

September, 2018

Faith Calls...

Pastor's Thoughts

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The Art and Science of Renewal

Bobbie recently gave a copy of an article on Garden Club renewal written by Donna Rauch, their Membership Chairman for their periodic newsletter. The article struck familiar notes with me concerning church renewal.

Church renewal begins with some realizations. First, is to realize that the "same" has become the "same old." The second realization comes when we realize the same old isn't working anymore to attract anyone new. Then, the most painful realization. Put in question form, it is "Do we want to change?" When we are happy and comfortable with our church, it is easy to think "I like it, everyone else should like it too." Nothing is further from the truth.

Change without a focus or goal or just to do something different is not renewal. Renewal comes when we set aside our wants and desires to discern what will draw others to us to begin a journey of discipleship. I don't mean names on the roll, I mean disciples who are living out faith, following Jesus' path.

A process of renewal requires us to forget about ourselves and focus on others. When you become a member, church stops

being about you. When you become a disciple, you take your place working to create other disciples from those who follow. It is now all about the new person. You have not been demoted, you remain essential to the faith and the process of discipleship. It is also essential that we become the agents of renewal.

Before we start toward renewal you should pray for the greater church and for our local church. Ask for a spirit within you that wants to disciple others and is open to change when change is necessary. Then begin the path.

The first point on the checklist is ourselves. Disciples serve as a living example of faith. Our faith is out in front for everyone to see. If we are not living as a good example people don't want any part of us or what we preach. If we expect renewal, we must first be renewed.

Second, we must be a place that looks like we care. I emphasize appearance of the building and grounds for the simple reason people will not give us a second look if they think we don't care about how we look. Maintenance is important and for the same reason.

Our welcomes must be genuine. Nothing further need be said, you do this well.

I have obligations as well. I will preach and teach about a God of all-inclusive love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy and grace sufficient for all needs. I will also preach and teach about Jesus, who gave us the path to salvation. When asked, I will offer counsel to those who seek.

Finally, we all must be mindful of what our community needs from us. The greatest way we evangelize is to serve our neighbors in ways that demonstrate the depth of our faith and our desire to follow Jesus' example. For renewal we must discern what our community needs from a church and quickly move to satisfying those needs. Today's generation wants to know if we are sincere in our faith. It is proven that people who are seeking a church home or are struggling with the first calls of discipleship are attracted to places where they see faith at work.

I am excited to continue this journey with you.

Shalom,

Bro. David

Birthdays

- 9/9, Kisa Bellamy
- 9/13, Amy Dyer
- 9/20, Ginger Robertson
- 9/21, Pat Norman
- 9/26, Cliff Stewart

Anniversaries

- 9/18, Robert & Anita Rutt

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Worship Bulletins for Children are on the table (rear of church). Be sure that you get one. Colors and other items are on the shelves of bookcase in the foyer.

SAVE THE DATE...

Each Monday, 10am, Prayer Watch

Each Wednesday, 11am, Dominoes

9/2, Worship Service & Communion

9/3, Labor Day, church office closed

9/14, 6:30pm, Parent's Night Out

9/18, 6:30pm, Administrative Board meeting

9/21, 6:00pm, Fish Fry

9/25, 1:00pm, UMW meeting

9/30, 5th Sunday Potluck follows
Worship Service

Watch for fresh produce at our Markham St. parking lot. Open Thur., Fri., and Sat.



"Family and Friends" CPR, 15 in Attendance

"Family and Friends" CPR met Saturday, August 11, at Faith's Fellowship Hall. Fifteen attended the 3 hour session led by Kandice Mitchell of the American Heart Association.

Those attending were able to learn skills needed to help save a life.

Other courses will be offered soon. Watch for more information.



Stacy Cockrell has a new e-mail address and would like to share it with you.

StacyLea2021@gmail.com

Are You Ready for Fall?

