

Living The Vision:

A New Mission Statement for Union Church!



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Join Us Sunday Mornings!

Worship, 10:30 am

About Us...

- All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church
- Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor
- Jean Boyce, Moderator
- Joan English, Church Secretary
- Deborah Payne, Youth Director
- Loretta Mountjoy, Woman's Industrial Director
- Jennifer Shelton and Bea Chasteen, Childcare
- Erik Reinhart, Custodian

Over the past 2 1/2 years we have discerned and prayed together over the question "What is God calling and enabling us to do as servants and loving disciples."

House meetings, congregational studies, and almost another full year of prayer, study and discernment by our elected "Visioning Task Force" and General Committee have born fruit in two special ways:

1. **Mission Statement:** A proposed statement of who we are and what we believe to be God's call to Union Church, and,
2. **Action Plans:** Actions and projects from the work of the Visioning Task

Living the Vision
Union Church Seeks to Boldly and Creatively
Embody the Life and Ministry of Jesus with:

Passionate Worship

Extravagant Generosity and Care in Our Stewardship

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Unbounded Hospitality to Build a Beloved Community of Christ

Thoughtful, Inspirational, & Intentional Spiritual Formation

Force to help us bring to life our commitment to being a loving, serving church.

The History of our Vision Planning

Believing that God speaks and acts with many voices, in 2007 we undertook an "Appreciative Inquiry" all-church project of house meetings and congregational gatherings. At those meetings we gathered our cherished traditions of discipleship, our best hopes, and inspirations for our future.

In January of 2008 General Committee formed a visioning task force which moved the process along by identifying core values with bible studies, Wednesday Night Live discussions, and another round of house meetings. Upon General Committee's

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Meet Deborah Payne... Again! Union Church's New Youth Director

The Board of Christian Education is pleased to announce that Deborah Payne has agreed to become our new Youth Director. Deborah has a wealth of experience organizing and participating in youth programming (including having grown up in Union Church!). Just returned from 2 years in Uganda with the Peace Corps, Deborah brings passion, faith, and enthusiasm to her work. Youth: Look for a chance to meet Deborah for fun and fellowship before school starts!

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays!

- 1 Tom Hubbard
- 1 Haley Litten
- 2 Joyce Mosher
- 3 Jeanne Hamilton
- 3 Riley Ambrose
- 4 Bob Berger
- 5 Richard Drake
- 7 Truman Fields
- 12 Teri Mehler
- 12 Matthew Crump
- 14 Alice White
- 14 Les Pross
- 15 Kaitlin Shaffer
- 15 Danielle Spencer

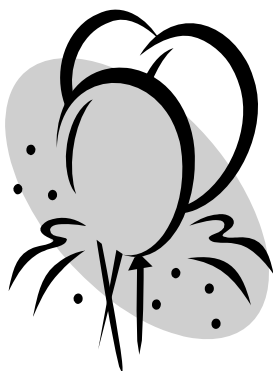
- 18 Sally Zimmerman
- 18 Clay Beavin
- 18 BG Hibbard
- 22 Rebecca Baker
- 23 Emma Crump
- 26 John Culp
- 26 Robert Rorrer
- 28 Dorothy Chrisman
- 29 Sofia Saderholm

- 15 Tom & SaraKatherine Manning-Beavin
- 22 Ben & Mia Shaffer
- 23 Doug & Nancy Hindman

If we don't know your birthday or anniversary, we want to! Or if we've made a mistake please call or email the office.

Anniversaries!

- 1 Bill & Anne Thomasson
- 4 Larry & Nancy Shinn
- 6 Jeff & Laurinda Pool



News of the Family...

Union Church is a place where your faith can grow and deepen. We are actively looking for those who would like to explore discipleship with Jesus in this congregation.

"Union Church welcomes all followers of Christ and works with all who work with Him; respecting each person's conscience; working by love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

From Carla Gilbert

Dear Ones,

Thank you again for the gracious DCE retirement send-off. The reception, the quilt from Women's Industrial, the prayer cloth, the quilted butterfly wall hanging by Ramona Culp on behalf of Union Church, the hand painted "cat" scarf from the Christian Education Board and the many other tokens of friendship and good wishes are treasures and are deeply cherished.

I have enjoyed my affiliation with Union Church, and especially the opportunity to serve as Director of Christian Education these past three years. It had long been a dream to serve in the same church with son, Kent, and thus to do so was not just professionally rewarding, but also very personally gratifying. I have heard that "the acorn doesn't fall too far from the tree," so now you know from whence he gets some (only some) of his attributes, etc. But, I don't take too much credit, nor blame! Thank you for putting up with us both!

