



Sunday July 27, 2014

**A Collection of Musings
and Ideas from the Pastor**

Let's Gather School Supplies

Koni Purscell, our Church and Community Worker, has reminded us that school is just around the corner and it might be a good idea to start gathering school supplies. I'd suggest we concentrate on a few basic items: loose leaf paper, pencils, glue sticks, and crayons. If we just get those items, especially in quantity, we should be able really help out some kids and/or schools when they go back into session the first week of August. You can place supplies on the table in the fellowship hall we normally use for such collections.

You are Invited to a Baptism

On Sunday afternoon August 10th, we are going to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in a very special way. We are going to have a river baptism. Conner Clendenon has indicated that he wants to make his profession of faith and be baptized. We are going to use the river behind the Cedar Ridge Baptist Church out in Crackers Neck and we are looking at 2:00 p.m. as the time. Since baptism is a rite of the church, I would hope that some of the church members could be present for the celebration of this Sacrament.

Mission Group to Spend Night at the Church

The Rev. Joel Hubbard (best man at my wedding) will be leading a mission group from his church in New Jersey to the Red Bird Mission. The group, of about 20, will spend Saturday night August 9th in our church. I anticipate that they will then be present to worship with us on Sunday morning. I don't know when they will arrive, but it might be nice to have some snacks for them. I might also be asking some of you to supply breakfast casseroles, fruit, and juice for Sunday morning. Please keep this group in your prayers as they travel to Red Bird Mission.

Help us Build a Stronger Internet Presence

We are making great strides with our church web site. Specifically, each Sunday now has a page dedicated to everything associated with that particular day: bulletins, Pastor's Ponderings, worship service elements, the sermon, and lots more are all readily available online. If we have your email address, you should be receiving weekly reminders of the web site. We are also asking you to follow us or friend us or like us on numerous social media venues.

The stronger our web presence, the more opportunities we will have to minister to folks that are just surfing the internet looking for a church or a sermon topic or a song or any of the other elements that we are seeking to promote through our internet activities. As an example, the video of the Beth Hagan prayer service has had 323 views and some of my sermons have had nearly 500 views.

As you friend, like and or follow us, you will draw attention to our ministries and more people can be exposed to what we have to offer. If you have any questions or don't receive these weekly emails, then please get in touch with me. I'd love to help you get you connected.



A Look at Upcoming Events

Free Coffee Friday Concludes This Week

Our final go round of Free Coffee Friday will be this coming week. We will gather at the church at 6:30 a.m. and begin serving coffee, juice and muffins around 7:00 a.m. on the corner of Wyandotte and E 1st St. You are welcome to come and join us. You are also invited to fix some muffins and have them there for us to hand out. You can bring them to the church on Thursday or come in person on Friday morning.

The New Copier Has Arrived and A New Router Has Been Installed

Our new copier is in place and working as expected. One thing we will do is assign passcodes to persons that use the copier. If you think that you will be using it, then please stop by the office and get a code and let Becky show you how to use it in conjunction with your copies. A thanks go out to all those that have contributed over the last few months to the Forward Trinity Equipment Fund that made this purchase possible.

In conjunction with the new copier, we have also installed a new and stronger internet Wifi router. If you have been using your wireless devices in the church, they will not get internet access until you use the new password that comes with the system. Please see the pastor or Becky to get a password.

Clean Up Day Scheduled for the Church

Kathleen Gillespie has asked that we announce that Saturday August 2nd will be a clean up day at the church. This year, she invites all of us to join with her. More details will be given as the date approaches. So, please plan to give a couple of hours on the 2nd to help us clean up the church.

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VBS Is About to Begin

Mon Jul 28th—Fri Aug 1st

Registration each night at 5:30 pm

VBS begins at 5:45 pm

For Kids up through 6th grade

Welcome



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

Culture of the Call

For the first 99 years of Denver United Methodist Church's 130-year history, fewer than 100 people gathered each week to worship. Today this rural congregation in Denver, North Carolina, has grown to over 1,400 members. With a mission statement of "Love, Learn, and Serve," Denver UMC strives to be a sending congregation that is known for their love of Christ and love for others.

