

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

I once heard a radio talk show host say, "There's nothing that's over like Christmas!" How true that is. We've just gone through one of the most joyous and celebratory seasons of the church year, and already we stand at the threshold of our annual journey into repentance and darkness before we celebrate the resurrection. That's right—Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM. Again this year we will join with the Other United Methodist churches in the Bootheel every Sunday afternoon in Lent. Our joint services with the Presbyterian Church and the community Good Friday service will again be a meaningful part of our Holy Week worship opportunities. More information will be in the March Proclaimer.

Lent is that time of the year when we journey deep into the heart of our faith. It is a time for us to reflect on the part each of us played in sending Jesus to the cross. Such introspection calls on us to name the sin that remains in our lives and turn from it and receive the forgiveness that God so freely offers us in Jesus. We traditionally think of "giving up" something for Lent. Fasting is certainly a part of our Lenten observance. What if this year we took something up. I am asking each of you to commit to attending church each Sunday during Lent and invite someone to come with you.

I remember as a young pastor, participating in a three hour service on Good Friday in which a different minister in the ministerial alliance spoke on one of the seven words of Jesus from the cross. The old Methodist Book of Worship from the 1940's has a great outline for such a service. This year for lent I want to preach a series of sermons based on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. Bishop Will Willimon has a wonderful little book on these words called "Thank God It's Friday!" In these seven words we follow Jesus through all the raw human emotions of one dying so horribly, but also the depth of divine love that held him there on that Friday. I hope you will join us on this journey which will begin on February 18th.

I am also asking you to help me with our journey. Would you bring crosses from your home to display in the sanctuary? I want to set a table up in the sanctuary with as many different crosses as possible. Each week a different cross will be featured with an explanation of its story. Please be sure to identify them so we can get them back to you after Lent. We are also going to have a special prayer banner during Lent. Cross-shaped prayer request slips will be provided for you to write your prayer requests on each week. They will be pinned to the banner following each service as a reminder of our covenant to pray for each other. Please join me on this difficult yet exciting journey.

Grace & Peace
Pastor Jim

EASTWOOD MEMORIAL



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UMW-UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETING MINUTES

On Friday, January 6th the UMW met in Dorroh Hall for our regular monthly meeting. There were 11 in attendance. Irene Hardy opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Purpose of the United Methodist Women.

Delpha Abbott read the minutes from the last meeting, Carrie Ann Hippler gave the financial report. Our January balance is \$452.20. Pat reported on cards that were sent in Susan Townsend's absence. She also passed around thank you cards received from The Susanna Wesley Learning Center and from the Roberts family we adopted for Christmas.

The only business discussed was plans for a Rummage Sale in the spring to be held in the Children's Building. This will be held on Saturday, May 5th from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm. Our prayer concerns are Margie Morgan and Donnie Smith, a cousin to Irene Hardy.

The Devotional was given by Irene entitled "Two Horses" and the Program was given by Anne Grantham entitled "The Church Year." Both were enjoyed by all and we thank Irene and Anne for being with us and for their time and talents. Our refreshments were from Delpha Abbott, a delicious array of donuts, coffee and juice. With no other business the meeting was adjourned with the Benediction.

Our next meeting will be on February 3rd, Bunny Crowe is Hostess, Martha Fowlkes has the Program and Carrie Ann Hippler has the Devotional. Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Pat Brogdon, UMW President

UMW RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY, MAY 5 8 am – 1 pm

If you have items for the Rummage Sale you may bring them at any time and put them in the Son Seekers chapel for pricing.

Proceeds of the Sale will be used for proposed kitchen remodel.

SATURDAY, MAY 5TH

FINANCIAL NEWS:

Monthly Budget: \$18,650.00

Weekly Budget: \$4,303.00

December giving: \$45,859.73

Year to Date Giving: \$204,267.22

FINANCIAL REPORT



LAST DAY – FEB 5TH

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
 LAST OPPORTUNITY TO BRING SOUP
 SUNDAY, FEB. 5TH**

The soup collection is winding down and will be ending Sunday, Feb. 5th. You still have the opportunity to help reach the goal of filling the 55 gallon soup can for the food pantry.

A lot of people can be fed with that many cans of soup. Please help us out if you can.



YOUTH & KFC (Kids for Christ)

Sunday, Feb. 5th KFC will have special meeting to finish valentines for Caruthersville Nursing Home

Youth will meet Sunday, Feb 12th – 5 pm

And Sunday, February 26th- 4 pm

Youth will go to Lent Cluster Service more details will be sent to parents.

Valentine Delivery Day!

Sunday, Feb. 12th-5 pm KFC group will be delivering the valentines they have been making for Caruthersville Nursing Home on

Ash Wednesday Service

Wed. Feb. 22 at 6:00 pm

Men's Fellowship

Thursday, Feb 23rd

7:00 pm

Dinner Provided

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

POT LUCK

SUNDAY, FEB. 5TH

11:30 AM

Those celebrating Birthdays in February are the Guests of Honor no need to bring food you will be seated at the head table and the celebration is for YOU!

