

Committees at a Glance

August 31

7:00pm

Mission Control
Flood Office, UL

The Staff Parish Relations

Committee expresses our gratitude to Pastor Melisa for her seven plus years of service, love, and devotion to First United Methodist Church. We know how difficult this was for Melisa. We support her decision to follow her passion and calling in mission work. Even though Melisa has just recently made her decision, the committee would like the congregation to know the process to find her replacement has already begun. While this individual will have some rather large shoes to fill, we will work hard to find the right person for First United Methodist. We will keep the congregation informed of our work and may even ask your assistance at times during the process. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Staff-Parish Relations committee.



SPRC has planned a

Bar-b-que Party

for the evening of
Sunday, August 30 at 5pm
at Squaw Creek Park.

Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate Melisa's ministry and service.

A love offering, for those who wish to extend such a gift, can be given in celebration of her ministry at FUMC.

First United Methodist Church of Marion

12th Street & 8th Avenue

Sunday Worship –

7:45am

Early Worship – Chapel

8:30am

Spirited Traditional – Sanctuary

9:45am

Two Songs & A Sermon – Sanctuary
Church School for children and adults

11:00am

Blended Praise – Sanctuary



The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 17

August 21, 2009

Rev. David Crow, East Central District Superintendent of the Iowa United Methodist Church announces the appointment of Rev. Melisa Bracht-Wagner to the position of Iowa Disaster Volunteer in Mission Coordinator

Effective September 1, 2009



Dearest First United Methodist Church of Marion,

For the past 13 months, FUMC has been a leader

within the Flood Recovery work in Cedar Rapids. You have tithed your Associate Pastor, delegated rooms, baked cookies, served meals, and volunteered. The Flood Ministry grew recently with the partnership of Block by Block. With this, the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church created a position of Iowa Disaster Volunteer In Mission Coordinator.

Due to the great work in Flood Recovery, I was asked to accept the position. The decision placed before me was not an easy one. The choices were continuing with FUMC and quit the Flood ministry or leave FUMC to continue the Flood Recovery Ministry. Negotiations were held, but no compromise was given. Weeks of prayer, consultation, and tears followed.

To grow into the next steps of youth ministry, the growth committee discussed the need for a different type of leader years ago. To grow into the Block by Block program, the reputation of United Methodists needed to continue with leaders who knew the system and relationships within it.

On July 31, 2009 I accepted the position of Iowa Disaster Volunteer In Mission Coordinator. The good news is the Flood Recovery Office desires to stay in the 776 13th St Building. This will allow Carma Wiese, Terina Heidelberg from Catholic Charities, Shelby Colwell, our intern and future AmeriCorps Vista employee, and myself to continue business as usual.

My prayer is we can continue in mission ministry together. Your continued support will be needed for the Flood Recovery efforts through food, volunteers, and the Flood Recovery Office. I will continue as a lead volunteer for FLY. When possible, I will worship and fellowship with you. My family

will be in worship and service along side of you.

First United Methodist Church of Marion is a wonderful Christian family, who seeks to give glory to God. We have done many things to show we love Jesus by helping people. My hope and challenge for FUMC is for you to risk by loving Jesus more.

As you embrace your new Pastor of Youth and Mission, grow to where God is calling us. Passionate Spirituality within our youth, deep accountability within small groups, life altering missions, and developments in new buildings are just the tip of the iceberg.

Thank you for giving me seven wonderful years of ministry. Thank you for serving Jesus in new ways. Thank you for challenging me to think bigger and risk more. Thank you for allowing the Flood Recovery Office to remain on your campus.

Now, let's keep serving, loving, and laughing, – Rev. Melisa Bracht-Wagner

Celebrating Pastor Melisa

In the Spring of 2003, Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner and I met formally for the first time. She was two years out of seminary; I was an old hand who had just received the appointment to my fifth ministry. The Lord, the Bishop and the church had discerned we should be teammates in ministry as leaders at Marion First Church. It was an exciting time!

