



A Newsletter from St. Stephen's  
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

# The Weekly Messenger

November 6, 2011

[www.ssumc.com](http://www.ssumc.com)

## WHAT WE DID IN KENYA

By Lynn Ellen Doxon

I was asked to write a short article about what we did in Kenya. We have 23 pages of text in the trip journal and over 5000 pictures that tell and show what we did in Kenya, but how do I summarize that?



We assisted at the Maua Methodist hospital, built a home for a family of AIDS orphans, learned about the Hope Connection program, helped provide better housing for the hospital staff, de-wormed 3050 children, built a garden in a bag at the bio-intensive farm, painted the social hall of the Kaaga Methodist church, and toured the School for the Deaf.

We worshiped, drank tea, cooked and ate Kenyan food, shopped, rode miles and miles on less than perfect roads, flew in a little bush plane halfway across Kenya (OK, a little less than halfway), slept under mosquito nets, admired verdant green hills and observed dry, dusty plains, breathed fresh, clean air and smoky, smoggy air and went on safari among the most dense population of wild animals on the planet.

But what we really did was go through day after day living in the moment, rising with the sun, going to sleep not long after sunset, working hard in between and eating well. We discovered at the bush clinic that 10 people can affect the lives of 3000 children in a single day, even if it is only briefly or temporarily. And we found that 3000 children can change the hearts of 10 people forever and profoundly. We learned that a 450 square foot house with no plumbing or electricity can be a mansion to people who have been sleeping in homes of sticks and mud all their lives. And in the process we learned to see the humanness in each person we encounter. We learned that when necessary people can do extraordinary things with very little, like heal horrible injuries, transform the lives of the orphaned, live together in love and find spiritual strength in the midst of moral barrenness, and that we can too.

We started the process knowing each other slightly or as total strangers. By the time we went, we were a team. By the time we came back we were a community. We grounded our days in the spiritual through our morning devotional and

CON'T ON BACK

## ON THE CALENDAR



**Solid Grounds  
Coffeehouse**  
Saturdays at 6:30  
Free Coffee - Live Music

**Saturday, November 5  
at 6:30 pm  
Jubilant Bridge**

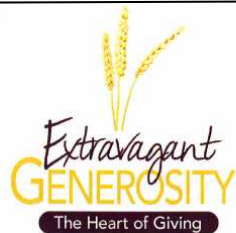
A dulcimer wizard and a pure-voiced poet are the heart and soul of Jubilant Bridge. Intricate arrangements, tight harmonies, and a sense of fun are hallmarks of every Jubilant Bridge performance.  
[www.jubilantbridge.com](http://www.jubilantbridge.com)

**Wednesdays, 5-8 pm  
Fall Series  
Fellowship Hall**

**Old-Fashioned  
Methodist Potluck**

**Today at 12:15 pm  
Old-Fashioned Methodist  
Potluck & Meet the Pastors!  
Fellowship Hall**

**Tuesday, November 15 at 7 pm  
Church Conference  
Children's Worship Center**



## NOVEMBER 13 MESSAGE: PASTOR TODD

*"Bucket Lists—Vision and Hope are Inspirations of the Heart"*

What is your vision and hope for our church? Have you stepped out in faith to make that vision a reality? We are called together as one body to perform many functions, but all should be to glorify God, not ourselves.

## WHAT WE DID IN KENYA — CON'T

evening meetings. We ate together, bumped along mountain tracks together, we helped each other be present and committed to the task at hand. In the process we came to love people we might have been only casually acquainted with before. We came to love East Africa and its people. Not the AIDS epidemic, not the poverty, not the drug supported economy, or the criminality, but the graciousness and courage of so many people in dealing with the circumstances of their lives. So many Africans live in the midst of circumstances that we can barely imagine, and yet they do so with a sense of purpose and spirit of cooperation that make our efforts seem pale and insignificant.

They welcomed us with open arms and glowing smiles and sent us back with joy, a sense of accomplishment and a heart more full of love than we could have imagined!



## HELP SUPPORT KUCI'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

**Help support KUCI's Breakfast with Santa!** Go by Flying Star Monday, November 7th between 5-9 pm and either dine-in or carry-out. We will receive 20% of all purchases made if you present the neon green card inside your bulletin to the server! All proceeds go to buying the food for Breakfast with Santa. The money that is raised for Breakfast with Santa is used to help children with special needs associated with KUCI.

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## GOODIES FOR TROOPS



**The Military Support Small Group will be collecting goodies for the Blue Star Mothers!** The boxes for the troops will be filled on Saturday, November 19 and shipped in time for Christmas. And if you have some extra Christmas cards, please sign a couple of cards to be added to the boxes. (Sign the cards with your name and St. Stephens United Methodist Church, Albuquerque.) Some of the troops receive very little mail, and this will brighten their holidays. Please place cookies and cards into the Blue Star Mothers basket. Thank you for participating!



## THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

**TLC (Thursday Lunch Club) will celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 17th at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.** The church will provide turkey and stuffing; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Pastor Todd will be speaking about Extravagant Generosity and all our blessings this Thanksgiving season! Come ready to share your blessings with others!

## BRING YOUR NOODLES!

**On the first Sunday of each month we collect Ramen Noodles for the Storehouse.** This November, in addition to the noodles, we would like to collect canned food – vegetables, fruits, meats and soup. Our goal is to collect 1000 pounds by Sunday November 27. Please try to bring three cans over the next four weeks and places them on the back wall of the Worship Center. Thank you!



**Start a Tradition!  
Night in Bethlehem  
December 9-10  
6:00-8:30 pm**

Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to this memorable, interactive, journey-back-in-time to a night that *changed the world!*

**Celebration Sunday:** December 11 at all services

## WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

*Dear Friends at St. Stephen's,*

Thank you so very much for all the support, love, and friendship shared by so many of you with our family during Dave's last several months of life. Your time and talents did not go unnoticed; in fact, I don't know how we would have fared without all your prayers, wonderful meals, counsel, and encouragement. Our family is truly blessed to have you as our church family. Thank you again for making a really difficult time a little less overwhelming.



In Christ,

*The Olsons, the Grudas, and the Moranas*