

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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May 2016

Pastor's Ponderings

I am proud of the many opportunities for ministry we currently offer as we continue to develop new avenues to put our faith into action for all ages and stages of faith. We started to include on our calendar the Senior Citizens luncheon's that meet next door, as an opportunity for food, fellowship and connection for our senior adults. The Peters Creek Historical society that meet at Wrights once a month for all adults, and run and operate the Wright House and Museum of Western Expansion here in the Village. I am also grateful for the folks that have supported God's vision for the revitalization of our youth and children's ministry over the last three years. We had an immediate need when we arrived to establish a steady teacher for children's church. Savannah stepped up to the plate and has done amazing work in time. Talent and energy to provide a positive learning environment every week for our children. We began youth dinner theatres at Christmas, Easter Sunrise events, and continuing the VBS volunteering tradition that have engaged our youth to continue their faith journey beyond confirmation. In February of this year, we began "Team Trekkers" a Wednesday night youth and children's event to coincide with our adult dinner/Bible study during Lent and have continued the food, fellowship and faith fun every Wednesday night from 6:00-7:30 for our younger "Trekkers". These young people represent the future of Wrights and reaching out to include them as part of the church just doesn't "happen" by itself. We send our children to public school from kindergarten to high school to grow and learn through a nurturing environment that challenges, encourages and prepares our children to be successful adults someday. In the church it takes intentional work, study and prayer "On purpose", to develop our children's capacity to make good choices based on loving your neighbor, making a difference for good in this world, and developing the faith element that says we are loved, cared for and forgiven when we make mistakes. I don't take ministry to children for granted. Neither did Jesus.

In Matthew 18:1-5," the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put on his knee and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Most of us Christians would agree with these words of Jesus, but when He said them they were revolutionary! Honoring children was not the prevailing world view at that time –"Children were not created by the same God as adults and so they had very few rights". In the Roman Empire, some babies grew up to be women, who were generally shut off from education and public life. Some grew up to be slaves regarded as inferior, only kept alive for the need for slave labor to build the vast amount of Roman public works and monuments to Caesar. Many babies didn't grow up at all. In the ancient world, unwanted children were often left to die from "exposure". The head of household legally got to decide if the child should live or die! If the family lived in poverty, or was the wrong gender (girl), illegitimate, disabled, and weak or even a wealthy family that did not want the family estate divided up, a child could be thrown onto the city dump, drowned or just skewered by a sword! Children were considered disposable!

But Then.....an illegitimate child born in the poverty of an ordinary of family Bethlehem grew up. He began to say things about children that no one else thought of. His words changed civilizations view about children forever! He would not have likely survived had Joseph been Roman. The baby Jesus would have been abandoned on the dung heap of Bethlehem, or would have been killed by the spear of a Roman sword as ordered by King Herod! You and I, and every other child on the planet have hope because he Lives! Amen.

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 on selected Saturday nights in May.

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

PENTECOST SUNDAY is May 15th and we will sing "Happy Birthday" to the Christian church. A birthday cake to follow and a season of celebration begins this summer!

NURTURE

TEAM TREKKERS OR OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT

youth and children's program from 6:00 -7:30 with dinner, activities, worship and more interactive faith than imagined! See Pastor Richard to join the fabulous adventure!

VBS EGYPT "Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace" July 10-14th 6-8:30 P.M. Come and shop the live market place of ancient Egypt with Joseph, son of Jacob as our Guide. Growing up in Pharaohs palace gave Joseph a lot of good stories, activities and fun! Mark your calendars!

WITNESS/MISSIONS

SALKEHATCHIE is our summer mission trip for youth and adults July 16-23 to Creekfront camp, Murrels Inlet South Carolina. We are so excited to have 8 youth and adults giving their time and talent to rebuild homes and lives in this pioneering ministry of the South Carolina Annual Conference! Now comes the huge step of fundraising the \$230.00 per person plus transportation costs for this life changing experience of faith in action. Please support our youth as they become the hands and feet of Wrights UMC among those unable to help themselves.

COMMUNITY GARDEN or Boaz field is getting ready for our second year of planting and growing. Last year was a great success but more volunteers are needed to volunteer to spend an hour on a weekly basis to weed, till and keep away the varmints once the fields are ready. Look for a planting party on a Saturday Night in May as we grow together in the footsteps of Christ.

SUMMERTIME BROWN BAG CONCERTS- begin Wed. June 8th- July 27th from noon to 1 P.M. Homemade lunch and live music on the front porch of Wright's church every Wednesday around picnic tables and umbrellas.

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR MISSION TRIP – Sunday, June 5th 12-3 P.M. Sign up to donate boxes of spaghetti and sauce, and then feel encouraged to buy a ticket to the absolute best spaghetti in the village! \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids 10 and under. All proceeds support our largest mission trip ever for Wright's UMC in 150 year history!

Liturgist



May
Kathy Jo Kernen

Greeter



May
Donna Cain

FINANCE

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

United Methodist Women

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. This April, we will be setting up a display of a cleaning (flood) bucket. You will be able to take a slip or slips for items that are required. Our goal is to provide four or more cleaning buckets. A list of the needed materials will also be provided in our weekly bulletins as well as at the end of this article.

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 May meeting will be held Monday, May 16 at 7 p.m. in the church office. Our program will be on Climate Justice, one of our Mission Study courses available at this year's mission u.

