

Methodist Connection

October 2013



From the Pastor's Pen

"Never say Never!"

One of the things my parents taught me early in my life was to never say never. If they would ever hear me say that I never wanted to do something, they would do their best to see that I did it, all the while reminding me to never say never. It is a good lesson to learn and I have found it to be a valuable one.

I remember on one occasion while I was in Junior High School, my parents wanted me to go to church one summer night to start practice for the Christmas play the youth were doing. I happened to be during Summer Band Camp which we were attending during the day. The Band Camp had special activities every night. This particular night was supposed to be movie night at a theatre. Of course I preferred to go to that event rather than the church event, but my parents were quite clear that I would be going to the church play practice. I stated that I NEVER wanted to be in that play in the first place. While I was waiting for everyone to get ready I walked out the front door and just kept walking. I went up to the elementary school and hid out behind the building until I was sure it was too late to go to the play practice. Then I went home.

Boy was I in trouble. My parents had called the police to look for me. They had been driving the streets looking for me. They had called all my friends. They had me paged in the movie theatre, and had done everything they could to find me.

To make a long night's story short, I was a participant in the play at the church that year, although I had a non-speaking part. Apparently they didn't trust me at that point with a major role. Anyway, can I say I NEVER did anything like that again!

Over the years I have pastored people with all kinds of illnesses and surgeries, some with long term and devastating effects. At any number of points I have been tempted to say that I never wanted to go through what they were going through. But, remembering the lesson from my parents, I have instead just rejoiced that I haven't had to go through what they were going through.

Upcoming Events

10.5

Church Wide
Fishing Tournament

10.6

Fish Fry 12pm

10.15

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

10.20

Booth Brothers Concert

10.30

Trunk Or Treat

11.6

Thanksgiving Dinner

Reminder:

Children's Sabbath
is Oct. 13th

Please plan on your
child being a part of
these *GREAT*
Worship Services.

FAITH LEAPERS!

Faith Leapers is our Wednesday night kids program for ages K- 5. Why Faith Leapers? Well our curriculum is Grow, Proclaim, and Serve where the rain forest frog leaps through the bible and on our way the town of Leapers Pointe introduces the lessons and relates our lives with the stories in our lesson. We start out by running off our energy outside then moving to the back kitchen for snacks and drinks. After we that move we watch a short video of Leapers Pointe as an introduction to our lesson. We continue the fun in our classroom by doing crafts, role playing, cooking, games, and lessons. It's a ton of fun and the children seem to really enjoy the variety of activities.

A NOTE FROM BRITTANY

This is my second year and after getting through the nervousness and jitters, I am geared up and ready for the coming year. I am excited to be working with the kids and to provide a fun learning environment to show the kids the love that God has for us. This year I am hoping for a variety of activities for the kids, crafts one week, theatre the next, cooking snacks with a lesson, games, and movies. I will be planning different events, we have a Trunk or Treat coming up October 31 here at the church from 5:30-7:30. Pajama Movie Day will be soon scheduled. So be on the look out for upcoming events!

brittanywhitehead@fumcbridgeport.org



Hands On Bible Kids is the name of our children's Sunday School. Our curriculum is the Hands on Bible where the children have gadgets and gizmos to have hands on visuals for the lesson. The kids are split up by grades K-2 with Brittany Whitehead and 3-5 with Shelley McComis. Two different classes allows the little ones to have a better understanding on their level and the older ones get a deeper understanding of the bible and learn the things they need to know for when they go into youth and confirmation. It also allows there not to be an age gap between the kids.

Youth Garage Sale Fundraiser Oct. 18 & 19

Starting Sunday October 13th we will be taking donations for our all Youth Garage Sale. The proceeds will go to our youth to help fund their ski trip in December.

**SIX FLAGS
FRIGHT FEST**

**OCTOBER 12th
\$32 PER PERSON**



*JR High Halloween
Masquerade Dance & Games
Wednesday Oct. 30 3:30-6:30*

We need help decorating on Tuesday Oct.
29th after school. If you can help contact
Derek 940-683-2780

Youth Calendar for October

- 10.2 ~ fellowship @ church 6-8pm
- 10.9 ~ Bible Study @ Ingram's 6-8pm
- 10.12 ~ Six Flags Fright Fest \$32
Leave church @ 1pm
- 10.16 ~ fellowship @ church 6-8pm
- 10.8 ~ Ski Trip Garage Sale
- 10.9 ~ Ski Trip Garage Sale
- 10.23 ~ Bible Study @ Ingram's 6-8pm
- 10.29 ~ Decorating for Dance
- 10.30 ~ Jr. High Masquerade Dance
- 10.30 ~ Sr. High Youth 6-8pm
- 10.31 ~ Trunk or Treat



I will praise You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works, And
that my soul knows very well.

