



West Point United Methodist Church

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 0

“All believers were of one heart and one mind.”

Acts 4:32

This new year finds us resuming our focus on our five core values and we start 2010 by digging deeper into this one: **We see ourselves as a Christ centered, God centered, Spirit centered church who sees the bible as foundational to teach, educate and inspire God's people in such a way as to have us carry out His will.** I am reminded of a book I read this past summer called *The Five Thousand Year Leap* by Cleon Skousen. Skousen did such a marvelous job explaining how the founders of our nation put together a government by the people, for the people and of the people, that *The Five Thousand Year Leap* should be required reading for every junior or senior in high school. When our founders came together in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776, the only thing they all agreed upon was that they were fed up with the government of King George the Third, taxation without representation, being deprived of personal property at the arbitrary whim of a distant king and that British troops were quartered in their homes without their consent. In other words, *they knew what they were against*. But somewhere in the heat of that long ago Philadelphia summer, those founders thought critically about what should go into the Constitution of the United States. They thought strategically and carefully about how to articulate a bill of rights. The result of those deliberations was an amazing transformation whereby a group of people from individual states united only in what they were against gave way to a nation of people who understood something far more important. They became a people who understood *what they stood for!* That understanding, Skousen argues, allowed the United States of America to become a powerful nation that whose political and social experiment to led the world in an era of unprecedented progress. In fact, Skousen suggests that in the two hundred thirty some years that have passed since that Philadelphia summer and those documents that launched a nation, the world has progressed more in that time than the previous five thousand years in the history of the planet; hence the name of the book.

So what does that have to do with us? There are lots of churches that know what they are against. At worst, they're against change. At best, they are against sin. They are against immorality. They may have differing views on abortion, but most churches understand that single mothers are far more likely to raise their children in poverty, which they are against, and that a child raised by just one parent isn't a part of God's plan for creation. Yes, there are lots of churches that know what they are against. But what do they stand for. Some churches can answer that question. I think we can. We are a Trinitarian church. What that means basically is that we believe that God presents God's self in three ways; as God the Father, God the Son

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January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2
3	4	5 <i>Admin Counsel meeting 7:00 PM</i>	6 <i>Morning bible Study 9:00 AM</i> 7:08	7 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	8	9
10 <i>Cluster group meeting @ Stidham 2:30 PM</i>	11	12 <i>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</i>	13 <i>Morning bible Study 9:00 AM</i> United Methodist Women 7:00 PM 7:08	14 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	15	16
17	18	19 <i>Administrative Counsel meeting planning session 7:00 PM</i>	20 <i>Morning bible Study 9:00 AM</i> LITTLE BEAMERS 4:30 PM 7:08	21 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	22	23
24	25	26 <i>Beth Moore Women's bible study 7:00 PM</i>	27 <i>Morning bible Study 9:00 AM</i> 7:08	28 <i>Disciple I 6:00 PM</i>	29	30
31						

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE LESSONS

January 3

- Epiphany
- Traditional Worship
8:30 AM
- Contemporary Wor-
ship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church
- Holy Communion

Matthew 2:1-12 & Isaiah 60:1-6.
Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "I'd
Walk a Mile."

January 10

- 1st Sunday of Epiph-
any
- Traditional Worship
8:30 AM
- Contemporary Wor-
ship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 & Acts
8:14-17. Pastor Jeff's sermon
will be "Leadership 101."

January 17

- 2nd Sunday of Epiph-
any
- Traditional Worship
8:30 AM
- Contemporary Wor-

ship 11:00 AM

- Little Beamer's church

John 2:1-11 & Ecclesiastes Luke
3:1-12. Pastor Jeff's sermon will
be "All Work and No Play."

January 24

- 3rd Sunday of Epiph-
any
- Traditional Worship
8:30 AM
- Contemporary Wor-
ship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 &
Luke 4:14-21. Pastor Jeff's ser-
mon will be "Rights and Respon-
sibilities."

January 31

- 4th Sunday of Epiph-
any
- Traditional Worship
8:30 AM
- Contemporary Wor-
ship 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Jeremiah 4:1-10 & Luke 4:21-
30. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be
"No Kidding."

