



# The Erie Evangel

May 2008

604 Holbrook Street  
Erie, CO  
80516

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## What's The Big Idea?



### **Emergent – Established = Never the Twain Shall Meet???**

At the 1939 World's Fair in New York a great mural portraying things to come showed all kinds of marvelous developments that would be in the world of the future. Barely visible, over in a corner, was a small monastery indicating the place of religion in this modern scene. That vision was flat out wrong. Religion is still here – alive and vital.

Based on the alarming statistics of the decline of the “main line” Protestant Churches (a new report affirming this conclusion was in your paper recently) the prediction is that the churches will reach a place in the near future when they will no longer exist or be stagnant, minor players in the religious arena. In the 70's Dean Kelley wrote a book\* analyzing this trend and stating that once a religious movement springs forth and then stabilizes into an institution they peak and begin to decline – either losing the impetus that brought them into being or actually becoming an inversion of their original purpose. He says that there has never been a case in which the downwards spiral has been reversed. I'm not ready to surrender the United Methodist Church to that conclusion but I'm swimming upstream against the rush of history in holding to that opinion.

I believe that God will sustain His church in some form but what will that form be? If the United Methodist Church and all other “main line” churches are to be bypassed as irrelevant, outmoded, dead – a hindrance to the work of the Kingdom – then what will the new expression of faith look like?

For the last several years a movement known as the emerging (or emergent) church has captured the imagination and given new hope to many who were disillusioned with the existing or established church. The basic thesis is that we need a new mentality and new methods to reach the post-modern generation which is jaded and skeptical about religion or who claim to be spiritual without needing institutional religion to be Christian. They do not trust bureaucracies, authority, traditional church worship, the church's “edifice complex,” etc. If there is to be an organizational entity it must shift its emphasis from our current preoccupation with maintenance to a bold new life of mission.

You enabled me to attend a conference on this very subject – can the established church recapture the thrust of the basic ideas of the emergent movement or are we too far gone and too embedded in our old ways to make the change? If you bake a loaf of bread without yeast you can't go back and add it. But God can. Never say never.

I believe that the Holy Spirit can resurrect the church. The Valley of Dry Bones can reconnect and live again. The Spirit can breathe new life into us. I believe that a handful of disciples at the Erie United Methodist Church can be recipients of this gift so that God can act through us as major players in the resurrection of the church. We'll need to think differently. We'll have to jettison some of our old ways of doing things and ingrown practices. We are an established United Methodist Church – we can't help that but we can be open to God's activity among us as we become the church alive – emergent and established – bringing the fire and not the ashes from the altars of the past. Let the church say 'Amen'.

In Christ's Love,  
*Jim*

\* Why the Conservative Churches Are Growing



## **MISSION NEWS FOR MAY**

**“Choosing Hope”** was the theme of the opening session of General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Ft. Worth Texas on April 23! So how are we at Erie UMC choosing and offering hope to those around us and those who are around the globe?

Here are some of the ways we are doing just that !

1. Our church voted by a “bean vote” to sponsor Dr. Albert Willicor, Chief Medical Officer at Ganta Hospital in Liberia in a Covenant Relationship. What does being in a Covenant really mean? It means we’ll PRAY for Dr. Willicor and his work, COMMUNICATE-we’ll write him and email him and hopefully he will be able to email us . Dr. Willicor’s wife, Angeline , is a nurse at Ganta Hospital and they are the parents of 3 daughters and one son. We’ve given \$5 per member for his SUPPORT from our church budget.
2. Supporting Kenya students and a secondary school in Meru. In December, we collected and sent funds to buy textbooks for Form 4(grade 12). They have been meeting in a primary school and now are starting to build a new school for their high school students.
- 3 .Supporting the food banks at the OUR Center, DENUM, and Sister Carmen Center-we all have noticed the increase in the cost of groceries. Keep bringing staple items to be shared with these ministries!
- 4 On May 17 , the Center for the Church and Global Aids is sponsoring a Brunch at Strings Restaurant in Denver called “Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother”. It will benefit AIDS orphans in Kenya. Tickets are 2 for \$150. See Joanie for details.
5. Erie UMC hosts the Root Beer Garden booth at the Erie Town Fair in the park from 5-9 P.M. We need donations of soda pop and ice cream bars and helpers to serve pizza. Contact Joanie for details.
6. On May 18, we observe Peace with Justice Sunday.
7. On May 31, Erie UMC will partner with Lifesong Church in a Community Work Day. We need volunteers any hours you can assist from 8A.M.-4 P.M. See Ray Bundy to volunteer.

