



March Reminder

The Blessing of Loving God

One of the greatest discoveries I made while in seminary was that of the spiritual writings of people like Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, St. Augustine, Evelyn Underhill and others often referred to as mystics. As a sort of person who likes to get things done, this idea of reflection and growth through reading that was not intended to “educate me” was new and very different. Since that time, I have found that this is probably the biggest challenge I face as a person and as a pastor. Making time for quiet reflection and reading which is not intended for a sermon on Sunday morning is not easy.

Yet God through Jesus Christ is very much a living person who longs for all of us to spend time with him and to know him on a personal level. It is one thing to know the stories, the texts, to direct someone to this chapter and verse, but that alone does not lead us to know God in a deeper, intimate way. In order to live our Christian journey and faith that is truly about taking up our cross and denying ourselves, we cannot be on our own apart from a loving, strong connection with Jesus Christ as friend, guide and truth teller.

During Lent we will be learning more about spiritual disciplines that help us deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. One of the classics I will be using on this topic is a book by Richard Foster titled, *Celebration of Discipline, the Path to Spiritual Growth*. If you have a chance to read the book, I encourage you to do so.

Another way we grow is by doing things out of our comfort zone. It is wonderful to come to worship and to be with friends and family on Sunday morning or throughout the week, or even to gather in a home for study. But to truly grow, we need to take some time to get away and spend time with someone who will provide guidance to open our eyes in fresh, new ways for spiritual growth. Often these people are called spiritual directors.

Just up the road from Muncie in Hartford City is the John 23rd Retreat Center. This center is sponsored by the Catholic church but has many programs that are ecumenical in nature. As Protestants we continue to grow in our spiritual journeys by following their lead. Here is a sampling of programs and retreats that I would encourage you to consider attending with a friend. The contact information is below. It only takes 30 minutes travel time and a little bit of courage to go on a new adventure with God!

Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life-March 4-Wed. 9:15 AM.-2:30PM Facilitator: Dorothy Stewart. Topics:

Connections: See how life is related to all of creation. Devotion: Learn how to express yourself through prayer with words and action. Fee: \$20.00 Register by March 2. Fee includes lunch, presentation and materials.

Contemplative Journey-March 20-Fri. 6:30pm- Sat. - March 21.-4:00pm or just come for the day on Sat. from 9:00am-4:00pm. If, coming overnight we will do some journaling with some of Thomas Merton’s works. Topics for Sat. include: “God’s Joyful Cosmic Dance”, “Writing the Testament Our Hearts Speak” and “Writing a Holy Sentence Day After Day” Facilitated by Sr. Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC Overnight Fee: \$48.00 , Day Fee: \$22.00, Booklet:\$6.00. Register by March 17.

Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life-April 1-Wed.-9:00am-2:30pm- Topics: Enthusiasm: Begin to celebrate life with passion. Faith: Explore the deeper dimension of life, knowing that God is always there for you. Day includes: presentation, lunch & prayer. Facilitator: Sr. Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC Fee: \$20.00 Register by March 30.

Call John XXIII Retreat Center to register (765) 348-4008 or e-mail john23rd@sbcglobal.net or check our website at www.john23rdretreatcenter.com.

**May the Lord bless you and keep you close to his heart
during this sacred time of examination of who we are in Christ,**

Pastor Karen

March Reminder

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"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Jesus (in John 7:37-38)

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Give thanks with a grateful heart for...

