

# Faith Calls...

February, 2019

## Pastor's Thoughts

Reverend David Hoffman, Sr. Pastor (501)475-6397

Office@Faithumc-lr.org (e-mail)

www.faithumc-lr.org (website)

## THREE NOT-SO-SIMPLE THOUGHTS

**Birthdays**  
 2/4, Shari Cross  
 2/20, Lacey Gross  
 2/21, Margaret Park  
 2/23, Joan Hamilton  
 2/26, Terry Young

**Anniversary**  
 Rev. Nat & Nona Grady  
 1/14

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January has come and is very nearly gone. I hope your new year has gotten off to a good start and the black-eyed peas and greens are beginning to show some results. February is now upon us and Valentine's Day will come soon, then Lent and Easter.

February will also bring the special called General Conference in St. Louis, February 23-26. I would love for the Conference to be over so we can go back to being the church. Perhaps I'm too optimistic. We cannot kick the matter down the road to the next General Conference, these issues must be resolved.

John Wesley gave us three simple rules, which are (1) do no harm, (2) do good and (3) stay in love with the Lord. I would commend these rules to you as these matters are considered and voted upon.

The admonition to do no harm is to be liberally applied, most particularly to the people who will be impacted most by the decisions. Our LGBTQ brothers and sisters already feel marginalized by the church. I pray the

church takes no action that would further marginalize anyone. Our job is to love all, and let God do God's work. Do we truly expect that God will love us more because we put this language in the Discipline or less if the language is not there?

I challenge the church as a whole to find a way to make this an opportunity to do something good. Our social principles declare that all people are persons of sacred worth. We can do better than we have done in the past. God will test us on how we treat others, and the questions will probably be worth significant points.

Staying in love with God should entail your very prayerful search for God's will for your life. Worship and praise God. Study and sharpen who you are as a disciple. Live a life worthy of emulation. To the best of your ability, avoid sin. When you sin, seek forgiveness and strength not to repeat the offense. But in all of this, never believe that we are "in love with the Lord" if we do anything that

diminishes any person. Let God weigh the soul of others.

I am not able to declare what will happen at General Conference. I do know that the church will be forever changed, how much change remains to be seen. In the midst of all this, I stand by my commitment as a pastor to do nothing that will harm a fellow believer.

I'm expecting you to pray for the United Methodist Church, for the General Conference, for our delegation and for Faith Church. Not asking, expecting. And when you think you've prayed enough, pray some more. These matters are too important to the church as a whole and to many, many members. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Shalom,

*Bro. David*



**December Stats**

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
12/2	65	\$5,075
12/9	56	2,748
12/16	63	2,990
12/23	62	2,837
12/24	75	238
12/30	61	3,716
Total		\$ 17,604
Noisy Offering	\$	109
Renovation	\$	1,970
Walkway repair	\$	100
Christmas Offering	\$	445



Be in prayer each day.

Be in prayer for The United Methodist Church, the General Conference, for our delegation, and for Faith United Methodist Church.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Each Monday, 10am, Prayer Watch  
Each Wed., 11am, Dominoes  
6 pm, Choir Practice

2/1, Faith Friends dinner, Corky's

2/8, Parent's Night Out

2/9, Valentine's Dinner at Faith UMC

3/2, Vision Day

6/15, Church Picnic, all invited

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2018**

by Harold Bristow, Administrative Board Chairman

The Administrative Board approved three new policies needed for the church. They are (1) Personnel Policy, (2) Financial Policy, and (3) Safe Sanctuary Policy. If you'd like to review, see Bro. David or Harold Bristow.

The church directory has been updated. Pictures will be added upon securing the photos.

With a grant from the District Conference we were able to purchase a Braille Embosser. Bulletins, songs, and needed information are now available to those with vision impairments.

The deteriorating door in Fellowship Hall was replaced with a metal door which is wider and more handicap accessible. Parking lots were restriped.

The Roof Fund balance was reduced by \$31,804 giving us a balance of \$48,884.

