

Calendar

BR - Brides' Room P - Parlor CR - Choir Room JrH - Junior High SrH - Senior High
 FH - Fellowship Hall L - Library S - Sanctuary * Denotes childcare available

7/18 First Day Fund Offering School Supplies for Asbury Sundays at the Hoogland

8:30am Jazz-style Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 9:30am Traditional Worship
 10:45am Traditional Worship

7/19 12:00pm Toastmasters, 303
 6:00pm COA, 106
 7:00pm Stephen Ministries, L

7/20 11:30am Staff Meeting,
 2:00pm Knit One, Pray Too, L

7/23 5:30pm Partners in Mission-
 Liberia Comes to You
 200/201

7/24 10:00am UMW Summer Event
 at Douglas UMC

7/25 School Supplies for Asbury Sundays at the Hoogland Rev. Paye Mondolo, Guest Preacher

8:30am Jazz-style Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 9:30am Traditional Worship
 10:45am Traditional Worship
 6:30pm Peacemakers, L

7/26 12:00pm Toastmasters, 106

7/27 11:30am Staff Meeting
 2:00pm Knit One, Pray Too, L

7/30 Newsletter deadline Seivert/Berberich Rehearsal

7/31 2:00pm Seivert/Berberich
 Wedding

8/1 August is Undies Month! Sundays at the Hoogland

8:30am Jazz-style Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 9:30am Traditional Worship
 10:45am Traditional Worship
 6:30pm Peacemakers, L

8/2 12:00pm Toastmasters, 106
 7:00pm Stephen Ministry, L
 7:00pm Trustees, 106

8/3 11:30am Staff Meeting, L
 2:00pm Knit One, Pray Too, L

8/4 Newsletter mailed 8/8 Contact Ministries Special Offering

August is Undies Month!
 Sundays at the Hoogland
 8:30am Jazz-style Worship
 9:30am Sunday School
 9:30am Traditional Worship
 10:45am Traditional Worship

The Laurel Staff

Rev. Jerry King, Directing Pastor
 JoAnn Overholt, Youth & Children Dir.
 Melinda Shaw, Lay Ministry Director
 Gail Lehmann, Parish Visitor
 Deb Watts, Organist/Music Coordinator
 Doug Hahn, Choir Director
 Mary Myers, God's House Band
 Rachel Rambach, Church Mice
 Kathy Frier, Administrative Assistant
 Dyann Miller, Office Secretary
 Pat Hayes and Ryan Juhl, Custodians

jking@laurelumchurch.org
 joverholt@laurelumchurch.org
 mshaw@laurelumchurch.org
 glehmann@laurelumchurch.org
 dwatts@laurelumchurch.org

kfrier@laurelumchurch.org
 dmiller@laurelumchurch.org

217/525-1866

www.laurelumchurch.org

Newsletter and bulletin information can be submitted directly to Dyann by
 e-mailing her at dmiller@laurelumchurch.org.



Laurel United Methodist Church
 631 South Grand Avenue West
 Springfield, IL 62704
 (217) 525-1866
 Fax (217) 525-3842
 mail@laurelumchurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FYI
 This edition of the Laurel Leaf
 was delivered to the Post Office
 on July 14, 2010.

The Laurel Leaf

631 South Grand Avenue West
 Springfield, Illinois 62704
 (217) 525-1866

E-mail: mail@laurelumchurch.org
 www.laurelumchurch.org

July 15-August 4, 2010

Volume 28, Issue 14



I am happy to be able to announce to the Laurel UMC family that two special guests are coming to spend a few days with us. My dear friend, Rev. Paye Mondolo, and his wife, Deborah, will be guests in our home from Thursday, July 22 through Sunday, July 25.

Rev. Mondolo is the superintendent of the Weala District of the Liberia Conference of the United Methodist Church. I met Rev. Mondolo when I was in Liberia in 2007. Our bishop at the time, Sharon Brown Christopher, several of our superintendents, and conference staff attended the 2007 Annual Conference in Liberia.

