

Founded  
1850



# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

*A monthly publication of Central United Methodist Church, Lansing, Michigan*

June/July 2011

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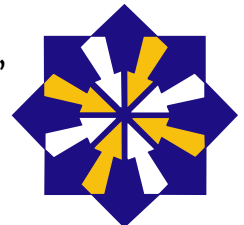
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## Opportunity Knocks

My grandson wanted to play Monopoly the other day. Do you remember the card, Community Chest, and you flip it over and read “opportunity knocks...”? Well, I believe that is where we are at Central UMC.

I've been reading a book called *Unchristian*. The author (Gabe Lyons ) has looked extensively at “unchristian” America and discovered that we “church-people” have a real PR problem. It seems most people outside the church believe we are all judgmental, anti-homosexual hypocrites. The author has written a second book called *Next Christians* which talks about how we can speak to a changing culture in more effective ways. What do you do with that kind of information?



**IN REACH  
OUTREACH**

Well, in July the pastors from Mt. Hope UMC, Grace UMC, and myself will do a little “circuit riding”. We will each preach in the other’s churches and talk about a key component of moving from such a negative view of us “church-folk” to a place where we can live out our call to be salt and light in the world, or as our UM purpose statement tells us: “making disciples for the transformation of the world.” It will be a challenging and potentially life changing series for each of us.

These same three churches have been selected by our District Superintendent to spear-head a district wide neighborhood renewal project. At our next Administrative Board Meeting, we will meet with the Director of Habitat for Humanity and hopefully begin a partnership that will enable us to begin to meet with people one neighborhood at a time for the purpose of partnering with them to transform the homes they live in and thereby also the neighborhood itself. It is about physical transformation but as we work side by side we will discover a spiritual transformation within ourselves and hopefully within the people we partner with. I'm very excited about the possibilities and honored that the DS has tapped our church to lead the charge.

Meanwhile we continue to look for ways to partner with the Willow Elementary School and make ourselves a visible presence in the community. Sometimes we think we need to “get more people into the church” and that is certainly true...when was the last time you invited someone to church by the way? If we look at the life of Christ we find that his entire life was invitational...as he reached out in love, grace, and mercy...touching new lives each day; he became a magnet that drew people to him. Some he called (invited into the journey), like the disciples, but many, many more came because they saw what he was doing, and what he was about...kingdom building. What makes Central UMC an exciting place for me to be at right now is that we are beginning to take seriously both parts of living invitational lives. See you in church this summer!

Blessings, *RON*



June 12

# Trustees

Larry Beckon, Chair, Board of Trustees

*The role of the trustees is to support and maintain all the property belonging to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective.*

## Stained Glass Windows are Back!

All 16 rebuilt panels of the stained glass window system have been reinstalled in the west wall of the sanctuary. Funding for this major project was provided by the Living Trust of Marian E. Haussman and donations by several members of our congregation. As reported earlier, there was

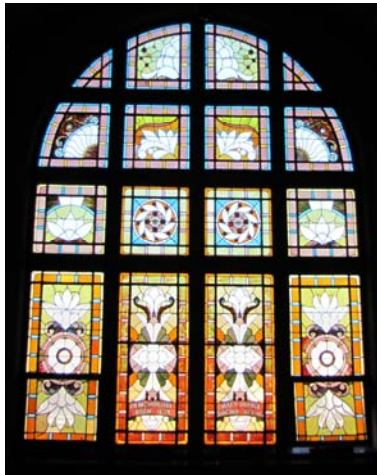


photo by Full Spectrum

considerable damage to the windows including deteriorated leading, cracks in many pieces of the stained glass, water-proofing missing in some spots, broken bevels, as well as previous repairs that did not work as intended. The quality of the work of Full Spectrum Stained Glass, Inc. in rebuilding the windows exceeded the expectations of the Board of Trustees. The best place to see the beauty of the windows is from inside the sanctuary, preferably on Sunday morning. The trustees hope that all of you will be pleased with the results.

## New Lights - Fellowship Hall and Pre-function Area

The lights under the balcony in Fellowship Hall have been in poor condition for quite some time. Now all of these lights have been replaced. When you are in Fellowship Hall in the evening, be sure to turn on these lights – they are beautiful. The combination of restored floors, new tables, new chairs, and new lights has led to making Fellowship Hall more welcoming to all. New lights have also been ordered for the ceiling of the pre-function area, which goes from the entry into Fellowship Hall to the north end of Temple House. We have been looking for the appropriate lights for that area for many, many months and have finally found exactly what is needed. We expect these lights to be installed in June. The funding for most of the restorations in Fellowship Hall have come from endowments and other contributions from the congregation.



