

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - August 17, 2009

The Pastor's Pen

This past Sunday the title of my sermon was "Disciples Worship." "Disciples Worship" was the second in the current sermon series following the theme of "The Practices of a Christian." As I prepared for that sermon I gathered a number of illustrations for possible usage, but all of those stories didn't make it into the sermon. I want to share a couple of the stories that didn't make it but are surely worth our hearing.

Once there was a telephone operator in a small town. Every day at about the same time each day she would receive a call in which she was asked the time of day. Finally one day the operator kept her mysterious caller on the line long enough to ask him who he was and why he called for the time each day.

The caller's reply was that he was the fellow who blows the whistle at noon at the town hall, and he just wanted to be sure he had the correct time. With a chuckle the operator said to her caller, "And we set our watches and clocks by the town whistle."

[From the book "Wellsprings of Wisdom"]

How do we set our spiritual clocks? What gives nourishment to our spiritual lives? If it is not worship we may be kinda like the fellow and the operator in the story above. If we set our spiritual compasses by the ways of the world then those compasses are going to be off, but if we allow God to set our spiritual compass through worship, then we will be following our Lord. Worship is important to discipleship. Worship is the way we set our spiritual clocks.

A man named Henry Lauder used to tell a story of his boyhood in Scotland. He liked to look from the window of his home at twilight and watch the lamplighter with his long pole with the torch on top lighting the street lamps. He would go from lamp to lamp lighting each one. Lauder would watch him as he ascended the hilly street and left each lamp behind him lit. Then the lamplighter would go over the hill and disappear out of sight, but you could still see the light of his torch against the sky and you could see the lamps he left lit.

And the story concludes this way. "That is what is meant by a genuine Christian: one who is a light to his fellowman while still living, and whose way has been marked by light when he has left this world." [From the book Wellsprings of Wisdom].

In my sermon I said that disciples desire to be a positive influence in the world, and that we can be that positive influence only as we worship. The reason that is so is simply this. It is in worship that our torches are lit that allow us to light the lamps of goodness and grace along our way.

Disciples worship because worship is very, very important. In worship we set our spiritual compasses as we are in communion with God and with Christ, and in worship we have our torches lit by God's grace that enable us to bring the light of goodness and grace to the world. Just something to think about.

Until next time, Bro. Jim

BE PART OF SOMETHING GOOD

The Youth will be selling Coffee, Chai Tea and Hot Chocolate for the next month. They

are raising funds for their next youth event, Warmth in Winter in January. The coffee and other items come from the company, Ugly Mug coffee. Portions of their sales goes back to the local coffee growers to provide a better life. They are involved in an ongoing effort to fund water wells in remote Peruvian villages. The coffee is available whole bean or ground. To place an order see any youth or contact Alecia at Youth911AThotmail.com. The church office also has an order form.

FIFTH SUNDAY SINGING

The next Fifth Sunday Singing is coming up on **August 30th**. New Prospect will be hosting this event and it will begin at **6 P.M.** Everyone is invited to come out and hear church choirs as well as individuals perform their musical talents. A time of fellowship will follow the program.

CHURCHWIDE MEETING

On Sunday evening, August 23rd, at 6:00 p.m., Bro. Jim would like to meet with those who attended the Wednesday night study last spring on the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations," plus all committee chairpersons, and any members of the congregation who desire to come. Bro. Jim has been working on an "Action Plan" for the church and will present it that night. The meeting will also be for the purpose of discussion of the plan and hearing the church's ideas and suggestions as relates to the plan. **Childcare will be provided for those who wish to attend this meeting. The children will be viewing the new Veggie Tales movie in the CLC.**

FALL WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

The Wednesday evening study for this fall will be "In God's Time: The Bible and the Future." While this study will not be limited to the Book of Revelation only and will not be a Bible Study on The Book of Revelation as such, the bulk of it will come from that book. As the title implies, this study will be around the subject of end times which has been a prevalent subject of late. All who can are encouraged to attend. The Participant's Book will be in the neighborhood of \$8.00 per book. As we get closer to the start up for Wednesday night meals, a sign-up sheet will be provided. **If you plan to participate in the Wednesday night study, please call the church office at 762-3696 so we can know how many books to order.**

NEWSLETTERS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

If you have a college student who has returned to school and would like to receive a church newsletter, please contact the church office and leave their new address and we will be happy to send them one.

TENNESSEE CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN STEP FORWARD TO AID BETHLEHEM CENTERS OF NASHVILLE

...Bethlehem Center of Nashville, a United Methodist ministry, serves a vital need for the poor, displaced, and disadvantaged of the Nashville area. Each year the Center serves over 6,000 people directly. Thousands of family and community members are indirectly served. It will cease to exist if its financial situation is not resolved **NOW**.

...Throughout its history the United Methodist Women have stepped forward to create essential ministries and to help strengthen existing ministries when need arose. The executive team of the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Women accepted Bishop Wills' challenge to assist the Center in its crisis and has developed a plan to help Bethlehem Center of Nashville. Each circle is being asked to take a love offering for Bethlehem Center at each of their monthly meetings.

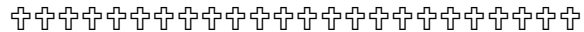
...In addition to funds being raised in each unit, Christy Cookies has a contest going that will provide \$10,000 to a charity with the highest number of votes, and \$5,000 to three runners up. All that is required to vote for Bethlehem Center of Nashville is to log onto www.christiecookies.com and follow the directions about how to vote. No purchase is required and only one vote can be submitted from one email address. Please spread the word, vote, and continue to help Bethlehem Center of Nashville.

WITH ONE ANOTHER

David Robertson
Freddie Mae Jackson
Oscar and Agnes McCarter

Bill Evans
Scottie McMackin
T. J. Moore
Norman Marston
Jean Cone
Scott Dean
Brian Beller
Robert White
Flora Benson
Aaron Kirby (serving in Iraq)
Charlie Krieger (serving in Iraq)
Rob Nelson & Family
Jim Weatherford
Bill King
Tom Stillwell
John Paley
Donnie Kilburn

...We extend our love and sympathy to Mickey Dunn and his family on the loss of his mother (Sara Virginia Holt Dunn) this past weekend.



I Will Be Loyal

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

Sunday, August 16, 2009

8:15 a.m. Worship Attendance.....41
Sunday school Attendance.....86
10:30 a.m. Worship Attendance.....103

My Service: Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009

Acolytes: tba

Loaves and Fishes: Tues. & Thurs.

Tues. August 25, Loulie Brown, Jean Grimsley, Anita Marston & Jerry Gibbs
Thurs. August 27, Joan Cochran, Joyce Holmes, Martha Jo & Jerry Gibbs

LOAVES & FISHES

Reminder: This month has a Fifth Sunday, which is a Sunday set aside for you to donate non-food items to the food pantry (Toothpaste, Diapers, Toilet Tissue, Detergent, and Soap).

ATTENTION: If you or someone you know needs any yard work done, please contact the church office (762-3696). Someone has contacted us looking for that type of work to do.

CHRISTIANS CONNECT

The Christians Connect page has been updated on the church website:

<http://lawrenceburgfumc.com>

View new pictures of the last Christian’s connect gathering.

