



# West Point UMC

AUGUST 2011

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse.”

Genesis 12:3

## Standing By Israel

Continued


Legendary American hero Davy Crockett ardently supported the newly declared Republic of Texas when Anglo-Americans broke away from Mexico in revolt. He expressed that support as a congressman from Tennessee in no uncertain terms. The debate in the United States House of Representatives on what the response of the US should be to this development was vigorous and intense. At one point, Crockett believed that some of his colleagues in the House reneged on a point of honor in terms of supporting the new republic to the south of us. To those colleagues, he is reputed to have said: “You can go to hell. I am going to Texas!” As most students of US history should know, he wound up dying there in the Alamo supporting the cause he so strongly believed in.

Over the past two months we’ve been discussing an apparent change in direction of our relationship with Israel. It seems the cause of the day recently has been to support the *oppressed* Palestinians at the expense of the *occupying* Israelis and we’ve talked about that. We’ve discussed the history and the politics of the region albeit much to briefly to do the subject justice. Today we are faced with the crucial question; “Should the United States continue to stand by Israel with its unswerving support or not? I have to wonder how Davy Crockett would feel about it if he were alive today? Would he have said to those in our government and culture who would put our long term ally at risk by changing the dynamic of our relationship; “you can go to hell, I am going to Israel!” I can only tell you for sure what I think. There are two key reasons why I think we had better stand by Israel. The first is geo-political. They are the only democracy in the region and they are the only country that is openly and completely friendly to us. We share many of the same values not just in terms of our common religious heritage but both countries treasure freedom and individual liberty. No other nation in the region does. While some of those countries may be our allies on paper, one has to wonder about some of their actions; Pakistan’s apparent sheltering of Osama Bin Laden and Saudi Arabia’s connection with the 911 terrorists for example. Israel’s support for us has been pretty much unconditional. Just for pure political reasons, better stick by our ally. Beyond that, I think Davy Crockett said something about American honor. I would like to think that the friends of the United States know that they can count on us no matter what.

The second reason is theological and it is, in my estimation, for more important. My life verse from the bible is Micah 6:8 which says: “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” There is an interesting context to

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# August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>Light house to clean church</b> Noon
14	15	16	17 <i>Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM</i>	18	19	20 <i>Community picnic with Scott Greeson</i>
21 <i>Worship at Cadet Park 9:30 AM</i>	22	23 Women's bible study 7:00 PM	24 <i>Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM</i>	25 <i>Disciple II organizational meeting 7:00 PM</i>	26	27
28 <i>Lighthouse canoe trip immediately after church</i>	29 	30 Women's bible study 7:00 PM	31 <i>Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM</i>			

**SERMONS & SCRIPTURE  
LESSONS**

**August 7**

- 8th Sunday of Pentecost

Guest pastor Meagan Sapp Nelson will preach as Pastor Jeff and Ronda are returning from Dallas to be with family.

**August 14**

- 9th Sunday of Pentecost
- Holy Communion

1st Kings 18:15-21 & 1st Kings 18:22-39. Pastor Jeff's sermon title will be "A Minute to Win It".

**August 21**

- 10th Sunday of Pentecost
- Worship at Cadet Park

John 11:1-16 & John 11:17-27. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "In His Hands".

**August 28**

- 11th Sunday of Pentecost

Genesis 2:15-24. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "A God's Eye View of Relationships".



Join us with Scott Greeson on August 20th. We will worship outdoors on the following Sunday, August 21st. Bring a covered dish, lawn chairs and an attitude for loving fellowship for a meal afterwards.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

<b>PHIL KATTER</b>	<b>AUG 1</b>
<b>EVE HAMILTON</b>	<b>AUG 2</b>
<b>LEVI BILYEU</b>	
<b>JEFF STOUT</b>	<b>AUG 3</b>
<b>ED REEVES</b>	<b>AUG 5</b>
<b>DIANE GAITHER</b>	<b>AUG 8</b>
<b>DEREK BYERS</b>	<b>AUG 10</b>
<b>TYLER ANTHROP</b>	<b>AUG 16</b>
<b>SARA RITTER</b>	<b>AUG 21</b>
<b>DREW SNIDER</b>	<b>AUG 25</b>

**Prayer Concerns**

Matt Bowman, Jim Deckerd, Jody Fifer, Bill House, Dexter Andrews, Mary Lou Lawson, Bill Burns, John Patton, Patty Stettler, Bonnie Thompson, Florence Denny, Delaney Loveridge, Clayton & Thelma Whitehead, Janet Greer, Dell & Della Grimes, Ray Snider, Elizabeth Matthews, Kenny Evans, Amy Richardson, Jake Ferrell, Clara Jackson, Doris Craig, Cletus Zook, Garnett Baumgartner, Our nation and our leaders, The victims of last winter's tsunami and earthquake in Japan, The folks in Alabama, Missouri and Oklahoma as they continue to recover from last spring's tornados and severe weather.

The family and friends of Jack Whitehead and Norma Jean Kirts on their recent passing.

All our men and women in uniform, particularly Cassie Leuck, John Macintosh, Rob Gaither, Joe Lambert, Jeremy Ritter, Nathan Marks, John Barton, Brad Synesael and especially those serving in harm's way.

