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COMING EVENTS

- February 28—Anderson Area MYF Meeting—New Horizon's Church**
- March 14—Jr. Bell Ringers Festival—Carmel, IN**
- March 19—J.O.Y. Lunch—Fellowship Hall**
- March 22—Bon Ami Trip—Paramount Theater/Ozark Jubilee**
- March 28—Palm Sunday—Easter at the Park**
- April 1—Maundy Thursday Service—With Anderson Area Cluster Churches**
- April 2—Good Friday Service—7:00 pm**
- April 4—Easter**
- April 18—Children's Sunday**

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DANCING 101—PART 2

Part 1 of Dancing 101 was featured in the February Voice

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 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. (part 1)
- Moving together sometimes means learning to do things backwards. (part 1)
- Communication takes resistance.
- It takes practice and dedication.
- It takes a good instructor, and help from other dancers.
- It takes music.

Communication

It takes touch and pressure to communicate when dancing. Touch and pressure takes resistance or force between the couple. A

good signal needs a continuum, and pressure works well for this as it can go from light to heavy. The result of no pressure is no signal, so continuous touch (or at least a lot of touch) is necessary.

When using this concept to talk about God's role and our role in growth, it's not done exclusively by one or the other. "Humans tend to be unable to hold opposite ideas in dynamic tension. But this is a tension we will always need to hold: God has a part, and we have a part. Beware of dichotomizing between your tasks and God's." This is a good model for couples as well.

Practice and dedication

Stepping on your partner's toes is inevitable, and learning from the missteps and continuing on is part of learning to dance well. Porcupines don't survive in the cold without sticking each other. Working through the hurts and continuing on is essential.

It takes a good instructor, and help from other dancers

Trying to learn to dance by yourself is pretty much a losing proposition. Patient instructors and encouragement from other couples go a long way.

(cont'd—page 2)



Communications Survey Results

So, Peg, what did happen to all those surveys you asked us for way back in October? Well, after much compiling and analysis done by the Communications Committee, the first thing we'd like to do is thank those of you who participated.

We learned most of our congregation get their information of the church from the weekly bulletin or monthly Voice, and not many of us are inclined to explore the andersonfirst.org website.

Many were concerned about the timeliness of information. I have made it a personal

goal to get The Voice mailed on the fourth Monday of the month, so most members will receive their newsletter before the beginning of the month. In addition, it is posted to our website even before it is mailed.

We are again exploring e-mailing The Voice to those who are interested in receiving it electronically. If you received The Voice by e-mail before, you will soon receive an e-mail asking if you would like to receive it via the web, or through the postal service.

Unless a response is received, we will continue to mail the newsletter to your address.

Please keep in mind that we utilize bulk mail rates for the newsletter, and it is not always the quickest method of getting information.

In addition, the Communications Committee has been meeting with WQME for input concerning our radio broadcasts on Sunday, seeking methods of improving that outreach.

We will continue to try and implement the suggestions provided in the survey, and hope it improves the communication between the church and its members.

Sincerely, Peg Peter—Voice Editor

DANCING 101—continued from page 1

It takes Music

Music has rhythm and Harmony. The rhythm will set the pace and style of dancing. Good dancers know how to dance to many rhythms. The type of harmony (major, minor, etc) will typically drive the type of dancing moves within a certain style. Sometimes our lives are smooth sailing, nice even rhythm, not too fast. Sometimes it gets very fast, sometimes very slow, sometimes happy, sometimes sad.

Although Mom & Dad use different kinds of resistance to communicate, it's still there. Communication is active and not passive

When it comes to practice and dedication, 50 years tends to speak for itself. Bruised toes eventually heal, and sometimes a foot can get a little crippled, but dedication eventually figures

out a way to cope and love anyway.

Mom & Dad have had people they have learned from, and many they have received encouragement from. I didn't see the benefit in my early years, but have really come to appreciate this in my later years. I did not witness this directly, but Mom & Dad have stories of people they have learned from or been encouraged by. And I'm quite sure there are many untold stories.

