



Vermont Street Views

December 21, 2011



ALPHA COURSE

At a small Methodist church east of London, a group of 12 individuals had gathered to talk. Kathy and I were invited to join them for the afternoon. They were participating in a 12-week study called **The Alpha Course**. We were pleasantly surprised to find that Alpha has a relaxed atmosphere where Christians and non-Christians can discuss the basics of the Christian faith in a non-threatening way. Here was the place to bring your questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and the practices of Christianity.

Consider the following acrostic to describe the *Alpha Course*:

- A**nyone interested in finding out more on the Christian faith
- L**earning and Laughter
- P**asta (every session begins with a free meal)
- H**elping one another
- A**sk anything ("If you could ask God one question, what would you ask?")

Alpha

What will we do? Have you ever desired a place to talk with a small group of people openly and honestly about faith and life? Join us. Alpha will be held on Sunday nights beginning January 15 from 5:30pm-8:00pm. Alpha concludes on April 8.

VERMONT STREET
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

818 VERMONT STREET
QUINCY, IL 62301

217-222-7468

www.vsumc.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

WORSHIP SERVICES:

9 AM CLASSIC

11 AM CONTEMPORARY

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10 AM

Who is it for? It is designed for Agnostics, Believers, Atheists, Christians, and all the rest of us who fall somewhere in between, depending on the day.

What is the cost? No cost at all!

How do I register? Formal registration is not required. However, if you fill out a card (in Gathering Place) or call our church office, you can indicate your plans to attend. This will assist us in our preparation.

Where and When? Beginning January 15, 2012, 5:30-8:00pm. Vermont Street Church Fellowship Hall.

Since its inception more than twenty years ago, 17 million people have walked through *The Alpha Course* around the world. It's run in tens of thousands of schools, prisons, homes and churches of all denominations. Now our time has come.

-Scott Grulke

-Tony Gongaware

Vermont Street UMC Staff

Scott Grulke, Pastor
 Tony Gongaware, Youth Director
 W. Kirby Eber, Organist
 Nicole Conetzkey, Chancel Choir Director
 Stacy Taylor, Connection Director
 Jean Murray, Bell Choir Director
 Stacie Spradlin, Children's Choir Dir.
 Hope Tucker, Sec./Admin. Asst.
 Jerry Carnivale, Business Manager
 Al Jones, Custodian
 Tanya Beth, Preschool Director
 Laurie Meulemans, Mom's Day Out Dir.
 Jean Barnes, Nursery Staff

REMINDERS FOR JANUARY

Ushers: Jim Stebor, John Todd,
 Brad Billings, Kent Stevenson,
 Blaine Strock, Merle Crossland,
 Gary Hemming

Gathering Place Volunteers:

January 1: Alan & Judy Van De Boe
January 8: Joe & Joan Kerkhoff
January 15: Bruce & Lori Kruse
January 22: Bob & Nancy Elliott
January 29: Bruce & Shirley Tode

Sunday Stewards:

List not available

Greeters:

January 1: (9:00) Clif & Karen Weisinger, Jim & Elaine Sours (11:00) Chris & Kim Larson family
January 8: (9:00) Joyce Staff, Vicky Connors, Don & Pat Smith (11:00) Mike & Barb Klingner
January 15: (9:00) Brett & Debbie Gorman, Loretta Hyslop (11:00) Dennis & Sharon Adams and family
January 22: (9:00) Jay & Linda Sade, Bob & Joyce McDonough (11:00) Justin & Nathalie Messan
January 29: (9:00) Jay & Linda Sade, Don & Sue Altheide (11:00) Bill & Elaine Weinberg

Communion Stewards

January 1: *info not available*

Please notify the church office with any changes in address, phone or e-mail. Call 222-7468 or e-mail vsumc@adams.net

January Views schedule:
Views deadline: January 18
Views mailed: January 25

YOUTH NEWS

Tony Gongaware,
 Youth Director
 vsumcyouth@gmail.com

Every Sunday, 10-11 a.m.
 Sunday School in the Loft.

January Schedule

1/1 No Youth Group
 1/8 Regular Youth Group
 1/15 Alpha Introduction
 1/22 Alpha Week 1: Who is Jesus?
 1/29 Alpha Wk 2: Why Did Jesus Die?