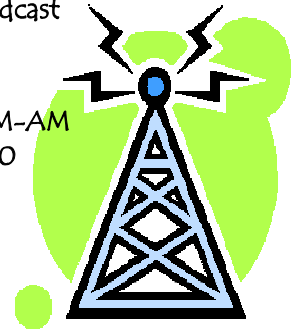
## Purchase of Scaffolds

With our tall buildings it is difficult to reach all of the areas that need to be inspected, cleaned, repaired or restored. The trustees decided to buy scaffolds to do this work and high reach painting as well. This purchase is an investment in the ongoing maintenance and restoration of Central.

*Trustees continued page 5>>*

Consider sponsoring a radio broadcast In 2011

WJIM-AM  
1240



## Church Directory

**Rev. Ron Brooks, Senior Minister**  
**Rev. Bill Amundsen, Ret.,**  
*Minister of Spiritual Formation*  
**Joi Tennant, Christian Education**  
**Jamie Young, Director, Youth Ministry**  
**Cris Bobier, Executive Director, Open Door Ministry**  
**Caryn Welter, Director, Music Ministries and Worship Arts; Organist**  
**Derrick Fox, Director, Chancel Choir**  
**Leigh Goyings, Melissa Eisensmith, Evan Snyder, Brandon Manson, Chancel Choir Section Leaders**  
**Patricia Mort, Administrative Secretary**  
**Kathleen Johnson, Financial Secretary**  
**Stephanie Rave, Bookkeeper**  
**Bruce Newton, Facility Manager**  
**Scott Mize, Building Attendant**  
**Chris Pruett, Building Attendant**

**Office Phone: (517) 485-9477**  
**Office Fax: (517) 485-9772**  
**Website: lansingcentralumc.org**  
**E-mail: centralumc@voyager.net**

**Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM**  
**Fellowship Hour – 10:30 AM**  
**Sunday School - All Ages—11:10 AM**  
 (September - May)

The worship service is broadcast live at 9:30 AM on WJIM-AM (1240) radio and telecast Tuesday at 9 PM on Comcast channel 16.

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**Send copy to: cjpublisher@voyager.net**

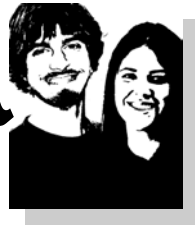
David DeVinney, *Editor*; 372-6761  
 Jan Keen, *Assistant Editor*  
 321-4967



**Copy deadline: 5 p.m. Friday**  
 August issue - July 15  
 September issue- August 19

# Education

Joi Tennant - Christian Education Ministries



## Estela Hudy and sons to visit family in Guatemala

Estela Hudy's long awaited trip to return home and visit her family will become a reality soon! She and the three boys will all leave for Guatemala July 17 to spend four weeks there, except Benjamin, who will return home after two weeks.

I asked Estela about her family there, and she told me that her sister is divorced and has seven children. The oldest boy is finishing high school by working to earn money every day to pay for his schooling. The other children have had no schooling beyond the 2nd grade and are not able to attend school because their mother cannot afford to send them. Estela's mother and sister weave cloth and belts for a living.

The idea occurred to me that perhaps some of our church family might like



to send along with Estela a small gift of money or perhaps something she could include in their luggage especially for her sister's family as a way for us to extend our love to them. I discussed this idea with both Estela and the Mission Commission. This would not be an official church "fund-raiser." Rather it would be an opportunity for those of us who know Estela to reach out to show support for her as she journeys to her family and mentally deals with the reality of

the daily challenges they face. It would be an acknowledgement of understanding and support from us to them and also to Estela.

Estela and I discussed some ideas that would be appropriate gifts to send along, such as good used classic board games or other creative toys, and possibly kids' T-shirts or sweatshirts. (Remember, traditional dress there is different than in the USA.) If necessary, we would consider paying to send an extra suitcase with them.

If you are at all interested in participating in this project, please talk to me, Joi (989-224-8159), or run your idea past Estela (517-898-8516) before July 10. This will assure we are not sending duplicate items or things that are too heavy, large or inappropriate in some way.



Our children are invited to participate in a one-day Vacation Bible School event at Potter Park on Saturday June, 25. Games, snacks, music, crafts, lunch, and a trip to the zoo, have been planned and prepared by Mt. Hope UMC. Reservations are required. For reservations and helping that day, please

### NOISY SUNDAY-JULY 17

Dollars  
Quarters  
Nickels  
Dimes!

**Save your change**

It's NOISY time!  
Quarters  
Dimes  
Nickels  
Dollars!