Adaptability, or dancing to the music, is probably one of the hallmarks of their relationship. Changing homes is usually tough on women, changing jobs is usually tough on men. They lived in many different homes, and had at least 3 different career directions. Some of it was change in harmony and some were changes in rhythm. Some changes were driven by their goals and desires, and some by changes life handed them. There have been many mountain

tops, and many valleys. Mom & Dad seemed to have faced them and learned from all of them.

So everything I needed to know about relationships I learned in Dance school, and much of the dance examples I see in Mom & Dad. When you see shoes and think about dancing, think about your relationships, to each other, to your family, to your friends, and to the world.!

Dave Peter



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

Weekly Scriptures for March

March 7— Psalm 63:1-8

Luke 13:1-9

March 14— Psalm 32

Luke 15:1-3, 11b—32

March 21— Psalm 126

John 12:1-18

March 28— Luke 19:28-40



Tour, Talk & Learn—A Lucille Raines Experience

The Lucille Raines home in Indianapolis is a temporary home for many in the area who are homeless for various reasons. It is a charity that our United Methodist Women's unit has supported in the past and will continue to support in the future. Pastor Donna is currently on the board for this facility. In order to better understand how Lucille Raines operates, our UMW unit has scheduled a tour of the facility for Thursday, April 22. This event will include an opportunity to talk to one or more of the current residents at the home, as well as a tour and lunch at the facility. (We will each pay for our lunch—a \$5 charge) We would like to encourage you to join us for this first Women Alive in Faith event in 2010. We'd like to take a full bus down, all are welcome. We are sure you will find this an educational and interesting experience.

MEMORIALS GIVEN IN JANUARY 2010

Trent Stephenson Betsey Bachman

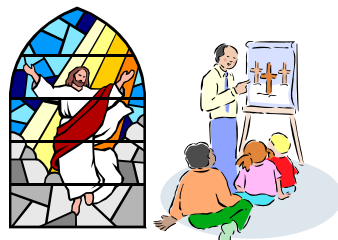
Trent Stephenson to Bus Fund Virginia Musser

Drake Stephenson to Bus Fund Virginia Musser

Conrad Gaunt to Bus Fund Robert Harruff

Ray McCaslin to Bus Fund Robert Harruff

Robert Stuart to Bus Fund Robert Harruff



Visioning for children's ministry

We are holding two visioning and feedback sessions for future children's ministry at First Church. We need ideas and thoughts on how to enhance ministry to, for, and with our children. Parents, grandparents, and all other interested adults are invited to join us Sunday, February 28. One session will be during the Sunday school hour at 10:15 am, in the chapel, and the other will be at 3:00 pm, in the north-south parlor. (You need only attend one session.) Come share your ideas and perspectives, as we work to connect boys and girls to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. Contact Pastor Donna with any questions.

EDGEWOOD GOLF AND DINING

Edgewood Golf and Dining would like to thank our congregation and church for their patronage. They have implemented a program to help us meet our operating goals. If you join Edgewood Golf and Dining on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for their family style dining and present them with a copy of our church bulletin from that Sunday, the church will receive a 10 percent donation based on your total meal cost. If you visit the Edgewood Golf and Dining, thank owners Cindy and Gary Reynolds for participating in our goal to have a 2010 balanced budget.

BON AMIS SCHEDULE

MARCH

The Bon Amis travel group will stay in the Anderson area and support local businesses for our March trip. We will attend the Ozark Jubilee performance at the Paramount Theater on Monday, March 22 at 2:00pm. Ozark Jubilee is direct from Branson, Missouri and features Branson's funniest comedian and world class fiddler—Doofus Doolittle. The show includes hilarious comedy and a combination of country, gospel, and bluegrass music. The group will have lunch at Bickel's Uptown Café. Individuals can choose the luncheon buffet or select from the menu.

The bus will leave the church at 12:00, and will return after the show—between 4:00 and 4:30 pm. The cost of the day will be \$20 plus lunch—individuals will pay for their own lunch. Invite a friend and come enjoy a day of fellowship and entertainment. Contact Pastor Donna with any questions.



