

# MT. COMFORT BLESSING



ROOTED IN CHRIST

FEBRUARY 2011

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### There must be 50 ways to use Your Bible

One of our recent transfers, Elizabeth Harris, was inspirational in wanting to see us address something topical in our preaching by using the TITANIC exhibit as a backdrop. She came up with that idea on the way home from a Fruitful Congregations meeting for lay people. Elizabeth wants to see our church grow, and is delightfully vocal about it! She is clearly a creative IDEA person, who is willing to go for it! So, this past Sunday, Elizabeth handed my bride Marilyn another 2 page typed suggestion (that's how the first one got to me too!). This time Elizabeth was suggesting a series on 50 ways to use our Bibles and she listed about 18 ideas for that! Her comment was something to the effect that, "well I can only think of about 18 so, maybe you could fill in the rest, and... do 30 ways to use your Bible.. or 25 ways"!!! NO, I think Elizabeth is right, there must be **50 ways to use our Bibles—or more.** After all, if Paul Simon can write a hit song in 1975 about "50 ways to leave your lover", can't we find 50 ways to use your Bible?



Soooo—With Elizabeth's suggestion again as our backdrop, we are going to begin a thorough examination of the Bible from now until Palm Sunday. **50 Ways to use Your Bible** will take us successively on the next 11 Sundays through the Psalms, the Pentateuch (the LAW), the history books, Poetry, the Prophets, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, the letters of Paul, and Acts. This will be fun creative teaching. You will enjoy it and, we will all learn. And, we will all answer together the 50 ways you can use your Bible!

I am just wondering though how many ways can you name? Elizabeth came up with 18 off the top of her head!! Go ahead, you ARE hereby officially challenged—take out a piece of paper, open—yes—open your Bibles wide, and see how many you can come up with. I started last night and it led me to some **new** revelations, and to a song which you all will hear later!!! I'm very excited about how God is going to bless this time. We will all grow, we will all be encouraged, and we will all be together in God's word! AWESOME!

I'll close with this thought. One of the primary things the Bible does teach us is that God's IMAGE and PLAN for our lives is so much bigger than the way we live it. "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans not to harm, but to prosper you.... I will be found by you declares the Lord when you search for me with ALL your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-14 Recently, I was watching a movie entitled "Coach Carter". This is the true life story of an Afro-American coach who goes back into a ghetto school—Richmond High in LA, and transforms the basketball team, by requiring them to be better men. Yes, Coach works their behinds off, and getting their grades is part of his message. To one young Latino in the movie Coach Carter keeps asking, "what is your greatest fear?" After quitting the team once, becoming involved in a gang and then leaving, during a study session this young man stands and quotes something erroneously attributed to Nelson Mandela in 1995, but actually written by a very strong Christian, Marianne Williamson, in her 1992 book **Return to Love**. **I hope you will read this, ponder it, and maybe put it on your refrigerator, as you commit it to memory, as Nelson Mandela did.**

Here it is —

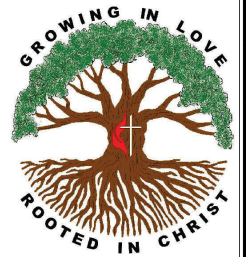
**Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves deep inside—Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you NOT to be? You are a CHILD of GOD. Your playing small does not serve the world (or Him). There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so other people won't feel insecure around you. We are ALL meant to shine, as children do. We are BORN to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone! As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."**

Wow! Let us each covenant to play all out—no more small ball, but big time for our Big God!

Love ya in the Lord,

Pastor Reid

Mount Comfort UMC



*Senior Pastor*  
**Rev. Reid Walker**

*Daytime Ministries*

Pat Zarse

*Director of Music*

Elaine Holloway

*Office Administration*

Betty Carpenter

*Custodians*

John Bowery

Regina Shelby

Please have any articles (in digital form) for the newsletter turned into the office **prior to the 15th of each month** to be included in the next issue.

