

reflections

PASTOR'S

A PLACE OF HEALING—for those in crisis, grieving, or suffering from broken dreams or shattered relationships [see July 2010 issue of Tidings]

A PLACE OF GROWING—We connect people to God and help them deepen their relationship with God.

The second purpose of our church is to make disciples by offering believers and seekers the opportunities for growing closer to God. Whether they are visitors or long-time members, just beginning the journey of faith or well along the road—all are in need of God's love in Christ. Through worship, prayer, study, and honest sharing, we help one another discover that the Holy Spirit is not far off but present with us, wanting an open and loving friendship with each of us—not only friendship but commitment as

Disciples do not graduate from being a disciple. Disciples do not go on to greater things, although they may do great



things. A disciple is one who commits his life to follow a master. A disciple commits his life to learning all that the master has to teach, doing all the master has shown how to do, and sharing all the master has given to share. A disciple serves as one under authority, the authority of the Master, and will remain under authority of the master, as long as he/she remains a disciple.

What Kind of Church Is This?



“We must remember that the goal of Scripture is not to be learned but to be lived. God intended His Word to be practical truth—a gift that prepares us to do every good work.” [Phil Ware]

well. Through out church's various ministries, we encourage one another to give ourselves to Christ.

A disciple is, in a real sense, not a finished product; rather it is a life-long endeavor of *becoming*.

GIVE GOD...

- The First Day of Every Week
- The First Part of Every Day
- The First Portion of Your Income
- The First Consideration in Every Decision



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CORE VALUES

Live in gratitude
 Lead with grace
 Learn in relationships
 Link in community
 Love by serving

MISSION

“making disciples,
 making a difference”



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

Tidings

www.fumcwilliamstown.net

Issue 730

August 2010

State of the Church Update

FULFILLING CHURCH MINISTRIES

One of the many strengths of our church is the commitment of our members to the financial resources necessary for us to share Christ abundantly. A State of the Church update is provided for your review:

In planning for the Church 2010 Budget and on behalf of the congregation, the finance committee made a financial commitment to more fully support the budgets of our various ministries including adult, children, hospitality, worship, and youth. Through June 30, we are happy to report that the congregation is fully meeting all of our operating expenses including Conference Fair Share Apportionment. In fact, First United Methodist Church of Williamstown has been a full Fair Share Apportionment Church of the West Virginia Conference for the past five consecutive years.

While fully meeting operating expenses, we do need a little bit of "catch-up" to fully support our intended commitment to the church's program ministries. At this time, we are running \$800 per week short of fully supporting the work of our fellow church members and volunteers engaged in ministry. With your prayers and support, it will be possible to make-up this ministry-support shortfall.



As you prayerfully consider your personal giving to the church and the work of our minis-

tries, please consider **ADDING \$5 PER WEEK OR 5 PERCENT WEEKLY** to your church giving. Please join us in fulfilling the work yet to be done this year in the church's ministries.

If you have an questions or comments regarding the State of the Church finances, please feel free to speak with Pastor Steve or any of the finance committee members. Contact information for selected committee members includes:

- Jon Dehmlow (Finance Team Chair) — 740-336-8808 (cell phone)
- Evan Bohnen — 740-376-4446 (office) or evan.bohnen@marietta.edu
- Dee McCallister — 304-375-4758 (home) or DeloresBMCC@aol.com
- Stefanie Nelson — 740-373-6550 (home)

Respectfully submitted — Evan Bohnen

**Giving is
true loving.**

**Give to God what's right --
not what's left.**

**We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give.**

ponder this...

When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing.

“Stewardship is a lifestyle that reflects who we are and what we believe, and this involves daily living. A commitment to stewardship should influence our most basic choices: how we spend our free time; how we develop and use the skills and abilities God has given us; and how we earn, save, spend, and share our money. This is ‘time, talent, and treasure’ to be sure, but it is expressed in terms of daily living, not just as a formula for volunteerism or church support.” [Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy]

STEWARDSHIP IS NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY

“For many Christians and congregations, stewardship needs a larger frame of reference than ‘How much of my money will I give to the church?’ Stewardship is essentially more than fundraising, giving, and tithing. A steward lives, works, gives, and serves with attention paid to what God desires.” [Ruben Swint]

Taking the \$ out of \$TEWARD\$HIP

“Stewardship begins with prayer and an understanding that this concept is as old as the Scriptures. Although there are countless examples in the Old Testament of men and women using their gifts to honor God, our vision of stewardship is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. He prepared His apostles to carry on His teachings. ‘Come, follow Me’ is not a suggestion; it is our mission as Christians. We use our gifts or talents to be disciples; to be the hands and feet of our Lord, to do what He would do if He were here in the flesh.” [Ascension Catholic Church, Boca Raton, FL]

STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE

TIME ~ TALENT ~ TREASURE

“Stewardship can be defined in many ways, and has been. *Steward* and *stewardship* are biblical words with deep and rich meanings for Christian theologies and lifestyles.

