

WESLEYAN HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
390 SOUTH YATES ROAD
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Pastoral thoughts....week of Sept. 26th

Recently, I was reading a devotional book by Rueben P. Job, When You Pray. He says, “The gift of a robust and vibrant faith is not given easily or often. We may not experience the dark night of the soul that St. John of the Cross experienced, endured, and with which he wrestled until he found some joy and peace as the darkness yielded truth and light. But most of us at some point in our lives experience a sense of abandonment, unworthiness, aloneness that is palpable in its sorrow as we want the presence of God to be joyful for us. **Epiphany** assures us that the light is coming and the darkness of confusion, illness, sinfulness, doubt, and violence that grip our world and darken our world, will not last. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said in the darkest days of the struggle for racial justice, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that” (A Testament of Hope: p.594) So we wait, we endure, we watch, we pray, and we trust that one day the light will come and the darkness will be no more.”

As I read this, I thought about the ways we bring the LIGHT into the world: the kindnesses we share, the desire to study God’s word, the ability to reach out to those in need, the way a community of faith cares for one another, etc. etc. The LIGHT of Jesus Christ is in our midst. We can know that the LIGHT is present, yet not decide to honor it or follow it.

As those who claim to follow Christ, each one of us has an opportunity to bring LIGHT or create more darkness. The choice is ours!

How grateful I am for the group who went to St. John’s UMC to serve in their soup kitchen! This is a way to bring LIGHT into the world. However, we can also do it in small ways: a smile for a waiter who is having a challenging day, patience with a clerk who is impatient with you, an ability to pray for the driver who cuts so close in front of you,
_____ YOU fill in the blank!

Maybe a question to ask ourselves is this:

“Am I a person who brings God’s LIGHT in the world? If not, why not? As followers of Jesus Christ, we are the ones who have been given the LIGHT within us. Others are counting on you and me.”

Grace and peace,

Susan

P.S. “The only difference between stepping stones and stumbling blocks is how they are used.”
(unknown author)

Sunday Greeters

10/02 Julia Brantley
10/09 Melinda Merkle
10/16 Billie Tedder
10/23 Mary Fergus
10/30 Julia Brantley

Children's Sermons

No sermon
Stewardship Sunday
Stewardship Sunday
Stewardship Sunday
Stacy Stevens

Roulhac's Readers

10/03 Melinda Merkle
10/10 Columbus Day
10/17 Judy Guttery
10/24 Susan Edwards
10/31 Becky Anderson



DATES TO REMEMBER----- October 2011

- 10/02 Staff Parish Meeting (immediately after worship service)
- 10/04 Finance Committee Meeting - 6:00pm
- 10/05 Conversational Prayer Time – 5:00-6:15pm
- 10/06 Children's & Family Ministry Meeting - 6:30pm
- 10/06 Men's Club Steak Dinner – 6:00pm
- 10/09 Church Picnic – 4:00-6:00pm
- 10/11 UMW Circle Day Meeting – 10:30am – Rebecca Room
- 10/11 UMW Circle Night Meeting – 6:15 – El Porton-Germantown



!!!!!!! OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS !!!!!!!

Shirley Bolton 10/30 Luanne Hearn 10/1 Susan J. Johnson 10/14
Jack Langenfelder 10/17 Barbara Maddox 10/27 Neal Mills 10/30
Barbara Schuette 10/1 Susan Steppe 10/31

If there are other October birthdays not listed, please call the church office.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS - FRED & SHERRY GRIFFITH



*******Fall Picnic*******

Mark your calendars for October 9, 2011 from 4-6pm. We will be having a picnic on the lawn in front of the sanctuary near the playground. Glen Turner will set up the Karaoke machine and we'll be able to share in singing. The event will be casual and picnic style, so bring a picnic dinner for your family to enjoy. Drinks will be provided by Family and Children's Ministries. Invite a friend and bring your picnic blanket, pop-up chairs, and/or table, etc. We will plan to have the event in the big room if it rains or is bitterly cold.

Otherwise, bring a jacket and join us!

Stacy Stevens

Men's Club Meeting

The Men's Club Steak Dinner will be on Thursday, October 6th at 6:00pm. Please plan to attend. A representative from the Alzheimer's Association will be the speaker. All men of the church are invited.

Thank You!

A heartfelt "thank you" to all of those who were able to join the *Shake It Up Café* as we travelled to feed the hungry at St. John's UMC Soup Kitchen on last Saturday. We had about 25 adults and 4 children working with John Barker, Brad Thomas, Steve Garcia, and their dedicated crew to serve dinner to about 70 hungry people. Additionally, we were able to make a sizeable contribution of food to their food pantry. Thank you to those who donated the food. This trip was quite a blessing to those of us who were able to attend-we all felt God's presence as we prepared the plates and served His people. The Soup Kitchen is a wonderful community mission-not only is it well organized and run by compassionate people, the serve they provide is wonderful and touches many lives. I hope that this will be a mission that we can make a regular part of our calendar and that we could get a group to go regularly. We could also choose to pay for the meal or make the meal from our own recipes and hands if we wish to do so. The possibilities are open to us. Please consider what we can do and let us have a dialogue about our possible contribution and involvement.

Again, thank you for all who committed your time, heart, and hands to this wonderful mission.

Carrie Floyd

WORK DAY

Join us on Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 9am-11am for a work day. We will be cleaning up and organizing in the Educational Building, the kitchen, and around the grounds (bring your own tools if you are interested in this part.) We hope you can join us as we do some "fall cleaning."

Stacy Stevens

Knowing God

Live in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God, will come to know God because of you.

Unknown

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