Articles for the March issue will not be accepted after Feb. 15th

## DAYTIME MINISTRIES PAT ZARSE—DIRECTOR

### DAYTIME MINISTRIES

*The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen. He loads the clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through them. At his direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth.*

*Job 37:10-12 (NIV)*

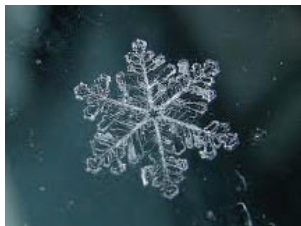
I love to watch the snow gently falling and experience the beauty, the stillness, and the perfection. Looking out over my backyard ending with a row of tall pines is a beautiful sight. I've had that opportunity often this winter. Recently, the snowflakes were so large and floating and dancing so slowly to the ground that I was telling everyone to get the kids to the windows so they could watch. Yes, you may say it's cold, there are lots of accidents, and our retired friends and relatives head for warmer weather, but it's one of the beautiful blessings God created in the season of winter.

I have three stories to share. Two of our preschoolers' great grandfather is a photographer. He attended the kids Nativity play, camera in hand. In the lobby he noticed how the sun was hitting the trees and the snow outside and the lights on the decorated tree in the lobby and the reflection from the large window. What a beautiful sight!! Soon he was snapping pictures and I was so glad that he had noticed it and that I had seen it also. In the middle of a busy, hectic day it was one of **God's daily blessings**. Another day I was watching as the children were leaving the building and it was snowing again. Another grandfather said to me, "It's beautiful to behold from inside." I know exactly what he meant. In earlier years I would have grabbed my boots and enjoyed walking outside, especially in the woods. Now I think - it's really **cold**, I might **fall**, and I sure don't need to **break** any bones. Yet another day, our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Baker, was looking at the snow on the outside brick ledge of the large lobby window and found 3 beautiful snowflakes with 6 recognizable points. They had landed on the dark colored bricks, by themselves, and were so distinctive. Everything else on the ledge just appeared to be clumps of snow. We were all so excited to see their perfect pattern. **Another blessing!**

We need to stop and witness all the special things that God created for us to enjoy and all the little things that can be major blessings in our lives. Enjoy the season and Valentine's Day.

Serving Him,

Pat



## PRESCHOOL NEWS PAT ZARSE

Everyone started back Monday, January 3 from our Christmas break. Our first unit of study was Winter followed by two weeks each of Science and Japan. The kids love doing science experiments! Our study of a foreign country teaches the children that God made people differently all over the world and He loves all of us equally. We expose them to their culture by tasting foods, learning to count to 10 in Japanese, and seeing all the items we have collected from Japan. We will end of study of Japan with a celebration and will learn about Valentines, Opposites, and Day & Night in February. Oh no!! More fun!!! – Valentine's, Opposite Day, and Pajama Day.

### SPECIAL INVITATION

We welcome our church family  
and friends

Wednesday, February 2 at 9:30  
a.m. in the gym

For the presentation of the  
*Indianapolis Minyo Dancers*



### REGISTRATION & OPEN HOUSE

Our current preschool and church families may register the end of February prior to our registration for the community Open House on Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m. Registrations will be sent home with our 3 and 2 year old preschoolers and additional forms will be available in both lobbies of the church. That evening the classrooms will be open, staff available, and registrations accepted in the lobby of the Family Life Center.

Please let family and friends know. There will be advertising in our local newspapers.

## KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT PAT ZARSE

These kids are whizzing along!!! In math they are studying money and solid shapes. They are busy with their Phonics Readers and learning long vowel sounds in reading. Science is one of their favorite subjects and also a favorite of Mrs. Baker's. Birds, dinosaurs, and endangered animals are the fun topics for February. Peaking their interest in social studies, are maps, Valentine's Day, and Abe Lincoln and George Washington. They will be attending the elementary on President's Day to make up a snow day. We will be open as usual.

*God is Good...*  
**ALL the time!**

## CHILDCARE PAT ZARSE

We welcome back Mrs. Roush and Mrs. Newgent (Brittany Boyd) who is helping with our staffing. Mrs. Plank resigned the end of December and we thank her for the short time she was with us and wish her well in her future endeavors. We also have gained two new children in our childcare family. Welcome to everyone.

The staff had a break for one week when the childcare was closed the week between Christmas and New Year's. This allows them time with their families at this very special time of the year.

The children are busy with preschool each morning and following the same curriculum. They are enjoying the snow and icicles hanging from the church building.

