

The Messenger

A Publication of Nameoki United Methodist Church



Exciting Things Going on This Fall!

The Bell and Chancel Choirs will start back up on the 9th of September. Voices are always welcome for the choir, and Margaret Gehling and Becky Pate will be glad to enlist anyone interested in the bell choir!

The *United Methodist Women's Sunday* is scheduled for Sept. 13th.

Our next Saturday Night Alive is on the 13th of September at 6:00 p.m.

The Annual Church Picnic is on Sunday the 20th at 4:00 p.m. Check with Carla Taylor and Sandy Gros for details about the goings on with that.

The last barbeque fund raiser for the year will be sponsored by the Finance Committee on September 25th & 26th.

"AWAKENING '09" rally is the evening of September 27th at 5:00 @ Granite City Park Ice Rink. This is a pre-rally for the Crusade to take place on

October 18th, 19th and 20th.

Plans are still in the making for the OPEN HOUSE to invite others in the area to Nameoki UMC scheduled for Saturday, October 24th.

The Nameoki UMC Homecoming will take place on November 15th this year.

So much to do! So much to look forward to!

Crickets in the Sanctuary!

No need to get out the insecticide yet! Yes, there were cricket and mosquito sounds in the sanctuary during Vacation Bible School in July, but they were only from a CD. There were also campfires and trees (artificial of course), and tents and canoes. The theme was camping, and our volunteers took a great deal of effort to make it look like the kids were doing just that. Great job, by the way!

There were about 55 children who attended, and nearly as many adults

were on hand to help with everything from lessons to refreshments.

The new awning came in handy when it began to rain on their last night's plans. Those in charge were able to build a fire in the portable fire pit and place it where it wouldn't get wet. The children had fun making their much anticipated sammies to finish up their Vacation Bible School camp!

A good time was had by all!

Just a reminder: If the person who sits next to you every Sunday in Sunday School or Worship service hasn't been here lately, we encourage you to let them know that they are missed. We don't need to know their business, or why they haven't been attending; we just want them to know we care.

There are cards in the back of the church, just jot them a note to let them know that they are not forgotten. After all, we are all a family here!



In this issue:

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Jake Hinterser

Thank You

American Cancer Society sends a note of thanks for the contribution of \$300 from Nameoki UMC.

Thank you for your prayers and cards. I enjoy reading the church newsletter. Please remember Elaine in your prayers. Love & God Bless you all, Ruby Gunderson

Global Ministries of UMC sends a note for their appreciation of the gift to missionary Jane McCarty of \$520.00.

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for your kind thoughts and prayers during the recent passing of my brother, John Hilmes. Blessings, Dianna Briner

Thanks to everyone who sent cards, and phone calls while I was out of circulation. I'm so glad to be a part of the family of God. May God Bless You Frieda Crawford

Cindy Meredith & Cub Pack 122 writes:

Dear Members of Nameoki Methodist Church, Thank you so much for letting us work at the June BBQ.

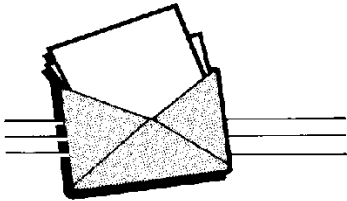
You can be sure we will put the \$300 to good use for the boys. God bless you!

Please add to your directory:

Bev & Steve Golden
1604 Amos
Granite City, IL 62040

Bernice Sawyer
2708 Harvey Place #13
Granite City, IL 62040

Alice Baumberger
2415 Pine St.
Granite City, IL 62040



Member News

Please welcome to Nameoki UMC Bev & Steve Golden. They officially joined the church and were baptized on July 12, 2009. Also transferring their memberships here on the same day were Alice Baumberger and Bernice Sawyer. Glad to have all of you join our ranks!

Congratulations to Jessica Lynn Bruce and John Michael Bracamontes who were united in marriage

here on August 1st! Our condolences to Jenifer Spiroff & family on the loss of her husband Steve. He left this life on July 10th, 2009. Our heartfelt prayers are with her at this difficult time.

Our sincere sympathy to the Imhoff family, on the loss of Krystal's infant son. He was born, Friday, August 7th, 2009 and passed away later the same day. Our prayers go out to the families at this

sad and difficult time .

Prayers are also extended to Amy Freed on the loss of her infant child. Even though she does not attend here, she is need of God's comfort.

Deepest sympathy to Jerry Poole and his family on the loss of Carole Poole. Carol had been a member here for many years, she also was the church secretary for a number of years, a quilter, and served in numerous ways at Nameoki. She will be sadly missed by all.

FYI Entertainment Books

are here. See Gail Fritsche or Doris Taylor. The \$30 for book is worth the Shop & Save coupons alone! (\$6 of each book goes back to the church)

Women's Groups & Bible Studies

Many of us are involved in the Women's Sharing Groups here at Nameoki, but for those who are not and are interested; the *Every Member Busy (EMB) Circle* meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, for a lesson, prayer and fellowship.

