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THE VOICE



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FEBRUARY, 2010

Love First *Caring, Sharing, Connecting*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Love First: Caring, Sharing & Connecting

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COMING EVENTS

- January 30—Community Pancake & Sausage Breakfast—Harter House
8-10 am (Sponsored by United Faith Housing)**
- February 5—Beth Moore Bible Study “Jesus the One and Only”
9-11 am North-South Parlor (11 weeks)**
- February 10—Bon Ami Mystery Trip**
- February 17—Ash Wednesday Service**
- February 19—Joy Lunch 11:30 am**
- February 20—Men’s Lenten Breakfast**
- March 28—Palm Sunday—Easter at the Park**

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You’ve heard, of course, of Job’s staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That’s because God cares, cares right down to the last detail. James 5.10-11, the Message

Steadiness – the unspectacular virtue.

I don’t have to tell you. The weather’s been cold, it’s still pitch black when the alarm clock rings, and dark again when a lot of us head home. Ash Wednesday is hardly in sight, let alone Easter and spring. There’s not much else to do but hunker down, lean into the wind, and push forward.

Perhaps it is an overstatement to say no one appreciates the importance of stick-to-it-iveness, but so often it is such a quiet, unobtrusive quality that we don’t single it out for the respect and honor it deserves. So, here’s a word in praise of “steadiness.”

There are a large number of biblical passages extolling the quality of steadfastness. Many are descriptive of God. One of the recurring themes of scripture is the steadfastness of God’s love contrasted with the on-again-off-again quality of our loving. God’s care for us is as sure as the coming of the dawn. And, while our capacity for steadfastness cannot rival God’s, imbedded in us is the recognition that fulfillment in our lives is all bound up with choosing a good course, and then having the courage and patience and discipline to hold to it.

Almost always, acquiring a skill or build-

ing a relationship or reaching a faith destination comes down to plain old sticking with it. We have to pass through that corridor where we have left the novelty and excitement of the new behind but haven’t yet reached the payoff and satisfaction of a highly developed skill or a strong friendship or a deepened faith. And that is exactly the time when we must “stay the course.”

I’ve studied Spanish and Greek and a little Hebrew, but I’ve never worked all the way through the corridor of pain. I got through the initial months and the fun of picking up some vocabulary, and even through enough semesters to gain a level of faculty with each. But, to my regret, I’ve never stayed with it to the point of real fluency – the pleasure of easy conversation or the satisfaction of reading some of the great literature in its original language. I just never stuck with it long enough.

That, naturally, is going to happen to us all in some areas of our lives. No one has the time and energy to take every pursuit to the max. But, if we allow it to happen across the board, if that tendency marks most all of our lives, then we will not achieve any wholly developed skills, any fully joyful relationships, or any depth of faith. And we will fall short of being the people God calls us to be. I love this turn of phrase describing the Christian life: *A long obedience in the same direction.*

So thanks for your faithfulness. For heading out to choir practice, for coming to Bible study, for being in worship, for attending that committee meeting...

These are the trenches where the battle is won.

Pastor Jeff

CALLING ALL LEADERS:

If you are a committee chairperson, a Sunday School teacher, a chairperson of a United Methodist Women circle, a leader of a music group, or in any other such leadership position of the church, you are invited to a recognition celebration of your work and service. The church appreciates you, and we want you to know that. You will be receiving an invitation to the celebration by the end of January. Watch your mail!



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DANCING 101—Part I



This is a piece I wrote for my Mom and Dad's 50th anniversary. To set the stage for what I am going to talk about, my wife Peggy and I took ballroom dance lessons early on in our relationship. Although we don't go dancing much, I learned very quickly that this was not an easy thing to do, and I have a lot of admiration for those who do it well. One of the things I know Mom and Dad used to do was go dancing, and so this analogy feels very appropriate.

The items I would like to review are:

- One needs to know who is leading and who is following.
- Moving together sometimes means learning to do things backwards.
- Communication takes resistance.
- It takes practice and dedication.
- It takes a good instructor, and help from other dancers.
- It takes music.

Leading

Needing to know who is leading and who

is following is important. Two leaders doesn't work very well, and although it's not mandatory that the guy leads all the time, this is fairly typical in Ball Room dance. Leading does not change the worth of either partner, a dance still takes two people. Leading typically means taking the first move, but it does not mean dictatorship. Leadership is typically done with the intent of making the partner look good and carries the responsibility of safety.