January Birthdays

Adults

Jeff Cade	Jan. 2
Shari Bilyeu	
Rick Snider	Jan. 12
Jane Sandifur	Jan. 19
Mary Ritter	Jan. 20
Ted Horn	Jan. 28
Mike Craig	
Cheri Stout	Jan. 30

**RONDA AND I WOULD
LIKE TO THANK ALL OF
YOU WHO WISHED US
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS,
GAVE US CARDS OR
GIFTS, OR CONTINUED
TO PRAY FOR US DURING
THE HOLIDAY SEASON.
THANKS SO MUCH FOR
YOUR LOVE AND KIND-
NESS TO US AND OUR
FAMILY.
BLESSINGS, PASTOR
JEFF & RONDA**

Prayer Concerns

Cliff Martin, Dora Patterson, Wilbur Patrick, Mildred Pootie Buckles, Tom & Sharon Hughel, Florance Collins, Madison Brewer, Dick Swank, Camille Vazquez, Joe Showalter, Jan Harlow, Margaret Shultz, Trish Krintz, Linda Parent, Denny Davis, Helen Nice, Jerry Bilyeu, Bob Lancaster, Josh Bowsher, Jake Barber, Gryphon Chiarazzi, Kelly Huffer, Patty Graf, Reva Jones, Kim Snow, Sherry Zedecker, Lily Updegraff, Vince Barry, Cleo Ewing, Bob Kerber, Peggy Van Chapin, Wayne Myers, Reagan Dillman, Eric Johnson, (a friend of Pastor Jeff's) Betty Middleton, Pam Mason, Karol Smith, Korbyn Cowell, Tyler Anthrop, Gayle Cain, Gene Cassman, Kerm Naylor, Jared and Lorel Smith (pastor Jeff's son and daughter in law) and their unborn baby, Luke Vaughn and Mary Ford (Susan Stewart's cousin).

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

The family and friends of James Record (Rae Ritchie's uncle) and Marian Smith (Mike and John Katter's grandmother) on their recent passing.

“All believers were of one heart and one mind.”

Acts 4:32

Continued from page one

and God the Holy Ghost. To put it in a more modern and perhaps more understandable way: we believe in God as Creator, Redeemer, and sustainer. We see the bible as foundational in all we do, teach and believe. Now unfortunately, the word foundational is confused with the word, “fundamental” and that word has some baggage with it. As Wesleyans, we understand that God welcomes our questioning nature and that from doubt, belief is strengthened. So for us, while the bible is foundational, our understanding of God is that God does not require us to believe unquestioningly. And finally, we believe that we are called by God to live our lives in such a way as to make ourselves available and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for whatever direction that God may want to take us so that our lives might be useful to fulfilling God’s purpose for the transformation of the world.

I would argue, my friends, that while it is important to know what you are against, it is far more important to know what you are for. I recently received some literature from a national office holder who suggested that I support his cause because the other guys were doing things that were harmful to the long term health of our country. While philosophically I may have agreed with this man’s premise, he only told me what he was against in his political opponent and not what he himself was for. So here’s the question I had to ask myself, “what happens if this guy wins?” Is know what he is against enough? In the short term maybe. But I want to know what this man will do after his mission is accomplished. How will he govern? Will it be based upon a set of core values, or will his decisions be based on political expediency or in reaction to what his opponents will do? You see, I don’t think that we as Christians are called upon to “react” to life like that. We are called upon to live it.

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 12/18/2009:	\$152,448.68.
Mortgage Amount Remaining:	\$22,551.32.
Amount lowered from the previous month:	\$10,968.92.



Remembering:

It is always a right, good, honorable and noble thing to remember the saints who have gone on before us. The following speaks to that very thing in the names of those who are remembering with their Christmas poinsettias, and those who are remember. May God bless those of us who continue the do this earthly ministry and welcome into His loving arms, those who have gone on to become the eternal human God created them to be.

