

the Media

The Media is produced monthly by First United Methodist Church, Sioux Falls, S.D.

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January Office Closings

- Monday, January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 OFFICE PHONE: 605-336-3652;
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Striving for peace not easy but needed

I received Christmas/New Year greetings from a friend who reminded me of a verse to the old familiar carol "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" that seems to me to speak so eloquently about where we are this season as our nation comes to the end of a long war in Iraq ... and is still embroiled in a war in Afghanistan. These words are left out of most hymnal versions of the carol but can be found in some older hymnbooks.

"Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;

Beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;

And men, at war with men, hear not the love-song which they bring:

O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing."

In Jesus Christ, we have a way to live in this world



REV. BILL BATES

Senior Pastor
First United Methodist Church

that may not be easy; it may not seem practical by worldly standards; it may frighten us to contemplate striving so hard for peace that it puts us in jeopardy, but to be faithful to the Prince of Peace, we must try.

There is a story about the composer Igor Stravinsky when he had composed a new piece with an extremely difficult violin passage. After it had been rehearsed for several weeks, the solo violinist came to Stravinsky and said he was sorry, he had tried his best, the passage was too difficult; no violinist could play it. Stravinsky is said to have replied, "I

understand that. What I am after is the sound of someone trying to play it."

The sound that God is after is the sound of people praying for and working for peace in this world. I remember a sign outside one of the Air Force Bases that my military family shopped at when I was a child. The sign said, "Peace Is Our Business!"

Peace is all of our businesses.

My New Year hope and prayer for our world is that we might pause and listen to the love-song of the angels. "Peace on Earth; Good Will To All."



Living Into The New Church Structure

You'll remember that as part of responding to church consultant Dr. Paul Nixon's report the Administrative Board approved a new Church Council model of how to facilitate our decision-making and implementation of ministry at First UMChurch. At our Charge Conference on December 4, we elected our church leadership for 2012 based on this new church structure.

The new church structure has a Church Council composed of 18 voting member — some of whom are required by the Book of Discipline of the UMC and others representing the six ministry areas of (1) Hospitality and Fellowship, (2) Music and Worship, (3) Children's and Youth Spiritual Development, (4) Adult Personal and Spiritual Development, (5) Outreach and Nurture, (6) Administration and Support Services.

Those ministry areas will include many of, but not be limited to, the ministries functions presently being done by various committees and groups. It

looks something like this:

Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry Team (6 Member)

Drama – Reception Team – Fellowship Groups - Active Athletes – Wednesday Night Supper

Music & Worship Ministry Team (6 member)

Altar Guild – Worship Team – Music Team – Worship Service Team

Children And Youth Spiritual Development Ministry Team (6 Member)

Children Education – Youth Education and Fellowship – Confirmation

Adult Personal And Spiritual Growth Ministry Team (6 member)

New Member Class - Young Adult Education - Adult Education

Outreach & Nurture Ministry Team (6 member)

Kidstop - United DayCare - Missions – Faith Health & Caring

Administration And Support Services

Lay Members to Annual

Conference - Nominations, Finance - Trustees - Foundation, SPRC

Administrative Committees required by the Discipline like Trustees and Finance and Staff Parish Relations, etc. will continue to fulfill their responsibilities.

In order to get under way, there will be a **training session for the 36 persons on the Ministry Teams on Saturday morning, January 7, from 9-10:30 a.m.** They will explore their responsibilities and begin talking about what kind of support for their ministry functions will be needed — work groups, resources, finances, etc.

On Monday evening, January 30, at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we will have our usual all-committees and boards organizational meeting where we will elect chairs where needed and set meeting times, etc. Pastor Bob Reudbusch will be with us as we conclude the evening with the new Church Council training.

**JANUARY
7**

• Ministry Team training session

**JANUARY
21**

• Triple F Couples Group Annual Bunco Bash

**JANUARY
30**

• All Committees and Boards Organizational Meeting

• CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

No U.M.W. in January

There will be no U.M.W. unit meeting in January.

Third Annual Bunco Bash

The Triple F (Food, Fun, Fellowship) Couples Group will host the Third Annual Bunco Bash at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 21, in the Fireplace Room.

