

Wright's Word

The mission of Wright's United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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Pastor's Ponderings

Happy New Year! I love New Year's Day as it marks a day of new beginnings and holds new possibilities and opportunities in our lives, families and church. When we lived in the south, the old wives tale there was "whatever you do on New Years' Day you will spend a lot of time doing in the New Year"! So if you like to eat good food... do that, if you like washing cars...do that, if you like celebrating with family, I hope 2016 brings you a lot of celebrations with family close and far away. We were visiting with Laura's family in Virginia on New Years' and they are great people to celebrate with. Uncle Ed who visited here with Laura's family this summer, had a surprise music gig at a new hamburger joint that had just opened with a guy he plays bass guitar for and he wanted to cancel because of our visit but I said "I'll go and take my guitar if you need a break", so I guess I will play a lot of music this next year. Her Mom, Aunts and Uncles are all getting older (as we all are) but because you only see them twice a year, it seems more noticeable as they so enjoy seeing our girls for a few days. The guys spent time watching football over the holidays, and I enjoyed watching No. 1 Clemson cruise to victory on Dec 31. I remember meeting them at Christmas 18 years ago, when I was living in the Clemson Area of South Carolina pastoring, working as a counselor at a state Psychiatric Hospital, and finishing an additional Masters' degree in Christian Education (MACE). When we met Laura she was just finishing up the first quarter of her life, graduating from college preparing for a job as a music therapist somewhere in South Carolina. Sixteen years later, I'm five years into my third quarter, a quarter that will see Natalie, Caroline and even Abigail all enter and graduate from college, maybe start their own families, and hopefully will be my best years of ministry.

I like the football metaphor of quarters to describe our lives. You've got to play well in all four quarters of a football game, but often the most exciting quarter, and where the game is won or lost, is the fourth quarter. In the Bible for many of the great heroes of scripture, the real excitement came in the fourth quarter.

Did you know that there are only four verses of scripture that describe Abraham and Sarah's life up to age 75, but 371 verses that describe their adventures after age 75? All the most exciting things that happened to he and Sarah happened after age 75 – in the fourth quarter of their lives. The same for Moses, for whom everything that happened up to the age of 80 was simply preparing him for the most important mission, and the greatest adventures of all, the things for which we still remember him to this day.

During the Christmas season we focus on articulating the faith story of Jesus being born in a manger to children, echoing what the scriptures tell us to do. God introduces himself to us in these stories and they help us know Him and know ourselves. I am glad for the intergenerational events that our church plans and prepares hoping that all ages will know they are valued and loved and when we participate together we are the community God intended us to be. At Edwards Chapel we went Christmas Caroling to three personal care homes and the Bartrugs' were along with baby Owen who was the life of the event! At Wrights we moved our children's Christmas play to Sunday AM to make the connection for more of our fourth quarter adults! Faith in God is best experienced in community.

As we begin this New Year my hope is that all the quarters of our lives will be able to participate in telling, living, and learning of this awesome story of birth, life and even death that brings to you and I the resurrection of hope and Joy to the world!

Agape
Pastor Richard

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EXTRA, EXTRA read all about it.... Newsletter Articles Wanted

All Ministry teams are encouraged to submit newsletter articles each month, no matter how big or small. Please have any/all articles to me by the 12th of each month. If you submit your article(s) via email (shelleywumc@verizon.net), or disk-word format only- (preferred methods) then your due date is extended to the 15th of each month. Thank you for your time and articles. They are appreciated

WORSHIP

...his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth. – John 4:24

Between Wrights and Edwards Chapel we offer three worship opportunities every weekend:

Sunday @ 9:30 AM – Family Worship at Wrights children's church is available following the Children's Message.

Sunday @ 11 AM – Family Worship at Edwards Chapel children's church is available following the Children's Message.

Saturday Night Faith Café is held 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

FINLEYVILLE INTERFAITH COMMUNITY LENT WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY EVENINGS

February 14	St. Francis Roman Catholic Pastor Glenn McClelland
February 21	Wright's United Methodist Pastor Alberta Hall
February 28	First Presbyterian, Finleyville Father Richard Tusky
March 6	First Baptist Rev. Richard Roberts
March 13	First Presbyterian (Host Go-Time Ministry) Pastor Kevin Young

March 20 Mingo Presbyterian
Pastor Brent Furlong

Good Friday @ Wrights 7:30 PM
All Interfaith Pastors

All Sunday Services begin at 7 PM with refreshments to follow except for Good Friday. Refreshments are at 7 PM, service at 7:30 PM for that service.

