

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - NOVEMBER 16, 2009

(From the Pastor's Pen)

The days continue to go by, and we move ever closer to Thanksgiving. As we do I continue to count my blessings and name those things for which I am thankful. One of those things for which I am deeply grateful is my career.

Some would say that the pastoral ministry is not a career. Rather it is a calling, and I would not argue with that. Without a calling to enter pastoral ministry and a continual renewal of that calling this would not be my chosen path. But while pastoral ministry is indeed a calling, it is also a career. I have made it my life's work for the last 28 years.

Meaningful work is a blessing. As I read the story of creation in Genesis God had a purpose in mind for the man and woman he created. They were to be caretakers in the world God had made, and as such they became partners with God in caring for God's creation. There was no doubt some work involved in that. Consequently our work can be a way we participate with God in the continuing work of creation, and certainly one of the implications of the New Testament and the Gospel is that we join God in God's work of salvation. That's what mission and ministry are all about. Meaningful work, therefore, is a blessing from God. It is something for which we can be thankful.

Meaningful work is also an offering. It is an offering to God and also an offering to the world in which we live. Meaningful work is a way that we can give to our world something that has value to it, something that can be of benefit to more than just ourselves. That to me is part of what a career is all about. It's not just about a way to make money for our families to survive, but it is also a way for us to give to our world something that has benefit to it. And to be able to do that is a blessing. It is something for which we can be thankful.

Meaningful work is also a way for us to serve God. In a sermon at a District Worship Gathering of the Columbia District, Bishop Wills talked about how lay persons are ministers in God's name in the world. He went on to say that lay persons are ministers disguised as something else - teachers, lawyers, bankers, etc. No matter what our career path may be, it can become an opportunity for us to serve God and to serve the world around us. So in that way a career is a blessing, something for which we can give thanks.

And of course meaningful work is also a blessing in that it brings the economic support we need to survive in this world as well as bringing a sense of personal satisfaction. In all these ways a career is a blessing from God. So in this coming Thanksgiving season may I invite us to give thanks to God for our respective careers. We are blessed when we have the opportunity to be in gainful employ and meaningful work.

Now just a word for our youth who are looking toward a career path. All of us at one time or another must face the question of what I want to do with my life. It would be my hope that in thinking about a career, you might be inspired by what I have said previously in this article to seek a life's work that can and will make a contribution beyond your own self-gratification or self-glorification. In other words, I hope you will let your life's work be about more than just you. There is a world out there that will be impacted either positively or negatively by what you do with your life, and so I would implore you to let your impact be for good. Let it be for the positive.

So as we move ever closer to this year's time of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks for our careers. They are indeed a blessing from God. Just something to think about.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. we will host the Community Thanksgiving service. Earl Davis (pastor of Antioch and Dunn UMC's) will be speaking this year. Please join us and invite a friend to come out for special music and a wonderful message. Several churches are participating in the service. A time of fellowship will follow in the Christian Life Center.

NOVEMBER HARVEST "UPDATE"

Thanks to so many of you who baked pies and cakes, made chicken and dumplings, chili, beef stew, pimento cheese, chicken salad, made candy and cookies, and many other items for sale-our November Harvest was a great success! Over \$2,300 was raised Saturday, November 8th. These profits will be used for the United Methodist Women's outreach to local Lawrenceburg missions, to national UMW missions, and to international missions.

We are so blessed to have such wonderful facilities for the event and to have so many generous people who not only donate items to sell but also so many of the church and the community to shop with us.

The women of Lawrenceburg First United Methodist Women send you a big THANK YOU. God bless you all.

UMW NEWS

How do you survive a crash in the desert? Come learn about Desert Survival Training at the UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat, on Saturday, November 21, from 9:00 a.m. until noon in the Friends and Fellowship Classroom. Bring your bible, note pad and pen and a sack lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided. The Mary-Martha Circle will be providing a light breakfast for those who attend.

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING - NOVEMBER 29TH

Please mark your calendars. We will host the Fifth Sunday singing on November 29th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please join us as we enjoy the music of other Methodist choirs and individuals. Our choir will also be singing for the program. There will be a time of fellowship following the program.

CONFIRMATION

Anyone in 6th or 7th grade interested in Confirmation, there will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. for parents and students.

