

Notes from the Preacherlady

My Christmas Wish List this year is that you will help me help others by yours gifts. Prayerfully consider giving practical gifts that will help to fulfill the Wish List of someone you may never meet and know that in doing so, you are serving Christ. Bring your Wish List gifts to church to place under the Christmas tree, making your gifts before Almighty God.

Blessings to you this Advent and Christmas Season –

Pastor Sheila

“What I Want for Christmas”

I remember as a kid growing up we always made a **Wish List** at Christmas time. Growing up in the late 1950's and 1960's times were hard, frilly gifts were unheard of, we received practical things like underwear, nightgowns, new clothes (which were all home-made) and our stockings were filled with things like chapstick, lotion, hair ties, gloves and etc. Then when the girls came along (Melissa in 1979 and Jennifer in 1980) we carried that tradition of a Christmas **Wish List** into our own family.

Now, as a married woman of 32 years, grandmother of 4 and pastor of an awesome church family, I've decided to make a Christmas **Wish List** for 2010 to share with each of you. You see there is really nothing that I need!! When I think about my brothers and sisters in Christ at Grand Avenue Temple I pray I will be able to help supply their **Wish List** of NEEDS this Christmas.

As we are nearing the end of our study and sermon series on the **Treasures of the Transformed Life** I am reminded of the topics: commitment, prayers, presence, gifts and service. If we are truly committed to prayers, presence, gifts and service as a part of our relationship with Jesus Christ, we will see those who he saw and help those that he helped. That always draws my thoughts back to Grand Avenue Temple UMC and their/my/our ministry with the Sojourners. I happened upon this place as a class assignment while attending the Course of Study at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City in the mid-1990's. My understanding of the Matthew 25 scripture text was forever ingrained in my heart, mind, and soul from that very first visit.

In their monthly newsletter (look for a portion of their newsletter on page 4) they share story after story of how they are able to help the Sojourners of the area through the generous donations by folks just like you and me. And though you may have not experienced Grand Avenue Temple first hand, I continue to share their story as often as the opportunity arises.

Along with their stories each month also comes their **Wish List** – items that the ministry is desperately in need of to serve the Sojourners who enter through their doors each weekend. And one really “cool” thing is, when we share what we have, their Wish List will be filled as well.

So their **ten top needs** are as follows:

Sweatshirts	Men's athletic shoes (sizes 10½ to 15)
Men's jeans sizes 30-36 (a priority need)	Bath size towels
T-shirts (X-large, 2X and 3X sizes)	New underwear (men's and women's)
New white cotton socks	Insulated Underwear
Chap Stick Kleenex, Hand Sanitizer, and Cough Drops	Gloves

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Stewardship Thoughts

OBSTACLE: The Bible is about religious and moral issues, and not about money at all, let alone charitable giving.

ANSWER: It is a common idea that the Bible has only to do with so-called religious matters, e.g., church attendance, individual conversion, and personal piety. But this is a misunderstanding, probably derived more from cultural hearsay than from careful reading of the Bible itself. Really, it would be fairer to say that the Bible is about everything. The Bible covers the waterfront of human life because the gospel of God's redemption


covers the waterfront of human life. In the words of Scripture, God is reconciling all things to himself through Christ (Colossians 1:20). "All things" certainly includes money and material possessions, so it is no surprise to find that the Bible speaks plainly and frequently about these things. There are philosophies that separate reality into "spiritual" and "material" spheres, but Christianity is not one of them. In the Bible, all of life (including the use of money) is spiritual because God is involved in it. When we take the time to read the Bible carefully, we find that it has much more to say to us than we may have realized, not least of all about our giving.

Newsletter editor's note:
Information not received by Tues following the deadline might not be included in the current newsletter.

Monthly Report

October 2010

Received this month	\$8,698.74
Needed this month	\$7,672.92
Received to date	\$77,499.08
Needed to date	\$76,729.20
Received to date last year	\$72,627.76
District Apportionments given	100%
Conference Apportionments	89.2%
(balance due \$1,049)	



**Attendance Averages for
November 2010**

**Worship 86
Sunday School 46**

The hungry find food here

Help those in our community who need a little extra. Your donation of **FLOUR** for the Food Depot may be dropped off in the box located inside the front church entrance.

Bring your gifts of celebration!