A *steward* is a responsible person who acts with the authority of someone else. A *Christian steward* is gifted, called, and empowered to act as God’s agent in the world for Kingdom purposes and goals.

A Christian steward is one who lives and works toward the goals set by God. The Bible expresses God’s desire for a life of meaning and purpose for each person along with compassion and justice toward each person. A Christian, by definition, is empowered by the Holy Spirit to work towards these goals.

Stewardship requires loyalty, faithfulness, and diligence to meet another’s goals using another’s authority and resources. *Stewardship is all we do with all we have to accomplish our God-given mission, as*

individuals and as congregations. Stewardship is engaged when Christians act on God’s intention of a full life for all people. Christian stewards:

- Live and share the Good News found in Jesus
- Work for justice and peace
- Acknowledge and utilize our God-given abilities and opportunities
- Share material resources and personal energy in caring for others. [Ruben Swint]

“Let’s take the \$ out of \$teward\$hip and replace it with the S: S for *spirituality*, S for *service*, and S for our *Savior*, Jesus Christ.” [Ascension Catholic Church]

“Stewardship is not something we ‘do,’ but rather it is the way we live each day as a follower of Jesus Christ. We can never ‘out-give’ God.” [Ascension Catholic Church]

*missions mentor***Matthew 25:35-40**

The sounds were unmistakable!

They had arrived —

- the heavy, deep-rumbling roar of a large, repainted, Greyhound passenger bus;
- the Sunday afternoon silence of the MPR replaced by voices upon voices laughing, exclaiming, “We’re here!”, and giving directions to fellow team members about where to place pillows and sleeping bags; and
- the rolling of bicycle and luggage wheels on the concrete pavement.

Yes, the St. James United Methodist Mission Team from Tampa Bay, FL, had arrived with their characteristic smiles, servant’s hearts, hugs, and eagerness to get to work “*letting their light shine before others so that they may see their good works and give glory to the Father in heaven*” [Matthew 5:13-16].

While spending a week in Williamstown from July 11-July 17, the 50-plus volunteer team “took over nearly every inch of the EVE

His hearts & hands shelter in Marietta and painted, repaired, remodeled, and accomplished in a few days what it otherwise would have taken months or even years to do. ‘They were everywhere, doing anything we could think of,’ said EVE co-director Annelle Edwards.” In addition to the painting, team members “installed a new security light, enclosed exposed hot water tanks, beautified the grounds, completed some electrical work, remodeled bathrooms, fixed leaks and cracks in the walls, and essentially gutted the kitchen, rebuilding it with new cabinets. ‘The team is full of experts—from electricians to plumbers—as well as amateurs with a willing spirit. There’s a core group year-to-year but also plenty of new faces,’ according to Steve Florence, for whom this year’s trip was his sixth. “

While at First Church, the team slept in the PALS and youth rooms, ate and staged in the MPR, and showered at the high school. Their travel and work was under girded by prayers from each of their First Church prayer partners.

THOUGHTS FROM TEAM MEMBERS Ron and Teresa Collins and Edie Rosko.

“Our task while there this year was to assist in remodeling the kitchen. But, more importantly, it was also to show love and kindness to the residents there at EVE. Teresa and I love coming to West Virginia because there is a need, and everyone we meet is so kind and caring. We have never has a bad experience in any of the areas we have visited — to say easily — we experienced love and Southern hospitality everywhere we have been.

I picked the WV Mission Team because of all the wonderful stories I heard at our church each time the mission team came back. What they experienced, I wanted to experience; and I did. In fact, the first mission trip I

leading with grace took up to WV I was unable to speak about without it bringing tears to my

eyes. My emotions were obvious to everyone I talked to about the trip. Teresa was also a huge inspiration to me by encouraging me to go. Then after a couple of years of going and telling about my experiences with the WV people, she wanted to go. Remember—we have never gone on a mission trip together before this one. Teresa now loves going to WV; and if she is not able to come on a trip, she is a strong supporter in all of our fundraising.

