

J U N E 2 0 1 3

the

Messenger

Wesley United Methodist Church



Wesley M.A.D. Youth

(Making A Difference)

May has been a busy month for the Wesley M.A.D. Youth Group. They completed several inflatable events, ran the concession stand at the "Sandy's School of Dance" dance recital, volunteered at the Muncie Missions, and attended a Dayton Dragons baseball game.

Coming up this month, the Youth will be joining up with Plainview Open Bible Church for a mission trip in Brookville, Ohio. On June 9 the Youth will also be getting together at Geoff Grow's for Messy Games,

devotions, fellowship, and a barbeque.

Please pray that we see God move in the Youth this summer.



Youth Schedule

- June 17-21: Mission Trip-Brookeville Ohio
- July 8: Kings Island Reward Trip
- July 22-26: Michindoh Youth Camp
- August 5-8: Encounter Youth Conference
- August 8-12: Mission Trip-New York City
- June 2014: Mission Trip- Caribbean

May Attendance & Finance

Date	Traditional Worship	Contemporary Worship	Total of Both Services
05-05-13	78	77	155
05-12-13	92	84	176
05-19-13	77	82	159
05-26-13	77	92	169

Finance Quick Look	W.O.W. Attendance
Budget Needs YTD: \$85,439.50	05-01-13: 64
Received YTD: \$81,568.93	05-08-13: 64
	05-15-13: 55
	05-22-13: 65

Finance Report January-April 2013

Jan-Apr Offering & Tithes	\$63,995.18
Parsonage Maintenance/Utilities	-2,006.97
Church Building Maintenance/Janitorial Supply	-1,607.18
Church Building Utilities	-4,287.91
Church Property Expenses/Insurance	-9,917.52
Wesley Staff Salaries	-25,167.78
Pastor Salary	-27,815.01
Outreach Ministries	-1,332.15
Fellowship/Communion/Leadership	-1,958.85
Tithe to INUMC	-4,796.00
Office Operations	-2,728.73



Thank you, to the Women's Yadda Yadda Group who prepare the elements for communion each and every month. Thank you, Diane Prescott, Judy Smith, Sharon Hoggatt, Karen Gilbert, Ruth Schweigert, Nancy Dick, & Mary Wise.

Congratulations!

class of
2013



Chris Warren



Kavan Knox



Maleia Kemp

To Our Seniors,

Once more, on behalf of the church we would like to congratulate all of our seniors this year. We are all very proud of your accomplishments and look forward to hearing of the many adventures and challenges you'll be facing in the coming years. And so we offer the following prayer as this new phase of your life begins.

Mighty God, you know and see all that lies before these young women and men of faith. We place them in the palm of your hand knowing you will be with them no matter what they may face. We praise you for their hard work and dedication, for goals achieved and obstacles overcome.

We know their journey is only just beginning and ask you to watch over them and may your Word light the path before them. May the seeds of faith planted in their hearts as children and then as youth continue to grow and mature even as they become the adults you have created them to be.

We ask you O God, to strengthen them by your Holy Spirit and grant them wisdom beyond their years. As they face temptations along the way may your word spring richly to their thoughts to provide guidance and be a reminder of your great love for them.

We thank you Father for their lives, their faith, their faithful service to you and the community, and the many lives they will share the Good News with in the days and years ahead. May the riches of your glory surround them, fill them, and sustain them fresh and new each morning. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen!

God bless you and keep you,
Pastor Darren



Kara Jessup



Heaven Addington



Sydney Drew



Chase Drew

"The Vision Realization Team"-Bishop Mike

(Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church)

Yesterday I preached at Blue Grass UMC (outside of Evansville) and helped to consecrate their beautiful new worship center. Blue Grass was a small country church with a long history dating back to the early 1800's, but in recent years it has grown into what many church consultants would call a "regional rural" church. With the opening of the new worship center, they are now averaging nearly 600 in attendance! The congregation gives much of the credit to their pastor (Doug Heiman) who has been there 17 years and who has led them to grow through many of the stages and "barriers," which often stop the growth of congregations. Such a long-term pastorate is productive when it is not just about staying a long time but about leading a congregation through a whole series of changes. In addition to their pastoral leadership, the congregation also has, as you would expect, a strong group of committed lay leaders.