THANKS FOR CHOOSING HOPE!



### **Birthdays for May**

**Samantha Glennen May 1    Grace Cunningham May 2**  
**Larry Kamenoff May 2    Donna Gratton May 9**  
**Anna Lesser May 27**

## Church Events For the Month of May

### Thursday May 1st

World Day of Prayer  
7:00 pm Life Song Church on Briggs Street

### Sun May 4th—Communion

Sermon  
“A Gentle Falling Rain!”  
Acts 2: 41-47

### Sunday May 11th

Pentecost Sunday— Mothers Day  
(Wear red & white to church)

Sermon  
“Holy Spirit.....Huh?”  
Acts 2 1-13

### Tuesday May 13th

Administrative Board  
6:00 p.m.

### Sunday May 18th

(Peace with Justice Sunday)

Sermon  
“Throw out the Junk!”  
Psalm 51, Heb 12 1-3

### Wednesday May 21st

Women’s Fellowship Meeting  
1:00 p.m.  
In the fellowship hall

### Sunday May 25th

Memorial Sunday  
Sermon  
“Let Me As Christ Is To You!!”  
Ex. John 17, John 20: 19-23

### Saturday May 31st

Sharefest  
9:00—4:00 p.m.  
Churches working together  
To beautify & improve our city.  
Talk to Jim or Ray

### Sunday June 1st

Joint Service with Life Song Church

### HYMN REQUESTS??

Write your request on a piece of paper and please  
leave in the offering plate. Lets make a joyful  
noise together and share the old favorites !!





### Prayer Concerns

Elsie Seay

Betty Morris—Jim & Joanie's Friend

Marshall Frasier—Jim & Joanie's Friend

Ordway Fire Victims

Our Troops overseas

The Election

Violet Ann's 3 year old friend with cancer.

Evelyn Smith

John McAdams, Sr.



The Rocky Mountain Conference offers a variety of Camping Experiences for Children and Youth. If you are interested, the brochures are in the Church Office. Contact Jim.



**George Bachelder**—Many improvements to the Church.

**Rails, Door, Hot Water Tank, Etc. Etc.**

**Theresa Pelser**—Kitchen Overhaul

**The Clark's**—Donation of Piano

**Linda Freund**—Lenten Study Class

**From Growing Home**—Thanks for the 40 Easter Baskets (Becky)

**Our Church grows as we invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to share with us in worship, study, service, and fellowship.**

## Pentecost

Pentecost, the “fiftieth day”, ends the season of Easter and is May 11th this year. It can be tied to the Old Testament times as a festival celebrating the first grain or fruit harvest, sacrificing the first part of that harvest to the gods. Fifty days after the Passover, symbolized by the unleavened bread, came the Shavu't, when the bread was leavened and the blessing of harvest was celebrated by the Jews giving thanks to God.

As you recall, Jesus' death happened during the Passover. The disciples along with 120 others were meeting in a house when “suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them in tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and then rested on each one of them” (Acts 2:2-3). They were empowered to preach the gospel and experienced the miracle of preaching in the native languages of the people listening. There were 3000 people that were saved and baptized that day.

Pentecost is an exciting occasion calling for fresh commitment and energy. On Pentecost Sunday, wear red or flame-orange to signify fire, zeal and passion. Symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, the breath of God and a Dove.