One major factor in this significant growth is an intentional focus on helping youth and young adults to hear and respond to God's call on their lives. Since the late 1990s, Denver UMC has served as a ministry setting for Duke Divinity students to serve as summer interns. Several years ago the church decided to expand the internship program by funding internships for Denver UMC college students to explore a call to ministry. These students are able to shadow the pastors and church staff and take on leadership roles during their summer break from school.

In the fall of 2012, Denver further expanded their effort to help young people consider ministry by launching its Ministry As a Career Track (MAC Track) program. The participants, who are 6th-12th graders, spend ten months exploring different ministry positions, and have regular worship and discipleship leadership opportunities in the church. Currently, there are 22 youth involved, and this summer's college intern is a past participant of the program.

As a result of intentionally investing in the congregation's young people, Denver UMC can identify four people who have responded to a call to full-time ministry, five college students who are seriously contemplating entering ministry after college, and dozens of youth who are interested in exploring a call to ministry.

Question for Discussion

- How does your congregation support young people in discerning God's call to ministry in their lives, whether it be ordained ministry or other vocations?
- Are there people who, if asked, would be excited to invest in extra-mile giving that would support internships for young adults in the congregation?
- In what ways could your congregation be more intentional in developing leaders?

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An Update on the Capital Campaign

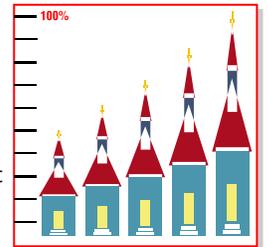
A special thanks goes out to all the persons and groups that have responded to our Forward Trinity Capital Campaign to raise funds for needed equipment and repairs at the church. Below is where we stand to date on this campaign:

Total Received Maintenance: \$ 12,967
Maintenance Goal: \$15,000

Just a reminder, we no longer need contributions to the Forward Trinity Equipment Fund at this time. Instead, let's continue to make gifts toward the Maintenance Fund.

Preliminary bids are coming in in the \$18,000

range for the work needed on the exterior of the church. So we still need money for this fund.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Pastor's Thoughts on Discipleship



I have been trying to live out my ministry of equipping the saints to do the ministry of the church. Last year, the leadership Cadre was a way to train some people to take leadership roles in the church. I think it was successful. This year, I am focusing on the Disciple Team. We are still struggling with some of the aspects of what it means to be a disciple.

I also would like to report on other success stories. Even though he is my son, I am going to spotlight David Goodman. He has stepped forward and shone that he is willing to take on responsibility for ministry and has become involved in service. His recent trip to Slidell, Louisiana caught his mom and me off guard. However, we can see the positive aspects of his service. In a similar fashion, his desire to be the Vacation Bible School Coordinator has been a great learning experience for him. I have offered advice, but I am making him do the work needed to get this school up and running. He has talked to many of you. I believe he will come out of this a stronger person and a better leader.

Another of our young folks that has taken on leadership responsibility is Evan Clark. He is the president of the UVA Wise Wesley Foundation and is providing leadership to that important student ministry. I can't claim credit for his leadership, but am glad to see him stepping out.

I have also noted, via Twitter, that Brooke Hubbard and Sydney Skinner are becoming leaders at Virginia Tech. They are involved in the summer program that introduces new students to the campus. From the pictures, it looks like they are having fun and also exercising leadership skills.

Then of course, there is Ben Higgins and Aaron Broyles that underwent training this summer at scout camp to become leaders at next year's camp.

Finally, there is my son Jacob. He was a counselor in training at the 4-H camp in Abingdon this year. At that same camp, Jamie and Katie Rich were counselors this year.

While our church has not deliberately "interned" them to leadership positions, I'd like to think that we have been a source of instruction for them as well as a support system for them through the years. Let's keep up the good work and train some more young men and women to be the future leaders of our church and community.