



FAITH @ FIRST

McKenzie First United Methodist Church exists to worship God and enable open-minded people to discover the freedom of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

August 26, 2009

A WORD from the PASTOR

As a United Methodist Clergy, I have been asked, "How do we arrive at what we believe and support as Christians?" Years ago Susan Padezanin did a great article to explain our historic guidelines. Since this column is not long enough to explain the entire article, the first half was printed last week. This week we'll look at the second two sources.

Ms. Padezanin explains our sources, from which we derive our beliefs and theological affirmations in the following guidelines. They are also the criteria by which we assess our understanding and witness of our faith. John Wesley believed that the living **core of the Christian faith** was revealed in Scripture, illuminated by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason.

Christian experience.

Our personal experience of God's pardoning and healing love is radically different from intellectual assent to the message of the Bible or to doctrines set forth in our creeds. Christian experience, new life in Christ, gives us new eyes to see the living truth in Scripture. It confirms the biblical message for our present. It illuminates our understanding of God and creation, and motivates us to make sensitive moral judgments.

Reason.

We believe all truth comes from God. Doctrines that are developed by the study of Scripture, in light of tradition and Christian experience, commend themselves to thoughtful persons and are submitted to critical analysis. Our beliefs must take into account scientific knowledge and practical experience and avoid self-contradiction. We should try to discover the relationship of revelation to reason, faith to science, and grace to nature as we endeavor to develop doctrines that are credible and clear.

We, as United Methodists, believe these four guidelines are to be brought to bear on all doctrinal considerations. They should interact and be used in combination with each other. Each enriches the other. Each brings its unique perspective. Taken together, they help us to clarify what we believe.

Peace and Grace, Larry

August 30 Text: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Title: An Inside Job

United Methodist Men

Our August meeting will be held on Sunday, the 30th at 8:30 a.m. Guest speaker this month will be Dr. Joe Geary, our District Superintendent. All men are invited to join us for a light breakfast and fellowship.

C & Y news

FLOW is back! Sept. 2, 6:00 p.m.!

Fall Kick off and Birthday Party – we'll have food, fun, party games, and fellowship. Our menu is BBQ chicken, baked beans, corn, and, of course, cake and ice cream. As always, kids eat free, adults \$5.00. Our regular programming will begin the next Wednesday; this one is for *fun*.

October 9 - Lakeshore Retreat: 4th - 6th grade. Sign up sheet is outside the nursery. Please note the change in the dates (I had last year's flyer, sorry!) and the price for each camper.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: We currently have a need for teachers for the 3rd-4th grades and 6th-8th grades. Complete lessons are provided and easy to follow. If you would be willing to teach or "team teach" with another person, please call Gina at 415-1984.

Meals on Wheels



This very worthwhile program is starting up again on Saturday, September 12. **We are in need of help for preparing meals and for delivery**, as well as substitutes that can be called as needed. For those of you who aren't aware of what this program is, we provide a hot meal each

Saturday at noon for approximately 30 people who are in need, either because of financial need or physical limitations. If you can help one Saturday per month or would like more information before making a commitment, please call Glenn Sacks at 352-2070.

First Place 4 Health

Do you want to lose weight? Could you use some balance in your life? Come and discover the most complete Christ-centered healthy living program, **First Place 4 Health**. We'll start this widely acclaimed program on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 5:00 p.m. Talk to Jennifer Pinson or Diane Harvey to get on board.

