



Rev. Joel Catlin will reprise the role of Peter Cartwright, a famous Methodist circuit rider at 1:30pm on August 12

### Historical Re-enactment: Circuit Rider

Peter Cartwright, a famous Methodist circuit-riding preacher, will be brought to life by Rev. Joel P. Catlin in a performance at our anniversary celebration on August 12 from 1:30 to 2:00pm.

Cartwright, a contemporary of Abraham Lincoln, rivaled Lincoln in political power in Sangamon County during Lincoln's early political career, even defeating Lincoln for the office of state representative. Lincoln later defeated Cartwright in a bid for Congress.

Cartwright was even better known as a religious leader. For more than 50 years he held the position of Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church -- a tenure no other leader

has matched. His humorous and powerful style of preaching and the fire in his heart for the Lord converted more than 12,000 people. He baptized over 15,000.

This portrait of the circuit rider is brought to life by Catlin, who first performed the role in the 1980s in "The Backwoods Preacher", a full-length production written by Rev. Gary Motta. Catlin later wrote a shorter version of Cartwright's tales and has portrayed the circuit rider more than 200 times at youth rallies, church celebrations, historical events and the Illinois State Fair.

Catlin currently serves as Pastor of Discipleship at O'Fallon UMC.

### Do We Have 2020 Vision?

This fall, a vision study will get underway which will aid the church in discovering its mission for the years ahead.

way to meet the needs of God's people in this community through service, study, prayer and discipleship."

"By spending time in study, prayer and conversation, it will become clearer to us what God's plan is for us at this time and in this place," said Pastor Nancy. "I believe the people of this church have been gifted in a special

By developing a vision, we can focus our efforts and resources into those areas that will make the biggest impact for Christ.

Stay tuned for details about the 2020 Vision planning kickoff and your part in it!



### Kid's Café Wrapping Up for Summer

There are only a few weeks remaining in the Kid's Café program. This program, a joint ministry effort between First UMC and St. Paul United Church of Christ, is designed to bridge the food gap between school terms for children in the free lunch program at school.

Each Wednesday during the summer, children and their families are able to pick up their weekly allotment of foodstuffs. The items include a healthy assortment of bread,

milk, protein, fruits, vegetables and more and are designed to be food items that children can prepare on their own without cooking.

For those families who have participated in the program, the impact is real. Many tear up when asked about the importance of these meals to their family. We're glad we can be part of God's work in this community!



### Worship Notes for August



Worship

Throughout July, we've been "Coming to Our Senses" each Sunday as we've explored the five senses of Sight, Sound, Touch, Taste, and Smell. On **August 5**, we conclude this series by introducing the sixth sense — the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday, **August 12**, our worship service time will change from 9am to 11:30am so that we can move directly from worship into a picnic luncheon on the grounds. The message will be "A Seed Was Planted Here" and will celebrate the legacy left by those who responded to God's call to establish a Methodist house of worship in our community.

The Celebration service will also include comments from former pastors and a rededication of our sanctuary to the glory of God. Come and celebrate God's goodness!

Monthly observance of the Lord's Supper will resume the first Sunday in September.



Planting seeds of faith

### Surveys Due Aug 22

One of the inserts in this newsletter is a survey seeking your feedback on what study topics are of interest to the congregation. It's important that we focus our efforts on the greatest needs of our faith community.

Among the possibilities are new member classes, confirmation classes, and discipleship studies along with traditional seasonal (e.g., Advent) offerings.

Please return completed surveys to the church no later than August 22.

### Focus on Finances



June expenses:	\$3,645
June income:	\$2,915
Average monthly target (\$)	\$3,879
2012 Budget:	\$46,552
% Received in June	6.3%
% Average Monthly Target	8.3%

### Back to School Prayer

*Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Staunton UMC to Host Lay Speaker Training

Our church has been selected to be the site of the fall basic lay speaker training course for the Mississippi River District (MRD).

Offered each year, the course helps equip those who have been recommended as a lay speaker by their congregation. Cheryl Best is one of those individuals.

Through a series of eight training sessions, individuals learn, discuss, and practice the art of lay speaking.

