

Our church family is about to embark on a 40-day study that can literally change the way you feel about church and life. By the time it's done, you'll be able to see your relationship with God, your church, and the demands of a busy life in a whole new way.

Let's face it: balancing the demands of family, work, kids, school, sports, activities, and a seemingly endless "to-do list" is stressful enough. And on top of all that, if we're really honest about it, most of us would admit to feeling guilty that we're not more committed to the life of our church.

But we don't know how to fix it. There are never enough hours in the day or days in the week to do it all.

Have you been there?

And do you crave something more?

Transformed Living is a church-wide 40-day study that will kick off at FUMC Williamstown in late September.

FUMC to study TRANSFORMED LIVING

There are three key components to this study:

- A 6-week sermon series based on the broad general themes of the study.
- Reading together through a book called *Treasures of the Transformed Life* with 40 days of Bible-based readings that can help you define and address the challenges of life.
- Weekly Sunday school/small group lessons where you can discuss the daily readings, weekly themes, and your insights, reactions, and responses in a safe, confidential, supportive environment.

We'll end the study with communion and in celebration together on November 7. During that celebration, each of us will have the opportunity to commit to the next steps in our journey of transformation.

Please don't miss this church-wide opportunity to grow in faith and stretch your spirit. Make plans now to attend worship on Sunday, September 26, so you can pick up your copy of *Treasures of the Transformed Life* and learn more about small group opportunities where you can connect during the 40 days of study.

If you really, truly want a new perspective on the challenges of life and real biblical tools for how to respond to those challenges, this is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

treasures of the transformed life



JOHN ED MATHISON

THE
WEEKLY
MINISTRIES

MINISTRIES
(pages 2-3)

CHILDREN
(pages 4-5)

PEOPLE
(page 6)

PONDER
(page 7)

DATES
(pages 8-9)

Tidings

Issue 731
September 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES (9, 11 am)
SUNDAY SCHOOL (10 am)
304-375-6386

www.fumcwilliamstown.net

"making disciples...making a difference"

Ordinary people can do extraordinary things because “each of you has received a gift to use to serve others; be good servants of God’s various gifts of grace.” [1 Peter 4:10] Join a ministry in fellowship with others, make friends in the church community, share your spiritual gifts in loving by serving others, and find that your puzzle piece fits perfectly with all the others who are striving to “make disciples and make a difference” for God.

Plans are being made and activities are beginning for the fall and leading up to Advent. Join the ordinary people of First Church who are doing extraordinary things in His name and for His glory.

FINANCE.....Jon Dehmlow
Shirley Mills, who has recently served as financial secretary, is resigning her position because of the increased demands on her time by her full-time job. Both the church and the finance team wish to thank Shirley for her devoted service. Since the position of financial secretary is now vacant, the finance team would like to talk with anyone who might wish to assume that position.

Volunteer to bring donuts and “goodies” for Higher Grounds — contact Jennifer Fenton

HOSPITALITY.....Jennifer Fenton
Higher Grounds began on August 22 and numerous people have generously volunteered to bring donuts on a rotational basis; greeters have been assigned to the various church entrances on a rotational basis and greeter training was held on August 29; Newcomer Tea will occur on October 3 from 4-5 pm in the MPR; outreach by team members will occur with the distribution of new Welcome Packets and the home visitation of and the giving of homemade bread to newcomers. In October, the team will come together in fellowship in the FUMC kitchen to make bread. The next meeting is October 6, 6-7:30 pm.

MISSIONS.....Cathy Engle
September 21 is *Unmentionables Sunday*. Members of the congregation are asked to bring packages of underwear, socks, undershirts, etc. for the Clothes Closet. As a reminder: the entire amount donated to UMCOR is sent to where it is needed. Some charities use a small portion of what is donated; the rest goes to expenses.

Unmentionables Sunday,
September 21 — help stock the
Clothes Closet

PRAYER.....Cyndy Goldsworthy
Efforts by the coordinators of the various duties inherent in the *Transformed Life* 40-day study are being under girded by prayers offered by prayer partners; and twelve ladies are making “pocket prayer quilts.”

STAFF-PARISH.....Cyndi Pyles
Charge Conference will be occurring on October 20, and three positions on the SPRC need to be filled by volunteering members of the congregation prior to that date. Members of the SPRC wish to be more communicative with the church body and wish to become more proactive/relationship-oriented than reactive.