Early in our work together it was clear that Melisa had a passion for the Lord, for being a good teammate in ministry, for prayer, for mobilizing God's people in mission, and a distinct laugh. She grew good pastoral skills, put together the structure for strong youth ministry, became beloved to many and worked without rest for those in our community and world that needed the "hands and feet" of Christ's people to help them.

Melisa's passion for what we broadly call "mission" has been the driving force of her ministry – pushing us to reach beyond comfort levels to help in our giving, going and working. She has few peers in the field of mission which of course has brought us to the moment we now encounter: Pastor Melisa is leaving First United Methodist Church to become a full time mission leader.

In July, Melisa was extended an offer to become Iowa Disaster Volunteer in Mission Coordinator, a full time position in which she would continue to support volunteer mission trips and recruit volunteers to assist with disas-

ters anywhere in our state. There were extended negotiations, prayer, discernment and ultimately a choice was needed to be made by Pastor Melisa: continue at Marion as Associate Pastor and let the disaster relief go to another person or take this new position.

While her process is for her to share with you, let me say that my sister Melisa was in deep distress and anguish because she did not want to leave our FUMC team, but it clearly is her God inspired purpose and she needed to say "yes."

What is really INTERESTING about all of this is that for the time being, it does not appear that Melisa will be leaving our presence or sight, just our employ. While details need to be worked out with the trustees, the short term plan is to leave the office and staff (Americorp volunteer Shelby Colwell, Iowa Conference support secretary Carma Wiese and Catholic Charities staff member, Terina Heidelberg) in the "Flood Recovery Office" to continue the rebuild effort from Iowa's disasters of 2008 and any in our future. The Bracht-Wagners plan to stay in their house in Marion, Dave plans to keep singing in our praise team, leading our Sr. high "giants" and when her responsibilities do not call her to pulpits elsewhere, Melisa plans to sit right in our sanctuary with us at worship.

Pastor Melisa and I have been teamed for over six years in ministry, she has

served wonderfully as my family's pastor, blessing my girls with her leadership, shepherding us through my father's funeral and has consulted with me at every time of day and night concerning hundreds of issues regarding our people, the church and our corporate ministry. She has served me and you well during this first leg of her journey in ministry and we celebrate with her this new opportunity.

Staff Parish has planned a Bar-b-que Party for the evening of Sunday, August 30 at Squaw Creek Park – please plan to attend and celebrate this transition in ministry for Pastor Melisa.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee of course has been informed and has been working prior to our ability to inform you on our next steps. There will be more details in regards to protocol and transition that will be worked out and communicated with you as soon as they are known and ironed out, but since this change is nearly immediate in nature, it is important to let you see the big picture first.

Further, in accordance with our staffing plan constructed some years ago, SPRC has begun the process in consultation with denominational officials of finding a Pastor for Youth and Mission to fill the huge shoes left by Melisa and to take us to the next logical steps of growth in these ministries. – God bless, Rev. Mike



Youth News

Wednesday Night Youth Ministry is back to small group ministry. New freshmen are to join the High School from 7:30-9:00 pm. New 6th Graders will join the group on August 19th from 6:15-7:30pm in the basement of the Office Building.

Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Day at Adventureland!

Saturday, September 19

Depart from church 8:00am -

Return at 10:00pm

\$19.00 per person

Bring a sack lunch

Sign-up deadline: September 13

Contact Cheri Pettibone

431-6469 or cpettibo@gmail.com

Parents: We need drivers!

Televised Services

Mediacom is televising our church services on Monday evenings at 7:00pm on Mediacom Channel 18.



Financial Peace University

Next Class starts Wed, Aug. 26

6:30-8:30pm

FUMC Chapel

Previews on

Sunday, Aug 9, 16 & 23

@ 9:45am in the Parlor

\$100 per household

Daycare Provided

Contact Craig at 377-4856

for more information or go to

daveramsey.com



Visit our website at www.fumcmarion.org

for information about the church, current activities, organizations, newsletter, etc. Articles for the newsletter can be submitted by email to norma@fumcmarion.org

FEATURE EDITION – CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

What a Summer!