Head table will be playing with “imported Las Vegas

Dice. Come join in the fun. Soups and desserts provided.

We request that each couple bring a wrapped “white elephant” gift as prizes.

Please R.S.V.P. by January 16 to Kelly and Jay Coburn at 371-0713 or by e-mail at coburnjay@sio.midco.net or Renita and Bill Schepeler at rschepeler@yahoo.com.

This is an open invitation

so please bring your friends and neighbors.

Upper Room Daily Devotional Price Increase

Due to a price increase in the cost of the Upper Room Daily Devotional Booklets, the price for the regular Upper Room has been increased to \$.95 and the price for the large print Upper Room has been increased to \$1.40.



• CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's activities help with faith development

What a wonderful Christmas Program this year. The traditional Christmas Program was such a meaningful program and enjoyed by all. I want to thank Paula Dean and Pam Knuth for all of their work organizing and directing the program. The children worked so hard on their speaking parts and learning the Christmas Carols. The Program was a wonderful opening for Live Nativity and Streets of Bethlehem, which was attended by record numbers of people this year.

2 Year Old Room: In January, the 2 year olds will learn that Jesus grew just as they are growing. They will hear the story of Anna and Simeon, praise God for Jesus and thank God that they are growing. The Bible verse for January is "The child Jesus grew. Luke 2:40." There will be many hands on activities planned to reinforce the stories as well as the story cards they will bring home each week.

3 & 4 Year Old Rooms: Stories about Jesus is the B.I.G. theme for January and the Bible verse is: "The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him. Luke 2:40." The stories of The Wise Men, Jesus' Baptism, Jesus Begins

His Ministry, and Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law will be covered during the month. The DVD message will help make each lesson come to life.

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Jesus in the Temple is the Power Xpress unit for January. The children will learn that God's house is a comfortable place to learn, ask questions and discover God's plan for us. The Bible verse is: "He said to them, Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? Luke 2:49."

3rd Grade Room: We believe that the stories about Jesus help us understand that Jesus is the Son of God is January's B.I.G. Idea. The 3rd graders are continuing to learn more about their Bibles as they explore the stories of The Wise Men, Jesus in the Temple at Twelve, Jesus' Baptism, Jesus Begins His Ministry and Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law. January's Bible verse is: "The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him. Luke 2:40."

Covenant Club: A United Methodist Is, is the study for January, as the 4th & 5th graders learn more about what it means to be a United Methodist. They will explore

a brief history of the United Methodist Church, using a workbook, games and other hands on activities.

Children's Church: Using the curriculum All in One Bible Fun, we will cover the stories of Jesus' early ministry including the Wise Men's Visit, Jesus with the Elders, Jesus' Baptism and Jesus in the Desert. We have Children's Church for preschool and grade school children during the 11 a.m. worship service. The lessons for this are different from Sunday School which is held at 9:30 a.m.

Disciples in Training and Bible Zone Live: Our Wednesday night programming will continue for our preschoolers and the grade schoolers from 6-7:30 p.m. At Jesus' Feet is the curriculum that we will be using for these groups. The stories that will be explored are Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom, Sharing, Prayer and God.

The activities planned for our children help them with their faith development and their relationship with Jesus Christ. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers as we move into a new year.

— Mary Jane Richardson
Minister of Children's
Christian Education



• INGATHERING NEWS

Ingathering Committee: Thank you for a year of help, more welcome for UMCOR relief kits

The Ingathering team expresses a warm thank you for your response to the Ingathering Bake Sale the first Sunday in December.

Thank you to those who bought ingredients and took the time to make/bake delicious products for sale, and thank you to all of you who bought items to enjoy for yourself and those you care about. Thank you also, to all those who helped in any other way.

The bake sale brought in just slightly over \$800, which will be used for the purchase of items for incomplete UMCOR kits, and for cash gifts for hunger projects of

the larger United Methodist Church.

Some things you can do for the Ingathering efforts during these cold, winter months: If you are a sewer, stop in the office and pick up some pre-cut fabric to make school bags or you can help make flannel receiving blankets with the easy measurement of 36" x 36." If you knit or crochet, you can help by making some soft baby sweaters for the layette packages.

