



LEWISBURG UNITED METHODIST Church

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Lewisburg United Methodist Church Newsletter

October 2009

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My Spiritual and Life Autobiography



Just a little about me so you can know me better. I grew up in East Tennessee in a county seat town named Greeneville - home of President Andrew Johnson and birthplace of Davy Crockett. My parents' house was 14 miles from North Carolina right along the mountain range. I was baptized as an infant, and raised in Christ United Methodist Church in Greeneville - a church my grandfather was pastor of in the early 60's when it was First Methodist (before the merger with the EUB Church in 1968). My father and mother both grew up Methodists and were active members. My two older brothers and I were involved with the youth group, sang in the choir, and played handbells.

Like many youth, when I went off to college at The University of Tennessee, I quit attending church except for when I returned home for the weekend. My senior year, as I was preparing for graduate school in Psychology, I got an opportunity to spend six weeks studying at a university in Brazil. It was that time in Brazil that began my process and "calling" into full-time ministry as my vocation. In Brazil, my eyes were opened to poverty and riches, and I observed a Catholic man with both a PhD. and MD who spent his time and energy and whole life serving with and among the poor.

After graduating with a degree in Psychology and Child/Family Studies, I began working at a United Methodist Home for Children in my hometown. In October 1994, I married Melissa who I had met in

Portuguese class (and she was also one of the students who went to Brazil).

St. Paul's Lunch

Take a look at upcoming St. Paul's lunch dates.

12/15/09
2/23/10
3/23/10
7/27/10
10/26/10
12/14/10

Breakfast

Men's Breakfast on
Saturday, October 17 at
8:30a.m.

Free Hot Breakfast Each
Sunday begins on October
18 from 8:30-9:30a.m.

Wednesday Night

Starting on October 14
AGAPE will be starting at
6:30 p.m. with a new series
called Joseph-The Hard Life,
by Rob Duford. At the same
time a new ministry will be
starting for kids called TGI
Wednesday Kids. There will
be craft, singing, stories and
many other fun activities for
the kids.

Community Fellowship Night

Dinner and a movie has returned for another season from October to April on the third Friday of the month. We will have a dinner from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. then a movie for adults in the Sanctuary and a children's movie in the Rainbow room. Both the dinner and movie are free. October's dinner will be prepared by Joan Whipp and her team. The Meal will be Chicken (surprise) and Noodles, veggies and dessert.

A Word From the Trustees

The Trustees have had a very busy summer and we would like to thank the congregation for all of your support. We have had several major projects that would not have been accomplished without the support of the full congregation. Our members have given of their time, talent, and finances to support the various projects.

The summer started with needing to install a new gas line at the old church property on Dayton Street. This maintenance was not budgeted and you, our members, stepped up and donated the needed funds to cover this expense. We thank you.

Next work began to clear the woods for the outdoor worship area. Thank you to those individuals who helped to cut down trees and clear this area. This work laid the foundation for developing this space into an outdoor worship center.

Work then moved into town to the rental property where we needed to do major cleaning, lay a new kitchen floor, touch up the paint, and do several other small projects. This project began about a week prior to the parsonage project and took longer to complete than expected. Thanks to those

Shortly after marrying, I began working in Youth and Children's ministries within a UM Church and felt like seminary was a possibility. Childless and young, and having family (Melissa's Dad and Step-Mom) in the area, we abruptly moved to Atlanta, GA so that I could attend Candler School of Theology at Emory University. However, after applying, sitting in on some classes, talking with some professors and students, - I decided that route must not be for me. We continued living in Atlanta for one year during the 1996 Summer Olympics, and then moved back to East Tennessee. But it was not long before I began working in a church again, and then became the Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries at a 1200 member congregation in Morristown, Tennessee. Melissa worked at First Tennessee Bank, and we bought our first (and only) house in Bean Station (across Cherokee Lake from Morristown). In April 1999, our son Ryan was born.

The pull of seminary continued for me and I began exploring the possibility again. I had taken Youth Ministry and Christian Education courses at Emory University and Pfeiffer University (a small liberal arts UM school in North Carolina). It was there I found out about The Methodist Theological School in Ohio (Methesco). This time I visited beforehand, applied to several schools, but got a full tuition scholarship to Methesco. In the late summer of 2001, we packed our bags and moved to Delaware, Ohio. In March 2002, I began serving as student pastor of a 55 member congregation named Beulah UMC - close to Mt. Vernon within the East Ohio Conference of the UMC, and served there until graduation.