Let us celebrate the Spirit Jesus sent us and look for ways to build each other up with the gifts He has given us.

**Wear Red & White to Church on May 11th.**

**OPPS!**

### Mistakes in Church Bulletins



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.  
Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.



There has been much going on within the mission, youth and the generous nature of our church folks... On Palm Sunday this year the 10-13 yr aged Sunday School Class celebrated by carrying the palm branches, circling the church and concluding by laying the branches at the altar. We are so thankful to their involvement as they recreated some of the feeling of the crowds holding the palms over Christ as he entered the city.

For Easter this year there are so many people to thank so if any of you are not mentioned please understand. We chose several ways to be in mission and to honor the Easter Season. We did an Easter Basket collection donation to Growing Home, a homeless program for families. The generosity of this congregation brought in 40 baskets, full of the practical things to help with homeless children needs and lots of fun goodies. People brought things to fill the baskets for several weeks in advance of Easter and a big thankyou to the group that helped put all the goods together for Becky to pick up and deliver to the organization. A huge thank you to Evelyn, Vi, Dianela, Shirley, Carol, Margie and others for this project.

Theresa and the children of the church made lovely flower pots, decorated them, filled them with flowers and offered them as gifts of Spring and Easter to the families who were at the Easter Service. Thank you to all of the wonderful ideas and energy for that remembrance.

Dianella and her crew put together an outstanding Easter Egg Hunt in the park behind the church, even on a snow filled day, the kids (big and small) leaped out into the yard with their baskets. The joy on the faces accelerated even more when the eggs were found to have not only candy goodies but numbers so that the children could pick out prizes. Everyone seemed to really enjoy this tradition and hearing the kids laughter. It also seems that many of the men helped to hide those eggs.

For all of these programs we are so grateful to have individuals and families who give of their love, their time and their energy. The Deckers, The Pelsers, The McAdams, The Smiths, The Rydlewskis, The Whittakers, Lonnie Yenney, The Olivarezes, The Bachelders, The Bundys, The Reverend Jim Calhoun and Joanie, The Clarks, Larry Kamenoff, The Hodels, The Lessers and the Gross family. A special thanks to our Associate and Intern, Linda Freund and the Education Committee. Once again if we have forgotten individuals or families we apologize.



**Saturday May 17th 8 am - 2 pm**  
**Parking Lot of United Methodist Church**  
**South Boulder Road & Centaur**  
**Reserve your Spot Now      Call Le Tattershall@303-665-4632**

## ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY

The Education Board is looking at offering some new adult groups for study and fellowship, and would like to find out about your interests and needs. Please complete the information below and return this form to the church office.

What types of study group (s) would interest you?

- **Spiritual gifts:** become clearer about *your* gifts, your personal style and ways you could serve to make a contribution to God's kingdom.
  
- **Parenting young children:** find support in sharing problems and ideas, and develop skills for parenting
  
- **Parenting teenagers:** find support in sharing problems and ideas, and develop skills for parenting
  
- **Spiritual practices** or disciplines: learn how these can help you become more open to God as you continue on your faith journey
  
- **Short-term Bible study** (8 to 11 weeks studying Old or New Testament, or books of the Bible—i.e. Psalms, Genesis, or John)
  
- **Long-term Bible study** (Disciple Bible study is a 9 month overview of both Old and New Testaments for first time or seasoned readers of the Bible. We will read about 80% of the Bible, become familiar with the whole story of God's redemptive work in creation, and how we fit into that story.)
  
- **Finances:** how to gain control over your finances, save money, live on a budget, communicate about money, eliminate debt, find bargains, and experience the joy of giving.
  
- **Other ideas** (Please explain on the back)

When is the best time for you to attend a study?

- During Sunday School hour
  
- Sunday afternoon
  
- Sunday evening
  
- Monday evening
  
- Wednesday evening
  
- Saturday morning
  
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/ email \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please add any additional comments or suggestions on the back)**