**Watch our fund**

Grow even taller!  
Dimes  
Dollars  
Quarters  
Nickels

**This investment**

Is not fickle!  
Nickels  
Dollars  
Dimes  
Quarters!

**We'll help the poor,**  
Those are our orders!



# Worship and Music Notes

Caryn Welter, Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts

**Congregational Survey on Worship** – In November, recipients of the *Central Journal* were invited to respond to questions about worship. The results were shared in the Central Journal and pointed to how strongly the respondents feel about meaningful worship. Recently, in April and May, parishioners were invited to respond to another survey on worship. They were asked: "What would you like to see MORE of in CUMC's worship?" "What would you like to see LESS of in CUMC's worship?" The participation rate in the second survey was similar to participation in the first. ***We thank you for your participation!***

Work is being done to develop a process for determining how the survey responses can best be shared with several groups within the church. This will allow groups which are responsible for various aspects of worship to better make decisions about future action.

**Pentecost** is the birthday of the Church and is often symbolized by fire and wind. Red is the color of Pentecost which falls on June 12 this year. You are invited to bring in a candle, in an enclosed holder, for our altar-scape that Sunday. If you have a red candle or holder that would be great. If you need a candleholder or a candle please let me know ahead of time. I would like to have the candles before Sunday to arrange them BUT, if you bring one on the 12th there will be room. It would be really nice if you have something red to wear that day also. Please plan to join in the celebration.



**The Worship Committee** is looking at making some changes to our Sunday bulletin. If you have any bulletins from other churches and/or if you travel this summer and attend other churches, please bring a complete bulletin back to Central for the committee to look over. They can be given to either Bill Tennant or Pat Mort. Our next meeting is June 28 - we will also be meeting again in August. Thanks!

—Pat Mort and Bill Tennant, *Worship Committee*



Inner City UMCs

## Inner City UMCs' April meeting

Attendance levels were discussed—reaching more people, better visitor response, working with members who do not often come, resolving transportation needs. The churches considered how each related to categories from Bill Easum's book, ***Second Resurrection***. Central felt angst over its future, Grace sought action, Mt. Hope faced complacency. Central will offer small group opportunities this fall in area homes. The Easum book will guide discussion. —B. Halter

## CUMC supports church campers

We are pleased to announce that the Central United Methodist family will provide support to the following campers this summer by paying part of their camp fees. Camp attendance will augment their spiritual growth beyond their regular participation in Central services and activities. Please

pray for these campers throughout the summer and, "Thanks be to God"



for our generous donors!

*Hermance Akono* - Lake Louise Camp  
July 17-23.

*Kristen Carter* - Wesley Woods Camp  
August 7-13.

*A T Welter* - Wesley Woods Camp  
June 19-25.

*Fisher Welch* - Lake Michigan Camp  
July 17-23.

*Haley Brunton* - Wesley Woods Camp  
August 7-13.

*Hannah Brunton*, a first year camper!  
Wesley Woods Camp -August 10-13.

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR  
GRADUATES!



Sunday, May 29,  
2011, we celebrated

graduation with the high school grads participating in the worship service. Following the service the graduates and their families were greeted during Fellowship Coffee Time. Our high school graduates are *Hermance Akono, Carolyn Hicks, Kristen Hicks, Samantha Sanders and Amy Schneider*. Our college graduates are *Mary Boudreau, Paula Fata, John Forgrave, Ashley Grettenberger and Casady Wyckoff*.

## Among Friends



### Remember...

At press time...

- Audrey Holly** - Hospice
- Norma Hanson** - Ingham Regional Assisted Living
- Dorothy Forgrave** - Hospice
- Mary Roush** - Hospice at home
- Bob Stebbins** - Hospice
- Lee Dibble** - Ingham Co. Medical Care Facility

### Transitions...

**Betty Corbishley** - died May 8, 2011

### Baptism...

**Dylan Casimir Ballard** - May 15, 2011. His parents are Andrea and Bill Ballard. Lori and Paul Fata are his grandparents.

### Thank You...

Thank you to the Trustees, Bruce Newton and Chris Pruett for the new coat of paint in the carillon room. It is bright and beautiful! —**Jan Keen**

## Book Sale a success

Our thanks go to the Central United Methodist Church members for clearing off their book shelves and contributing to the success of the annual Ralph Goodell Library book sale.



