

West Point United Methodist Church

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 0

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”





James 2:17

We see ourselves as a church that has a passion to serve the community so that others may know the love of God. This statement is the fourth of our five core values and as a “values” statement, it seems it needs little explanation. Clearly, churches and Christians who attend churches *should* have a passion to serve the community so that others may know the love of God. And I think that many Christians and most churches do that as long as it doesn’t cost them anything, or at least, not much. There is a great story from the fading days of the Roman Empire of a young lad who was kidnapped by a band of savages outside the borders of the so-called civilized world. They took him to a remote island beyond the sea where he labored for years under the harshest of conditions. Never having been particularly religious, the boy began to pray to God everyday to help him survive his horrible ordeal. After five years, the young man was able to escape making his way over two hundred miles to the sea coast where he was able to barter for passage on a ship that took him back to his homeland, eventually reuniting with overjoyed parents who had presumed him dead. Happy ending right? Could have been except for one thing; night after night, the young man was haunted by dreams, visions and voices. The voices and visions beckoned him to return to the land of his kidnapers and bring the word of Christ into this savage land. And that is exactly what he did. The boy lived in what we know now as England. His kidnapers were Celtic tribesmen from across the water — Ireland. And that’s how a young Briton, a Roman citizen named Patricius grew into an old Irishman named Patrick.

Okay. So maybe this story would have been a little more appropriate to tell in a March newsletter because it’s the home of a day named for this saint. For that matter, what does this story have to do with us anyway? James says it best: “Faith without deeds is dead.” In the Ireland of St. Patrick’s time, slavery was a thriving business and had been for centuries. Celtic raiding parties would kidnap hundreds of people at a time. Boys would be brought to Ireland from abroad to be shepherders and girls to be sex slaves. While the story of Patrick driving out all the snakes is mythical — Ireland is too cold to be a hospitable environment for snakes — Patrick is credited for putting a stop to the slave trade and bringing the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Ireland. What would Ireland be like today if not for St. Patrick? Slavery in the United States is a part of our past too. But the world remains a very dark place. Our part of Indiana is no exception. When we, as West Point United Methodist Church say of ourselves: **We see ourselves as a church that has a passion to serve the community so that others may know the love of God**, we’d better mean it because in a sense, slavery still exists.

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February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>Steering Committee meeting 6:00 PM</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Admin Counsel meeting 7:00 PM</p>  <p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Morning Bible Study Job 9:00 AM</p> <p>Confirmation class meeting 6:00 PM</p> <p>7:08</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Disciple I 6:00 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>New member class 6:30 PM</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Morning Bible Study Job 9:00 AM</p> <p>United Methodist Women 7:00 PM</p> <p>7:08</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Disciple I 6:00 PM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Parent's night out 6:00—10:00 PM</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Sweetheart Dinner 12:30 PM</p>  <p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>President's Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service @ Stidham UMC 6:30 PM</p> <p>No 708</p>  <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Disciple I 6:00 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>New member class 6:30 PM</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Morning Bible Study Job 9:00 AM</p> <p>LITTLE BEAMERS 4:30 PM</p> <p>7:08</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Disciple I 6:00 PM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>						

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE LESSONS

February 7

- 5th Sunday of Epiphany
- Traditional Worship 8:30 AM
- Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church
- Holy Communion

Luke 5:1-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Abundance from Chaos."

February 14

- 6th Sunday of Epiphany
- Traditional Worship 8:30 AM
- Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 & Psalm 99. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "An Apostle's Valentine."

February 17

- Ash Wednesday

Our cluster group of churches will observe Ash Wednesday together at Stidham United Methodist Church. Service will start at 6:30 PM.

February 21

- 1st Sunday of Lent
- Traditional Worship 8:30 AM
- Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Job 1:13-22 & Romans 10:8-13. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Lt. McCain's Choice."