Our most recent Washington District Event was our Spring Social. The UMW of Central Highlands UMC in Elizabeth hosted this event. Our Spiritual Enrichment Program was presented by Luella Krieger. Luella portrayed Martha of Bethany.

We will have information on other upcoming Washington District events as they become available. 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!

Items for UMCOR Cleaning Bucket

5 gallon bucket with resealable lid

Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner. Buckets from fast food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned.

liquid laundry detergent

two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottles only

liquid household cleaner

12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water no spray cleaners

dish soap

16-28 oz. bottle any brand

1 can air freshener

aerosol or pump

1 insect repellent spray

6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover

1 scrub brush

plastic or wooden handle-- no toilet bowl brushes no kitchen or dish brushes

18 cleaning wipes

handi wipes or reusable wipes--remove from packaging, no terry cleaning towels

7 sponges

remove from wrapper
no cellulose sponges due to mold issue

5 scouring pads

remove from wrapper
no Brillo, SOS pads or any kind that will rust

50 clothespins

remove from packaging

clothesline

two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.--cotton or plastic

24 roll heavy duty trash bags

30-45 gallon size, remove from the box

5 dust masks

2 pair disposable waterproof gloves

rubber or latex--remove from packaging

1 pair work gloves

cotton or leather--leather palms necessary

***All items must be new except for the bucket and lid.**

***All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic containers.**

No powders please.



May

- 4 Frank & Cecilia Yurchey
- 8 Pastor Richard & Laura Roberts
- 14 Bill & Pam Mowry
- 22 Jack & Patricia Smaroff
- 26 Whit & Lori Walters

May

- 1 Megan Simmons
- 3 Ed Gallagher
Jack Jones
- 5 Eric Hummel
Robert Leech, Jr.
Sandy Konton
- 7 Nathaniel Taylor
- 10 Pat Smaroff
- 9 Dee Swingle
- 20 Pastor Richard
- 24 Ashley Sneddon
- 25 Jack Smaroff
- 28 Dan Kernen

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

Washington District

ANNUAL CONFERENCE---Grove City College---Jun 9-12th To the Clergy and Laity of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference:

Farewell worship service: Scheduled for Friday, June 10 at 7PM A reception will follow this service. Everyone is invited to attend so share this information within your local church or other ministry venues.

Special offering: One of Bishop Tom's passions has been the fight to end deaths from malaria in Africa and he called on us to show the rest of the Connection how to get this done. At the 2016 General Conference, we will officially wrap-up the Imagine No Malaria initiative. It is

our desire to provide one more donation in honor of our Bishop to INM as a gift of gratitude for our common ministry. What better way to say "thank you" than to save the life of a child from the scourge of malaria? We ask every church and ministry to help by giving a special offering, however you desire to collect it, and to send it to the Conference Center by May 1st, if possible, (so it can be counted in the total reported at General Conference). Gifts should be marked for Imagine No Malaria (not as a gift in honor of the Bishop, as we are trying to make this a 'surprise' for him).

As always, if you have any questions about the transition process, please feel free to contact me directly.

In Christ's Service, Matthew Judd -- Chair, Episcopacy Committee

Membership to Discipleship: At Annual Conference on **Wednesday, June 8!** Dr. Phil Maynard will lead this interactive workshop for clergy and laity. This event at the Grove City College Carnegie Alumni Center is geared for those in the local church to gain clarity about what it means for church members to mature in faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. Participants will leave with an action plan to develop, or further develop, a discipleship process and pathway in their church. CEUs: .5 Register as part of your Annual Conference registration. Don't forget to reserve housing for Wednesday night. Contact Rev. Susan Moudry for more information:

susan.moudry@wpaumc.org or 724-776-2300 ext. 266.

Get flyer with details.

Session 1: 1:00 – 4:30 pm (check-in opens at 12:30 pm)

Session 2: 7:30-9:00 pm (dinner and optional worship service on own)

4TH ANNUAL SHOE DRIVE at Annual Conference: Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA) and All God's Children Ministries/Ramps of Hope are holding their 4th Annual Shoe Drive to raise funds for their missions. So, gather new and gently used shoes and rubber band them together in pairs. Bag 25 pairs together in CLEAR 39 gallon, 1.1 mil bags (available at the Franklin District Conference or EUMA in Erie, PA). Bring the bags of shoes to Annual Conference in Grove City from June 9th to 12th. After Annual Conference, shoes may be delivered to EUMA until July 1st. raised last year: \$19,696.80!

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Communion Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School	2 7 PM Trustees	3 10 AM Outreach meeting	4 9AM Men's Breakfast 6-7:30 PM Team Trekks Youth and Children	5	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship Donut Sunday 10:45 AM Sunday School Happy Mother's Day	9	10	11 6-7:30 PM Team Trekks Youth and Children	12 11:30 AM-1PM Senior lunch at Venetia Community Ctr.	13 7 PM Interfaith Picnic at Mingo	14 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
15 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School Pentecost "Happy Birthday Church"	16	17	18 6-7:30 PM Team Trekks Youth and Children	19	20	21 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
22 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	23 7:30 PM Historical Society Meeting	24	25	26 11:30 AM-1PM Senior lunch at Venetia Community Ctr.	27 Ringgold Graduation	28 6:30-7:30 PM Faith Café
29	30 Memorial Day	31				