The purpose of our travel was to firmly establish the relationship of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference with the Liberia Conference. It was our hope to create a dynamic partnership with a United Methodist Conference in another country which would be a blessing to both them and us.

The long civil strife has ended in Liberia. The United Methodist Church is perhaps the strongest force for redevelopment in their country. The role we are playing is to help the church rebuild its strength.

Rev. Mondolo arrived in the United States in early June, and has been visiting in the Sangamon River District since late June. He and his wife are staying with several of our district clergy. As they travel, they tell their story of trial and triumph. It is a compelling story.

I hope you will plan to be in worship on **Sunday, July 25** to hear Rev. Mondolo preach the gospel and share his story. Prior to Sunday, on **Friday evening, July 23, a reception is planned at Laurel from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** I hope you will come to hear about our work in Liberia. Please watch and listen for further announcements.

Galactic Blast

Sunday School @ the Hoogland

Children's Sunday School is on a mission to praise God and gain a new perspective on our planet Earth. It's a cosmic combination of faith and fun designed to help children develop a personal relationship with God. Come to Sunday School at the Hoogland and praise our wonderful, incredible, amazing, magnificent and awesome God!!

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the World, and those who live in it."
 Psalm 24:1 (NRSV)

Food for the Youth Mission Trip

Looking for a way to help the 2010 Mission Trip? We take many food items with us. Someone always seems to be hungry!!! If you would like to contribute food for the journey, pick up a needs card available in the mission food card basket located in the gathering area at Hoogland, or contact JoAnn -- 525-1866 (Laurel), 566-3821 (home) or e-mail at joverholt@laurelumchurch.org. Store bought or homemade treats from home are always welcome!!!! Supplies need to be at Laurel by Tuesday, August 3. Thank you for helping to send us out to build this year's Habitat House in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sundays at the Hoogland
420 S. Sixth St
July 11 - August 15
while we are



Our Sundays at the Hoogland Center will continue the Laurel tradition of our three morning worship services. We will be located in the LRS Theatre.

8:30 a.m. - Jazz-style Worship with God's House Band
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship

Our Sunday School classes will combine into three classes. All classes meet at 9:30 and will be on the 3rd floor.

Adult Class - located in the Club Room
Children's Class - located in Theatre 3
Youth Class - located in the Board Room

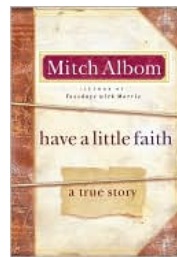
- The Nursery and Childcare will be available during all services.
- An elevator is located on the main entrance level.
- The Parking Garage to the north of Hoogland Center will be available for parking at no cost.



Church.

July 18	5:00pm	South field	St. John's vs. Laurel
July 25	6:30pm	North field	Laurel vs. St. Joseph
August 1	6:30pm	North field	Laurel vs. Auburn Christian

Below is the game schedule for the next couple weeks. Please drop by and cheer us on! All games are played on the fields behind Sugar Creek United Methodist



Laurel Book Club
August 3, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Jones-Blythe Construction
1030 West Reynolds Street

Please join us in discussing *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom on August 3, 2010 at 6:00 pm. **We'll be meeting at a different location for August's event.** We'll have Book Club at **Jones-Blythe Construction at 1030 West Reynolds Street.** Thanks to Carol Dyson for providing us a comfortable location during the construction!

Since we'll be off-site for August's Book Club event, we'll need at least a week's notice for childcare. Please contact Melinda Shaw at mshaw@laurelumchurch.org or the Church Office at 525-1866 to make arrangements for August. Thank you for your patience!

The discussion will be led by JoAnn Overholt. Our dinner arrangements will be a bit different too. **All participants should bring their own salad supper or sandwich and drinks.** Be sure to bring one for any guests you invite! Jean Hanson and Lori Cox will bring dessert to share.