NURTURE

Committee meeting Jan., 20th at 7:30 PM. Lenten begins Feb 10 with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00pm.

Come and begin your 40 day journey of spiritual reflection, repentance and renewal with the imposition of Ashes in a night of great reverence.

Thanks to all volunteers, families and children that made the children's Christmas drama "Twas the Light before Christmas" a huge success. So much so we had to celebrate it twice to accommodate the audiences! Bravo Cast!

Adult Fellowship Study

The Gospel of John- Feb 17-23. Wednesdays Dinner at 6:00 PM study 6:30-7:30 PM. Also Thursdays 9:30-10:30AM at Edwards chapel. This is a new study just published that explores the rich images and profound truths of this the most spiritual gospel of the four. Remember that John tells us his purpose for writing his gospel is that so people not only believe, but "may have life in his name". Sign up in the narthex.

OUTREACH

Red Bird Mission Craft weekend was a huge success for \$5,010 for the Red Bird United Methodist Women's ministries of Beverly Kentucky. We had many visitors from the area visit our village and church, and a special thanks to the Venetia Heritage Society for use of the school, and June Harrison for housing the volunteers. Our clean water initiative through World Vision also encouraged generosity of \$1300 to dig and assemble water wells in impoverished villages of Africa. Thanks to the vision of our Outreach committee and also the Women of Wrights. WOW!

WITNESS

Committee meeting Jan. 28th at 7 PM. Discussion on camping and mission trip possibilities.

Liturgist



January
Jack & Maureen Jones
February
Susanne Schafer

Greeters



January
Savannah Rankin

FINANCE

Copies of the monthly Finance report is available in the Narthex.

Stewardship Update

I had a chance to worship in two other United Methodist Churches the Sunday after my surgery, and both churches were in the midst of stewardship campaigns involving pledge cards to help project the budget for next year. We for the first time in 25 years sent stewardship letters to help remind the friends and members of this congregation the covenant that was established with their vows to support Wrights UMC with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Thanks to all who responded to that letter and also the many that regularly support the ministries of your church. The monthly operating fund reports are in the narthex and individual end of year giving statements will be mailed to families in January. Thanks for fulfilling your giving promise to God through your church participation.

Spaghetti Valentine's Banquet:

Sunday, Feb. 14th at 5 pm. Singles and couples are welcome to celebrate with a spaghetti meal, great music and great friends. We always have a special honor for all couples that have married over 50 years or longer from this church and community. Guys, show the woman you love an awesome night out under the stars in the beautiful Village of Venetia/Wright's UMC. Sign-up in the narthex.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women Newsletter Article

We want to thank everyone who volunteered to help set up, assisted customers, purchased gifts, or helped pack up items for the return trip to Kentucky at the Red Bird Mission craft sale during our Christmas in the Village celebration the weekend of December 4, 5, and 6. The Mission received around \$5000 in sales. Thank you!!!

The United Methodist Women are hoping to continue participating in the collection of UMCOR kit materials throughout the year, selecting a needed kit for each quarter. More on this at a later date.

We will continue our support of the Ruth M. Smith Center with the collection of box tops and labels. Thanks to all who continue to help with this mission.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 18, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the home of June Harrison. Our program will be from the 2015 mission u Spiritual Growth Study on Happiness.

Our February meeting will be Monday, February 15 at 7 p.m. Our program for the evening will be determined at the January meeting. More information will follow. Please consider becoming part of our group. Come and get to know us and learn what United Methodist Women is all about.

Remember, you do not have to be a member of UMW or of Wright's Church to come and join us. All women are welcome.

United Methodist Women - turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world for 150 years!

Newsletter

Due to rising costs, we will be sending the newsletter electronically. If we have an email address for you on file, please look for your newsletters each month in your email.

