

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - OCTOBER 26, 2009

(From the Pastor's Pen)

Ignatius W. Cox tells the story of two children who, living happily in their parent's home, would often look in the evening to another house standing on a hill in the distance. With the sun reflected off the windows of that distant house it looked as if that house had golden windows. Intrigued by this "house of the golden windows" the two children set off one afternoon to get a closer look at this house. With much effort they made their way up the hill and through a field to this house in the distance, but when they got there, they were terribly disappointed. That "house with the golden windows" was abandoned and bleak, and its windows were not golden at all. Rather they were covered with dust and slime from years of neglect. Suddenly their house of golden windows was no longer what it appeared to be.

Disappointed, discouraged, and somewhat afraid the two children set out for home, but as they did they happened to catch a glimpse of their own home in the distance. And in the evening sunlight it too had golden windows. But the two children realized something else. Their house not only had golden windows from the outside. Their house had golden windows from the inside because their home was filled with joy, hope, and happiness. As the two children saw their house and the reflection of the sunlight, they cried out simultaneously, "See our house; our own home is the true house of the golden windows." [From the book "Wellsprings of Wisdom"].

Sunday I will be talking in my sermon about the spiritual vitality of the church. The church's spiritual vitality is not unlike the story above. For there to be a real house with golden windows there had to be light not only reflected from the windows outside but there had to be light true light on the inside as well. The house could not be abandoned and still have "golden windows." The children's own home that both reflected the sunlight and was filled with all the vitality of home inside was the true "house of the golden windows."

Spiritual vitality in the church is a reciprocal relationship. While it is true that we all want to and need to draw spiritual vitality from the church, the church must as well draw spiritual vitality from its members. It is as we each give ourselves to be filled with spiritual vitality through "holy habits" that we give the church spiritual vitality, but the very spiritual vitality we find in the church then contributes to our own individual spiritual vitalities.

And so it is that the church needs each of us, and each of us needs the church. And just as we need the church to be spiritually vital, so the church needs each of us to be filled with the spirit. That's another way of saying that the church needs each of us to give ourselves to the very best spiritual life, health, and vitality that we can attain so that together we make the church a spiritually vital body that feeds each of its members.

We may be tempted at times to look at other churches and think as the children in the story did, that that other house is the "house with golden windows." But then we look back on our own church and we find that it is really the house, the church, that has the golden windows. And our church can always be a place of true spiritual vitality if we will simply remember the reciprocal relationship that exists between it and its members. The church

needs us, and we need the church.
Just something to think about.

Until next time,
Bro. Jim

CHARGE CONFERENCE - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Our Charge Conference will be on **Sunday, November 8, at 6:00 p.m.** All Administrative Board members need to be present and anyone else who wishes to attend may do so.

YOUTH FUND RAISER INNISBROOK WRAPPING PAPER, GIFTS & CANDY

Sunday, Nov. 1st is the last day to place an order for wrapping paper. . You make buy from any of the youth, Alecia, or come by the church office and order from the brochure there.

AUTUMN HARVEST - NOVEMBER 14TH

Dear Friends,

On Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, the UMW is sponsoring the Autumn Harvest--a breakfast, take-out lunch and bake sale. Our success depends on everyone's participation. Please, prayerfully consider how YOU can plug in to help make this a great day for Our Church!

The bake sale tables need a variety of homemade items to sell. (Some suggestions include: breads, cakes, pies, candy canned jellies, jams, fruits, vegetables, or pickles, etc.) These homemade baked goods can be brought to the CLC Friday afternoon before 5:00 p.m. or early Saturday morning. If you wish you may price your product yourself.

Please tell your friends about our Autumn Harvest and invite them to come.

Yours in Christ,
Bonnie Thigpen

****Please start bringing in pint and quart jars and jelly jars for the Autumn Harvest.**

ATTENTION: Women - Watch for Desert Survival Training Coming November 21st

CAP FROM AMATITAN

When Pastor Juan, Sister Maria Leonor, and Harold were here, they brought us a large number of caps with their church name on them. We have a few left. If you would like one, just call the church office.

LETTERS TO AMATITAN

During the month of September before the visit from our Nicaraguan friends, we received a package of letters from Amatitan. These letters were translated and given to the persons that they were written to. We will try to answer these letters by November 12th. If you received letters, please respond and give them to Beverly Duke so that they can be translated and forwarded on to Amatitan. These letters mean so much to our friends in Amatitan. Thank you for responding.

LETTERS FROM AMATITAN

Pastor Juan and Sister Maria Leonor brought a package of letters from Amatitan. These letters are addressed to all of our church and all express their gratitude for the Educational Scholarship that we provide for their children. If you would like to correspond with someone from Amatitan and do not already have names of members there, please contact Beverly Duke at *****.

