



Pastor's Pen for September 2016

September 2016 Edition

It's been a tradition in the United Methodist Church for many, many years that the first hymn sung at the gathering of an Annual Conference session is Charles Wesley's "And Are We Yet Alive." One of the great hymns of faith, And Are We Yet Alive is a reminder about the nature of God's church, and a celebration of the power of the church. However, it's always verses 3 and 4 that grab my attention as we sing them every year:

What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last! Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love; and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.

From the very beginning, the church has had to deal with internal conflict, as well-meaning people of faith differ on their understandings of God's call for the community. Just read through the Acts of the Apostles (as we're doing on Wednesday nights) and you will discover differences of opinion about God's work in the world. The Methodist movement in America likewise was riddled with conflict about things like the administration of the sacraments and slavery, with arguments and dissension that would rival anything seen today. The fact is that even though the church is God-ordained, it's made up of broken and frail human beings in need of God's grace, and sometimes the will of the Spirit isn't always clear cut. Yet as Charles Wesley reminds us, even in the face of conflict, God is still present and helps us in our need.

During the past month our communion has gone through a season of disagreement regarding God's call for us as we offer Christ's love to our community. Disagreement is, in fact, not a bad thing; for it becomes part of testing the Spirit to more fully understand God's will. Likewise, passion about one's opinions is a good thing, for God gives us passion to move us forward in the face of fear.

However, disagreement and passion can be painful when trust isn't present. Trust is the bedrock upon which passionate disagreement can take place. Without trust, our passions can lead us to demonize the other, making assumptions about the other's intentions . . . and well, we all know what happens when we assume!

I think that part of Jesus's intention in the teaching from Matthew 18 on conflict was to avoid the trap of assumption. Jesus lays out a process to facilitate understanding between those in conflict. It involves engagement and active listening of the other. Most of all it recognizes that the call to humility means that we are open to the Spirit's movement of change in our heart. Bishop Dick Wills once said that the 6 words that Christians need to speak more is "I could be wrong about that..."

The good news is that we worship a God who is always open to reconciliation. The Apostle Paul reminded the church at Corinth (who had gone through their own season of conflict) that God has reconciled himself to us, and called us to the ministry of reconciliation to God and one another. To be reconciled is to move beyond the conflict and be restored into relationship with one another. Disagreement is never the final word. God always offers the opportunity for healing. When that happens . . . well Charles Wesley says it best:

Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power, which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more Let us then take up the cross till we the crown obtain, and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

Doors may close, but there are other doors in front of us to be opened. May we all take up our crosses as we consider God's call for City Road Chapel.

In Christ, Jay

Charge Conference Scheduled for Tuesday, October 18

City Road's annual meeting with the District Superintendent has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at 6 p.m. The Charge Conference is a time dedicated to reflecting on the current state of our work together, and looks forward to the coming year as we elect leaders for 2017, establish our staffing priorities for the next year, and think together about where God is leading us into our future. The Rev. Harriet Bryan, the D.S. for the Nashville District will be presiding. ALL persons interested in the life of the City Road Chapel United Methodist Church are invited to attend.

A Tribute to George Bass

We mourn the loss of a faithful United Methodist brother, George Bass, who died suddenly on Thursday, August 25. He was 80 years old. He was a native Nashvillian and a longtime member of Blakemore United Methodist Church. City Road Chapel's history intersects with George's when he founded the Mountain Tennessee Outreach Project (better known as Mountain TOP) in 1975, with a youth group from Blakemore.

City Road has been sending a group of youth (and some adults in the fall, too) to Mountain TOP for over 30 years. Many of us have had our lives profoundly influenced by our time there, with countless young Christians giving themselves to God for ordained ministry, as well as deepened lay leadership. None of this would have been possible without George's vision and commitment to this servant ministry.

George leaves behind his two daughters, Trish and Gail, and his wife of 59 years, Rene, as well as grandchildren and others. He was well-loved and is enjoying his rest with his Savior. We will miss him.

A Liturgy for Home Use for Ordinary Time

This is a simple, five-minute liturgy of prayers and readings. If you or your family is interested in deepening your prayer life, try using this in the morning or before bed.

