

July 2019

Paula's Pondering

I was cleaning out my file cabinet at church last week, and I came across a paper entitled "St. Mark's United Methodist Church Expectations of Members." I'm not sure when or even if this was circulated, or which former pastor initiated it, but it has some very good guidelines for church membership that ought to be revisited.

The first expectation is that every member of the church will pray for the congregation, the community, and the world. Prayer should always be our starting point, and everything we do must be immersed in prayer. I would hope that each member and regular attender of St. Mark's is keeping the church and its work in the community in their daily prayers, asking for God's guidance and strength.

The second expectation is that every member will worship regularly. The document didn't specify what "regularly" means, however. I would clarify the expectation to say every member would make it a priority to be in worship weekly whenever they are not sick, not working, and not in town. I recognize that things come up – the weather is bad, there are family obligations, sporting events, etc., but by making worship a priority, you are putting God first in your life. Indeed, that is what worship is all about. It's a weekly reminder that God is God and you are not.

Thirdly, a member of St. Mark's will continue to grow in their faith by participating in a small group study. This expectation recognizes that none of us has arrived – that each one of us must continue to grow into the likeness of Christ as long as we continue to draw breath. It also recognizes that Sunday morning worship is not the place to grow in your faith. Every member, and regular attenders too, should be in a small group Bible study and/or faithfully attend Sunday School. It is in these small group settings that spiritual growth can take place as you learn about Jesus, explore and model Christian behavior, and are nurtured by and nurture others.

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The fourth expectation listed is that each member of St. Mark's will give in proportion to their income. Membership in anything means you'll support the institution and its goals, and membership in a church is no exception. Of course, the biblical standard of financial support is the tithe, traditionally the king's portion, which is 10% of your income. Giving a tithe of your income is a fair way of supporting the church because, despite your income, while the gift might be different, everyone's sacrifice is the same. While giving 10% might seem too daunting, giving a percentage of your income, say 5%, and then increasing it by 1% or 2% each year is a good way to work up to a tithe and even beyond a tithe. By the way, tithing comes with a challenge from God – see Malachi 3:10.

The final expectation listed is to serve God with your hands, by volunteering in service to the congregation, the community, and the world. The Bible has a lot to say about those who say they have faith but never put it into action. Christianity is not a spectator sport, and Jesus doesn't need fans in the stands. Jesus needs people who will get their hands dirty and risk getting their heart broken. Sadly, only about 20% of the people in any given church do 80% of the work of the church. The chances are good, therefore, that you are not doing your share. Why not? There are lots of excuses – I'm

too busy, I'm too old, I don't have any skills – but they are just excuses. The biggest complaint I hear is that we have all these great ideas for needed ministries but no one to do them. My prayer for the past 6 years has been that the Holy Spirit will light a fire in this church – not a literal fire, but a spiritual awakening that will motivate and mobilize this church. Our mission field is literally right outside our doors, but it's largely untapped because we don't have enough people willing to help out. Each one of you has been uniquely created and equipped for the mission and ministry of this church. That means that no one else can properly do whatever you are here to do. Moreover, if they try to fill your spot, not only will they not be as successful as you would have been, they won't be filling the role they were created and equipped to do. The bottom line is we need each and every one of you to do your part if we are to be the church God placed in this place at this time.

All of these expectations are part of the Baptismal Vows each member promised at their baptism and renews at baptisms of others – "...faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

Blessings,

Pastor Paula

Upcoming Events

6/30.....Potluck for Amy Armstrong

7/4.....July 4

7/7.....Communion

Sunday Sermons

7/7 Life Hacks: The Gold Standard Matthew 7:12

7/14 Life Hacks: Requirements of the Lord... Micah 6:11-12

7/21 Life Hacks: 6 Words To Set You Free Matthew 5:23-24

7/28 Life Hacks: Generosity Hacks Mark 12:41-44

8/4 Life Hacks: The Big One

Birthdays

July

7/1 Mary Morris

7/4 America

7/6 Rob Smith

7/7 Joseph Brison, Sr.

7/8 Joseph Hoeshele,

7/11 Beckie Stark

7/20 Glenda Price

7/31 Carol Marcks



United Methodist Women's Minutes

Five members were present for the Wednesday, June 5 meeting.