In October 2003, our daughter Lily was born. In May 2005, I graduated seminary with a dual degree (Masters of Theological Studies and Masters of Divinity), and transferred to the West Ohio Conference. I was appointed as the Youth and Young Adult Pastor at Church of the Messiah UM (a 2700 member congregation) in Westerville (northeast Columbus), and served for four wonderful years. In June 2009, I was ordained full elder and was appointed to Lewisburg UMC beginning September 1.

My welcome here has been warm and inviting. I look forward to leading you into God's vision for this church and community, and helping you answer your "call" (whatever that may be) to serve in ministry. Together we will "Glorify" God, "Nurture" disciples, "Invite" others, and "Send" missionaries, teachers, apostles, and leaders into the world.

Fireside Chats

Date	Time	Location	Name
Oct. 4 (Sunday)	11:30-1pm	Sanctuary	AKER - BUNGER
Oct.4 (Sunday)	4:30-6pm	Parsonage	CALDWELL - DEISHER
Oct. 8 (Thursday)	6:00-7:30pm	Café	DeMOTTE - FELTON
Oct.25 (Sunday)	11:30-1pm	Sanctuary	FERGUS - HARRIS
Oct.29 (Thursday)	6:00-7:30pm	Café	HARTLEY - JUNE

Nov. 1 (Sunday)	11:30-1pm	Sanctuary	KEHR - LOCKE
Nov. 1 (Sunday)	4:30-6pm	Parsonage	LOCKWOOD - PRATER
Nov. 5 (Thursday)	6:00-7:30pm	Café	PRICE - SCHAAR
Nov. 8 (Sunday)	11:30-1pm	Sanctuary	SCHLOTTERBECK - STURM
Nov.8 (Sunday)	4:30-6pm	Parsonage	SURBER - WALTMAN
Nov.12 (Thursday)	6:00-7:30pm	Café	WARNECKE - ZUMBRUN

Thursday Night Women's Bible Study - Disciples of Faith



What do a teddy bear, a potato chip, sweet tarts, a medicine dropper, a pacifier, a button, a lemon, and a pen have in common? They are all a part of the current Bible study series "Cultivating Contentment" of the Thursday night women's Bible study group, Disciples of Faith.

Disciples of Faith began during the summer of 2008, when Sandy Slade felt led to start a women's Bible study group. With Sandy's commitment and a few announcements in the Sunday bulletin, it didn't take long to get this women's group started. Our beginning common interest was to study the Bible; and that has been our guiding light. We use

contemporary Bible study guides along with the Bible in our weekly lessons.

Just recently, our group made a pledge to become "prayer warriors" for our church, and it has now become our mission. Every week, in addition to Bible study, we pray for those on the "Prayer List" in the Sunday bulletin, those mentioned in the Email prayer chain, and anyone else who is in need of prayer. If you would like us to pray for you or someone you know, please contact Sandy Slade or other Disciple of Faith member.

Yes, during this last year and a half, our group has evolved. In addition to Bible study and prayer, Thursday night has become a time to share our joys and concerns, a place to find spiritual support, and a haven of trust, love, faith, and peace. We have laughed and we have cried; and we have become good friends.

Is something missing in your spiritual life? We welcome you to become a part of Disciples of Faith. Come and see. We meet every Thursday evening, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

trustees that worked hard at that property so the rest of us could focus on preparing the parsonage.

And a final big thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents to prepare the parsonage for Pastor Roy, Melissa, Ryan & Lily. Painting a house the size of this one in less than a week was only accomplished by the combined efforts of everyone who participated. The Trustees could not have completed this or any of our summer projects alone.

Thank you!

Article Headline

THANK YOU



I would like to thank the families who hosted The Continentals on 07/18/09. I would also like to thank Joanne Whipp for making such a wonderful dinner, and Whitt & Melora Waltman for recording the concert for our shut-ins.

-Robert June

PASTOR MIKE & DIANE EXPRESS DEEP GRATITUDE

"We were overwhelmed in swirling emotions on our last Sunday as you, our church family, wrapped your arms around us so tenderly. Thank you for the many written, personal notes of affection. In the end, and along the way, your love was all that mattered. Thank you also for the most generous gifts of cash and for the ease you have now given us to navigate the big city with the new TomTom GPS system. Everything will be used to serve Christ, who blesses us beyond measure. What a delightful and delicious spread you laid out after worship. We will talk about you in bringing people to the Lord the rest of our days."

Sincerely,



Your family in Christ
Lewisburg United Methodist Church