

# Keeping in Touch

Indian Heights United Methodist Church  
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Overland Park KS 66207-3148

Preschool/PDO #648-5343  
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December 14, 2011  
Irregularly  
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## **2011 Kansas East Annual Conference By Lay Delegate, Dick Fischer - Continued**

### **Memorial Service “End of life brings assurance of heaven” Karla Woodward, peaching.**

The ministries of 25 clergy and clergy spouses were celebrated during the Memorial Service at the 2011 Kansas East Annual Conference. Pastor Karla Woodward, an associate pastor at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, was the featured preacher. Rev. Woodward gave a compassionate address on one's end of life's journey from her experiences as a pastor to the dying.

Clergy who were honored during the Memorial Service include Walter Brant, Paul Deever, Dwight Dussair, Richard Johnson, Wendell Johnson, Fran Manson, Clyde Noyce, Roger Peng, James Rodgers, Larry Smith, John Swomley, Frank Warren, Paul Wiand and Kevin Williams.

Clergy spouses who were honored during the Memorial Service include Marjorie Endsley, Virginia Hildyard, John Justice, Robert Kochersperger, Carol Mix, Wanda Nelson, Edith Purvis, Fern Rader Spire, Gladine Roe, Madalyn Simpson, Gladys Starr, and Edith Wiley.

“Every day, I get to travel the end-of-life journey with people, and it is such an incredible blessing,” Woodward said. “Through their eyes, I can see the power and love of our Lord Jesus Christ as he leads them beside the still waters. Each of these people that we honor today have given themselves fully to building the kingdom of God, and their congregations have served the frail.”

“Yet we treasure the opportunity to help people complete their circle of faith at the end of life,” Woodward said. “Even if they forget God, God never forgets them. It is a gift to enter this journey of the end of life with people, for it is there where we can learn with the best clarity what heaven must be like.”

(con't ↑)

“And as he took his last breath, his eyes flashed with the greatest awe and wonder that you can imagine,” Woodward said. “I can't even begin to imagine the beauty that he was seeing, but I could almost catch a glimpse reflected in his eyes. But what I do know is that no one—no one—could stand in that space and not believe that the resurrection is true, that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, that the still waters had drawn him in, and he had found peace.”

### **Business of the Conference**

All registered attendees (Clergy and Lay Delegates) constitute what is called the Floor of the Conference. Any registered attendee can raise questions, submit a petition and vote from the floor. Since guests and registered attendees were intermixed in the sanctuary, the registered attendees are given a card to raise up for voting.

“Vital Signs” is a new church website being formed. It will track membership trends. There is an online email form that links to the site. Each church will make weekly input by a designated lay person or pastor. Weekly notification will be via email. Sign up. To use: Click the link to access the site. Enter values to questions (6 indicators), click save. It will take about 30 seconds. Can track trends over the year. Data will be public. The Kansas City District and Hays District will test this year and all next year. The designated reporter will be Toby Levi @ KS East Annual Conference. The website is in support of Church Revitalization. It will help set targets.

### **Capital Campaign Bridges to the Future Status Report by Gary Beach**

\$2.2 million has been received to date. Pledges started in 2008. Pledges are being paid ahead of schedule. A video was shown of Camp Shipewa, Campus Ministry, and church starts at Life Bridge & Living Waer, Hispanic Ministry and the Abide Program. Bishop Jones thanked the conference churches for their commitment.

(More to come in future issues)

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Advent season is flying by and the day of our Lord and Savior's birth is at hand. I hope to see you in worship the fourth Sunday of Advent when we think about "Unbreakable Christmas Gifts: The Gift of Peace." All of us are searching for a sense of peace during this busy season filled with parties, preparing a festive home, cooking delicious dinners and sweets, and wrapping the perfect presents for our loved ones.