- Add-A-Link and Masters Charges for preparing meals for Alpha
- Harold Grile and Ron Brown and Larry Campbell for all the repairs they have done – fixing leaks, repairing floors and many more things....
- Harold Grile for replacing the tile floor in the Ushers' Room and the ceiling tile that was water damaged.
- The Men's Thursday Morning Breakfast Group for helping a young student purchase a battery for his car
- Worship team for preparations for Ash Wednesday and Lent
- Tom Baird who is leading our singing with great joy
- Everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations
- Diane Baldwin who organized their storage for next year
- All who help with sound and video on Sunday morning
- Eugene Maison and Tom Schamp who have prepared our web site for the newsletter on-line
- Everyone who has been willing to "receive" their newsletter on-line
- The combined choir whose music touches our hearts
- Everyone who is leading and attending Alpha
- The small groups we have for fellowship, learning and caring – Sunday School, Bob Harvey, choir, ministry teams....
- Our greeters, minglers and door hosts who make Sunday morning special for so many
- Our Audit team who did the annual audit
- Our Finance Team and leader Bob Harvey who spent many hours preparing the budget
- Endowment Team who have faithfully prepared our process to manage gifts that are given to the church and are determining how to invest the large gift we received
- Jim Reese and Fred Wallace for shoveling snow, running the snow blower and spreading salt
- Administrative Board who spent a Saturday morning in leadership training
- All who attended the District Leadership training
- Linda Keyton for keeping the Wheeling St. sign fresh and timely.
- Wilma Grile and Susan Reno for reorganizing the kitchen and storeroom.
- Ron Brown for keeping watch over the boiler so we're always warm when in the church during the winter.
- Pat Ashcraft for coordinating the Greeters.
- Hearts and Hands United is grateful for all the generosity shown during the holidays.
- Covenant Partners extends many thanks for all the generosity provided to support their ministry.

A BIG thank you to everyone who worked at Christian Ministries Food Pantry. Many have benefitted from you giving of your time and gifts.

Thanks to all who donated to the Heifer Project over the holidays. We collected \$2,230!!! Your generosity will help many families. The Mission Team will choose which animals to purchase and a check will be sent to Heifer this month.

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Trustees' Corner

In January we welcomed four new Trustees. Below are their names and the area each is responsible to oversee:

Susan Reno	Kitchen and Storeroom
Beverly Reese	Church Grounds and Green Median at Wheeling and McGalliard
Harold Grile	Neely House
Tom Schamp	Chair

The Trustees listed above were welcomed by the following members:

Larry Campbell Parsonage	
Eric Murphy	Plumbing, Electrical and HVAC
Eugene Maison	Church Equipment
Larry Souders	Exterior Church Building
Bill Watson	Interior Furnishings Church Building

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of these areas.

Work days are being scheduled for the coming year. The first one will be on the 25th of April.

Please make a note of the date on your calendar. Your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Because of our tight financial constraints this year the Trustees will be discussing various fund raising ideas at the next meeting. If you have any suggestions please pass them along to any of us.

On Sunday, March 15, we will be doing a survey of the congregation to discover the thoughts and creative ideas that may be available for the future of the house on Neely Avenue. Please come prepared to share your ideas during worship that day.

Cluster Tip-off will be on March 15 at 3:00 at Muncie High Street. This will be the time when churches in the Indiana East District will be meeting to determine how we will cluster together for ministry. If you have ideas on churches that you believe would be good cluster partners please talk to Pastor Karen, Barry Turner (Lay Leader), Darwin Keyton (Administrative Board Chair), or Tom Schamp (Outreach Director).

Extravaгант Generosity

FYI... What happens to our **tithe** (what used to be known as apportionment)? Each month we tithe 10% of our operating budget for connectional support of the United Methodist Church. Beginning this month we will highlight where that tithe goes. One place is the *World Service Fund* the heart of our denominational presence, enriching Christian mission and ministry around the world. These funds allow United Methodists to be the hands and feet of Jesus through the general church boards and agencies and other national and international programs (from the *United Methodist Giving Program*).

