



The Journal

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DAN'S DOODLES

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit....this is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:5&8)

In the past few years our Bishop has challenged us as clergy and as local churches to focus our energies on the "5 practices of fruitful congregations." I deeply appreciate this challenge! It is too easy in a long established church family to just keep on doing the same things we have always been doing without asking how effective we are in seeing persons give their heart to Jesus Christ and follow Him in discipleship.

In the coming months I would like to utilize my article in the newsletter to address these 5 practices and help us consider how we might use each one to become even more vital and healthy as a local church. But I would like to begin this whole thought process with one simple reminder. A vital, healthy, fruitful church family is comprised of vital, healthy, fruitful individuals who are committed to spiritual growth in our own lives. This is absolutely essential; otherwise we are simply "playing church". We can develop the greatest programming in the world, but without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, our planning and programming may be "successful", but it won't be spiritually fruitful.

Long before we thought of the ways and means of remaining "vital and healthy", our Lord Jesus told us what that meant. "IF A MAN REMAINS IN ME AND I IN HIM, HE WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT"! Jesus' teaching on being a fruitful person in the kingdom of God begins with "remaining"—living, abiding, dwelling in Him! And that means setting aside time for God and for God alone! I want to encourage and challenge each one of us to find a time and a place where we can consistently spend time reading the Bible in a devotional manner and then, in prayer, "getting on our heart what is on God's heart" for our lives, as well as for our church family. I am just "old-fashioned" enough to believe that the way to spiritual fruitfulness is to maintain an intimately personal relationship with Jesus Christ! PLEASE, let's find a way to utilize a daily devotional guide like the Upper Room (or one of your own choosing) as a means of maintaining a consistent fellowship with Christ. In a related article in this newsletter I will offer another practical suggestion as per developing an intimate relationship with Christ.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!

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AUGUST GREETERS

August 2 - Annette Robertson

*August 9 - Marty Williams &
Bob Hearn*

August 16 - Taylor & Julie Burke

August 23 - Jane Jackson

August 30 - Ronald Dodson

COMMUNION AT THE MANOR

We will serve Holy Communion at the Charleston Manor on Wed., August 5, 9:30 a.m. You are invited to come and share in the service.

LETTER FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

For those of you who might be wondering, “what on earth is happening in the parking lot”, maybe I should explain.

Back in the ice storm of ‘09, you will recall Ameren UE workers were fed in our church family life center. The buses used to transport workers to and from the church, as well as the heavy trucks and equipment parked there the first couple of nights, damaged our newly surfaced parking lot. Ameren UE told us then that they would repair the lot.

Fast forward to a couple of months ago. Our church trustees met with the paving company and got bids on repairing the lot and on options for both repairing and enlarging the lot. The trustees brought their recommendation to the Finance committee and then to the Administrative Council. All agreed to enlarge our lot as well as repair it.

True to their word, Ameren UE is providing the funding for the repair portion of the project. Our church is funding the enlargement part. Our church budget designates money for capital improvements and we plan to use that. Still, we are going to have to fund about an additional \$25,000 not included in our general budget. The Finance Committee believes that we can do that. So, if you could possibly increase your giving a little—or a lot—for a time or two, it would be wonderful! And, every time you drive into our new, larger parking lot you can smile!

THANK YOU so much for your prayerful consideration of this financial need!

On Behalf of the Finance Committee,

Mrs. Rebel Dugan, Chairperson

FOLLOW-UP FROM PASTOR DAN

As a follow-up to the pastor’s front-page article, please consider the following practical suggestion for your own personal “quiet time” with the Lord:

Read a short passage of one of the gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke or John—from the New Testament.

Say a brief word of prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit to illumine these words in your heart & mind.

Ask yourself—”what does it say,” then, “what does it mean;” and then, “what does it mean to me?”

Use one or more of the following questions to enhance your reflection:

(these Q’s come from Steve Harper’s workbook we are currently using in Sunday School)

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a sin for me to avoid?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there a promise for me to claim?

What does this passage teach me about God or Jesus Christ?

Is there a difficulty for me to explore?

Is there something in this passage I should pray about today?

Include in your prayer time a word of thanksgiving for what you have discovered from God’s Word.