UMW Sponsored Events

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Join us

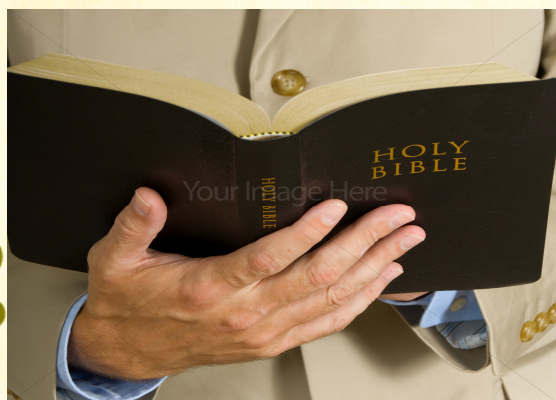
3rd Tuesday of each Month

9:30 am at the church

We will be starting with Max Lucado's book

Out Live Your Life

Next Meeting October 15, 2013



From the Pastor's Pen cont.

Then came the day my dermatologist told me I had a skin lymphoma. She had called me into the office so that I could see her eyes when she told me and understand that this was not something she feared, nor should I. After all, any "cancer" is scary in and of itself.

In my case, it is a very rare kind and hard to diagnose. It can be very aggressive, but is very treatable. So, I choose to focus on the "very treatable" part and I'm rejoicing that there is a plan that should work. I am eager to get on with it so that I can put this behind me and hopefully have a better future.

I do want to thank you all for your prayers, and especially for your long suffering with me through these last 18 months of weird things happening to my skin. Your patience and support are a great treasure for me. Thank you!

See you Sunday in the place where God says "I will always love you."

Yours in Christ,

Bro. David (home: 940-683-1724;

davidrucker@fumcbridgeport.org)

New List of Books that will be reviewed 2013-2014

Come join us for informative reviews and discussions. The Book Reviews will be at 5:00PM on the 3rd Wednesday of the stated month

October 16, 2013

"I Am a Hutterite"

By Mary Ann Kirkby

January 15, 2014

"Laugh Your Way to Grace"

By Rev Susan Sparks

February 19, 2014

"Plain Wisdom"

By Cindy Woodsmall &

Miriam Flaud

March 19, 2014

"This Will Be Remembered of Her"

By Megan McKenna

April 16, 2014

The Death of Josseline

By Margret Regan

Reminder:

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is Oct. 13th

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these *GREAT*
Worship Services.

* Anniversaries *

10/04 Mr/Mrs Adney Stowe
10/13 Mr/Mrs Gene Larrou
10/15 Mr/Mrs Chip Wood
10/27 Mr/Mrs David Bailey



October Birthdays

10/02 Steve Sturdivant	10/09 Andrew Hill	10/15 Kristy Green	10/30 Piper Russell
10/02 Jake Simmons	10/10 Jaime Sturdivant	10/15 Alex Kline	10/31 Terry Ivie
10/03 Lottie Dean	10/10 Daniel Selz	10/16 Dianne Younger	
10/03 Mike Simpson	10/11 Parker Eaton	10/17 Jessie Womack	
10/03 Steve Mauk	10/11 Kaitlyn Eaton	10/18 Robert Rutledge	
10/03 William Myers	10/13 Ray Tebbets	10/20 Cody Weirich	
10/05 Bill Reynolds	10/13 Peggy Kenyon	10/22 D'Anna Garrett	
10/05 Rita Benham	10/14 Joyce Waynauskas	10/26 Ransom Blackmon	
10/05 Corey Cowling	10/14 Darla Hartsell	10/29 Betty Tackel	
10/08 Parker German	10/14 Cole Shawn	10/29 Deanna Dimmitt	
10/09 Bob Carpenter	10/15 Erik Swensson	10/30 Tamara Cooper	

First United Methodist Church Community-Wide

October 31st 5:70-7:30

TRUNK OR TREAT

We need your HELP whether its help setting up, doing a trunk, working a booth, supervising, cleaning up afterwards, or just donating candy every bit helps. Last year we had a great turn out! The youth helped work the booths, we had 13 trunks, a fantastic cake walk, and hay rides and bounce house was a hit! I am hoping for the same turn out or even better! If you would like to help in any way you can reach Brittany Whitehead at: Office: (940)683-2780, Cell: (940)389-6019
Email: brittanywhitehead@fumcbridgeport.org