2008 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL INFORMATION/JANUARY 2009

	2008	January 2009
Total giving support for the Church	\$215,756	\$18,252
Total operating cost for the Church	\$222,324	\$21,064
Surplus or (Loss –2008 includes \$6,000 capital) (Loss- 2009 includes \$5,425)	(12,568)	(2,812)
Consolidated loan	\$156,274	\$155,777
Endowment Pay back	\$19,628	

If you have any questions, please see Bob Harvey, Finance Chair or Dick Garringer, Treasurer

To schedule a meeting, check on availability of the building, or initiate a meeting reminder, please contact Theresa in the office, Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 12:30pm or via email at kbandt@yahoo.com (this may also be found in the bulletin each week). If meeting reminders are needed, leaders will need to contact Theresa to request that a notice be sent.

March Reminder

Riverside UMC Administrative Board, February 16, 2009

Present: Wilma Grile, Mary Schumacher, Dick Garringer, Ruth Garringer, Tom Schamp, Fred Wallace, Sandy Hunter, Barry Turner, Bob Harvey, Jack Staunton, Larry Souders, Darwin Keyton, Karen Blank, Karen Powell
Welcome to new members to the ad board Ruth Garringer and Larry Souders

Devotion and Prayer Fred Wallace gave the devotion. Darwin Keyton gave the prayer.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes The minutes were read and approved; Motion by Tom Schamp and seconded by Jack Stanton; all were in agreement

Upcoming Meetings All meetings begin at 6:45; The April 20 meeting is changed to April 13; June 15, August 17, October 19; Charge Conference in November or December

Actions for next meeting:

- Each chair of a team is requested to bring a one page report of your goals for 2009 to the next meeting.
- Review the questions and think about core values and beliefs for the church

2009 Directories Each leader of the church should know how the leadership of the church is laid out which is in directory.

Goals for 2009

1) Growing as a vibrant, fruitful congregation; the “fundamentals” unique to Riverside

- Radical Hospitality Hospitality Team, Tom and Janet Schamp
- Passionate Worship Worship Team, Sandy Hunter
- Intentional Faith Development IFD Team, Fred Wallace
- Risk taking mission and service Coordinator Outreach Ministry, Tom Schamp
- Extravagant Generosity Bob Harvey

2) Leadership Development – Darwin asked if anyone would like to tell what happen in their session at the District Leadership training last Saturday; his session was led by a professor from Ball State talked who about the economy and how it related to the church.

3) Healthy Transitions

- Cluster Initiation – pastors will meet with Dale on March the 5th; there will be a meeting on March 15th to form the clusters; Tom Schamp and Barry Turner will attend with Karen. We will cluster between four and nine churches to identify some ministry we can do together. Gethsemane would be likely for us because we are already doing many things together. There was a discussion of churches we would like to cluster with. The Cluster will select a leader and co-leader for training.
- Core values and beliefs – Between now and the April Meeting look at these three questions. How is who we are and what we are doing making disciples and transforming the world in which we live? How is who we are and what we are doing representing God’s interests? What are our core values and what do we really believe? The next time we meet we will talk about these core values. Also ask some people in the church how they would answer these questions.

Ministry Support

- **Trustees Report, Tom Schamp.** Tom passed out the final summary and recommendation from the Community Needs Task Force; also included was a needs summary of Delaware County and a list of the resources of Riverside; the Trustees would like to take a survey of the congregation to see how they feel about the house. The survey will be conducted on March 15th. There will be a reminder in the bulletin the week previous. The house has been switched to a non-profit status while we decide what to do with the property which saves on property taxes.
- **Finance - Bob Harvey;** 2009 Budget Overview – there have been reductions in expenses to 210,000 which should be the incoming revenue; there are plans for \$5,000 fund raiser and we will have income from the earnings on the endowment fund to finance new expenses; the planned budget was approved with Jack Staunton made the motion to approve the budget and seconded by Dick Garringer; all approved the budget. This will be looked at again when the new pastor arrived with salary changes.
 - Use of undesignated Memorials: a gift was given to the church of \$500. Barry made a motion to use this money to fund programs in the five areas of risk taking mission and service. Mary Schumacher made a second. In October we will contact the person and let them know how the money was spent.
 - Extra Mile Giving: If that money is designated for a particular mission or agency it passes through our budget and we do not pay 10% to the conference.
 - Use of vouchers: to be reimbursed for money spent vouchers much be used which are on the shelf outside the office.