Please pray for . . . Family of

Morris Beasley; Family of Gayle Smith; Family of Carter Criner; Darin Riley; Susie, Paul, Victoria, & Abbey Motheral; Beverly Ellis; Jimmy Putman; Rikke, Johnathan, & Jeana curtis; Finis Murray; Buddy McClain; Elizabeth Russell; Dr. Michael Roberts; Sandi & Kim McMahan; Zia McKennie; Arthur Roland & Bea Pickler; Kay & Samantha Parker; Alice Curnutt; Marsha Holiday & family; Ernest & Leaverta Bynum; Felicia Mesavage; Mary & Darrell Karas; The world; McKenzie Fire & Rescue; Mary Walters; J. W. Sterling; Mildred Bunnell; Zack Terry; Our church; Cindy Jowers; Lucy Hickman; Stuart & Doris Hickerson; Mary Jane Sexton Brewer; Vicki Foster; Thomas Roditis; Darlene Figard; Darlene Martinez; Our leaders; Frank & Barbara Shiney; Myke & Patty Wilson; Sybil King; Ann Hood and family; Jacob, Leah, & Emma Partridge; Soldiers & family members of 194th ENBDE; Betsy Barcroft; Ernestine Branon; Joyce McBride; Betty Simmons; Marvin & Judy Williams; Carolyn Burke; Mary Lou & Bill Boothe; Mary Frances & Don David; Ruth Moncrief; Raymond & Jessie McDade; Ann Sexton; Lola Alexander; Jean A. Melton; Margaret & Jim Purcell; Ina Faye Hall; Muriel Johnson; Mary Jo Vaughn; Ray & Brenda Berryman; Eadie Van Nostrand; Becky Herron; Kellett Hochreiter; Justin Wilson; Our troops overseas and at home.

The next week at our church

Sunday, August 30

8:30 a.m. UMM meeting
9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class
10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, September 2

6:00 p.m. FLOW Kick off party
menu: Barbequed chicken, corn, baked beans, rolls, cake & ice cream
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

ACOLYTES – Jacob Pinson & Mitch Merrick

NURSERY – Betty Merrick & Elaine Brown

GREETERS – Richard & Peggy Chappell

LITURGIST – Malissa Anderson

USHERS – Tim Broadbent; chairperson,
John Oakley, Austin Bush, Edward Sexton

Sept. 2 FLOW Kitchen Angels: Team 1

Kevan & Gina King, Betty Brown, Richard & Peggy Chappell, Paul Glass, Jerry & Emily Archer, Stephanie Bolin, Fred & Audrey Sistler, Meredith Lampley, Nellie Hale

August United Neighbors needed items:

deodorant; toilet tissue

Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused.
-Anonymous-

FUMC Staff



J. Larry Riley, *Pastor*
John Pugh, *Pastor Emeritus*
Charlene Jones, *Director of Music*
Sandra McMahan, *Organist, Handbell Director*
Donna Bruce & Gina King, *C & Y Directors*
Kathy Patterson, *Administrative Assistant*

August is Pray For Us Month

Here is this week's Pray For Us list with a scripture and a specific person or group to include in your prayers each day. Please participate enthusiastically in this endeavor. Let's follow where God leads us.

We are ending the month as we began, with our entire congregation.

August 29 – Robin Russell, Treasurer

Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

2 Timothy 1:14 NRSV

We pray Robin will continue to be a vigilant guardian of our funds, looking to the good of the church.

August 30 – Charles & Betty Thompson, Lay Members to Annual Conference

and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 1 Corinthians 12:5 NRSV

We pray that Charles and Betty represent us faithfully and to the best of their abilities during the Annual Conference activities.

August 31 – Entire Congregation

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:4-13 NRSV

We pray that we recognize that we are one body with many members, all with different gifts from God. We pray that we will each use the gifts we have been given wisely to glorify God. We pray that we will come together and use these gifts as a church, as members of the body of Christ, as members of one another. We pray that our love will always be genuine, for each other and our neighbors.

The Old Man's Steps

I may be young in years, but I suddenly realized how often we complain.

I live almost at the top of this tall steep hill. My step dad, my brother, my dog, and I went on a walk to the bottom to a park.

On the way back up, it was harder. We complained all the way to the top. A few days later, we were coming down the hill in our car when I saw an old man. He was going up the hill.

He was taking small, slow steps but he was making it.

Without complaining!
Sometimes we do that to God. He'll give us a task and we complain about it. If we take small, slow steps we will soon make it up the tall, steep hill.

All we have to do is do the task that is in front of us and take small, slow steps to complete it.

**~A MountainWings Original
by Alanah B, Kent, WA~**