February 28

- 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
- Traditional Worship 8:30 AM
- Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Luke 4:1-13 & Philippians 3:17-4:1. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Shame the Devil."



February Birthdays

Adults

Nellie Van Sickle	Feb. 1
Ted Stout	Feb. 3
Vickie Harbath	Feb. 9
Tim Emerick	Feb. 12
Grace Craig	Feb. 15
Jerry Stewart	
Tricia Taylor	Feb. 21
Cory Temple	Feb. 26

New Worship Service Hours!!!!

In September we began a new adventure in our church. We started a second worship service. After two months, we asked for your feed back. As a result, **beginning Sunday March 7th**, we will have new worship service hours. **Our traditional service will be at 9:30 AM. Our new praise worship service will be at 11:00 AM. Sunday school will be at 8:30 AM.** We look forward to seeing you at one of our new services. Help us spread the word.

Prayer Concerns

Connie Burke, Eve Hamilton, Sharon Hudgel, Helen Nice, Teresa Vaughn, Luke Vaughn, Eric Elming, Bill House, Jim Deckerd, Jean Gamble, Lila Spoor, Rosemary Bullinger, Ted Stout, Sunshine Godsey, and Erin and Julie Semon and their new born twins.

All our men and women in uniform, particularly Cody Hamilton, John MacIntosh, Rob Gaither, John Loveridge, and Jeremy Ritter, especially those serving in harm's way.

The family and friends of Eric Johnson (Pastor Jeff's friend) and Bob Weaver on their recent passing.

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James 2:17

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Naturally I don't mean the human chattel type of slavery. But there are people still enslaved by addictions; and the church can help. People are still enslaved in abusive relationships and often feel as if they have nowhere else to turn; and the church can help. In the richest nation in the world, far too many people are enslaved by poverty, homelessness and despair; **and the church must help.**

A fair question for us here at West Point UMC would be: “what are ways we can put ‘skin on the love of Jesus’ by action in our community?” In some ways, we already are doing this. The things we are accomplishing in the park have gotten our communities attention. Nor is lost on them, I think, that our motivation for doing so is far more about our compassion for our community than for the “glory” of our church. I am certain that other ministry opportunities will come our way as we journey into our future. But in closing today, I would like to share one with you. Every Thursday night for the last two years, our sister church, Attica UMC, opens its doors to feed anyone who walks into the church. The vast majority of those folks are impoverished and some of them are actually homeless. But none of them walk away with an empty stomach. And get this; they serve between 170 to 200 folks every Thursday night. In speaking with their pastor, Nancy Richmond, and one of their members, Jenny Scherer, they could really use some help. Certainly, they could use financial help; but mostly, they need people help. So beginning next month, we have agreed to help them staff their kitchen on the third Thursday of every month. So, would you like to help serve? If this sounds like a missions opportunity for you, please contact me and I will be glad to provide additional details. As James said: “faith without deeds is dead.”

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

How things stand with our new property

We begin a new year with a continued sense of optimism and awe at what God has done. It is a “home run” for this pastor, not that “we’ve” accomplished so much; but rather that almost to a man, woman and child, folks in this congregation recognize that this is all God. We’ve been obedient enough to do our part and go along for the ride, but it is clearly the hand of God at work here at West Point UMC. Please pray for our continuing mission.

Here are some facts about where we stand on our mortgage:

Original Loan Amount:	\$175,000.00
Amount Paid as of 1/24/2010:	\$153,091.33.
Mortgage Amount Remaining:	\$21,068.67.
Amount lowered from the previous month:	\$1,482.65.



GO GREEN SAVE MONEY

We are now able to e-mail the church newsletter to you.

If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail instead of US mail, send an e-mail to us at wpumc@tds.com. Then beginning next month your newsletter will arrive by e-mail. This will save on paper (save a tree) and postage (save a buck) helping to make us good stewards of God's gifts.

