

Spring Hill United Methodist Church

HIGHLIGHTS

**Our Mission: Make disciples of Jesus Christ.
How do we accomplish this mission?**

We...
**Seek Christ
Share Christ
Serve Christ**



January, 2012
Volume V, Issue 247

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

**POTLUCK
Second Sunday Breakfast
January 8**

**Methodist Men Meeting
January 4, 2012**

The Spring Hill United Methodist Men meet on the first Wednesdays of the month. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4. The meeting time will be at 8:00 pm at Keith Crouch's house (15436 W. 223rd Street). At the meetings, the group discusses projects, have a short bible study, play pool and darts, and have fellowship and refreshments. All men of the church are invited to attend. Please feel free to contact Keith at 913-533-2355 (email: crouchkp@yahoo.com) or the church office at 913-592-3660 (email: umcspringhill@gmail.com) for more information or directions to Keith's house.



FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

1st Sunday of each month

Bring non-perishable food items and leave them in the foyer as you walk into church. The food will be taken to the SH Multi Service

Center for the Community Food Pantry.

Monetary donations for the food pantry are also very much appreciated.

Make sure donated food is not expired or opened.

Church Conference

On Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., a church conference will be convened at the Spring Hill United Methodist Church. The purpose of the conference will be to discuss purchasing the property to the west of the church and to take a vote on buying the property. The property is the used car lot that is now out of business. All members are invited to attend the conference. If before the conference you would like questions answered about this matter, please contact Pastor Scott or a member of the Administrative Council. Thank you.

Questions asked and answered so far...

Q: *Can the church really afford this financially?*
A: *The money to potentially pay for the purchase of the land would be coming from the Building Fund to build the new church. One of the major donors to the Building Fund has given tentative approval to move money from the Building Fund to go for the purchase of the old car dealership. Currently, since the Building Fund has just enough money to pay for the benefit sewer district in full, and we have not aggressively tried to increase giving to the Building Fund, we would eventually (within 5 years) have to sell some of the land to make the remaining benefit sewer district payments. All along, we knew we would have to sell part of the new church land if we were ever going to build a new building. We could sell 5 to 7 acres of the land and still have enough land to build a church.*

Q: *Would they combine all the properties in terms of utility bills, or would they bill them separately because they would be metered separately?*

A: Presently, we get separate utility bills for the church building and for the parsonage. So my guess would be that we would receive separate utility bills for the building.

Q: Can anyone produce the utility cost annually for the building?

A: Jerry Floyd, the owner of the building, said that he would provide us with a listing of the utility costs.

Q: Are there any special assessments on the property?

A: There is an assessment of \$1,808.21 for property taxes that were due on 12/20/2011. That is half of the total taxes due each year. The next half is due in May. However, if we buy the building, we as a non-profit organization should not have to pay future property taxes, as long as we do not use it as a for profit business.

Q: Are there any large ticket expenditures expected in up keeping the building/ does the building seem to be in good repair?

A: There is a bad place in the floor where it appears a board has weakened. When you step on it, it sags. Jerry said that he wanted to fix it before the floor was carpeted, but was not able to get to it in time. The damage may have been the result of termites, which would call for a termite inspection. Other than the board, the building appears to be in good shape.. Before we make any decision to buy it, the trustees will tour the building to assess possible repair issues.

Q: Does anyone know much about the sign ordinances in Spring Hill, and what we can, and can't do, in terms of signage?

A: Based on the signs that LifeSpring Church has erected, we should be able to do the same.

Q: What is the appraised value of the property?

A: The appraised value of the property is \$103,000.00.

Q: Is office space the best way to utilize the building, or are there other ways we could utilize it?

A: The building could have a number of uses. We need to keep in mind that any use would require supervision from the church. By having the office located there, people would be more likely to come and visit with the pastor. With the office in the parsonage, some people are reluctant to visit with the pastor.

Q: If it were ever decided to lease the building to a business, what would the revenue be? (Could it make our sewer tax payment ?)

A: Leasing the building for a for-profit venture would put it on the property tax rolls.

Q: If we were ever to decide to tear the building down, what would that cost in today's dollars?