Moving Together

Moving together sometimes means learning to do things backwards. Going to the lead right means going left for the follower. Making the change to do things differently can be difficult, and should be considered as the couple learns to move together.

How these lessons apply to Mom & Dad

When it comes to children, lessons are usually caught more than they are taught. Examples carry far more weight than lectures, and here are some of those examples.

Mom & Dad have been pretty good about knowing whose leading, and it's usually Dad. Mom

does her share of leading but it's a different style, usually by suggestion and example; Dad is more direct. There have been times when Mom had to lead, such as when Dad had his leg broken in a million pieces. Dad pretty much plays the lead when it comes to how the family interfaces to the outside world, and Mom leads when it came to things within the family. This was a fairly stable arrangement and has obviously stood the test of time.

I have also seen them do things that are counter to their nature. For example, Dad has sometimes had to back off a little, and Mom has had to be more assertive at times. Although Dad will usually lay down "the way it has to be," I've also seen him hurt when other people hurt, and to weep over some of the gross injustices mankind sometimes inflicts. Mom who normally wouldn't say no to any request, and be the first one to try and "fix" an emotional problem, will occasionally politely shake her head no, or say "you have to figure this one out." I suspect it is their relationship that has engendered this changes in their normal responses.

Dave Peter

Part 2 of Dancing 101 will be in the March Voice.

MEMORIALS GIVEN IN DECEMBER, 2009

Peg Mulhollem to Bus Fund

Virginia Musser

Conrad Gaunt

Hazel and Charles Dickmann
Karen and Lee Robinson
James Bridges
David Gaunt



Conrad Gaunt to Bus Fund

Virginia Musser

Ray McCaslin

Miriam and Charles Jones
Hazel and Charles Dickmann
Dan T. Fisher
Anderson Country Club
Linda Christy
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Laughlin
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Scott
Helen and Don Schlegel
Susan Melum
Greg Schlegel
Barb Millis
Judy White
Terry Mueller
Elizabeth Jennings
Gibson Family
Kelly Perkins
Sharon and Ron McNabney

Ray McCaslin to Bus Fund

Virginia Musser

Ray McCaslin to Music Program

Betsey Bachman

Helen Ross to Music Program

Betsey Bachman

Dr. Victor Clevenger

Nicole Ross

Patty Counts to Bus Fund

Haskell Counts
Kelly and Rick Hornback

Catherine Faux to Library

Ruby Geeting

Charles MacMurray

Lois and Elmer Shafer

Carolyn Hardacre

Betty Bonge

MUSINGS FROM THE END OF THE HALL

There is an exciting basketball game going on as I write this. The players, the coaches, even the refs are passionate about the game. The opening few minutes were like none I've ever seen before. I doubt I can do it justice but I'm going to give you a description.

First a hush came over the crowd and then the voice over the loudspeaker said "And now let's hear it for your Anderson Upward Rhinos!"

After the roar of the fans wound down, the Voice of Upward began announcing each player and cheerleader. Once all were on the floor, the lead referee asked who knew the memory verse. When nobody could remember it, he walked all the players and coaches to one wall where the memory verse was written on a poster. "Okay, let's all say this week's memory verse." Then they gathered back at center court for a prayer before the game began.

Yes, it's a different kind of game but certainly a powerful one. By this first game each child has been learning or perfecting game skills, working on team building and they've been exposed to their third Bible verse. The game is almost as exciting as thinking about wonderful things God is going to be able to do because churches like ours support Upward Sports.

Anderson First UMC is a team member in the Anderson Upward League so I'm going to ask you some questions. Have you prayed for your team members this week (That would be Wesley Free Methodist Church)? Have you worked on memorizing the verse of the week (That'd be John 1:9)? Have you asked God to give your coaches wisdom (In your case that would be Pastor Jeff and Pastor Donna)? I would also encourage you to make it to one of the Saturday games at Wesley Free Methodist Church because what good is practicing if you don't ever make it to a game? Games start at 8:30 a.m., they last 60 minutes and the last game begins at 2:30 p.m. I promise you will be mightily blessed and so will the children who look out and see the crowd that's come to see them play and to cheer them on. Are you ready?

Okay...
GOOOOOOOOOOOOO
UPWARD!