I can honestly say I look forward to having the choice of participation on Sunday morning, and at present plan to ring the bells. I will continue to facilitate the Memory Keepers Group and who knows what else. I do know that God is not done with me or us yet. We can both look forward to seeing what is yet to be revealed for our ministry together. And who knows what the next retirement will be. I've said I

don't know what I'm going to do when I grow up, so.....I can't completely retire.

As you know, I am looking forward to continuing my faith journey with you all at Union Church, pursuing my "retirement curriculum," and living toward the possibilities for all the ministry but especially the educational ministry of Union Church. There is a great foundation, thanks to the support of all: members, staff, parents, teachers, kids and all who have held me and CE in your prayers the last three years. Thank you!

Peace and Blessings

Carla

From Deborah Payne:

Dear friends,

How wonderful it has been to come home to my Union Church community after two very full years of service in

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*Renewing, Refreshing,
Recommitting...*

(Living the Vision... Continued

from page 1)

recommendation, in June of 2008 the congregation elected an expanded 11 member visioning task force to distill our core mission in general, and bold, creative specific actions that supported our mission that they felt God was both “calling and enabling us to do.”

That team met from September 2008 through May 2009. The General Committee then met with them in a special retreat and added the knowledge and energy of our board chairs and at-large members. Over the last 2 months General Committee has been analyzing our needs and prioritizing the recommended actions into even more specific plans to help us serve God with renewed vision and tools.

Now the fruits of their labors—a proposed mission statement and supporting actions and goals—are ready for congregational consideration.

What Can We Say About Our Mission?

With the strong foundational work and language provided by the visioning task force, General Committee proposes this statement of our mission and commitment. House meetings identified 5 characteristics of Jesus that were highly valued by a substantial number of members and friends and which we felt were being called out of us as we seek to be a body of Christ. The statement suggests that God has called and is calling us to boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Christ with these characteristics:

- **Passionate Worship**
- **Extravagant Generosity and Care in Our Stewardship**
- **Risk-Taking Mission and Service**
- **Unbounded Hospitality to Build a Beloved Community of Christ**
- **Thoughtful, Inspirational & Intentional Spiritual Formation**

The full mission statement (see the special insert included here) will be the focus of congregational reflection and study before as we consider adoption and vote on specific recommendations that grow out of it.



*Visions and Concrete
Plans make for a Vital,
Spirit-led Church!*

The full proposed text is printed on the next page for your consideration, and each Sunday in August Rev. Kent will focus our thoughts and prayers about the meaning and scope of each of these proposed commitments.

At the end of August, there will be 3 congregational opportunities to discern and discuss the proposed statement. Please choose the time that works best for your family and schedule. Child care will be available at all of the meetings, which will last approximately 1 hour. Discussions will be held

- Wednesday, August 19 at 7:00p,
- Saturday, August 22 at 10:00a,
- Sunday, August 23 at 7:00p, and
- Sunday, August 30, at 9:30a.

Action Plans: The Next Step!

The August meetings will also be a chance to review and discuss proposed action plans. The Visioning Task Force culled and/or discerned projects and goals that support each mission statement. Under each commitment are proposed actions to help us live the vision in renewed and vital ways.

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Living The Vision – A Proposed Mission Statement

We, the People of Union Church, seek to live out our discipleship to God as a community inspired by Jesus' transforming love. As a gathering of those seeking to boldly and creatively embody Christ's life and ministry, we commit ourselves to work and fellowship that makes the radical and inclusive love of God, the beloved community proclaimed by Jesus, and the continuing inspiration of the Holy Spirit visible and real to all. As one in body with Christ, we commit ourselves to acts of passionate worship, extravagant generosity and care in our stewardship, risk-taking mission and service, unbounded hospitality to build a beloved community of Christ, and thoughtful, intentional, and inspirational faith development.

Passionate Worship

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus with passionate worship that celebrates the transforming love of God. In every setting where we meet we will proclaim God's inclusive care and prophetic witness, empowering all persons to worship with joy and develop a deeper closeness to God in a ministry of all believers. We will offer our widely varying gifts of prayer, music, dance, drama, visual art, the spoken word, and the beauty of our actions to inspire those of every generation to follow in God's way.

Extravagant Generosity And Care In Our Stewardship

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus with extravagant generosity and care in the stewardship of the gifts we have been given. We will offer and organize our time, talent, and treasure in loving service and outreach with useful facilities and supported staff and programs, striving always to be agents of God's inclusive love. With care and diligence we will seek the well-being of our community, of all of our volunteers and staff, and of God's earth in all that we undertake alone and together.