I share all of that as a "glory sighting" of God at work, and also to share with you a new term that I learned yesterday: "Vision Realization Team."

In the entryway of their new worship facility (right next to the beautiful coffee area), the Blue Grass church has a drawing of their new facility and a listing of the various teams of leaders who helped with their building project. Many of those teams are what you might expect: a vision team, a building study team, a finance team, etc. But what caught my eye was this notation: "Vision Realization Team the entire congregation." That is a nice way of expressing a truth we sometimes overlook when we talk about "vision." I hear some people talk about "casting a vision" and others note that the leaders of the church must "own that vision." But I have never before seen the truth expressed that the whole congregation must be involved in REALIZING THE VISION. Leaders (pastors and lay leaders) who miss that truth are not likely to see their vision come to reality. When the vision is just the pastor's vision, it seldom goes far. When only the pastor and a few key leaders have the vision, it still is limited. The real test of a vision is whether the body of the congregation sees it, affirms it, and works to help make that vision a reality.

Blue Grass UMC is a congregation which seems to understand that it takes a whole congregation to fulfill a vision, to realize the dream, and to make it become a reality. Does the vote on the vision have to be 100 percent? No, but those who vote "no" must at least agree to offer their consent and to withhold their disapproval for the good of the whole church. Frankly I really admire church folks who don't completely agree with a new vision, new program, or new building but who agree to go along with the will of the body for the sake of the health of the body. Such persons become what I have called "the loyal opposition" who help to shape the vision by asking the tough questions that need to be asked, but who ultimately go along with the vision because they trust the will of the body.

The entire congregation is the Vision Realization Team. They literally bring the vision into reality. It was fun yesterday to be with a congregation as they celebrated their vision of an expanded ministry becoming a reality through the consecration of a new worship center. They are not finished with all of their plans, but they are already realizing their vision.

May it be so in every congregation of our Indiana Conference.

Wesley Kitchen News

Thanks goes out to **Judy Spence** for defrosting and cleaning out the upright freezer in the Wesley Kitchen. Thanks also to **Rhonda Fields** for the Pampered Chef wooden spoons that she donated for use in the kitchen. If you'd like to make a donation, the kitchen needs new cookie sheets, the current ones are old and yucky ☺

Wesley Schedule

Sundays

Sunday school for all ages 9:00 am

Traditional Worship 9:00am

Contemporary Worship 10:30am

June Servers

Traditional Greeters

Ron & Janelyn Greenhoff
Peggy Griffin; Colleen Butch

Traditional Ushers

John Butch; Ron Greenhoff
Ralph Threewits; Ray Griffin

Children's Sunday School

June 2: Scott Rush
June 9: Angie Cross
June 16: Darla Orians
June 23: Scott Rush
June 30: Angie Cross

Contemporary Greeters

June 2: Holts/Websters
June 9: Websters/Knoxes
June 16: Knoxes/Orians'
June 23: Orians'/Hardwicks

Donut Fellowship

June 2: Connie Claywell
June 9: Rick & Connie Gettinger
June 16: John & Angie Cross
June 23: Rick & Linda Lacy
June 30: Chris & Kathy Moore

Children's Worship

June 2: Danielle Downey
June 9: Jamie Kerns
June 16: Donna Webster
June 23: Alyssa Clevenger
June 30: Joyce Husmann

Altar Flowers

June 2: Nancy & Jim Dick
June 9: Butch Family
June 16: Sowinski Family
June 23: Kurt & Sherry Prescott
June 30: Jack & Ilene Cummings



**Church League Softball
beginning June 7. See Ron
Holt for details!!**

[Wesley Softball Schedule](#)

June 7- 6:30pm
June 14- 6:30pm
June 21- 9:00pm
June 28- 9:00pm
July 5- 7:45pm
July 12- 9:00pm
July 19- 7:45pm
July 26- 9:30pm
August 2- 6:30pm
August 2- 7:15pm
August 9- 7:15pm
August 9- 8:00pm

Players needed!