Every year people make New Year's resolutions. However, most of them usually last only a few days or weeks before they are nothing but a nice thought. Have you made a resolution for this year? Is there one thing you really want to accomplish in 2012? As you are thinking over this question, I would offer you some encouragement to join me in my resolution for this year. I have accepted the challenge that the IGRC has issued to its members: *Read the entire Bible this year.* I know that it sounds scary, but when you break it down it really is pretty doable. To read the entire Bible this year all you have to do is read a little more than 3 chapters each day. I promise you that if you commit to a regular reading plan for the year, 2012 will be a year of great spiritual growth for you and the church as a whole. Will you join me? Let's LEARN God's word together in 2012.

- Tony

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	9 am	11 am	Total
Nov 27	198	94	292
Dec 4	191	115	306
Dec 11	184	155	339
Dec 18	183	105	288

November Budget Fund Report

Beginning Balance.....	\$33,484.16
Income	\$37,491.68
Expenses	\$46,011.48
Ending Balance.....	\$24,964.36

ALTAR FLOWERS



Jean Gilchrist is one of those numerous individuals at Vermont Street Church who volunteer quietly to enhance the details of our ministry. For 20 years, she has coordinated the weekly altar flowers, candles, and changed the paraments of liturgical color, among many other duties.

Now it is time for her to hand down these responsibilities. We are grateful for the gifts she has shared. Starting last month, these tasks are now overseen by Marian Sorenson.

Thanks to both of you!

The 2012 altar flower sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the Gathering Place. Please sign up early to get the date you desire.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Marian Sorenson at 224-7774 or e-mail sorensonmj@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE



at the KROC Center
 January 22 from 2-5 pm.
 Free event for our Church family coordinated by the Fun & Fellowship Committee.

Watch for sign-up sheets in the Gathering Place coming soon!



Since I was a child, I have had episodes of rapid heartbeat due to a valve problem in my heart. As I grew older, these episodes happened more frequently. Usually, I would wind up in the emergency room. The treatment was a \$700 shot to momentarily stop the heart then start it into a normal rhythm. In November 2002, after trips to the hospital about every three months, I again started having the symptoms in the middle of the night, my heart racing so fast I couldn't count my pulse. My husband had just paid the previous hospital bill, so I stayed home as long as I could, not wanting to go to the hospital.

I have always turned to prayer in time of need and this time was no exception. Something about this prayer was different, very fervent--I reached my hands and arms

heavenward and prayed for help and healing. Nothing happened right away and off we went to the ER yet again.

As I entered the hospital and sat down, Mike parked the car. Just as I sat down, I felt a very warm sensation in my chest, the racing heart returned to normal. I went back home and I have never had to go back to ER since that night. I have never had another episode of tachycardia. I believe the healing hand of God touched me that night.

My sister, who knew of my heart problems, always said afterwards that I must be doing something differently to not have the heart problems anymore. The only thing I'm doing differently is thanking God daily for loving me enough to answer a prayer said in haste, with all sincerity, in the middle of the night.

- Kathy Emerick



AMONG OUR FOLKS



Notes of Thanks

• Thank you for all the beautiful cards and notes sent to me on my 100th birthday. I appreciate my church family and your thoughtfulness.
God bless you all,
Millie Gates

• Each month the Salvation Army assists the community with food, medicine, clothing, transportation, rent, utilities and shelter. We could never do these things alone. We are blessed by your efforts on behalf of others. May God bless you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.
- Salvation Army

With Sympathy

• Elsie Lichtenberg, 89, passed away on November 18 in Good Samaritan Home. She taught for 37 years in Quincy Public Schools.

• Betty Jones, 87, passed away on November 27 in Sunset Home. She was active in many civic and volunteer organizations.


• Nancy Selvy, 84, passed away on December 9 in Good Samaritan Home. She was a volunteer and member of many organizations over the years.

Congratulations

• Leo William Cassens was born to Greg & Hannah Cassens on Dec. 2. Grandparents are Mike & Barb Klingner.

• Laura Grace Gregory was born to Jon & Erica Gregory on Dec. 5. Grand-parents are Stacy & Debbie Taylor.

The Spirit of the Lord
is on me
to preach good news to the poor
to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.



