



2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson - Margaret Fisher
Pastor - Richard Wesley
Lay Leader - Joy Holder
Lay Member of Annual Conference - Robert Neitzke
Alternate Lay Member of Annual Conference - Nita Heilman
Chairperson of Staff/Parish Relations - Diana Hajdu
Trustee Rep - Rob Smith/Peggy Birthrong
Chairperson of Finance - Robert Ott
Co-Chairperson of Finance - Betty Meriwether
Treasurer - Emily Bellamy
UMW President - Margaret Fisher
UMM President - Robert Neitzke
Worship Committee Chairperson- Margaret Fisher
Mission & Service Chairperson—Nita Heilman
Recording Secretary -

2019 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson - Margaret Fisher
Chairperson of Finance - Robert Ott
Co-Chairperson of Finance - Betty Meriwether
Chairperson of Trustees –Rob Smith
Co-Chairperson of Trustees - Peggy Birthrong
Chairperson of Staff/Parish Relations - Diana Hajdu
Pastor - Richard Wesley
Lay Leader - Joy Holder
Recording Secretary -



NEWS FROM
ST. BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2201 Old Russellville Pike ~ CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE 37040
Church Office: 931-647-5126
Email: stbumc@gmail.com ~ Website: www.stbumc.com
Senior Pastor: Richard Wesley

August 2019

A TRIBUTE TO MOLLY

Sometimes it is your presence, your smile and your encouragement to someone else that makes a lot of difference in their lives. I remember when I first attended a certain church. It was a friendly church; I could tell it was friendly because during the passing of the peace they all were so joyful, loving, and kind to each other.

It wasn't that they were unkind to me, but they didn't know me. So I was left alone to watch how much they loved one another.

Except for Molly. Molly found me my first Sunday and came back to where I was sitting and talked to me. She introduced me that first week to her husband and son. The next week Molly found me again and introduced me to the pastor and a few others. Every week Molly found me and made me feel welcome.

It was about five years later that one Sunday during the passing of the peace I found Molly and decided to tell her how crucial

she was to my decision to stay in that church. As I told her, I noticed tears forming in her eyes. That Sunday, Molly needed to hear that she was loved and appreciated. I didn't ask why, and Molly never told me why, but we both knew that she needed to know at that moment how important she had been in my life.

When she hugged me and kissed my cheek that Sunday morning, we both knew Jesus was near. We both knew we were experiencing a sacred moment.

Oh, by the way, Molly attended Cook's United Methodist Church. In my second year at Cook's the pastor, Tom Gildemeister, convinced me that I should leave the business world and return to my calling of service in the church. Cook's hired me as full-time director of ministries. A few years later Bishop Morris appointed me to Cook's as the Associate Pastor. So I guess you could say that I am serving St. Bethlehem UMC

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Sunday Schedule:

Traditional Service - 9:00 A.M. ~ Sunday School - 10:00 A.M.

Exploring Life in Christ - 11:00 A.M.

A TRIBUTE TO MOLLY

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today because Molly saw reaching out to and loving someone she had never seen as important. And then Molly followed through showing me the love of Jesus week after week.

Molly was in the habit of looking around on Sunday mornings and asking herself, who can I welcome with the love of Jesus?

Molly was a young woman in her late 20's or early 30's at the time. Molly was willing to be the vessel of love through which God touched my life, and I'm sure so many others.

Thank you, Molly.

~ Richard

*** CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED ***

The Nursery School needs to have the carpets in that area cleaned before school starts next month. It seems reasonable to have all carpets in the church cleaned at that time. Thomas Carpet Cleaning is scheduled to come on Friday, August 2, to do this work. There are no meetings scheduled that day nor on the morning of the following Saturday. The cost will be paid by the Nursery School and already committed donations.

Please make plans to not use the building on that Friday and Saturday.

Congregations that have leaders who promote health through their presence and functioning instead of techniques or skills show signs of Christian maturity.

(From Healthy Congregations Workshop 3)

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Blessings to our St Bethlehem Family:

Here are just a few quick financial notes and stewardship updates:

First, Margaret Fisher lead a planning team for a Back to School Bash for our neighborhood children that took place Saturday, July 27. Thank you to all who donated monies and supplies for the event. Any excess monies from this event will be directed towards our FUEL program as the start of school is upon us – thank you for your consideration helping those in need! Also, checks totaling \$1,250 in scholarship have been issued for three of our students, who will be attending APSU and Western Kentucky University, from the Taber Scholarship

Fund.

