

Sunday August 10, 2014

A Collection of Musings
and Ideas from the Pastor

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



WEBUPDATES

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 and to share our Twitter and Facebook posts with your friends.**

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, I took four pictures of the Fellowship Supper this past week and as of Friday morning, nearly 250 people had seen them. Not all those 250 people were our church members. That means that we had the opportunity to make a positive impact on quite a few people this week. An even more positive impact can be made if our church members on Facebook would share this post with their friends and comment upon it.

Another example is that I received an email from a pastor in Ohio. She had seen a video the church posted on YouTube from my 2013 Lenten Sermon series on Discipleship. This pastor wanted to use the message to help introduce the same material to her church. I readily agreed and shared all the other information on Discipleship that I had created. A United Methodist congregation in Ohio is now using material that we have already created and used. Saves them time and money and extends our ministry. All this happened because of our web presence.

As you friend, like, share posts 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

You are Invited to a Baptism

This afternoon, 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.

Let's Look at the End of the Month- Community Party and Homecoming

If you haven't heard already, you need to be looking ahead to the last weekend of the month—it also happens to be Labor Day Weekend. It also happens to be the date we scheduled for our Community Block Party and our Homecoming. (Next year we will pay closer attention to Labor Day!!) Let me refresh your memory about last year's events.

The Community Party — We block off the street between the church and the parsonage. We set up a stage on the Wyandotte / E 1st Street end. People bring lawn chairs and sit in the street. We have live bands. We feed everybody hot dogs and hamburgers. We have snow cones, pop corn, and cotton candy. We have some games. We do some more singing. Everybody has a good time. We witness to our faith and tell people about the events and activities happening at the church. Last year—the first year—we had about 175. This year, we hope to have between 225-250.

Homecoming—The very next day. I know you think I'm working your hard that weekend, but sometimes we need to make a big impact on our community. This weekend celebration gets people's attention. This year, the Rev. Jeff Wright, our new District Superintendent will preach. Following worship, we will have a POTLUCK meal in the fellowship hall. The church will not be supplying food this year, so plan accordingly and bring enough to share with lot's of folks. It would be nice to have well over a 100 in attendance. So start spreading the word.

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

The Dipsy Doodle Gang

If you stop by the Dipsy Doodle, a local café in Cookeville, Tennessee, on a Friday morning you will likely encounter a group of men from First United Methodist Church drinking coffee and making plans to improve their community.

While breakfast is being prepared, the men have a short devotional and learn about service opportunities. These men enjoy each other's company and prefer hands-on projects rather than listening to a speaker. They decide on a project for the week, then pass a hat to cover the cost. As soon as food arrives, joke telling and conversation commences.

Leadership has emerged in the group. The first time someone attends, whether he is an out-of-town visitor or a local resident, his name gets written into the membership book, and he is forever a member of the breakfast club. There are no dues and no membership requirements. More than a hundred names are recorded in the book, and each week about 30 men gather. The group includes men from across the community, including members of other churches.

After breakfast some of the men head off to work and others to a project site. Some projects are carried over to another time, depending on the availability of workers and the skills needed for the project. The men have built ramps to buildings, painted a small United Methodist church, and helped remodel the local Wesley Foundation. The Dipsy Doodle Gang also provides substantial financial support to a shelter for abused women and children. When the hat is passed at their annual Christmas breakfast, the entire contents are given as a bonus tip to the two faithful waitresses!

Question for Discussion

- What faith forming opportunities does your congregation provide for people who learn best through doing, rather than reading or discussion?
- What sites away from the church building might provide a more inviting location for small groups to meet?
- What rituals and traditions help newcomers to feel welcomed and included? Do any of your classes or small groups have traditions that would unintentionally discourage a newcomer from joining the group?

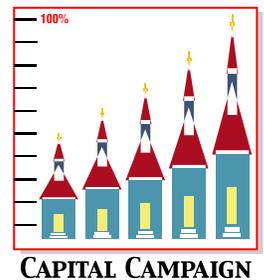
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An Update on the Capital Campaign

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: \$ 13,422
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



Where does leadership begin? It doesn't always have to begin with the pastor. Let me talk for a moment about the Shepherd Team. This Team was formed as 2013 was coming to a close. Its members wanted to find ways to take better care of our church members. In that sense, it's mission field was defined. From the beginning, the team has been pretty much a self starter. I have been asked to provide input and ideas, but the team members have done the day to day work of the team.

Currently, the Shepherd Team does the following:

- Reviews weekly worship attendance patterns and initiates contact with those persons that have missed worship. An escalating scale is used. They begin with a phone calls, move on to notes/letters then to visits. Ultimately, they will ask me to get involved after a certain number of Sundays have been consecutively missed.
- Staying in contact with those that are not regularly attending. The team has divided this group of people into two broad categories.
 - Those adults over age 50 receive a quarterly copy of The Trinity Companion that seeks to keep them informed about activities and events at the church.
 - Those adults ages 18-32 receive a quarterly copy of The Trinity Connection which seeks to keep them informed about what is happening at the church, but to also offer Christian lifestyle articles for their consideration.
- We are also about to begin a quarterly newsletter aimed at parents and children birth through age 18.
- We prepare the Bereavement Kits and get them into homes when there has been a death.

All of these things are done by the Team and not the just the pastor. This week, I received a call from Patty Cooper who told me the Team will be meeting each Monday at 10:30 a.m. I told her I could not commit to such a weekly meeting. I was told I didn't have to. All I need to do is drop in once a month and see what's going on. She also sort of jokingly said that their goal was to make my job easier. I like that, but I retorted, "You should really think of it as a chance for you to discover and use your ministry gifts instead of making my job easier."