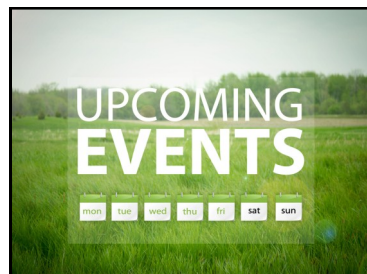
The Staunton location was identified, in part, because of the larger number of candidates in this area of district needing training. Also, Pastor Nancy has been serving on this district-wide committee for the last three years and feels strongly about supporting and equipping those desiring to serve the Lord in this way.

Training sessions will be held on Sunday afternoons at 2:00-5:00pm from September 23 through November 18.



**First United Methodist Church**

501 W Main  
Staunton, IL 62088



**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the September newsletter will be **August 22.**



**Phone**  
618-635-3010

**E-mail**  
stauntonumc@gmail.com

**Web**  
stauntonumc.yolasite.com



**Facebook**  
facebook.com/stauntonumc



**Twitter**  
twitter.com/stauntonumc

**August 1**  
Kid's Café, 1-3pm, St. Paul UCC  
Bible Study, 6:30pm

**August 4**  
Pancake Breakfast, 7-10am

**August 5**  
Worship Service, 9am  
Administrative Council Meeting

**August 8**  
Kid's Café, 1-3pm, St. Paul UCC  
Bible Study, 6:30pm

**August 12**  
Worship Service, 11:30am  
Picnic Luncheon, 12:30pm  
Historical Re-enactment, 1:30pm  
Pickin' Chicks concert, 2:00pm

**August 15**  
Kid's Café, 1-3pm, St. Paul UCC  
Bible Study, 6:30pm

**August 19**  
Worship Service, 9am

**August 22**  
Bible Study, 6:30pm  
Surveys due

**August 26**  
Worship Service, 9am

**August 22**  
Bible Study, 6:30pm



**August 6-11**  
His Service Station  
10-2 Monday through Saturday



at  
[stauntonumc.yolasite.com/calendar-of-events.php](http://stauntonumc.yolasite.com/calendar-of-events.php)

**Celebrations!**

We recognize the following folks as they celebrate birthdays & anniversaries!

**August 4**  
Marilyn and Delmo Maroso

**August 5**  
George Bruhn

**August 8**  
Erin Wilson

**August 9**  
Mike and Nancy Wilson

**August 11**  
Robert Chiti

**August 13**  
Casey Best

**August 16**  
Robert and Betty Chiti

**August 22**  
Maette Berg

**August 26**  
George Hall

**August 30**  
Emil and Bertha Pintar

**August 31**  
Cindy and Roger Pfalzgraf



**Church Chuckles**

**Good Night**

God: "Whew! I just created a twenty-four-hour period of alternating light and darkness on earth."

Angel: "What are you going to do now?"

God: "Call it a day."

From the *World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes*

# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church - Staunton, IL



Volume 2, Issue 2  
August 2012



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In a recent Children's Sermon, the congregation was challenged to perform 175 random acts of kindness during the weeks leading up to our 175th church anniversary. The idea was met with a great deal of enthusiasm and, within the first week, numerous acts of kindness took place in the community. Each week, the tally of these acts are recorded on a chart using heart-shaped paper with the hope that the chart will be filled to overflowing at the time of our anniversary celebration.

I'm finding that this challenge really brings out the best in all of us. The conversations I have had with several of you shows me that these random acts bring just as much joy to the one who performed the kindness as the one who received it! This way of giving and sharing embodies so much of who we are called to be in Christ as evidenced by scripture:

- \* Loving our neighbors as ourselves (*Matthew 22:39*)
- \* Healing the sick, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry (*Matthew 25:35-46*)
- \* Valuing the interests of others (*Philippians 2:3-4*)
- \* Loving others as Christ first loved us. (*1 John 4:19*)
- \* Being a cheerful giver (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)
- \* Love as kindness (*1 Corinthians 13:4*)
- \* Show hospitality to strangers (*Hebrews 13:2*)

When we do for others, we do for Christ. When we think about how Jesus has come into our hearts and has transformed who we are and given purpose to our lives, we can't help but want to share that joy with others!

—Pastor Nancy



**Parsonage Updates**

Recent repairs/updates to the parsonage include:

- \* Painting of the walls and ceilings throughout
- \* Replacement of worn-out wooden front door with secure steel door

- \* Replacement of subflooring in first floor bathroom and new stool and sink.
- \* Removal of carpeting, cleaning of floors and preparations for new flooring

To complete the project, donations are still being sought. Gifts can be directed to the Building Fund. Thank you.