Recently, we made an update on a portion of our Christian Life Center investments. We moved these certificate of deposits in 2016 when the market conditions on our investments through the United Methodist Foundation fell below 1% annual rate of return. Those updated CD's are now in new 14 month certificates of deposit that nets an annual yield of 2.55% versus the 2.00% that we would have realized without making the change.

Finally, the merger of the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences will have a direct impact our forthcoming budget process. The Tennessee Conference intends to

utilize available financial reserves to pay a portion of the clergy's health care (50%) and pension (75%) in 2020. These items had previously been rolled up in our overall apportionments obligations. Going forward, all churches will be directly billed for those costs. St Bethlehem's expected costs for health care and pension is about \$8,500 per year. Our initial take on the impacts of the changes to apportionments and direct billing of the clergy's health care and pension may result in a modest cost reduction in our future budgets.

Blessings!

~ Robert Ott

General Fund Giving – \$3,654 Weekly Average Budgetary Need for 2019			
June 2nd	\$5,291.00	June 2019 Weekly Avg	\$3,217.60
June 9th	\$4,267.00	May 2019 Average	\$3,254.75
June 16th	\$1,771.00	Apr 2019 Weekly Avg	\$3,008.68
June 23rd	\$1,859.10	Mar 2019 Weekly Avg	\$3,290.63
June 30th	\$2,900.00	Feb 2019 Weekly Avg	\$2,239.80

*Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can.
To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

- 2 Alicia Siders, Lucille Thompson,
Janice Williams
- 3 Phyllis Haddock, Wealtha Manross
- 5 Josh Jerles
- 8 Brian & Bruce Tate
- 9 Roger Bray, Pam Langley, Charles Shaffer
- 10 Alycia Milner
- 12 Josh McKillip
- 13 Ryan Smith
- 18 Betty Bray, Kathy Winn
- 19 Amber Clendenin
- 21 B.J. Alexander, Jerry Pulley
- 27 Margaret King
- 30 Margaret Fisher



PRAYER CONCERNS

- Hadley Ott
- Ann Manseill
- Lela Ham
- Mark Barrett
- Bobby Martin
- Heather Moore
- Cathy Woodall
- Mary Gillilan (Nita Heilman's Aunt)
- Ed Kelley & Family
- Lucille Thompson
- Maureen Long
- Pat Murray
- Mary Devers
- Sandy Jastrzembski
- Eddy Parsons & Family

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Hi there, my name is Rachelle Burdick and I am the new director for the Nursery School. I have been at the school for 14 years and have taught in every classroom and was the assistant director in 2018 -2019. The new assistant director is Nicole Rape, who has been with us for 2 1/2 years and is the Lead teacher for the 3's class. We have 3 returning teachers, Ms. Charity 4's, Ms. Megan 2's, and Ms. Ann in the babies class. We would like to welcome our new teachers Ms. Ann Leach, Ms. Arlonda, Ms. Kenyetta, Ms .Kristen to the school.

Our first day of school is August 13th and we are looking forward to seeing those cute and sweet smiles we have missed over the summer. We have exciting activities already planned throughout the school year.

Thank you for your continuous support for the staff and nursery school. I look forward to being your new director this year.

~ Rachelle Burdick

Thank you, God for your strength, guidance, and love of all. Thank you to the committee who worked so diligently to make the "Back to School Bash" a success. What an out pouring of love and care and concern for the young people in our community! Donations from our church, Sunday School classes, United Methodist Women, and community neighbors who joined in to help give our school children and nursery school a good start for this school year.

~ Margaret Fisher

CHOIR NEWS

The Choir is starting up again on August 14. All are welcome to join us as we make a "joyful noise to the Lord." Choir practice is Wednesday evenings at 7pm. We sing in the 9am Worship Service.

Are you interested in ringing handbells? If so, please contact Margaret Fisher so that a practice time can be set.

Missions & Service

Hola St. B!

