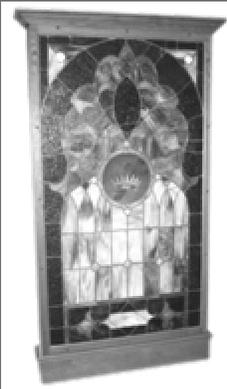




Lovilia Circuit Writer

June 2007

*Worship...
teaching...
example...
and tangible acts of love*



In
This
Issue

CALLING ALL SECRET
AGENTS!



Read an exclusive
preview on this
summer's bible school!
(pg. 3)

Can you paint? Do you
enjoy helping others?
There's an opportunity
in Kirkville just for you!
(pg. 2)



Pat Frye, Josie DeLong,
Margaret Conner, Donnie
Tucker, Thelma Smith,
Lois Walter, Dale Allison,
Janice Schisel (pastor Jill's
mom), our service
men and women around
the world, our shut-ins and
their caregivers, and our
leaders.

What are you waiting for?
by Pastor Jill Leveck



On a regular basis Kevin and I receive newsletters from several missionaries scattered around the world. One man living and ministering in Rwanda shared the following proverb he had been told by a member of one of his congregations. "Umuhini mushya utera amabavu." For those who don't speak kinyarwanda, the English translation is: "A new handle (on a hoe) causes calluses OR new things are always difficult, but eventually it becomes easier."

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the church. For those gathered in the upper room, that day was the dawn of a whole new way of looking at the same old world. There was a clear focus and an urgency to spread the good news while there was still time. Hard times would be ahead for those first Christians, but they knew they wouldn't be facing them alone. Jesus had kept His promise and had sent the Holy Spirit to be within them as a strength, a comforter, and a challenger when needed. In fellowship they set about to take on the world and turn it upside down. Fear was replaced by a deep-seated peace and an enthusiasm to be obedient to Christ and His great commission.

The fire of the Holy Spirit had kindled a flame within them and the gospel message spread quickly throughout the Roman Empire. However, numbers were added not because of powerful or charismatic preaching or well planned evangelistic programs, but because of the witness of the lives of those who believed. It was clear in their actions as well as their words that they loved the Lord and cared deeply about each other. No one can argue against that kind of witness. Is that the kind of image that we project as individuals and as the church?

Going back to the Rwandan proverb - calluses are healed blisters and a callused hand is stronger and tougher and better able to do the work day in and day out. We are disciples of Jesus Christ with a message of salvation. There is no better news and no better Master to serve - so, what are we waiting for?

Numbers were added
not because of
powerful or
charismatic preaching
or well planned
evangelistic programs,
but because of the
witness of the lives of
those who believed.



Mission Minute

Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily.

– Sally Koch

This year, the Bussey Guest Day will feature a speaker from Hope ministries in Des Moines. So, I want to revisit this organization and update you on what's going on and what we can do.

It's easy to imagine the homeless as nameless, faceless, and certainly far from our little corner of Iowa. That's not the case. And they're not just men: whole families are left without an address, a place to go and get away from the world. Hope ministries is doing something about it. We receive bi-monthly newsletters from them that share stories of hope and how the missions are reaching those in need.

Along with the Door of Faith and Bethel Missions, they have a Family Center that consists of three ranch-style houses (each with eight bedrooms, etc.) to be used as temporary living spaces for families. If you would like to adopt one of the rooms in these houses, call David Burrier at 515-265-7272. It will entail a financial commitment and some decorating to make each room special.

Another program in which we can participate is 'Quilts of Hope.' We can donate new and almost new quilts that will in turn be given to homeless and low-income families around Des Moines at Christmas time. Pastor Jill will be glad to deliver the quilts.

If you would like to volunteer your time, sign up to serve a meal at the 'Hope Cafe' at the Bethel Mission on 6th Avenue. This is one of the things our confirmation classes do and it is an eye-opening and rewarding experience. Call 515-265-7272 if you are interested.

When you have a garage sale, what do you do with the left over items? You can take them to the Hope Bargain Center and someone will get good use out of them. Call the above number to find out more.

There are many more stories to tell but they will come at a later date. Just one further note - in order to keep the Hope Ministries a Christ-centered organization, they accept no government funding. They rely on Christians who have a heart for helping those less fortunate - folks like us.

Annual Conference

Rick Hoy, Goldie Kraber and Pastor Jill will be heading for Annual Conference June 7-10. It will prove to be a challenging time and a real tug-of-war over issues that tend to divide rather than unite. Watch for a report in the next newsletter about what takes place.