Carol Marcks opened the meeting with a devotional. There was no Treasurer's report.

A memorial offering of \$100 was sent in honor of former pastor Charles Holt to Missouri United Methodist Foundation. We will ask that the donation be added to scholarship fund.

UMW held the June 9 worship service. Beckie Stark organized the service and Shirley Weaver gave the message. Twenty-five (25) pocket tokens were given to male congregants on Father's Day.

Ice cream sundaes will be served on **Monday, July 29**, to the campers at the hemophiliac camp near Lawson, MO. UMW will purchase ice cream if we cannot get a donation from Sun Fresh.

A **potluck dinner** will be given In honor of Amy Armstrong after church **Sunday, June 30**, and to wish her well as she begins her pastoral service at the Wellsville, Jonesburg, and Pendleton churches.

Phone Prayer Chain

If you know of a member going to the hospital, have a need, a concern, or a joy, please call someone on the following list, starting at the top, if possible. Call any time, day or night. If the person you call is not at home, leave a message or call the next person on the list.

Pat Townsend 373-3915 or 225-9459
 Rosemary Garten 427-5725 or 519-8500
 Carol Marcks 427-5725 or 560-5627
 Marilyn Berry 796-5789
 Lucille Bolen 560-5131
 Mary Branstad 796-9659 or 868-3752
 Ann Fiene 257-5214
 Jackie Leffingwell 257-1123
 Linda Roberts 650-5131 or 853-3398

Prayer Chain



Carol Buhle 796-3630 or 225-8174
 Shirley Weaver 461-9224 or 716-1184
 Chris Pauley 571-3922
 Gayle Elliott 257-9655
 Arletta Cahill 600-9203
 Flora Costanza 914-8034
 Sandy Bower 373-5603
 Anna Inman (660) 232-1221
 Jackie McMenemy 461-7577

Bread Of Life Food Pantry

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are open **Wednesday from 3-5:00pm and Saturday from 5-7:00pm.**

No appointment is needed. We need about two volunteers to help on Saturday.

We now need weekly donations! The following items are needed for the week of:

- 7/7 Toilet Paper
- 7/14 Dish Soap
- 7/21 Bar Soap/Body Wash
- 7/28 Shampoo & Conditioner

Thank you for your donations!

Web: www.facebook.com/BreadOfLifeStUMC

2019	FAMILIES	PEOPLE	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
MAY	Not Reporting Available			



Annual Conference Report

This year's Annual Conference was held June 7-9 in Springfield, Missouri. The conference opened with a worship service led by our Bishop Bob Farr. He challenged us to come together to heal following the contentious special session of General Conference which was held earlier this year. Even as we Methodists may disagree, it's important to realize there is no way that all will be satisfied with the result,

but that we are still all fellow citizens in the Kingdom of God and need to remember the advice from the teachings of our Wesleyan roots: Do no harm; stay in love with Christ, pray, sing, worship, minister, and put our entire trust in Jesus.

Bishop Farr, in an address to the conference, reminded us of our mission: **To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**, and of our vision: **To relentlessly lead our churches to become outwardly focused and spiritually centered**. In order to accomplish our mission, the conference is focusing on three priorities:

1. **New missional leaders**, both lay and clergy.
2. **New places for new people**, which means small groups which meet away from the church building and a new person is defined as one who does not have a relationship with Christ or any church.
3. **Pathway out of poverty**. A program to promote school/church partnerships with an emphasis on reading. Much of the conference that followed was designed to teach or show us ways to move forward.

The business of the church was also a major consideration. There were a plethora of reports and updates from various committees and projects as well as approvals to be given to financial issues and ordination and sending of new church workers. In response to the decision of the church during the special session of the General Conference in February, Resolution #1 was proposed: RESOLUTION 1: ACTION FOR INCLUSIVE MINISTRY IN THE MISSOURI ANNUAL CONFERENCE read as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED that the Missouri Annual Conference will make \$30,000 in grant funding available to local congregations for ministries that raise up LGBTQIA+ persons as missional leaders or create a 'new place' with LGBTQIA+ persons as a primary focus. This funding will be administered and distributed by the Values Monitoring Team." It was voted upon and passed. Laity and clergy delegates to the 2020 General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference chosen.