The **Little White Church** at the front of the sanctuary collects our gifts to assist the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Have a **Birth**day or an **Ann**iversary or just feel called to give? – the Little White Church is there to remind you of the opportunity we have to feed the hungry!



UMW Calendar

December 6 5:30 pm
Dine at Bellacino's then caroling at
St Andrew apartments at 6:30 pm

(Continued from Page 1)

And don't forget to save those hotel shampoos, conditioners and etc during your holiday travels. Invite your neighbors, friends and relatives to do the same. Also, notice that only a few of the above items have to be new.

My Christmas Wish List this year is that you will help me help others by yours gifts. Prayerfully consider giving practical gifts that will help to fulfill the Wish List of someone you may never meet and know that in doing so, you are serving Christ. Bring your Wish List gifts to church to place under the Christmas tree, making your gifts before Almighty God.

Blessings to you this Advent and Christmas Season –

Pastor Sheila



transformed living

Fires burn brightly only as long as they're stoked.

This past Sunday, December 5th, you had the opportunity to commit to new levels in your relationship with God. You boldly filled out your card, and in a wave of momentum, turned in it.

Had any second thoughts since? Had any doubts that you'll actually be able to meet that financial commitment, or fit that area of service into your busy schedule? That's not such a bad thing. It means that you've given God room to work and that without new dependence on him, it's not going to happen.

God delights in our dependence on him, you know. He waits for us to ask for help. But when we have all the answers already or we do things in our own strength, we leave no opportunity for him to be glorified. It becomes about what we can do, rather than what he can do through us.

In coming weeks, as the lessons of *Treasures of the Transformed Life* settle into your consciousness, it will be

possible for you to lose steam and to forget what it was all about. On the other hand, you could take what you've learned and build on it.

Remember that very first chapter, the one that talked about not even realizing your thirst? Over the past forty days, you gained new insight into how thirsty you really were, and discovered that the only thing that will really satisfy is pure, living water, poured into your life through consistent prayer, Bible study, acts of service, fellowship with other Christians, and regular financial gifts.

That kind of water is not the type that puts out a fire. Rather, it's the kind that stokes it, and allows us to burn so brightly that we draw others to us like moths to a flame. So what will you do to keep that fire burning brightly, keeping the principles of the last few weeks in the forefront?

How about this? The next time you see a glass of water—and every time thereafter—you'll be compelled to take a long, satisfying drink. It is that living water that transforms us, until that day when we don't even recognize who we used to be.



Catch The Flame Here

As these words are written Flame Ministry is just beginning their return to Kirksville following a 9-day break for Thanksgiving. Upon their return the days of the semester will be numbered with only two weeks of classes and one week of finals.

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On December 4th, Flame will be leading the Kirksville Christmas March ushering Mary and Joseph and their donkey to the square. Then as usual

Santa will arrive at his Kirksville home located at the Adair County Court House. Following the March, students will continue to carol around the square until noon. The afternoon will be spent decorating The House for Christmas, baking cookies and other preparations.

There will be research papers to write, group projects to complete, finals to study for and concerts to perform before their departure for Christmas break on December 17th.

January 3, 2011 will find the Flame van pulling out of town filled with students headed to Nashville TN for a week of mission work before resuming their studies on January 10th. If you would like to be a part of this trip, we are looking for skilled adults to share their skills while teaching students.

Another mission trip opportunity will be March 4-12, 2011 as Flame once again hits the road, this time for Ship Rock, New Mexico to work with Navajo people on homes, churches and agencies. If you would be interested in participating in this trip, please see Pastor Sheila. We will need to submit in advance our skills to assure that we have adequate leadership and guidance.

On a weekly basis Flame holds their contemporary worship service on Thursdays at The House located at 903 South Davis. This student led service begins at 7 pm and you are all invited to join us for this time of worship. Also on Sunday evenings at 6 pm Flame hosts Sunday supper for whoever shows up – and you are invited to join us for this meal time.

Please continue to hold this ministry in your prayers as we seek to reach others students, across campus, for Jesus Christ. And as we near the end of the semester, the demands and stress level are very high.

Thank you all for your support and prayers. Your generosity and kindness touches so many lives by supporting the Flame. We honestly wouldn't know what to do without this organization. Thank you and may God bless you!