June Celebrations

	Birthdays
2	Katie Kerns
3	Pastor Don Brenneman
4	Nancy Dick
5	Ruth Warren
8	Traci Butch; Leslie Turner
9	Isaiah Green
12	Evie Downey; Ethan Kerns; Teri Sowinski; Asa Vaughn; Amy Wise
14	Mary Wise
15	Terresa Bradburn
16	Deborah Kemp; Mary Zimmers
19	Brennan Hoggatt; Kora Kerns
20	Darrell Breymier
21	Tom McConnell
22	Susan Rush
24	Sharmin Brenneman; Julie Holden
25	Charlie Baron
28	Ralph Threewits; Richard Wise
29	Colleen Butch
30	Jordan Grow; Scott Stachler

	Anniversaries
5	Richard & Mary Wise
6	Bill & Joyce Husmann; Gene & Barbara Huddleston
8	Jim & Jenny Crist; Scott & Melinda Stachler
13	Darren & Cheryl Williams
15	Craig & Danielle Downey
16	Phil & Linda DeHaven
19	Tom & Jamie Kerns
22	Jeff & Kelly Baron
23	John & Angie Cross
24	James & Karen Gilbert; Kim & Marilyn Peterson
28	Jack & Ilene Cummings
29	Jeff & Robin Spence



“Priorities and the Christian Life”

I recently read an article by pastor and author, Chris Willard. In his article **Generosity Becoming a Fundamental Spiritual Discipline for Churches** he lifts out some hard to hear facts regarding Christians and their giving habits. Take a look at the information he was able to find.

At least one out of five American Christians gives literally nothing to church, parachurch, or nonreligious charities, according to several national studies reported in the book **Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money** by Christian Smith and Michael Emerson. The rest average about 3% of pre-tax household income as annual donations to all religious and charitable causes (and by comparison, nonreligious Americans give less than 1% of their income on average).

Chris Willard serves with Leadership Network as director of generosity initiatives and premium services. He is the co-author of “Contagious Generosity: Creating a Culture of Generosity in Your Church”

If on average, Christians are only giving 3% of their income in charitable giving is it any wonder so many churches struggle to keep their ministries and outreach going let alone pay their bills? The sad truth is these figures stand in stark contrast to scripture where we are called to bring our first fruits and our best to the Lord. In other words, we're talking about our tithe.

For those who may not know, the word tithe comes from the Greek word dekatos which means tenth. As Christians we know that all that we have comes from God. We also know that God is generous beyond measure and we certainly cannot out-give God. What God asks from us is to give freely and give joyfully. This means God is not interested in imposing a “tax” on us or creating a hardship. God simply wants us to be able to fund the church and the ministries we are called to fulfill. In other words we are to give as a response to God's gracious giving to us.

If 10% seems like a lot let's see if we can't add a little perspective to the discussion. Consider for a moment what is commonly acceptable when it comes to tips we give to others for their services.

- Salon/ Barber gratuity: between 15% to 20%
 - The bartender: between 10% and 15%
 - Cab or limousine service: between 10% to 15%
 - Food Deliveries: between 1 -5 dollars
 - At a restaurant: between 15% to 20%
- (For bad or unacceptable service it is customary to tip as low as 10%)*

Obviously a percentage of a meal or service is different than a percentage of our income but it does provide a little insight into our culture and our priorities. I find it rather interesting how the recommendation for bad food service is 10%. I'm guessing most of us would do a lot less. But imagine what we are saying to God and all God so generally provides for us when, on average, Christians are only giving 3%.

So where does this leave us? It leaves us with this question. What are our priorities? If God is our first priority then following God's instructions on tithing should also be a priority. Our faith is reflected and seen in the time we spend praying, reading the scriptures, worshipping, witnessing, and serving others. These are all outward expressions of a deep inner faith that must be lived out and not just talked about. So yes, how we spend our money, how we save our money, how we earn our money, how we manage our money, and how we give our money is all a reflection of our walk with Christ.

So I would encourage everyone to take some time to pray and take stock of our giving to God through our church. What message are we giving God? What example are we setting for our families, children, friends, new Christians, and even those who don't attend a church? Are we giving our best or just giving out of what is left?

If you happen to be among those who have already learned the blessings of tithing I commend you and give God praise for your faithfulness. For those who are still learning or even hearing this for the first time I give thanks to God for you too. We don't all learn the same lessons from God at the same time and I have no doubt that God is already at work doing many wonderful things in your life with more yet to come. And I give God thanks because now that you do know I'm sure God will lead and guide you in this new step of faith.

May God bless you in your faith journey,

Pastor Darren



"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ~Matthew 24:32



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