And finally, if you like keeping a journal, record your thoughts from day to day, so that you can go back in a month’s time and see how you have grown closer to Jesus during this time.

THANK YOU!!!

Dear United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the opportunity your gave me to go to church camp. I made so many new friends and I also got to bond with friends I make last year, and even my friends from my own church. My favorite part of camp was singing songs around the camp fire while looking up at the stars, because it really made me feel closer to God, I can't wait to go back next year. Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Scarlett Goodin

Dear UMC,

Thank you so much for sending me to Blue Mountain Camp, I Am! I had a fantastic time playing games, hanging with friends, and learning more about God. One thing that was special to me was when a counselor from Turkey told us his life story and how hard it was. He gave all his problems to God and truly forgave everyone that had hurt him. To this day he is in his fifty's teaching a high school Sunday school class and participating in eighty-mile bike races. I have learned so much from going to camp including how important it is to forgive, to have compassion, and to love. Thank you very much for sending me to camp. I hope to go next year!

Sincerely,
Gretta Goodin

Dear United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for giving me the chance to go to Camp Lakeshore in Eva, TN. It was so much fun! By the first night I was already covered in shaving cream because we had a shaving cream fight! We went swimming in the Kentucky Lake & we also went creek stomping. It was all a great experience.

Love,
Isabella L. Goodin

On behalf of the Susanna Wesley Center. I want to thank you for the use of your Family Life Center. Your facility was the perfect setting for the recent training for Law Enforcement. Again, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Mary Anne Clayton

Dear Friends at Charleston UMC,

As we approach the beginning of another academic year, we would like to acknowledge the families and friends who have provided financial support for our students. CMU could not continue our mission to educate students to make a difference in the world without such support.

I am pleased to inform you of the following scholarship recipients-

The Charleston UMC Scholarship has been awarded to Amanda Amos, sophomore Elem. Ed major.

The Charleston UMC Bishop's Endowment Campaign has been awarded to Kenneth Clark, a freshman with an undeclared major.

The Clara D. Newnam Hall of Sponsors Scholarship has been awarded to Meili Hollingworth, a freshman Music Ed major.

I would like to extend thanks for your generous support of Central Methodist University.

Sincerely,
Peggy Purvis Robb
Director of Annual Giving & Donor Relations

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*Open Hearts, Open
Minds, Open Doors*

**MAKING
DISCIPLES**

*

**MAKING
A DIFFERENCE**

www.umccharleston.org

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Cecelie Pike, Oliver French III & Travis Williams
- 3 - Harrison Moore
- 5 - Lee Bethune & Margaret Weiss
- 6 - Abbie LeFevre
- 7 - Alfred Marshall
- 8 - Becky Story & Michael Jones
- 9 - Chad Allen French, Jeannie Burke, Kevin White & Stefanie Self
- 11 - Melanie Fraga
- 12 - Isabella Goodin
- 14 - Bruce Dovin, Don Robertson, Katie Thurston & Ron Seabaugh
- 15 - Bethany Brown
- 16 - Mayme Miller
- 17 - Catherine Malugen & Glenn Hillhouse
- 18 - Carson Miller & Dicky Hanor
- 19 - Mindi Luehmann Fitzgerald
- 20 - Frank Goodman & Janie Pemberton
- 21 - Jonathon Hankinson & Caroline Wiley
- 22 - Laura Logan & Spencer Fenton Huls
- 23 - Beth Keener & Tripp Logan
- 24 - Ryan Ault & Sara Story
- 25 - Martha Ellen Black
- 26 - Madeline Burke, Sherry Austin & Marshall Self
- 27 - Pete Story, Bart Stallings & Ben LeFevre
- 28 - Caitlin Moody, Sarah Michael Dovin & Katie Michael
- 29 - Jane Jackson & Krystal Brown
- 31 - Courtney Luehmann & Maggie Fox

DREAMING OF A "GREEN" CHRISTMAS

Our Sunday School children will be collecting used Holiday cards, especially Christmas ones. They will be recycled and sent to St. Jude's for the "St. Jude's Ranch for Children". If you have any cards & would like to donate them to this project, please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