Mary Margaret



Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
Sanctuary

10:10-11:10 a.m.
Sunday School
Downtown
Opportunities for all ages

11:10 a.m.
Modern Worship
Worship Center
Lower Level

4:30 p.m.
Community Café
Free Meal, Brief
Devotional Message
And Music
Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m.
Youth Group
Downtown

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle Activities for February:



Friendship Circle—February 4, 9:30 am

Hostesses: Betty Jean Clem, Pat Moore

4123 Roundhill Drive

Program: UMCOR Trip—Charlie Jones

Lydia Circle— February 9, 7:00 pm

North-South Parlor, Downtown

Hostess: Evelyn Chadbourne

Bible Study Circle

—February 4, 9:30 am

Hostesses: Willodean Dye,

Joan Weston

212 Somerville Road

Program: Lesson #5



First UMC's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 2, at 9:30 am, to discuss *Tuesday Night at the Blue Moon* by Debbie Thomas.

This book follows the story of two babies switched at birth, one who dies of a hereditary disease, and the second who must move from living with her grandparents, who obtained custody when her parents died, to living with her biological mother and the mother's family. In the end, both mother and daughter strengthen their Christian faith.

Take an hour out of your schedule and join us in the library downtown to discuss this book—everyone is welcome.

J.O.Y. LUNCHEONS AND PROGRAMS

The 2010 J.O.Y. luncheon programs will begin February 19 at 11:30 am with a "Can't Wait for Spring" theme. Our guest speaker is our own Gene Yates. He is a bird watcher and photographer and will share highlights about our feathered friends in both words and pictures.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) is a fellowship group targeted to individuals sixty-five years and older. The group meets monthly at the church on the third Friday for a catered lunch and program. Reservations are requested (call the church office at 643-6977), and a donation of \$7 is requested for the cost of the meal. (This is an increase to help pay for the remuneration for some of our programs.)

Come join us and bring a friend with you. The programs are open to the community.



Weekly Scripture Schedule—February, 2010

The following is a list of scriptures that will be used during Sunday Services in February

February 21—Psalm 51
Luke 4: 1-13

February 7—Isaiah 6:1-8
Luke 5:1-11

February 28—Psalm 27
Luke 13:31-35

February 14—Exodus 34: 39-35
Luke 9:28-36



THOUGHTS ON WISDOM

Music is a vital part of my life. I always have music floating around in my head. As a teenager, I sat at the piano for hours trying to match the keys on the piano with the chords in my head.

Recently I was able to fulfill a longtime dream. When we went out to dinner I often said to my husband that my idea of a dream job would be to play beautiful music on the piano while people dined in a nice restaurant. I am doing that now, in a way I hadn't ever envisioned. I am playing the piano, and people are dining—however, my listeners are older people and they are in a retirement center. It's a bit of a different setting, but it is still my dream come true.

This scripture passage speaks strongly to me of a particular time in my life—a time when the music went away. In the course of only five years, my husband and I learned four different times that one or the other of us had cancer. It was a diagnosis that we never believed would happen once in our family—much less four times. My outward attitude, according to those around me, was positive. However, I noticed gradually that the desire to do anything musical had simply disappeared. I didn't even want to sing in church. I could not follow the scriptural admonition to "make

music in my heart." Even though I was able still to give thanks to the Lord, there was a hole in my heart where the music used to be.

It was a terrible time, but we came through it. I thank God that in addition to bringing physical healing to me, God has "reinstalled" the music in my heart. I feel like a whole person again.

Ephesians 5:19-20: Speak to one another with hymns and spiritual psalms. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gracious Lord, grant us music and thanksgiving no matter what is going on around us. Amen

Continuing our series—Janet Casterline wrote this devotion for the book **Upper Room Disciplines for 2009.**

FEBRUARY BON AMIS SCHEDULE

The older adult travel group (age 55 and over) will take a mystery trip in the local area on Wednesday, February 10. We will leave the church at 9:45 am. We'll be stopping for lunch along the way, we just don't know where yet.

Check the bulletin for further details and cost. Call the church office to make reservations (643-6977).



LENTEN SMALL GROUP STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Have you read it yet? Do you agree or disagree with its questions? Are you discussing its contents with friends? The book, **Who Stole My Church?** has been a popular topic of discussion at First United Methodist Church since fall. There has been so much interest we have decided to use it as the basis of a small group book study during Lent. We are planning on having a good number of small groups at different times and different days of the week and in different places—homes, church, and ??? We want as many people from the congregation as possible to participate.

