



# Methodist Connection

May 2012 | Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church Bridgeport

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## From the Pastor's Pen

### "General Conference Starts April 24"

Every four years the United Methodist Church has up to 1000 laity and clergy delegates elected from every annual conference in the world meet to update our *Book of Discipline* and the *Book of Resolutions*. This year they will meet April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Florida.

The *Book of Discipline* contains our church's constitution, Articles of Religion (faith statement), Social Policy, and polity for how we are structured at every level of the church.

The *Book of Resolutions* contains statements that express our official position on everything from spiritual matters to political matters.

These ten days are intense with the first five focused on committee meetings that consider all of the petitions that were sent in suggesting changes and the second half meeting as a committee of the whole to debate and vote on the recommendations.

## Pastor's Pen cont'd

Here is a sampling of a few of the items that will be considered:

Delegates to the 2012 United Methodist General Conference will be asked to affirm a new relationship with the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, African Union Methodist Protestant, Christian Methodist Episcopal and Union American Methodist Episcopal denominations. A celebration of Pan-Methodist full communion will be at 4:30 p.m. May 1, a day also set aside for recognition of United Methodist ecumenical partners.

United Methodist bishops on April 18 heard a challenge to embody the peace of Christ to the 2012 General Conference, to an anxious denomination and to the greater world. Charlotte (N.C.) Area Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster delivered that call during his final address to the Council of Bishops as that body's president. He said more anxiety precedes this General Conference than any in recent history.

For too long, cabinets have had to struggle to place each clergyperson in a congregation. All that could change if the General Conference scraps the guaranteed appointment system,

writes the Rev. Laura Jaquith Bartlett, a pastor in the Oregon-Idaho Annual (regional) conference. "What if we had a system in place to care for clergy who were no longer appointed?"

## Pastor's Continued ...

United Methodists and other members of the Interfaith Working Group on Global Hunger and Food Security have sent letters to congressional leaders, asking them to fundamentally change U.S. food aid policies to lower costs, deliver disaster aid faster and better help hungry people break out of poverty and aid dependence. "Food shipped from the United States takes longer to arrive than food purchased regionally," reads part of the letter. "For people facing a famine or other crisis, additional waiting time for a food delivery can be a matter of life or death."

From April 23 until May 8, the United Methodist denominational website, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) will switch to full coverage of the 2012 General Conference. Audiences will be redirected to the General Conference site, [gc2012.umc.org](http://gc2012.umc.org). You can read news in advance at the General Conference site.

See you Sunday in the place where it is a joy to worship God!

Yours in Christ,  
Bro. David (home: 940-683-1724;  
[davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org](mailto:davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org))



# May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 Senior Recognition	14	15	16	17 Senior Banquet	18	19
20 Confirmation Sunday	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Pentecost Sunday	28 Office Closed	29	30 Last Mission Possible Kids	31 Senior Breakfast		

# June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Graduation	2
3	4 Senior High	5 Mission Trip	6 4th-11th	7	8	9
10 Last Day: Sign-up Water park	11	12	13	14	15	16 Family Fun Day at Hawaiian Falls/ Roanoke \$22
17 Youth Sunday	18 Jr. High Camp	19	20	21	22	23
24 Samantha Preaching	25	26	27	28	29	30



# We Give Thanks!

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl . Your thoughtfulness and prayers mean so much. Thank you—again,  
Mary Nabors

Dear Methodist Women of the Prayer and Care Team, Daddy is home and it's a miracle! Thank you for the beautiful green and beige throw sent to me during my hospital stay and also all the prayers! It goes with everything in the living room and will be used faithfully. Your kindness is so appreciated. Thank you again for the thoughtfulness.  
Love and Hugs,  
The Tom Carlton Family

Dear Prayer and Care Group,  
What a nice surprise when I got the beautiful hand crocheted throw. I love it and will enjoy using it.  
Love all of you,  
Cleo Boulware

Life is filled with so many blessings—especially the warmth, kindness, and caring of special people like you. God bless you for your kindness.  
Love you all,  
Bill and Jan Montford

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for your prayers, cards, visits and the beautiful Lilies. Also thanks to the Prayer & Care team for the beautiful shawl, and Bro. David & Samantha for their visits, you have been a blessing to us.

Love, Carl Ray and Nevesta

Thanks to all our church members for all they do behind the scenes, all the time! I'd also like to thank those that helped get some spring cleaning done around the church on our Spring Cleanup day. From raking and removing leaves to fighting unwanted grass in our flowerbeds, quite a bit was accomplished that morning in a short while! In addition to those efforts, the fence around the playground equipment was started and completed with time and donations from church members and some other local donors. Thank you all for sharing your gifts and talents however you can and whatever they may be!

Sincerely, Dawn Swensson



## We Give Thanks! Cont'd

Was the Easter service glorious or what? The Chancel choir did such a good job, as I knew they would. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication in preparation for the Easter service. And thank you to Will for his trumpet playing. It added so much. Thank you also to Pat McDonald for playing the piano with us and for filling in for Alice on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It is always a blessing to hear Pat play. And the bells. That was just what that piece needed. Thank you Cyndi and all of the ringers. It is always a joy when we all play together. We are truly blessed with the musical talent we have here and I feel so honored to be a part of it.

