



Sunday September 21, 2014

A Collection of Musings, Ideas and
Information from the Pastor

Church to Host District Conference This Afternoon

This afternoon at 3:00 p.m., representatives from the churches of the Big Stone Gap District will be arriving at our church for the annual District Conference. The following persons from our church are members of the conference and should be present: Phil Robbins, Spencer Quesenberry, Martha Spurlock, Pat Bowden, Nancy Toney, Paul Clark, and David Goodman. Anyone else is welcome to attend. As a matter of fact, I would hope that we could have persons at the church by, at least, 2:45 pm to act as greeters. We need people at all the doors. If you are available please let me know. This is a basic act of hospitality to the guests that will be in our facility this afternoon. So please volunteer some of your time.

Kids in Christ Off to a Good Start

Last weekend, our Kids in Christ Ministry had its kick off event. We had 19-20 kids (some came in later and it was sort of hard to get a good count—that is a good thing!) Things were a bit chaotic, but that is to be expected for our first event. We will learn and with each time, things will become better and more kids will come. The place was alive with energy. We fed them, offered a craft, a Bible story, an interactive song and some games. A special thanks go out to all those that stayed to help make this such a successful day. I can't name all of you, but I am truly glad that you gave of your time to make this ministry possible.

The Kid's in Christ Ministry is scheduled for the second Sunday of each month, so go ahead and mark your calendars and tell all kids up through fifth grade that they are welcome to join us from noon until 2:00 p.m. on Sunday October 12, 2014 for our next event.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship Off to a Good Start

We are now coming into our third week and our UMYF is off to a good start. So far I think that Christy reports that we have had 10 unique kids in the first two weeks. Our goal is to continue building on that and grow the group over the next few months. We are aiming toward Resurrection 2015 in January. Between now and then, we will have to engage in some fund raising activities in addition to our weekly meetings. We might even be looking for some sponsors to help cover expenses related to the event. Our goal is to take a large group and we ask that you keep us in your prayers as we seek to build the group and make our preparations. Also, pray for Christy Smith as she provides leadership to the group and for the group as a whole as it tries to figure out its format and grow stronger as a group. All children grades 6-12 are invited to be a part of the group. A snack meal is served on Sundays at 5:00 pm and the meeting starts at 5:30 pm. Volunteers are needed for the meal and to help out with the group. Get in touch with Christy if you can help.



A Look at Upcoming Events

Nominations Committee Meets Next Week 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. Today, each member is turning in to me a list of who they think is the best person(s) for the various positions. I will take their individual lists and compile them into a master list. Next Sunday at 6:00 pm, the entire committee will gather 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.

Poppin For Jesus Continues its Ministry

This Wednesday morning, a group of men and women from our church are going back to college. They aren't going to learn or study, they are going to make popcorn and make friends. For many years, we have reached out to the students at MECC by serving them free bags of popcorn and snack treats on the last Wednesday of each month. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as volunteers head out Wednesday morning to brighten the morning of some students and faculty members at the college.

Mark Your Calendars

- ⇒ **October Fellowship Meal Wednesday Oct 1st at 6:30 p.m.**
- ⇒ **Church Yard Sale is Scheduled for Oct 6th-10th**
- ⇒ **United Methodist Men Plan Pancake Breakfast set for Saturday October 11th**

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

Discovering God's Unique Purpose

In the spring of 2011 the leadership of Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church in Durham, North Carolina was told that if nothing changed, they probably had ten or fifteen years of viability. This church, founded in 1825 to be a chapel and community center, had experienced decline over recent years and no longer held a prominent place in the community.

The historic congregation was trying to survive, while the neighborhood around the church continued to grow and increase in diversity. The church was filled with generous people who regularly engaged in acts of charity such as collecting items and money for those in need. They just could not figure out how, and were a little bit scared, to connect with their new neighbors.

That fall the people of Fletcher's Chapel UMC began an intentional process of discovering their unique gifts and identifying needs in their community. After six months of work, it was determined that God was calling the congregation to partner with its neighborhood public school. While the older members' children had attended the local public schools, all of the current children attended private schools. The school was incredibly over-crowded and under-resourced, and did not have any community support or sponsors. The church leadership met with the school's principal and guidance counselor to determine the greatest needs and how the church could best support the students and staff.

Beginning in the spring semester, with all of the congregation's missional efforts directed at the school, Fletcher's Chapel UMC became the school's PTA, tutors, and supplier of needed resources. While the church membership and attendance did not immediately increase, Fletcher's Chapel UMC once again was known in the community as a church that loves and cares for others. Even as a small membership church, it is possible to make big difference and bring love and hope to the community.

Questions for Discussion

- What are the one or two things that God has uniquely gifted and called your congregation to do and to be?
- Does your congregation seek to meet assumed needs, or are you actively engaged in dialogue to meet expressed needs?
- Whom do you need to be in dialogue with in order to deeply understand the needs of the community?

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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: \$ 13,911
Maintenance Goal: \$ 15,000

Money Given to General Fund

Budgeted Need to Date \$ 120,654
Actual Amount Given to Date..... \$ 110,831

The Pastor's Thoughts on Discipleship



There is something that can be said for intentional community. The church is an intentional community. We gather each week as a group of people that don't have to get together. Yet we choose to get out of bed and come to Sunday School and church. We choose to give our tithes to support the mission and ministry of the church. We choose to engage in reaching out to our wider community. All of this is an intentional effort on our part it just doesn't happen.

This week, our wider community also experienced a moment of intentional community. Through the hard work of dedicated friends, known affectionately as the Ya-Ya's, the Big Stone Gap community was rallied on Thursday night for a fund raiser to help Beth Hagan. We had the UVA Wise Cavaliers Marching Band and the Union High School Marching Band provide about 45 minutes of terrific music. Pigskin Picks did a live remote broadcast from Carmines. We had great hot dogs and brats. More importantly, we had a community that came together—intentionally—to celebrate and help out one of its own that was in need.

That's what an intentional community can do. Things just don't happen. Sometimes—in my opinion—most all the time—somebody has to get the ball rolling and get people on board to make a difference. It is time for our church to get on the ball and deal with issues it is facing so that it can once again be a shining beacon of hope and ministry in our community. We have been making strides, but we have a long way to go. We have got to become even more intentional in what we are doing than we are now. To do that **EVERYONE** has got to take an active role in the life, ministry, and support of the church. It is only when we begin to intentionally minister, that we will succeed in a way that will ultimately bring glory and honor to God.