Volunteer to serve on the
Staff-Parish Relations Committee;
three vacancies exist —
contact Cyndi Pyles

TRUSTEES.....Steve Bodnar

Repair work done on the air conditioner by Morrison's of Marietta involved replacing a condenser at the cost of \$1860. The ongoing project by Willet Houser Architectural Glass, Inc. of cleaning and protecting the large stained-glass window in the sanctuary has a tentative completion date of the end of September to the middle of October. Tristate Roofing is continuing to try to locate the leak in the roof affecting the top of the stairwell by the Prayer Room. Interior repairs cannot be made until this leak is found and repaired. The Trustee team continues to invite anyone willing to donate his or her time to help with projects at the church and/or who is interested in the stewardship of the church facilities to attend the team meetings held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm.

Volunteer to serve with the
Trustees in being stewards of the
church facilities —
contact Steve Bodnar

WORSHIP.....Pastor Steve

Up-coming events: World Communion Sunday, October 3; Children's Sabbath, October 10; Laity Sunday, October 17; FUMC Charge Conference, October 20, Wayside UMC; All Saints Sunday, October 31. Adult Choir: Thirteen people have expressed an interest in participating in a new adult choir. A new choir director has not yet been identified. Fall Sermon Series: September 26—November 7, *Treasures of a Transformed Life* by John Ed Mathison. Special events: Feasts of Booths with Heather Bletcher, October 24, 2010, at 7 pm. Wedding Policy (available on-line) will be reviewed and updated before the next meeting. New issues: Since Sunday school is a priority of a disciple-making church, we want to maximize the amount of time allotted between services for Bible study and discussion. The Worship team has been asked to tighten up the 9 am service or change

the time of both services to increase the available Sunday school time between services. Option: No announcements will be made during church; all ministry announcements must be in the bulletin. Next meeting: September 22, 5:30 pm.

Volunteer to serve dinners for the
youth group — contact Joe Webb

YOUTH..... Joe Webb

In June seventeen people attended Creationfest East in Pennsylvania. In July several youth helped the St. James Mission team from Florida. In August the youth painted the youth room, helped with UNIFY to raise money for Haiti, and led water games at the church picnic. On September 19 there will be a fall kick-off event to welcome seventh graders. Up-coming events: November — Fall Workshop at Cedar Lakes in Ripley (WV WESLEYAN OFFERS DISCOUNTS IN TUITION FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING THE FALL WORKSHOP AND OTHER EVENTS FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS. FIND OUT MORE!) December — Advent Conspiracy to raise money for Living Water. February — 30-Hour Famine. The IHS Youth Group meets on Sundays from 6-8 pm. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to worship with us. We will be serving dinner each week, and we're in need of volunteers. If twelve people sign up, each person will only have to serve once every three months.

CHILDREN'S.....Kianna Anderson

(see pages 4-5)

CHURCH COUNCIL.....Chip Pickering

VISITATION.....Marilyn Croucher

Volunteer to lead the Adult,
Evangelism, or Worship Teams —
contact Pastor Steve or
Kriss Bodnar

Investing in the Lives of Children

Did you know that Children's Ministry is in the business of investments? That's right, investments. But our investments are far more important than any monetary one could be. We invest in the eternal lives of children.

We go to work to make money. We are careful with our money. We take it to professionals who tell us what to do with it, how to keep it, how to manage it, and how to make it grow. We know how important it is to our livelihood. Of course, we in Children's Ministry are in the business of investments also. The difference is that what we invest in is infinitely more precious and valuable than any amount of money. How is that possible? How could any investment be valued beyond a dollar amount? The investment? Time. What are we investing in? The lives of children of Christ.

You might say, "I'm not a children's pastor; I'm not sure I could volunteer," or "I could only work with kids once a week, month, or year. That doesn't exactly amount to a serious investment." If these were your initial thoughts, you are not only completely diminishing the influence you have in that hour or two a week, month, or year when you invest in the lives of children; but you are ignoring God's awesome ability to change lives through you in those couple of hours spent with a child.

Think back to when your own personal spiritual transformation began. Someone was Christ to you in your past. Maybe it was a Sunday school teacher or a parent or grandparent. Maybe it was a friend or co-worker. Someone made an investment in you along the way and allowed God to use them to reach you. If you think you are unable to have the same type of influence, you couldn't be more wrong!