APRIL

Bon Amis will head to Indianapolis and attend a matinee performance of "Hello, Dolly" at Beef and Boards dinner theater. The date is Thursday, April 15. The cost of the day will be \$48 and includes show admission, dinner buffet, choice of beverage, dinner gratuity, and the bus. We will leave the church at 10:30, and return between 4 and 4:30 pm.

Bon Amis is a travel group targeted to individuals aged 55 and over. The group's activities are open to members and friends of the church as well as the community. Please call Pastor Donna at 643-6977 with any questions.



THE VOICE

J.O.Y. LUNCHEONS AND PROGRAMS

The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) group will meet for lunch and a program on Friday, March 19 at 11:30am. The program is still a mystery—I have tried three different options and so far have not had any success! Everyone is on spring break!!! Look for more details in upcoming bulletins.

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.



First UMC's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 2, at 9:30 am, to discuss *Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. This novel involves a young German boy whose family has moved from Berlin to a new post for the dad—as director of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. In exploring the camp the youngster meets another boy on the other side of the fence—who is dressed in striped pajamas. This book takes a different look at experiences in Germany during WWII.

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

THOUGHTS ON WISDOM

We had a wonderful experience on our visit to Israel. I hadn't been eager to make the trip, but it was more spiritually fulfilling than I ever thought it could be. It brought a reality to scripture I had never experienced before. I could picture Jesus on the hillside, on the Sea of Galilee, on the dusty roads, and on Golgotha. I could see him rising from the tomb and appearing to the disciples. I developed a hunger for actually being there with him, being fed by him on a daily basis. I craved having him at my side, filling my heart and my mind so deeply my heart would be full and running over. I came to have a new understanding of what it would have been like to be with Jesus every day walking the roads of Galilee and Judea, talking with him, asking questions. I felt deeply moved.

How well our Lord understood our human needs when here in John he gives us the "bread of life that came down from heaven" so we can be fed and filled with him again and again. How precious are the bread and the wine he blesses

for us. Painfully aware of our human weaknesses and needs, we can fill ourselves with Jesus' very presence. Jesus' love assures us he is with us always. The bread and wine enable us not only to be his witnesses but also to be the extension of his love in the world.

Read John 6:51-58

Gracious Lord, fill us with your love and presence. As we take the cup and bread, may we grow strong and faithful. Amen



*This is the last in a series of devotions written by Janet Casterline and published in **Disciplines 2009**. Thank you, Janet, for sharing them with us.*

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTES:

In last month's emergency assistance program update, Shazz Lindsey's name was inadvertently left off the list of those who assist with the program each month. Shazz does a wonderful job of checking in each guest and making sure they have their paperwork with them. Wednesday mornings of Emergency Assistance Day would not run as smoothly without Shazz! Thanks for all your work, Shazz!

Something Different

The Sunday morning youth service we offer, aptly named Something Different, is changing days. In the past it has been on the fourth Sunday of each month, but it is now going to be on the third Sunday of each month. This change helps us coincide with the schedule for the JAYs. Now we can give Alice one Sunday a month off from having to worry about any meals, and parents who have kids in both groups can have one Sunday off. This change will take place in March, so we'll have the service on March 21.

MUSINGS FROM THE END OF THE HALL

Hosea 6:3 says in part God will respond to us as surely as the coming of rains in early spring. I'm so there! Okay, so if you look out any window any clown can see we are not in early spring! But I am tired of winter! I'm ready to experience the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains.

I've been thinking a great deal about answering God's call on one's life lately. That's how I got to Hosea because, bless his heart...Hosea is not a book you want to read for fun and relaxation! Chapter 6 verse three is actually encouraging us to want to know the LORD so much that we press on, day after day after day, just like dawn arrives every morning and rains come in the spring. If you think you've heard God call your name, the odds are you are concerned about whether it was really God or some figment of your overactive inner ear! So to figure if it really is a call by God, you have got to spend time learning what the LORD sounds like! No, really! Scripture tells us when we press on to know Him, God will honor that study and speak more to us; and so, we see the dawn and hear God and then we recognize the voice of God in the patterns of our life just like rains in early spring.