A: The assumption would be that when we get to the point of wanting to tear the building down, we would be in a much better financial situation to pay for its demise.

Q: What is the appraised value of the land, if it had no building?

A: The value of the land alone is \$38,500.00.

Q: Is the building constructed using any materials deemed as hazardous?

A: It was constructed in 1955 and could have whatever materials that were allowable back then.

Q: What is the benefit of having a sign on Webster?

A: The value of advertising in whatever form is hard to measure, without a good means to assess its value. However, a sign would draw more attention to the church.



On Tuesday, 1/10, at 9:00, we will restart the Son-Risers breakfasts. They will be potluck, so bring whatever you want to share. Pastor Scott will offer a study based on one of his recent sermons. If for the future, the group would like to do a different kind of study, we will discuss this. For now, plan on being there on 1/10 and enjoy breakfast with friends and a stimulating discussion.

Happy Anniversary!

Johnny & Debbie Ford January 4
Gerald & Deba Barker January 18

January Birthdays

January 4: Jenni Kohl
January 9: Rachel Krummel
January 10: Jim Lasseter
January 10: Patty Marshall
January 12: Betty Kelley
January 16: Valerie Krummel
January 24: Betty Miller
January 28: Cion Hamilton
January 30: Heather Mahoney
January 30: David Haney

Scripture for January

1/1/12
Matthew 2:1-12

1/8
Mark 1:4-11

1/15
! Samuel 3:1-20

1/22
Jonah 3:1-10

1/29

Fifth Sunday. Lay Leader giving message

Thank you to all...

We have experienced many Christmas blessings this holiday season, and are thankful for each and every person within the congregations.

We received so many beautiful cards with kind thoughts and warm wishes, some Christmas tree ornaments, a fruit basket, many homemade baked goods, a Christmas poinsettia, and other special gifts. The beautiful card and the gift card (money) from the congregation are much appreciated!

Reflecting back on this past Christmas holiday season, we appreciate the many ways you all have contributed financially and given generously of your time, talents, and service in:

- Preparing and serving holiday meals
- Donations of Christmas gifts for our three "special" families
- Donations for the food pantry
- Donations to help support the work of Spofford Home in Kansas City, which helps children who have physical, mental, and spiritual needs
- Support of Alter Jam, which is the praise band that practices at the Bucyrus church

Thanks to each and every person for your continued support and dedication to the Spring Hill and Bucyrus United Methodist Churches.

Grace, Peace, and Joy

Carol and Pastor Scott

Upper Room & Alive Now! Devotionals for January/February are available on the back table of the Sanctuary.

Community Living

A sermon based on Ephesians 4.1-16

By Pastor Scott Hannon

You may recall the television sitcom Cheers. For those of you who do not recall, it is about a bar named Cheers that is located in Boston. The slogan for the bar is “Where everybody knows your name.” The slogan used to entice me to seek out a place like Cheers because it presented an image of a friendly community where I would be welcomed and accepted. Many people are drawn to that kind of community. For instance, I am drawn to the community that exists at Price Chopper. Like there were at Cheers, there are some real characters at the Price Chopper community.

Undoubtedly, when the Apostle Paul was locked up in prison during the time in which he wrote the letter to the Ephesians, everybody knew his name and accepted him. For sure, however, it was not the kind of community he preferred. This illustrates an important distinction about communities, they are not alike and they are not always good for you. Certainly prison was not good for Paul.

From prison, Paul continued to teach members of the churches he founded. In the letter from which today’s scripture lesson is taken, Paul was teaching members of the church in Ephesus. He did not know that his letter would survive to be part of today’s bible. Had he known, I am sure he would give us the same advice as he gave to those ancient church members. So let’s begin our study of the scripture lesson.

Paul begins by teaching us about calling. Instead of a specialized calling, such as being called into ordained ministry, he is speaking about a calling that each one of us has received. As I have said many times before, when we are baptized, we are called into ministry. In the case of children who are

baptized, we prepare them for ministry through confirmation class.

