children and Teens: I have rejoiced with both Zach and Jan as they have led our teens and children through significant summer programs and opportunities for service. These efforts have served as catalysts for life-changing decisions for Christ... and there are more and more children and teens to serve. Volunteers are needed, and I look forward to the ways in which people will step up.

Mentoring: Pastors Dallas and Zach are finalizing a mentoring program that will be launched with our

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Reverend
Deborah
Somerville



Photo by Kenise Photography

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Children's Activities...with Jan O'Dell

MARKETPLACE

Beginning Sept. 9 for 3 year olds - 5th grade, Wednesdays, 7-8 pm. Opening night we will have the Spacewalk, Hoops, Frog and Chicken Bean Bag games.

A HUGE NEED: A 4th Grade Shepherd to guide the 4th graders to one center each night. Call Jan to grab this opportunity to minister to the future foundation of our church.

August Play Dates include August 4, 6, 11, 13, 20 & 27 at Jan's house from 9:00-11:00am. We will go back to Thursday only PlayDates as of August 20.

Our August field trip is a tour of McDonalds on August 13 and will include time for play and a Happy Meal. We will return to Jan's house by 11:30 a.m. Parental help is needed and much appreciated. Give Jan a call!

Crocodile Dock VBS was awesome!!! Thank you to the staff for all your dedication those four important days! You planted many seeds and it will be exciting to watch them bloom. Thanks to the church congregation for your prayer support and snack donations.

Your consideration and thoughtfulness is an inspiration. Rest a bit and get ready; I'm already planning VBS 2010!!!

PlayDate Family Fun Event: PlayDate families are invited to a special family time on August 15 from 4-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have the SpaceWalk, Gator Slide and Tropical Sno available all at no cost to our families. Give Jan a call at 242-6775 or 241-0382 by August 6 if your family is planning to attend.

Promotion Sunday for children ages 3 years through 1st grade is Sunday morning, August 16 at 9:15 in the Sanctuary. The children will

receive presentations and sing VBS songs. Teachers will be recognized. We invite families and friends to join in the celebration.

August Children's Church Leaders are...

Wayne and Jennifer Pickerell

Helpers include:
1st Sunday-Allison Craig, Hannah Ediger
2nd Sunday-Janessa McVicker, Sarah Johnson
3rd Sunday-Dara Quastad, Jenessa Rose
4th Sunday-Sarah Gaeddert, Ally Ulsaker

Back to School Party for Grades 1-5 will be August 16 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Jan's house, 308 N. Elm. We will have pizza and watch a movie. Give Jan a call or sign up at the WC by August 7.

Discipleship...

Dallas Burgeson

Next Step Sunday

On Sunday August 16 we will celebrate another "Next Step" Sunday. We will receive people into **membership**, both as youth members and as full members. There will also be opportunity for **infant dedication or baptism**, as well as for **baptism by immersion** on that Sunday. If you desire to have your child dedicated or baptized, or if you or someone in your family wishes to make public their declaration of faith in Jesus Christ through baptism by immersion, please talk to Pastor Deb, Dallas, or Zach as soon as possible so that we can discuss that opportunity with you.

Financial Peace University Coming to MFMC!

Financial Peace University, a 13-week course on financial stewardship, begins Monday August 24, from 6-8:00 p.m. at the McPherson Free Methodist Church, and will be held on consecutive Mondays through the fall. The course is a video series designed for churches and is taught by nationally syndicated radio host and bestselling author, Dave

Ramsey. He offers many biblical principles concerning how we handle our money, and the applications of his teachings have helped thousands get out of debt and very literally changed their lives.

We will be highlighting this opportunity throughout the month of August, and will offer a time for those even marginally interested to watch a 25 minute preview video on August 10 at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. Scholarships will be available to families to assist them with registration costs. Childcare will also be provided (infant through Kindergarten – or older as needed). This is an *excellent* opportunity for husbands and wives, single parents, and entire families (especially teens with their parents) to discover a healthy course of action to take toward financial freedom. As you plan your fall calendar, be certain to keep Monday nights free of anything that would prevent you from attending, as attendance is mandatory (one absence allowed) for those who take the course.

Thank You...

A big "Thank you!" from our hearts to all of you for your kind good wishes, cards, gifts and attendance at our 50th anniversary reception. We were honored and touched by the loving efforts of our children and grandchildren and by the encouragement and friendship of our church family. God has been good....and is.....all the time!

-Larry and Judy Potter

Lakeside Plaza management and tenants would like to thank Outreach McPherson, the Free Methodist youth, and all those involved with the picnic and

fun events you provided for everyone on Wednesday evening. The Lord's gift of a shower (and a rainbow) only made it more fun. The food was delicious, the music was great and the children LOVED the alligator slide. Again, we thank you for allowing us to be a part of your ministry.

-Sincerely, Bonnie Hoffman
Management Agent

Hi friends at The Free Methodist Church... We want you to know how much we appreciate your staying in McPherson to do good deeds. We would like

to see more youth programs do the same some day.

-Sid & Maureen Johnson

Thank you for the flowers at Larry's funeral. They were beautiful. God bless you all! Much love,

-Jean Clark and family

How blessed we are to have such a wonderful church family. We are so grateful for the many who prayed for us, for the words of encouragement and expressions of love. We were humbled to be chosen to be the recipients of the week of prayer. Thanks you so much.

-Eugene & Ruth Brandt

Here's What's Happening...

GPC WOMEN'S RETREAT
Nov. 13-15, 2009 at Airport Best Western. Kim Sawyer is the speaker and it is sure to be a wonderful time of fellowship and fun with other women of faith. **Please bring board games and a pair of flip flops to decorate.** Take advantage of the end of summer sales and buy your flip flops now. Contact persons are Kellie Watson (402.326.3780) or Pastor Jan Mills (402.261.5759).

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE is seeking host families for three Japanese students - two young ladies and one young man. Families will host a student in their home from August 20-29, provide meals, and an introduction to Ameri-

can culture and life as a Christian family. A host family stipend will be provided to help cover the cost of meals. Host families are encouraged to stay in contact with their student during their studies at Central. Two additional host families will be needed in January or February. For more information, please contact International Student Coordinator Lanita Quastad at 620-755-1978.

OUTREACH MCPHERSON needs to restock our food pantry. At this time we need canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, pasta and rice.

FMC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES Kickoff Party, August 13 @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Kick off your shoes and wear some decorated or crazy socks for a night of food, fellowship and a sock fashion show. Learn what women's ministries is planning for the fall and how you can get involved. We are so excited about how God is going to use this ministry....come and be a part of it! **Please bring new socks of any size to donate to missions.** "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace..." Romans 10:15b

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY
Greg Fields' email -
fieldsgreg@rocketmail.com

Chris & Natalie Adrian-
703 S. Maple

Jacob & Tamara Young-
703 Kerschner Dr., Apt. C

Points of Interest:

- COMMUNION SUNDAY
AUGUST 2
- STAFF RETREAT
AUGUST 9 & 10
- FINANCIAL PEACE
UNIVERSITY PREVIEW
AUGUST 10
- CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES
AUGUST 12
- NEXT STEP SUNDAY
PASSAGES SUNDAY
PROMOTION SUNDAY FOR
3'S-1ST GRADE
BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY
FOR GRADES 1-5
AUGUST 16
- FINANCIAL PEACE
UNIVERSITY BEGINS
AUGUST 24