



The Tower Call

First United Methodist Church of London 2017 - The Year of Deepening Faith September 2017

Inside this issue:

A Message From Pastor Steve	2
J Walkers News	3
Putting the Basket in the Water (cont.) Life at a Deeper Level	4, 5
FUMC Golf Outing	6
Altar Flowers	7
Sunday School Starts	8
Lectionary Readings	9
Sunday Parking	
Mission News	10
Prayer Requests	11

Putting the Basket in the Water: Trusting God in the Next Phase of Your Child's Life

By Ashlei Woods

In the Christian faith, Easter is the crescendo of our year. It's our Super Bowl. The day that makes it all worth it. It's the time that marks the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The day He burst forth from the tomb and conquered death. But this past spring, as I sat in church *after* Easter yet still meditating on those days of old, a thought entered my mind: It's over now. Jesus had been reunited with the Father. The disciples were on their own. The Bible gives us an account of what the disciples were thinking and doing after Jesus ascended into heaven, but what was the Lord thinking? Was he watching over them, wondering, 'Was it enough? Did they get it? Did I teach them everything they needed to know to do this on their own?' As these thoughts continued to run through my mind, I couldn't help but make the connection to the thoughts we often feel as parents embarking on the next phase of our child's life. 'Did I teach him enough? Did we spend enough time together? Was she listening?' *The realization I had that day that Jesus truly and fully does know what we feel as parents was overwhelming. When he said goodbye to His disciples, He was putting the basket in the water and trusting both the plan of the Father and the direction of the Spirit.*



So what does it mean to put the basket in the water? Back in the time of Moses, Pharaoh felt threatened by the Israelites and ordered all the midwives to kill any baby boys born to the Israelite people by drowning them in the Nile River. But Moses' mother wouldn't have it. She hid him as long as she could, and when she could no longer hide him, she put him in a basket and put the basket in the water among the reeds of the Nile. The very river that could have drowned him was now his refuge. She had no idea what would happen to her baby, but she trusted the plan of the Father. As we know, baby Moses was drawn out of the water and would one day grow to become one of the greatest heroes of the Bible – the one who would rescue God's people from slavery and lead them to the Promised Land.

Here's what we can learn from this as parents: There comes a time –

(continued on page 4)

Recurring Bible Study Meetings

- Bible Study with Pastor Steve
Wednesday Evenings at 7pm
- Men's Group
1st & 3rd
Saturday Mornings at 7:00am



A Message from Pastor Steve...

“We’re Off to a Great Start!”

September 2017

More than a few years ago now, I recall being on our junior high school track team. My best friend Aaron and I were the team statisticians and logged results of each of team’s meets. Though I can claim absolutely no prowess as a distance runner, I can recall the importance of seeing many a good runner get out of the starting blocks well. It seems rather insignificant, but any runner can tell you it can make all the difference between winning and losing a race.

I think about that image as I reflect on our early days of ministry together here at First UMC. In many ways, we’re off to a great start in taking steps toward fulfilling God’s mission and ministry through our congregation and community. Your genuine warm welcome, coupled with a tremendous team spirit, has made my first months in London very special.



In order for us to keep this good momentum going, I want to personally extend an invitation to each of you as a part of our church family. Throughout the month of September, we’ve selected some members who will be hosting a number of neighborhood gatherings for me to get more acquainted with you and your family.

I am requesting that each individual or household consider signing up to attend **one** of these events at a date convenient for your schedule. Both day and evening options will be available for your consideration, and some gatherings will offer childcare as well for those who need it. Each gathering will host 10-12 individuals and be approximately 90 minutes in length. For those who are unable to attend one of these opportunities (e.g. shut-in members), I will contact you individually to meet you.

Come prepared for a relaxed time of sharing some of your thoughts on the exciting mission and ministry that God has in store for our congregation here at First UMC. Our time together will focus on gathering responses to three key questions:

- **What does London First UMC do really well?**
- **What is the biggest challenge or opportunity we face in the next 12-24 months?**
- **If you had a magic wand and could perform a mid-sized miracle here, what would it be?**

I believe these questions, and your thoughtful responses to them, can provide me great feedback as I seek to be the best shepherd and pastor I can be with our congregation.

Beginning September 3, we will make available the options of sign up choices available for you in Rudorah Parlor. Again, you only need to attend one gathering. If you have questions or need more information contact Gail in the church office and we will be glad to help!

Glad to be on God’s team with you,

Pastor Steve





The Youth Group of First United Methodist Church of London

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The J WALKERS kicked off the new season with a paint party...the J WALKERS WERE THE CANVAS!!!!