A certified CPR instructor conducted 2 CPR classes. Certificates were awarded to those who completed the classes.

Faith UMC sponsored five Fish Fries and several Parents' Night Out functions were enjoyed by children. Many items were gathered for various missions: Pac Shack, Cereal Drive, Hygiene Kits, and Books for Grady. The Prayer Room was open daily for individuals to use.

The Administrative Board participated in a STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS analysis. Goals were set to address the needed improvements.

The lighting throughout the church was completed with new LED bulbs in place. Thermostats were replaced and are now controlled by computers in the offices. We can control the temperature in specific areas of the church for different times and events.

The new security system is now operative. A call button is in place outdoors, next to the door of the Administrative Assistant's office. This allows the door to be opened as the need arises. Five outdoor cameras are in place and may be monitored from this same office.

We welcomed seven new members to Faith UMC in 2018. Some of our functions provided guests an opportunity to visit our church. Several felt comfortable and were impressed with our people skills.

## What is Vision Day?

Vision Day is a one-day training event that teaches churches how to reach all kinds of people in all kinds of places. It is not just a seminar. It is a participative, creative gathering of practitioners and pioneers. During this one-day seminar, you will explore:

- How fresh expressions of church are renewing the Church around the world
- What it means for your church to be Mission-Shaped
- How to intentionally engage with the community beyond your church walls
- Tools for starting fresh expressions of church in your area

## What is Fresh Expressions?

Fresh Expressions is a movement that is cultivating new forms of church alongside existing congregations in order to reach a changing world. Begun in England 10 years ago, it has resulted in the birth of over 2,500 new communities in the UK alone. Fresh expressions has spread to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and is also taking shape in the US. At its heart, Fresh Expressions is about empowering and equipping God's people to develop creative expressions of church that can reach the increasing diversity of our society.

Is Vision Day for you? It is if you are...

- A pioneering leader with a passion for starting new things?
- A local pastor or leader who wants to empower your church outside your walls?
- A regional or denomination leader looking for a transformative strategy?

Sign-up on the FYI table at Faith UMC, or call the church office and ask for assistance in registering for the seminar. Our church will cover the fee for you to attend this educational event. Details below.

### Vision Day

**March 2, 2019 ~ 9:30am-3:30pm**

**Trinity United Methodist Church**

**1101 N. Mississippi, LR, AR 72207**

**(Sponsored by Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church)**

Don't miss this great opportunity to grow as a Christian and to help others know and love the word of God. Please be in prayer that the Lord will lead you in a direction that will change your life and the lives of others.

### Administrative Board

Ben Allen  
 Trinette Barnes  
 Harold Bristow, Chairman  
 Cliff Coker  
 Gary Horton  
 Becky Lay  
 Virginia McCastlain  
 Ellen McCloskey  
 Dianna Noe  
 Robert Rutt  
 Ginny Ryan  
 Brenda Smith

# February, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> <u>5:30 p.m.</u> , Faith Friends, Corky's	<i>2</i> <i>Groundhog Day</i>  *to encourage others
<i>3</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship Service, Communion	<i>4</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Choir Practice	<i>7</i> <u>11:30 a.m.</u> Alzheimer's AR RSVP 224-0021	<i>8</i> <u>6:30-9:30p.m.</u> Parents' Night Out	<i>9</i> <u>5:00 p.m.</u> Valentine's Day Dinner  *to rejoice in each day
<i>10</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship Service	<i>11</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Choir Practice	<i>14</i> <u>11:30 a.m.</u> Senior Networking	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>   *to be in prayer for our church & con- ference leaders
<i>17</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship Service	<i>18</i> <i>Presidents' Day</i>  <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>19</i> <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Administrative Board meeting	<i>20</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Choir Practice	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>   *to meditate daily
<i>24</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Worship Service	<i>25</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>26</i> <u>1:00 p.m.</u> UMW	<i>27</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Choir Practice	<i>28</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Cure PSP		*Please pray for things listed above.

## Scripture

*"Let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." —Matthew 5:16*