

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - June 02, 2009

### The Pastor's Pen

In the Gospel of John we are introduced to the "I am" sayings of Jesus. While "the living water" is not one of the "I am" sayings, it is still a potent image that points to a depth of spiritual life. Jesus as the giver of living water appears in the story of Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman at the well. When he asked her for a drink and she questioned a Jewish man asking a Samaritan woman for a drink of water, Jesus told her that if she had asked he would have given her "living water." And as the conversation between them unfolded, the woman would ask Jesus to give her this "living water." And he did.

The image of "living water" is an image for a spiritual life that has depth to it. It is an image for knowing Jesus and believing in him as Savior. That's what Jesus asked the Samaritan woman to do - believe that he was the Messiah - and she did. That's how she received "the living water." Any discussion of a depth of spiritual life has to begin with trust. We trust Jesus as **our** Savior.

As I am writing this column the temperature has reached 90 degrees for the first time this year, and with the temperature reaching 90 we think about summer. It would seem that summer is here, at least temperature-wise if not by the calendar. And when I think about summer I think about having a drink of cold water to satisfy my thirst.

In growing up on the farm and working in the summer heat we would always take a jug of ice water with us to the field. We couldn't have survived without it. And nothing quenches thirst on a hot summer day like cold water. We can substitute any number of things for water - soft drinks, tea, lemonade, or whatever - but nothing is as satisfying when you're hot, dry, and thirsty as cold water.

And in the same way we need water to quench our thirst on a hot summer day, so we need Jesus to satiate our spiritual thirst in the midst of life. We can try to substitute any number of things for Jesus to satisfy our spiritual thirst, and many people do just that, but none of them work. Some people seek satisfaction in material wealth or accumulating things. Some turn to substance use to feed their hunger and thirst. Others follow a life of jumping from one pursuit to another to find the thing they think they are looking for. It is possible to try to find ultimate meaning in a career. There are a whole host of things one can pursue to find that ultimate happiness in life, but just as nothing satiates our physical thirst like water, so nothing satiates our spiritual thirst except Jesus. A satisfying spiritual life is found in trusting Jesus as Savior.

That's what the woman at the well was looking for - someone she could trust who wouldn't betray her trust. She didn't know it, but she was looking for Jesus. We don't know what happened in the woman's life that set her on the path she was on - a path that did not bring peace to her soul. Whatever had happened to her may not have been altogether her fault, and that's the case many times with people in our world. They get on a wrong path, not because of something they did, but because of something that happened to them. But once on that path things can go from bad to worse. That may have been what happened to the Samaritan woman, but the one who could and did help her get off that bad path and onto a better one was Jesus. And Jesus is the one who enables people today to get off a bad path onto one that brings hope, happiness, and joy.

Jesus as the living water is the beginning of spiritual life. This past Sunday I talked about the spiritual bankruptcy in our culture. If as a culture we are going to get off the road to bankruptcy, we must start with trust. We trust Christ as Savior. We trust **the** one who won't betray our trust. It sounds like something that is so very simple, and really it is. The hard part is letting go all of those things that won't satisfy so that we can turn to Jesus. That was the struggle the woman at the well had, but the result of waging the struggle indeed was worth it and is still worth it. Jesus gives "living water." Jesus gives us that depth of spiritual life that really does satisfy. The road to a depth of spiritual life begins with trusting the one who will never betray our trust, and that one is Jesus, the living water. Just something to think about.

Until next time, **Bro. Jim**

### WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson

Freddie Mae Jackson  
Oscar and Agnes McCarter  
Bill Evans  
Scottie McMackin  
Rev. Clifton Johnston  
T. J. Moore  
Norman Marston  
Jean Cone  
Gracie Henson  
Scott Dean  
Georgia Childress  
Brian Beller  
Robert White  
Herman Dunkin  
Vita Mae Owens  
Flora Benson

### **YOUTH NEWS - POOL PARTY**

The Youth will meet next week (**June 10**), for a pool party at the Holt's home (22 Beuerlein Circle) at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is asked to meet there.

**Dear Church Family**, I just wanted to take the time and say thank you for having a party for the graduating seniors. I know that I am so proud to have a church family that cares so much about our future. Thank you to all that contributed to the party and the special gifts for the seniors.

**First United Methodist Church**, Thank you so much for the nice gift card. It will really be useful as we have moved into our new home. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin our new life together. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

There will be a Finance committee meeting on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

There will be an Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.

**I Will Be Loyal  
To The United Methodist Church And  
Support It With: My Presence:  
Sunday, May 31, 2009**

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....39  
Sunday school Attendance.....74  
10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....91

**My Service: Sunday, June 7, 2009  
Acolytes: tba**

**Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.**

**Tues. June 9** Ray Price, Linda Newton & Jerry Gibbs

**Thurs. June 11** Jean Robertson, Martha Jo Gibbs & Jerry Gibbs

### **FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Ahoy, Mateys! Enter if you dare: All dads, sons, grandsons, grandpas, uncles and nephews are invited to a pirate adventure on the high seas! Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. in the CLC. Come and enjoy lunch and celebrate Father's Day! Please RSVP by June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to the Church office. Lunch will consist of: Green Guts Punch, Hardy-Har Hot Dogs, Wavy Cheese Curls, Mutiny Macaroni and Cheese and more...come and live the adventure!

### **CHRISTIANS CONNECT**

Christians Connect will meet on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, following the 8:15 a.m. service.

This month's gathering will be hosted by the Friends & Fellowship class. Everyone is invited to drop by for food and fellowship.