If you are a bargain hunter or shopper during the post-Christmas sales, always be watching for baby sleepers, onesies, flat, cloth diapers, and baby washcloths for the

layettes, or for hand towels, washcloths, combs, and metal fingernail files and/or clippers for the health kits. Occasionally, school kit items are on sale with the business/tax item promotions in January. Watch for fabric sales, too; donations of strong fabric for the school bags, and flannel yardage for the receiving blankets are always appreciated.

As always, the lists of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) kits are in the slots of the north kiosk near the welcome center. We are looking forward to a great year of making a difference for God's people everywhere.

FEBRUARY
12
• Scouting
Sunday

• CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Next Tween Ministry event

The next Tween Ministry event will be sometime in January, so watch the bulletins for more information.

We welcome all 4th, 5th and 6th graders to join us for a fun activity. Please contact Mary Jane Richardson at richardsonmj@sfumc.org for more information.

Scouting Sunday on February 12

We are celebrating Scouting Sunday this year on February 12. We will recognize Girl and Boy Scouts on this Sunday.

We would like to have Scouts and their adult lead-

ers assist with the worship services that day. Please let Mary Jane Richardson know if you are a scout or an adult leader. Please contact Mary Jane at 336-3652 or at richardsonmj@sfumc.org.

**ALL FEBRUARY MEDIA ARTICLES ARE DUE BY
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18.
THE MEDIA WILL BE MAILED ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25.**



• YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth ski trip to Breckenridge, Colo., Feb. 16-20

OK, there might not be any presidents there, but it will be on their weekend anyway. This year's ski trip will be to Breckenridge, Colorado from February 16-20.

We will leave early Thursday morning getting into Breckenridge in time to set up our sleeping arrangements at the United Methodist Church. We will then ski Friday through Sunday and return to Sioux Falls on Monday.

While there, evening activities will include shopping, games and access to hot tubs and workout facilities in the new Breckenridge



\$275 per person plus equipment if needed. This is a great deal for three days of skiing on two mountains and includes transportation, food, lift tickets and entry to rec. center.

You don't need to be an expert to ski Colorado as there are many runs for people of every level and ability. You will however be impressed by the size of the mountains and scenery of Summit County. Please register ASAP. Payment will be due February 1, as we will preorder group lift tickets. We look forward to *skiing* you there!

Community Center.

If you're thinking about a family getaway over this weekend, please consider joining us! The cost will be

Winter Camp focuses on the graces God gives us

The theme for this year's winter camp will be "Amazing Grace." During this overnight retreat at Inspiration Hills (just southeast of Canton) on January 7-8, we will discover Wesley's explanation of the forms of grace that God uses to attract us, change us, mold us, and make us new.

Youth leaders from First, Asbury, Sunnycrest, Hilltop, Southern Hills, Embrace, Harrisburg, Brandon and Canton United Methodist Churches will lead sessions and small groups exploring

the meaning of prevenient, justifying, sanctifying and glorifying grace. This will be a weekend filled with fun, food, friends and fellowship.

If you are a student who has not yet signed up yet, please do so by Monday, January 2, to ensure you receive a custom designed Winter Camp shirt. If you are a parent reading this, please encourage your student to participate. It is one of the retreat options for 8th and 9th grade confirmation participants.

This weekend has been

a unique combination of middle and high school students that has worked well in the past. Let's have a solid representation from 1st UMC!

JANUARY
7

• Inspiration Hills Winter Camp

FEBRUARY
16

• Youth Skiing Trip to Breckenridge Colo.

JANUARY

- 4 – MS and HS regular youth group
- 7-8 – Winter Camp at Inspiration Hills for MS and HS
- 11 – MS regular youth group, HS book study at Johnsen's home
- 18 – MS and HS service project: Kids Against Hunger
- 25 – MS and HS service project: Children's Care Hospital



• FAITH, HEALTH AND CARING MINISTRIES

Health Forum: Losing weight. What works for weight control?

With the holidays over, you may be looking down at the bulging evidence of too much merriment around your waistline. If you've resolved to lose weight in 2012, you might be considering signing up for a commercial diet plan or going at it yourself.

Which diet should I try? Which one works the best? What is the right eating plan? Do I have to exercise? How do I take care of sweet craving? Do diet pills work and are they safe?