BEYOND THE TURKEY

(Submitted by Associate Pastor-Alecia Fischer)

Turkey Day! This is the name little ones often use to refer to Thanksgiving. After all,

Thanksgiving is a mouthful for preschoolers just learning to communicate. However, this holiday certainly presents an occasion for parents to move beyond the turkey and initiate training in thankfulness.

We are told to “give thanks to the Lord, for he is good” (Psalm 107:1). The Scriptures also declare that we should “enter his gates with thanksgiving” (Psalm 100:4). The Bible is filled with passages where people of faith bring praise and thanksgiving to God.

Nurturing and promoting an attitude in our families truly honors the Lord. A heart of gratitude to God fosters contentment and a daily awareness of His blessings. Seize the Thanksgiving season and take the opportunity to grow your child spiritually in this area. The following suggestions may prove helpful in moving toward that goal.

Tell a Story

Children of all ages love stories. Thanksgiving presents a great opportunity to use stories to reinforce the necessity for gratitude in our lives. Consider sharing these in the month of November, and add some of your own:

- Read the story of the healing of the ten lepers in Luke 17:11-19. Remind your youngsters that Jesus was pleased with the one Samaritan who returned to give thanks. Provide rags for bandages and encourage the children to play the parts of lepers and Jesus. Let them dramatize the healing, with all of them rushing off while only one returns.
- Using a children’s Bible or paraphrased version, read the story of the great celebration the Israelites held after rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 12:27-47). Talk about the instruments they used, the two great choirs that marched on top of the walls to the temple, and the participation of the leaders. Put together a band using real or handmade instruments. Practice some joyful praise songs and march around your house.
- Let younger children make a GOD IS GOOD chain. Gather scissors, stickers, pencils, crayons, glue and construction paper. Cut the paper in strips and lead the children to consider the many ways that God is good. Have them write or draw on the strips. Connect them into a chain and hang it in a conspicuous place.

Written by Lettie J. Kirkpatrick

A LETTER FROM DAVID CROCKETT STATE PARK

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for your contribution for the church services here at David Crockett State Park this 2009 season. I know we begin in May thru September and even though it is a short service of 30 minutes, and maybe your church only met at either campground once a month...nevertheless, every moment spent doing the Lord’s work is a blessing to us all.

We hope you have a wonderful rest of the year and would love for you to come our and enjoy the beautiful park right here at your backdoor.

Thank you again and I will be looking forward to greeting you again next year for a wonderful Lord filled year!

Debi McAfee, E & C, Guest Relation
David Crockett State Park

NOVEMBER - FIFTH SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR FOOD PANTRY

Please mark your calendars. November has a Fifth Sunday, which is a Sunday designated for collecting non-food items for the food pantry. Suggested items are:

Toothpaste	Diapers	Soap
Toilet Tissue	Washing Detergent	Diapers
Dish washing detergent	Shampoo	Razors/shaving cream
Deodorant		

We will collect these things (**Nov. 29**) with a special emphasis on Fifth Sundays, but you may bring them by any time.

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson
Freddie Mae Jackson

Agnes McCarter
Bill Evans
Scottie McMackin
T. J. Moore
Norman Marston
Jean Cone
Scott Dean
Brian Beller
Robert White
Aaron Kirby (serving in Iraq)
Charlie Krieger (serving in Iraq)
Rob Nelson & Family
Jim Weatherford
Tom Stillwell
Donnie Kilburn
David Bass
Tyler White

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER
IN THE CLC**

The Wednesday Night supper menu for Wednesday, November 4:

Pork Chops
Sweet Potatoes
Salad
Rolls
Applesauce w/cookies

Workers: Aldersgate class

**MMC CONCERT CHOIR OPENING FOR
THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**

Tuesday, December 1, 2009, the Martin Methodist College Concert Choir will once again open for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House. The show starts at 8:00 p.m., with the choir performing at 7:15 p.m. We have secured a number of group tickets for \$35.00 each. If you are interested, please make your reservation by Monday, November 16th. Please contact Mark F. Hagewood, Asst. Director of Choral Programs at 931-424-7368.

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**I Will Be Loyal
To The United Methodist Church And
Support It With: My Presence:
Sunday, October 25, 2009**

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....43
Sunday school Attendance.....75
10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....100

My Service: Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009
Acolytes: Landon Burns & Katie Rochelle

Communion Helpers: Adam Clayton & Lance Egly

Children's Church: Beverly Duke

Nursery Helper: Kim McKnight