The proceeds of \$280 will be used for the purchase of new books and materials for the library. The appropriate books will be delivered to Christian Resources in Fowlerville for shipment overseas for use by missionaries, pastors and indigenous churches. Some of the books will be retained at the Christian Resources bookstore for mid-Michigan pastors, teachers, and churches. The remaining books of interest to our members will be available on the library shelves. We encourage everyone to stop by...**reading is fun!**

*The Library Task Force members extend their appreciation to Dottie Stark for her assistance in the sale.*

—**Win Anderson, Ed Spink, Lois Perkins** Library Task Force

*My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me see him do it. —Clarence Kelland*

## Special Mission Recognitions Awarded



Each year United Methodist Women awards Special Mission Recognitions to persons who make a difference in our lives here at Central and to people within the Lansing community

and the world beyond. This year our recipients are Alice Pifer and Larry Beckon. Alice was recognized at the Lenten Lunch and Larry was recognized at the May 22 Worship Service. Each received a pin and certificate and \$50 each was donated to the Missions supported by UMW in their names. Congratulations to both Alice and Larry ~ people who demonstrate their faith through their daily living. We are glad you are a part of Central. —**Pat Mort, President**

*Trustees* >>continued from page 2

### Ventilation of Central's buildings

The trustees and Swanson Design Studios met with Comprehensive Engineering (CE) to review the CE report on the existing ventilation systems for the sanctuary, organ room, Fellowship Hall,



dining room and gymnasium. They will meet again in early June to review recommendations and make decisions. At this point in time, the focus is on restoring the natural ventilation systems that originally operated in the buildings, and to add mechanical assistance if needed. This project is a continuation of Central's priority list that was developed in 2005 for the restoration of our buildings.

### 2011 Projects – partial update

—The work started in 2010 to restore the windows in the Temple House is continuing this summer.

—Scholarships will be awarded in June.

—The parsonage will be inspected before July 1 to determine its condition.

—Several meetings have been held to develop investment strategies and more meetings are planned.



### Take a vacation from Coffee Hour? Oh No!

If you need coffee and cookies after church each Sunday, please sign up to bake and/or serve. Susan and James will be away several Sundays this summer.

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY June 19

Peace with Justice Sunday was established by General Conference in 1988. When you give to this special Sunday offering you help to support ministries in the U.S. and world wide to remove unjust systems and equip the victimized to live more fulfilled lives: from programs which help youngsters deal with bullying, to the Ohio-based "Faith Communities Uniting for Peace" which encourages people of all faiths "to live from a vision of peace rooted in faith", to The United Methodist Church in Liberia working with other groups to provide a place for former child soldiers to live, recreational activities to address war trauma and basic necessities such as fresh drinking water and medical treatment.

One half of this offering stays in the West Michigan Conference and one half goes to the General Board of Church and Society. This offering empowers United Methodists to work for peace, love and compassion for God's children everywhere



### Our Shalom Center for Justice and Peace

receives most of its funding from the Conference through the annual Peace with Justice offering. This support enables the Center to be a voice for justice and peace throughout the greater Lansing area. The Shalom Center's on-going programs include: Peace with Justice mini-grants to local UM churches, an annual International Day of Peace program, a documentary film series, the Social Principles Speakers Bureau and a web based outreach. The Conference support also enables the Center to partner with other peace and justice groups (including those at MSU) for a variety of activities and programs. Thanks to your giving on Peace with Justice Sunday, the Shalom Center has continued its work for over a decade.

—Penny Zago, *Shalom Center for Peace and Justice*



### Centralneters gone to pot(luck)

June 18, Saturday Picnic  
Granger Park on Wood Street  
12 pm

Bring your own Table Service  
and Dish to Pass

Reservation to Ed Spink, 485-4621



### Your gifts to UMCOR

have made it possible for UMCOR to respond quickly to the many tornado disasters in the U.S. this spring. Bishop William Willimon of northern Alabama reported that UMCOR was "on the scene before the National Guard in some cases", and feeding 10,000 people a day. As we hear of the continuing disasters in our own country

some of you are asking how you can help. You may give at any time either with the regular Sunday offering or you may send a donation to the church. Please mark your check "UMCOR Spring Storms 2011" Remember, 100% of your gift goes directly to provide assistance. Nothing is deducted for overhead - Every penny provides direct help. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARING.

—Cathy Amundsen, *Missions*

### Central carillon welcomes world ringers!

The carillon room in Central's bell tower is sporting a new coat of paint to welcome carillonners from around the world! Jan and Ed Keen will host ringers on Saturday, July 2.



The *Guild of Carillonners in North America Annual Congress* and the *World Carillon Federation Triennial Congress* will be based in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan this summer, June 26-July 1. Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church ([www.kirkinthehills.org/395643.ihtml](http://www.kirkinthehills.org/395643.ihtml)) will host the classes and concerts.

