

Faith Calls...

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Pastor's Thoughts

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Vital

As I write this article, Annual Conference 2017 is winding down and about to end. By normal standards, it was uneventful. The fact that we can have an uneventful meeting gives me some assurance we can continue to be the church and disciple makers.

Our theme this year was "Vital." Bishop Mueller stated, "Whenever I hear the phrase "vital congregation," I think of a church that is vibrant, passionate, energetic, excited, enthusiastic, hopeful and fruitful." In our context, vital means we are creating disciples of Jesus Christ to create disciples of Jesus Christ. Bishop Mueller rightly follows by saying that bishops, district superintendents, conference staff and annual conferences do not make disciples, congregations do.

A vital congregation is on fire with the Holy Spirit. It seeks to do the will of God. It prays constantly for guidance and discernment. It also recognizes the need to be willing to transform itself into what responds to the needs of its mission field.

But most of all, it is never still. There is a lot of work involved in becoming vital. Such a congregation is never satisfied with its present self and always seeks new avenues to serve. They give their time, sweat and resources to see the kingdom realized. Simply put, they love God and neighbor more than self and their things.

It is never just about numbers, it is always about the quality. Small churches can have a tremendous impact. Regardless of size, people who see the church doing what it should are a great deal more inclined to want to be a part of the fun.

Let's find our path and begin to follow it. We don't know where it will take us, or how long it will take us to get there. I can assure you lots of work along with an equal amount of fun.

Shalom,
Bro. David

Peanut Butter: We are collecting 16 oz. jars of peanut butter through July 16th. These will be given to the Food Pantry at Geyer Springs UMC. Their pantry is open on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Any help that you might give is greatly appreciated. Helping on Thursdays is a rewarding experience.

Live Your Legacy: A Lunch and Learn program dealing with financial gift giving and planning will begin meeting at Faith UMC on July 20th. They will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month, 11:30-1:30. This meeting is free and open to all who are interested in making plans for the future. Call 224-0021 to RSVP.

Recycle your Inkjet Cartridges: This is a new fund raiser at Faith. Place you used or unused inkjet cartridges in the green box in the "sunroom". (No toner needed).

Birthdays

7/6, Dot English
 7/9, Ellen McCloskey
 7/10, Billy English
 Elizabeth Childs
 7/14, Bobbye Floyd
 7/17, Wes Gross
 7/18, Mary Gann

Day of Prayer

"The purpose of "Praying Our Way Forward" is to ask and listen for God's guidance at this important time in the life of our church," Bishop Mueller said. "The United Methodist of Arkansas are a people of prayer and I have confidence you will join with others across the globe in praying for the Church."

Each of our 5 districts in AR is to be responsible for one 24-hour period of the week beginning July 16. Our Central District has been assigned **July 17th**. Please set aside a 30 minute time frame and be in prayer for the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and for the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

May Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
5/7	53	\$ 5,268
5/14	46	\$ 1,750
5/21	48	\$ 1,961
5/28	43	\$ 893
		\$ 9,872
Noisy Offering		\$ 142
Renovation		\$ 490
Books for Brady		\$ 408

Deadline for Aug. newsletter is July 15, 2017

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