Thank You's

A huge note a thanks from Pastor Richards family for the gifts and cards from Wrights and for all the sacrifices of Time, Talent and Energy that so many of you joyfully provided for the Christmas Events in the Village of Venetia!



Anniversaries and Birthdays

January

26 Jack and Cheryl Gereshenski

February

26 Matthew & Sharon Blasch

January

7 Gwen St Cyr
8 Dave Hummel
Sarah Schafer
19 Lou Kernen, Jr.
20 Dan Lutes
22 Chelsey Leech
24 Jody Simmons
26 Ed Schultz
30 Pat Durham

February

7 Cam Walters
10 Matt Lytle
11 Marion Zipfel
20 Helen Matyas
Kelly St Cyr
27 Robert Leech, Sr.

If your name is not on our list, or if the wrong name, date, or month is listed, please call the church office, and let us know. Thank



2016 WRIGHT'S YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

2016 Summer Camp information is now available. To find out more about what Jumonville offers for your child, please refer to their website at: <http://www.jumonville.org/> and click on the summer camp tab.

For active members, please have your \$50 non-refundable check (or cash) per camper/camp to Linda Metrovich payable to Wrights and your child's completed camper registration form **by or before the end of February.**

Forms can be printed from the Jumonville website. If sending more than 1 child from your family, I will have an additional (family campership) form for you to complete.

For questions, contact Linda Metrovich at 724-348-4482 or metro13@comcast.net.

Free income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will be available at The Bible Chapel, 300 Gallery Drive McMurray, PA beginning Monday, February 1, 2016 through Friday, April 15, 2016 (Closed on Good Friday) Regular hours are weekdays 8:30 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.. There are no appointments, only walk-ins. For more information, see the flier in the Narthex.

Washington District

Lay Servant Ministries School

February 7 – March 6, 2016

Mark your calendars now! Plan to attend Lay Servant Ministries classes in the new year!

The school will be open to anyone who wants to be inspired to a deeper commitment to Christ, to be equipped for more effective discipleship and encouraged for leadership and service. Classes will be held five Sundays during Lent, February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th & March 6th from 2:00 pm.–4:30 pm. at the First United Methodist Church of Washington.

Classes offered:

Basic Course for Lay Servant Ministries
Spiritual Gifts
Leading Worship
Small Groups
Story Telling

Note: Please encourage our Youth to attend Lay Servant Ministries School! There will be a separate Basic Course class available for Youth, registrations permitting. Youth are also welcome to take any of the other classes being offered.

We hope you will announce this information in your churches now! More information about Washington District's Lay Servant Ministries School, class details, and registration forms will be distributed in early January.

2016 Nominations and Leadership Development Committee Report

Wright's United Methodist Church Leadership

Wright's Charge

Committee on Lay Leadership

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Maureen Jones	Carla Yohe	Pam Mowry
June Harrison	Patty Koval	Marion Sphar
Cheryl Gereshenski	Savannah Rankin	Shannon Cooper

Pastor Parish Relations Committee (Please indicate Chairperson)

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Dan Lutes	Jack Smaroff	Tracy Sneddon
Matt Metrovich	Liz Sites	Marion Sphar
Dick Demski	Nick Ridgeway- chair	Yvonne Federough

Trustees

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018
Patty Koval	Matt Sites	Nick Ridgeway
Clayton Sphar	Bill Mowry	Tara Reidenbaugh
John Metrovich	Bub Lutes	Abe Franks

Treasurer Suzie Plescia ***Financial Secretary*** Carol Thropp

Lay Member (s) to Annual Conference Kathy Jo Kernan

Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference

Lay Leader (s) Marion Sphar

Church Council Chairperson Jack Jones

Audit and Finance- Clayton Sphar

Finance Committee

Pastor _____Richard Roberts_____ Lay member to A.C.____ Kathy Jo Kernan _____
Church Council Chair _____Jack Jones_____ PPR Chair or rep. _____Nick
Ridgeway_____

