



# Methodist Connection

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

## From the Pastor's Pen

### “Fall Planning Underway”

Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> will be our church planning retreat looking ahead for at least the rest of the calendar year. I hope that everyone on the Administrative Council and its extended committees will make every effort to be present. Of course anyone that is interested is welcome to come and participate.

Also, I want to announce a specific role that I have asked Shelley McComis, our lay leader to do in the coming months. Our current structure is still relatively new and many of us are still feeling our way into the new structure and trying to understand everyone's role. This has been a challenge even for me since I was not here when the change was made. However, I do have an interpretation of it and am trying to communicate that in various ways to the people involved. Shelley and I have had several conversations about it and I believe we are in agreement in our understanding. So, I've asked Shelley to be my helper and spokesman in trying to be sure we can get everyone on the same page.

We are beginning with the leadership that is currently in place and want to help cast

a vision for the future. I'll do some of that at the planning retreat but there is way too much detail in the various ministry areas to cover everything. So over the coming weeks and possibly months, Shelley may be calling on some of our leadership people to visit about your roles and responsibilities and ways that we can move together into a better future. So, if you get a call from Shelley and she wants to talk to you about your role, please understand that she is an extension of my ministry in these areas. It's all about team work so we need to be more intentional about being sure all of our team is on the same page. Thanks for your understanding and help.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who participated in the recent worship surveys. I wish I could say that there was a consensus about what to do going forward. What I do want you to know is that we are making plans to “reinvent” the second service and to do it differently. To that end we are looking for vocalist and or instrumentalist who would like to be a part of the praise team. One thing that is clear is that we need some fresh voices singing so if you are interested or have any suggestions, please let me know. Meanwhile, I



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# Cont'd

# Job Opening

would be glad to visit with anyone in person or in small groups to talk about the possibilities for the future. I am committed to trying some new things for a while to see if we can revive this service. We need your support and prayers for it.

See you Sunday in the place where God is present!

Yours in Christ,

*Bro. David* (home: 940-683-1724;  
[davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org](mailto:davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org))

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is receiving applications for the position of Children's Director / Office Assistant. This ministry position has a \$10,000 annual salary and approximately 15 hours on average of ministry per week. Contact the church office for applications and job descriptions.

## Pastor's Bible Study

Bro. David will be offering a Bible study this fall beginning September 12 from 6-6:55 for thirteen weeks. We will be studying *Disciples and Other Sinners* which is based on Biblically-accurate first person "stories" by the people around Jesus. Students say it was the first time they really understood that the people of the New Testament were real people with real problems, relationships, joys and challenges. Classes just keep growing with this study. Each session of this 13-week study features a "first person" story by one of the people of the Gospels—Joseph, Herod, Mary, Peter, Caiaphas, John, Levi, Judas and others. If you are interested, please contact the office so we can order enough books. You will need to read both the first chapter and the Biblical references prior to attending the first class.





# our congregation

## August 11th

*Church Planning Event—  
Everyone Invited!  
Committees, leadership, and lay  
persons are invited to join for  
the setting of goals for the  
church for the upcoming year.  
Please plan to attend. Breakfast  
will be served!*

## August 19th

*During worship service we will be  
praying over school staff for the  
2012/2013 school year. Please join us  
as we bless these leaders!*

## August 26th

*During worship service we will be  
praying over the kids as they prepare for  
the 2012/2013 school year. Please bring  
your backpacks so they can be blessed!*

### *Birthdays*

8/02 Shiloh Weirich  
8/03 Berry White IV  
Taylor German  
8/04 David McComis  
Grady Ivie  
8/05 Linda White  
John Cowling  
8/07 Henry Jenkins  
Evelyn Priest  
8/10 Naomi Rawle  
8/12 Nevesta Jones  
8/14 Landry Reynolds  
8/18 Shanna Blalock  
8/19 Erika McComis  
8/20 Ernest Wright  
8/21 Jeff Green  
8/22 Char Setters  
Candice Kronenberger  
8/24 William DeForest  
Skylar Shawn  
8/25 LB McDonald  
Randee Hawkins  
Haley Meekins  
8/26 Carol Cook  
Travis Young  
8/28 Rhonda Wood  
8/31 Jimmy Brewer

### *Anniversaries*

8/03 Mr/Mrs Bill Reynolds  
8/11 Mr/Mrs Alvin Peyton  
8/12 Mr/Mrs Danny Meyer  
Mr/Mrs Donald Penney  
8/17 Mr/Mrs David Rucker  
Mr/Mrs Steve Mauk  
8/18 Mr/Mrs Richard Perry  
Mr/Mrs Reggie Read  
8/23 Mr/Mrs Frank Trail  
Mr/Mrs Jim Radcliffe  
8/24 Mr/Mrs Clay Caudle  
8/27 Mr/Mrs Don Nimmo  
8/29 Mr/Mrs Keith Ivie  
8/30 Mr/Mrs Butch Laxson

## Chancel Choir

**Christmas is right around the corner. (Well, sort of). The Chancel choir will begin working on the Christmas program next Wednesday (8-8-12). The Christmas program is tentatively scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have ever wanted to sing in the choir, now is a perfect time to come and join us. I promise, you will enjoy the fellowship, have a good time and maybe even learn a little.**

**I realize the heat right now is unbearable, but it is nice and cool on Wednesday nights at choir rehearsal. COME JOIN US!**



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School



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