

Fall 2008

The Dove Express

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

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Pastor Vena's Verbalizations, Vision, and Voice

VERBALIZATION: I recently met with the Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW) Committee chairs. This committee is an organizational response to the Administrative Council's wish to be more pro-active in creating programs and ministries that meet the needs of the congregation and the community. Our *Discipline, par 252.2* reminds us that we are to intentionally reach new people through our ministries and that we are to help people grow and mature as disciples. If you have ideas about how our church can Nurture, Reach-out, and Witness to others, please let me know.

VISION: The NOW Committee believes that the Church's purpose, mission, and vision should be clearly defined. Here is its recommendation to the Administrative Council:

Our **Purpose** is to be a Church that proclaims the Good News of the Love of God, the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Our **Mission** is to be a Church that is a viable presence of God's love in our community, our nation, and our world.

Our **Vision** is to be a Church that shares its faith with others.

Motto: Seeking, Serving, and Sharing God's Love

We seek God's Love as a way to nurture our members.

We serve God by reaching out to others.

We share God's love when we profess our faith.



Our Purpose, Mission, and Vision are succinctly expressed in our Motto, and our Motto expresses the ways in which we Nurture, Reach-out, and Witness to others. Please support this recommendation by implementing it into your everyday life.

VOICE: It is imperative that we remember that first and foremost, this is the Church of Jesus Christ. We are members of the Body of Christ, and our church must reflect Christ's call to discipleship, "Come, and follow me.", His commandment, "Love one another", and His commission, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news."

Learning Opportunities

Cape Atlantic Resource Days are a great opportunity for learning. The speakers are brought in from all over the country. The following topics will be discussed:

“**Re-visioning Evangelism**” by Dr. Lacey Warner, on Wednesday, September 24th, from 8:30 pm– 2:00 pm or 7-9 pm, at the Absecon UMC

“**Christianity for the Rest of Us**” by Dr. Diana Butler, on Wednesday, November 19th, from 7-9 pm, at the Emmaus UMC in Smithville



My thanks and appreciation for all the cards, well wishes, and flowers sent during my recovery from my fall.

Dot Tozour



If you have a child going or already away at college, please call the church office or leave a note with their name and address. We would like to send them the newsletter. They may like to get mail the ‘old fashioned’ way!

Congratulations to Jake Tozour and Jessica Michaels on their engagement, a 2010 wedding is being planned



Congratulations to Franklin & Carrie Camp, and T.J. & Tara Moore on their recent weddings.

GNJAC Update

Among the principle recommendations for action during the three-day conference:

- Minimum equitable salary recommendations of \$32,391 for elders in full connection, \$30,791 for probationary and associate members, and \$29,062 for local pastors.
- A recommendation calling for appointment in each local church of a volunteer in mission coordinator.
- A shared ministry (apportionment) formula based on local church membership and total expenses.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Plans are nearing completion for a GNJAC Holy Land Pilgrimage, which will depart January 4th and return January 13th. The journey to Israel and Jordan will also include an optional extension to Egypt returning January 18th.

You can -

- stand at Mount Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land
- cross the Jordan into Israel
- visit Jericho and Bethlehem
- ride on the Sea of Galilee
- float on the Dead Sea or ride the cable car to the top of the fabled fortress of Masada
- and much more!

To obtain complete details and a brochure, contact Pastor Vena.

This day brought to you by Jesus!

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

Outreach---- [owt reech]

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Tozour, Chairperson

1. the provision of information or services to groups in society who might otherwise be neglected

As United Methodists, we are directed by the Book of Discipline to develop local and community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy. At first read this sentence is very broad in its ideas with not much advice on how to satisfy this directive. That is not necessarily a bad thing, although being a woman, I prefer a road map. As I reviewed the projects that we already have in place, it became clear to me that **we are already doing a good job**. In fact, I think **we are doing a great job!** A quick glance at the Mission bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall that are full of Thank-you notes and communiqués from local, national, and international organizations and individuals that we support gives credence to my enthusiasm. Our OUTREACH is working- many thanks to you all!