Temple Chimes & Times

News from Grand Avenue Temple UMC at 9th & Grand, Kansas City

Your Gifts and prayers of Thanksgiving as you share with others are what give Grand Avenue Temple life. We are grateful for the many expressions of thanksgiving that flow throughout the year into our ministries. ***I know we provide many of you the opportunity to make your own life meaningful as you do something for others with what God has given you.*** In the past that was called "stewardship". Today we simply call that being faithful servants.

A young woman who had just completed her first tour of duty in our boutique came back, the following week and reported, "For the first time in my life I feel grounded". That's what happens when you discover the joy of service. ***You can't out give God.*** Once you give beyond what feels comfortable or rational the blessings multiply exponentially. It's like what runners describe as what happens after they get beyond the pain of running the first mile. It becomes easy (well, almost) and there is actually a euphoric joy that settles into your pace.

Life was not meant to be lived in isolation. Neither was it meant to be lived for yourself. Those truly living life have found the joy of giving. ... The point being, I am always inspired and motivated when I hear others sharing their excitement about philanthropy. It's like a sermon I don't have to preach.

We are pleased to be your avenue to fulfillment and servant-hood. We all receive the benefits of God's love when we share the bounty of God's gifts with others. – Rev. Ron

(Emphasis within this article was added by Pastor Sheila.)

This article is an excerpt from Temple Chimes & Times, November 2010, front cover.)

Faith United Methodist Church Council Minutes

October 2010

Members present at the meeting were: Lynne Harbison, Pastor Sheila Swafford, Teresa Rehm, John Rehm, Sharyn Lovell, Roberta Mark, Carolyn Albertson, Brenda Martin, James Willis, and Raymond Magruder. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. The meeting was opened with devotion and prayer by Sharyn Lovell.

Time of Conversation: We discussed what we are doing to fulfill our Mission and Vision. Those items include study of the Bible, prayer, fellowship with other Christians and non-Christians, and making a conscientious effort to live life as outlined according to the Gospel.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 27 meeting. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Finance: The finance committee met on October 6 at 7:00 p.m. to work on the 2011 budget. The first letter for the stewardship campaign on the book Treasure's of the Transformed Life will be mailed tomorrow.

Pastor/Parish: Pastor Sheila met with District Superintendent Dale Stone on October 17.

Trustees: The trustees met on October 18. The trustees should be receiving a bid soon on installing a drain tube, and sump pump under the sanctuary. They also discussed gravel for the driveway, a light that is out, trimming shrubs, washing the outside of the building, parsonage garage door repairs, and requesting bids for snow removal. Another issued discussed was the overcrowding in the sanctuary and the initial recommendation by the trustees was to hold two Sunday morning church services.

Nurture: No recent meeting has been held. A movie matinee will be held on Saturday, October 30. Bottled water and popcorn will be served. Remember the carry-in Thanksgiving dinner scheduled on Sunday, November 14.

Flame Ministries: Everything is going great at the Flame Ministries house. The study abroad presentations were enjoyed by those in attendance. The students will be gone at the end of the week for mid-term break and Pastor Sheila will be gone on vacation a couple of days.

Old Business

Festival of Sharing: The grand total giving was \$1,676. There were 44 School kits worth \$572; 43 Readin' and Writin' Pacs worth \$516; \$500 for Heifer project; and \$88 for shipping.

New Business

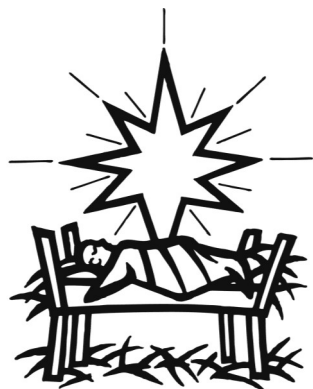
2011 Conference Apportionments are \$9,202
The Trustees will sign a form for the Flame Ministries Foundation

Treasurer's Report: The 2010 apportionments are:
District Apportionments \$1,659 - 100% Paid
Conference Apportionments \$9,743 - Paid 54.7% -
Balance Due \$4,409

Pastor's Report

- Travel, Food, Fun & Fellowship to Apple Basket was a fun time
- Attendance
- Sanctuary Space
- Treasures of a Transformed Life begins October 31
- Church Conference - Thank You for attending
- Pictorial Directory arrived and has been passed out
- Highway Pickup was profitable for those who attended with help from Flame Ministries
Westlake's has 6" poinsettias for \$4.99. See Pastor Sheila and order before Nov. 15

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Raymond Magruder will do the devotion for the November 15, 2010, meeting.