Everyone else come and bring your favorite dish and celebrate with them.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

02/06 – Shirley Powell

02/07 – Amanda Moore

02/08 – Terry Swinger

Mary Jo Boyce

02/13 – George W. Cook

Martha Dorroh

02/14 - Bill Collins

02/21 – Mary Gilmore

02/24 – Wilson Hubbard

02/27 – Chris Davis

02/28 – Chris Storey

Jackie Powell

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Brenda Glass	Linda Poteet
Goldie Howard	Family of Max Bryant
Andi Elizabeth Coffey	Virginia Carpenter
Joy Broderick	Kelly Stringfellow
Margie Woods	Margie Morgan
Danny Pendergrass	Betty Rutherford
Delphine Pendergrass	Melinda Weaver
Logan McCaig	Shirley Britt
Bobby Taylor	Gene Brown
Sheila Jones	Melinda Hinchey McCleod
Lazelle Puckett	Stacy Brown
John Lafferty	Family of Murel Andrews
Josh Wilson	Ryce Hartsfield
Zaden Posche	Avery Gardner
Jennie Cope	Scott McLeod
Megan Gilliam	Ronald Pierce
Frances Alsup	Towana Jones
Frankie Crowe Nickerson	
Diane Sayre	Wendy McTernon
Mike Abbott	Buddy Thompson
Tom Swift	Kevin Lossing
Joe & Kathryn Parkinson	Bill Shaeffer
Virginia Carpenter	Lena Swift
Family of Tom Porter	Military & Veterans

NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASS BEGINS- Leader: Jeanne Cagle Sunday, February 5th at 9:30 am

“Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses”
Author, James W. Moore, a senior minister at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Houston is the author of many other books including, *When Grief Breaks Your Heart; When all Else Fails, Read the Instructions, and Attitude is Your Paintbrush: It Colors Every Situation.*

What is it, James Moore asks, that we try to justify anything and everything we want to do? We use words, scapegoats, blaming other people, circumstances, past events, even evil spirits (“the devil made me do it!”) to attempt to excuse bad choices we make with our own free will.

What does the Christian faith have to say about all this? The author reminds us of what our faith tells us about excuses: first, that God sees through them; second, that God is more interested in forgiving us than in hearing our excuses; third, that God wants penitence-not excuses – from us.

In his warm embracing style, James Moore encourages us to seek forgiveness. After all, we are justified not by our eloquent excuses but by the grace of a loving, caring, forgiving God.

You may call the church office to sign up for the class and get your copy of the book which includes a study guide. This book will surely spark great conversation in the class as well as great self reflection during your time alone reading and studying it.

Again the class will start Sunday, Feb 5th at 9:30 am in the Children’s building-Young Adult Classroom. See You There!

♥♥♥ Eastwood Memorial UMC February 2012 ♥♥♥

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir		9:30 UMW 7-9 Women's Tea- Liz Higgs Speaker	
5 Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30 S.S. 10:30 Worship Birthday Pot Luck 5:00 KFC *Sherry White **Mary Grace Emily Reeves			10:00 Nursing Home Svc 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 Early Svc 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth KFC Deliver Valentines to Nursing Home *Sam Crowe **Mallory Faulkner Addie Hubbard		Happy Valentines Day 6:00 COM 6:30 Church Council	5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir			
19	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
8:30 Early Svc 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship 6:00 The Bridge *Kitten Cook **Mary Allyn Long Madelyn Pierce	Presidents Day Church Office Closed		Bible Study 6:00 Ash Wed. Service 7:00 Choir	7:00 Men's Fellowship		
26 1 st Sun-Lent	27	28	29			
8:30 Early Svc 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship 4:00 Lent Cluster Service-Kennett- Youth will go 5:00 KFC *Debbie Dunavant **Ally White Mallory Faulkner			5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Choir		*Liturgist **Acolytes	

A Note of Thanks

On behalf of Janice Pinion:

Dear Reverend Coffey, Judy Adams, and Congregation,

The Eastwood Memorial United Methodist Church had never looked more lovely, nor felt more comforting than it did Dec. 13th, the morning of my mother's funeral. Familiarity brought with it many pleasant memories & reminders of the solid roots from which I was privileged to begin my life. The church, those who attended the service, and those who served the lunch that day were integral parts of the community that raised me. I have always loved the saying that "it takes a village to raise a child." On Dec. 13th you were again my village and helped me yet again through another passage of life.

Thank you, Reverend Coffey, for reaching out so quickly and willingly after you received my message that Mother had died. Your guidance in planning a service and your performance of the service made saying a formal goodbye to my mother a little easier. The way we did things felt right for her.

Judy, I cannot say enough about the gift of music from the very organ that Mother used to share with you. Your smile expressed such grace. Your talents added such beauty, and in the form Mother would certainly have wanted.

How delighted we were when the luncheon was offered. Thank you, each and every one of you, who helped with that generous gift to Mother and to our families. Lunch saved the day. It was delicious, of course, but perhaps more importantly it gave our families the chance to talk with friends and one another, and to smile. It was an opportunity we had not anticipated.

Very sincerely yours,
Susan Pinion Holliday