I bring you greetings from your brothers and sisters in San Andreas and Panajachel, Guatemala! I've been home less than 24 hours, but a piece of my heart is still in Guatemala with my friends. We took 8 extra suitcases full of supplies for Mission Guatemala including your 350 toothbrushes. The adult half of the team worked at the Medical Clinic redoing the playground area to make it safer and painting the buildings. I did a bunch of trim painting and managed to get most of the paint where it was supposed to be! Our youth dug out, framed and poured concrete steps to finish the outdoor athletic court at the girl's school near San Andreas. The entire team on Thursday went to Kikoten Bilingual Elementary School to serve the children their mid-day meal...the only meal many of them get each day. Johns Creek UMC has sponsored this feeding program for 7-8 years at a cost of \$10,000 a year. (about the same as the cost of our FUEL program) On Friday, the team had the privilege of participating in the ground breaking ceremony in Chuisajcap for the multi-sport concrete court next to their community center and school. The whole town including dogs came to celebrate!!! Thank you for your prayers and words of support, they were felt every day.

*** Don't forget your filled Christmas Shoeboxes are due back at church by August 18***

~ Nita Heilman

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

The United Methodist Women have Mission studies each year and the Spiritual Growth studies this year were:

Adult study:

Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship

Children's Study:

Marked: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Youth Study:

Who Do You Say That I Am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark

I recently taught the youth study in Murfreesboro, TN. At the last minute, I was invited to teach the same study in Columbus, OH but had to decline because I had other things scheduled this past week. It was a very enlightening study for me to teach the youth to help them to see who Jesus is to them. I often recalled our vision statement “Growing disciples of Christ for the transformation of our community”.

I do hope I was able to relay my passion for developing believers into full-grown, well-rounded disciples who love God and others. If we as a church don't work with others so that they can go out and make disciples of others, we won't live out the great opportunity we have to show a hurting and hungry world this Christ that we love and worship.

God has given us free will. He doesn't force himself on us. He will speak to our hearts – sometimes in that still, small voice and at other times in a roar like thunder. But, he lets us choose our path. It makes me very sad when I see Christians that have chosen not to act like disciples nor to go out and make disciples. These Christians are not bad

people and may be doing good deeds and helping their communities because as humans we have a great capacity for doing good but if Christ dwells inside us and we do what we do for His glory and to call attention to him, the results are endless.

It takes work to teach people how to be disciples. First, you have to model discipleship. Then, you teach it. Scripture gives us hundreds of examples of people who modeled their behavior on what they saw Jesus and his disciples do. They fed people. They healed people. They offered their garments for protection. They washed the feet of weary people.

We can do this. Obviously, current day culture is different from the culture of Jesus' day but the needs are the same. We meet their needs in different ways, but we are still the hands and feet of Christ. Our motivation must remain pure – minister to people the way Jesus did. We must see all of the people; not just the ones who speak our language, the ones who look like us, those with the same color skin, or those in poverty. We have to see all the people.

It is when we see all the people that we see a world needing compassion and hope. We then realize that with Christ we are powerful enough to change everything! We can do it one person at a time. We are strong because he is strong. We are determined because he is determined. We show love because he is love.

It's easy to grow so self-centered that we don't look past our own problems or pain. Do we respond like Jesus did when faced with people in obvious distress and confusion? Jesus had been teaching and healing in the towns and villages of Galilee. At this time, a huge crowd had been with Jesus for three days, and they ran out of food. “I feel sorry

for these people,” the Lord said. “They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat” (Mark 8:2).

Jesus felt sorry—he felt what we would call “compassion.” Jesus had a shepherd's heart that was moved as he observed the crowds of people around him who needed a “shepherd” to lead and guide them “because their problems were so great and they didn't know where to go for help” (Matthew 9:36). Someone has defined compassion as “your hurt in my heart.” Jesus definitely took the hurt of people into his heart.

Perhaps you object to this challenge to care compassionately for others. Maybe you think you have too many hurts of your own. Yet the Lord heals our own hurts as we reach out to attend to the hurts of others.

Jesus feels people's hurt in his heart, and he is in my heart—so guess what happens: Their hurt is in my heart! Once we feel great compassion for others, we will discover a great motivating force that will move us to compassionate action.

I am so thankful to have the support of our church family here at St. Bethlehem UMC and when I felt God speaking to me to help our neighborhood children and youth, I felt the compassionate hearts of all in the outpouring of everyone's hearts. Thank you for pouring out your hearts in this way and I do know that Jesus feels the love of our church family in being the hands and feet of Christ and Growing Disciples of Christ for the transformation of our community.

~ Margaret Fisher



Pictures Needed!

Do you have digital pictures of events that have taken place during Worship Service, or missions projects?

We are upgrading our website photos and would like to showcase your pictures.