It has now been about seven years of me going to WV, and I cannot think of going anywhere else. Pastor Steve Gedon exemplifies what a true Christian pastor is, and his love for us shows each and every time we are there.” *Love and may God bless — Ron and Teresa Collins*

loving by serving “Each year when I go on

the WV Mission Trip, I feel I am called to go in order to bless someone. However, it turns out that I am the one who is blessed. This year was no different. By helping to improve the living quality of the unfortunate people that need the services of EVE, I realize how truly blessed I am; and I thank God for all He has given me.

I was able to interact with several of the residents of EVE and learned their heart-breaking stories of why they are there. It was my privilege to be there to listen to them and to help make their living quarters more comfortable, more like home, a peaceful home where they do not have to be afraid and can get the help they need to move forward. I know they felt Christ’s love through us.

Blessings to all at 1st UMC of Williamstown for hosting us and letting us serve God in this wonderful way.” *Your sister through Christ— Edie Rosko*

With God, through His Word, saying, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms” [1 Peter 4:10] and “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” [Mark 10: 45], what motivates people to choose to serve as they do? Below are the **THOUGHTS FROM TEAM LEADER CRAIG YANCEY** to the questions he was asked.

- How many years has your church been involved in such mission work? 2010 was the 13th year that we have been involved in WV missions.
 - How many people attend your church? I believe our membership rolls list about 1500 people; about 900-1000 people attend weekly on average
 - What is the pervasive attitude in your church that motivates it to be so involved in mission work? We are a very blessed congregation, and we also have many lay and staff leaders who encourage that feeling of service to others and are willing to lead others in the mission field.
 - Is the WV Mission Team the only mission team in your church? If not, how many more are there? Where do they go? St James has several different mission teams, some of which travel to Honduras, South Africa, and many other areas that experience different types of disasters. The last time I heard, we have approximately 200 different ministries. Some ministries are just a couple of people working for Him, and some are larger, like the WV Mission Team.
- *****
- Why and how did you decide to come all the way from Florida to West Virginia? In 1997, we (the Mission Committee) were looking for God’s direction for a “regional” mission trip. We had teams that traveled outside the USA; and we felt that many people weren’t called to that part of the mission field, but that they would be interested in something a little closer and “easier”...meaning something located within the Eastern states. After much prayer, we were invited to come to your district by a former UMDS, whose parents were members of our church.
 - How do you decide upon the places where you will provide help and assistance? We pray about it, and then we listen to God’s quiet voice as He directs us.
 - How do you determine where you will go each year? I (we) listen for God’s direction.

“...remember that this isn’t about us as a mission team...it is about serving Him Who loved us first, and Who saved us for Himself!” [Craig Yancey]

- How do you decide who will come with you on your mission trips? God determines that by moving in prospective members’ hearts.
- *****
- How much money did you raise this year? Over \$20,000
 - How did you raise the money? BBQ fundraiser; garage sale and silent auction; some financial support from the Missions Committee of St. James; some was raised by Bethany, UMC in Celina, OH; and some was provided by direct donations.
 - Do those who make the trip to WV help to raise the money? Each member of the WV Team signs a “Team Commitment” form, which binds them to each of the other team members and commits them to helping with the fundraising efforts.
 - Did you spend all the money you raised at the EVE shelter? No
 - Where else and on what other mission efforts did/do you spend it? We spend the money that we raise on any “mission” need that we feel God is leading us to share. We first “tithe” back to the church in several ways; we shared the bounty of God’s gifts with three other ministries within St. James. One was God’s Pedal Power, which was responsible for the bikes that we were able to bring to WV for the last two years. God blesses us with more than what we need for the mission projects, so we listen for where we can help others. We also worked on Jeff Kelley’s needs while we were in Williamstown.
- *****
- Why, Craig, do you, personally, choose to be involved in mission work? I have been called by God to serve others, and this is where He has placed me, and this is what He has determined that I can do to serve Him best.
 - What motivates you to do this? My love of my Savior compels me to obey His directions.
 - Is the trip to WV your only mission trip this year? WV is personally my only long-distance mission trip this year, so far. I am involved in many local mission projects throughout the year. I wanted to go to Haiti earlier this year, but my passport took too long to arrive, so my “window of opportunity” closed up. I may be able to travel there later this year, God willing.

pray & listen

THANK YOU "We thank God upon every remembrance of you" [Philippians 1:3]. "With God's discernment and Alisha's support, I have chosen to step down as choir director but will continue my involvement with the praise band." Blessed by Allen Sexton's musical talent, his heart for God, his wise words, and his desire to enable others to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" during worship, First Church thanks him for his two years of being choir director, for his involving the community in seasonal cantatas, and for the excitement, expectation, and quality of sound that his love for music and for God brought to every practice and every performance.