I believe God is present whenever you see signs of hope, love, joy, and peace in the world. None of us have perfect families or perfect lives, and despite our desire to fill this time with the best things in life, sometimes our plans fall short of attaining the hope, love, joy, and peace that we seek. When we find the season is chaotic and anything but peaceful, that's the time to do what the shepherds did, they went to Jesus and worshiped him. It's the time to do what the angels did, they sang God's praises and spread the good news of love being born in a manger. It's time to do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams. It's time to do what the Magi did, and offer the best gifts we can to our families and friends, including the gift of our time and presence.

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve at 7:30 and 10:30 pm and on Christmas Day at 10:30 am! We will kneel at the manger and rejoice that love is born in our hearts!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Sheila Lawson

**Recognition and Installation of Officers**

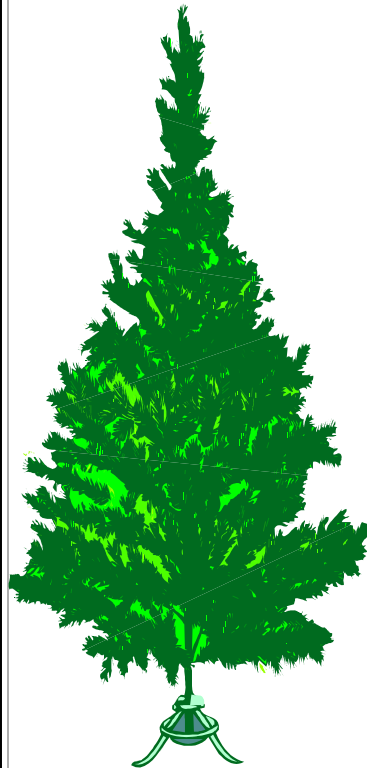
Indian Heights UMC would like to recognize and express appreciation for the officers who have served so faithfully on the committees and boards of the church whose terms have ended in 2011 on Sunday, January 15, during the 10:30 worship service. Following that, all new officers and members of committees and boards will be installed. Please plan to attend to receive the thanks of the church for service completed and service to begin in 2012.

**Confirmation Class to Begin**

Orientation for the 2012 Confirmation class will be Sunday, January 8, at 9:15 for the parents of the youth. We will meet at the round table downstairs by the kitchen and then join the youth in the Middle School Sunday School class about 9:45.

The youth will receive the curriculum and sign a covenant agreement for participation in this group. The class will be taught by Pastor Sheila Lawson and Nathan Martsof. The class will be for sixth graders through high school students. If you have not spoken to Pastor Sheila to let her know your youth is interested in participating, please email her at [umcpastorlawson@gmail.com](mailto:umcpastorlawson@gmail.com).

**December**



*Winter God, in the darkest time of year you brought in starlight, angel song, and baby cries. Stay with me as I journey to new birth and celebrate this year with prayer service and love. In the silence and stillness, fashion my prayer into a carol of praise and focus my life so that I may act*

*as a herald of Christ, the child of peace and the prophet of justice. Amen.*

Larry Peacock, *Openings*

**Concerns**



Bob Omohundro is being treated for cancer.

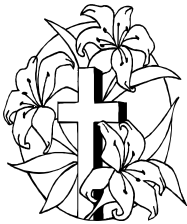
Bob Walmer had successful heart surgery and by this mailing should be home recuperating.

Jeannine Westfall's sister, Annie Simmons, will have surgery, Friday, for Glaucoma.

Please keep Bob O., Bob W., Annie, Thea Carter, Anita Taylor and their families in your thoughts & prayers.

May God surround you with his love, blessings and healing powers.

**With Deepest Sympathy**

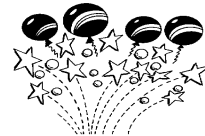


Becky Ruble's father, Dr. Jim Ruble, passed away, December 12. Please keep the Ruble and Recker families in your thoughts and prayers.

May the family feel the presence of God, the love of family, and the comfort of friends.