Last month the **Book Club decided to sponsor the Knit One, Pray Too!'s Mother Bear Mission** by "adopting" hand-knit bears to be sent to African children. Each bear requires a \$3 shipping cost. Together we raised \$76 to ship 25 Bears! These Bears will go to children who have been orphaned by AIDS or have AIDS themselves. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.

Synopsis

What if our beliefs were not what divided us, but what pulled us together? In *Have a Little Faith*, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds – two men, two faiths, two communities – that will inspire readers everywhere. *Have A Little Faith* begins with an unusual request: an 82-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor – a reformed drug dealer and convict – who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof.

Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Mitch observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi, embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat. *Have a Little Faith* is a book about life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.

Adapted from Barnes & Nobel

CARING THOUGHTS FROM THE PARISH VISITOR

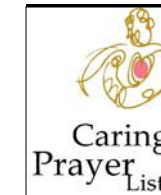
Gail Lehmann

Charles Christopher forwarded an article written by Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson in which he likened God to a GPS system. Here are Artson's ideas of how God's persuasive love works. I quote from his article.

When we drive, Glynnis (our name for the GPS system) routinely shows that it understands God better than I do. Glynnis and I will both say to my wife (the driver), "When you get to the next stop sign, take a left." And then my wife, for whatever reasons neither Glynnis nor I comprehend, will drive to the stop sign and keep going straight. This is where Glynnis and I part ways. Because I want to blurt out, "What are you doing? I told you you were supposed to! You're going to miss the exit!" But Glynnis simply says, "Recalibrating." Then it offers a corrective next choice: "At the next corner, take a right, then a right, then a right." Glynnis remains calm, unruffled and will recalibrate however often a driver makes a wrong choice.

I now know that God is like the GPS system in that way. God doesn't judge or condemn us; God doesn't coerce us. God offers us the best possible choice at the moment. If we rise to God's lure, then God says, "Good – now here's the subsequent best choice." If we don't accept the lure, God says, "Recalibrating. OK, given your last choice, here's the best possible choice you can now make." Like Glynnis, God persistently invites us, lures us, and commands us to make the best choice. This God invites us onto a path of compassion, justice, and resilient strength.

May we listen to God's GPS system for us.



July 18 – 24

Art, Julie, Rachel, Alex & Madison Hermes; Al & Janice Hibbert, & Allyson Handy; Marilyn Hindson; David, Karen, John, Bill & Kathryn Hoelzer; Shirley Hoelzer; Ron & Kathy Howell; Linda & Larry Smith; Arlan, Susan, Ryan & Erin Juhl; John, Caroline & Michael Krein.

July 25 – July 31

Lucille Foster; Bryan, Sara, Maggie & Samantha Gleckler; Al, Michelle, CarolAnn, Michael and Olivia Lee; Carol Lee; Sue Lohrenz; Liz Magee; Pam Muir; Florence Johnson; Pearl King.

August 1 – 7

Joe Boyd; Dan & Lynn Brown; Mark & Linda Brown; Joan Brown; Jane Bunker; George, Patti & Lizzy Camille; Jeff Conant; Rick Conant; Bev Frailey; Jerry & Virginia King.



Birthdays:

Margaret Thomas will be 95 on July 23rd.

Anniversaries:

Eugene and Elmina Carroll will be married 58 years on July 29th.

John and Esther Smith will be married 57 years on August 7th.