Coming Events:

- ◆ A workday at the Community Food bank in October- date TBA.
- ◆ Feed the Hungry at the Asbury Methodist Church in A.C.- Nov. 1.
- ◆ Coat, sweater, and sweatshirt collection for the homeless- October, November, December.
- ◆ Non- perishable foodstuffs for the two local food banks that we support- Donations are down!! If everyone bought four extra items every time that we went shopping-oh boy! Drop the food off anytime on the back table in the Fellowship hall.
- ◆ Family Promise Program- Hopefully this wonderful program for the temporarily homeless will be starting up soon, will let you know more, as soon as I know.
- ◆ The Blind Center- Florence Campbell reports that this program is doing very well. Eight to ten persons are active in this program that meets twice a week in our church. Volunteers from our congregation and the Lions Club round out the staff. The Avalon P.D. recently assisted the center's participants in obtaining picture identification cards.
- ◆ Parish Nurse Program—calling all nurses!! We would like to expand the services that we offer, but will need more help. Dust off your stethoscopes and join Karen Webster and myself for a round table discussion. Call us so we can set a date!

If anyone out there has any ideas for outreach, please call, 465-4612, or e-mail me, gardengirl_137@hotmail.com. We can be very powerful together!!!!

Cookbook Update

There has been a delay in the printing of the cookbook. We are hoping to have them before Christmas. If this doesn't happen, however, we will receive them in the spring.

Sarah Webster



Congratulations to Ken and Pam Wright on the birth of a great grandson, Logan Christopher.

PUSH ---

Pray Until Something Happens

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

THE PREACHER'S KIDS!

The Pastor will be meeting monthly with the school aged (K-6th) children of the church (The PK's). We will meet immediately after church. We will share a small brunch during which the children will have an opportunity to ask "theological" questions, and then we will have a brief lesson and/or participate in an act of service or mission. Here's the beginning of our schedule:

- September 21 – The Church – bring an empty shoebox
- October 12 – Service to the Church
- November 16 – Making an Advent Wreath
- December 21 – Christmas Caroling

Please call the church office at 967-4204 if you plan to attend.

Communion Offerings

As you know the first Sunday of every month we have a communion offering. The following is our fall schedule:

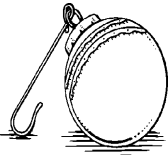
- September – Red Bird Mission
- October – World Communion
- November – UM Student Day

Please do what you can to support these missions.

A thank you was received from the United Methodist Homes Foundation for your support of their ministry.

Christmas Bazaar

It's not too early to start thinking about our Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 6th. Remember we will need items for our gift baskets, Christmas decorations – new & used, new gifts, books, games, and toys. We will be having our fancy gift baskets, our gourmet food table, Christmas cookies and baked goods. Start thinking about how you can help us with any of these items.



ALUMNI WEEKEND

Our first Alumni weekend was great FUN! The church honored and remembered people who have been part of our membership in the past. Those who grew up in this church or who attended this church and have since moved away, and the clergy who have previously served this church, all gathered. We enjoyed a church-wide covered dish dinner on Saturday night, looked through many pictures of the past, and took time to catch-up with one another. During Sunday morning worship, all those in attendance were recognized. Those in attendance received a hundred year anniversary plate, a certificate, and an Avalon shell decorated by the kids. It was a great time to see old friends and share how God has been working in our lives. Thanks to all who helped make the weekend a success.

Historical Connection

 – The First UMC of Avalon and The Pennington School have something in common! As our 100 years of History reports, "In June, 1894, a young divinity student, F.A. DeMaris, from Pennington Seminary..." came to the church as its first regular pastor. Today, the school has a special scholarship, The Charles Sayre Scholarship, for UM students in need of financial assistance. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship, please make your check payable to the church and indicate on the memo line that it is for the "Charles Sayre Scholarship."

PS. Your current pastor is the first (and perhaps only) female Chaplain of The Pennington School.



Thank you to the
'Church Garden Fairies'
for installation of the
lovely mums!

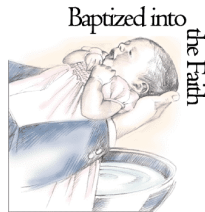
Healing Service

On Sunday, September 21 during worship, we will be celebrating a Service of Healing. You are invited to the altar rail for prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing for yourself and/or for others. The grace and mercy of God makes us whole – body, mind, and spirit. Come in faith seeking to be made whole.

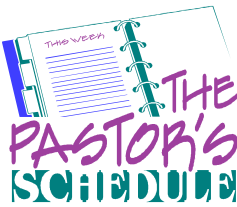


Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated on Sunday, September 28 and October 26. If you would like to be baptized, please speak to the Pastor concerning your interest.