In Memory of all our loved ones
Mark and Darlene Christian

In Memory of Rex Buckner, Lucile Beers and Mark Beers
The Buckner family

In Memory of Luther and Bernice A. Brubaker, Glennna J. and Wayne Van Sickle, J.B. Brubaker, David L. and Eileen Bolinger, Bonnie Karns, and Lee and Ruth Brubaker
J.B. and Nellie Van Sickle and family

In Memory of Mike Katter
Phil and Pam Katter

In Memory of Raymond and Sylvia Katter
Phil and Pam Katter

In Memory of Orville "Bolliver" Craig, Nicholas L. Craig, S.E. "Cy" and Beatrice Stover, Harry and Sarah Craig, and Del and Flora Byers
Doris Craig and Family

In Memory of Loved Ones
Jay Blessing

In Memory of Helen Pearson
Larry Pearson

In Loving Memory of Chistina Lawson
The Lawson Family

In Memory of Loved Ones
Jane Haan

In Memory of family and friends
Carl and Sandy Holtman

In Memory of Loved Ones
Karen Macy

In Memory of Loved Ones
Jeff and Ronda Smith

In Loving Memory of Clarence Lawson
Mary Lou Lawson and Children

In Memory of Bob and Mary Bonnet
Jerry and Vicki Harbath

In Memory of Orville and May Harbarth
Jerry and Vicki Harbath

In Memory of Dewey and Mary Eubank, Earl and Pearl Emerick, sisters, Jim Emerick and family
The Emerick family

In Memory of our loved ones
Jerry and Susan Stewart

In Memory of Helen Pearson
Kathleen Barker, Eileen Savoldi, Mary Lou Lawson, Jane Lutgem, Ruth Shedd

In Memory of Ralph and Norma Spoor, Frank and Neva Vester, and Grandparents
Bob and Karen Vester

In Memory of Bud Smith and Mike Katter
Julie Katter

In Memory of Loved Ones.
Brad Meadows family

In Memory of Don Matthews
Bev Matthews

In Memory loved ones
Karla Ross

In memory of Jenni Hamilton, Mark Hamilton, and Glen Hamilton
The Hamilton family

January Birthdays

Madalyn Cheesman	Jan 4
Kyanne Green	Jan 6
Cole Garriott	Jan 7
Cole Van Pelt	Jan 7
Joshua Richard	Jan 12
Kaylyn Cheesman	Jan 18
Sarah Emerick	Jan 20
Amanda Balducci	Jan 21
Dawn Meadows	Jan 22
Jenny Bilyeu	Jan 22
Joslyn Burke	Jan 28
Jacob Anthrop	Jan 29

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



Little Beamers!!!!!!

Ready for a brand new year? Little Beamers will meet on January 20th at 4:30pm. Can't wait to see you there! Bring your friends.

Hey Light House;

Our next 708 will be January 6. We our now finished discussing Joshua. Throughout the month we will be covering the story of Samson. We will also learn about Deborah. Gideon will be our final topic for the month of January. There is a lot to learn so come prepared with your bibles. Hope to see you there!



If you are a Light House youth eighth grade or up, I would like to invite you to join our confirmation class next month. So what is confirmation class? Good question. Let me answer it by suggesting to you that a relationship with Jesus is a highly personal thing. There is an old saying: "Nobody gets into heaven on their grandition." So where you stand with God, what your walk with Jesus looks like is largely your responsibility. In our United Methodist Tradition, Confirmation Class is a very important step in that process. In this class you will certainly learn who we uniquely are in our faith as Methodists, but you will also have an opportunity to frame our heritage against the backdrop of how others worship God including our Jewish brothers and sisters, our Christian Orthodox brothers and sisters, and our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. In addition, we will experience worship in another UM church and another Protestant church. At the end of our time together, you will be invited to join the church as a full member, *if you choose to do so!* Look for further details in a letter which you will received later this month.



Blessings, Pastor Jeff

BIBLE STUDIES

The life transformational experience that is the Disciple I Bible study continues. As we near the half way point of our study, we are starting to more fully see the seeds that God planted so that the experience of Jesus would bear the most fruit. By the end of January, we will conclude with the Old Testament and begin our study of the Gospels and the New Testament.

Women's Bible Studies

Come Join Us

Beginning January 12, our new bible study focus will be the Book of Esther. Using Beth Moore's "It's Tough Being a Woman" curriculum, we will journey through the Old Testament story of Esther as 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 Reboots for 2010

New study begins January 6th at 9:00 AM

All of us have experienced hard times and we've all asked the question: *why*. But the more significant question is *who*? It is not a question of whether or not the universe is a friendly place but rather is there a friend in the universe?" That is the compelling theme of the Book of Job and our morning bible study group, not a shy bunch of individuals when it comes to bible study, has elected to tackle this challenging topic. There is room for you too and we would love to have you join us. Come experience this God sized adventure with us beginning January 6th at 9:00 AM.