Alright, maybe I'm stretching the analogy a bit or mixing my metaphors: but all I'm really saying is in order to recognize YOUR call from God, you have to be intentionally listening for it or, otherwise, you won't recognize it as anything more than yet another snow storm.

That's why things like Bible Mechanics, JAYs, Choirs and Sunday school for our children are so important. How are they ever going to recognize God's voice when he calls them if we don't encourage their natural curiosity and desire to please as we support Christian education opportunities in our church while they're yet children?

"But they're just kids!" Yeah, they are kids who will be leaders in less time than you think, and I personally want them to be Godly leaders who know the LORD and pay attention to what is required of them. They can't do that until we summon up that long lost voice calling each of us to be fishers of men, women and children. Yes, I'm sure Jesus called you... and I hope you will press on in your day to day to day march of service to God and the church.

Hey, "march!" Maybe we're closer to the coming of rains than I thought! Good luck in hearing YOUR call!

Faithfully yours, *Miss Mary Margaret*

Check It Out

Normal is Just A Setting On Your Dryer-
Patsy Clairmont



We all tend to compare ourselves with others. We often come up short—even when we think we're too tall.

Best-selling author Patsy Clairmont is ready to set you free from your pursuit of the unattainable. And she'll do it through pity parables about people's perilous pursuits of normalcy.

Never on to keep a good story to herself, Patsy gleefully describes her own attempt to achieve normality—such as creative ways to heighten her stature or to keep her balance on a runaway bike. Her mishaps couldn't happen to a person with a nicer flair for giggling with the reader and making a point at the same time.

Prepare yourself for a silly spin through the ridiculous lengths we go to so we can promenade out of the laundry room of life appearing normal.

You'll need your Kleenex to catch those tears of laughter—and an occasional snuffle of sympathy. Read on and be encouraged: If you're you, you're normal.

CHECK IT OUT—In our library—242 c/9

MARCH UMW CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle Activities for March:

Bible Study Circle—March 4, 9:30 am Hostesses: Bev Briles, Diane Motto

725 Glenwood Lane Program: Lesson #5: Mamie Cameron

Friendship Circle—March 4, 9:30 am Hostesses: Shirley Culler, Joann Burand

2611 Doe Meadow Drive Program: Prayer & Self Denial

Lydia Circle— March 9, 7:00 pm North-South Parlor, Downtown



YOUTH NEWS / JAKE'S CORNER

It has been snowing a lot lately. I don't really mind it that much. I think a big reason is because I'm still relatively fresh out of school, so I have that mindset that snow means things get canceled. That still somewhat holds true for working at a church, but I still have to go into the office during the day. Honestly, I enjoy all the extra things I do for the church over being in the office (hopefully I'm not alone on that one), so I'd rather have those two things reversed. However, I won't complain too much about having a free evening. It's amazing being able to eat dinner before 8 or 9 and to not have to almost go straight to bed when I get home. The point I'm making here is I still enjoy the snow; hopefully ten years down the road my feelings

about snow won't change. Now here's something completely different.

Something Different in January as really good (how's that for segue way). We actually learned about something I've wanted to do in there since I first had this idea—different ways to worship God. I kept it simple to start off; there were a few stations everyone could go to. They could worship through writing, drawing, singing, listening, or sitting in silence. It was really cool to see a group of people spread throughout a room worshipping God in several different ways. Something Different in February will be on the 28th, which I will talk about next month. The one in March will be on the 21st, which is the third Sunday of the month instead of the fourth; you can read about that change elsewhere in *The Voice*.

Both the ice skating trip and the Super Bowl party went well. I will say, though, we need more male representation from our group. At the very least it would be nice to have some female chaperons. The ice skating trip featured six girls, one guy, and three male chaperons. We need more male youth and more female chaperons to step it up! The Super Bowl party was at Donna's house (thanks for letting us use your house!), and there were a few more guys there, but at one point I was watching the game with Donna, Alice, and a bunch of teenage girls. It was really fun, though! We ended up not having a paper football tournament; the game was a little too exciting to not watch.