## MISSIONS UPDATE ROSE MCKINNEY

Thank you to all who supported our effort to make the children of six families feel the love of Christ this Christmas. Thirteen children got four gifts each and their families received five sacks of groceries and a \$25 gift card for Marsh. Your kindness and generosity made that possible.



Even though there was no Faith Promise pledges for 2010, some of you continued to give to the fund. We were able to give financial support to the following: C.O.M.E., Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, Fletcher Place Community Center, Brightwood Community Center, Red Bird Mission, Henderson Settlement, Servants in Faith and Technology (SIFAT), Heifer Project, Claudia and Lowell Wertz (Joy in the Harvest), Bishop Ntambo Nkula (African Ministries), David Stephen (South India Missions), Samaritan's Purse, Debbie Wittig (OMS International—Indonesia), John Gerig (World Partners), Open Doors with Brother Andrew, Tony and Julia Hageman (Campus Crusade for Christ).

Your generosity through the years that I was Missions Chair has been totally awesome. You have made my position a pleasure because you have made so many things possible for the Missions Committee as it represented Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. We appreciate your love for helping others and showing God's love through missions.

God Bless You,  
Rose McKinney

## YOUR HEART IS DESIGNED FOR GOD TO FILL—RICK WARREN SUBMITTED BY: MARY SPRINGER

Whoever does not have the Spirit cannot receive the gifts that come from God's Spirit. Such a person really does not understand them, and they seem to be nonsense, because their value can be judged only on a spiritual basis. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (TEV)

"You can be serving God and working for God and still miss God."

The Bible tells us that there is a God-shaped vacuum in our hearts. There is a hole in our hearts that only God can fill. We were made to be connected to our Creator. We were made to know Him and to be plugged into His power.

Your heart is designed to contain God. God wants to live inside of you but when your life is filled with other things, there's no room in your heart for God. This means you're not plugged into God's power and that's why you're tired all the time. And that's why you're stressed out all the time and that's why you worry all the time.

And that's why the Bible says the unspiritual person has no room for the gifts that come from God's Spirit. It's not that God doesn't want to give them to you; it's that you can't handle the gifts because your heart is filled with so many other things.

It's like this: How many people do you know who cannot park a car in their garage? Garages are made for cars. That's how they are designed. That's what gives the garage its purpose. But we fill them up with all kinds of other stuff that they were never designed to hold.

The same thing is true in our hearts. Your heart was made to contain God, but when you fill it with worry and stress and guilt, you have no room for God.

Your heart may be crowded with good things, work or sports or hobbies, but they were never designed to take first place in your heart. In fact, you can be serving God and working for God and still miss God. Even good things do not have the power to hold your life together when the heat is on. And that's why your life starts falling apart.

As we enter this New Year, now is the time to de-clutter your life. What things have a greater priority than God in your life? Let me help you get started - What do you think about the most? The answer to that reveals who or what has first place in your heart.



## ANNOUNCING 2011 UPWARD SPRING SOCCER KENNY THOMPSON



It is with great pleasure that I announce our second annual Upward Spring Soccer Season here at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church.

Last year, God planted a seed at Mt. Comfort called Upward. We were blessed to start with a newly learned idea and worked hard to make it grow. We watched 60 happy, energetic kids mature both spiritually and athletically. Word spreads fast and there is much enthusiasm in our community about the wonderful opportunities that Upward participation brings.

My team and I invite you to be part of this dynamic ministry! You will experience a fellowship and spiritual renewal. How? You will witness young children discover Jesus Christ for the first time and give them a head start on a journey, that we pray, will be everlasting.

The key dates for this season are as follows:

February 1, 2011—Registration begins

March 3, 2011—First player evaluation/registration

March 5, 2011—Second player evaluation/registration

Week of March 21, 2011—Practice begins

April 9, 2011—First game day

June 1, 2011—Season awards celebration with entertainment by  
Ventriloquist, Gene Cordova

I pray daily for God to use me in ways that bring glory to His name and being involved with Upward helps me fulfill that goal. My team and I look forward to your support in making this ministry a success. Ask God how He can use you to spread the good word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to children, their families, and our community through our Upward soccer season.