Camp E.D.G.E. VBS - we had about 137 kids, about 40 youth and numerous adults who came together for a week to worship, play, pray and just dig into the Word of God!



Bug Safari - Although we were plagued by weather delays we didn't let that stop us!!! Out we went to the Luse family farm as we camped and discovered God's majesty all around us! We saw a cicada newly erupting out of its shell, an ant colony hard at work and discovered how everything works together according to God's plan!



H.I.S. Camp - We traveled with a hardworking group of 3rd – 5th graders down to Coralville and camped out at New Horizon's Methodist church. We made 43 school bags, cleaned the yard and weeded 3 flower beds and completed a day's list of chores at the Ronald McDonald House as we learned that Christ came to serve and it is our job to follow Him! We also managed to sneak in a little fun!



Turbo Txt Time - We were blessed to have an awesome crew of High School students from Georgetown, Texas come up to pull off Turbo Txt Time for the Marion Cares program at Azure Apartments and the newest undertaking of Marion Cares for the apartments by Hy Vee Drug Store on Boyson. About 19 kids participated as they took Camp E.D.G.E. to them!

The 2009 – 2010 school year will bring even more adventures – don't miss out! There are opportunities for everyone to be involved!

Where is God Leading You? Teaching?



Have you been called to your place in the church?? There are so many things you can do in Christian Education – could this be the place? Below are some areas that we need someone in – check them out!

- **Rotational teachers:** teach a 3 week rotation to K-2nd graders or 3rd – 5th graders.
- **Txt Time Leader:** Txt time is a mission field just down the street at the Azure Apartments Help us to lead kids there into a relationship with Christ through the love that we share on Mondays from 4:30 -6:00.
- **Powerhouse Teachers:** Get electrified by the music, games, crafts and stories on Wednesday nights as we draw children closer in their walk with Christ – Wednesdays from 6:15 – 7:30 pm.
- **Bulletin Board Creator:** Are you creative and looking for an outlet...our bulletin boards can always use a creative touch!
- **Supply Room Organizer:** We have some great supplies – but YIKES how can I find them. Create a system and keep things organized so we can get to them.
- **Subs:** We need subs for teachers & shepherds (assisting with the students and spending time in prayer with them)
- **Mural Painter:** Journeyland has some amazing pieces of art, but we aren't finished yet. Could you be the artist that we seek?

Thank you for prayerfully considering your calling at FUMC. If you are one of the above that we seek please let Val know....373-8623 or val@fumcmarion.org

I can't teach – I don't know enough myself! God does not call the qualified – He qualifies the called!! Where is God leading you today?

One of the greatest works that we have to do as a church is to lead His children on their walk with Christ.

- Do you love to work with the little ones? Check out preschool
- Are you amazed by the energy and enthusiasm of the school agers? Check out Journeyland (Sunday mornings) or Powerhouse (Wednesday evenings)
- How about the passion and wonder of HS and JH Youth – Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings!

We can use you if you are willing to step out in faith to lead others to Christ!

It's Back to School Time!

The Helping Hand Store is in need of good used children's clothing. Please consider donating items to help children start the new school year off right!

Donations are accepted at the Helping Hand Store Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 – 3 p.m. or by calling Shelley Evans, 373-2162. The store is located by the First Presbyterian Church in Marion, 802 12th Street (A part of Marion Food Pantry)

Thanks for your help! – Helping Hand Storeroom (Or shop at Goodwill and Salvation Army and drop off the items)



Stewardship Corner

August 23

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Rhonda Birkey
12th St Mortensen Family
11:00 8th Ave Karen Ultis
12th St Courtney Family