Well, I'm going to cut it short here. Next month I'll talk about the 30 Hour Famine, the February edition of Something Different, and anything else random that catches my fancy. Don't forget to sign up for the upcoming Mission Retreat! Start thinking about camp, too. It's right around the corner!

Jake

Youth Calendar

March 21 – Something Different

April 16-18 – Mission Retreat

July 4-9 – Sr. High Camp

Youth Birthdays

March 1 – Bailey Strock

Anderson United Methodist Youth

The newly formed Anderson Area United Methodist Youth is having another get-together on February 28th. It will once again be at New Horizons UMC, located on 53rd St., and will be from 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. We will gather for a time of worship, food, and games. We are looking to create a sense of community within the United Methodist churches in Anderson, and one way of doing that is by creating community within the youth. Just think of the things we could do with all of our youth groups joined together! Come out to New Horizons at 5:30 P.M. on February 28th, and you'll know!



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.

UPWARD REPORT

J.A.Y.S

For those of you not yet in the know...JAYs are Just About Youth who are in grades 5 and 6. We meet in the Discover/JAYs classroom (room 219) twice each month, usually from 5 to 7 pm. We study and read and pray and play in the youth and even get to share supper with them sometimes too. If you are in the 5th and 6th grade, we'd love to have you join us.

We are preparing to go to church camp this summer so we're filling in scholarship forms and thinking of ways to raise funds so we can all go to the camp of our choice. If you know of someone in the 5th or 6th grade, who might enjoy going to camp too, please join us. Contact Miss Mary Margaret for the exact dates and times for our meeting and ... See you then!

My thanks to the praying women of our church who accepted the responsibility of praying for our Upward Cheerleading squads this winter. We have had no accidents and many happy moments which I know are the results of children being supported in prayer!

There are still a few weeks left for you to make it out to Wesley Free Methodist Church on a Saturday to watch some great basketball players and cheerleaders. Games start at 8:30 in the morning and last exactly 1 hour. Please, I really, really, really encourage you to make it out there. WE have at least a dozen children from our church involved in this activity and seeing you make the effort to attend the games will mean more to them than you will ever know!

GO TEAM!

Miss Mary Margaret

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SERVICE—APRIL 18—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Children's Sunday is a tradition at Anderson First United Methodist Church. This year the children and I will be leading your worship experience on Sunday, April 18! The children's choir will sing, the Tuxist ringers will be playing, the Bible Mechanics will be reading our scriptures and we'll have children leading us everywhere that Sunday! Be sure you are here!

If you are a child and you have got a desire to do something to help in the worship service that Sunday, please tell Miss Mary Margaret as soon as you can. We need musicians, readers, prayers, ushers, and smiling faces to greet people as they enter the church. See, there's something for everyone to do to make this a better thing!

Remember, Miss Mary Margaret needs to hear from you because APRIL 18, 2010 will be here in just a little bit!

SUMMER CAMP—IT'LL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!!

There are summer camps for everyone this year! No, really! There are summer church camps for kindergarteners through graduated seniors! Some last 3 days and some go on for over 7! Check with Jake or Miss Mary Margaret for details but here's a bit to tempt the folks in kindergarten through 2nd grade!

Children finishing kindergarten through 2nd grade can attend a Mini camp which is a 3 or 4 day experience at Camp Lakewood, near Wolcottville, Indiana. There is a 4 day camp from June 27 through June 30 and there are 2 dates for 3 day camps (July 17-20 and 7-21 through July 23).

Features you can expect at Camp Lakewood include a bouldering wall and dual-racing zip lines or archery and pioneer activities. If water play is something you enjoy, they have beach swimming and pontoon rides. Are you a crafty person? There are crafts and nature center time! The most important thing about church camp is the contemporary worship and time you get to spend with God and your new friends!