



MAY TOWER TOPICS

Not Quite Home...

from Pastor Scott

What do all the children who are residents of homeless shelters in our area do during Spring or Fall Breaks?

This question, which appeared at the end of my article from last month, generated a little bit of conversation, **but not really enough to get us headed anywhere.** That's okay, perhaps it is the wrong question.

So, in an attempt to get us all thinking of ways of **showing the love that God has for everyone who surrounds us that are new, risky, bold, and impossible to do without God's help** I am going to tell the story again, but this time ask you for QUESTIONS - like the one above - that could point us towards a Peter like moment of faith for our beloved community.

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him... Matthew 14: 28-31a

I have really enjoyed preaching during this series "Wandering Heart - Figuring Out Faith with Peter". The material has been both refreshing and challenging. At times during the series, I really wish the material had come with pre-written sermons, but alas, they did not. I had to wrestle with the passages and the commentaries included (as well as those I am more familiar with in my library) to come up with the messages. Looking back on doing those messages, however, I am especially glad that they did not include sermons. The learning that I gained during the process is something that I now value. I was especially fond of the lesson from the second week of Lent that focused on the Scripture above. Like many people, whenever I read that story, I focused in upon

Peter taking his eyes off Jesus and sinking in the stormy water around him. I wanted to somehow focus on Peter's failure.

The wrestling with the scripture that I did during this time, however, got me to focus on what is most important about the disciple Peter in this story - PETER ACTUALLY GOT OUT OF THE BOAT AND WALKED ON THE WATER TOWARD JESUS! That is an incredible step of faith on behalf of the disciple! It was something that had only been done by Jesus and as far as I know, has never been done since!

The story goes on to say that even after Peter got into some trouble while living out his faith in Jesus, Jesus was there in an instant to rescue him from danger.

All of this led me to believe that this lesson from the life of the disciple was a call to us as a congregation to find where Jesus was calling us to act on our faith in a new and powerful way - some way that may be risky and where we would have to trust in Jesus to rescue us if danger came our way. I feel it must be something new, yet something we know Jesus cares about. It needs to be something that stretches our faith as far as possible. I have waited on someone to be moved by the Spirit to share something that might be what God is calling us to do, but I have also been praying. Last month, I shared a possible question. That question, found above, has been met with little more than a "meh" response. That does not bother me, nor does it deter me. I am certain God has the right person to ask the right question to get us doing something only God can help us do in this community.

What question could we start asking ourselves about the needs that surround us that would lead us to show the expansive love of God (In new, risky, bold, and impossible to do without God's help) to some group of people in our community?

Where is God calling us to step out of the boat ?

Meet with Pastor Scott on Sunday Evenings June 2nd, June 23rd or June 30 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary to discuss this in a group setting!



Church Community News

Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry

Cridlin Pantry is asking for **96 cans of spinach** this month. If you would like to donate please drop off donations either at the Church Office or by the soda machines downstairs by the multipurpose room. At Cridlinpantry.org you can access information about the shelter, current needs, and a form to fill out to get involved.

General Conference 2024

Please watch the weekly bulletin for information about presentations concerning the actions taken at the United Methodist General Conference this year. If you are searching for news articles about the event, please, please start your search at www.umnews.org

Spring District Meeting

The Spring District Meeting was held at Community of Grace with a lively program presented by Facing Hunger Foodbank. Fall District meeting will be September 28 at Humphries UMC in Tornado.

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings

Narcotics Anonymous meetings take place every Friday night from 6:30-9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We Care Ministry

The We Care Ministry has been an important way to connect with those who are homebound or ill but have not been active in the past few years. So, a team has come together to share their gifts of love and compassion through visitation, card writing, home communion, and other ways to be attentive to the needs of our congregation. Tim Hamilton is leading this team with the help of the pastoral staff in equipping laity to care for those who need it. If you would like to be included on the list of those who want to receive at-home communion, please call the church office at 304-522-0357. Volunteers of the We Care Ministry can participate in whatever form they feel comfortable, but if you feel called to serve in this way, reach out to Tim Hamilton at 304-529-7260.

Mission Updates



COME

The Celebration of Mission Event at Crosslanes was a surprising success. On Sunday, 21st, over 100 people from across Nine Rivers District gathered to listen to lively musicians, eat and bid for great desserts and learn about WW Missions. Mike Linger from House of the Carpenter led a workshop that taught us ways to help those in need. One of the best talks I have ever heard. Jim McCune told how to get involved with Volunteers in Mission. Celes Sheffield shared Ebenezer's story. But, the most important part of the day was the ingathering of money and goods for the Missions. Sadly, only 10 of the 90+ district churches brought money and goods, BUT the dessert auction and offering produced over \$2000! The final totals aren't in, but at the end of the day, we collected over \$10,000. Our First Church donation was \$2400 from the Mission Grant and \$250 worth of donated goods from Dorcas Circle. There is still time for your group to support COME!

