

## West Point United Methodist Church

J U L Y 2 0 1 0

“What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

Luke 18:27

Sometimes God prepares us for really big things in ways we don't fully appreciate until we look back on it later. On our recently completed mission trip, the story from the scripture noted above about the rich ruler challenged our youth group to think about our relationship to our possessions. From Luke's story, we asked ourselves this accountability question: “Do we own our stuff, or does our stuff own us?” To test the question, I challenged our youth to give up their cell phones for the week while we were in Birmingham. I asked them to willingly give them to me with a two point understanding: one, that they could call their parents anytime they wanted on my cell phone and two, that they would get their phones back on Friday. Rising to this challenge represented a spiritual discipline in that by giving up our cell phones, we could more fully focus on God this week without the distractions that the technology represents. In other words, the distraction from “our stuff”. I am so very proud of our kids. With only one exception, every young adult that took a cell phone to Birmingham gave me their cell phones. Some grudgingly; all willingly. If you ask them, they would probably tell you that Monday and perhaps Tuesday was tough. By Wednesday, they no longer missed them because they were so focused on the ministry that God sent them there to do.

Which brings us to the big thing that God prepared us for in Birmingham. For all of its well deserved reputation of a successful modern industrial city, Birmingham's history has a darker side. Birmingham is known as the birthplace of the civil rights movement. It is the place where Dr. Martin Luther King was imprisoned for marching and leading the non-violent revolution against Jim Crow and the status quo. It's where he wrote his famous letter from the Birmingham jail and Birmingham is the home of the infamous Bull Connor, the same Bull Connor who ordered the fire house turned on the marchers for civil rights and the police dogs turned loose. Modern Birmingham has been particularly hard hit by our troubled economy and has the nation's highest percentage of the homeless among it's population. This is the place that God sent our youth to do ministry this summer and our kids did some outstanding ministry there, no question. But the thing is that on all five of our previous missions trip experiences, our kids have done some outstanding ministry and God was clearly present. But Birmingham was somehow different. It was as if God was present in a far more powerful way than ever before and for the life of me, I can't quite figure out a way to put this into words. It was as if God wanted to use these youth, these primarily white youth, not so much as to come down to Alabama to “help the poor black folk” in some condescending way. But rather God used this willing kids to behave with a maturity well beyond their years in order to walk

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# July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <i>Morning bible study @ David and Ruth Buckner's house 11:30 AM</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20 	21	22	23	24
<b>MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT KENTUCKY FROM SUNDAY JULY 18 THRU SATURDAY JULY 24</b>						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE  
LESSONS

July Birthdays

Adults

July 4

- 6th Sunday of Pentecost
- Holy Communion
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Luke 18:18-30 & 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Do You Own Your Stuff?"

July 11

- 7th Sunday of Pentecost
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Luke 10:38-42 & Amos 8:1-12. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Twisted Sister".

July 18

- 8th Sunday of Pentecost
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church
- Mission Trip Send Off

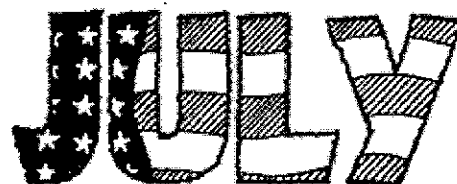
Matthew 28:16-20. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Come to Go To".

July 25

- 9th Sunday of Pentecost
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30
- Praise & Worship Service 11:00 AM
- Little Beamer's church

Colossians 1:15-28. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "I'm a Sucker for This."

Virginia Emerick	July 4
Earl Emerick	July 4
Dennis Goans	July 4
Mark Christian	July 5
Bonnie Jones	July 7
Robin Leuck	July 8
Geri Fouts	July 11
Ruth Shedd	July 12
Thelma Whitehead	July 15
Shane Green	July 17
Kathy Byers	July 17
Yvonne Budreau	July 19
Pete Luttrell	July 22
Sonya Meadows	July 25
Jeanie Lawrie	July 27
Nick Anthropol	July 27
Wilbur Patrick	July 30
Linda Bilyeu	July 31



Prayer Concerns

Connie Burke, Eve Hamilton, Sharon Hughel, Helen Nice, Eric Elming, Bob Bowsher, Jim Deckerd, Eileen Savoldi, Harold Bolinger, TCS School Corporation, Krystal West (friend of Robin Leuck), Brent Maxwell, Frosty Richardson, Len Fouts, Jan Palmateer (Kelly Harbath's mom) Jane Fifer, Kenny Freeland, Stephanie Cart Whitmore, Pat Maxwell, all college and high school graduates, Virginia Mickle, Paul Wimmer (Ronda Smith's uncle, Shay Mehils, Lorraine Gruber, Dick Swank, Carl Holtman, Dale Russell and Joyce Hubbard.

