



## Sunday June 22, 2014

A Collection of Musings  
and Ideas from the Pastor

### Free Coffee Fridays are Coming!

Inspiration often comes at the most unexpected of times and places. Coming home from Tennessee recently, I decided to take a back road. On the road was a United Methodist Church with a sign advertising a Free Coffee Drive Through. I immediately thought of our church and the sizeable number of cars that pass by it each morning. From that sighting and that idea came the Free Coffee Friday idea.

Here's how I think it will work. Beginning Friday July 11th and running for four Fridays, I am getting up early and coming over to the church around 6:00 am. I'll take a table outside to the covered entry area at the back of the church. I'll set up the coffee pot and start brewing coffee. We will route people into the parking lot from Wyandotte and into the alley between the church and Joe and Nancy Toney's. We'll offer them a cup of coffee and a home made muffin. We'll tell them God loves them. We'll give them a handout with upcoming events and activities and we will send them on their way.

Will it work and make a difference? I don't know, but I feel compelled to try. I need your help. Firstly, I will need some folks there with me getting things ready under the covered area. I'll also need some folks down on the road waving signs to get attention. It would be nice to have some muffins. If you are interested, then please let me know and I will sign you up to help on the date(s) of your choice. Most likely we will serve between 6:45—no later than 8:00. We'll just have to see when the traffic dies down.

### Please Overlook the Inconvenience

We have been informed by the Town of Big Stone Gap that the alleyway between the church and the Toney's home will be resurfaced at some point in the near future. This may be a several day project. So you may not have easy access to the rear entryway. Please forgive the inconvenience this might cause. I think you will be happy with the results.

### Friday Night Movies to Start in July

We will offer our first Friday night movie on July 11th. It will be outdoors under the covered area behind the church. Hopefully, the alley will be paved by then and good seating will be available for those that come. If you would like to help, please get in touch with the pastor. We'll be serving snacks, popcorn and Kool-Aid. Bring the family and join us.



A Look at Upcoming Events

### VBS Planning Meeting Scheduled

It's just around the corner (July 28th-Aug 1st) and it is time for us to get down to work on VBS planning. That means that we are going to meet on Tuesday night June 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the church. If you have been contacted by David Goodman, you need to be present at this meeting. If you are wanting to help out, but have not been contacted, then you need to also be present at this meeting. The VBS looks like it is going to be exciting. We need to get everyone informed, involved, and excited. So come out and join us for this very important meeting.

### Mom's Day Out This Thursday

We have rescheduled our Mom's Day Out to this Thursday June 26th from 10:00 am-1:00 p.m. If you know of a mom in the community that would like a little breathing time, then have her come by the church and drop off her kids this Thursday. We'll offer them activities, Bible Stories, a meal, and other things to keep them busy. Angie Clendenen is in charge and helpers would be appreciated. Please call or text her at (276) 298-6820 to let her know how you could help.

### New District Superintendent to Arrive Tuesday

Our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Jeff Wright and his wife Sandy will move in sometime this Tuesday—let me rephrase that—he has to be out of his current parsonage by that date. Current guidelines suggest that he might not move in until Wednesday. However, we are expecting him on Tuesday. [*Who said Methodists were anything but efficient ;)*] So when you see a moving van, that's a sure sign that Jeff and Sandy are on the way into the district parsonage.

Please take a moment out of your schedule to give them a warm welcome to our neighborhood. I am looking forward to my new neighbors. We have known each other since we served together in Chilhowie, Virginia back in the 90's. I am sure that Jeff will have a fruitful ministry as he provides leadership to the Big Stone Gap District.



Let me tell you how glad we are to have you at our worship service today. We hope that you will encounter the presence of the risen Christ. Please feel free to join in any of the activities or events that you see mentioned. Please come back and worship with us again!

The Pastor’s Ponderings is a weekly publication of Rev. Terry Goodman. It contains thoughts, ideas, articles, and other writings designed to inform and, hopefully, cause you to stop and ponder.

The Romans 12 Project

Finding the Jewel

When CrossRoads United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, decided to intentionally connect with the growing Hispanic population in their community, it used an unusual strategy that has resulted in a great mix of people in worship and ministry.

The pastor reports, “Instead of focusing on a Spanish-language service that reaches first-generation immigrants, we decided to focus on the second generation. And here is the jewel—when second generation children come to church, they bring their parents, children, and grandchildren.”

Having at least one parent who was born outside of the United States, often these second-generation children of immigrants primarily speak English and serve as the bridge between U.S. culture and the culture of their parents’ homeland.

As CrossRoads UMC tried this new approach, many second-generation immigrants brought their friends and family with them to church. Many grandparents who did not speak English found that the church was a great place for them to practice speaking English. Far more importantly, these first-generation immigrants were grateful to be able gather with their children and grandchildren in a place that understood the dynamics of immigrant families and the importance of worshipping and praying together.

As the pastor says, “If Hispanic families go to Spanish-speaking churches, they often lose their children to the English-speaking culture as the children choose to attend English-speaking congregations. But when the parents go to English-speaking churches, their children remain, and their family community is together. This is more important than language. And the church becomes a place for learning the language of their children.”

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Question for Discussion

- How does your congregation listen to the heartfelt needs of people in your community?
- What “common-sense” strategies does your congregation have in place for reaching your community? How might those strategies change if you examined those strategies from a different perspective?

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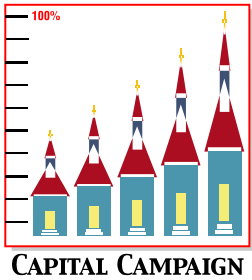
An Update on the Capital Campaign

A special thanks goes out to all the persons and groups that have responded to our Forward Trinity Capital Campaign to raise funds for needed equipment and repairs at the church. Below is where we stand to date on this campaign:

Total Received-Equipment: \$ 4,575  
Equipment Goal: \$ 7,000

Total Received Maintenance: \$ 7,000  
Maintenance Goal: \$15,000

Just a reminder, we ask everyone to try and have their pledges completed by September 30, 2014. This will allow us to complete the work we need to do during the summer months. Again, thanks to all that have pledged and contributed.



The Pastor’s Thoughts on Discipleship



This past Thursday, I met with the Disciple Team and we watched the sermon delivered by Bishop Taylor at the closing session of Annual Conference. In that sermon she suggested that the strength of the church lies in the fact that we are/have: “One Church. One Team. One Plan. One Goal.” She was talking about unity of mission and purpose. This, also, went along with the theme from the book we are studying.

One of the biggest obstacles that our church is going to have to overcome is that of unity. Not delving too deeply into our past troubles. I think that it is accurate to state that when issues with pastoral leadership arose, the church lost its primary source of vision. As a result, some very capable lay folk came forward and filled the leadership vacuum caused by pastoral problems.

Unfortunately, the pastoral problems were not a one time event and the church entered into a period of several years of strong lay leadership (nothing unfortunate about that). It is unfortunate that as a result, there did not seem to be any common vision or direction. Different groups and individuals simply stepped forward and took control of the ministries, activities, and events. However, there was no coordination of those things and, as a result, I think that the church lost its singular vision and purpose for existence.

Using a sports analogy, the players started running the team and calling the plays that they felt were best and due to a lack of coaching oversight, the team floundered and had some less than successful seasons.

The Disciple Team will be examining this lack of core vision and direction and will begin writing a playbook to help us all get on the same page. Working together with a common vision I don’t think there is anything that our church cannot accomplish.

Please pray for us as we undertake this effort.