FLOWERS

Did you order flowers? Geraniums and Petunias are proof that Spring has truly come! They will be delivered Friday, May 3. Pick-up is 10am-12pm on Saturday, May 4. Proceeds support the missions of United Women in Faith.

CITY MISSION

So you want to be involved in Mission, but don't know where to start? Let me suggest the children's programming at the City Mission three blocks from here:

Did you know that the City Mission offers a wide variety of programming for their child residents?

Did you know that community churches often provide hands-on activities such as painting, movie night, games, etc.?

Did you know that there are currently 14 children - ranging from 1 month to 13 years old - living at the Mission? This is the fewest number of children in many months.

Did you know that these children and their parents are awaiting housing? This cannot happen until each child in the family has a twin bed of their own.

Did you know that each new child gets a trip to Glenn's to pick out and be fitted for a new pair of shoes? The Mission spends between \$150-\$200 per month for new shoes for children.

Did you know that the COVID funding which pays for many of these extras runs out in October?

Wouldn't it be great if we invited these children to join us for Bible School, yard activities, or even a day at Asbury Woods? The best way to help a child is not with things but with human contact.

- Jane Morse

Church News

Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle met April 9th. The focus of our meeting was a drive to collect items for the Come Event which will go to Ebenezer. Jane Morse provided the refreshments and the program about Children and war. This was such an emotional subject there no dry eyes in the room.



Upcoming Sermon Series

“Anything but Ordinary”

The summer is considered a season of Ordinary Time in the life of the Church - a season in between the mystifying resurrection of Jesus at Easter, and Jesus’ birth, visited anew, at Advent. The Bible texts for this series follow the family narratives of Abraham, which are stories that make the title “ordinary” seem laughable. Ordinary time is punctuated by a God who keeps showing up - persistently, creatively, and lovingly - in ways that are surprising, transformative, joyful, reconciling, and unifying. *The movement of the Spirit is anything but ordinary.*

Sanctified Art created resources for Ordinary Time and I have adapted them to be used as a worship series, focused on the Abrahamic family narratives, from June through August. I hope this series helps us as we pay attention to the ways God continues to use what is ordinary for radical transformation and love. Materials will be available to help you prepare for this series in May. The Worship Committee will be looking at ways we can enhance our participation in worship with this series as well so that our “Ordinary Time” this summer is “Anything but Ordinary”!

Hiking Church

Hiking Church is **May 5th**, weather permitting. We will meet at the Huntington Museum of Art at 9:30 am. I encourage you to use this opportunity to invite friends and family. We will try this out for a couple of months and may switch days in order to reach more people. If you have any questions or suggestions about hiking church contact Schauna Chambers at 304-634-9684.



We Need Volunteers!

Katrina is about to have baby Emily and needs some help this summer.

VBS - Volunteer Sheet on Double Doors of Fellowship Hall

Children's Church & Children's Minutes - Volunteers needed June through August, email katrinamlee1124@gmail.com

to help out!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Vacation Bible School will be

Monday, July 22nd – Thursday, July 25th

Our theme this year will be *"I Wonder..."* which will get our kids curious about science, engineering, and technology, but also about the God who created it all! What made the stories of some of our bible leaders unique? What gifts did God give us and what do we do with them? What can we learn from others around us? How can we spend more time with God? If you want your kid involved in a VBS that is hands-on, challenging, and full of imagination, then keep on the lookout for how to register your child! Also, share the news with friends and family! We would love to have the best and biggest Vacation Bible School yet!

Summer camps are open for registration!

Elementary School camp is **July 14 - 19**. Flyers can be found on the church bulletin board, please sign up through the Asbury woods Facebook page or website.

Middle & High School camp is **June 30 - July 4th at noon**.



A big round of applause to the Youth for their performances on Youth Sunday! If you missed it, you can watch the recording of it on our Youtube page!

YOUTH EVENTS

Salvation Army @ 5:45pm

May 01

June 11

Mission @ 10:45am

Cridlin @ 12:30pm

June 17

June 24

Ebenezer / Cridlin

District Camp

June 30

TBD

Pool Party & Game Night

Ace Adventure

Aug 11

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
SCHAUNA CHAMBERS (304) 634-9684**

Wesley Children's Choir News

The Wesley Choir's "iAM" musical was a wonderful experience and we are very grateful to the children, their parents, the adult actors, and the entire production team for all the work and effort that went into the production. We are very sorry to say goodbye to our "graduating" 5th graders: Gwyneth Yoost, Serinna Long, Norah Gerlach, Drew Adkins & Lydia Ruff. They have been faithful & talented Wesley Choir members and will be greatly missed. We're also going to miss our long-time choir assistant, Ms. Carolyn Waggoner. Ms. Carolyn has decided to retire, so when you see her, please express your *APP*reciation for her many years of service to our children and her special *APP*titude with the little ones.



