



Sunday September 28, 2014

A Collection of Musings, Ideas and
Information from the Pastor

10 Things I'd Do Differently if I Weren't a Pastor Today

(The following is from a blog by Pastor Ron Edmondson)

I spent most of my adult life outside vocational ministry. I'm amazed at the opportunities God has given me in ministry, but in many ways I am still a newcomer. I have just over a dozen years in this career. It's challenging in some ways, because I see things differently from some who have only done ministry, but it also gives me a unique perspective from some pastors. I sat "in the pew" far longer than I've stood "behind the pulpit".

One thing my experience has done for me, especially since I've become a pastor, is to help me realize how much I didn't understand about being a pastor. Like the feeling that work is never done. Like feeling you are never really "off". Like knowing people are going to be upset with every decision you make — and balancing whether to move forward or give into their frustration. Like the pressure of "Sunday's coming". Like carrying the weight of everyone, but sometimes feeling you've got no where to share your own struggles. Stuff like that.

So, if I were ever on the other side again — and I was back "in the pew" — I'd change a few things about myself. Here are 10 things I'd do differently if I weren't a pastor today:

I'd make church attendance a priority. I'd build my week around the services of the church, knowing how vital every person is to the body. I'd understand what an encouragement it is to the pastor when people give the same priority to church that they give to other places in their life.

I'd love my pastor. I mean really love my pastor. Knowing how many expectations are placed on the pastor, I'd be among the group that's always ready to help, but, recognizing he's only one imperfect person, not one to get my feelings hurt if the pastor didn't do everything I hoped he would.

I'd be a generous giver. Understanding that there are really a small number who financially support the work of the church, I'd be a Kingdom investor.

I'd be an ambassador for the church. I'd use my influence in the community and where I worked to bring people to church and Christ. I'd look for people I didn't know on Sunday mornings and try to help them acclimate to the church.

If I had a problem with the pastor, I'd talk to the pastor. Not his wife. (That's always a bad move.) Not other church members. Certainly not the community.

I'd try to get less upset about things that impact only me — that are mostly matters of personal preference.

I would pray bold prayers for the church. Daily.

I would support the pastor and his family. I would understand he couldn't be everywhere, and never make him feel guilty for not being where I hoped he would be.

I would smile when he preaches. I'd give visual witness that I was paying attention. I might even say "Amen" when appropriate. Oh yea..definite amens.

I would serve where needed. In fact, I'd volunteer without being asked.



A Look at Upcoming Events

Nominations Committee Meets Tonight to Make Nominations for Church Leadership Positions

Members of our Nominations Committee have been thinking and praying the last two weeks over the various leadership positions within our church. Tonight the committee will gather at 6:00 pm, and we will decide, as a group, who we will be asking to assume leadership roles within our church. Please be in prayer for this process.

Meeting Scheduled for Parents of Youth

Next Sunday, September 28th, the parents of our United Methodist Youth are asked to attend a meeting at the church that begins at 5:00 pm. At this meeting, we will discuss the structure of the group and specifically talk about Resurrection 2015 along with costs and of what we expect from the kids prior to and during their attendance at this event. This is a very important meeting and all parents need to be present. We will work together to develop guidelines and what we decide will be the plan that applies to all the youth that attend from our church.

Finance Team Meets October 7th

Our Finance Team is scheduled to meet on Tuesday night October 7th at 6:30 pm. Members of the team are: Spencer Quesenberry-Chairperson, Becky Rogers, Bill Cole, Martha Spurlock, Pat Bowden, Phil Robbins, Donnie Ratliff, Nancy Toney, Ben Allen, Patty Lynn Cooper, Kathleen Gillespie, Christy Smith, Kim Parsons, Donna Mahan, Jim Abe Fleenor, Vicky Ratliff, Dianne Botts, Chris Higgins, and Barbara Hargrove.