JYP Program
Wednesday, December 15
6:00 pm
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Parent's Corner

Get One, Give One

This Christmas, host a challenge that will inspire your family to think about others.

For every toy or clothing item they received as a gift, encourage your family to donate one similar item to a local charity such as the Salvation Army or Goodwill.

Place your donations together and then photograph everything you are donating to help those in need.

Display your photograph as a reminder to give to others.

True hospitality

A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room.

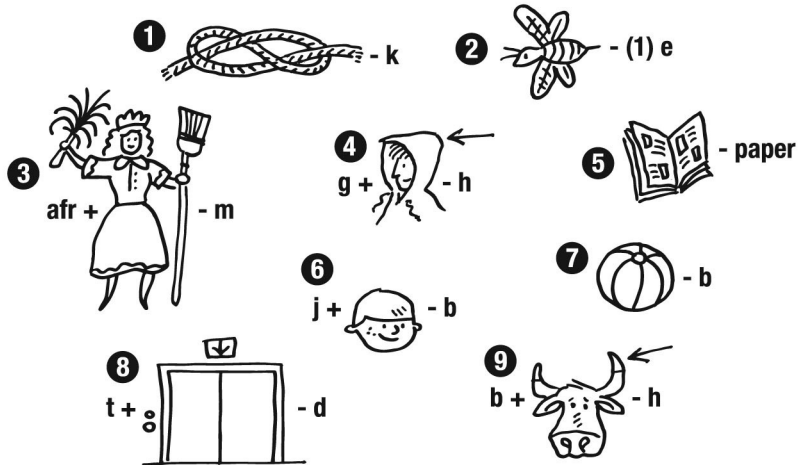
The kindhearted boy tried to take the sting out of the situation, however. "I don't have room for you in the hotel," he said. "But I'd love to have you come in for milk and cookies."



The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3. I bring you _____ 4

_____ 5 of great _____ 6 that will be for _____ 7 the people.

Today in the _____ 8 of David a Savior has been _____ 9

to you; **he is Christ the Lord.**" Luke 2:10-11, NIV

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. afr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born

December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
A=Anniversary B=Birthdays FM=Flame Ministry FM=Power Supply 5 pm FM=Sunday Supper 6 pm	Bible Study & Support Group 1:30	Women's Devotion at Donna's 9:30 am	JYP & Youth Group 6:00 pm	Faith Office Hours 9 am-12 noon FM=FOCUS 7 pm	Pastor's Day Off	
			1	2	3	4
				Pastor Sheila's interview with DS FOCUS with Erin preaching 7 pm	B=Kay Field	Flame Decorating 1 pm
5 Commitment & Dedication Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12 Manor Care Service 3 pm Flame Christmas Banquet 6 pm	6 UMW Bellacino's 5:30--St Andrew's 6:30	7 Lay Leadership 7 pm B=Leona Ogan	8	9 Pastor Sheila PLD Monroe City FOCUS Pastor Sheila preaching 7 pm	10 B=Rick Ross B=Jackson Fortney 1st Baptist Living	11 Christmas Tree 7 pm
12 Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 1:46b-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11 Pastor Sheila leaves for KC B=Lauren Fortney	13 Truman Finals Week	14	15 JYP Christmas Program 6 pm B=Ed Featherston	16	17	18 Truman Graduation 11 am
19 Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 2:1-20 Men's Group @ Northtown Café 7 am	20 Worship Team 5:30	21 First Day of Winter B=Janie Fortney	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6 pm	25 Merry Christmas
26 Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23 Newsletter deadline	27	28 A=Marge & Harry Smoyer	29 B=Tracy La Van	30 A=Dorothy & Bob Stone	31 Watch Night Party 7 pm	

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Sunday Morning Choir practice 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“A Christmas Message”

Christmas holds the mystery of how God touched the earth
By giving us the Christ child in a newborn baby's birth.

Great awe was in young Mary's heart, and in the shepherds' pace
As they ran quickly to the town and found that special place.

These humble shepherds knelt before this tiny newborn king;
And as they did so, they could hear the lovely angels sing:

“Fear not, for unto you this day, the Prince of Peace has come
To share God's love throughout the world.

Rejoice now, everyone!”

—Peggy Ferrell

