



The Flame

News from Rockwood United Methodist Church

April 2016

Volume V Issue XIII

Springtime Greetings from Pastor Bill

Time marches onward! The last time I sat and composed an essay for the newsletter, winter had quite a grip on us hearty East Tennesseans! We knew Springtime would come, and waiting for the change of weather patterns at times tried our patience! Now that moderating temperature are ours to enjoy, we relax just a bit. Alas! Relax as we may, yard work brings other sets of stressor to our bodies and souls! Life is real, and life is wonderful! May God give us the Grace to enjoy and celebrate all of life's realities and wonders!!

Springtime 2016 produces political campaigns in government as well in United Methodism. We United Methodists send elected delegates to Portland, Oregon, May 10-20, 2016 to conduct the doctrinal and administrative protocols and procedures of our international membership. Certain key issues regarding faith and practice once again will be discussed, prayed about and voted upon. Prayers once again are needed from local churches for those with responsibilities at the General Conference.

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the UMC opens Wednesday, July 13, 2016 and concludes Friday, July 16, 2016. Considerable administrative business will transpire during these three days of meetings. Each Jurisdiction on United Methodism will legislate how items voted upon and passed by the General Conference are implemented. Of course, the most visible and exciting order of business at every Jurisdictional Conference is the election of new bishops. For some, these episcopal elections reveal to the church and the world directions for ministry and mission in our world-wide congregation of United Methodism.

In 2016 our nation undergoes the throes of campaigns for elected offices from the President of the United States to multiple local officials. I am nearly three quarters of a century old and have been keenly interested in presidential politics from earliest times. Never, and I mean never, have I seen and heard of such grossly disgusting rhetoric and ill-mannered behavior of some presidential candidates as what all of us witness these days. Now, dear friends and members of Rockwood UMC, I know the written and unwritten dictum states that politics and religion are supposed to remain separated; however, if the "Christian Religious Right" condones such behavior of their candidates, I think it past time that those of us who also call ourselves followers of the Christ need to engage in serious prayer campaigns to ask God to adjust in a positive way the behavior patterns of certain candidates!! What will our children and youth think? What does God think?

Prayer is the order of the day!! Let us be faithful!!

The Lord's Name Be Praised!!!

Pastor Bill



Lectionary Readings, Hymns, Sermon Texts and Titles April 2016

April 3, 2016 – Second Sunday of Easter – Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lectionary - Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Sermon Text - John 20:19-31

Sermon Title - "Thomas – From Doubt to Faith"

Hymn of Praise - "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", #384

Hymn of Dedication - "Ye Servant of God", #181

April 10, 2016 – Third Sunday of Easter

Lectionary – Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Sermon Texts – John 21:1-19

Sermon Title – "Breakfast with the Lord!"

Hymn of Praise – "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name", #154

Creed – "The Apostles' Creed", #881

Hymn of Reflection – "Rescue the Perishing", #591

Hymn of Dedication – "Go, Make of All Disciples", #571

April 17, 2016 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary – Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

Sermon Texts – Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

Sermon Title – "The Good Shepherd and His Sheep"

Hymn of Praise – "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want", #136

Creed – "The Nicene Creed", #880

Hymn of Reflection – "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee", #175

Hymn of Dedication – "Precious Lord, Take My Hand", #474

April 24, 2016 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary – Acts 11:1-15; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Sermon Text – Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Sermon Title – "Creating All Things New!"

Hymn of Praise – "Holy, Holy, Holy", #64

Creed – "The Nicene Creed", #880

Hymn of Reflection – "Jesus Loves Me", #191 and

"There's a Spirit in the Air", #192

Hymn of Dedication – "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken", #731

A complete list of Lectionary Passages is found at lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu.
At: <http://www.gbod.org/worship>, find "Lectionary Calendar" in the table of contents and search the various passages for each Sunday.

Upcoming Events

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Sermon Series for May and June

Rev. Fowler usually follows the Revised Common Lectionary Bible reading in considering what God wishes for His people to hear from the pulpit through Sunday sermons. Now, the Holy Spirit is drawing your pastor's attention away from the lectionary readings to sermons derived from examinations of the basic Doctrines of the People Called Methodists.

John Wesley, a very prominent 18th Century Anglican preacher and theologian, began with his brother, Charles, a spiritual and religious revolution that eventually evolved into the Methodist Church. John Wesley's sermons are considered the seminal authority for Faith and Practice of the people called "Methodists." Charles Wesley's hymns, many of which are in our United Methodist hymnal, are understood to be excellent examples of applied Wesleyan theology through the medium of music.