Risk-Taking Mission And Service

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus with risk-taking mission and service. As disciples of Christ, we will reach out to the world to love, heal, and transform it through the difficult work of justice, reconciliation, and hope. We commit to using our staff, our building, and our selves for servant leadership in our sphere of influence, and we commit to the spiritual and educational support that will make us effective and joyful agents of God's grace.

Unbounded Hospitality To Build A Beloved Community Of Christ

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus by offering the radical hospitality of Christ in all we do and in the fellowship we share. We will seek unity in building a loving community amongst the gifts of differing traditions, opinions, and views. We will listen carefully and prayerfully. We will stand with one another as bearers of Christ's light in times of trial and rejoicing. As a body of Christ we will actively and intentionally reach beyond the walls that separate us, persuaded that "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth."

Thoughtful, Intentional And Inspirational Faith Development

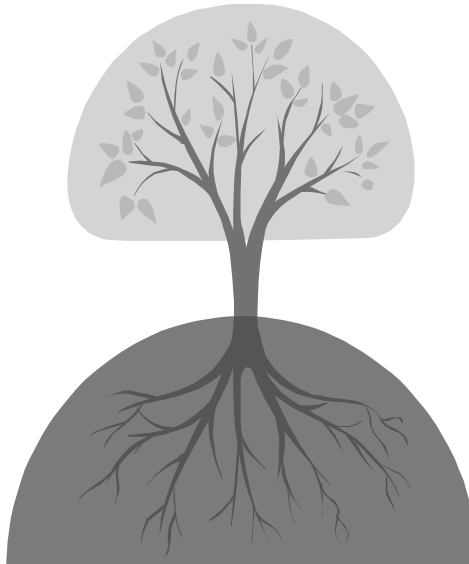
We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus by thoughtfully developing the faith, knowledge, and spirit of persons of every age. Drawing on spirit and intellect we commit to learn and teach a spirituality which deepens our sense of closeness to God. We commit to creative teaching and leadership that inspires and equips ourselves, our children, and our community to live out the justice, compassion, love and joy we believe God intends for all.

By engaging one part of the vision, we know that we inevitably engage it all. Each part is gracefully interwoven through all the others. We believe that God is both calling and empowering Union Church to keep these commitments for ourselves and on behalf of all those who are seeking and serving the love of God.

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Highlights of these projects include the following high priority areas for consideration:

- Restructure our Boards and Committees to care for our volunteers and help get the work done JOYFULLY and with a sense of accomplishment, not drudgery.
- Affirm everyone's individual ministry, and help empower individuals and groups to offer service to God's world.
- Increasing our service beyond our doors with new and revitalized commitments to service and mission projects.
- Create small fellowship and caring groups within the church to deepen fellowship and offer mutual support.
- Continue and deepen our commitment to creative and experiential faith learning and spiritual growth for all ages.
- Consider increasing staff to a level that will reflect and empower our activity and growth, specifically looking into additional pastoral support and church operations.
- Undertake the necessary planning for a capital campaign to support



the projects we decide to pursue and address needed building repair, office and classroom reconfiguration, especially address issues of accessibility for all people to all areas.

We hope many of the projects will be motivating and exciting. Our hope is to involve as many members and friends as possible in areas of their passion and "ministry." Many of the projects need some "leg work" to refine their details before we decide together whether or not to proceed in the late fall.

At the discussions there will a chance to volunteer for very short-term teams (6-8 weeks) to investigate and propose these refinements for project implementations. Look for more information at the discussion meetings and on Sunday mornings.

To see the full report of the Visioning Task Force go to the Union Church web page (www.union-church.org) where it will shortly be posted, and copies will be made available in the narthex. This is the background working document that General Committee has used to continue our work and exciting planning. Union Church is on the move! Come join as we live the vision of deeper service in God's way!

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Uganda. Your prayers and good thoughts, cards and support sustained me through some of the most life changing experiences I've known. My time in Uganda was a transformative blessing and I thank you for being behind me through it all.

Thanks also for your words of support as I move into my new role as the youth leader at Union Church. Having heard of all the adventures and positive experiences that Jennifer provided I know that I have big shoes to fill. I look forward to exploring new areas with our youth - how our faith

interweaves with service, the environment and the community that surrounds us, both locally and globally. Our congregation holds a wealth of experience and knowledge and I hope to engage many of you as we move through the year.

Please let me know if you have ideas or would like to be involved with the youth. They are some of our greatest leaders and inspire us to see the world through fresh eyes. I think we're going to have some fun.

Peace, Deborah



Trustees' Report

The Board of Trustees' properties committee under the direction of Bill Stolte, has accomplished many tasks around and on the church buildings this summer. Work has been completed on the roof, sanctuary window sills and gutters. Our next workday, July 25th will not be held, but we will resume on August 22nd and

encourage members who can offer a helping hand to do so.