After the congress, the participants will travel to Michigan State University's Beaumont Tower on Saturday, July 2. Next, visiting our carillon at Central will enable carillonners from across the US and around the world a chance to ring every carillon in Michigan.

—Jan Keen, *Music Committee*

*The test of courage comes when we are in the minority.  
The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority.*  
—Ralph W. Sockman

# June 2011

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 30 |    |    |

o/s=off site

- 1 Wednesday**  
8:00 am-Annual Conference-o/s
- 2 Thursday**  
8:00 am-Annual Conference-o/s  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch  
6:00 pm-Mission Commission  
6:00 pm-Spirit Singers' and  
Chancel Choir o/s
- 3 Friday**  
8:00 am-Annual Conference-o/s
- 4 Saturday**  
8:00 am-Annual Conference-o/s
- 5 Sunday**  
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour  
5:30 pm-Vespers Class
- 7 Tuesday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank
- 9 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
- 12 Sunday-Pentecost**   
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour  
10:30 am-Music Committee
- 13 Monday**  
6:00 pm-Judy Grove Circle  
6:30 pm-Griefshare Training
- 14 Tuesday-Flag Day**  
9:00 am-Food Bank  
5:30 pm-Church & Society  
6:30 pm-Griefshare Training
- 16 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch  
6:00 pm-Historical Talk On Central

- 19 Sunday-Father's Day**  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 20 Monday**  
7:00 pm-Shalom GLANAWI
- 21 Tuesday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank  
9:30 am-Friendship Circle  
6:00 pm-Shalom Guiding Com.
- 22 Wednesday**  
*-1st Day of Summer*  
6:15 pm-Trustees
- 23 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
- 24 Friday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank
- 26 Sunday**  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 27 Monday**  
1:00 pm-Guy's Lunch Out-o/s
- 28 Tuesday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank  
5:00 pm-Worship Committee  
6:00 pm-Finance Committee
- 30 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch

# July 2011

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    |    |    |    |

- 2 Saturday**  
10:00 am-National Carillon Tour
- 3 Sunday**  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour

*"Faith working by love is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."*  
—John Wesley

- 4 Monday-Independence Day**  
*Building Closed* 
- 5 Tuesday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank
- 7 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
- 10 Sunday**  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 12 Tuesday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank  
5:30 pm-Church & Society
- 14 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
- 17 Sunday**  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 19 Tuesday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank  
6:00 pm-Shalom Guiding Com.
- 21 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
- 24 Sunday**  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 25 Monday**  
1:00 pm-Guy's Lunch Out-o/s
- 26 Tuesday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank  
6:00 pm-Finance
- 27 Wednesday**  
6:15 pm-Trustees
- 28 Thursday**  
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
- 29 Friday**  
9:00 am-Food Bank
- 31 Sunday**  
9:30 am-**Worship Service**  
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour

Central United Methodist Church  
215 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan, 48933

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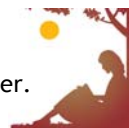


*Please deliver: June 1— 4 -Thank you*

Return Service Requested

*“Rest is not idleness,” said John Lubbock, “and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water or watching the clouds float across the sky is hardly a waste of time.”*

Most of us need more, not less, rest built into our daily routine. Only when we are quiet can we hear God’s whisper. Summer is a great time to find a peaceful, outdoor spot to read, rest and pray – even if only for a few minutes.



### ***Scramble for Habitat for Humanity***

All proceeds from this 2-person golf scramble will benefit the “2011 Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity” project.



***When?***

Monday, June 20  
9 am Shotgun Start

***Where?***

College Fields Golf Club  
3800 Hagadorn Road  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
<http://www.collegefields.net/>

\$60 per person (\$50 for Pastors). Includes 18 holes with a cart, range balls and a hamburger and hot dog lunch served afterward.

Register for the Habitat for Humanity Open and support the “2011 Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity” project. ***Please contact Habitat at 374-1313 or Bob Pena at 322-5198.***

### **Children’s Church to continue all Summer**

A big thank-you goes out to all of our regular Rainbow Room volunteers for agreeing to continue to staff our weekly Children’s Church and teach our precious children, ages 3 thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade each Sunday this summer. Those volunteers are: Nancy O’Shea, Leslie Prame, Estela Hudy, Julie Welch, and Joi Tennant.



### **Childcare workers for the nursery wanted**

If you would be willing to take care of our infants and toddlers on an occasional Sunday during church, please contact Joi Tennant, 989-224-8159. Thank you!