Ushers: 8:30 Lee Coppock, Ralph & Josh Standley,
Annette Zink

9:45 Kristina Baughman, Aaron Austin
11:00 Bill & Billie Werner, Lyle Hughes

Acolytes: 8:30 Addi Martin, Blake Canavan
11:00 Jenae Pederson, Nick Rude

August 30

Greeters: 8:30 8th Don & Donna Wolmutter
12th St Jerry & Linda McEowen
11:00 8th Marilyn Johnson
12th St Jim & Debbie Fuller

Ushers: 8:30 Lee Coppock, Ralph & Josh Standley,
Annette Zink

9:45 Kristina Baughman, Aaron Austin
11:00 Bill & Billie Werner, Lyle Hughes

Acolytes: 8:30 Brandon Larsen, Beth Knapp
11:00 Jordan Keeton, Daniel Tribble

Attention all friendly, happy, helpful people:

We are looking for individuals, couples or families to help usher, especially for the 9:45 service. If this is something you would love to do at our 8:30, 9:45 or 11:00 services, please talk to Karen email Karen@fumcmarion.org or call 377-4856



UMM

The United Methodist Men meet on the second Saturday at 8am in Fellowship Hall from September to May. Breakfast is served before the meeting.



UMW

Executive Board

August 25, 3:30pm

Adult Library

Circles

August 27

Sowers 9:15am, Fellowship Hall

September 2

Rebekah

9:00am Breakfast at Butterfly Restaurant

1616 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids

Sarah 9:15am, LLCC

Miriam 1:00pm, Adult Library

September 3

The Bookends

7:00pm, Java Creek Café

Women's

Friendship Group

The Women's Friendship Group meets on the third Monday of each month at the Pizza Ranch in Marion at 11:00am. All single women of FUMC who are interested in a time of good fellowship and good food are invited to attend at any time. Call Idella Hogan, 377-1382, for more information or with questions.

Giving Our Hearts Away—Native American Survival

will be the topic of our annual UMW Mission Day on August 27. We will meet in the chapel at 9:45 AM for coffee and the meeting will start at 10:00 AM. Everyone is to bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be furnished. Dessert will be furnished by the UMW officers at the end of the day.

Mission Accomplished

Forty-six women cut, ironed, pinned, and sewed in Fellowship Hall on July 31. Their mission was to make as many attractive, sturdy school bags as they possibly could while also visiting, laughing, and snacking.

About 200 bags were finished on Sewing Day, and more were nearly completed when stopping time came. Several women took home the nearly completed bags and when they have sewed the final stitches there will be a total of 435 more school bags to send with love to children who need them.

Many people are, and have been, sewing school bags at home this year. There's still time before they will be sent to UMCOR for distribution. If you'd like to sew some at home, please call Elaine Coppock, 395-9532, to get some ready-to-sew bags.

PS: DON'T FORGET to bring to church the SCHOOL SUPPLIES to fill the bags!

Chancel Choir Retreat

FUMC's Chancel Choir will hold its annual retreat on Saturday, August 29th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room. This fun-filled day is an opportunity for anyone interested (or maybe even just curious) about how all those voices come together in song. There is more than just singing happening...we do activities that release our energy and spirits (and giggles!), we have guest teachers who show us different ways of approaching music, we discuss the meaning found within the music, we share time in fellowship, and of course we sing! Chancel Choir has openings in all voice sections, and just like our handbell choirs Chancel Choir does not require any audition. We schedule our year in 4 to 6 week "semesters" which allow singers to participate for short periods of time if they like. Please consider spending a few hours with one of FUMC's music ensembles and add your voice in praise and worship. Questions? Call Mike Ransom at 431-6109 or email mlr.ransom@gmail.com.

"Use what talent you possess: the woods would be silent if no birds sang except those who sang best." – Henry Van Dyke

Thank You's

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who provided comfort as we mourned the loss of our beloved mom, nanny and great-nanny. Your memorials, flowers, cards, kind words and prayers uplifted and sustained us during a very sad time. We are overwhelmed by your thoughtful support and outpouring of love and concern. – Sherry and Chuck Alexander; Amy Lou, Bill and Charlie Jo Stevens; Katie Jo and Troy Little; Eric, Luke and Logan Thomas

I wish to thank the United Methodist Women for the opportunity to attend the Schools of Christian Mission in Marshalltown. It refreshes and expands my spirit. It "re-souls" me. – Onalee Arnold

Thank you to the youth ministry and senior high young men for the manly baby shower. The blessings, prayers – and of course the "daddy toolbox" are appreciated by both Angie and me. – Terry Stockert

YOUR JOURNEY FROM MOURNING TO JOY

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone close. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare you'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life.

