



## Sunday August 3, 2014

A Collection of Musings  
and Ideas from the Pastor

### 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.

### 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,

#### WEBUPDATES

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 views of the pictures posted on Facebook this past week promoting Vacation Bible School have been seen by thousands of persons. Word spread once people began telling their friends about what was going on. As of Thursday night the post of our District Superintendent, dressed as Dr. Paws had reached almost 750 people. This was just one of several posts that reached people in the hundreds.

**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.

## on the HORIZON

A Look at Upcoming Events

### 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.

They will be present with us in worship on the 10th. They will arrive sometime between 700-900 pm on Saturday night the 9th. I need for persons to bring some snack items to the church for them. I also need persons to supply breakfast items (casseroles, fruit, juice, etc) so that they can eat a meal on Sunday morning. Please contact me to let me know if you will be assisting with either Saturday night, Sunday morning or both. They'd probably need to eat between 800-900 a.m on Sunday. Items could be brought the night before and they could heat them up on Sunday morning or you could bring items that morning and join them for the meal.

Following the worship service, they will then head on to Red Bird Mission for a week of work and ministry.

### Meeting Immediately After Church to Discuss the Upcoming Community Party and Homecoming Weekend

I need for all persons that are interested in assisting with the Community Party (Sat Aug 30th) and Homecoming Sunday (Sun Aug 31st) To stay after church for a brief meeting to discuss some details of these events and to arrange a time to get together for some detailed planning of these events. I won't take more than 15-20 minutes of your time and we really need to make some decisions about what we are going to be doing for these events.

### Thank You David for Your Hard Work

I'd like to thank everyone that participated in making Vacation Bible School such a success. I'd like to publicly thank my son David Goodman for taking on the task of making sure everything came together. It was a big undertaking for a 16 year old, but he did a great job and I think he also learned a lot.

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

### John Wesley and the Children

John Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville, South Carolina is a congregation that takes seriously its namesake's admonition that ministry with children is a requirement, not an option. When early Methodist pastors grumbled about being expected to teach the children, Wesley said, "Gift or no gift, you are to do it, else you are not called to be a Methodist Preacher."

John Wesley UMC does not have a state-of-the-art facility for children. The structure is over 100 years old and its only renovation was about 40 years ago. There is no family life center. The fellowship hall is tiny. The classrooms are small and simple. From the description, you might think it would be a challenging place for children to thrive.

However, this congregation has a history of including children in more ways than Sunday school, children and youth Sundays, and UMYF. Children serve as acolytes, assist in worship, and serve in mission, including serving in the breakfast feeding ministry in the wee hours of the morning. Most of all, children are engaged in the total life of the church, and they are engaged by the adult members who know them by name, celebrate their accomplishments, and support them through difficulties.

Children have flourished at John Wesley UMC for several generations. According to the members who raised their children as part of this congregation, over 80% of the children involved in the children's ministry during its renovation are actively involved in a congregation as adults in the communities where they now reside.

When asked what they remember most from growing up in John Wesley UMC, middle-aged members recall that the church was a place where they felt loved, respected, and nurtured. For them, the adults in the congregation truly lived into Wesley's definition of a Methodist minister.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Some Questions for Discussion

- How does your church equip those other than parents and teachers to nurture children in the congregation?
- What opportunities are available for children to be in ministry with others in the congregation where loving, nurturing, and respectful relationships can be developed?
- How would adults who grew up in your congregation describe their experiences of congregational life as a child?

\*\*\*\*\*

Melanie Gordon is Director of Ministry with Children at GBOD. She can be reached at [mgordon@gbod.org](mailto:mgordon@gbod.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

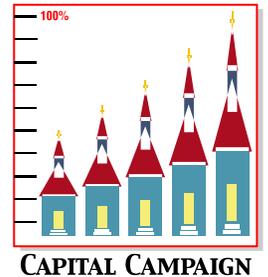
Romans 12 Newsletter. Issue #203. © 2014 GBOD. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy this newsletter for use in United Methodist congregations. This newsletter is provided as a service of the General Board of Discipleship and is funded through World Service apportionment giving by local United Methodist congregations.

## 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.



## The Pastor's Thoughts on Discipleship



We have just finished a week of loving time spent with the children of our community teaching them about God, feeding their bodies and their spirits, singing praises, doing crafts and having fun outside. It has been a hectic week. It has been a week filled with many smiles and blessings both for the children and for the adults that worked with them.

One of the things that we hope to do as we seek to replace our Director of Youth is to add a component to the job description so that the person that takes this role becomes Director of Children and Youth Ministries. We have come to realize that you can't just have ministry with the older junior and senior high kids. You have to start younger and be in ministry with younger kids.

Our Shepherd Team has also initiated a quarterly newsletter aimed at parents of children from birth through high school. We are not sure the format that this newsletter will take, but the first edition should be available in the month of September. This will complement the newsletter aimed at 18-32 year olds and the newsletter for those over the age of 50 that we are also doing on a quarterly basis.

Our goal is to be more intentional in the way that we share information and invite people to become involved. We would covet your prayers for these new endeavors that we are undertaking. We don't know where God is leading us, but we believe that along the way we are going to have many terrific opportunities to minister in God's name with the children, youth, and adults of our congregation.

If anyone is interested in offering ideas for articles or things to be included in these various newsletters, then please get in touch with me. Other such outreach organs may be developed to help our church stay more clearly in touch and to help us better understand our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.