During the Sundays of May and June, Rev. Fowler will use both the sermons and hymns in his sermons to illustrate our fundamental starting points for faith and practice.

Come! Bring your friends!

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Wednesday Evening Bible Study ~ New Format

Traditionally, each Wednesday at 6:30 pm several members and friends of Rockwood UMC meet to hold a Prayer Meeting and to study the Holy Scriptures. Usually, Rev. Fowler announces which book of the Bible we will study in a verse by verse fashion. For the next three months, members of the group select which verses or topics they wish to examine. Then, your pastor researches biblical and theological resources and reports to the study group for discussion.

This past Wednesday, April 6th, our discussion addressed the question suggested by one of regular Bible study participants: "Does God still speak with people through dreams, as He did in the Scriptures?" Our sharing was very informative and on occasion quite humorous! We continued the discussion on dreams April 13th

Our next topic is the original meaning of the Bible, and we start this issues on May 4th. Come and join us!

Submit your questions for study to Rev. Fowler though email, text messaging or you can contact Wanda. We look forward to seeing you this coming Wednesday evening, at 6:30 pm.

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Love Kitchen

Our next evening of service will be Saturday, May 28th. Thank you to the congregation for your love and support as we help provide this valuable service to our neighbors. As usual, we will need volunteers to prepare food, serve and clean up. Also, we need donated prizes for **BINGO**.

Our other 2016 Love Kitchen dates are set for 2016 (August 27th and November 12th) so mark your calendar and plan to help with this worthwhile local mission.

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Lunch for Linda

We will have a potluck lunch after church service on May 1st. A love offering will be collected to help with the expense of Linda's medical care. Please bring dish to share!

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RUMC is on the Web

Check out our website! Send your Photos and suggestions to Keith Easter, our church webmaster.

rockwoodumc.com

<http://thegathering.holston.org>

<http://rumcmusic.com/2016-hymns>

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Mark Your Calendar ~ Every Week

Sunday ~

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. ~ Worship -11:00 a.m. ~ Sunday evening ~Youth Bible Study ~ 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Monday ~ AA Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday ~ Choir 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday ~ Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday ~ NA Meeting 7:00 p.m.



Sisters of Service

The SOS welcomes the women of the church to join us for fellowship, church and community outreach and a little fun! Based on feedback from the group, we are changing our meeting to the **second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm**. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 12th. We have lots of opportunities to make a positive impact in our community and our church in 2016. We are planning many traditional events along with some new surprises. Please join us for 2016!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 1stLunch for Linda
- May 5th ...NA at 7:00 p.m. First meeting for this group.
- May 8th ...Mother's Day
- May 10th ...SOS at 5:30 p.m. (New Date)
- May 28th ...Love Kitchen

Holy Week

A big "thank you" to the ladies who prepared and served lunch for Holy Week on April 22nd at First Christian Church in Rockwood. Special thanks to JoBelle Masters for coordinating this event.

Relay for Life

Also a big "Thanks" goes to Kathy Cole & Jewel Breeden for organizing the Roane County Relay for Life luncheon on April 10th following the morning worship service. Also to everyone who brought food and helped in any way for this event!!

Kids Korner

We need volunteers to help serve at Kid's Café on the 4th Monday of each month at 4:15 p.m. at Evans Heights. Upcoming dates: April 25th and May 23rd.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, March 19th, we hosted our annual This popular annual Easter Egg Hunt including a pizza lunch with the Easter Bunny. will be Saturday March 19th from 11 am to 1 pm. We had ~80 people including over 40 little egg hunters. Thanks to everyone who helped make the day a huge success!



Our Youth in Action

"The God Squad!"

Late Sunday afternoon our United Methodist Youth Fellowship met with Rev. Fowler and Mr. Richard Dickson for their weekly get-together. We appreciated videos on Baptism, Confirmation and the Lord's Supper. We also saw how the politics of the Roman Empire meshed with the faith and practice of the Roman Catholic Church to support and to corrupt the early church in its basic presentation of the Christian Faith.

Following these presentations, the youth decided they needed name and a specific meeting room! "The God Squad" is how they wish to be addressed, and the small yellow room at the end and on the right of the hallway of the second wing of our building facilities is now the claimed room for "***The God Squad***" (pending a positive vote by the Board of Trustees!)

The charter members of "***The God Squad***" are: Jenna Dickson, Breanna and Alyssa Harold, Reaghan McNelly and Tre' Thompson.

Let all of us support our newly formed youth department. They are an exciting, energetic group!! They will be calling upon you for help!!