Standing By Israel  
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that verse: the prophet Micah is calling out the Jews because they've taken to following other gods and they've even indulged in the horrific practice of sacrificing some of their children in the fires of the god Molech. Micah is letting them know that God doesn't take that lightly. Since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, millions of *our* unborn babies have been sacrificed in the fires of Molech by the practice of legalized abortion. Yet during that thirty eight year period of United States history, our country has prospered. I cannot believe that God is okay with abortion on demand so how do you explain this apparent discrepancy? One possibility is that the wheels of God's justice grind slowly but they grind exceedingly fine and our time of reckoning has not yet come. Another is that our time of reckoning hasn't come yet because of what God said to Abram: "those who bless you I will bless and those who curse you I will curse." Maybe we've been prosperous despite our many flaws as a nation because we've been Israel's staunch friend. If that's true, what happens if we are no longer Israel's staunch friend? And to borrow from the Book of Esther, if we don't stand by the Jews today in this difficult time, do we really think that God won't deliver them from another source? I am convinced that God is who He says He is and that God does what He says He's gonna do. God has declared that He will stand by Israel. The only question that remains for us is "will we?"

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

Missouri—Alabama  
— Oklahoma Relief

**UMCOR  
Advance  
#3021326**

**Japan/Pacific  
Emergency**

**UMCOR  
Advance  
#3021317**

Please give generously to our Japanese Friends.



**Bible Verse of the Month**

1st Kings 18:21

Elijah went before the people and said: "how long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God follow him. If Baal is God, follow him."  
But the people said nothing.



## How things stand with our new property

Jerry Harbath and I had the privilege of meeting with our former DS Michelle Cobb recently. After the meeting she stuck around to ask us how things were going for us at West Point. As we explained our story, delays and all, she said the most interesting thing: "It sounds like [your congregation] and God are engaged in [an intimate] dance!" Those of you who know Michelle Cobb know that she is a very wise and Godly woman and it probably doesn't surprise you to hear how quickly she has picked up on what God is doing in the life of our church. There is no question that it is important that we use a new building on our property to evangelize and to grow our church. But as important as that is, God is teaching us that something even more important: "waiting on God's time; waiting on God." In effect, our spiritual growth is far more important right now than anything else. This pastor continues to be awed by this congregation's willingness to go out on a limb for spiritual growth. Please keep up the good work. Last month, we challenged each other to make contact with unchurched folks in our community. How's that going for you? Please keep up the good work on that too. We will talk more about this in coming months.



Blessings, Pastor Jeff

### *Volunteers Needed*

*Once a month we do a more through cleaning of our church. We would like to have volunteers to help with this process. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church. If we get twelve volunteers, any one person would only have to do it once a year. Please step up to help.*

## Bible Studies Coming this Fall:

The Wednesday morning bible study group will begin the new James Moore study on August 17th at 9:00 AM. Dr. Moore is a solid man of God who teaches with tremendous wit, compassion and wisdom. Please come and join us for all are welcome.

### DISCIPLE II

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WEST POINT UMC WILL BE OFFERING DISCIPLE II BIBLE STUDY: INTO THE WORD INTO THE WORLD THIS FALL. THIS BIBLE STUDY ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO OPENING THEMSELVES TO HEARING WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY T THEM THROUGH THE BIBLE AND BE GUIDED INTO SERVICE IN THE WORLD BY THE SCRIPTURE AND THEIR STUDY OF IT. THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 25TH AT 7:00 PM PLEASE COME JOIN US!

### Women's Bible Study to Resume this Fall

If you are looking for an in-depth study of God's word, come and join us this fall for a 11 week study of the life of Paul. Paul teaches us how to live a Godly life with lots of wisdom and practical advice. Our 1st night will be Tuesday, August 23 at 7:00p.m. We are a group of women eager to hear, learn and apply God's words to our daily lives. Any ?'s ask Lisa Snider, Bev Matthews, Delite Ritter, Jay Blessing or any other wise looking woman.



## August Birthdays

Addy Gutierrez	Aug 2
Tyler Meadows	Aug 8
Ashlyn Cheesmen	Aug 13
Cassandra Cade	
Nate Harbath	Aug 24
Garrett Birge	Aug 25



## Hey Light House;

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

## Little Beamers!!!

Once again, vacation bible school was a huge success! Our PandaMania adventure saw an average of 52 children per day, with an additional 34 volunteers. A big thanks to all who attended and to the mom's and dad's who brought them. And a special big thank you to our volunteers. Thanks also to all who donated snacks, food or materials. Couldn't have done it without you. This year's mission project was equipment for Cadet Park for which we raised over \$500.00! We hope to purchase some new playground equipment soon. All your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Little Beamers will resume in September! Stay tuned for details coming soon.

Ready to go canoeing? The Light-house will be going on it's annual canoe trip on Sunday August 28th. We will have a light lunch right after church and go to Turkey run. We will return late in the afternoon. Please contact Pastor Jeff if you would like to go. In addition, we will ask our friends from West Lafayette First and Attica UMC to go with us if they wish.



Seven O Eight will resume in September. Looking forward to a new year!



## 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**

Sunday School:                      8:30 AM  
Traditional Worship                9:30 AM

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