Luke 4:18

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Starting Jan 8 in the library:
God's Story Your Story by Max Lucado

Start out the new year with a great new Bible-based study. In this 6-session video study, popular pastor and bestselling author Max Lucado gives you a fresh perspective on how your daily life relates to God's grand epic story. Your journey of faith will come alive as you explore the divine story in the New Testament and contemporary characters and discover how the ancient stories of scripture reveal God's plan for you today.

With personal warmth and heartfelt examples, Max peels back the chaos and confusion of your story to reveal God's loving and orderly purpose and perspective. You will discover how seeing your life as a chapter in the divine narrative enables you to trust your heavenly Father through any crisis that comes.

For more info or questions, contact
Karen Buckwalter at kbuckwalter@att.net

**Don't know what to do with all
those Christmas cards?**

**Donate them to the
Good Samaritan Home
Placematters! They need all
types of cards and calendars.**

Drop off at 2130 Harrison

**CHOIR
News**



The Chancel Choir is excited to begin a new year together. I challenge you to try something new this year. Share your voice and join us in singing! We are all here to help each other learn and share beautiful music -- no matter what your singing ability. We look forward to a new year filled with good friends and glorious music!

Please, do not hesitate to ask a question, offer some feedback, or just say hello.

Nicole Conetzkey, Chancel Choir Director
nicoleconetzkey@gmail.com



MOVIE NIGHT

Thursdays 6 p.m.
Café Vermont



January 12 - St. Louis World's Fair 1904
Documentary

January 19 - The Dream's On Me
Documentary about Johnny Mercer

January 26 - All the King's Men
Political drama starring Broderick Crawford

February 2 - Vertigo
*James Stewart stars as a detective in this
Alfred Hitchcock classic.*

February 9 - Abe Lincoln in Illinois
PLEASE JOIN US!!!

End of Year Financial Info

Envelopes for 2012 are available at the table near the elevator. If your envelopes are missing, please send me an e-mail at jerryvsumc@adams.com or call 222-7468.

End of the Year Giving: Any giving that you want on your 2011 giving statement must be received at the Church on or before December 29, 2011, or post-marked 2011.

Some of the **giving statements** I sent you for the first nine months of 2011 were missing some entries. In the coming weeks, I will be correcting those statements. The giving statements for 2011 will be mailed to you around January 20, 2012.

Those of you who have not returned your **Estimate of Giving cards for 2012** may still return them to the office or put them in the mail slot in my door. Remember, no gift is too small.

*Have a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year! Jerry*

UMW CALENDAR

Jan. 11	Board meeting, Library 9:30 AM
Jan. 24	Dolphine Fellowship 7 PM at Joyce McDonough's
Jan. 25	Mary Martha Fellowship 9:30 AM Agnes Vahle hostess in Café Vt
Jan. 26	Deborah Ruth Fellowship 9:30 AM



Birthdays

- 1 Rosanna Nowell
- 2 Fred Weber
- 3 Michael Maddox,
Glory Messan, Grace Messan
- 4 Amelia Crane, Jeff Hughes
- 5 Mary Beth Bush
- 6 Olivia Ernst, Susan Seals,
Jim Weede
- 7 Mary Cash, Jay Sade
- 8 Stacy Taylor

- 9 Sue Altheide, Christopher
Bennett
- 10 Lauren Sieck, Lu Knipmeyer
- 11 Richard Bartlett, James Ulm,
Douglas Inman, Ethan Barnes
- 12 Tanya Beth, Angela Ketteman,
Jack Godley
- 14 Bill Jellison
- 17 Dan Coulter, Pat Smith, Dean
Wiseman
- 18 Kristopher Cory, Ashley Klutz
- 19 Paul Duker, Pam Elston,
Ed Willing, Jennifer Altheide
- 21 Trey Ehrhart, Jennifer Gerdes
- 23 Karen Anderson, Diane Sloan
Bill Weinberg, Andrew Crane,
Jane Drummond
- 24 Marilyn Vincent
- 25 Bruce Kruse
- 26 Michael Smith
- 27 Wayne Elston
- 28 Kay Dodds, Chick Sloan,
John Deemer

- 29 Joan Beasley
- 30 DeForrest Beasley, Steve Failor,
Stephanie Saalborn, Venora
Deemer
- 31 Ruth Daniels, Megan Sieck,
Carol Drummond,
Helen Summy

Anniversaries

- 9 Brett & Debbie Gorman
- 10 Tom & Bonnie Ranson
- 17 Rick & Carol Parise
- 29 John & Venora Deemer



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