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

The family and friends of Jack Cheesman on his recent passing.  
The family and friends of Lana Gilbert on her recent passing.



“What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

Luke 18:27

Continued from page one

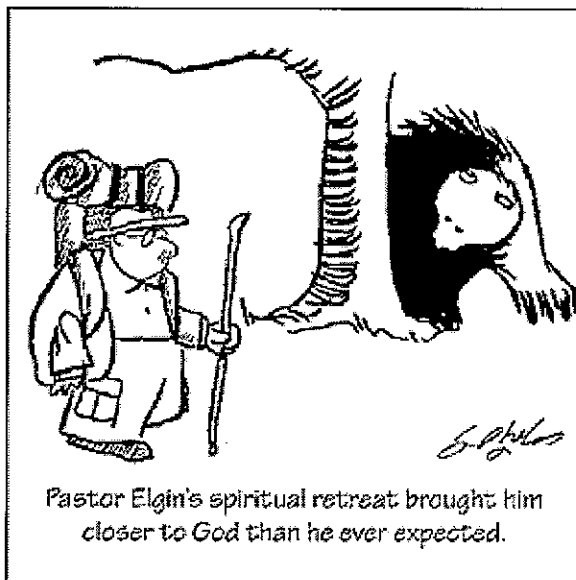
along side of the folks of Birmingham that have been so oppressed by both their history and their current socio-economic conditions. God used these youth to build relationships and in the in the building of those relationships, even if it was for a relatively short moment in time over the scope of a human life, those genuine, heart felt relationships, maybe washed away one more stain of racism and oppression and misunderstanding that have so soiled the history of our otherwise great nation. In the building of relationships, one more stereotype was eradicated. On Wednesday evening, I saw this very thing in the most powerful way: we attended an evening worship service at an African-American church and within minutes, we were no longer the respectful guests of a gracious host congregation; we were no longer two ethnically diverse groups of Americans, *we were one congregation of people who loved Jesus*. I've been in ministry a long time and I've never seen anything quite like it. Far more importantly, the youth haven't come back from this experience with just one more useful and helpful ministry experience, they've come back with transformed hearts willing and eager to carry this spiritual fight forward in the Lafayette and Attica areas. They came back owning this sense of mission!

As your pastor, I must tell you that on this trip, God's presence was so very powerful that it was almost too much to bear. The only thing I can compare this to was watching my youngest daughter be born. That experience was so ecstatic that I could hardly bear it. *But I must also tell you that I don't think that we could have been able to see it, feel it, or experience it if your youth had not first prepared themselves with that one act of obedience; that conscious decision to own their stuff rather than to be owned by it.* So much accomplished because they gave up their cell phones for a few days.

This gives one pause to wonder; “if a group of teenagers could do that for a week, what could a congregation committed to owning their stuff rather than being owned by it accomplish for the glory of God?”

Perhaps we need to think about that.

Blessings, Pastor Jeff



## West Point Community Picnic

**When:** Saturday, August 21  
**Where:** West Point Cadet Park  
**Time:** 4:30-6:00 p.m. we will eat; Scott Greeson will entertain us from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The meat (hamburgers, hotdogs, and brats) has been donated. We will begin asking for donations to purchase side dishes and drinks in the near future. We look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic. Questions: Rick & Lisa Snider—572-2326.

### How things stand with our new property: Faith to Build

In past writings, I've referred to this as "How things stand with the new property" as I have above. We are accelerating past that point in the process. We are rapidly approaching the building stage. The steering committee has begun to interview general contractors and construction management companies in order to take the next step. Once we identify the company that can best meet our needs, we will have an all church meeting to discuss what needs to happen next. Once again, I ask you all to be diligent in your prayer lives that we might actively seek God's will on this next step.



Blessings my friends.