Thank You's
and
Church Family
News

THANK YOU

- Thank you! Ruth Ann and I, and our entire family thank the Laurel UMC family for the wonderful send-off you have given us. The benefit concert for the Alain Rocourt Endowment Fund was fantastic. Thanks to God's House Band, the Laurel Choirs, Lori Ann Mitts, Gus Gordon, Doug Hahn, Sarah Hamilton, Anne Hamilton Katzfey, Matt Katzfey, Dave Hamilton, Mary Myers, and Deb Watts for their music. The "Roast" was beyond belief. The saddest part is, it is all true. Our appreciation goes to the Laurel Staff/Parish Relations Committee, the Council on Administration, the many committees and volunteers that planned and carried out all of the events. We are most grateful for the many cards, e-mails, phone calls, gifts, and remembrances we have received. The Memory Scrapbooks are a treasure. Through the coming years, we will open the pages and remember the people and relationships with gratitude. I am especially grateful for the gifts to the Laurel "Opening Doors For God's People" campaign and to the Alain Rocourt Endowment Fund. Your generosity is overwhelming. The Peace Pole touches my heart. It is my prayer that "peace may prevail upon the earth." I am grateful to the Laurel UMC employed staff for their extraordinary support and commitment. Thank you for your love, friendship, and partnership in discipleship.
- Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Memory Books prepared to honor John and Ruth Ann. They will be beautiful reminders of their years in the ministry. Thank you to Dyann for all of her help in sending out the many e-mails and keeping it a secret from John. Special thanks go out to Ruth Robertson and Susan Juhl. Their scrapbooking experience and willingness to help were very much appreciated. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to Rick Gosch and Stephanie Estabrook who actually volunteered for this committee. Their help and support made this project a huge success. Finally, thank you to Dana Saal whose wonderful idea started the whole process. I feel truly blessed to have been a part of it. - Cheryl Plunkett
- The Laurel's Lights Relay for Life Committee, sincerely thanks the entire congregation for helping us reach another milestone this year. Our grand total for Relay for Life was. . . drum roll, Mary . . . \$18,182.00!!! Our light definitely did shine again this year! We dressed the "Purple Potty Princess" in a "tp" dress complete with purple gloves, crown, purple flowers, purple cape and, to complete the ensemble, what else but a bejeweled purple scepter! We walked around the track together at 4:00 a.m. to remember that cancer doesn't sleep, so we don't sleep. We spent hours cooking so you could "take and bake." We sold designer bags and dish cloths, paper "t-shirts," and, of course, there were the "Purple Pottys!" We endured the heat and humidity on the night of the event. We endured the muddy parking lots, and we endured the lack of decent coffee! But none of this is worse than chemo or radiation. We are proud to be able to do this work to raise money for research and awareness about early detection. Our prayer is that someday no one has to hear those three words: "You have cancer."
- A special thank you to Jake Shook for repairing our leaf blower, John Osgood for all the bush and tree trim work around the church, and Tom Needham for keeping our vans in good working condition.
- Thank you for the beautiful afghan, silver spoon, book, lullaby CD, and pink duck for Raegan! What an unexpected and very thoughtful gift from our Laurel church family. We are very grateful to be raising our girls in such a loving church. - Keith & Angie Miller & family
- Thank you for your donation! May you be blessed knowing that you have helped those less fortunate in our community. You are awesome! Thanks for all that you do for us again, and again, and again! - Kumler Outreach Ministries

Continued . . .

Thank You's and Church Family News ...continued

- Thank you sooooo much for helping move out of the old kitchenette on July 5th. Special thanks to Donna Means, Deanna & Andrew Burgess, Barb Nelson, Beth & Bea Shea, Cheryl Coontz, Linda Wamsley and Arlene Dittberner. Little Charlie was there for motivation. It was a delight working with you fine ladies! Blessings, Melinda Shaw
- Thank you so much for your recent donation in the amount of \$1,096.50 to the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery. With so many worthy causes needing support in these difficult financial times, we are grateful that you chose the Crisis Nursery. -Kathleen Heyworth, Exec. Dir.

Memorials & Missions

Jim McGill

Ruth Robertson
Emogene Van Scyoc

THANK YOU

Gifts were given for Opening Doors for God's People campaign in honor of John & Ruth Ann Hamilton by the Laurel Family and Friends in the amount of \$2,546.66. Also given by Laurel Family and Friends in honor of John & Ruth Ann Hamilton were gifts of \$2,841.67 to the Alain Rocourt Endowment Fund for the children of the Methodist Schools of Haiti.

