

McPherNotes

MCPHERSON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Pastoral Staff

Deborah Somerville

Senior Pastor
dsomerville@macfmc.org

Dallas Burgeson

Associate Pastor
dburgeson@macfmc.org

Zach Fleming

Pastor of Student Ministries
zfleming@macfmc.org

Jan O'Dell

Children's Ministry Director
jodell@macfmc.org

Rebekah Neighbors

Worship Arts Director
rneighbors@macfmc.org

Pat Reimer

Office Manager
preimer@macfmc.org

1010 S. Maple
McPherson, KS 67460
620.241.7176

Outreach McPherson
620.241.7179

Live Morning
Worship Broadcast
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
KBBE 96.7 FM



We're on the web
www.macfmc.org

This year you will notice that, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, things “look different.” We will forego the usual seasonal décor and opt for a more scaled back look and approach. That is because we are partnering with a grassroots movement of more than 1,000 churches in 17 countries as we celebrate Christmas by

- **Spending less**
- **Giving more**
- **Worshiping fully, and**
- **Loving all.**

You are invited to join with us as we commit to giving gifts that really change the world — like quality time, clean water, feeding the hungry, and seeking out ways to be more loving. It’s not just about saving money in this fragile economy...it’s about remembering the value of giving more presence instead of more presents.

Last year, through **Advent Conspiracy**, over \$3 million was raised for relief projects and medical assistance around the world. The invitation is to every family to join as co-conspirators and make a difference around the world. *Stay tuned* for more details as we enter into this very special Season for a very special Reason.

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:15am-Sunday School
10:10am-Community Café
10:30am- Worship Service
4:15pm- Agnus Dei Rehearsal
6:00pm-Cell Groups
7:00pm-ReMix (HS) Youth Group

Mondays

9:00am-Women’s Bible Study
6:00pm-Financial Peace University

Tuesdays

1:30pm-Staff Meeting
7:00pm-Women’s Bible Study

Wednesdays

5:15pm-Bible Quiz Practice
6:00pm-Choir Practice
6:30pm-JOLT! (MS) Youth Group
7:00pm-“Teach Us To Pray”
MarketPlace
8:00pm-Orchestra Practice

Thursdays

8:00-9:30am-TOPS
9:00-11:00am-Play Date at Jan’s
9:00am-Overeater’s Anonymous
12:00pm- Women’s Bible Study
6:15 pm-Vocal Team Practice
6:30pm-Full Band Rehearsal

Saturdays

7:00am-Men’s Prayer Group

November 2009 at a Glance

Nov. 1		Daylight Savings Time Ends
	12:00 pm	BASIC Potluck
Nov. 3	9:15 am	Mom’s In Touch
	6:00 pm	“First Tuesday” Worship Arts Meeting
Nov. 5	7:30 am	USD 418 CPR
Nov. 6	6:00 pm	Set up for Thanksgiving Basket Assembly
Nov. 7	8:00 am	Bible Quiz Meet Here
	9:00 am	Thanksgiving Basket Assembly/Distribution
Nov. 8	12:00 pm	Youth Dinner
Nov. 9	8:15 pm	Finance Committee
Nov. 10	7:00 pm	Pastor’s Cabinet
Nov. 11		Veterans’ Day
	8:15 pm	Trustee Meeting
Nov. 13-15		Women’s Retreat
Nov. 13	6:00 pm	Pizza & Movie Night for Gr. 1-5 at Jan’s House
Nov. 14	7:00 pm	All Church Family Game Night (sponsored by the Youth Dept.)
Nov. 15	4:15 pm	“Agnus Dei” Rehearsal
Nov. 17	9:15 am	Mom’s In Touch
Nov. 18	8:15 pm	Finance Team
Nov. 19	7:30 pm	BOA
Nov. 21	9:00 am	Breakfast, Bingo & Play for 3s-K
	10:00 am	Wedding Shower for Ethan Walker and Ann Scheufler
Nov. 26		Happy Thanksgiving -Office Closed
Nov. 27		Office Closed
Nov. 29		First Sunday of Advent
	12:00 pm	Biluminous Potluck

McPherNotes



MCPHERSON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 1, Issue 11

November 2009

“LEGO” This...

Our son Ryan, now 32, was a “Lego savant” as a young child. That assessment comes from two unbiased parents. He has passed that gene on to our 7-year-old grandson who regularly tackles the primary-colored constructs designed for 12-year-olds. As strange as it might sound, those little plastic Legos had, and continue to hold, a very special place in our hearts...even though we often stepped on untold numbers of pieces (with their very sharp corners) in the dark of night.

“Lego” in the Latin means “read,” or “consider carefully.” So “lego” this: **God is at work among us.** Children are soaking up biblical truth. Marriages are being restored. Families are being served through Outreach McPherson. Prayer is becoming more and more of a priority. These are encouraging days.