If you have experienced the loss of someone you love, please consider attending one of the fall sessions of GriefShare. There will be an evening session offered beginning Wednesday, September 16 from 6:30 to 8pm and a daytime session beginning on Thursday, September 17 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Both sessions will be held in the Flood Office Conference Room. Each offering of GriefShare runs for 13 weeks and you are welcome to join at any time.

If you have questions or would like to register for this session, please contact Vicki Standley, Director of Pastoral Care at 377-4856 or email vicki@fumcmarion.org.

Ice Cream and Pie Time at Swamp Fox Needs You

FUMC will once again have an Ice Cream Social Fundraiser at the Swamp Fox Festival on **Sat., Sept 12**. If you can donate one or more pies or are able to work a shift at the booth, please sign up in the narthex or contact Cynthia Boyer-McFarland @ 294-8321 or cbrnamcf@imonmail.com or text message to 721-5078. Proceeds help support our **Powerhouse** program. (There is no refrigeration, so please no cream, custard or pumpkin pies.)

Return your Feasibility Study

PLEASE return your questionnaire to Cargill Associates in Fort Worth by August 28th. They will compile the results and present them at the **IN-FOCUS Workshop on September 13**, from 4-7pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Sunday, August 23, 7:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Celebration of Flood Construction Manager Curt Liscum's Ministry and in Appreciation to Benchmark.

Learn about Flood Recovery's Next Step Refreshments and Short Program



Come Celebrate with us!

Neil and Eula Wood's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Open House
Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009
2-5pm

Indian Creek Country Club
2401 Indian Creek Rd, Marion

No gifts please,
your presence is our gift.



LECTIONARY READINGS

August 23, 2009

1 Kings 8 (1, 6, 10-11),
22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

August 30, 2009

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9, or Psalm 72

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

BAPTISMS: Aug 9, **Lola Lu Hawkins**, daughter of Eric Hawkins and Shanna Long.

Aug 16, **Alexander Carl Kropp**, son of Roger & Scarlett Kropp. Isaiah Leigh Zimmerman, son of Jordan Zimmerman.

BIRTHS: July 21, **Addison Kay Frederick**, daughter of Adam & Amy Frederick, Ankeny, IA. Grandparents are Gary & Jean Frederick. Aunt & uncle are Matt & Amy Husel. Aug 7, Solon **Robert Port**, son of Scott & Erin Port, Ankeny, IA. Great-grandmother is Olive Port.

Aug 8, **Lauren Margaret Wittkowski**, daughter of Paul & Erin Wittkowski.

WEDDING: Aug 8, **Jaclyn Klopfenstein & Jeremy Allen**

DEATHS: July 27, **Gerald (Gary) Bourne**, Sun City, AZ, brother of Virginia (Glen) Goehring. Services were held on Aug 6. July 31, **Beryl Hardy**, Anamosa, sister of Marvin & Dwayne Ellwood, aunt of Suzanne (Tom) Pollard. Services were held on Aug 4. Aug 4, **Chad Patterson**, nephew of Idella Hogan. Services were held in Atlantic, IA. Aug 7, **Duane Landon**, brother in law of Idella Hogan. Services were held in Plattsmouth, NE. Aug 7, **Bernice Meyer**, Carmichael, CA, sister of Ray (Ila Mae) Greer. Services were held on Aug 14. Aug 11, **Betty Davis**, sister of Joyce (Jack) Bachtell. Services were held in Columbus Junction, IA on Aug 14.