OUR JUNE MISSION GIVING

American Cancer Society	\$ 18,182.00
Alain Rocourt Endowment Fund	5,276.00
Asbury Children's Supper Hour	1,350.00
Kumler Neighborhood Ministries	425.00
Discretionary Fund	75.00
Central Asia Institute	267.00
Baby Fold Camp	70.00
Golden Cross	77.00
Peace with Justice	91.00
Native American Ministries	7.00
Wings of Love/Congo	25.00
Youth Mission Work	90.00
Baby Fold Camp Scholarships	125.00
Bears for Africa	27.00
World Service	160.00



LAUREL'S MEAL-A-MONTH PROGRAM

This Laurel program is designed to encourage ongoing giving to meet the increasing problem of hunger. Take one of the Meal-a-Month bags and a menu card that are located on top of the large wooden box in the lobby.

Next time you go grocery shopping you can purchase the items, put them in the plastic bag, bring them back to church, and place the bag in the wooden box.

Donations for the month of JULY are given to the S.A.R.A. Center Food Pantry. Suggested items for July: peanut butter, jelly, fruit cocktail, and chocolate pudding. Dry milk (envelope variety), bath soap, laundry soap, and dish soap would also be welcome.



10 GREAT DATES
Saturday, August 14 - 6:00 p.m.
in Room 303

Join us at our next Great Date for "Building a Creative Love Life" discussion. Childcare is available. Please contact the church office at 525-1866 or e-mail Melinda Shaw at mshaw@laurelumchurch.org to pre-register.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game...
Wednesday, July 21, 2010
Game starts at 6:35 p.m.



Tickets at the door are \$6.00 for General Admission

Please join us for an exciting night of baseball with our Springfield Sliders! Meet us at the Robin Roberts Stadium at Lanphier Park at 1415 North Grand Avenue E. We will meet in front of the ticket box at 6:00 pm. Tickets are available at the ticket box for \$6.00 for general admission and they offer a senior and/or military discount with identification.

MCFARLAND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER VISIT
Sunday, July 18 - 2:00 p.m.

Join a group from Laurel to visit with residents at McFarland Mental Health Center on Sunday, July 18. We leave from the Laurel parking lot around 2:00 p.m. and return at about 3:30 p.m. Our visit consists of serving treats and talking with the residents. If you are interested in joining us, please meet in the parking lot at 2:00 next Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Merwyn Nelson at 546-8930.

PROJECT SOAPBOX
Laurel's Toiletry Ministry for the Homeless

"At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry and you gave me food to eat, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in.' Hungry not only for bread -- but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing -- but naked for human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks -- but homeless because of rejection." ~ Mother Teresa

Laurel's "Project Soapbox" is an easy way to help Springfield's homeless community. Please save your unopened hotel shampoos, conditioners, soaps, and lotions, and bring them to Laurel in August after our construction is over. Other hygiene products, like razors, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, etc., are really needed too. Your contributions will be sorted and delivered to Contact Ministries. The need for these items continues to be great. Thanks for your help!

The July Sunday School Mission Projects

are gathering School Supplies and recycling crayons. You will find a tub for each in the gathering area at Hoogland each Sunday, or you may bring them to the church office during the week.

The school supplies are for Asbury Children's Supper Hour and their needs include:



Loose leaf notebook paper	Lunch boxes
Packages of colored pencils	Pencil cases
Packages of colored markers	Crayons
Plastic pencil sharpeners	3-ring binders

Let's recycle those old crayons!!!

