



THE CONNECTION

Orlean United Methodist Church



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Mission Statement

Love God. . . Love Others. . . Reach Out to the Community and the World

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Pastor's Message

First off, I apologize for my tardiness in helping to get the newsletter out in a timely fashion. Between Charge Conference, Bill's passing, and a seemingly endless list of other tasks, only now I have been able to sit at the keyboard and write/keystroke a few words.

There is, however, yet another reason for my tardiness, and that has been a troubling sadness in my spirit of late. I have felt lost for my country as I observe the turmoil and tone that engulfs our political process, the lack of civility, unity and trust among our people, death in our streets and violence it seems everywhere. Addictions grip thousands of our people, and lead to often catastrophic results. I am also saddened by the ever increasing secular bent in our nation and our denomination's seeming inability to come to grips with solutions for troubling social issues. On the world front, civil war, immigration issues, the slaughter of the innocents --- particularly children --- grips my soul.

If that is not enough, my heart has felt for Tom Stanberry as he struggles to recover his strength and vitality and return home, and the loss of our brother and our dear friend, Bill Gilliam. In addition, Dr. Paul Salbert, a good friend and Emmaus brother, died the other day---one day before his sixtieth birthday.

I was kind of in a mood the other day---you know, one of "those" moods--- pondering all of these things, and wondering what God would have me say and do --- both as a pastor and simply as a person ---when I felt that familiar nudging of the Holy Spirit; the familiar whisper in my ear, the call to action that has been so much a part of my life in Christ. I heard these familiar words:

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6-7)

God has a way of reinforcing what God is trying to say to me; making sure that "I get it!"

The other day I was catching up some reading from one of my favorite devotionals, Max Lucado's *"God is With You Every day,"* when I stumbled onto these words:

"When Martin Luther's coworker became ill, the reformer prayed boldly for healing. 'I besought the Almighty with great vigor,' he wrote. 'I attacked him with his own weapons, quoting from Scripture all the promises I could remember, that prayers should be granted, and said that he must grant my prayer, if I was henceforth to put faith in his promises.'"

As John Wesley was crossing the Atlantic Ocean, contrary winds came up. When he learned that the winds were knocking the ship course, he responded in prayer.

“Almighty and everlasting God.... Thou holdest the winds in thy fists and sittest upon the water floods, and reignest a king forever. Command these winds and these waves that they obey thee, and take us speedily and safely to the haven whither we would go.”

Boldness in prayer is an uncomfortable thought for many. We think of speaking softly to God, humbling ourselves before God, or have a chat with God....but agonizing before God? Storming heaven with prayers? Isn't such prayer irreverent? Presumptuous?

It would be had God not invited us to pray as such. “So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

Dare to pray boldly.”

Many thanks to Max Lucado. Indeed my brothers and sisters, *Dare to Pray Boldly!*

Not a sermon.....just some thoughts.

Blessings to all
And Grace and Peace

Pastor Jim

Tip of the Halo to:

~~trustees for getting the storm damage cleaned up
~~Billy Stringfellow for using his bucket truck to put new rope on the flagpole
~~everyone who contributed Campbell's Labels for Education, Box Tops, and Tyson's A+ to Red Bird
~~everyone who contributed canceled stamps to UMCOR
~~everyone who helped with the FISH backpack program by donating backpacks filled with school supplies
~~everyone who contributed to the reception for our new member, Della Ann
~~everyone who contributed to the successful 5th Sunday potluck

Notice

There will not be the 5th Sunday Potluck on 30 October as it was moved to the 3rd Sunday as a farewell event for Norma and Wayne.

Birthdays and Special Occasions

Oct. 2	Tom S.	Nov. 17	James L.
Oct 6	Susan B.	Nov. 20	Ken P.
Oct. 15	Ryland J.	Nov. 24	Harry R.
Oct. 18	Jim J.	Nov. 24	Hannah & Nick Baer (anniv.)
Oct. 22	Paul H.	Nov. 25	Tarah H.
Oct. 24	Libby B.	Nov. 25	Mary T.
Oct. 24	Scott P.	Nov. 26	Nick B.
Oct. 26	Randy H.	Dec. 5	Jesse R.
Oct. 27	Jason P.	Dec. 15	Larry P.
Oct. 31	Norma H.	Dec. 19	Ethel H.
Nov. 4	Bobby T.	Dec. 19	Sharon S.
Nov. 6	Steven H.	Dec. 19	Sandra & Larry Payne (anniv.)
Nov. 13	Mack B.	Dec. 20	Lorraine & R.O.Updike (anniv.)

Food Pantry

During the 3rd quarter, the Food Pantry was able to provide food on a monthly basis to a couple raising their grandchildren. Food was also delivered (by Norma) to another household.