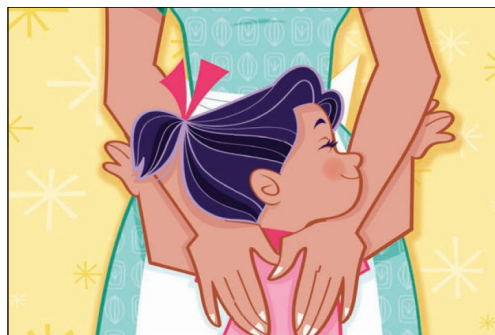
You have an opportunity to make **connections** with children. You have the opportunity to be a part of their lives and have a personal relationship with them. You are given the honor of showing them Christ by **being** Christ to them.

One week, a three-year-old boy went to church on a Saturday night to find that his regular teacher wasn't in the room to greet him. He looked up at his mother with a sad face and very genuinely asked the only

So...what's the secret? There is no secret. All you have to do is love them.

question he could think of, "Where's Jesus, Mommy?" This did not happen because he was too young to know the difference; it happened because the teacher was so effectively investing in her children that **she was Jesus to them!** God can **use** us in powerful and mighty ways to influence children, but only if we allow Him to do so.

So, what's the secret? How do we go about "being Jesus" to the children who are put in our spiritual care? The secret is...there is no secret.



All you have to do is love them. Not love them like you love your car or a great pair of shoes or your golf clubs — they need to be loved by us

the way God loves us: without condition — flaws and all — just because.

That is what God has called us to, whether we volunteer with kids once a month or every day of our lives.

(continued on page 7)

INVESTING IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN (continued from page 6)

They say that Christianity is always one generation away from extinction. If we love as Jesus loved and show children Christ by **investing** in their lives, the likelihood of “Christian extinction” disappears.

We may never see the influence we have on these children while we’re here on earth, but you can never tell what seeds God has used you to plant in the lives of children. God will manage your investment, care for it, and help it to grow in ways you could never have imagined.

INVEST BIG — YOUR INFLUENCE IS ETERNAL.



Friends, investing in our children cannot wait until tomorrow. Today is the moment to shape children’s spirits, character, and values to help them build castles in the clouds!

The Children’s Ministry Team is all about investing in our children today! If you want to help shape children’s spirits, character, and values and if you feel God calling you to invest in a child’s future, please call Kianna at 304-375-6386. The Children’s Ministry Team welcomes all who are willing to share their time and their hearts with children. The more volunteers we have willing to invest in our children, the more children’s lives we can impact **together**.

— by Kianna Anderson

Volunteer to help with the Children’s Ministry Team — contact Kianna Anderson

IT’S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!



REMEMBER TO TAKE JESUS WITH YOU!

It’s back to school time for the children and youth in our community, and they are facing many new

opportunities and many new obstacles. So, when you sit down to talk with God, please include a prayer for this school year. Please pray for the children to have courage and good health and to be safe. Pray for the children to have good experiences as some

School begins...

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

leave home for the first time, some leave a parent for the first time, some change schools, etc.

Pray that what we, as a church family, have taught or are teaching about Christ, while reminding them to take Jesus with them to school, will help our children to make wise choices in difficult situations, which they may encounter throughout the school year.

Please pray for the administrators, teachers, bus drivers, cooks, and mentors that they will also be blessed with good health and God-given courage to make wise choices for our children. Pray that their leadership is shared with a kind and loving heart led by God.

And finally, pray that the children and the adults in their lives will be safely and constantly held in Christ’s arms and that they will all have a good and productive school year.

— by Kianna Anderson

CLOTHES CLOSET NEWS

The “new and improved” FUMC Clothes Closet provided over twenty-five people with clothes during the first of two August Community Breakfasts. The children who were heading back to school were especially excited with their new outfits.

Because of the recent reorganization, the Clothes Closet is in need of numerous items:

- Men’s clothing — especially jeans and sweat-shirts
- Boys’ and girls’ clothing — size 6 and up
- Plus-size clothing
- Casual clothing — jeans, sweat pants, sweat-shirts, and winter coats.

Sometimes those served have special requests. This month those requests include:

- Men’s socks
- A church dress, size 18
- A bed mattress and box springs.

If anyone has such items to donate, please contact Pam Middleton (304-464-4237).

On behalf of those who are served by the Clothes Closet, thanks to all who have and continue to donate items.