Instead of throwing away old crayons, let's recycle them!!! The Crayon Recycle program has made it possible to stop more than 47,000 pounds of unwanted crayons from going into landfills. The program also provides jobs for people with developmental disabilities who do a wonderful job of sorting the crayons. Leave the wrappers on, especially the blue and black ones. However, all crayons will be accepted, with or without wrappers.

Our Sunday School groups will be collecting old crayons from now through July 25.

Crazy Crayons give our old crayons new life!!! Each new crayon is a work of art!!!! For more information on the program, go to www.crazycrayons.com

Saturday, July 31
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
at Ace Hardware on Wabash



"Workin' at the car wash. Workin' at the car wash---yeah!"
It's summertime and everyone wants a clean car to cruise around town---so come on over and we'll meet you at the car wash!!
Laurel Youth are having a car wash at **Ace hardware on Saturday, July 31 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** The car wash will benefit the Laurel 2010 Stewardship Campaign. \$5.00 Tickets are now available from Laurel youth or on-site July 31.

Mission Trip 2010 Orientation

Mission trip orientation for all volunteers, plus parents of youth volunteers, is scheduled for

Sunday, August 1 at 5:00 p.m.

You will receive information, fill out forms, get a "what to pack" list, plus other important information. The loading process will be explained—and the loading date and time will be determined. By loading ahead, it gives us time to weigh the load, test drive it at interstate speed and it makes the Sunday morning getaway much easier.

Camping needs, camp site information, and "Fun Day" Opportunities will also be discussed.

Come August 1 with all of your questions!!!!

Work camper's Beatitude:

"Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape!"

Thank you for taking this week to put your faith into action!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you thank you, thank you!
Thank you, thank you, thank you thank you, thank you!

Just can't thank you enough for helping to make

One Dip or Two

a great success!! **We made \$1058.56!!!!** The money from our fund raisers help to support Laurel Youth mission and outreach ministries and our Habitat Mission trip

Thank you for your support!!!

LAUREL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SUMMER EVENT

"Christmas in July"

Saturday, July 24 - 10:00 a.m.

at Douglas United Methodist Church

We cordially invite all the women of Laurel and friends to a summer gathering. Due to our remodeling, we will meet at Douglas UMC. Please join us for brunch and a musical program. The Clara Swain Circle will host the event. RSVP by calling the church office or sign up on the registration form included in the bulletin on Sunday mornings.

Yes, Friends are always welcome!

Parents and Youth: Check out the Opportunities for involvement !!! Always watch the calendar for special events and activities!!!



Mission Team

Senior High Habitat For Humanity Mission Trip

Date: August 8 - August 15, 2010

This year we are going to Milwaukee, WI.

No more procrastinating; it is time to commit!! The task: to build a house. Wow, each time I wonder if this is beyond our capabilities. But each year, we work, we learn, we struggle to become a team, and WE BUILD A HOUSE!!!!

Jesus gives us a job and a promise.

The job: We are to go into the world and make disciples. We are His hands, His feet and His eyes of compassion in a world of need. By going on this mission trip you allow God to use your hands to build hope for the future.

The promise: We are not alone so step out of your comfort zone for a week. Don't worry about how we look or wish we had more stuff because everyone is wearing work cloths and living out of a suitcase anyway. We eat, we work, we pray, and we even have fun. It's kind of amazing!!

Join the 2010 Mission team and let God work through you!

"...And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ." (Romans 1:6)

Will you take the Call??

Prayerfully consider joining this Summer's Mission Team and put your faith into action.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

- Add your name to the sign-up poster in the Senior High Room.
- Mark your calendar
- Fill out the registration form.
- Pay the \$70 fee.
- Commit to the trip!!

Yes, I plan to serve on the 2010 Habitat for Humanity Mission team.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Return to Laurel UMC with your **\$70.00 registration fee**. Everyone can use a hammer as an instrument to spread God's love. If you have questions, please contact Doug Rothe at 726-9625 or JoAnn Overholt at 525-1866
You may also e-mail: joverholt@laurelumchurch.org