On **Sunday January 8**, in the Lewis Friendship Room from **10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**, we will be having a Health Forum with Dr. Roger Shewmake. Dr. Shewmake has an active clinical practice with the Center for Family Medicine, is a Professor and Director of Nutrition Curriculum, is involved in the Family Practice Residency

at the Sanford School of Medicine of USD, and has published and presented numerous professional publications. Dr. Shewmake has been recognized by his residents, students and peers for excellence in teaching and approachability, as well as for his service to South Dakota and his professional specialty on a national level.

Let's face it, losing weight and getting on track for a healthy weight and normal BMI (body mass index) is the key to preventing many diseases such as diabetes, cancer, hypertension, cardiac disease; not to mention all the joint problem issues.

Come hear Dr. Shewmake discuss behavioral modification to help reach goals, learn realistic goal setting and use the Mediterranean diet check list as an example of healthy eating. Lean how to make

comparison food choices while eating and shopping. We hope to keep it fun and open for many questions.

Manna Meals

The manna meal freezer is full again thanks to Judy Hoff and a group of volunteers who put the casseroles together.

What are Manna Meals? They are frozen casseroles for you to distribute to members or non-members of the church who have had a baby, illness, death, or just a "down in the dumps" situation. The casserole has the cooking directions on it, listing of ingredients, and a prayer for the recipient. Every member has the opportunity to take part in this neat and wonderful ministry.

Blood Pressures will be taken on Sunday January 8, from 8:45 to 10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

JANUARY

8

• Weight Control Health Forum

JANUARY

8

• Blood Pressure Screenings

Check out the new selections at the church library

Many of our patrons enjoy books from the fiction section, but we also continue to add to our collection of religious (and other) nonfiction. A trio of recent titles:

CHANGE THE WORLD, by Mike Slaughter, pastor of a United Methodist church in Ohio. The subtitle of this book is "Recovering the Mission and

Message of Jesus." Slaughter believes that the church should get over its "cruise ship mentality" (providing programs for members) and emphasize the original message of Jesus.

WHEN RELIGION BECOMES EVIL, by Charles Kinball. The author discusses five marks of religion that has become evil:

absolute truth claims, demand for blind obedience, establishing the "ideal" time, belief that the end justifies any means, and declaring holy war.

LOVE WINS, by Rob Bell. The author summarizes the Christian message in the two-word title, and examines church teachings about heaven, hell, and the afterlife.



Natural Church Development – Relationships with God

In 2012 we will continue to work on improving our passionate spirituality, which is just another way of saying that we are continuing to develop our relationships with God.

Everyone's relationship with God is different, and there is *no one way* to define or measure how that relationship will grow.

- It is about the enthusiasm, fire and commitment you demonstrate in your relationship to God.
- It is about living your life with Christian values.
- It is about letting the light of Christ shine

through you so that others can see your faith.

Natural Church Development is a process designed to evaluate the strengths and opportunities in our church, to enable our church to grow spiritually and in numbers. Every 15-24 months we take a survey of some of our congregation to determine which of the eight characteristics presents our biggest challenge: our "minimum factor."

Then, we focus on improving that minimum factor.

We took another survey in May 2011, and determined that our minimum factor

is passionate spirituality. "Passionate spirituality" is a difficult term to understand, so you will hear more talk about our relationship with God in the future months.

Look for more opportunities in the coming months to help determine how we can improve our individual relationships with God, and as a congregation. Your continued prayers and support of our church and the Natural Church Development process are essential as we continue our mission to make Disciples of Jesus Christ!

Long-time church custodians, Vollan and Archer, retire

For many years, Clare Vollan and Will Archer have served as assistant custodians at First United Methodist Church. Their faithful care for this fine older building has been a real blessing for our congregation. But this fall, they both decided that it was time to retire from this part of their service at First Church.

It is with profound gratitude that we thank them for their service and com-

mitment. They will be missed in this capacity.

We are pleased to have Don Jones join the church staff in the part-time position of assistant custodian. Along with Rod Mader as building and grounds manager and Darryll Larson as full time custodian, First Church and our congregation has been and will continue to be well served.

Thank you, Will and Clare...Rod, Darryll and Don.