September 21 is *Unmentionables Sunday*. Please donate packages of new:

- Underwear
- Socks
- Undershirts, etc. during the service you attend.

— by Amy Strobl

Volunteer your service to the
Clothes Closet —
contact Amy Strobl or Pam Middleton

NEW MEMBERS

On August 29, FUMC grew “by leaps and bounds” as fourteen people joined the Body of Christ during either the 9 am or the 11 am service.

By choosing to *link in community and learn in relationships*, they committed to a faith partnership and covenant in and with Christ and with the members of First Church, who along with the new members, voiced their commitment to the church by acknowledging their willingness to give of their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness as they strive to “*make disciples and make a difference.*”

Please celebrate with and welcome to First Church the following new members, who are listed with their sponsors:

- Erin Agee and Tony Long (soon to be Mr. and Mrs. Long) — Rob and Stefanie Nelson
- Jim Fleagle — Jon and Susan Dehmlow
- Jim, Cheryl, and Ian Hostottle — Marla and Kevin Cutright
- Sharon Lowers — FUMC Worship Team
- Carol Pitkin — Steve and Kriss Bodnar
- Vince, Christine, and VJ Post — Evan and Tonia Bohnen
- Elizabeth Sands — Cyndy Goldsworthy
- Bob and Sonja Tallman — Pat and Shirley Morris

“So in Christ, we who are many,
form one body;
and each member belongs
to all the others.”

[Romans 12:5]

issue 731-September-prepared by Tidings staff
Cyndy Goldsworthy and Tonia Bohnen

LET THE WATERS RISE

*Don't know where to begin;
it's like my world's caving in,
and I try, but I can't control my fear.
Where do I go from here?*

*"My grace is sufficient for you,
for My power is made
perfect in weakness."
[2 Corinthians 12:9]*

*Sometimes, it's so hard to pray
when You feel so far away;
but I'm willing to go
where You want me to,
God, I trust You.*

*There's a raging sea
right in front of me,
wants to pull me in,
bring me to my knees;
so let the waters rise
if You want them to.
I will follow You;
I will follow You;
I will follow You.*

*I will swim in the deep
'cuz You'll be next to me.
You're in the eye of the storm
And the calm of the sea.
You're never out of reach.
God, You know where I've been;
You were there with me then;
You were faithful before;
You'll be faithful again;
I'm holding Your hand.*

*There's a raging sea
right in front of me,
wants to pull me in,
bring me to my knees;
so let the waters rise
if You want them to.
I will follow You;
I will follow You;
I will follow You.*

*God, Your love is enough,
You will pull me through;
I'm holding onto You.
God, Your love is enough.
I will follow You.
I will follow You.*

*There's a raging sea
right in front of me,
wants to pull me in,
bring me to my knees;
so let the waters rise
if You want them to.
I will follow You;
I will follow You;
I will follow You.*

*"He replied,
'You of little faith,
why are you so afraid?'
Then He got
up and rebuked
the winds and the
waves, and it was
completely calm."
[Matthew 8:26]*

*"Be strong and
courageous. Do not
be afraid, for the LORD,
your God goes with you;
He will never leave you,
nor forsake you."
[Deuteronomy 31:6]*

*"Go," said Jesus,
'your faith has healed you.'
[Mark 10:52]*

*"Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed,
for I am Your God.
I will strengthen you.
Yes, I will help you;
I will hold you with
My righteous right hand."
[Isaiah 41:10]*

[Lyrics by mikeschair]

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- September 1:** Ted & Janet Townsend, Jim & Pat Waybright
- September 2:** Tom & Sharon Fenton
- September 3:** Rachel Blauvelt, Tom & Nancy Bobbitt, Russ & Andrea Flowers
- September 4:** John Thomas McGinnis III
- September 5:** Raymond Parrish
- September 6:** Kevin Cutright, Evan & Tonia Bohnen
- September 8:** Linda Bayles, Tyler Fenton
- September 11:** Nancy Bobbitt
- September 13:** Maeson Burge
- September 14:** Carrie Ankrom, Eric & Lynn Erb
- September 17:** Nate Dehmlow, Tom Fenton, Jason & Emily Martin
- September 18:** Wes Clarke
- September 19:** Schad Gates
- September 20:** Linette Gedon
- September 21:** Steve Gedon, Chris Henderhan, Pat & Shirley Morris
- September 22:** Mason Wilfong, Dan & Rita Stephan
- September 23:** Andy Boley, Hattie Clarke, Audrey Fenton
- September 24:** Clarice Bever, Eva Clarke, Shirley Dearman, Will Haynes
- September 26:** Lauren Sexton
- September 30:** Toni Olf