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- Moratorium on Endowment: The finance committee is curtailing the payments to the endowment fund for reduction of the loan for the Neely property.
- **January Financial Report, Dick Garringer** Bob thanked for all his help to get the budget and finance together. Dick moved we accepted the financial report, seconded by Bob Harvey; vote was in favor
- **Endowment Update, Jack Stanton.** we received \$100,000 from the estate of Margaret Hoover which has been invested in a 4 month CD at 4%.
- **Staff-Parish, Barry Turner;** changes in staffing have been discussed; meeting with the District Superintendent to discuss the needs of the church so the cabinet can determine pastoral leadership needed; the team will be taking photographs of families in the congregation and preparing information cards for the new pastor; they did an exercise with the District Superintendent of where we were in 2006 and where we are now in 2009

Sharing in Faith Stories and Holy Communion We shared stories of things that we have experienced where we felt God's presence and then had communion

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Hunter, Secretary

Congregational Care & Discipleship Intentional Faith Development

MARCH 8 RIVERSIDE LIBRARY DEDICATION

Finally, we have the "new and improved" library ready for your use! We invite you to join us for the official dedication of the Riverside's Church Library in memory of Joe Rankin, who was one of Riverside's most avid readers of God's word! There will be a special dedication during worship. Please visit the library between Sunday School and church or after worship.

Small Groups

Are you interested in getting to know people of the church through a being a part of a small group? If so, please let Pastor Karen know. Topic, place and time will depend on the interests of those involved. We would like to start one or two new groups that will go through mid-May.

Prayer and faith are Siamese twins. One heart animates them both. Faith is always praying.
Prayer is always believing.

E.M. Bounds

If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.

Martin Luther

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

Are you an avid reader? We plan to announce a "Book of the Month Club" with the launch of our new and improved Riverside Library. Anyone interested can purchase – for their own library - the featured book that will be ordered for the Riverside Library each month. You can tag on to this order by sending in your check before the deadline date each month. With enough interest we might want to begin a weekly or monthly discussion group for the featured book of the month. If you have interest in this idea, please email Karen Blank at Karen@pawsinc.com or call the church at 288- 4257.

BOOK NOOK

Check out a couple of new titles ---

Quiet Strength by Tony Dungy

Leading the Indianapolis Colts to win Super Bowl XLI, Tony Dungy made history as the first African American coach to take home the Super Bowl trophy. He has overcome many obstacles to achieve success in life, both on and off the football field. In his memoir, Dungy shares the secrets to his unique leadership style. Find out the principles, practices, and priorities Dungy lives by in *Quiet Strength*

Become a Better You by Joel Osteen

How often have you said "I can do better"? In his much-anticipated book, *Become a Better You*, Pastor Joel Osteen reminds you that God does not want you to settle for anything less than His best! He wants you to continually rise to new levels of freedom and victory, whether you're struggling or thriving in your current circumstances. Seven key steps, devotions, and personal testimonies pave the way for you to discover your unique purpose and destiny. Achieve personal success and leave a lasting impression for generations to come when you *Become a Better You*.