January 11 S.A.G.E.S. program to focus on education

The S.A.G.E.S. Program on Wednesday, January 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. features a presentation on "What's New in Our Schools" presented by The Career and Technical Education Academy.

PLEASE NOTE: The \$5 noon meal reservation deadline is Monday, January 9, at 4 p.m. Please call the church office at 336-3652 with any questions.

JANUARY
11

• S.A.G.E.S.
Program



Finance Committee: 2011 apportionments paid in full

If you have been in the United Methodist Church for a few years, you have probably heard the term “Apportionments” thrown around. Maybe you have wondered what it meant. So, here is some information about what apportionments are and what they mean to us as United Methodists.

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church; each congregation is not independent but connected to each other. Whether they are down the street, across the state, or around the world, we are connected. We share many things, including the ability to fund ministries and missions. Together, we can make a greater impact to relieve suffering, feed the hungry, and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and

around the world.

Of course, a larger share of the money is used within our conference and district expenses. These expenses are what we pay for programs, staff, administration, pastor pensions, funding for future pastors, etc. Our percentage of giving to the apportionments is based on other churches abilities and our membership.

Like many other Churches, we have struggled to meet our apportionments this year. We have seen this coming in the past year of budgeting. However, we did not have an answer on how to completely pay the apportionments after our fixed expenses, committee expenses and staff payroll. In October, we had determined that we would be approximately \$88,000 short to meet

our budget.

With careful thought, it was agreed by all involved in the decision making to go to the people of the Church to simply ask for your gifts. On behalf of the finance committee, we are pleased to announce we have paid “apportionments in full” for the 2011 year! It is truly amazing how many of the members came forth in the time of need to make this commitment. I know these gifts were given above and beyond your pledged gifts. This tells us a lot about our Church members’ willingness to help in a time of need and commitment.

Thank you for your giving and know that the benefits will be discovered in the future!

— Tom Stritecky
Finance Chairperson

JANUARY

8

• ‘Reel’ Faith presents ‘Water for Elephants’

Stewardship Committee: Thank you for your support

The Stewardship Committee would again like to thank all of you who have turned in your 2012 pledge card; it really provides a huge benefit in preparing the yearly budget. Also, please remember that your pledge needs to be done annually; your current 2011 pledge does not continue to carry

over into 2012. If you have any questions, please feel

free to contact the church office at 336-3652. Thank you.

January 19 Circle Meetings		
Anna	Doris Gist	9:30 a.m.
Rachel	Joanie Keuser	9:30 a.m.
Sarah	Friendship Room	9:30 a.m.
Deborah	Friendship Room	1 p.m.
Nan(cy)	Friendship Room	6:30 p.m.
Rebecca	Fireplace Room	7 p.m.



'Reel' Faith presents 'Water for Elephants'

Want to see a movie and talk about its values and theme from a Christian perspective?

On Sunday evening, January 8, you are invited to view the movie "Water For Elephants" and talk about "reel" faith.

"Water For Elephants" (2011) presents an epic tale of forbidden love in a magical place filled with adventure, wonder and great danger.

A veterinary student from the wrong side of the tracks, Jacob, meets and falls in love with Mar-

lena, a star performer in a circus of a bygone era. They discover beauty amidst the world of the Big Top, and come together through their compassion for a special elephant.

When Sara Gruen's novel **Water for Elephants** was published in 2006, it became a huge success, with readers around the world responding to Gruen's characters' joys, loves, redemptions and challenges. "It's about the different ways we treat each other; sometimes we do it well, and sometimes not," says Gruen.

• OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sympathy to the families of: Brian Blake, Evelyn Goff, Dorothy Johnson, Dorothy McTigue, Sylvin Schetnan, Dan Swets, Ed Varns, Monica Krenz

Birth: Emily Marie Baker (daughter of Robert N. and Nan Baker), Ava Grace Kramer (daughter of Brent and Jessica Kramer)

Hidden Saints:

- Thank you to George Niimi and Will Archer for picking up leaves around Church grounds and Will for using his riding mower to pick up leaves.
- Thank you to John and Gladys Bahnson for picking up sticks and leaves around the Church apartments.
- Thank you to Kathy Sorenson for helping with a cleaning project.
- Thank you to Arden Shields, Dennis Green, Dennis and Corey DeGroot for helping with a building project.
- Thank you to Gary Healy and Don Saxton for donating equipment.
- Thank you to the Triple F Group for picking up leaves twice for Jim Brenden while Kim was in the hospital.

