

October 18, 2023

ClairChurch
UNITED METHODIST

CLAIR CONNECTION

NW District <http://www.northwest.moumethodist.org/>

Missouri United Methodist Conference <http://www.moumethodist.org/>



\$86,000 Pledged to Clair's Capital Campaign

... and **GROWING!**

The \$90,000 capital improvement goal is within reach! The generosity of Clair's congregation is amazing and the vision of our members can become a reality. We want to welcome visitors and new members into a freshened up, warm and loving church made possible by you.

CLAIR CONNECTION

SPREAD THE WORD: LITTLE GOBLINS & GHOSTS WELCOME!



INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY, GHOULS, BOYS, THEIR MUMMIES AND DADS TO THIS FUN EVENT! THEY WILL JUDGE WHO HAS THE BEST TRUNK DISPLAY AND TROLL FOR CANDY!

Treat yourselves by competing in the “best decorated” trunk contest! Bring plenty of goodies for the “littles”, who will be our guests!

Don’t mask your excitement—get in the SPIRIT!



CLAIR CONNECTION



Here is a “leftover” from Sunday’s sermon that seems important to share given the tensions in our world. The story is recollected by the Rev. Karl Jacobson from Minneapolis, shared on the website www.workingpreacher.org.

Jacobson writes, “When I was a junior I studied in Shanghai as an exchange student. I lived in the foreign students’ dormitory with my Canadian roommate, two other Americans, a couple of Australians, one Italian, ten or twelve Japanese, and over fifty students from Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. We western types, as well as the Japanese, were there to study Chinese language, literature, and history, which was facilitated at the university or college level. The African and Arab students were in China because of arrangements made at the government level, to study math and science *in English*; to my knowledge none of them studied Chinese formally. Which left many of them very isolated.

“This was in the days running up to the first Gulf War, Desert Storm. I remember watching on Chinese television coverage of the first use of the so-called ‘smart bombs.’ It was a tense time to be an American studying abroad. In the foreign students’ dormitory, just inside the entrance, there was a chalk board for student announcements. As my days in Shanghai wore down and we drew closer to war, more and more frequently we would walk into the dorm and find that chalkboard filled with Arabic script. And as often as not, there would be one English word somewhere in the midst of it: Bush. It was tense.

“My Zambian pal Enock went so far as to tell the Arab students, many of whom were Muslim, that I was not only a student, but in the U.S. Marines as well. Enock’s thinking, if you can call it that, was to protect me. As he told me, ‘Karl, if they think you are an American soldier, they will not dare to touch you, for fear.’ Helpful. “Shortly after New Year’s my Canadian roommate was on a trip to Beijing, and I was up late, studying for an exam. There was a knock on my door, and when I opened it, was met by one of the Muslim students from Yemen. He stood in the door in formal attire, with his *jambiya* at his hip. The *jambiya* is a ceremonial (but very functional) dagger, with a broad, curved blade of about six inches, and is worn by all Yemenis men of age. So, there he stood, knife and all.

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(Continued from Page 3—Pastor's Message)

"Well, I did exactly what you would have done in that situation, at that tense time ... I invited him in.

"He entered, and promptly did two things—he shut the door behind him, and then reached up and pulled the wire from the two-way speaker above the door. That two-way speaker was a way for the front desk—usually manned by two old Chinese communist party members—both to contact us for any reason, and to listen in on us; which they did. Every now and then we would hear it pop on as they eavesdropped. With the wire pulled, there was no communication, one way or the other.

"I didn't know what to expect in that moment. And I didn't really know what to do. So, I asked him how I could help him.

- He began by telling me about his family, his wife and four sons who were back in Yemen.
- He told me that he had been separated from them for more than three years as he pursued his degree in mathematics, and that he missed them.
- He had been trying, for the better part of two years, to get the university to allow them to come and live with him, with no success.

He had come to me, hoping that I would write a letter to the president of East China Normal University, in Chinese—because a letter in Chinese would be, he said, more respectful, and more likely to succeed.

"So, I did. We spent the next couple of hours working over a letter in Chinese, asking that his family be allowed to come and join him. He gave me his words, and I did my best to put them into Chinese.

"When we had finished, I gave him the letter and asked him another question, 'Why did you come to me? There are others here whose Chinese is much better, who have been here longer and who would do a better job. Why me?'

"And he said, 'I come to you because I know that you are a Christian. And I knew a Christian would help me.'
"Ever since then, I've wanted to be that kind of Christian, the kind that creates expectations.

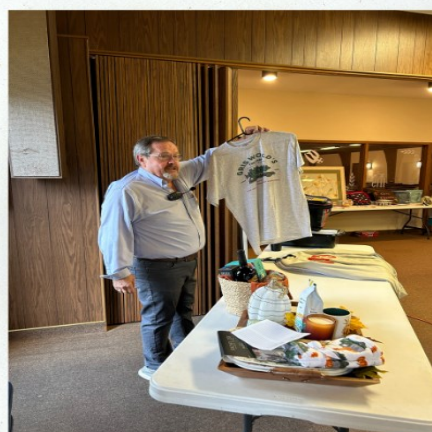
"Now, to be clear, I share this not because I'm the hero of the story. I'm not. The point is that the testimony of Jesus, embodied (however feebly) in us, is filled with potential; the potential, to be sure of un-safety and suffering, but also the potential for faith and love to break forth from us.

"This text from 2 Timothy exhorts all who read and preach from it to 'Guard the good treasure' entrusted to us. The best way, the only way, is to at once 'hold to' this standard, and to unleash it."

It is more important than ever, Friends, to fan the flame, "for God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline" to be a force in our world. May God use us as a force in the world. As always, it is an honor to be your pastor! *Pastor Cindy*



Clair Raises Over \$1,800 at Harvest Home Event



CLAIR CONNECTION



Rev. Laura Murphy of the Missouri United Methodist Foundation presents Karen Jones of Clair Church with a \$2500 technology grant. Karen Jones wrote the grant!



Lauren Stafford of Bliss Housing accepted household items donated by Starlight Group at Clair!

Calendar

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!!

- October 21 Men's Group 8 AM
- October 28 Trunk or Treat Contest at Clair 5 PM
& Ebenezer's Lord's Acre Meal & Sale 11 AM—1 PM
- November 5 Daylight Savings Time ENDS
- November 12 Fellowship Luncheon
- November 13 Starlight Meeting at Perkins 3:30 PM
- November 14 Administrative Council 6 PM
- November 18 Men's Group 8 AM
- November 29 Serve Open Door Food Kitchen 9 AM
- December 5 ADVENT BEGINS



Clair Kids present Pastor Cindy with a t-shirt

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