On Sunday morning, October 18, several hundred quite literally signed on to co-author a fresh chapter in the church’s story as they said yes to being “On Mission: Becoming by Grace What God Is by Nature.” Some of the questions helping to shape the journey include issues of honesty, non-judgmentalism, listening, hospitality to family and strangers alike, forgiveness, peace-making, and love for God and others. The book of signatures remains open for others to sign as this journey continues.

November marks a shift in preaching from a missional focus to a relational focus (remember MRI – missional,

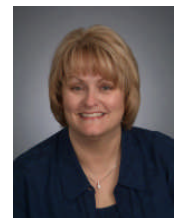
relational, incarnational – as we go “deep and wide”). Harvard economist and Nobel Prize winner (1998) Amartya Sen found that in developed countries improved life expectancy in the twentieth century depended more on one’s social capital than economic status. In Britain, for example, an increase in life expectancy occurred most, not when the economy was doing the best, but when the nation was most imperiled and embroiled in the two world wars. Sen contended that when the British people bonded together to fight a common adversary, the social togetherness yielded major health benefits throughout the population.

I am not promoting the benefits of war! Far from it. However, there is certainly something to be said for the health benefits of social connections. And that is all the more true from a spiritual point of view. The church that is known for its relationships (to Christ and to others) is keeping true to its missional integrity in ways that a church known primarily for its principles or doctrines can never do.

As I said at the outset, God is at work among us, particularly along this relational continuum. In the past two weeks, people have stepped up in obedience to God’s call to serve in this very area. They are asking the right questions: How do we know when someone new has begun attending our church? Do they feel welcomed and wanted? Are we following up with them as we should? Are we caring for people well? Are we discipling them

well? Are we seeking out people who appear to have stopped participating in the life of the church? How can we best encourage relationship not only within the fellowship, but also beyond these walls with people who are hungry for a meaningful connection?

Here’s another tidbit from the Latin language: the etymology of the word “religion” comes from *religare*, meaning “to re-connect, to bind together.” While the *facts* of Scriptures serve a certain purpose, ultimately biblical truth feeds on *relationship* and *revelation*. As we seek to be both connected and connective (Legos, anyone?), may we increase through both prayer and practice our relational consciousness embodied in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Reverend
Deborah
Somerville

Photo by Kenney Photoography

Inside this issue:

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES	2
WORD FROM PASTOR DALLAS	2
NEWS	3
A NOTE OF THANKS	3
CALENDAR	4
WEEKLY EVENTS	4
PASTORAL STAFF	4

McPherNotes

Children's Activities...with Jan O'Dell (242-6775)

Points of Interest:

- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 1
- OM THANKSGIVING BASKET ASSEMBLY AND DISTRIBUTION
BIBLE QUIZ MEET HERE NOVEMBER 7
- YOUTH DINNER NOVEMBER 8
- WOMEN'S RETREAT NOVEMBER 13-15
- YOUTH SPECIALTIES NOVEMBER 20-23
- COUPLES WEDDING SHOWER FOR ANN SCHEUFLER AND ETHAN WALKER NOVEMBER 21
- HAPPY THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER 26
- FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 29

Wednesday MarketPlace 7-8pm for 3s through Grade 5

- New rotation starts November 18 with focus on *Advent: The Birth of Jesus*
- Learning Centers Nov. 18, December 2, and 9 followed by holiday break, resuming January 6 with a "Welcome Back Game & Craft Night."
- **Wanted:** A teacher for our 3 Year Old classroom. Call Jan to join our terrific team!

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 13 during worship service. We will practice during Sunday School and on Wed., Dec. 2 & 9 from 6:15-6:45 in Room 226 and on Sat., Dec. 12 from 10:30-11:30am.

November Children's Church (ages 3-K)

1st Sunday Leaders:
July Pulscher, Brittany Stam
Helpers
Allison Craig, Hannah Ediger

2nd Sunday Leaders
Brian and Sheila Billings
Helpers
Sarah Johnson, Janessa McVicker

3rd Sunday Leader
Emily Mendez
Helpers
Dara Quastad, Jenessa Rose

4th & 5th Sunday Leader
Kami VanCampen
Helpers
Eric Gaeddert, Jordan Kaufmann

Thursday Play Dates Ages 3-5 Year Olds

- November 5, 12, 19
- Jan's house, 308 N. Elm
- 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Special event Nov. 12: Breadmaking (from scratch) with Jana McKinney from the McPherson Co. Extension Office at Jan's house. Each child will take home a small loaf of bread! Parental help is needed and appreciated. Contact Jan at the church office if you can assist.



Building Community by Pastor Dallas

2010 Pictorial Directory Coming

We have begun the process of creating a new pictorial directory for 2010, including an update of the photos on our picture wall in the main lobby of the church. We hope to have full participation. A number of changes have taken place within our church in the last few years so we want to begin from the ground up and update **everyone's** photo, or take a first-time photo. There will be no charge for the sitting with Kenney Photography, 117 S. Main Street. They will make family packages and Christmas cards available should you wish to purchase them.