The Pastor will be on vacation from 9/13-20 and 10/18-24. On Sunday, 9/14 the Rev. Wayne Conrad will preach, and on 10/19 the Williamson's, missionaries in Ecuador, will be speaking during worship on Laity Sunday.



Annual Church Conference

It's that time of year! Our church-wide Conference will be held Wednesday, October 15. The Staff-Pastor Relations Committee will meet with the District Superintendent at 7:00 pm and the conference will begin at 8:00 pm. If you are responsible for a report, please have it completed and turned in to the church secretary by Sunday, 9/14.



Administrative Council

Calling all members to attend this quarter's meeting on Monday or Wednesday, Sept. 22nd or 24th respectively (keep an eye out in the bulletin for a firm date), at 7 pm. We will be discussing and 'voting on' the 2009 budget. We will also be incorporating Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW) in planning programs, and projects for the fall and winter months. Karen Webster, Chairperson

Sunday School News

Check out the changes that have been made to the Sunday School and Nursery rooms. We still need volunteers to sign-up for nursery attendants each Sunday. We have averaged 8-10 children in both Sunday School and Nursery during the summer months.

As the fall approaches we look forward to restarting the "Sunday School Songsters," and participating in our church's mission projects, including our collection for UNICEF in October. Beginning in the winter, we will be using a new Sunday School curriculum.

Tree of Life

One Monday a month, Pastor Murphy will be participating as a director in The Tree of Life Institute for Spiritual Guidance. This is a two-year program held for ten months each year. The 2008-2010 program will be at the Bethesda UMC in Swedesboro, NJ. If you are interested in being part of this program, please contact Pastor Murphy.



Animal Blessing

Sunday, October 5, at 2:00 pm on the front lawn of the Church, bring your cats, dogs, or other pets to be recognized as part of God's blessings in our lives.

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon



Ed Rhoad recently returned from a mission trip to Malawi, with his son, Robert, and grandson, Ethan. Ed said "I have seen a level of poverty that I have never even imagined. The devastation of HIV/AIDS is almost beyond description with 50% of their population under 15 years of age and 700,000 orphans!" Robert wrote to his local newspaper with a description of the trip, following is an excerpt of his writings:

"Although we expected to see tremendous poverty, it was nevertheless striking to be there in person to experience it. We spent a couple of days helping to distribute mosquito nets, and as we did so, we heard from many villagers that the harvest this year was not very good due to heavy rains and that, as a result, they did not have enough food to get them through the year. Since nearly all of them are subsistence farmers who have little if any income with which to buy food, they will struggle to get by, and oftentimes families will have to go for a day or more without any food. It was sometimes very emotional and difficult to hear their stories, wishing we could do more to help alleviate their suffering."

"Another striking aspect of the experience related to access to education, which is a key part of their ability to help bring themselves out of poverty. In Malawi, the government provides education through what they call primary school, which is roughly equivalent to our elementary school through seventh grade, and after that, students need to pay to go to secondary school (roughly equivalent to our high school) -- either the "school fees" to attend a public secondary school run by the government or the fees needed to attend a private school. We heard over and over again that kids were unable to continue their education because they couldn't afford even to pay the school fees needed to attend the government secondary schools. When we asked how much those fees were, we were told they were as little as a mere \$50. I was blown away to learn that the vast majority of kids are unable to move on to get the equivalent of a high school education because they cannot afford \$50 per year. Moreover, for those lucky enough to successfully attend secondary school, there are only a mere 1,500 slots in publicly-funded universities in the entire country, to serve a population of over 12 million. Although there are a few private universities, this means that a miniscule percentage of the children will have the privilege of getting a college education. When compared to the opportunities in America and other more developed countries, that statistic is staggering."

"Having said all of that, we were very excited and energized about the ways in which we can make a difference and help the villagers in Sakata and elsewhere improve their conditions. We began work, for instance, towards the construction of a preschool/orphan care center which will be used to teach the preschool age orphans and other kids in Sakata, to give them at least one good meal during the day, and to provide space for a clinic where medical personnel can come on a regular basis to tend to the health and welfare of those children. The building also has the potential to be used at other times in the day to aid the community, such as enabling adult literacy and agricultural development classes. We spent a couple of days working beside the villagers to make bricks that will be used in the construction. In that time, we were able to make 2,500 bricks, towards the overall goal of making 150,000 bricks for the building. The villagers have a schedule whereby each day, groups from one of the surrounding villages that comprise the Sakata community will come on a rotating basis to continue making the bricks."

Needless to say, Ed was very moved by his experience, feel free to talk to him for further details.