Camping Kick-Off at Wesley Woods

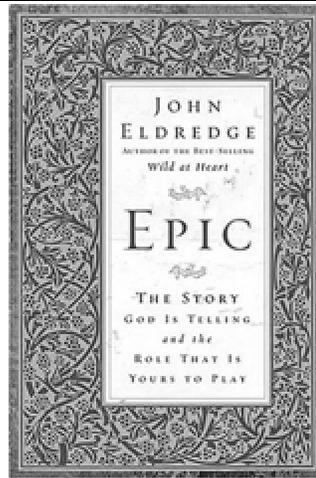
On Saturday, June 2nd, Wesley Woods will host a BBQ at 4:30PM. This will be followed by games and activities with a worship service capping off the evening at 8:00PM.

Wanted: VIMs

Would you like to be a **Volunteer in Mission** close to home? On Saturday, July 14 and Saturday, July 21 volunteers are needed to paint the Kirkville Church. The church is located between Eddyville and Ottumwa and the project is sponsored by MUMMS. Lunch and painting supplies will be provided. For more information, contact crew captain Kim Wells (641-936-4629) or Peg Egbert (319-456-6661).

Reader's Corner

Epic: The Story God Is Telling



"Life doesn't come to us like a math problem. It comes to us the way that a story does, scene by scene." (p.2) And it truly is a story of epic proportions according to John Eldredge. Of a size that reads in one sitting, his book *Epic: The Story God Is Telling* speaks to Twenty First Century folks.

Weaving together popular movies like the Lord of the Rings trilogy, Titanic, and the Matrix threesome and books by C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton with Scripture, Eldredge shares the continuing saga of our world and the part we play.

As the Storyteller, God has planted eternity in our hearts (see Ecclesiastes 3:11) and we are never completely comfortable or totally at ease because of the chasm that sin has made. In the author's eyes "...life feels like a movie we've arrived at forty-five minutes late." (p.7)

Think about every book you've ever read; is there not always a villain of some shape or form? Even Bambi's mother is killed by a hunter and the Power Rangers face down a whole cavalcade of foes every week. Lucifer enters the world's story in Act II. When cast out of heaven, he sets up a base of operations here on earth to battle against God for our souls. As Eldredge suggests, "...we live in two worlds - or in one world with two halves, part that we can see and part that we cannot." (p.33)

But God has a rescue plan to restore the world: a plan that was carried out by Jesus Christ. He loves us that much! To find out about this plan, what is at the heart of the universe and where the wedding feast fits in, pick up a copy of *Epic*. It is both enjoyable and thought provoking and will lead you back to the greatest story that is still being told in God's Word.

Birthdays & Anniversaries June



- 3 Lori Hugen
- 5 Scott Allison
- 6 Justin Allison
- Jacob Maughan
- 11 Fred & Goldie Kraber (A)
- 12 Carol Allison
- Pat Frye
- 15 Phillip Frye
- 16 Marilyn & Charles Kraber (A)
- 21 Ilene Pottorff
- 22 Merlin Newman
- 24 James Lundstrom

Finances

Our offerings for April totaled \$2,469.45. According to our budget, \$2,267.45 is need each month. Way to go! However, we are still a bit behind and have paid no apportionments so far this year. Let's see what we can do about that.

Trustees

We are not progressing as quickly as we would have liked on the basement renovations due to the flooding that took place this spring. Thank you Fred and Goldie for spending so many hours getting rid of the water from the east room of the basement and drying things out. The source of the problem has been found and dealt with. Hopefully plans can move forward soon.

Thank you, Fred, for seeding the land on the north side of the church. Soon it will be back to normal.

UMW Notes

Our Mother/Daughter brunch was an enjoyable fellowship time. We all enjoyed the young ones who attended. Congratulations to Evelyn McMillan who celebrated her 85th birthday with a party. She is this year's recipient of our mission recognition mission pin, selected by the committee. The pin was presented to her by her daughter Virginia. Although unable to attend our worship services, she supports all our projects and efforts. Our next event will be the Father/Son banquet tentatively set for Wednesday June 13 but may depend on our guest speaker. The June afternoon meeting has been postponed for one week and will be June 14th at 1:30. This is necessary as Goldie is a delegate to annual conference in Ames on Thursday at the Conference. There will be a special meeting of the new district, South Central. Election of the new officers will be at this time.