The J Walkers discussed how each of us is a masterpiece created by God with a plan and a purpose. Then they got real messy making some art of their own!

Sept. 3- No J WALKERS (Labor Day Weekend)

Sept. 10- JR. J WALKERS (4th-6th grade) meet after service!!

J WALKERS at 6:00

Sept. 17- No J WALKERS

Sept. 24-30- GLOBAL WEEK OF STUDENT PRAYER

Sept. 27- SEE YOU AT THE POLE- student led prayer at the flag pole before school* There will be no J Walkers Sept. 17, 24, and Oct. 1 because Chez will be out of town. We will resume with Jr. J Walkers and J Walkers Oct. 8.

Putting the Basket in the Water: Trusting God in the Next Phase of Your Child's Life *(continued from page 1)*

– many times, actually – in the lives of our children where we have to put the basket in the water. We have to let go and trust the plan of the Father. The world is a scary place – a place where we fear our children could drown. But we must remember that we have to let go so that God can draw them from the waters for His great purpose. He has called us to be their parents, but they were His first. (For more on this, see 3 Ways to Stop Worrying About Your Children.)

After Jesus ascended into heaven, he was no longer human. He had been fully reconciled to the Father and wasn't experiencing human emotions and doubts anymore. He obviously *wasn't* questioning if He had done enough for His children during His time with them. But how? Before Jesus left His disciples for the last time, he gave them one final instruction; we call it the Great Commission. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." One last shot at being sure they knew what they needed to do. But that's not the end. He closes His parting salutation with this, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) They might not be together physically anymore, but He would always be with them, always watching, always petitioning the heart of the Father on their behalf. And He was leaving the Spirit with them – a Helper for them, who would continue to teach them and help them remember all He had said. (John 14:26)

My friend, whatever water you may be getting ready to put your basket into – whether your days as a stay-at-home-mom are ending as your child starts preschool soon or if your baby has grown into a high school graduate and is getting ready to leave your home – remember that you have to put them in the water for God to draw them out and place them into His perfect plan. Though you might not be physically present with your child as much during the next phase of life, you can always petition the heart of the Father on their behalf. And when you do this, that same Spirit that Jesus left with His disciples – that same Helper – intercedes for you, and in that you can find peace. After all, you're entrusting your child to the same One with whom Jesus entrusted His disciples. You're directly following the example set by Jesus. Job well done, friend.

Author: Ashlei Woods



St. Joseph Cathedral Choir & Schola

On August 20 our congregation was once again blessed to have these phenomenal singers, along with Ruth Peart on oboe, to enhance our worship experience. A very special Thank You to Kevin Lohr, who has brought this group to us for four years, and who directed Sarah Wilson, Margaret Wells, Kelsey Christlieb, Shannon Treynor, Nicholas Klein, Cameron Fracasso, Andrew Sczcerba and Christopher Pierce.



Life at a Deeper Level

By Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, District Superintendent, Columbus Area South

Preference or Purpose?

We live in a changing world. Uniformity and consensus are being replaced by individuality and diversity as the connective tissue in our communities and personal relationships. We have begun to place more importance on preferences and less importance on the mission and purpose of our congregations.

We live in a time when we have divided ourselves into positions around a number of issues. Each issue is good within itself, but the issue is not the purpose. We have begun to see those persons who disagree with us as enemies. Although it seems extreme, in many cases we have moved to destroy those who stand in the way of what we believe and desire.

Opening Blind Eyes

John Claypool, in his book *Opening Blind Eyes*, tells the following story:

One night during the Middle Ages, two warriors in full armor were riding along, each thinking there was no one else for miles around. They happened upon each other at a particularly dark spot. Both were startled and each misinterpreted the movements of the other as gestures of hostility. So they began to fight, each believing he was under attack and must defend himself. The conflict grew more intense until one knight finally succeeded in unhorsing the other. Then, with one mighty effort, he drove his lance through the fallen knight's heart. The victor dismounted and limped over to the adversary he had just killed. He pulled back the facemask, and there to his horror, in the pale moonlight, he recognized his own brother. He had mistaken a kinsman for an enemy and had destroyed him.¹

How do we reverse the processes in place that lead us to such anxiety and action? Given our differences and discomforts, how do we refocus our suspicions and anxieties? Maybe we could focus more on our mission and purpose and less upon our preferences and issues?

What is Your Desire?

I must say that I am making the assumption, that as followers of Jesus Christ, we desire to be Christ-like in our relationships and in our interactions with one another. If my assumption is true, is it too much to imagine that we, as followers of Jesus....