SEPTEMBER GREETERS

9 am Blended Service

Fred Burge (WA)
Marilyn Burge (CH)
Bill Cieslewski (PLD)
Eileen Cieslewski (PLH)

11 am Traditional Service

Richard Barnard (CH)
Larry Croucher (PLH)
Marilyn Croucher (PLD)
Joshua Erb (WA)
Jim Waybright (SAN)

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTES

9 am Blended Service

- September 5:** Abby Stoveken
September 12: Liz Sexton
September 19: Amanda Webb
September 26: Elissa Erb

11 am Traditional Service

- September 5:** Corey McClung
September 12: Luke Nelson
September 19: Jillian Leo
September 26: Allison Pickering

SEPTEMBER USHERS

9 am BLENDED SERVICE

Brian & Fred Burge
Steve Bodnar

11 am TRADITIONAL SERVICE

September 5

Wes Clarke, Gene Duncan, Karen Fenton (WA) (helpers requested)

September 12

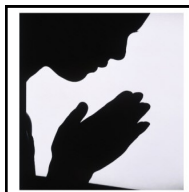
Rex Bush, Ken Cox, Chris Henderhan, Jim Schmidt, Bob Woodford

September 19

Fred Dearman, Wayne King, Jeff & Pam Middleton, Charles Pickens, Warren Epperly (WA)

September 26

Rick Blauvelt, Larry & Marilyn Croucher, Tim Sayer (helpers requested)
(Contact Rex Bush to serve as an usher.)



SAY A PRAYER & SEND A CARD

"I thank God upon every remembrance of you."

[Philippians 1:3]

DATES TO REMEMBER

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Community Walking	(M-F, 8:30 am)
Leap Ahead Learning Center	(M-Thur, 9 am)
Wednesday Women's Bible Study	(9:30 am)
IHS Youth Group	(Sun 6 pm)
Boy Scouts	(Mon 6:30 pm)
Handbell Practice	(Tues 6:30 pm)
Choir Practice	(Wed 6:30 pm)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

- SEPTEMBER 7:** Trustees (7 pm)
 Programs Ministry Meeting (7 pm)
- SEPTEMBER 8:** Church Council (6:30 pm)
- SEPTEMBER 14:** Children's Ministry Meeting (5 pm)
 Girl Scout Leader Meeting (6:30)
- SEPTEMBER 18, 25:** Community Breakfast (8 am)
- SEPTEMBER 22:** Worship Team Meeting (5:30 pm)

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

- SEPTEMBER 3:** Senior Luncheon (12 pm)
- SEPTEMBER 18, 25:** Community Breakfast (8 am)

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- SEPTEMBER 4:** Erin Agee Wedding
- SEPTEMBER 11:** Parsons/Myers Wedding &
 Reception (Open Invitation, 3:30 pm)
- SEPTEMBER 18:** Ruble Baby Shower (2 pm)

FREE!

first Friday of the month
 noon—MPR
 September 3, 2010



YOUNG-AT-HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

all food will be provided

Sing along with the music of the

Big Band Era...

and the songs made famous by the likes of

Frank Sinatra

Glenn Miller

Tony Bennett

and as performed by **Allen Sexton**

Everyone Is Invited

to the wedding of

Susie Myers

And

Neil Parsons

September 11, 2010

3:30 pm



*"By this all men will know that you are
 My disciples, if you love one another."*

[John 13:35]

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“Each of you
has received a gift
to use to serve others;
be good
servants
of God’s
various gifts
of grace.”
[1 Peter 4:10]



“In the time of your life,
live so that in that
wondrous time, you shall
not add to the misery
and sorrow of the world,
but shall smile to the
infinite variety and
mystery of it.”
[William Saroyan]

SENSE GOD
PERSONALLY *through engaging*
WORSHIP and PRAYER

SEEK GOD
PASSIONATELY *through BIBLE*
STUDY and SMALL GROUP sharing

SERVE GOD
PURPOSEFULLY
through SPIRITUAL
GIFTS and faithful
STEWARDSHIP