Mark Your Calendars

- ⇒ **Pastor Appreciation Meal set for Sunday Oct 5th immediately following the church service. Contact Nancy Toney for more details.**
- ⇒ **Church Yard Sale is Scheduled for Oct 6th-10th**
- ⇒ **United Methodist Men Pancake Breakfast set for Saturday October 11th**
- ⇒ **United Methodist Women Sunday October 26th**
- ⇒ **Fall Festival Sunday October 26th**



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 Newsletter

The Diaper Church

Absecon United Methodist Church in Absecon, New Jersey, is located in Atlantic County, New Jersey. Palatial casinos sit just blocks from some of the poorest, most run down neighborhoods in New Jersey. Large, oceanfront mansions set within a mile of small single family homes filled with multiple families of migrant farm workers.

As members of Absecon UMC looked at the needs around them, they knew that Christ was calling them to be in ministry with the poor, and they began to seek a way to express their love and caring in the community. They discovered that while many churches were offering food pantries and clothing closets, an unmet need of economically poor families was diapers. They also learned that safety net programs such as WIC or SNAP (food stamps) do not cover diapers.

“Many parents are already struggling to pay for rent and food and simply cannot afford the high cost of an adequate supply of diapers for their children. And even for those families who use cloth diapers, the cost can be staggering, especially for those who don’t have adequate laundry facilities and must use coin-operated machines,” reported the president of the United Methodist Women.

The congregation, with leadership from the UMW, decided they could make a difference. They named this outreach “No Baby Wet Behind” and partnered with Family Services Association, a local non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening individuals and families in the South Jersey area.

Diapers are collected at various locations both inside the church, outside the church, and in the community. Members collect them from neighbors and friends who have no connection to the church, and some members even collect diapers at their workplaces and bring them to the church for distribution by the Family Service Association.

Absecon UMC is proud that if you ask someone in the community about the church, they are likely to respond with, "I know that church, it's the diaper church!"

Question for Discussion

- What is your congregation known for in the community? Is it related to living as disciples in the world?
- What are the hidden needs in your community? What other groups might you partner with to address these needs?

Ken Sloane is the Director of Stewardship and Connectional Ministries at Discipleship Ministries — The United Methodist Church. You can contact him at ksloane@gbod.org.



Financial Snapshot

The Administrative Board thinks that it is important that we give you a weekly Financial Snapshot. Here are some figures to ponder:

Total Received Maintenance:	\$ 14,581
Maintenance Goal:	\$ 18,000
Money Given to General Fund	
Given Last Week	\$ 1,655
Budgeted Need to Date	\$ 123,192
Actual Amount Given to Date	\$ 112,486

The Pastor’s Thoughts on Discipleship



I know where I want to go. I just don’t know how to get there. This is how I am feeling in relation to our church and Discipleship. I know what I want the future to look like, but I am unable to make that future a reality because it is all out of my control.

If I take seriously the Ephesians 4 model of ministry that suggests I am here to “equip the saints for the ministry” then there some presuppositions that must be faced.

First of all, do the saints want to be equipped? Do you want to become more engaged in the ministry and mission of the church? Do you want to discover how God has uniquely made you to be in ministry on behalf of the Kingdom?

Secondly, if you do want to get involved, are you willing to put in the time and effort to learn new ways of thinking and doing the ministry of the church? Are you willing to forget the old way of doing things and begin to look at new ways of doing things? Will you study and pray? Will you get your hands dirty engaging in new ministries? Will you stop sitting back and criticizing or complaining about how things used to be and begin to realize that we must approach ministry and our community in new ways that might make us uncomfortable?

Thirdly, are you willing to trust me and, more importantly, to trust God to lead us into a new relationship with Him and with our community?

I know that these are a lot of questions, but I truly need for you to ponder them and see how you are willing to respond. I am ready to help make disciples. Are you ready and willing to become a stronger disciple, especially if it means getting out of your comfort zone?