See others as relatives as opposed to enemies?

Even Jesus taught us to love our enemies. (Mathew 5:43-44) Could we stop moving to destroy the people with whom we disagree and begin to join hands and hearts in the life and love of Jesus?

(continued on page 7)

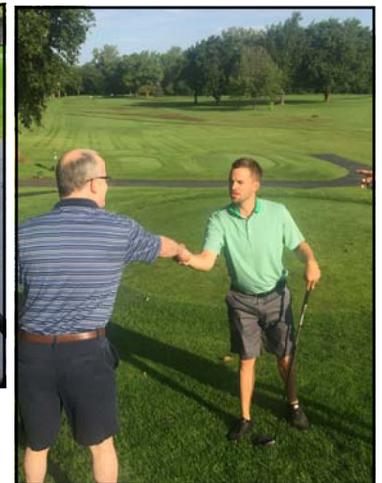
FUMC GOLFING ON THE GREEN

GOLF OUTING

Golf outing chair Henry Comer would like all who participated in any way to make our first ever golf outing such a great morning of fun and fellowship.

The Hole Sponsors for the event were Starr Trophy and Awards, Mandy's Day Care of London, Buddy & Diane Byers, Comer Holdings LLC, Charleston Pharmacy, Cathie Littleton, Richard Flax and Olde Car Wash.

The winners of the scramble were Sid & Ginny Edwards and Jim Anthony & Rheba Smith.



The Winners! Sid & Ginny Edwards and Jim Anthony & Rheba Smith.



Pastor Steve made his rounds of the course to greet the golfers and make new friends.



Life at a Deeper Level *(continued)*

By Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, District Superintendant, Columbus Area South

Let the love of God, which surrounds and embraces all of us, lead us to the place where we see one another as gifts from God rather than enemies?

Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, when talking about different gifts in the faith community, teaches that love is what holds the diversity of gifts together. Surely we remember that “love is patient and kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hope, always perseveres. Love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:8)

Begin to live in trust as opposed to fear?

It is when we misinterpret the movements of those with whom we disagree as gestures of hostility that we dig in our heels, hold our ground, and begin to fight.

The early Christians lived by the teaching that “there is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear...” 1 John 4:18.

A Deeper Level

What could happen if we began to focus upon our purpose, our mission, why we exist as followers of the living God in and through Jesus Christ? We would live at the deepest level of which we are capable where we perceive one another as relatives and our behavior would begin to transform the world.

We live in a changing world. Will you join me in making the world God intended it be?



Individuals or families may sign up for any given week to provide altar flowers. The church’s office staff then contacts those who have signed up when it is their week to provide the flowers. You will be asked if the flowers are donated in honor or memory of someone, or simply given “to the glory of God.”

What Is a “Flower Angel”?

If a person does not have a particular Sunday in mind for purchasing altar flowers, the church always welcomes individuals to become a “Flower Angel.” On Sundays when no one has signed up for flowers, the church office staff will contact an “Angel” to donate that week. Please let the church office know if you would like to be added to this list. Also, if you have questions, please contact Gail Baker at 740-852-0462 or gail@londonfumc.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FUMC
Sunday School classes begin at 9am
on September 3!!!!

Nursery – 9am

Preschool – ages 3 thru kindergarten

In this class we have a bible story and usually have a craft to go with it. The class is located at the top of the stairs, 2nd floor, beside woman's restroom.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade

Each Sunday we meet to hear and learn a story from the Bible. We often make a craft and learn a Bible verse. We share our joys and concerns. We enjoy our friends, old and new. Most importantly, we share God's word and pray together as a group.

4th, 5th and 6th Grade

This year we are going to work on the Apostles Creed. We will practice being acolytes. We make prayer blankets for those who need them. There will be Bible lessons. Snacks are served.

The Kingdom Builder Middle School Girls

We meet during Sunday school time. Girls grab a snack first in the welcome center and move to the third floor by 9:15am. We discuss and explore God's message to us.

Christian Action Class

This class is a group of caring people. We share Christmas packages for the nursing homes and shut-ins. We continually pray for the ill in our church and community. Our study is The New International Lesson Annual. We enjoy helping our church and community.

The Stoker Class

This class is a congenial group that has conversation on current topics regarding religion and spirituality, often working from pertinent books and videos.

September Lectionary Readings

September 3, 2017

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

September 10, 2017

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, 2017

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Exodus 15:1b-11

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2017

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16



**THOU
SHALT
NOT
PARK
HERE**

Sunday Parking

The pastor of our neighboring church has asked that we please leave spaces in front of Trinity's building (Fourth St. and in front of Trinity on Main) for the members of their congregation who have mobility issues.