Plans are already being made for the Pumpkin Patch that will be set up on the lawn of Faith UMC. Begin spreading the word to your neighbors and friends. It will be open for business Oct. 6 through Oct. 31.

A variety of colors, shapes, and sizes will be available in the pumpkins this year, and prices will vary. For those who enjoy selling the pumpkins and visiting with the customers, a sign-up sheet will be available soon. The weather should be cooler and it will be a good opportunity for us to meet folks and introduce them to our friendly members.

Cards will be available to give the customers inviting them to attend worship services at Faith. Workers may want to write a message on the card and sign their names. This may help guests to feel more comfortable entering the sanctuary and knowing the name of one of our members. The card will also have our e-mail and website addresses.



A Message from our Bishop

God is Faithful

There are times you hurt so deeply that life—or at least your current situation—seems hopeless. So you pray, lean into your faith and wait for things to get better. But they don't. In fact, sometimes they get worse. So you doubt yourself. You doubt God. And you wonder what's next. That's the very moment you need to take a gigantic leap of faith by trusting God enough to look for what God is doing in your life instead of what you think God should be doing. This is not a pie-in-the-sky faith. It's real faith for real people in real life. And it works for one simple reason. God is faithful.

Wesley's Three Rules

- **Gain all you can.** Despite its potential for misuse, money in itself is something good. There is no end to the good it can do: "In the hands of (God's) children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of a husband to the widow, and of a father to the fatherless. We may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain. It may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame: yea, a lifter up from the gates of death!"
- **Save all you can.** He urged his hearers not to spend money merely to gratify the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eye, or the pride of life. He cried out against expensive food, fancy clothes, and elegant furniture: "Despise delicacy and variety and be content with what plain nature requires."
- **Give all you can.** One's giving should begin with the tithe. He told the one who does not tithe, "Thou dost undoubtedly set thy heart upon thy gold" and warned, "it will eat thy flesh as fire!"

2018 Growing Disciples Summit

Eight Faith UMC members and Bro. David registered for the Growing Disciples Summit held at St. James UMC on Aug. 25. We look forward to hearing the reports regarding the keynote speaker and the workshops offered.

July Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
7/1	49	\$ 7,159
7/8	53	3,013
7/15	57	1,419
7/22	42	1,489
7/29	58	<u>3,533</u>
	Total	\$ 16,613
Noisy Offering		\$ 80
Renovation		\$ 800
Memorials		\$ 25

Administrative Board

Ben Allen
Trinette Barnes
Harold Bristow, Chairman
Jerry Brummett
Carolyn Eubanks
Gary Horton
Virginia McCastlain
Ellen McCloskey
Dianna Noe
Robert Rutt
Ginny Ryan
Brenda Smith



LOVE
Never fails.

CHARACTER

Never quits.

AND WITH PATIENCE
AND PERSISTENCE

DREAMS

Do come true.

—Pete Maravich



September, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 *family & friends
2 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service, Communion	3 <i>Labor Day</i> Church office CLOSED	4	5 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice	6 6:30 p.m., Scouts Organiza- tional Meeting	7	8 *Church family & neighbors
9 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service	10 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	11 Scout Meeting	12 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir	13 11:30 a.m., Sr. Networking	14 6:30-9:30p.m., Parents' Night Out	15 *Our nation
16 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service	17 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	18 6:30 p.m., Administrative Board meeting Scout Meeting	19 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice	20	21 6:00 p.m., <i>Fish Fry</i> \$12, 2 pc. Dinner \$14, 3 pc. Dinner	22 *newborns
23 9:45 a.m., Sunday School 11:00 a.m., Worship Service	24 10:00 a.m., Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	25 1:00 p.m., UMW meeting Scout Meeting	26 11:00 a.m., Dominoes/Bring your lunch 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice	27 11:00 a.m., Cure PSP	28	29 *animals in adoption centers *Please pray for those listed above.
30 SS, Worship, POTLUCK						

Scripture

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

—Galatians 6:9