What The Church Means To Me

Early in the weekend, as I was going through pictures and papers belonging to my children, I came across this story "What the Church Means to Me". The first sentence was: "Ever since I was born my parents always took me to church bringing me up in a way that tells me that the church should always be very important and family like place and we should try to make it that way for others." She went on to write about how "at home" she felt there and that the church was like her "close family" - that God had helped her realize how the friends at church would always be like family- and that even when she ran into them outside church, they were willing to help her in various ways! She ended the story with a Bible verse from Proverbs: "Some friends play at friendship but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin (she spelled it Ken!) and that is how I fell you all are to me!" Wow-I could not have said it better! Out of the mouth of babes.

Then we had laity Sunday-and three different men in the church spoke of what the church meant to them and it reemphasized to me how blessed I have been to be a part of this church family. I began thinking of all the people that had touched my life through this church-and especially the lives of my girls! Jane Cowling came to my mind immediately! I had not thought of her in quite a while-but I remembered the time we had "inter-generational activity night" on a Sunday night. Michelle was placed in a group of varying ages along with Mrs. Cowling. They became fast friends. Jane asked if she could come by and pick Michelle up one day to go visit one of the shut-ins. Michelle was thrilled to be included. They went to visit Mrs. Gober-and this became a regular activity with Jane and Michelle for several years-which continued for all my girls throughout their growing up! Jane Cowling meant a lot to a little girl-she made her feel loved and special. Mrs. Gober also meant a lot to Michelle-and taught us all the beauty of gratitude for life even when it is difficult! I am so very thankful for these two ladies who blessed my family-and there are many others!

As I was walking later that afternoon, I felt that I should write something about this to share-and then- well, I just forgot! Tonight (Tuesday) Michelle texted me " I thought of Jane Cowling today, what a neat lady. She was so good to me." She asked me how she ever got connected with Jane-and I reminded her! Then I realized, God was reminding me-AGAIN-to share the story-a story of OUR CHURCH FAMILY and the gratitude I felt Sunday when remembering the blessing you all have been to us! I pray that I will never forget the example those ladies have given and that I can contribute to being that kind of "church family" for others who come to FUMC Bridgeport!

Love in Christ!
Martine

Thanksgiving Dinner Sign Up

We are making plans for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner to be held on Wednesday, November 6th at the Bridgeport High School Commons Area.

Please fill out this questionnaire and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by October 13th.

Tuesday Evening

Before we feed the masses on Wednesday night, we'd like for you to be our guest for the fellowship meal Tuesday night at 5:30. The church will provide pizza, a great garden salad, drinks, and dessert. We'll begin the food prep following the meal. Bring your potato peeler!

___ I will be available to help Tuesday evening, November 5th, with food preparations.

___ I will be available to help Tues. evening, November 5th, to help cook turkeys @ church

I am willing to make...

___ I will make at least 3 pies or more. How Many? ___ Cream ___ Fruit ___ Pecan

___ I will make Dressing. (**Church recipe required**) How many? ___ Drop-off ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6pm

___ I will make at least 2 cakes or more. (**Church recipe required**) How many? _____
(Bring Cakes to Church Tues. Nov. 5th)

Wednesday

I am willing to serve...

___ I will help slice/debone turkeys November 6th. (8-11 a.m.)

___ I will be available to help move items to the High School early afternoon on the 6th. (1-2:30 p.m.)

___ I will help deliver dinners to our shut-ins and nursing facilities. (4-5 p.m.)

___ I will work in the kitchen carrying heavy pans of food to the serving lines.
___ 4:30-5:30 ___ 5:30-6:30 ___ 6:30-7:30

___ I will serve during the dinner. ___ 5-6 ___ 6-7 ___ 7-8

___ I will serve at the pie station. ___ 4:30-6 ___ 6-7 ___ 7-8:30

___ I will wash dishes at the dinner. ___ 5:30-6:30 ___ 6:30-7:30 ___ 7:30-8:30

___ I will assist taking items back to the church after the dinner. (8:30-9:30 p.m.)

___ I will help take tickets at the dinner. ___ 4:30-6:00 ___ 6:00-7:45

___ I will sell tickets at the dinner. ___ 4:30-6:00 ___ 6:00-7:45

___ I can help checking names off lists as food is brought in the afternoon of the dinner.
(Will need to be at school at 3:30)

___ I would like to take pictures/video Tues evening and Wed of the dinner.

I am willing to give...

___ I would like to make a monetary donation.

NAME: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____