You're invited to join us at "Carnegie Corner" any Tuesday morning from 9:00-11:00am.

We play cards & games:
500, Bridge (some weeks)
Dominoes & Table Games

Coffee Refreshments Devotions

Contact Myrna Carter or Sherry Murray for more information.

Using the Computer to search for:

- Christian websites
- Hearing the Bible
- Reading Large print scriptures
- Finding & Playing hymns
- FUMC website
- How to use free clipart
- Making greeting cards
- And more!

While this group is geared toward our Senior Citizens, anyone is welcome to attend at anytime. We occasionally have potlucks and take short trips also.

The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Deadline dates for the next issue of the Marion Methodist is on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 by 5:00pm**. This issue will cover from Sept 6-19, 2009. Emails are appreciated and can be sent to norma@fumcmarion.org

Church Information

First United Methodist Church **Fellowship Hall**
Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue 377-4252
Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue
Marion, Iowa 52302
Office 377-4856 **Caring Corner**
377-8490

Staff

Pastor Mike Morgan

mike@fumcmarion.org

Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner

melisa@fumcmarion.org

Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley

vicki@fumcmarion.org

Business Administrator, Craig Liscum

craig@fumcmarion.org

Assimilation Coordinator, Karen Schmitz

karen@fumcmarion.org

Editor, Norma Swift

norma@fumcmarion.org

Director of Children's Christian Education

& Discipleship, Val Lawrence

Val@fumcmarion.org

Director of Adult Christian Education

& Discipleship, Jon Moss

jonmoss@fumcmarion.org

Director of Music, Mike Ransom

mikeransom@fumcmarion.org

Organist/Keyboardist, Diane Beach

diane@fumcmarion.org

Handbell Choir Directors, Mary Lee Parks

marylee@fumcmarion.org

and **Angie Moss**

Children's Choir Director, Angie Moss

Youth Worship and Outreach Leader, Matt German

matt@fumcmarion.org

Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair

dawn@fumcmarion.org

Caring Corner Daycare Assistant Director, Robyn Ledger

robyn@fumcmarion.org

Custodian, Ardyce Port

ardyce@fumcmarion.org

Assistant Custodian, Alan Arduser

alan@fumcmarion.org

Maintenance, Leon Smock

lsmock@fumcmarion.org

This newsletter is made possible by the Grace of God and is intended to lift up the Interests and Ministries of First United Methodist Church of Marion that are dedicated to His Wonderful Name.

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LABEL HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 23 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a FPU Preview (Parlor) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 7:00p Curt Liscum Celebration (Fellowship Hall)	AUGUST 24 7:00p Boy Scouts (Black Light Room) 7:00p Boy Scouts (3rd Floor Education Rooms) 7:00p Capital Campaign Leadership Recruitment (Fellowship Hall)	AUGUST 25 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 3:30p UMW Executive Board (Adult Library) 6:30p Beth Moore Study (Flood Office Main Level)	AUGUST 26 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Jan Fawcett's Small Group (Room 104) 6:30p FPU (Parlor) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	AUGUST 27 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 8:00a UMW - Mission Education Day (Parlor) 8:00a UMW - Mission Education Day (Chapel) 9:00a Sowers, FH 11:00a UMW - Mission Education Day (Fellowship Hall) 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library)		
AUGUST 30 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Questionnaire completion (Parlor) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 5:00p Celebration for Melisa (Squaw Creek Park)	AUGUST 31 7:00p Boy Scouts (Black Light Room) 7:00p Boy Scouts (3rd Floor Education Rooms) 7:00p Mission Control (Flood Office Upper Level)	SEPTEMBER 1 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 6:30p Beth Moore Study (Flood Office Main Level)	SEPTEMBER 2 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:15a Sarah Circle, LLCC 1:00p Miriam Circle (Adult Library) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Jan Fawcett's Small Group (Room 104) 6:30p FPU (Parlor) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library)	SEPTEMBER 3 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 1:30p Caregivers @ Summit Pointe 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library)	SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 5