The *Susanna Wesley* Group meets the first Tuesday of the month. *Lydia's Circle* meets the third Thursday for lunch. *United Methodist Women* meets the 2nd Monday of the month. *Women at the Well* is a Bible Study which meets on the first

and third Thursday evening. In fact, the Women at the Well's Bible study beginning in September will discuss how to become a "Titus Woman." (See Titus 2:3-5) Call Millie Clements for more info at 876-8359.

Or call the church office 877-1936 about any group.



Missions

The KIDS IN MISSION collection for **September** will go to *Bibles for Prisoners*.

The focus this month for the loose change offering is purchasing Bibles and literature for those confined in the penitentiaries.

Please keep the Chaplains and ministry teams in your prayers, as their challenge is great. They enter all levels of confinement facilities to help men and women to know Jesus and lead

them to salvation. What a mission they are called to do!

Thanks for sharing and thanks to our KIDS for collecting your change.

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

Faith in Action to Host a Trivia Night

Friday, September 11th at
Calvary Life Church
4650 Maryville Road
Granite City, IL

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Games Begin at 7:00 p.m.

Admission \$10/person,
Up to 8 people per table

Table Decorating Contest
For Advance Registration
or Questions Call

Faith in Action at
(618) 877-9020



The Dangers of Drifting

The Book of Hebrews declares that “we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Heb. 2:1). Another way of translating the final phrase of this verse is, “Lest we drift away.”

Nothing in the world is easier than drifting. No person ever drifts upstream, only downstream. It is so easy. All you do is sit back and relax and let the boat go.

You are soon lulled into a lazy stupor, not caring where you go. You may not even be aware you are drifting until it is too late, and the boat is on the rocks. Satan is very wise. He seldom urges a Christian to leave the church or to give up his faith in the Lord. Instead he causes us to relax, rest on the oars, and drift along in the Christian life.

All around us are Christians who have drifted into a state of coldness and indifference. Their experience of

salvation no longer crosses their minds. They have stopped caring about others who need to hear the message of God’s saving grace.

Are you just drifting? Wake up now! Grab the oars and pull. Your active concern is needed as we seek to lead others to find Christ and His will for our lives.

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Getting to Know You

Not only are they generous with their time at the church, but Jerry and Erla volunteer at the food pantry for Salvation Army several times a week.



You know Jerry & Erla Mainer don't you? Erla has played the piano here at Nameoki on occasions thru the 11 years she has attended here. She and Jerry have been married for 55 years. They are among the "good deed doers" for Nameoki.

They both have served on numerous committees. Currently Jerry serves on the Staff/Parish Committee and Erla is Council Chair. Erla is also involved in the *Every Member Busy Circle* group, *United Methodist Women*, is a quilter and sings in the choir. She and Jerry help make the slaw for the barbeque fund raisers and are on the *Funeral Dinner Committee*. They took care of the sign in the front to display messages

for years, and used to take care of the lawn at the church, too. There are many other ministries they have served in, I just can't remember them all!

Not only are they generous with their time at the church, but Jerry and Erla volunteer at the food pantry for Salvation Army several times a week.

They are blessed with three children, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Erla says she first started coming to Nameoki to quilt with her neighbor, Ruth Gibbs. The quilters had invited she and Jerry to the worship service on Sunday morning. The Mainers took them up on the invitation and have been coming here ever since.

Erla remarks that "Her father was a Minister, so she has been involved in church and church activities all of her life."

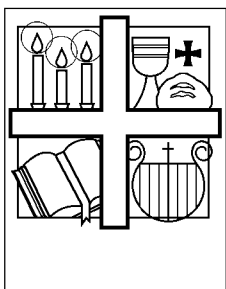
She has had many jobs throughout her life time but retired in 1996 from Roberts & Dymdol Lumber Company.

She enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, playing the piano, quilting, reading, gardening and shopping. Speaking of shopping, she says she has been to all the major famous shopping malls in the United States!

When asked to tell something about her that most people don't know she modestly mentions that she walks 2 miles every morning after breakfast. (Wish I could say that.)

You're sure to have seen Erla and Jerry Mainer at nearly every church function helping out in one way or another.

In my opinion these are two of the nicest people you could ever want to meet.



Her father was a Minister, so she has been involved in church and church activities all of her life.

COMMUNION by Jake Hinterser

As we normally do at Nameoki United Methodist Church on the first Sunday of the month we partake of the Communion Elements.

Communion should be for a Christian; a time of confession, remembrance and rejoicing.

For me, communion should not be just something that I do each month, but it should be a time of celebrating God's love for you and me. You see, God's indescribable gift of his son Jesus Christ, was the highest form of love known to man.

Let me take you back to the book of Exodus, Chapter 12, as God instituted the Passover meal for the Israelites. Everyone who obeyed God's instruction, concerning putting the blood of the lamb on their doorpost and mantels, plus eating of the special meal, received their freedom from the cruel slavery imposed on them by the Egyptians. Verse 14 in chapter 12, is the key for the Israelites and us today, as God said you should keep this celebration from generations to generations.

