



# Mt. Ida & Joplin United Methodist News

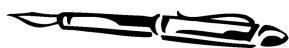
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# JUNE

## Pastor Ted's Pen



Ronald Vallet says we tend to think of stewardship in one of two ways: as an obligation, duty, or requirement; or as a practical matter for meeting a budget.

The first approach focuses on the concept of the tithe, and can be applied to time and talent, as well as treasure. The second approach has us think of the budget needs of the church; what is needed for the operation of the church—it's facilities, staff, and ministries.

Both of these views are truthful, even helpful. But they also fall short of a faith-filled understanding of our calling as the children of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. Stewardship should be less about what we do, and more about identity. As Paul says, "...we are servants of Christ and *stewards* of God's mysteries." (1 Cor. 4:1)

As servants of Christ, we rely on the Holy Spirit, the one Jesus promised to send as our Advocate, Helper, and Comforter. And as stewards, we rely on the same Holy Spirit to reveal the truth, both to us, and through us. He who is "the way, the *truth*, and the life" sends to his followers the "Spirit of truth" to guide us into all the truth.

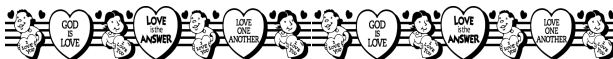
But what is the truth? It seems there are many ways of determining what is truth. There is political truth, scientific truth, mathematical truth, social truth, even historical truth. But these all seem to change over time as new understandings come, as new discoveries are made, and as the dominate culture shifts and evolves.

In this season of Pentecost, let us have this assurance: The Spirit of truth will guide us into all

the truth. And the everlasting, unchanging truth is God's self-giving love for the world. Jesus proved it. The Holy Spirit vindicated it. And our own lives of faith confirm it.

We are called to be stewards of that self-giving love of God for the world. And neither God, nor the church takes a vacation from loving. As we enter the summer season, keep giving of yourself in love, and keep giving through the church so that God's love will be shared in all the world.

*Brother Ted*



## JOPLIN PRAYER CHAIN

The Joplin e-mail Prayer Chain is an important ministry for our church. It is very important that information for prayer request be factual and as requested from a family member.

If you are not on the Joplin e-mail Prayer Chain list but would like to receive prayer request information, or have a prayer request sent out, please call Mary Offutt at 867-5043 or send me an e-mail at: [maryancel@suddenlink.net](mailto:maryancel@suddenlink.net).

If I am not available, call or e-mail the Mt. Ida Church and Christy will send the prayer request out. Mt. Ida Church phone: 867-3213 or e-mail: [fumcmi@windstream.net](mailto:fumcmi@windstream.net).

I continually try to improve the e-mail Prayer Chain and keep this an important ministry for the church.

Mary Offutt, Joplin Prayer Chain

## *Thanks Giving*

It isn't November yet, but we at Mt. Ida UMC give our grateful thanks to some of the special people who go "above and beyond" in ministries for our congregation:

- ♥ The decorating committee for added beauty in numerous spots around the church, Gloria Murphree, Judy Crane and Chair, Glenna Lybrand.
- ♥ All those who have helped make the Thursday night dinners so successful, Tom DeWeese, Richard Ray, Judy Crane, Sharon Coan, Joyce Nicholas and all you great cooks and kitchen workers.
- ♥ Pastor Ted who (in addition to all the usual ministerial duties) willingly fills in whenever, wherever needed, which means that his name should be in all these categories.
- ♥ Two faithful candle lighters, Neal and Anthony Appleby (with Hodge Black keeping an eye out, as he does for so many small details).
- ♥ Christy Stewart, who cheerfully handles so many problems for us, as well as efficiently carrying out her regular duties in the office.

*Bless You All!*



Dinners at First Church continue each Thursday night at 6:00 pm.



EVERYONE is invited!

Each week, a small group plans and prepares a menu. We eat, then enjoy fellowship time. Some nights we also have a program.

Upcoming menus include:

- June 4 Fettuccini Alfredo
- June 11 ???
- June 18 ???
- June 25 ???

Remember there is no charge for the meal!

We accept contributions to defray the weekly costs.

But there is no fee!



MIUMC Flowers

A Flower Calendar has been placed between the Fishermen's and Wesleyan Sunday School rooms to coordinate fresh flowers for the Sanctuary. You may celebrate an occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.) by picking a date and signing your name on the calendar. Then order your flowers and deliver them to the church for your special day. Direct any questions to Mary Black or Bro. Ted.



Access our website and find:

- † Bulletin announcements
- † MIJO Newsletters
- † Thursday Dinner menus
- † Submit online prayer requests,
- † Information about upcoming events
- † Links to UMC sites
- † Information about Sunday School Classes & our youth group

[www.fumcml.org](http://www.fumcml.org)

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MI, AR 71957  
Permit no. 20

### Barbeque & Silent Auction

June 12, 2009  
5:00—8:00 p.m.  
Joplin UMC

*Order your plate today!* Menu includes: barbeque pulled pork, brisket, baked beans, slaw, bread, dessert, and drink—all for \$8.00 per person! (Take out plates available at 4:00 p.m.)

Items are needed for the silent auction. Please donate new or "gently used" items. Auction winners will be announced after 8:00 p.m. on the 12th.

For questions, tickets, or donations, see:

- Kathy Burchfield 867-2702
- Frances Anne Brett 867-4224
- Kay Poole 867-2932

All proceeds go to  
Joplin Women's Fellowship  
for church and community projects



MIJO NEWS  
Mt. Ida/Joplin UMC  
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Mt. Ida, AR 71957  
Address Correction Requested