Employment Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Postmaster Relief/Leave Replacement at the West Point Post Office. This is a non-career position and the successful applicant would replace the postmaster during absences. The salary is \$9.45 per hour. Health insurance is an option to purchase from A Group Limited Benefit Hospital indemnity Insurance policy underwritten by Transamerica Life insurance company. Stop in and see Shawn Grube for an application or additional information.



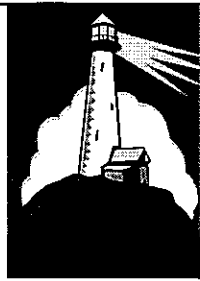
The Tax Man Cometh

It's that time of year again. You know, that time usually after the Super Bowl and before April 15th, where we Americans diligently get ready to settle up with the tax man. Darlene Christian would like you to know that your giving records will be cheerfully forwarded to you if you but ask for them. However, if we don't hear from you, we will assume you don't want them. You can contact Darlene at dcmc2@tds.net, or at 572-2719.

February Birthdays

Ashley Anthrop	Feb 3
Mitchell Byers	Feb 3
Peter Craig	Feb 8
Kim Francis	Feb 9
Jacob Balducci	Feb 15
Trent Green	Feb 17
Katelyn Smelcer	Feb 22

If we missed anybody, please accept our apologies and let Pastor Jeff know so we can update our records!



Little Beamers!!!!!!

Our brand new year is off to a great start! Little Beamers will meet on February 24th at 4:30pm. Can't wait to see you there! Bring your friends.

Hey Light House;

Feb 13: The mission trip is getting closer, and it's time to get ready for some fundraisers. The night before Valentine's Day we will be hosting, "*Parent's Night Out*". From 5-9pm, we will be taking care of the younger kids from our church so that their parents can have a night out. We will provide snacks, play games, and watch movies with the kids until it's time for them to go home. Start thinking about some fun things we can do, and be ready to share your ideas at 708.

Feb 14: The sweetheart dinner will be on Valentine's Day. The dinner will be held after church at 12:30pm. Be prepared to help serve food and set up tables, etc. The dinner will be a free-will offering.

For the month of February we will begin our lesson on Samuel and Eli. Throughout the month we will cover the stories of Samuel, King Saul, and David. Bring your Bibles!



Confirmation class is set to begin on February 3rd at 6:00 PM. We are going to have many adventures as we learn about who we are as followers of Jesus, as United Methodists and as folks with an individual relationship with God.



In March, we will check out a worship service in a synagogue and a Greek Orthodox church. Looking forward to having you with us!

B I B L E S T U D I E S

The life transformational experience that is the Disciple I Bible study continues. We have completed the Old Testament and are ready to embark on the New Testament adventure with Jesus and the Apostles. We have learned that we cannot fully appreciate who we are as Christians unless we first understand the Jewishness of Jesus. The last seventeen weeks as been well spent.

Women's Bible Studies

Come Join Us

Beth Moore's "It's Tough Being a Woman" bible study is well underway and eleven women are off to a fantastic start. This amazing journey through the Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage, containing many modern parallels for today's woman. Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. Esther's destiny can be yours as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner.

We would love to have you come along with us. Please contact Delite Ritter or Ronda Smith for details.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Patience of Job

Many people have heard about Job and his trials, but not many people understand what those trials were all about and what God was trying to accomplish through them. That was especially true of Job himself. It's not too late to join those of us in the Wednesday morning bible study as we journey with theologian Warren Wiersbe and his study of the mysteries of Job. We would love to have you join us.

Our Vision Statement

We envision the West Point United Methodist Church to be the focal point of our community and to be a welcoming church reaching out to everyone; offering all the opportunity to know and serve God; providing fellowship; offering spiritual leadership; and teaching the Word of God.

**For more information about West Point UMC, contact us at 765-572-2256, or
wpumc@tds.net or check out our webpage at
www.westpointunitedmethodist.org**

Traditional Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Contemporary Worship 11:00 AM

West Point UMC
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