In His service,

Kenny Thompson , Upward League Director

## LUMINARIES

Thanks to Bruce Kendall and helper(s) for the luminary display on Christmas Eve along the church driveway. This is always a highlight of Christmas Eve.

The lights help remind all who see them that Jesus is the Light who has come into the darkness—He is the Light of the world.

Bless you Bruce!



## AS I SEE IT—JOHN BOWERY

Well the new year has started. So first off I would like to say I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Second, "Thank You" to all for the Love offering. It was a very nice surprise gift and gratefully received and appreciated. The tree and trimmings in the sanctuary along with the live tree of poinsettia's dressed up the Church very nicely for the season, What a joyous time of year. It was quite a chore to water them all twice a week and it used up a lot of ice cubes. On the bright side, we now have fresh ice cubes.???? Still they survived past the New Year thanks to the Good Lord.

The new year started with a wedding and over 200 guests to our wonderful facility. This was enjoyed very much, going from the comments that were overheard during the festivities.

We are now back to normal, with the decorations all taken down, and ready for a fantastic 2011 and a warm spring.

The Ladies Bible Class is back with good humor and the halls again ring with laughter. Such a joyous work atmosphere.

The following is a summary of Security for the year 2010.

During Security over the last year I turned off over 340 sets of lights and at a cost of 10 cents per kilowatt/hr that means that I was able to save the church approx \$1,700.00 from the electric bill. There were 154 front doors left unlocked and 235 internal doors left unlocked that should have been locked. The total for the year was 924 infractions of security. So for 2011, please,



"Don't leave the lights on for me".

May God Bless you all.

John,

One of your Custodians

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Heather Johnson	2-01		
Rudy Nylund		Jack Abel	2-18
Sandra Abel	2-03	Linda Young	
James Yanan	2-04	Connie Branson	2-22
Betty Alder	2-06	Butch Alder	2-24
Thelma Marsh		Janet Kleine	2-27
Drew McClellan		Pat Fentz	2-28
Karen Stumph			
Roger Hudson	2-12		
Marj Hillsman	2-14		
Dan Green			

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Rick and Kathy Aldrich	2-14
Pat and Shirley Ross	



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

### ELAINE HOLLOWAY

I would like to thank the choirs and the congregation for the love offering and gifts I received during the Christmas season as well as for the prayers and gifts given me after the loss of my sister, Carol. They are a constant reminder of the love that is poured out to one in a time of need. Blessings to each of you!

It's that time of year again! The snow birds are flocking south which leaves the choirs needing a little extra help! If you are willing, please join us for Bells at 6:30 p.m. or Chancel Choir at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights for rehearsal. Also, kid's chimes meet at 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. and we welcome any new ringers.

Together we can praise the Lord through our music. As it is written in Psalm 149:  
"Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song".

Your Music Director,  
Elaine

# February 2011

The calendar changes daily. For up-to-date listings please refer to the calendar posted on the bulletin board by the office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 4:00 pm Dayspring Ministry 6:00 pm Boy Scout Parents Mtg. 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 236 7:00 pm Prayer Team 7:30 pm Givan BB	2 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 Dayspring Ministry 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	3 Noon—Comforters 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Soccer 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 236	4 7:30 pm Givan BB	5 9:00 am Dayspring Ministry 10:00 am D'Angelo Birthday Party 2:00 pm Scouts Pack 236 Pinewood Derby
6 9:15 am Christian Education 10:15 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	7 8:30 am Walking 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Soccer 6:00 pm Christian Education Mtg. 7:00 pm Staff-Parish Relations Mtg.	8 4:00 pm Dayspring Ministry 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 236 6:30 pm Cub Scouts—Russell 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2521 7:00 pm Evangelism 7:30pm Givan BB	9 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm Herb Johnson Karate 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Dayspring Ministry 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	10 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Dayspring Ministry 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Soccer	11 7:30 pm Givan BB	12 9:00 am Fruitful Congregations Training 9:00 am Dayspring Ministry
13 9:15 am Christian Education 10:15 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 2:45 pm Kindergarten Girl Scout Troop	14 8:30 am Walking 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Soccer 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 850 7:00 pm Worship Committee	15 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 236 7:00 pm Daytime Ministry Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Prayer Team 7:30pm Givan BB	16 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Common Threads 5:30 pm Girl Scout Recruiting Event 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 236 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Dayspring Ministry 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	17 8:00 am Fruitful Congregations Clergy 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Dayspring Ministry 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Soccer 6:00 pm Girl Scout Team 6:45 pm Girl Scout Leaders	18 7:30 pm Givan BB	19 9:00 am Dayspring Ministry
20 9:15 am Christian Education 10:15 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	21 8:30 am Walking 9:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Soccer 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 850 6:00 pm Trustees Mtg.	22 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 236 6:30 pm Cub Scouts—Russell 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 2521 7:30 Givan BB	23 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes 6:30 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Dayspring Ministry 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	24 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 4:00 pm Dayspring Ministry 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Soccer 7:00 pm Finance Mtg.	25 6:00 pm Upward Movie Night	26 9:00 am Dayspring Ministry 5:00 pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
27 9:15 am Christian Education 10:15 am Fellowship (Scout Sunday) 10:30 am Worship Service 2:45 pm Kindergarten Girl Scout Troop	28 8:30 am Walking 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Church Council					

