

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

23	6:00 p.m.	Scrappy Quilters in Library
	6:30 p.m.	Cursillo Grouping
24	10:00 a.m.	Otta Bond Circle in Fellowship Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
25	5:00 p.m.	Knit Wits Too in Library
26	6:00 p.m.	New Young Adult Sunday School Class dinner at the Parsonage
28	11:10 a.m.	"Low Country Boil"
	5:00 p.m.	UMYF
30	1:00-6:00 p.m.	Red Cross in Fellowship Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Scrappy Quilters in Library

We would love for you to join us on October 1st for our second Wednesday Night Live. Food, fun and Christian fellowship are yours for the taking! Come with family, bring friends - either way you're bound to have some fun! If you have questions, needs, or have an idea for classes/activities, please share it with me. This is *YOUR* night - Let's make it great together! -- Lisa McCusker, 249-4435 or e-mail lisamccusker@yahoo.com.

Supper, program(s) for adults, activities for children and youth will meet on October 1st at 5:30 p.m. beginning with Pot Luck Supper in the Family Life Center. Make a casserole, bake something yummy or swing through KFC on the way to the church! We aren't picky! Hope to see you there!

IKE RELIEF SUPPLIES – On October 1st, during Wednesday Night Live, the Wesleyan Friendship Class will sort and package hurricane supplies for Ike victims. These supplies will be taken to St. Paul UMC for further distribution. We will have more information in next week's newsletter. In the meantime, collect cleaning supplies, feminine needs, baby diapers and other non-perishables for this run. No clothing is being collected.

AVERY ISLAND TRIP – An overnight trip is planned for Avery Island on October 3rd. We will leave at 8 a.m. There is limited seating and limited baggage. The hotel cost is \$92 and \$6.25 for the Jungle Tour. The visit to the Tabasco Factory is free. We will also be going to the French Quarter. Deadline is September 30th. Please sign up in the hallway.

LAY SPEAKING SCHOOL – Friday and Saturday, October 24th and 25th are the dates for the Seashore District Lay Speaking School. Studies include "Basic Lay Speaking" taught by Anne Steinaway and two advanced courses. The basic course is mandatory before taking the advanced courses. Registration is \$50 and must be remitted by October 9th. See or call Beverly Siegrist for more information

NEW MEMBERS! – We welcome Rev. M. L. McCormick, who has moved his charge to Gautier FUMC, and Mrs. Tommie Lee McCormick who has joined our membership. We also welcome David and Paulette Jalkanovich as new members of our congregation. Please offer your personal welcome to these wonderful people.

GOODNEWS LETTER

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September 22, 2008

Dear Friends,

With this article, we conclude our look at eight principles that support church growth:

5. **The congregation's sense of identity.** Every congregation, no matter how large or small, must answer a very basic question: "Are we here to serve or be served?" Every congregation should also have a clearly defined mission statement and missional objectives.
6. **The congregation's commitment to faith development.** What is our purpose? The United Methodist Church's mission statement clearly defines who we are as well as our purpose: "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." Do you know the mission statement for First Church Gautier? What is our commitment to faith development?
7. **The physical structure.** The physical structure, the building, affects the climate for receiving and welcoming new persons because the condition of the building reflects the attitude of the congregation. Many volunteer hours have been spent on "sprucing up" our buildings. What else needs to be done that would be inviting to visitors? In other words, are we ready for company?
8. **The congregation's reliance on God.** The previous seven principles rest solidly on the congregation's reliance on God through his Son Jesus Christ. The local church is an outpost of the kingdom of God and we are totally dependent upon God. Because of our reliance and dependence upon God, we must always ask, "What is the greatest dream God has for us?"

"Attempt Great Things For God. Expect Great Things From God."

See You Sunday,
James

OUR FAITHFULNESS

September 21, 2008

Sunday School:	60	Pumpkin Patch	50.00
Worship Attendance:	167	Seashore Mission:	37.00
Morning Offering:	\$4448.04	UMCOR:	1329.00
Building Fund:	\$ 380.00	UMM Shirts:	50.00
Sunday School:	\$ 6.00	Youth Program:	\$ 10.00
Philippine Ministry:	\$ 25.00		

KUDOS

A huge thank you to everyone that provided food for our first Wednesday Night Live program. De-lish all around. Many thanks to Barbara Schrink for helping with the Children's Choir, and Denny Engle for holding our first workshop. Great job!