In order to get these pictures taken in time for those who wish to order for Christmas, we begin the process the first week of November. To schedule your appointment call Deb Bailey at 480-9132 or Glenda Roberson at 241-4065. Sitting times will be available primarily on Thursday evenings, Saturday evenings, Sunday afternoons, and some mornings throughout the week. Sitting appointments will be scheduled beginning Thursday, November 5.

Hospitality Team Recruits Needed

The Hospitality Team, formerly known as the Outreach Committee, is looking for people to help promote community in the church by volunteering in some new ways. We are looking for a few people who enjoy fellowship and serving others to be present on Sunday mornings in the following capacities:

Welcome Center Assistants to:

- Answer questions and provide information about our programs
- Keep up the displays and appearance of the Welcome Center

"Roving" Greeters not stationed at one of our entrances and therefore available to:

- Talk with newcomers for longer periods of time
- Show people to the welcome center, nursery, classrooms, bathrooms, etc.
- Serve as liaisons between stationed greeters and ushers on behalf of those with special needs

Contact the church office or Pastor Dallas if you are interested in learning more about the team.

Here's What's Happening...

GPC WOMEN'S RETREAT

Nov. 13-15, 2009 at Airport Best Western in Wichita. Contact persons are Kellie Watson (402.326.3780) or Pastor Jan Mills (402.261.5759).

OUTREACH MCPHERSON

is preparing for our 4th Annual Thanksgiving Box distribution on Saturday, November 7 @ 9am. Sign up to help with assembly and/or distribution at the Outreach McPherson table in the Narthex.

Outreach McPherson has a designated phone number, 241-7179. Feel free to pass it on!

COUPLES WEDDING SHOWER

FOR ETHAN WALKER AND ANN SCHEUFLER: Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Household colors are as follows:

Kitchen-red, gold, & sage green

Bathroom-purple & white

Living Room/Bedroom-neutral

They are registered at Target, Home Depot and Cook's Nook.

WEDDING RECEPTION

You are invited to a Come and Go Wedding Reception for

Matt and Jen Ferrell, hosted by Matt's parents, David and Linda Ferrell. Join us in the Parlor on Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 -9:00 p.m.

REAL CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS, GARLAND AND SWAGS:

on sale **now until Nov. 7 only** from McPherson Ulster Project 2010 through Beth and Janessa McVicker. Janessa will participate in the local project this summer, as Jamie did the summer of 2007. If interested or would like to see a colored brochure with the options, see **Beth or Janessa at the Welcome Center following service Nov. 1, or contact them at home during the week at 241-0321.**

25TH ANNIVERSARY CARD

SHOWER Congratulations to Merv & Paula Quastad celebrating 25 years of marriage on November 3, 2009. Their children invite you to shower them with cards to help them celebrate.

Their address is:

1775 Navajo Road
McPherson, KS 67460

Special Announcement

from Pastor Deb

It is with both sadness and joy that I accept the resignation of Pat Reimer, Office Manager, effective December 31, 2009. Pat is pursuing her passion as she enrolls as a full-time nursing student at Kansas Wesleyan University in January of 2010. For that reason, I am delighted for her. However, there is also great sadness as we think about her impending departure from the front desk.

It is impossible to describe the value Pat has added to the McPherson Free Methodist Church and community during her years of service in the church office. Every platitude falls short – the glue that holds us together; the ultimate air traffic controller; the heart and soul of the place; the point person for Outreach McPherson; the one always smiling, quick to laugh, willing to cry; compassionate; capable – and on it goes. There is no “replacing” her, so we won’t try. Instead, we will seek someone to fill the position she leaves vacant.

Join me in praying for God’s guidance as we review the position and the responsibilities and determine best next steps. I know you will want to express in your own unique way your appreciation to Pat for her uncompromising professionalism and care for this body of faith. Thank you for your prayers for the Human Resources team as they give leadership throughout the hiring process to follow.

Thank You...

I want to thank the church for the fall flower arrangement sent to me when I was in the hospital. It was lovely. Also thank you to Pastor Deb and all who dropped in. Your prayers and cards are much appreciated. I am so grateful for my church family.

-God Bless You All,
Ruth Larson

Thank you for the balloon & mixed nut bouquet...it really brightened my hospital room and continues to delight my taste buds. Thank you for all your

thoughts, cards and, foremost, prayers for both surgeries.

-In His Love, Jerry Fithian

Thank you to Outreach McPherson, Mr. Taylor and Mattress Haven for helping provide a bed for my two kiddos. May God continue to bless all of you for your generosity and kindness.

-Missy

I want to thank you for the beautiful flowers sent and the many prayers that were said for me.

-May God Bless You,
Neva Rounds

Many thanks for all the wonderful ways you have shown your love and support for the pastoral staff during Pastor Appreciation Month. We consider it an honor and privilege to walk along side you in this incredible journey for the sake of the Kingdom!

-In His Love,
Deb & Karl
Dallas & Jerilyn
Zach & Suzanne
Rebekah & Jason
Jan & Danny
Eugene & Ruth
Pat & Gordon