TOP SECRET! Vacation Bible School is July 16-20

Join the SonForce Kids and become a special secret agent for God. Spies and secret missions criss-cross the week as we decode Joshua 1:9.

Come for Bible stories, crafts, games, & refreshments as we follow the efforts of Level 5 Son Force Agents during the week of July 16-20. We'll meet in the evening this year from 6:00-8:30PM at the Lovilia Church. Watch for more details and a registration form in the July newsletter.

FRANKIE AND PHYLLIS VALENS

THURSDAY, JUNE 14 AT BUSSEY

Winter in Iowa got in the way of our chance to hear the wonderful music and witness of Frankie and Phyllis Valens at the Bussey Church. But we have another chance and, this time, the weather will not be a factor. Come and enjoy the gospel music ministry of a pop singing legend who uses his incredible voice to sing praises to the Lord.



Come and enjoy the food and fellowship of a potluck supper at 6:00PM on Thursday, June 14th. Bring a covered dish to share and a big appetite (plates silverware and drinks will be provided).

At 7:00PM the concert will begin with Phyllis tickling the ivories and both singing their hearts out. This is an evening you don't want to miss. Call your friends and family and bring them along.

Bible Study

Our "Chasing Daylight" Bible Study is over but will not be complete until each and every participant has chased all the daylight to which God calls them.

We will finish the Revelation study later this summer.

Then, what shall we do? What would you like to study? Contact Pastor Jill with your ideas. The learning must never stop and our spiritual formation is never complete.

Parish News

United Methodist Men

Our United Methodist Men are on vacation for the summer and they are to be commended for the work they have done this past year. Many men, women and children now have a life of mobility because of their efforts. Well done good and faithful servants of Christ!

Pass It On Youth

What a year! We will cap it off on Saturday, June 2 when we host a prom at Westridge Care Center in Knoxville. The kids have worked hard on our "candyland" decorations and look forward to the chance to serve and have fun at the prom.

Watch your bulletins for summer youth events.

If you have ideas or suggestions or would like to be a part of the group or leadership team, contact Kim Williams, Connie Barnes or pastor Jill.

School in Denver

Pastor Jill will leave for Denver Seminary on Saturday, July 7th to take the last class of her doctoral program. The class will focus on individual and group spiritual formation. Then, the only thing left will be the dissertation. Pastor Kevin will be on call while Jill is gone. Please call the Albia church office (641-932-7393) or their home (641-932-5243) in case of an emergency.



Crop Walk, Operation Christmas Child, Skating Party, Westridge Service Assistance, Heartland Humane Society Volunteering, Christmas Party, Baked Potato Supper, Bowling, Wesley Woods Mini-Mission, Westridge Prom

2007

JUNE 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>*Pass It On Youth Group is to host a prom at Westridge Care Center in Knoxville on Saturday, June 2. Youth will leave from the Bussey church at 10:15AM to get set up over there.</p> 				<p>1:30 p.m. UMW (L) 6 p.m. POTLUCK IN BUSSEY FOR WHOLE PARISH 7 p.m. FRANKIE AND PHYLLIS VALENS CONCERT IN BUSSEY</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>*2:00-3:45 p.m. Pass It On's 2007 Westridge Prom</p>
<p>3</p> <p>2 p.m. Worship at Westridge Care Center in Knoxville (B)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 p.m. Ad Board (H)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12 noon Guest Day (B)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 p.m. UMW (L)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Annual Conference in Ames</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1 p.m. UMW (H)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Tentative: Father/Son Banquet</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 p.m. Finance (B) 6:30 p.m. Ad Council (B)</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 p.m. Ad Board (L)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Starting today until July 1st, pastor Jill will be on vacation (finishing up school work for class in July)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>Bussey's Vacation Bible School 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. daily (Lovilia is July 16-20 - Save the date! ☺)</p>						
<p>Looking Ahead July 7-14 - Pastor Jill will be at school in Denver (last class before dissertation) July 16-20 - 6:00-9:00PM Vacation Bible School in Lovilia A special Secret Agent theme!</p>						
						



LOVILIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1602 SOUTH E AVENUE
P.O. BOX 255
LOVILIA, IA 50150



Sponsored by
the
Outreach Committee

Mark your calendars early!
September 30th Potluck at 5 PM and the show at 6 PM

Visit the Lovilia United Methodist Church Online at <http://lumc.webs.com>