## VISION—A FRUITFUL CONGREGATION FOR CHRIST—**KATHY BENNETT**

Each of the 6 groups which met for 5 weeks this past fall has submitted a summary of the many ideas that came from their discussions.

“The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk Taking Mission
- Extravagant Generosity
- 

The responses to the 35 challenges in the study guide, the nearly 60 participants in these groups have come up with at least a like number of ideas. Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church can become a fruitful congregation for God, if we accept these ideas as part of our vision. Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) says “Where there is no vision, the people perish”. This scripture challenges all of us who do not want MCUMC to perish. We must work together to put enough of these ideas in practice to make us a thriving, vital church.

The Fruitful Congregation Teams are challenging you to accept this vision by choosing one of the following ideas or make your own special project. Find out who else has chosen that idea and may already be working on it and offer to help them.

Some fruitful ideas are:

- Establish a hospitality committee
- Improve the entrance to the new office area
- Enhance worship services to be even more passionate
- Include more children, especially our preschool in worship
- Lead new opportunities for spiritual development
- Establish additional after school ministries
- Visit nursing homes as part of a singing or devotional group
- Create a clothes closet/food voucher program for immediate use in emergencies
- Plan to join a mission trip or support those who can go
- Hold a seminar that will address wills/estate planning
- Start a ‘campaign’ to further enhance our facility (new sign, our lights, etc.)
- Your own new idea

Consider carefully a direct quote from one of our fellow visionaries after finishing the study guide said with a feeling of, “Go out on a limb for God and our church. On page 7 of the study guide, it states, we must offer the absolute utmost of ourselves to enable us to show Christ to others. I sure don’t feel that I can live up to all of this but, with God’s help, I’ll do my best.”

Can any of us do less than go out on that limb? God **is** with us. We know He is with us when we read Haggar 1:8, “Go up to the mountain and bring the wood and build the house and I will take the pleasure in it and be glorified.” Haggar 1:13 says, “I am with you said the Lord.”

## MESSAGE OF THANKS **SHARON KINGEN**

I wish to thank all the people who visited Mom and sent cards, food, and prayers during her illness last fall. She truly appreciated the outpouring of love and caring. Speaking on behalf of her family members, please accept our thanks for your many expressions of sympathy at and following her funeral. We are very grateful for all the prayers and kind thoughts. I am personally most appreciative of the cards, calls, and offers of help. You have all been wonderful.



## 13 DAYS **BETTY CARPENTER**

Yep, it took John Bundy all of 13 days into the new year to get the hot water problem in the northwest bathroom resolved. From my perspective, that’s a huge accomplishment. I so appreciate that I no longer have to brew a pot of hot water in a coffee pot in the morning to wash my hands. That process reminded me of the times as a child when we had to heat all of our water on the stove, including our bath water. OOPS, now I’m telling my age.

So, as embarrassing as it may be for John, the photo of the “peck on the cheek” is simply a “small” gesture for the “git-r-done” attitude and the progress he continues to make. And, soon, we will have hot water to the bathroom across the hall from the office! Now that’s progress!!!!

From just one of the people who really appreciates having hot water, thanks John for all you do!



**Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church**  
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