Our building use committee is still working on some complicated issues and continuing to try and make the entire process of use, much less complicated and expensive.



We congratulate Deborah Payne on her new position with the CE board as director of the youth activities.

The trustees will meet again on August 11th.

Leslie Berger, Chair

Mission Board Report

Two Good Cooks & 12 Workers Needed! NOVEMBER 15-21, 2009 IN BILOXI, MS

Grab your favorite recipes and your work clothes. Join the Union Church Mission Trip to the Mississippi Gulf and be part of restoring the area destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It is estimated it will take 7 -9 years for life to be back to "normal" in the Back Bay area.

Back Bay Mission provides us our own Volunteer Lodge complete with a full cooking area, but we need **TWELVE WORKERS AND TWO GOODS COOKS TO BUY THE FOOD AND FEED THE 12 LABORERS**. The cost is \$50 plus food per person for our time on the Gulf. A great deal!!! And besides we will all:

- Learn new skills
- Meet and worship with people who endured the Hurricane
- Experience their gracious hospitality
- Sing and laugh about our awkwardness
- Have a chance to taste local cuisine

Last year 14 Union Church volunteers (**spanning seven decades in age**) worked along with 68 others from around the country on demolishing a condemned building, roofing a house and replacing a rotten bathroom floor.

Back Bay Mission has the hammers, nails, construction helmets, building supplies, work supervisor and a Volunteer Lodge. **All that is needed are 2 GREAT COOKS AND 12 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS from Union Church. Mark your calendar for November 15 – 21. A deposit of \$50 is due by SEPTEMBER 1.** Join other like minded people from across the country to be a part of this giant rebirth of Back Bay.

Call Annriette Stolte 986-9032 or e-mail annriette@mis.net.

Deacons' Report

The Deacons have not met during the months of June and July but did host, and were responsible for, two cookouts: after church on June 28 where we served about 90 people, and again for a cookout and Pool Party with the Board of Christian Ed. on a cool Wednesday, July 22. During these two months as deacons we served communion, ushered and greeted the congregation. Instead of task force meetings of

small groups in June and July, our next full board meeting will be in August.



August, 2009

Regular Sunday Schedule
 10:30 am—Morning Worship
 4:00 pm—1st & 3rd Sundays,
 Shapenote Singers, sanctuary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Quilt Exhibit, sanctuary
2	3 7:00 pm—AA Big Book Study; Dialog Center	4 7:00 pm—Memory Keepers 7:00 pm—Mission 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts	5	6 10:30 am—Mothers Forum, 204 12:00 pm - Bible Study	7	8 Gruen/May wedding, sanctuary
9	10 6:30 pm—Finance 7:00 pm—AA Big Book Study; Dialog Center	11 12 4:00 pm—PRC 6:00 pm—CE Board 6:30 pm—Trustees 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts 7:30 pm—Deacons	12	13 10:30 am—Mothers Forum, 204 12:00 pm - Bible Study	14	15
16	17 7:00 pm—Gen. Com. 7:00 pm—AA Big Book Study; Dialog Center	18 CONSIDER deadline 7:00 pm—Memory Keepers 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts	19 7:00 pm—Information Meeting/Discernment Session regarding Mission Statement, see p. 1	20 10:30 am—Mothers Forum, 204 12:00 pm - Bible Study	21	22 9-12Work Day 10:00 am—Infor- mation Meeting/ Discernment Session regarding Mission Statement, see p. 1
23 7:00 pm—Information Meeting/Discernment Session regarding Mission Statement, see p. 1	24 7:00 pm—AA Big Book Study; Dialog Center	25 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts	26	27 10:30 am—Mothers Forum, 204 12:00 pm - Bible Study	28 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial begins	29
30 9:30 am—Information Meeting/Discernment Session regarding Mission Statement,	31 7:00 pm—AA Big Book Study; Dialog Center	Joan English, Church Secretary, away on vacation Aug. 22-29				

The Church of Christ, Union

CPO 2105

Berea, KY 40404



Phone: 859-986-3725

Fax: 859-986-9260

E-mail: office@union-church.org



August 2

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 16

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 30

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:127
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

August 9

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 23

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 33-30,
41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69



Joan English, our church secretary, is going on vacation August 24-28. Is anyone able to answer the phones & staff the office for a full or half day?

Please call the office at 986-3725.

Serving as Worship Leaders in August

August 2 Harry Rice
August 9 Kevin Burke
August 16 Carla Gilbert
August 23 Michelle Tooley
August 30 Robert Rorrer

Call Jenny Bromley at 623-5007 if you'd like to be worship leader or bring flowers.

Bible Reading for August