Hospitalized:

Sanford

Gary Colwill
Marilyn Jensen
Tracy Lemme

Avera McKennan

Jeffrey Carty

VA Medical Center

Vernon Kock

Notes of Thanks:

- Ron and Edna Scott would like to thank you for your cards and kind words as we celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary.
- Our very best thank you to a church congregation who really cares! Blessings to each of you for all the prayers, calls tokens of care with cards, phone calls, food memorials, flowers, many, many who served the luncheon following the memorial and prepared the room for the annual Turkey Dinner — God's blessings to each of you.

*In deepest appreciation,
The family of Kim Brenden*

• FINANCIAL REPORT

Income Received Through 12/28/11	\$1,120,525
Expenses through 12/28/11	\$1,110,592
Balance as of 12/28/11	\$9,933
Ministry Income received through 12/28/11	\$123,202
Capital Income received through 12/28/11	\$5,032

• JANUARY GREETERS

January 1, 2012

9:30 a.m.	Office Door	Don Veglahn
	Sanctuary Door	Jim and Michelle Olivier

January 8, 2012

8 a.m.	Office Door	Donna White
	Sanctuary Door	Bev Getzin
	Duluth Door	George Niimi
9:30 a.m.	Office Door	Ron and Sally Tilstra
	Sanctuary Door	Al and Pat Svennes
	Duluth Door	Larry and Sue Engeltjes
11 a.m.	Office Door	Chuck and Sherry Kellogg
	Sanctuary Door	Garry and Gloria Scott

January 15, 2012

8 a.m.	Office Door	Marilyn Moorlach
	Sanctuary Door	Bev Getzin
	Duluth Door	George Niimi
9:30 a.m.	Office Door	Ron and Sally Tilstra
	Sanctuary Door	John and Janice Pierson
	Duluth Door	Larry and Sue Engeltjes
11 a.m.	Office Door	Chuck and Sherry Kellogg
	Sanctuary Door	Garry and Gloria Scott

January 22, 2012

8:00 a.m.	Office Door	Sally Dossett
	Sanctuary Door	Bev Getzin
	Duluth Door	George Niimi
9:30 a.m.	Office Door	Thelma Moberly
	Sanctuary Door	John and Janice Pierson
11 a.m.	Office Door	Marilyn Moorlach
	Sanctuary Door	Keith and Wanda Williamson

January 29, 2012

8:00 a.m.	Office Door	Sally Dossett
	Sanctuary Door	Bev Getzin
	Duluth Door	George Niimi
9:30 a.m.	Office Door	Thelma Moberly
	Sanctuary Door	John and Janice Pierson
11 a.m.	Office Door	Marilyn Moorlach
	Sanctuary Door	Keith and Wanda Williamson

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Digital sign would display wide range of information

The FUMC Marketing Committee is asking for your help in continuing to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, through the use of a digital message board.

This past Christmas season, we spent approximately \$4,000 in grant money for four billboards around the city. Two years ago we used the same amount, from our marketing budget, to create four billboards. For this expenditure, we get about one

month of FUMC exposure on the billboards each time.

While billboards are a highly visible and effective means of advertising, the Marketing Committee believes that in the long-run our money could be put to better use by upgrading our existing sign with a digital message board which would take advantage of the large volume of traffic on Minnesota Avenue, 24 hours a day.

Other churches in our

community, with even smaller congregations than ours, have already embraced this new technology. Unlike a billboard, which is limited in the number of programs and activities it is capable of displaying, a digital message board can be programmed, as often as we would like, to display a wide range of information about First Church. Our research indicates that such a message board would cost between

\$17,000 and \$25,000, depending on its size and configuration.

We are asking for the help of our church family in raising the funds needed to upgrade our Minnesota Avenue sign to have digital capabilities. If anyone would like to make a donation to help pay for a digital message board, simply contact the church office. Please indicate that your donation is for the "Digital Message Board."