Trustee’s Rep. ___TBA_____ Stewardship Chair ___George Peterson_____

Lay Leader _____Marion Sphar_____ Financial Secretary _____Carol Thropp_____

Treasurer ___Suzie Plescia___

Others

Church Council

Chairperson ___Jack Jones_____ Lay Leader _____ Marion Sphar_____

PPR Chair or Rep. ___Nick Ridgeway___ Finance Chair or Rep. ___Maureen Jones___

Trustee Chair or Rep. ___TBA___ Church Treasurer ___Suzie Plescia___

Lay Member to A.C. _Kathy Jo Kernan___ UMW Pres. or Rep. _Pam Mowry___

Youth Representative ___Matt Metrovich___ Pastor (s) _Richard Roberts_____

Others (optional)

Nurture Team Chair _Laura Roberts___ Outreach Team Chair _Patty Koval & Marion Sphar

Witness/Missions Team Chair___ Tara Reidenbaugh___

At Large Members _____ Sarah Schafer_____

_____Clayton Sphar_____ Phil Schafer _____

Those desiring to be voting members at District Conference

_____Kathy Jo Kernan_____ Carla Yohe_____

Other Leaders to be Elected

Audit Committee___ _____Bill Mowry_____ _____George Peterson_____

____Clayton Sphar _____ Dick Demski _

Those desiring to be Lay Equalization Delegates to Annual Conference

*** Please attach an alphabetical listing of all church leaders listed above including Name, phone number, address, and e-mail address.

Other Leaders and Ministry Team Members

Stewardship Ministry Team

George Peterson

Maureen Jones

Carol Thropp

Memorial Committee

Kim Rellis, chair

Kathy Jo Kernen

Eileen Higbee

Nurture Ministry Team

Laura Roberts-chair

Linda Metrovich

Robyn Trost

Savannah Rankin

Cheryl Clark

Cheryl Gerenshenski

Suzanne Schafer

Yvonne Federouch

Twila Hummel

Doreen Franks

Shana Quinn

Outreach Ministry Team

Patty Koval, co-chair

Sarah Schafer

Tawny Patterson

Jenny McCartney

Marion Sphar, co-chair

Dick Demski

Cheryl Clark

Sharon Lytle

Pam Mowry

Kathy Jo Kernen

Donna Cain

Worship Ministry Team

Twila Hummel, chair & Communion Steward

Ed Poellot, Music Coordinator and Pianist

Phil Schafer, Head Usher

Marion Zipfel

Kathy Jo Kernen

Robyn Trost

Savannah Rankin

Faith Café Ministry Team

Maureen Jones

Jack Jones

Twila Hummel

Nick Ridgeway

Ed Poellot

Witness Ministry Team

Tara Reidenbaugh, Chair

Kathy Jo Kernen

Stewart Diess

Tracey Sneddon

Twila Hummel

Suzanne Schafer

Ashley Sneddon

Savannah Rankin

Membership Audit Committee

Shelly Jaap, Chair & Membership Secretary

Naomi Smith

Sarah Schafer

Marion Sphar

Ginny Lily

January 2016

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1	2
							6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
3 9:30 AM Communion Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School	4 7 PM Trustees	5	6 9AM Men's Breakfast	7	8	9	6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
10 9:30 AM Worship Donut Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School	11	12	13	14	15	16	6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
17 9:30 AM Worship Consecration Sunday of new officers	18 7 PM UMW at June Harrison's home	19	20 7:30 PM Nurture Meeting	21	22	23	6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
24 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	25	26	27	28 7 PM Witness meeting	29	30	6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
31 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School							

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 PM Trustees	2	3 9AM Men's Breakfast	4	5	6 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
7 9:30 AM Communion Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School	8 7 PM Finance 7:30 PM Council	9	10 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service @ Edwards	11	12	13 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
14 9:30 AM Worship Donut Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School 5 PM Valentine Banquet 7 PM Interfaith Service @ St. Francis	15	16	17 6-7:30 PM John Gospel Dinner/Bible Study	18 9:30-10:30 AM John Gospel Bible Study @ Edwards	19 24 hour Prayer Vigil for General Conference	20 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
21 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 7 PM Interfaith Service @ Wright's	22	23	24 6-7:30 PM John Gospel Dinner/Bible Study	25 9:30-10:30 AM John Gospel Bible Study @ Edwards	26	27 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
28 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 7 PM Interfaith Service @ 1 st Presbyterian	29					