Greeting

May those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

Yea, our heart is glad in God, because we trust in God's holy name.

Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

Reading

Luke 14

Psalm

Psalm 58

Lord's Prayer

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Grow in God through the Monday Morning Book Study

Every Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. a group of church folks gathers in the library for a spirited discussion around a chosen book. The Monday Morning Book Study considers the latest writings in faith formation and uses them to help members grow in their faith. ALL are welcome to be a part of this group. For more information please talk to Emily Stinson or Bobbie Garrett.

Thanks to NOVO Health Services in Helping to Make a Difference



We want to offer a special word of thanks to our friends at NOVO Health Services LLC, of Madison, TN for their generous donation of 200 beautiful blankets and 700 washcloths to our Room in the Inn program. Kimberly Robinson (on right) came up with the idea and we are so appreciative of her servant's heart. With Kimberly is her supervisor Tony Byrne who helped to make this happen. Thanks again y'all!

Snippets From the Past

This month in City Road history, sixty years ago in September of 1956: "New Pastor Rev. S. Dewey's first meeting with the Official Board took place on September 10. He found a flurry of activity. Likely of most interest to the congregation was the report of the air conditioning committee. Finance Chairman Walter Shirey said they had bids of \$4914 for the sanctuary and \$14,400 for the educational building. The vote was unanimous to air-condition the auditorium and defer the rest." (p. 104, The Best is Yet To Be, Chester D. Campbell, 1998).

Notes on the Season

We are deep in the thick of Ordinary Time, a church season that lasts from Pentecost through Advent. Although it is punctuated by a few church holidays (such as Trinity Sunday and Christ the King Sunday), this is a fairly uneventful season of growth and discipleship in the church. Green is the color for ordinary time, which represents the green growth of grass and other living things. As the grass grows high in your yard this summer, think of how your spirit may be growing during this Ordinary Time. Are you working to learn more about where Jesus is leading you? Are you trying to get in touch more with the will of God? Ordinary Time can be anything but Ordinary, if we just embrace it for the time of growth that it is. If you are interested in deepening your prayer life, look at the liturgy on page two for home use for individuals or families.

Keeping Up with Your Friends

Evie Gooch Foster grew up in Smyrna, Tennessee. She has been a member of City Road since 1953. One of the memories that makes her smile is how she and her husband Marshall, became members. She relates that they had been visiting City Road for quite some time, but had not yet joined. The Pastor at the time was Brother Baker who visited them at their home in Madison. He told them that it was time to join...didn't ask, just told them! Next week they became members. She has been in the Chancel Choir off and on for many years, taking a break while caring for her husband of 48 years. Mr. Foster was the principal of Isaac Litton for 15 years then moved on to the Board of Education where he started the Adult Education program.

This Month at City Road Chapel

Weekly Schedule:

Sundays

- 8:00 a.m. – Legacy Worship Service
- 8:45 a.m. – Discipleship Classes
- 10:00 a.m. – Celebrate! Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. – CRC Youth

Mondays

- 10:30 a.m. – Book Study Group
- 6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts
- 7:00 p.m. – Caring Hands Knitting Group

Wednesdays

- 6:30 a.m. – Men's Prayer Group
- 5:00 p.m. – Youth Fellowship
- 6:00 p.m. – Vespers Worship
- 7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays

- 10:00 a.m. – Pastor's Bible Study Daily
- Noon – Sweet Surrender NA Group

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

- 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Quiet Space Day Shelter

Events and Meetings:

Monday, Sept. 5, 2016

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016

6:30 p.m. – Lay Leadership Committee

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Mobile Pet Clinic in Parking Lot

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

6:00 p.m. – Finance Committee

6:30 p.m. -- Men's Steak Night

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016

Serving on Sunday!

3:00 p.m. – Feed the Need bag stuffing

4:00 p.m. – Community Meal Setup

5:00 p.m. – The Feast Community Meal



701 Gallatin Pike S. Madison, TN 37115 www.cityroadchapel.org

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