The original Passover symbolizes our communion meal. As we partake of the elements which represent Jesus' sacrificial death, Christians are called in remembrance to celebrate communion out of our love for the Lord.

Let me take you back some 2000 years ago. As the sacrificial lamb, Jesus Christ's blood was spread all over the cross as the authorities crushed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head, they spit into His face and plucked his beard out (have you ever shaved with a dull razor)? Jesus' back was ripped to shreds by the lashes of the whip. Then on the cross a spear was thrust in his side, and his hands and feet were nailed with nails large enough to hold Jesus disfigured bloody body.

Why? You may ask why, would God let His only Begotten Son be the sacrificial lamb for you and me?

The answer would be, so that everyone could be freed from the slavery of sin in their lives. So, as I take the bread representing Jesus flesh, and the juice representing Jesus' shed blood- I remember the true reason I partake of the elements.

I never fail to offer a prayer of confession, asking the forgiveness of my sins and always include a heartfelt prayer of thankfulness for my Lord's love shown to me.

Every communion should be a time of joy and rejoicing, knowing that we have a Savior who has given us the power to resist the slavery of Satan's sins so prevalent in our world today.

Thank You Jesus – Hallelujah!

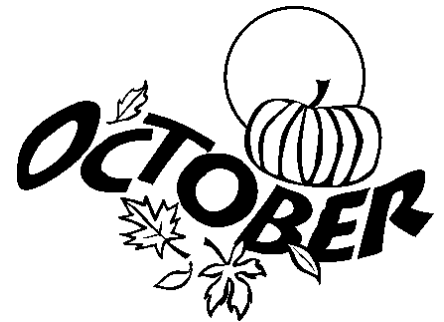
A quick note from Tim

At our August barbecue I was talking with the cooks when I heard this voice call out from behind a bush. Just at that moment an empty plastic gallon jug went flying from behind that same bush. We all looked that way as the smoke of the barbecue surrounded the bush, and we saw no one. I turned to the group of men and proclaimed, "This is the smoke from the burning bush and yet the bush is not consumed. Should we remove our shoes because we are standing on holy ground?" One of the men straightened me out, "No that's just Jake, and he's behind the bush washing out the plastic jugs for recycling." I love it. It was one of those unforgettable moments.

Plans are already in motion for a crusade to be held at the Granite City High School Football Stadium. As renewal and revival begins, we will indeed be standing on holy ground. There will be a pre-Crusade Rally on September 27, 2009 at Wilson Park Ice Arena. The City-wide Crusade is Sunday night through Wednesday night, October 18-20, 2009. Bill Saye, a nationally recognized public school speaker, is the host for this event. Please be at prayer about the "Awakening '09" crusade, and please attend. More churches are getting interested, so mark your calendar for this unforgettable event.



Tim's Tub Thumping



"AWAKENING '09".

October 18, 19, & 20

Gifts to support this crusade can be sent to:

Awakening '09
Gateway Baptist
Association
620 Engineer Road
Granite City, IL
62040

Just for grins

1900 Pontoon Road
Granite City, IL 62040

PHONE:
(618) 877-1936

FAX:
(618) 877-1937

E-MAIL:
www.nameokiumc@charterinternet.com

Join the Youth Group!!
Ages 5th grade to 12th!



We're on the Web!
See us at:
Nameokiumc.org

A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd. While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar. So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle.

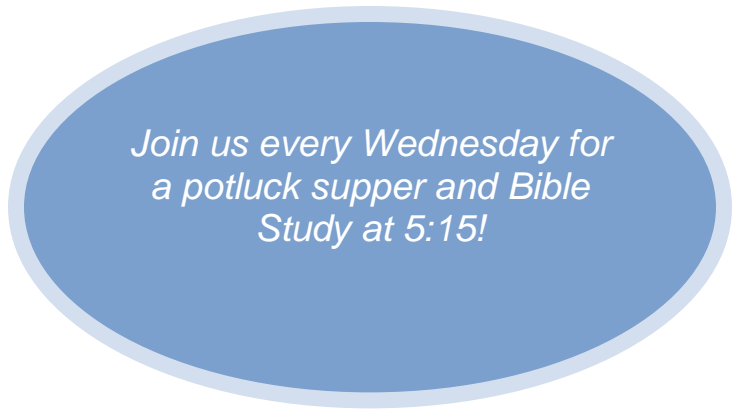
As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit. When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

ZZZZZZZZZZ

The Bible Study class is studying and discussing the *One Month to Live Challenge!*



Our Service Times

Which service will you be attending?
8:15 a.m. Informal Service
9:15 Sunday school for all ages / Nursery provided

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
Sunday Evenings
4:00- 6:00 Jr. High Youth
5:00-7:00 Sr. High Youth

Wednesday Evenings
5:15 Potluck
6:15 Bible Study
Look forward to seeing you here!

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September 2009

In God We Trust

