



Karen's Chronicles

The Acts of the Apostles shows Paul's developing understanding of his authority – what gives him status in culture and society, in government and religion. The letters Paul writes show a dynamic interplay among institutional authority, individual identity, and Holy power.

Sometimes Paul appeals to the external authority of religion or government.

Luke tells us when Paul was still known as Saul of Tarsus, before he encountered the Risen Lord Jesus, Saul secured authority from the high priest in Jerusalem to capture “any who belonged to the Way.” Acts 9:1-2. Later, after he becomes a follower of Jesus, Paul relies on his status as a Roman citizen. By the authority of citizenship, he challenges magistrates who have beaten and imprisoned Silas and him. When the magistrates want Paul and Silas to go quietly away, Paul confronts them, seeking public accountability. Acts 16:37-39.

Other times Paul proclaims the authority of God's grace through the Risen Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This is when he highlights the internal authority of Christ alive in him, as he told the people in Galatia: **“[I]t is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”**

What helps you listen to the internal authority of the Holy Spirit, of Christ living in you? How do you share this heart-wisdom with other people? How do you grow as they share their experience of internal authority with you? As we witness to each other, our faith family develops a distinct flavor of Christ living in us.

Listening and witnessing to each other, praying and discerning together – these are first steps in our communal expression of Christ's authority, unique to the people of Epworth UMC. As each one of us gives ourselves over to the power of the Holy Spirit, the Risen Lord Jesus lives in us collectively, growing unity among us. Thanks be to the Holy Trinity!

With appreciation,
Pastor Karen



“I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

The Apostle Paul, Galatians 2:19b-20 NRSV

From Worship and SPRC Committees

Hello Epworth Family,

Summer is finally here! We know that summer brings opportunities to play outside and travel – one result is a smaller attendance in Worship. Worship Committee and SPRC invite each of you to consider sitting closer to the front of the church and perhaps with someone new to the Church or a visitor.

Getting to know each other better helps to make us a closer family.



We understand that this may not work for everyone. Our invitation simply suggests you may find making a change gives you a better view, improved sound quality or the chance to get to know someone new better. Summer seems like a good time to try a change.

Retreat - United Women in Faith: July 14, 10 – 2:00. Karen Highbarger's home. Guest speaker will be Pastor Wendy Ochs, from Bigfork UMC. Plan to attend and bring a dish to share for lunch! More information coming!



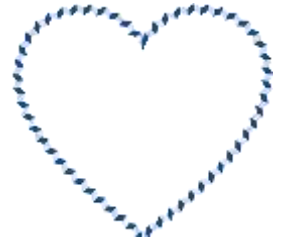
Mission u: July 13 – August 3. Wednesday nights from 7-9:30, via Zoom. The topic is: Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship. Women, men, youth are all invited to attend! Registration is free and will open shortly!

Trustee Report

The plans for the new front steps are at the city building department for review and approval. After approval our contractor can schedule the step project.



Mission Team: Have a Heart! Missions invites you to join us in support of the Heart Locker in August and September. A list of current needs will be made available and a collection bin will be made available. Cash donations are welcome and committee will do the shopping for you. Thank you for having a heart for mission!



Daycare Update

We passed our annual state licensing. Swimming lessons will be July 11-23rd for the kids. We are so excited to have the sidewalks almost done. Thanks to all those who put in the air conditioners. It makes nap time so much easier. We are still interviewing for a new Director. Keep us in your prayers that we find the right fit to fill your mission of Child Care



Tammy's class celebrated with a tea party including fancy hats & ties, tea & cookies and china cups and saucers!

HAPPY SUMMER

For those who happened to stop by the church during the week of June 13-17, and wondered what all the activity and noise was, it was KNIGHTS of NORTH CASTLE VBS (Vacation Bible School) learning and having fun! Thanks to parents who "loaned" us their kiddos, and Smith Memorial Day Care staff and Epworth Church members who volunteered their time, talents, and creativity, VBS was again enjoyed by all. This year, the young "Knights" who joined the activities, and those who helped, ranged in age from 2 years old- school age, and included all of the Day Care children, some of their siblings, all of the Day Care staff, and members of the Epworth family. In all, about 53 youngsters participated in the various activities, including Story Time, Music and Movement, Crafts, and Missions and Science, which focused on **Ephesians 6:10- "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power."**

Our thanks to all who helped with, prayed for, donated to, and participated in this wonderful week! Young people who participated in the fun were as surprised as the adult staff at how fast the week went, and are already looking forward to next year's VBS! Hope you'll consider joining us too!

A reminder that Sunday School classes are currently taking a summer break, as families can spend extra time together and enjoy the amazing world around us which God has created. Regular Sunday School classes are expected to resume in the beginning of September. Look for notices and further information coming at that time.