"Be a contributing Christian, not just a consumer. Spiritual growth happens best when you put into practice what you have learned. Moving from the Heart to the Hand, you'll find Christ moving in and through you; and isn't that what Christian life is all about? We're looking for volunteers to be greeters, ushers, and members of the evangelism, hospitality, missions, and trustees teams. Pick up a MINISTRY SURVEY SHEET in the chapel area, complete it, and turn it into the office or place it in the offering plate, letting us know how God wants to use your heart, hands, and feet." [Pastor Steve]

With the arrival of August comes the sounding of school bells and the resuming of annual First Church activities. From elementary school to college and even our own Leap Ahead Learning, students will be entering classrooms, meeting teachers, and setting up dorm rooms and apartments. Traumatic for some, exciting for all. Please keep all children, no matter the age, in your prayers along with the teachers and the parents of all, asking, among other things, that God will surround all with His all-sufficient grace and His invincible protection.

food & friends Mark your calendars! **CHURCH PICNIC** Sunday, August 29, in Tomlinson Park at 4 pm. **SENIOR LUNCHEON** Friday, September 3, in the MPR at noon.

issue 730-August-prepared by Tidings staff
Cyndy Goldsworthy and Tonia Bohnen

Dear Church Family,

I will be leaving for China on August 24 and would appreciate your prayers for me to have a safe trip and a successful year. I pray that my family stays healthy and happy in my absence, too.

China Bound This past year I worked pretty hard to get an M.Ed. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Muskingum University; and I also did additional work in Applied Linguistics at OU, simultaneously, the second half of the year. While doing all the driving back and forth, I've been learning some Mandarin on audio CDs! I can speak it a little, but I haven't learned to write it yet.

Why China? At first it was because China sends more students to US colleges than any other country, so any experience from there would be the most valuable. But as I have prepared myself by studying Chinese history and culture, I have grown to admire China tremendously. I will live in Suzhou, a small city that is an hour from Shanghai. The Suzhou Foreign Language School (www.sfls.com.cn) is a private boarding school where the subjects are taught in English; but I will be the English teacher for the seniors, who will probably come to the US the following year. The school is giving me a studio apartment on the campus; and if I like, I may take my meals at the three cafeterias. On the weekends, I hope to travel.

I am developing a website which will carry a blog and my pictures and more. I'll send the address of the website to *Tidings*; and if you care to check in on me throughout the year, you can visit my site. You can leave comments about the pictures and stories, and I hope you will. You can also email me at susanblauvelt@mac.com anytime, and I will be very glad to hear from you and to respond. Thank you for your interest and prayers. I'll be back at the end of July 2011.

Stay well,

Susan Blauvelt

HOSPITALIZED

Warren Epperly

Opal Hall

Dolly Palmer

CONDOLENCES

First Church extends its sympathies to Casey Cogar and his family on the death of his mother, Sharon Cogar; and to the families of Kathy Albertson and Evelyn Morin on the death of their grandmother and mother-in-law, respectively.

WHEN GOD SHOWS

“Christians **UP FOR CHURCH** around the world are praying for revival. What exactly is meant by revival? Some think in terms of great meetings or tremendous evangelistic outreach. Others think more in terms of Christians who are encouraged and brought to a new level of commitment in their faith. Certainly Christians should be praying for revival, but what is it we are praying for and about?”

Though many have given good definitions of revival, I still like this simple little description: Revival happens when God shows up for church. In a real sense, the Lord is always present when His people gather in His name; but all too often, His presence goes unnoticed. This definition recognizes the fact that when the people of God become aware of the Presence of the Lord, everything changes. Our worship services, our family lives, our evangelistic efforts, and our individual devotional lives will all be different when God shows up for church.

The Bible teaches us the amazing fact that God has come to dwell in us through His Holy Spirit. The Lord also made it clear that when two or more are gathered together, He would be there in our midst. Much as the temple or the tabernacle in the Old Testament was a place where the Presence of God was manifest on earth, so now the gathered Church becomes a place where His Presence is known. Our theology is clear on that fact. Unfortunately, our experience normally fails to match up to our theology. Most churches meet for worship, teaching, and fellowship and leave without truly being aware of God in their midst.

Praying for revival is praying for ‘open eyes that see and open ears that hear.’”