Have you noticed? The Chancel choir is growing! But there is always room for more. Ever have the hankering (that is a word, isn't it?) to sing in the Chancel choir. If so, join us some Wednesday evening @ 7 and check us out. I promise you will be blessed by the friendships and by being a part of a group that truly makes beautiful music. AND, you will also have fun---I guarantee it! *"Why should the devil have all the good music?" - Martin Luther*

In His name.  
Andy  
Psalm 71:23

## What Cancer Cannot Do

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.  
(Corinthians 15:44)

One of the most dreaded sentences a person might hear is:  
"You have cancer"

These words force a drill through the heart!

Although great progress has been made in treating cancer, recovery can be long and painful, and some people do not survive.

Yet cancer is so limited.....

It cannot cripple love.  
It cannot shatter hope.  
It cannot corrode faith.  
It cannot eat away peace.  
It cannot destroy confidence.  
It cannot destroy friendship.  
It cannot shut out memories.  
It cannot invade the soul.  
It cannot reduce eternal life.  
It cannot quench the spirit.

It cannot quench the power of the Resurrection!

If an incurable disease has invaded your life, refuse to let it touch your spirit. Your body can be severely afflicted, and you may have a great struggle, but if you keep trusting God's love, your spirit will remain strong.

Why must I bear this pain? I cannot tell.  
I only know my Lord does all things well.

And so trust God, my ALL in ALL.  
For He will bring me through, what'er befall.

Our greatest enemy is not disease, but despair.

**Nevesta Jones**



# Birthdays

5/01 Andy Townes  
Mike Kline  
Whitney Rancourt  
Bailey Jones

5/02 Jean Manoushagian

5/03 Gardner Reynolds

5/04 Jim Radcliffe  
Dennis Penney  
Taylor McDonald

5/05 Cathy Fostel  
Verna Manning  
Robert Higgins  
Kennedy Hudson

5/07 Kelly Huddleston  
Logan Penney

5/08 Kala Walsh

5/13 Linda Kennedy  
Jeff Blalock

5/14 Samantha Watson  
Grant Kronenberger  
Sara Kline  
Brianna Polk

5/15 Clay Caudle

5/16 Aerin Mauk

# Anniversaries

5/03 Mr/Mrs Ray Tebbets

5/04 Mr/Mrs Kelly Garrett

5/09 Mr/Mrs Sam Cook

5/22 Mr/Mrs Floyd Colbert

5/25 Mr/Mrs Gaylord Kennedy

5/26 Mr/Mrs Bill Johnson  
Mr/Mrs Jeremy Polk

5/27 Mr/Mrs Brian Davenport

5/29 Mr/Dr Bill Casper

5/30 Mr/Mrs Paul Walsh

5/31 Mr/Mrs Jay Craddock

# Birthdays cont'd

5/18 Kassie McDonald

5/19 Johanna Bryant

5/20 Marcus Lambert

5/26 Steve Watson  
Shelley McComis  
Emily Green  
Camyrn Craddock

5/27 Virginia Penney  
Quinton Hudson

5/28 Colby Shawn

5/31 Katie Cook  
Emily Casper





## SUMMER IS APPROACHING

**\*\*Check out the New and improved Website!**  
[www.fumcbridgeport.com](http://www.fumcbridgeport.com)

Summer is quickly approaching and we are in GREAT need of your help this summer!

\*Teach Sunday School for Senior high or Sub for Junior High! We have a rotation going and it is a great way to give back!

\*Be a chaperone! We have many events on our calendar full of fun activities! Join us and see what FUMCB Youth is all about!

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call Samantha anytime!



### May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 **Senior Sunday Services	14	15	16	17 *Senior Banquet 7pm in Fellowship Hall	18	19
20 **Confirmation Sunday	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Behavioral Breakfast for Seniors	GRADUATION DAY! 7pm Bridgeport HS	

Join us for SUMMER CAMP!  
 At Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center  
 Camp Dates  
 Junior High 1: June 18-23  
 Senior High: July 2-7  
 Sign up at [www.bridgeportcamp.com](http://www.bridgeportcamp.com)  
 \*\*adult counselors needed!



### June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Graduation! High School 7pm	2
3	4 Senior High Mission Trip	5	6 NO YOUTH	7	8	9
10 Sign up for Water Park by this DATE!	11	12	13 6-8pm Ice Cream Social and Game Day ROCK BAND!	14	15	16 Youth, Children, and Family day at Hawaiian Falls! \$22
17 YOUTH LED MISSION SERVICE! Fathers Day	18 Junior High Camp 1 Bridgeport	19	20 NO YOUTH	21	22	23
24 8th GRADE MOVE UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL and YOUTH!	25	26	27 Sam Africa Trip Movie Night BYOD (donors) 6-8pm in Youth Room	28	29	30



# VBS

## August 13th—16th

**MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MANY GREAT THINGS! I AM SO VERY PROUD OF ALL OF THE WORK THEY HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS. :) WE WILL BE HAVING WEDNESDAY MEETINGS THE MONTH OF MAY, AND OUR LAST ONE WILL BE THE 30TH. PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR FAMILY OUTINGS DURING THE SUMMER. WE WILL BE HAVING AT LEAST ONE A MONTH. I HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US! ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE IN CHURCH ON SUNDAYS, IN THE NEWSLETTER, AND IN SEVERAL OTHER WAYS. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!!**



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