Thank you again for being part of our wonderful Epworth family!





Mountain Sky Annual Conference news from your Lay Member elected during Charge Conference, Deb Sapp

St. Paul's UMC in Helena hosted our conference. Their Mission statement reads **Welcome to St. Paul's, Grounded in hospitality, Growing in faith, Giving in service and Going in mission...For Good! Transformed people, Transforming the world.** St Paul's UMC was the site of the Worship services and the general sessions.

The Laity sessions were hosted at Covenant UMC located on the east side of Helena. Mayor Wilmont Collins, a member of Covenant UMC, was our keynote speaker. He asked, "How do we get people involved?" If someone says, "I'm too busy." His answer was "Can I help you clear tasks so that you have the time to attend church?" Go where they are to do what needs to be done to help. Ask young people what they need and want. "Don't allow business as usual."

Another inspirational person was the Worship Leader, Jorge Lockward from New York City. He asked us to share "What is my Methodist DNA?" He discovered that for many of us the answer was Brother Van. Jorge is taking Brother Van's favorite song "Harvest Time" back to his home church to be used as the Offertory music. A surprising point was the answer to a question he asked the clergy: What do you need?" They said that Laity don't know how powerful they are because whatever the Laity of each church dreams that's what will happen. The harvest will come from the seeds planted by Laity. We should ask the people "What's working?" and "What's not working?" Then try a suggested change for three months before re-evaluating. "Don't quit five minutes before the miracle."

Saturday's service of ordination was deeply moving. We as Mtn Sky Methodists can celebrate 5 persons preparing for ordained ministry, 9 persons ordained or recognized as elders, the commissioning of 1 Deaconess and 1 Home Missioner, plus 2 missionaries.

Thank you for sending me as your voting delegate. This year's annual conference has 2 sessions: the June session which just ended and a session in October to finish business needed for the future of our conference.

I met the new Western Montana District Superintendent, Rev. Lynn Miller Jackson. When you meet her, you'll certainly recognize the qualities that Bishop Oliveto states in her introduction of Rev. Miller Jackson, "...she brings deep wisdom, great faith, and a strong vision for church vitality and mission".

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Gary Freebury opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes were approved as printed.

Reports:

Trustees

Jerry Scott reported that the drawings for the new front steps are at the City Building Department awaiting review and approval. Our contractor, Tim Allen, will start work after approval. The sidewalk contractor is waiting for better weather. Epworth qualifies for a Pull for Police device, at no cost, through Church Mutual. This is a 24/7 local law enforcement notification system.

SPRC

Sharon Young stated they are working on the annual pastor-congregation evaluation. When Pastor Karen returns, this evaluation and the pastor's self evaluation will be shared in committee.

Missions

LaVerne Scott invited the congregation for a coffee time and to hear a presentation from Valley Neighbors next Sunday. CASA and 211 Center will have presentations in the future. Items for Heart Locker will be collected in August and September. Feeding the Flathead meals will be served September 22 and December 24 with sit-down, indoor meals. The rummage sale will be October 1, with set up on Sept. 29 and 30.

UMW

Robin Krogstad reported that the annual retreat will be July 14 from 10 to 2 at Karen Highbarger's home. The leader will be Wendy Ochs. The noon meal will be a potluck. Posters will be coming out soon. Janet Ulrich attended United Women of Faith in Orlando. A highlight was hearing Janet Wolfe and Pastor Yi Ni. There was an emphasis on missions. Molly King, Helena, Mt., was commissioned as a Missioner. Janet Ulrich reported that four members of Epworth attended the Annual Conference in Helena. Mission U will be July 13 to August 3 on Wednesdays from 7 to 9:30 by ZOOM.

Lay Visitation members will deliver Upper Room this week.

Education Committee

Carmen Field reported that last week's VBS had 53 children in attendance. Day Care staff participated. They were able to present God's Word so it touched different children in different ways. They made some items for the Veteran's Home which Hillery Eastman will deliver this week.

Family Activities

Hillery Eastman reported that the Whipped Cream Pie fundraiser was a success. Ten youth and three chaperones will be going to Silverwood. Hillery will be talking with LaVerne about the youth helping with Feeding the Flathead.

Janet Ulrich reviewed the membership list.

Pat and Gary Freebury will host a coffee time July 3.

Prayer needs were offered and Jean Davis led in prayer.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Highbarger, Secretary



Church Council meetings are open to all people. When church activities are in-person, we meet in the Cameron Room and by Zoom. If you want to Zoom in, email your request to office@kalispellumc.org.



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The Visitor
July 2022

Thank you for all the beautiful
altar flowers from gardens
this summer!



Artwork-Smith Memorial Daycare Kids