Lord, open the eyes of our hearts that we might know You and become aware of Your Presence in our lives. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, You dwell within me and make Your home in me. Help me to become more aware of Your Presence in even the most ordinary moments of life — AMEN [Dave Butts]

“The Voice of God is calling its summons in our day; Isaiah heard in Zion, and we now hear God say: ‘Whom shall I send to succor My people in their need? Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed? I hear My people crying in slum and mine and mill; no field or mart is silent, no city street is still. I see My people falling in darkness and despair. Whom shall I send to shatter the fetters which they bear?’ We heed, O Lord, Your summons, and answer: ‘Here are we! Send us upon Your errand, let us Your servants be. ...speak, and behold! we answer; command, and we obey!’” [“The Voice of God Is Calling,” UMH # 436]

“We call it, in theological terms, the doctrine of the Trinity. But rather than believing in three gods, Christians believe in one God Who is manifested in three forms: God the Creator, the Incarnate God (Jesus), and God’s (Holy) Spirit. Theologian Henry Van Dusen thought of the Trinity in these terms:

- in God the Father, we see the ultimacy of God;
- in God the Son, we see the character of God; and
- in God the Holy Spirit, we sense the intimacy of God.” [Vista Grande Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, CO]

3 in 1

“A film called **21 GRAMS** starring Sean Penn, has a narrative that revolves around the value of a human life. Its lead-in refers to a phenomenon that happens at the time of our death:

‘They say we all lose 21 grams at the exact moment of our death...everyone. The weight of a stack of nickels, the weight of a chocolate bar, the weight of a hummingbird.’ The question posed is simple yet profound: ‘How much does life weigh?’ The implication, of course, is that what is lost in the 21 grams is the human spirit; that there is more to us than simply flesh and blood. I believe you are more than water and dust. At your core, you are a spiritual being of infinite value. To be human is a gift. You are created by God, and you have immeasurable value to Him.

Jesus once said that the Kingdom of God is within us. Yet, most of us don’t even bother to explore the possibility that this might be true. It seems that what He is implying is that we have a better chance of finding God in the universe within us than in the one that surrounds us.” [Soul Cravings by Erwin Raphael McManus]

“Rejoice always; **pray without ceasing** in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18]

DATES TO REMEMBER

- AUGUST 2:** Trustees (7 pm)
 Programs Ministry Meeting (7 pm)
AUGUST 10: Children's Ministry Meeting (5:30)
AUGUST 12: Girl Scout Leader Meeting (6:30)
AUGUST 14: Church Council (6:30)
AUGUST 21, 28: Community Breakfast (8 am)
AUGUST 29: Church Picnic (4 pm)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- August 2:** Marilyn Croucher, Tamara Montgomery
August 3: Norma DeBona, Rebekah Webb
August 4: Marilyn Burge, Gene Jakubik
August 5: Argyle Clarke
August 6: Kate Duvall
August 7: Andrew Middleton
August 9: Carolyn Wells, David & Susan Armstrong
August 10: Margaret Hart, Bill & Eileen Cieslewski,
 Steve & Linette Gedon
August 11: Evan Bohnen, Savannah O'Donohue
August 12: Judy Duncan, Ron & Kianna Anderson
August 13: Grant Bobbitt, Esther McGuire
August 14: Larry Croucher, Cyndi Pyles, Mary Belle
 Smith, Jay Stead
August 15: Fred Burge, June Wright
August 16: Cathy Engle, Julie Meadows, Keith
 Pomrenke, Steve & Betty Davis
August 17: Geneva Bcey
August 18: Kriss Bodnar, Aileene Vanhorn
August 20: Steve Bodnar, Dee Fisher, David & Krista
 Berman
August 22: Mahlon & Charlotte Fauss
August 24: Nancy Pyles, Ethan Young, Mary & William
 Huggins
August 26: Mason Adkins
August 27: Meaghan Bryce Cox
August 28: Orville & Esther McGuire
August 29: Carnick Hamperian, Fred & Marilyn Burge
August 30: Mark Adkins, Nicole Constable
August 31: Jack Skiver

AUGUST ACOLYTES

9 am Blended Service

- August 1:** Amanda Webb
August 8: Elissa Erb
August 15: Isabelle Erb
August 22: Caleb Young
August 29: Kaylin Burge

11 am Traditional Service

- August 1:** Corey McClung
August 8: Ben Demhlow
August 15: Luke Nelson
August 22: Jillian Leo
August 29: Emily Pickering

AUGUST USHERS

9 am BLENDED SERVICE

Brian & Fred Burge
 Steve Bodnar

11 am TRADITIONAL SERVICE

August 1

Rick Blauvelt, Larry & Marilyn Croucher,
 Tim Sayer (helpers requested)

August 8

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

August 15

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

August 22

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

August 29

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]

children

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*“Contribute to the needs
of the saints and
seek to show hospitality.”*
[Romans 12:13]

*“Christ is not valued
at all, unless He is
valued above all.”*
[St. Augustine]

*“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