Rev. Alecia Fischer

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM - 2009

December is just around the corner and we are gearing up for our 2nd annual "A Night in Bethlehem." This year we are going to be open for three nights in December, Friday, December 4th (6-9 p.m.), Saturday, December 5th (6-9 p.m.) and Sunday, December 6th (3-6 p.m.). Re-creating the town of Bethlehem is no small feat and we need lots of help. We need people behind the scenes to help set up the town, which will take place the week of December 1-3. We need shopkeepers, soldiers, beggars, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus to interact with our visitors. We also need behind the scenes help during the three nights, with parking, food for our volunteers, and keeping the shops supplied with materials. It certainly takes a Church to raise a village, in a matter of speaking. We had over two hundred visitors last year that experienced Christmas in a new way and I hope we can create that magic for many families this year as well. If you can volunteer in any way, please let the Church office know, or email Alecia at youth911A@hotmail.com.

HAPPY ELDERS AND CARE GROUP HOST CHRISTMAS BAGS TO SHUT-INS

The Happy Elders and Care Group will meet at noon on December 2nd in the

Fellowship Hall to prepare Christmas Bags for our members who cannot be as active with us.

We invite any member in our congregation to be a part of this by including Christmas cookies or Christmas card messages to them. If you have something you want to add, **please call Anita Johnston at *******.

We plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall to complete the Christmas Bags. We will share together sandwiches and salads at noon before we deliver the Christmas Bags.

Thanks for being a part of this sharing to these special friends.

CARE PACKAGE THANK-YOU'S

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the Care Package that you sent me. It is always nice to know people care about you. I appreciate everything that was in it. **Scott Beasley**

INVITATIONS

You are cordially invited

To a bridal tea for

Mandy Edwards

Bride-elect of Scott Caruso,

November 22, 2009,

From 12:30-2:30 p.m.

In the Christian Life Center Parlor of the

First United Methodist Church

In Lawrenceburg, TN

Selections at:

Dillard's

Bed, Bath and Beyond

Sears

Miss Millie's

*Mr. & Mrs. Bruce W. Edwards, Jr.
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Mandy Kay to Scott James Caruso, Jr.
son of*

*Mr. & Mrs. Scott James Caruso, Sr.
Saturday, the twelfth of December
Two thousand and nine
at five o'clock in the afternoon
First United Methodist Church
212 Waterloo Street
Lawrenceburg, TN*

*Please join us for a reception immediately following the ceremony
Providence Hall, 26 Public Square, Lawrenceburg, TN
The favour of a reply is requested before November 25, 2009
P.O. Box 70; Leoma, TN 38468, or bedwards44@Hotmail.com or
***** (leave message) or tell Barbara or Bruce.*

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson
Freddie Mae Jackson

Agnes McCarter
 Bill Evans
 Scottie McMackin
 T. J. Moore
 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
 Tyler White
 Molly Moses

LETTERS TO AMATITAN

If you received letters from Amatitan recently and have not written to your correspondent, please do so as soon as you can. Letters from us mean so much to our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters, and they are truly disappointed when letters are given out at church and they don't receive an answer to theirs. If you have already given your letters to Beverly, thank you. If you haven't and don't remember who wrote to you, just call her at *****. She has a list of all letters received and to whom they were written. If you have not received a letter and would like to correspond with a member of the Fountain of Life Church, call Beverly. There are many more people who would love to receive news from you. Just make your letters short and simple. Please have your letters in before Thanksgiving, so that the letters can be translated and sent to Amatitan by Christmas. These letters will be a great gift to our Nicaraguan friends. Thank you so much. God bless you all.

Thanksgiving Trivia

When Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin went on the moon, they took 'roasted turkey' and all the trimmings with them.



I Will Be Loyal

To The United Methodist Church And Support It With: My Presence:

Sunday, November 15, 2009

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....50

Sunday school Attendance.....84

10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....91

My Service: Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009

Acolytes: Maggie McKnight & Addison Potts

Children's Church: Judy Brewer

Nursery Helper: Kathy Johnstone

Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.

Tues. Nov. 24: Linda Newton, Ray Price, Martha Jo and Jerry Gibbs

Thurs. Nov. 26: Food Pantry closed

SHELTER WISH LIST

The Church office has a "Wish List" from The Shelter if anyone would like to donate needed items. Part of the list includes everyday items needed for women and children who come to The Shelter. There is also a listing of good used items needed. The other part of the list includes a Christmas Wish List for Children and Teens who come through