A big thank you to our youth for cleaning out the Family Life Center Storage Room.

To My Church Family,

The year 2008 has been difficult for my family and myself. In March I had an abdominal operation that was profoundly difficult and life threatening. I am aware of the many prayers that (I believe) continue to help me day by day in getting better.

GFUMC's pastor, members and friends, your prayers, freely giving of your talents, gifts from the membership, men's club, pie ladies, Otta Bond Circle, and individual acts of kindness have gone a long way in helping on my road to recovery. I am humbled and overwhelmed by the outpouring of love you have shown my family and me. I am proud to be a member of GFUMC,

In another month or so, I will be going to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland that specializes in abdominal problems to have another operation. Please remember me in your prayers.

Thank you, each and every one, for your loving care and concern.
John Schrink

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOW COUNTRY BOIL – Wow! It's a Low Country Boil this Sunday, September 28th at 11:10 a.m. A Low Country Boil is where shrimp, corn, potatoes and sausage are cooked together and served on newspaper. We'll also have some delicious grilled chicken in case you don't eat shrimp. It's a casual event so come and bring your families and friends. There is no charge but donations will go to Hurricane Ike victims.

A new Young Adult Sunday School Class is being formed and the first meeting will be dinner at the Parsonage on Friday, September 26th at 6 p.m. Please obtain your own childcare.

2009 BUDGET REQUESTS – The Finance Committee wants all 2009 budget requests to be turned in by September 30th.

PUMPKIN PATCH – We will be selling the Gautier First UMC t-shirts, for the next few Sundays, for only \$5.00 - half price! We only have a few left so hurry and get yours today.

PRAYER LIST

PRAISES FOR:

Answered Prayers, Emmie Gautier returning home, Good test results for Mike Snuggs and Tracy Conerly.

ON GOING PRAYERS:

Those awaiting medical test results, Wallace Gill, Eve Devereaux, Michelle Hardy, Care givers, Hollie Engle, Marian Pierson, **Norris Taylor, Olene Nixon, Our elderly, Mildred and Ray Long, City and World leaders, Youth for Christ, Service members/families, Joette Patterson, Martha Lewis, **Catalina Weaver, Martha Price, Jane Perry, Ellen Wheeler, **John Hanson, Jim and Phyllis Howland, Our Youth, Rodney Siedell, Marshall Dunn, Prisoners in Bible Study, Bernice and William Rasmussin, Pat and Patti McDonald, Rev. Otis Lewelling, Abigail Upton, Teresa and Jerry Howell, Polly Furr, Louis Ware, John Schrink, Barbara and Lisa, Chris Cursuello, Clara Charlesworth, Vera Parker, Ken Muller, Donna Bowlin, Kenny Napp and Deborah Rucker.

PRAYERS FOR: * denotes hospital ** care facility/rehab

O. D. Partain by B. Furr

Rubye Flynt by D. Overman

Kay Patterson Henley by S. Trott

Kaytie VanAlstine and Family by V. Sharp

People in the aftermath of recent hurricanes

*Doris Applewhite by D. Welch

John and Linda Hyland by T. Bankston

Pat and Patti McDonald's Family

*Linda Cirlot by S. Swensen

Brian Odell by S. Green

*Anders Johnson by N. Green

Robert Smith and Family of Nick Woods by R. Norris

Greg Simms by K. Teesdale

Barbara Wise by J. Wise

Sloan Suddeth by K. Pittman

Marty Freeman and Thelma Bailey by J. McCaskey

Jonathan Vining, Leonard Vining, Margaret Martin, and Ray Koch by B. Koch

*Jim Savage by B. Stuntz

Ron Morning, Nancy Hamilton, Unspoken, Cotton Pearce, and Fanni Mae
by E. Griffin

Jim Talbot and Unspoken by T. Webb

Maddie Keith and Emma Evans by A. Breland

Annette Breland by D. Breland

Bettie Holland by G. Holland

Roger Ward and Gilbert Holland by B. Holland

Helen's Son Matthew and J. Pitts by J. Davis

Scotty Branham by B. Branham

Wanda Miller and Mitch Doze by M. Doze

Cathy and Kimberly Napp by M. Scruggs

Laura by L. McCusker

Jim Brooks by H. Mixon

Virgie Duke by J. Trott