March Reminder

Passionate Worship and Radical Hospitality

WORSHIP IN MARCH			
SERMONS AND SCRIPTURE			
<i>Faith Sharing and Spiritual Disciplines</i>			
March 1	1 st Sunday in Lent	<i>Trusting in God</i>	Psalm 25:1-10
March 8	2 nd Sunday in Lent	<i>Denying Ourselves</i>	Mark 8:31-38
Dedication of Library			
March 15	3 rd Sunday in Lent	<i>Greatest Commandment</i>	Exodus 20:1-17
March 22	4 th Sunday in Lent	<i>Twitter Good News</i>	John 3:16-17
One Great Hour of Sharing (UMCOR)			
March 29	5 th Sunday in Lent	<i>Love Written on Hearts</i>	Jeremiah 31:31-34 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Worship Colors: **PURPLE** during Lent to represent repentance, turning back to God.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
AVERAGE WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE - 96

DATE	OUTSIDE DOOR	INSIDE DOOR	LOBBY MINGLER	SANCTUARY MINGLER
Mar 1	Mark & Amy Clevenger	Hester Mitchell	Kay Farling	Janet Schamp
Mar 8	Terry Jacobs, Rob Grose	Viv Jacobs	Odessa DeHaven	Margaret Ann Deboy
Mar 15	Jack Stanton, Darwin Keyton	Wilma Grile	Sandy Abbott	Peggy Polk
Mar 22	Larry Campbell, Joe Mitchell	Nancy Campbell	Earlene Harvey	Pat Ashcraft
Mar 29	Ron Brown, Tim Heniser	Pat Brown	Sandy Hunter	Susan Reno

Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God

March Reminder

RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

COVENANT PARTNERS COMMUNITY DAY

Community Day will continue on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please bring your bags of supplies by the Tuesday before that Thursday. Also, please see Susan Reno or Mary Schumacher if you would be willing to share part of your day on that Thursday from 10-2 with the people at Covenant Partners. You will be blessed.

Indiana Conference Opportunity. The first Annual Conference of our new Indiana United Methodist Church will begin Thursday, June 25 and will go through Sunday, June 28. On Saturday, June 27, we will be having a day of outreach into the Muncie Community. We have been asked to be a host church for one of the districts on that day. To do that we will need a Team Leader and 4-5 Coordinators to work with a local agency, government, and prayer walkers to manage the details for that day. If you would like to participate in this exciting day please let Pastor Karen know.

Alpha for Muncie Mission

We will be offering the Alpha program to those interested at Muncie Mission on Wednesdays beginning March 4. Please keep pray for this ministry and for all who will be taking and teaching the course.

2009 Away Work Camp

We are planning our 2009 Away Work Camp trip for the week of June 7th. We are planning on going to Bellefontaine, Ohio to frame a home using a kit. We will be staying in a cabin at a church camp in the area. We will also be doing some site seeing in the area. Bellefontaine is located northeast of Dayton. The cost is \$95/person. This is a great opportunity to have some fun and help someone less fortunate to have a new home. Please contact Joe Speece at 286-0262 (jmspeece@aol.com) or Nancy Campbell at 759-9819 for more information.

Mission Team News

Many thanks to those who always bring extra for Christian Ministries Food Pantry...we collected 96 items in January.

Covenant Partners Community Day continues to be blessed by the people of Riverside, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Reno.

Volunteers will be needed to prepare morning and evening meals at Christian Ministries Sleep Room March 15th-21st. A sign up sheet will be located on the "Make a Difference" board.

Remember all loose change from the Sunday offering goes to various Muncie missions.

Thank you for all you do to help our neighbors and community.
Mary Schumacher

United Methodist Women's Circles 2008 Year End Financial Report

Paid Out:	
Christian Ministries	\$200.00
RUMC So. Indiana Flood	\$200.00
Better Way	\$200.00
Income:	
Thank Offering	\$356.50
Paid Out:	
Christian Ministries	\$356.50
Total Pay Out:	\$956.50

Note: Since Christian Ministries gives food to families and Christmas gifts only to those 12 & under, our Thank Offering went exclusively to buy gift certificates (fast food, movies, etc.) for those over age 12, so they could enjoy a Christmas gift. Thanks to all who made this possible.

Mitten Tree Project

The following were donated to Covenant Partners...
70 pairs of gloves, 14 hats, and 2 scarves
Thanks to everyone who participated in this project!

Odessa DeHaven