CHOIR

Youth Handbell Choir News

How about our new youth handbell choir, who made their debut April 21st during Youth Sunday? Isn't this a wonderful addition to our music ministry? Many thanks to Chris Thomas and all the youth ringers! We look forward to hearing them again and again.

Adult Choir News

Sunday, May 19 will be a unique worship service of music, presented by the Sanctuary Choir, the Handbell Choir, Rhonda Adkins, Jay Brooks, Barbara Nowlin & Lincoln Brass. This will be a dynamic celebration of Pentecost through the powerful medium of music. Please plan to join us for this very special service, which will be the Sanctuary Choir's last performance until Fall. There will be a luncheon after the service, catered by Susan Nickels, for the choirs & instrumentalists to thank them for their faithful service throughout the year.

Last night of Wednesday evening activities is May 15.

We can't believe school is almost out and summer is already approaching!

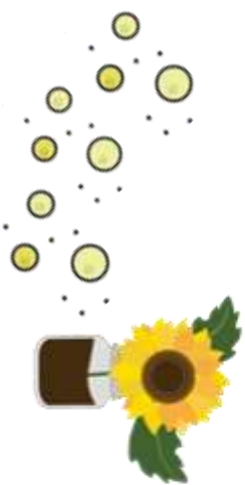
Till then, here are the dinners to expect:

May 1 - Baked Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

May 8 - Spaghetti

May 15 - Hamburgers & Hot Dogs





May



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 5:45 pm Youth Volunteering 6:00 pm KFC Game Night 6:00 pm Finance Meeting	2	3 6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	4 Flower Pick Up
5 9:30 am Hiking Church @ Huntington Museum of Art	6	7	8 6:00 pm KFC Movie Night 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting	9	10 6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	11
12	13	14 1:00 pm Dorcas Circle	15 <i>Last Day of Wednesday Night Activities!</i> 6:00 pm End of Year Bash!	16	17 6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	18
19 <i>Music Sunday</i> 12:00 pm Luncheon	20	21	22	23	24 6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	25
26	27	28	29 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting	30	31 6:30 - 9:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting	



- 05/02 Shirley Kincade
- 05/03 Adam Young
- 05/03 William Reed
- 05/04 Marlene Sheets
- 05/04 Daylen Reeves
- 05/05 C.R. Neighborgall IV
- 05/07 Rev. Craig Michel
- 05/08 Matt Birkhimer
- 05/08 Kil Choi
- 05/09 Kyle Foster
- 05/09 Christopher Gooding
- 05/10 Trevor Stone
- 05/10 Sandra Folsom
- 05/13 Sheri Duncan
- 05/14 Tucker Leithoff
- 05/14 Alyse Lewis
- 05/16 Rowan McCoy
- 05/16 Tess Anderson
- 05/16 Peggy Brown
- 05/17 Hilary Brownstead
- 05/17 Nance Perry
- 05/18 Craig Sergent
- 05/18 Erik Legg
- 05/18 Tyrie Walker
- 05/19 Rosie Bright
- 05/19 Dan Choi
- 05/21 Rodney Honaker
- 05/21 Alex Naegele
- 05/21 Wendy Bacon
- 05/21 Vance Bunn
- 05/23 Ella Kinsey
- 05/23 Avett Bannon
- 05/24 Sally Duncan McCaskey
- 05/24 Keir Adkins-Coleman
- 05/26 Ethan Burgess
- 05/26 Andrew Legg
- 05/27 Karianne Fischer
- 05/27 Ted Johnson
- 05/28 Harrison Massie
- 05/28 Creed Sinclair
- 05/28 J.D. Maue
- 05/29 Robert Archer
- 05/30 Ryan Woodward
- 05/30 Autumn Arthur
- 05/31 Ellen Winkler

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Music Director: Debbie Bradley
Director of Youth & Young Adult
Ministry: Schauna Chambers
Director of Children's Ministries:
Katrina Lee
Church Hostess: Susan Nickels
Office Manager: Allie Bright

Sunday Worship Opportunities

Small Groups 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.



Next Tower Topics Deadline: May 24



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...

For those who are grieving, sick, or homebound,
Dawn Aikin, Sue Atkinson, Hunter Barry, Kathy Bartram, Pris Beard, Pat Broce, Chase Childers, Debbie Conley, Mark Cornell, Myra Creek, Family of Judy Davis, Leona Davis, Linda Eddins, Jackie Eplion, Mary Griffith, Emma Mace, JD Maue, Jane McColgan, Beth McVey, Bob Palmer, Nancy Palmer, Rev. Jim Plyburn, Jack Patrick, Sally Richards-Bartram, Family of Wes Shanholtzer, Marlene Sheets, Dan Smith, Alice Stone, Maria Thacker, Jean White, Carolyn Waggoner, Gene Weekly, Carole Wilson