Recently there have been times when there are few spaces left, including the handicapped spot.

RISK-TAKING MISSION NEWS



For many years our church has prepared breakfasts twice a year for the Epiphany Ministry team before they do go to the prison to minister. Epiphany Ministry is an ecumenical Christian Ministry for young men and women who are in the custody of Juvenile Justice Facilities. The weekend models on which it is based are: Chrysalis, Cross, Cursillo, Happening, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Walk to Emmaus. Our purpose is to manifest God's Love to incarcerated youth, known as "Stars" through a three day short course in Christianity and an on-going follow-up program. Each Epiphany weekend involves a team of adults and youth from the Christian community who work together to show the Love of God to those attending.

The next breakfast dates are **September 8, 9 and 10**. Sheryl Dickerson is chairing the breakfasts, and is **seeking volunteers** willing to be at the church by 6:30am each morning to help serve the breakfasts and clean up after. Breakfast is served at 7am and the group departs quickly for the prison. If you can help, please **call Sheryl Dickerson at 614-738-8369**.



We are collecting peanut butter and other non-perishable food items in the month of September for the **Madison County Food Pantry**. There is a blue container in the hall outside of the offices where you may place your donations.



Sufficient Grace provides evening meals to school age children that experience food insecurity. Currently serving all of Jefferson Local schools, London City Schools, Monroe in Jonathan Alder, Fairbanks Local Schools, Madison Plains Local and Southeastern Local Schools. We are currently collecting **Ramen Noodles** for this ministry. You can place your donations in the container outside of Chez's office. Monetary donations can be mailed to Sufficient Grace, P.O. Box 92, West Jefferson, OH 43162. Volunteers are always needed to unpack, sort and bag food, as well.



Seeds of Hope is our mission to help the children in our schools with **clothing donations**.

We are collecting new shoes sizes youth 1 and up, new or gently used Jeans and gym pants with elastic bands sizes 5 and up and new underwear and socks. If you have questions about this ministry, please see Robin or Dave Ladd.



A Note From Dave Ladd:

I want to thank everyone that donated items and money so we could serve a spaghetti lunch to 140 people at the West Side Free Store in the Hilltop area in Columbus. Thank you also to all who came to serve .

THE WELCOME TABLE

On Thursday, October 5th, our church will be serving a lasagna dinner at The Welcome Table. We will need donations of Lasagna, Salad, Cookies and Brownies. If you can donate food, help serve, and/or give a monetary donation please see Cathie Littleton in the Rudorah Welcome Center after church. If you will be giving a monetary donation, please make the check out to our church and put 'The Welcome Table' on the memo line. If giving cash, please place it in a giving envelope with your name and 'The Welcome Table' on the envelope and place it in an offering plate or give it directly to Cathie Littleton.



John Foote, Sr. & Bob Sommers, otherwise known as the T-Bird twins sporting their matching shirts.

Prayer Requests

Continual

Carolyn Blausner, Bev Dhume, Mildred Good, Geraldine Henry, Phyllis & Ted Hunter, Connie Hunter, Sue Jackman, Virginia Richey, Georgia Smith, Harold Snell, Linda Snyder, Loretta Weimer

Current

Buddy Byers, Karen Cleaver, Madelyn Duffey, Bob Edwards, David Emrick, Erba (Penny) Erbaugh, Connie Hileman, Lynda Junk, Chuck McMunn, Liz Pronai, Cara Robinson, Shuna Smith, Dan Snell, Daniel Summers, Deena Townsend, Lisa Vroom, Caleb White, Mark Yoakum

Serving on Active Military Duty

Captain John Crisp, Lt Tom Crisp, Drew Deck - Afghanistan, 82nd Airborne, Sgt Mathew Rowley

Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives for our nation.

Staff

Resident Bishop.....Bishop Gregory Palmer
Capital Area South Superintendent.....Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Bias
Senior Pastor.....Rev. Steve Rath
Executive Assistant.....Gail A. Baker
Director of Youth Ministries.....Chez Gorman
Director of Music Ministries and OrganistMichael Schreffler
Children’s Choir Director.....Eryn Sandhage
Financial Manager.....Tara Shoemaker
Housekeeping.....Dale McNeal

September Worship Leaders

Liturgist
Tom Minner

Ushers
Michaela Budd Chair
Ric Bell
Ken Davis
Regina Bogenrife

Sound & Video Technician
Brian Benedum, David Cover

For Pastoral Needs: Pastor Steve: Cell Phone (740) 575-6190, Office Phone (740) 852-0462



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