The Sunday morning worship was a combination Pentecost, commissioning, ordination and sending service. It ended with a prayer of commitment, a blessing and the singing of Amazing Grace.

I would like to thank the people of St. Mark's UMC for sending me as a delegate. It was truly an inspiring experience.

Carolyn Sorensen

Leviticus 1 -The Burnt Offering



So many Christians completely ignore the book of Leviticus because it's too rich. It is the most ignored book. It is not only so deep and so rich, it is so amazing! It is quoted more by Jesus and the apostles than any of the 66 books. So it must be a very important book!

AN OVERVIEW OF THE FIVE OFFERINGS:

- 1) The Burnt Offering speaks of total consecration – Christ was totally consumed for us! He gave all that He had. He died for us. When He said, "It is finished," there was nothing left.
- 2) The Meal Offering was the only "bloodless" offering because it doesn't speak of Christ's death, but

rather His sinless life! It was an offering of “unleavened” meal because leaven in the Bible is a picture of sin. Jesus was the “unleavened” Bread of Life!

- 3) The Peace Offering speaks of our peace with God made possible only through the death (burnt offering) and sinless life (meal offering) of Christ! It pictures Romans 5:1, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”
- 4) The Sin Offering pictures Christ delivering us from the power of sin. (Romans 6:6–7)
- 5) The Trespass Offering speaks of Christ delivering us from the penalty of our sins. Christ has delivered us from the penalty of the specific sinful actions (trespasses) we’ve committed against God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The five offerings are detailed twice in the book of Leviticus (Chapters 1–5 and again from Chapters 6:8–7:38), but in two different orders...

The first time they picture Christ’s sacrifice for us –how a man receives peace with God

The second time they picture our sacrifice for Christ! –how a man receives the peace of God!

The offerings are divided into two categories:

- 1) The first three offerings were “**sweet**” aroma offerings; they were voluntary offerings and picture the redemption of sin. The burnt offering, meal offering, and peace offering are the sweet savor offerings. They are offerings of the ancient Jewish worshiper given voluntarily out of gratitude to God. They represent the beauty of reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Christ.
- 2) The sin offering and the trespass offering were “**non-sweet**” aroma offerings. They were mandatory offerings and represent the ruin of sin. They were “non-sweet” aroma offerings because they represented the ugliness of sin and the stench of sin to a Holy God.

THE BURNT OFFERING – LEVITICUS 1

Leviticus 1:1–2, “When any one of you...” The offering was for anybody – it was a free-will offering.

Leviticus 1:2, “You shall bring your offering of the livestock – of the herd...” Jesus came as a man – one “of the flock.” John 1:11, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Leviticus 1:3, “...male without blemish...” Jesus was the “Lamb of God” without blemish.

Leviticus 1:3, Verse 3 “...of his own free will...” Christ didn’t have to die – He voluntarily gave His life.

Leviticus 1:4, “Then he shall put his hand on the head...” Our sins were transferred from man to the Lamb.

Leviticus 1:5, “He shall kill the bull before the Lord...” We killed the Lamb – Jesus!

Leviticus 1:5, “Aaron’s sons shall bring the blood...” Aaron’s sons brought the sweet-aroma offerings, but only Aaron the high priest could touch the non-sweet aroma offerings. Aaron as the high priest is a picture of our High Priest – the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 8). Aaron’s sons are a picture of us as New Testament priests. (1 Peter 2:5)

The Burnt Offering is not only a picture of Christ, but it also pictures us!

Leviticus 1:6, “...cut it into its pieces.” The burnt offering also pictures us as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1). The Spirit of God takes the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12) and cuts us apart piece by piece until we’re fully conformed to the image of Jesus Christ!

Leviticus 1:7–8, “...fire upon the altar.” As we become a “burnt offering” for God, we become a “sweet-savor” to God (2 Corinthians 2:14–16).

Leviticus 1:9, “...he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water.” God washes us with His Word inside and out. (Ephesians 5:26)

Leviticus 1:10-17, outlines the different levels of burnt offerings proportionate to each one’s individual ability.

We cannot all give equal gifts, but we can all give equal sacrifice. How deeply are you willing to sacrifice for Jesus?