To lead a life worthy of our common calling, Paul calls us to practice humility, gentleness, and patience. The practice of humility avoids the pride of one-up-man-ship, which causes persons to step on one another to get to the top. The practice of gentleness respects the feelings of others. And the practice of patience helps us relate well with persons who are slow to do or understand things. Of course, there are many other benefits to practicing those virtues, but listing each of them goes beyond the point I want to make. And that point is: Benefits that come from practicing those virtues help us live together in community, which is a very important aspect of the Christian life.

My favorite program as a child was the Lone Ranger. I enjoyed seeing the masked man fight for truth, justice, and freedom. Or did Superman do that? Well, at least I know the Lone Ranger had a horse named Silver. I still remember him saying, “Hi-ho Silver, away!” Today, as an adult, I realize the title for my favorite program was a lie. The Lone Ranger was not alone. He had Tonto. If my memory serves me well, often Tonto came to the Lone Ranger’s rescue. What this says to me is that the Lone Ranger depended upon community, albeit Tonto alone, to live long and prosper. Yes, that’s a line from Spock of Star-Trek fame, but the point is still sound: The Lone Ranger needed community. And we do too. We need community to live long and prosper.

We are created to live in community. For example, in Genesis 2:18, God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” It is interesting that God spoke these words after God told Adam that he should not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Up to that time, Adam could do anything and everything. Life was easy. But with this first prohibition, life

became more difficult. It seems God knew that for Adam to cope, he would need the help of another person. So Eve was created and the second community was created. Second community? The first community was the Trinity in which God related with God's self in the form of the creator, redeemer, and sustainer. Based on his experience in the community of the Trinity, God could not imagine being alone in the universe. God knew that Adam would be able to do much better if he could experience life in community.

Contending humanity has a need for community are the authors of the book entitled Churches That Make A Difference. They contend: "People are body-soul entities made for community. God created people to be connected by webs of social relationships."¹ As a negative proof for this contention, consider solitary confinement as a punishment to cohere an inmate to reform. The experience in solitary confinement separates the individual from his web of social relationships. Sooner or later, he experiences an inconsolable need for community and as a consequence, he breaks. Also contending humanity has a need for community is Howard J. Clinebell, Jr. In his book Mental Health Through Christian Community, he states, "Human beings have a spontaneous tendency toward grouping resulting from the fact that man is essentially a social being whose deepest personality needs can be satisfied only in relationships."²

Regarding the value of community, the Bible's silence about community speaks loud and clear. According to Samuel M. Powell, "The Bible assumes the importance of community for spiritual wellbeing to such an extent that it does not bother to argue for it. In the ancient setting, with a collectivist

¹ Ronald J. Sider, Philip N. Olson, and Heidi Rolland Unruh, *Churches That Make a Difference* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2002), 49, 50

² Howard J. Clinebell, Jr., *Mental Health Through Christian Community* (Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 1963), 152, 153

form of social organization, the overriding significance of the community was taken for granted. In fact, it is something that we must recover in some measure if we are to understand and practice Christian spirituality."³ When the ancients heard about Cain being banished for killing Abel, no one doubted that this was a punishment. It was taken for granted that community was vital for one's survival. As they say, "The more things change, the more they remain the same." Community is still vital for one's survival. In fact, as Powell implies, community is vital for understanding and practicing Christian spirituality.

To emphasize unity, Paul tells us there is: one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. Even though it seems like we worship different lords, there is only one Lord. And even though there are many different ways to practice our faith, there is only one faith. And finally, even though there are different practices of baptism, there is only one baptism. Also to emphasize unity, John B. Foley, the composer of the hymn *One Bread, One Body*⁴ gives us these lyrics: "One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord." The point is: All of us are members of the same body.

In verse seven, Paul begins to make an important clarification. By saying each one of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift, Paul is saying we have been gifted differently. Accordingly, we will express our faith differently. You will think, say, and do things to express your faith that will be different from the things I think, say, and do to express my faith. Expressing unity as a family does not entail acting like identical twins. Our dissimilar blessings make that impossible.

³ Samuel M. Powell, *A Theology of Christian Spirituality* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005), 36.

⁴ The United Methodist Hymnal, number 620