**December Birthdays January**

- |    |                  |    |                  |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 17 | Andy Pond        | 5  | Maddie Callicott |
| 18 | Holly Gray       |    | Laura Harvey     |
| 20 | Sherry Barncord  | 6  | Hos Evans        |
|    | Beulah Ravindran |    | Les Holdeman     |
| 22 | Vera Doull       |    | Emily Reilly     |
| 23 | Carol Grantham   |    | Sarah Thompson   |
| 25 | Lois Ediger      | 7  | Marvin Vogel     |
|    | Ron Knight       | 9  | Geneva Madden    |
|    | Lauren Muth      | 11 | Barbara Longwell |
| 28 | Lyman Rickman    | 15 | Amanda Carter    |
| 29 | Denise Schieszer | 22 | Nancy Inghram    |
| 30 | Hunter Anderson  | 26 | Diane Muth       |
|    | Alexander Young  |    |                  |



**Finance Committee**



YTD		Dec To Date	
<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
\$241,357	\$247,671	\$9,552	\$12,648
<u>(Over)/Under</u>		<u>(Over)/Under</u>	
(\$6,314)		(\$3,096)	



**Thank You**



Thank you to Nikki and Hope for helping in the Nursery on December 11.

**Poinsettias in the Sanctuary**



<b>Given by:</b>	<b>In Memory of:</b>
Betty Burum	Earl Burum & Betty & Earl's Parents
Virginia Holdeman	Virginia's Sister
Marvin Vogel Family	Their Parents & I'Della's Brother
Marvin Vogel Family	Clifford & Erma Berry & Betty McAnally

**Money Counters**



- Team 1 - Dean Guillies, Larry Dunbar
- Team 2 - Dale Sauer, Betsy Olsen
- Team 3 - Mike Carter, Stan Griffin
- Team 4 - Carol Fischer, Roger Power

Team 4	Sunday	Dec	18
Team 1	Sunday	Dec	25
Team 2	Sunday	Jan	1
Team 3	Sunday	Jan	8



**Five Practices of Fruitful Congregation**

The icons above (created by Jeri Holm) represent each of the Five Practices. From left to right, they are: Radical Hospitality (heart), Passionate Worship (music notes), Intentional Faith Development (cross & flame), Risk-taking Mission and Service (globe), and Extravagant Generosity (dollar sign).

Indian Heights United Methodist Church  
10211 Nall Avenue  
Overland Park KS 66207  
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Services  
Sheila Lawson - Pastor  
Nathan Martsolf - Christian Coordinator  
Marian Chambers - Preschool/PDO  
Jackie Vogt - Administrative Assistant  
Kristi Klein - Choir Director  
Emily Davidson - Piano/Organist

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

OFFICE HOURS  
9:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
Monday—Thursday

**Please be sure  
to wear your  
name tags**

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**Important Dates to Remember**

- Sun Dec 18 **Come one, come all** to the Chili Supper - 5:00 p.m.  
Then stay for the Youth Sing - 5:45 p.m.  
And the Chancel Choir Cantata - 6:00 p.m.  
Luminary Walk to follow the Cantata
- Sat Dec 24 Holy Communion will be served at both Christmas Eve Services - 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.
- Sun Dec 25 Christmas Service - 10:30 a.m.  
A short Birthday Party for Jesus, in the foyer, will follow the worship service.
- Mon Dec 26 **No Committee Meetings**

**Youth Choir - Wednesdays - 6:30-7:00 p.m.**

**Adult Choir - Wednesdays - 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Youth Group** - (7th -12th grade) 1st & 3rd Sunday afternoons from - 4:30 p.m.

Questions - call Nate, 816-797-5599; or email, [nathanmartsolf@gmail.com](mailto:nathanmartsolf@gmail.com)

**Barnabas** meets 3rd Wednesday of month for **young** and **old** to get together to hand make encouraging cards for people of our congregation.

Mission Statement

The mission of Indian Heights United Methodist Church is to worship God, to follow Jesus joyfully, and to build community and mend the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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**Publication Date:** Wed. Dec. 14, 2011. **Next Touch:** Wed. Jan 11, 2012.  
**Deadlines** for announcements in the church bulletin are Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

**Touch Deadline:** Mon. Jan 9 2012, noon.  
**Editor:** Jackie Vogt, 913-649-9040.

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