The groups will start the week of February 21 and end by March 27. Each group will meet weekly for 5 weeks. We need volunteers to lead a study group and volunteers to host a group. Leading a group means leading the discussion of the questions each week, and the questions are in the back of the book—not a difficult job. A brief training will be available for leaders. Hosting a group means providing some light refreshments—a host can host a group at the church!! Please contact Pastor Donna about volunteering for these roles.

A sign-up schedule will be available shortly. Be on the lookout!

Paperback copies of this book will be available and cost \$10. Please contact the office at 643-6977 to reserve a copy.

BON AMI 2010 SCHEDULE

In the midst of the snow and wind a group of individuals met to plan the 2010 schedule for Bon Amis, and another year of interesting places to visit and good food to eat is in the planning stages. Bon Amis is a day trip travel group targeted to individuals fifty-five years and over. The trips usually include a visit to a site of interest within a 2 to 2 ½ hour range and of course involves a stop for good food at a restaurant. Call the church office to make reservations for any of the trips, and payment is requested as close to registration as possible. Trips are open to individuals within the community as well as the church.

The trips planned for 2010 include:

- ✦ February—mystery tour in Anderson or nearby area
- ✦ March 22—Ozark Jubilee from Branson, Missouri, at the Paramount

- ✦ April—"Hello, Dolly" at Beef and Boards in Indianapolis
- ✦ May—South Bend, Indiana with visits to the Studebaker Museum and South Bend Chocolate Factory and lunch at Tippecanoe Place (the former Studebaker mansion)
- ✦ June—our first overnight trip to Longaberger Baskets in Ohio
- ✦ July—Symphony on the Prairie with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra at Conner Prairie
- ✦ August—a tour of the WISH-TV channel 8 station in Indianapolis and lunch at Hollywood Hills restaurant
- ✦ September—a tour of Hunter's Honey farm in Martinsville and lunch at Gray's Cafeteria in Mooresville

Check It Out

**Straight Talk to Men
and Their Wives**
James Dobson



In 1980, James Dobson wrote a great book aimed at fathers and husbands. In this 30 year old book is a wealth of wisdom and advice for today's men. Time tested wisdom which has eternal value to any man seeking to be a loving father and husband.

"Old-fashioned" is never outdated when it is based on loving relationships. We also need to remember godly love serves as the best resource men have in this modern and difficult society. We must understand love is necessary if we are to nurture children to responsible adulthood. God's resources of love, patience, understanding, forgiveness and acceptance are essential if men are to be successful fathers and husbands.

Dr. Dobson relied on years of experience as a Christian counselor when this book was written. Three decades later his advice is still accurate and up to date.

If you want to be a better husband and father, check out **Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives.**" (301.42 in the shelves)

YOUTH NEWS / JAKES' CORNER

I tend to make a lot of promises and statements that I completely forget about. Honestly, I probably do it most when it comes to writing this article. You see, often times I will say I will talk about something in next month's article, but it can be hard for me to remember when I promise those things. In the last issue I said I would talk about Something Different from December. I forgot about it until I started typing. In fact, I will often read the entire article from last month just to make sure that I covered everything I promised I would. I suppose I don't completely forget about those promises; I do remember to look back and make sure I have all my bases covered. Let's move on. Oh, and happy Singles Awareness Day (Valentine's Day)!

December's Something Different went really well. We busted out the Christmas songs even though it was two days after Christmas. During

the learning time I read the book "The Preacher Creature Strikes on Sunday" by Mike Thaler. It was like story time in elementary school! I used this book to spring-board a discussion on worship services. We all shared our opinions about different aspects of the 9 A.M. and the 11:10 A.M. services offered by our church, and then we briefly touched on what types of things we would like to see changed so that we can enjoy a better worship experience. January's Something Different was on the 24th at its new time of 9:02 A.M. There will be a review of that next month. In February it will be on the 28th.

I do remember promising to talk about how the Christmas party went (actually, I just read it in the article from last month)! It was at the Shaws' house and we had a really good turnout. I will say, however, we need to teach these youth how to properly participate in a white elephant gift exchange. Barely anyone stole anyone else's gift! It might have

been the quickest gift exchange of all time.

February looks to be an eventful month! On the 7th we're having a Super Bowl party at Pastor Donna's house. The game time hasn't been announced yet, but just show up 15 minutes before it's supposed to start. We'll have our annual paper football tournament during that game too! We're in charge of preparing the meal for Community Café on the 21st, so show up at the church at 3 P.M. if you want to help out. The 30 Hour Famine will be overnight at the church on February 26-27. If you are collecting money it needs to be turned in the night of the 26th. Be at the church at 6 P.M. that night. Lastly, there is another Anderson United Methodist Youth event on the 28th at New Horizons from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Our church is responsible for bringing desserts, so if you are going bring a dessert!