Pastor Jeff

### Our Ongoing Commitment to Missions:

In late May, Kim and Matt Holtman shared with us that they were heading to China on a missions trip. As of June 21st, West Point UNC has sponsored them to the tune of over \$700.00. As your pastor, I thank you for your generous and extravagant giving to serve the Lord. They are scheduled to leave the US on Thursday, July 8th. Please keep them in your prayers from then until July 21st when they return. If you wish to continue to support them on this vital ministry, please send your support to:

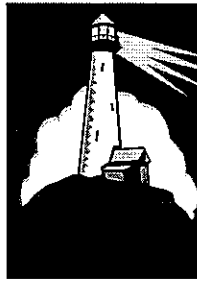
Cornerstone Community Church  
 China Courier Trip CH-10-07/08  
 7983 Grand Boulevard  
 Hobart, IN 46342

## July Birthdays

McKinzie Birge July 22

Sabrina Clark July 27

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



## Vacation Bible School Wrap UP!!!!!!

### Hey Light House;

Our 2010 Mission Trip to Birmingham, Alabama was an experience that will hopefully be remembered for a lifetime. I believe that all those who went would agree that they came back different people than who they were when they left. We slept on the floor and struggled with the intense heat for four days, but the blessings we received greatly outshined the hardships we had to face. Making new friends and strengthening the bonds with old friends was just a small part of the whole experience. As pastor Jeff formerly explained during his sermon on June 27, it was hard to find the words to describe what happened in Birmingham. All in all, we learned so much about ourselves and how putting God first in your life will grant you true happiness and peace. On behalf of all the Lighthouse members and leaders, we would like to thank all those who supported us with their prayers and donations.



Last month saw another successful VBS program completed. From June 14 thru June 18, we averaged 50 children per day along with an average of 33 volunteers each day. Thanks to those of you who gave so generously of your time to make this happen. Special thank you's go out to all the Lighthouse kids and all of those who contributed financially so that we could provide the snacks, crafts and materials that go so far to making our program successful. Our mission project this year was the West Point Cadet Park and to that end, we collected \$401.33, of which \$295.00 will be used to buy a piece of playground equipment. The balance will be donated to the park board to be used for installation. Little Beamer leaders are already planning next year's VBS, "PandaMonium."

Look for information on our fall program in next month's newsletter.





LifeWay Women Events

## LIVING PROOF LIVE

Featuring **Beth Moore**  
Worship Leader Travis Cottrell

Living Proof Live brings beloved bible teacher Beth Moore and worship leader Travis Cottrell via live simulcast from Chicago directly to women in the Lafayette area. This fun, authentic ministry team prepares a unique message from God for each event. You'll leave knowing that the message you heard was created just for you.

**Date:** Saturday, September 18, 2010  
**Where:** West Point United Methodist Church  
**Time:** Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m.; Broadcast begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will run until 4:30 p.m.

We are expecting 150 women and will need the help of everyone in our church. Committee sign-up sheets (e.g., parking, lunch, set-up, clean-up, prayer team, greeters/ushers) will be available on the back table and future planning meetings will be posted on the bulletin board. Please pray for the planning of this event, Beth Moore and her team, and those who will be joining us that day.

We are offering tickets to the women of our church through July. We will then open up registration to our cluster churches and then to the Lafayette area. You may obtain your tickets on Sunday mornings or by calling Julie Jameson at 538-2566 or email [julie8616@gmail.com](mailto:julie8616@gmail.com). Tickets will be \$5.00 which includes the simulcast, snacks, and a boxed lunch. Carpooling is encouraged and for those who attend our church, please consider parking at someone's home in West Point rather than the church. We would like to reserve church parking for our guests and handicapped parking.

Due to limited space and the length of the program, no child care will be available.

*Fall Women's Bible Study*  
*Starting Tuesday, Aug. 17 at 7:00*  
**JESUS, THE ONE AND ONLY**

*Get to know Jesus, the One and Only in this 11-week, in-depth, interactive study. We will learn how it felt to walk the dusty roads of the Holy Land with the incarnate son of God and what it was like to know him personally. Encourage a friend to join us!*

**Upcoming Bible Studies**

*If you would like to start a study of your own, Pastor Jeff and Ronda have lots of materials that you could borrow. We know that sometimes it is easier to meet with a different group at a different time. Sooo, let us know if we can help in any way. We would be glad to get it in the church newsletter and bulletin.*

## 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](mailto:wpumc@tds.net) or check out our webpage at  
[www.westpointunitedmethodist.org](http://www.westpointunitedmethodist.org)

Sunday School:	8:30 AM
Traditional Worship	9:30 AM
Praise & Worship	11:00 AM

*West Point UMC*  
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West Point, IN. 47992