General Conference Report

The following are a few of the highlights from the General Conference that was held in Texas:

- The General Conference approved a proposal to ask those who are joining the United Methodist Church if they will be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church and faithfully participate in its ministries through “their prayers, presence, gifts, service *and witness.*”
- The General Conference set their sights on a ministry, budget, and mission based on four focus points for the future:
 - ❖ Developing principled Christian leaders
 - ❖ Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones
 - ❖ Engaging in ministries with the poor
 - ❖ Improving global health, especially attacking the killer diseases of poverty
- Every board, standing committee, council, and work area of the annual conference shall designate one of its members as its coordinator of witness ministries. These persons shall help the groups of which they are members to engage in witness ministries and, in particular, to ask, “How are we intentionally reaching new people for Jesus Christ through our ministries?” and “How are we helping new people grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ through our ministries and areas of responsibility?”
- A Hymnal Revision Committee will prepare and present to the 2012 General Conference a single volume hymnal and worship book.
- There was a resolution approved that calls on Laity to “accept collegial responsibility with the clergy for the growth and vitality of the United Methodist Church.”
- A resolution calling for “Older Adult Recognition Day” to be celebrated in our denomination on a Sunday in May was approved.
- The formula for the allotment of Bishops has been changed thus leading to the action that will reduce the number of Bishops in each Jurisdiction by one.
- A commission studying the order of ministry is being continued for four more years as Delegates directed the bishops to establish a 28-member study of ministry Commission for 2009-2012, authorizing \$150,000 for its work.
- Delegates approved a petition that allows bishops to grant a deacon authority to administer the sacraments of holy communion and baptism within their primary appointment in the absence of an elder.
- Delegates also approved a petition dealing with clergy effectiveness and annual appointment, outlining conditions under which a pastor’s appointment may be terminated, if an elder did not fulfill expected responsibilities based on Paragraph 340 of the Book of Discipline; availability, annual participation in an evaluation process with a PPRC or comparable authority, annual evaluation with a DS, professional growing through continuing education and formation, and willingness to supervise or mentor. However, they rejected petitions requesting that bishops appoint a pastor to less than full time service.
- In other action the conference approved a layperson is given the right to deliver the Communion elements.

If you would like to see a complete copy of the General Conference Report see Jan in the church office.

The First United Methodist Church of Avalon

Pencil these dates on your calendar:



Alumni Weekend:

Covered Dish dinner, 6 pm, Saturday,
September 6th
Worship recognition, 10 am, Sunday,
September 7th
Fellowship Time, after service

Lait Leadership Committee:

1 pm, Tuesday, September 9th & 23rd

Staff Parish Relations Committee

meeting: 1 pm, Wednesday,
September 10th

Healing Service Sunday, September 21st,
10 am

Pastor's Kids: following service –
Sunday, September 21st, October 12th,
November 16th, December 21st

Administrative Council meeting:

7 pm, Monday or Wednesday,
September 22nd or 24th, *see your bulletin
for firm date*

Cape Atlantic Resource Days:

7-9 pm, Wednesdays, September 24th &
November 19th

Avalon Methodist Women:

Tuesday, September 30th, October 28th,
November 25th

Conference Workshop for Pastor

World Communion Sunday: Sunday,
October 5th, 10 am

Animal Blessing Service:

2:00 pm, Sunday, October 5th

Wedding, Saturday, October 11th

Annual Church Conference:

Wednesday, October 15th
7 pm, SPRC meets with DS
8 pm, congregational service

Trustee meeting:

7 pm, Tuesday, October 21st

Trustee Sponsored Work Day:

9 am - noon, Saturday, October 25th

Fellowship Time: following service –
Sunday, October 26th, November 30th

Bishop's Day with Cape Atlantic

Confer.: Monday, October 27th

Work @ AC Asbury Church:

depart from Avalon,
work, 9 am - noon

Daylight Saving Time ends:

2 am, Sunday,
November 2nd



All Saints Sunday, November 2nd, 10 am

Wedding, Saturday, November 8th

Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday,
November 9th

Finance Committee meeting:

7 pm, Tuesday, November 11th

Missions meeting:

7 pm, Tuesday, November 18th

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service:

7:30 pm, Sunday, November 23rd

1st Sunday of Advent & Student Sunday:

November 30th



Choir Cantata: Sunday, December 21st, 10
am Worship

Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December
21st, 1 pm

Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday,
December 24th, 8 pm