We are looking for pictures that represent St. Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Photos can range from Worship Services, Missions Projects, Sunday School gatherings, Choir, etc.

If you have some you would like to share, please email them to Ashley at stbumc@gmail.com.

Please note that pictures with anyone under the age of 18 must have written consent from the child's parent or guardian. Forms for consent are available in the church office.



COMING SOON!

Charge Conference schedule and forms!

Be on the lookout for more information.

LIFE IS FOR THE LIVING: PART 8

Last month I publicly challenged myself to complete the 8-week Couch to 5K (C25K) training program. I gave myself the start date of Monday, July 1. Well, July 1 came and went as did July 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Finally on July 8, exactly one week after my self-imposed deadline, I began my C25K training.

I began to feel like a failure as the first few days passed with zero motivation to begin my training. I could have used the rain or heat as an excuse, but that's what it would have been – an excuse. The truth was that I wasn't sure I could actually do it. Or even wanted to do it. Though I felt like a failure for not beginning when I said I was going to, I realized I wasn't a failure yet, I could still begin and complete my training. If I don't start, or if I quit, then I could and would admit defeat and consider myself a failure in this endeavor.

So, on July 8, motivated by one of my biggest fears – failure, I completed C25K Day 1, Week 1 – in 90-degree weather. Since then I have completed the first two weeks, and hopefully by the time you read this, I will have started Week 3.

I've realized a few things during my walk/runs. Running in my 40s is not as easy as running in my 30s. There were days I thought I was going to die, that may sound like an exaggeration, but on Day 1 I had literally succumbed to the fact that I was going to be mauled beyond recognition,

which would eventually lead to my demise, by what sounded like the meanest dog in the neighborhood. I heard the barking during my cooldown and wasn't sure I was even going to make it the final 30 yards to my driveway because I was dizzy and had zero strength. As the barking got closer, I thought, *this is it. This is how I go out.* Turns out the dog was fenced and actually not much bigger than Mattie, my 9-pound Yorkie. I'm telling you, that bark was fierce!

I also realized that I have power over my thoughts. There were moments (many of them) that I wanted to quit. Times I said to myself that I couldn't run one more second. It was during those times that I audibly argued with myself, telling myself that I could and would run one more second, I could and would run 10 or 20 more seconds if I had to. And I did!

The sense of accomplishment that I have felt during my first two weeks of training is amazing to me. I feel good about myself after each walk/run. I feel as if I'm taking back pieces of me that I lost, or maybe voluntarily gave up, when my brother died. I stopped living on September 3, 2016. But I am slowly putting my life back together, and for some reason that scares me.

Life is for the living, after all.

~ Ashley Kettle

AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	29 6:30pm Scout Troop 505	30	31 10am Design Team 7:30pm Narcotics Anon.	1 2pm Staff Meeting 7:30pm Narcotics Anon.	2 Office Closed Carpets Being Cleaned: Building Closed Until 6pm Saturday.	3 Building Closed Until 6pm 6pm Narcotics Anon.
4 - Communion 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	5 6:30pm Scout Troop 505	6 6pm UMW Night Group	7 10am Design Team 11am Ann's Closet 7:30pm Narcotics Anon.	8 6pm Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting 7:30pm Narcotics Anon.	9 Office Closed 6pm Girl Scout Leader Training	10 9:30am Girl Scout Leader Training 6pm Narcotics Anon.
11 - New Song Sunday 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	12 6:30pm Open Table Meeting (Formerly Church Council) 6:30pm Scout Troop 505	13 10:30am UMW Day Group	14 10am Design Team 5:45pm Children (FROG) 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Narcotics Anon	15 7:30pm Narcotics Anon.	16 Office Closed	17 8am Cub Scouts 6pm Narcotics Anon.
18 - Children's Time 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	19 6:30pm Scout Troop 505	20 7pm Sewing Circle @ Patsy Shell's Home	21 10am Design Team 11am Ann's Closet 5:45pm Children (FROG) 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Narcotics Anon	22 7:30pm Narcotics Anon.	23 Office Closed	24 4pm Narcotics Anon. Unit Meeting 6pm Narcotics Anon.
25 9am Traditional Service 10am Sunday School 11am Exploring Life in Christ	26 6:30pm Scout Troop 505	27	28 10am Design Team 5:45pm Children (FROG) 6pm Bible Study 7pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Narcotics Anon	29 7:30pm Narcotics Anon.	30 Office Closed	31 6pm Narcotics Anon.