Sorry this article is so long. I'll try my best to shorten it next month, but I have been told that the current length is useful when trying to fall asleep. Later Days!

JAKE

P.S. Topics to discuss next month: Our ice skating adventure, the winner of the paper football tournament, and the exact moment I lost my mind during the 30 Hour Famine lock in.

Youth Calendar

February 7 – Super Bowl Party
February 21 – Community Café
February 26-27 – 30 Hour Famine
February 28 – Something Different
February 28 – Anderson UMY Event

Youth Birthdays

February 27 – Victoria Cook



Youth Mission Retreat

If you are a youth in the church and are interested in attending the youth mission retreat, please sign up at the Youth News board located by the Conference Room and the church offices. It will be the weekend of April 16-18. We will be traveling to Underwood, IN to volunteer with New Life International. The cost of the trip should be minimal. You can also sign up by calling the church office and talking with Jake Brooks, our youth director, or by sending him an e-mail at Jacob@andersonfirst.org.

Winning Patterns

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

"You will never be sorry – for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother or sister, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all."

FOCUSING ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

It's good to occasionally step back and take a look at what we are doing in a given area and see if and how we can do it even better. We are going to do that with our children's ministries at First United Methodist Church.



Mary Margaret and Pastor Donna will be coordinating this process, and we need your help. We will be distributing surveys in the next few weeks to parents, adults involved in our children's ministries, and any interested adult from the congregation for feedback.

After we have received and tabulated the feedback from the surveys, we will offer a feedback meeting at two different times for parents, leaders, and other interested adults to share the feedback and to discuss and plan future steps.

We invite and encourage you to be part of this process. Please contact Mary Margaret or Pastor Donna with questions.

COFFEE HOST MINISTRY

First Church is a fellowship committed to making a difference, and volunteering as a coffee host is a great way to do that. Not only do you get free coffee, but you also become the hero of many of our church's coffee drinkers! Our parish family is our greatest resource, and this opportunity to get to know each other is time well spent. Please use the sign-up board or talk to Kathy (644-3286) about available dates. The church will help with refreshments, if you'd like. Please don't miss this opportunity to strengthen our connection with one another.



HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY 2009 REPORT

The Helping Hands Pantry is a ministry of First United Methodist Church which began in June 2008; so this was the first "full" year in existence. The mission of the Pantry is to provide a "Hand Up not a Hand Out." Only one person per household may visit the Pantry each month. The only criterion to obtain help from this pantry is a photo ID and a signature. We are open from 9 am until 12 noon on the second Wednesday of each month and the following Thursday from 4 pm until 6 pm. This ministry has helped the 749 households from the community while only being open five (5) hours a month. There are two charts showing the attendees from various zip codes; one shows all zip codes with more than one guest while the other shows all zip codes with only one guest.

Items provided by the Pantry include toiletries, feminine products, toilet tissue, paper towels, detergent, dish soap, tissues, and baby items. In addition, we have had sheets, blankets and coats but not on a regular basis. For holidays we have passed out "gift baggies" to everyone who visits. This gift includes toothpaste, tooth brushes, comb, soap, and either a small bottle of lotion or shampoo. Everything we receive is donated by the congregation of 1st Church but any one who wishes to help is warmly received. We did ask the Anderson Community Children's Choir to help and we received many items from them.

In November we served 135 guests. This was our largest attendance. Normally we serve approximately 60 – 80 families each month. Because of the cold, we also gave out what blankets that had been donated. The blankets, sleeping bags and flannel sheets went fast. Many of our guests walk so the cold snap in December resulted in only 11 guests on Thursday. This was VERY unusual.

Usually we are out of dish soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels and tissues by about 10:30 am on Wednesday so we put back these items for Thursday. The idea for two days was to serve those who do have employment during the morning hours. We tried to put a dollar amount on the donations and the amount given out and find that we usually give out about \$5.00 to \$7.00 to each household. The donations are harder to figure because they are given anonymously.

Each month there are volunteers who work each day we are open. In 2009 thirteen volunteers worked a total of 402 hours. This ministry could not function without these persons. These volunteers represent congregants from both the 9:00 and the 11:10 Sunday services.

Respectfully submitted; Jane McVey January 4, 2010