



West Point UMC

J U N E 2 0 1 1

“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse.”
Genesis 12:3

Standing By Israel

“The Palestinians have rights!” “**And Israel has a right to exist!**” The first statement reflects the words of a colleague who is one of the finest people I know. A World War II vet who participated in some of the heaviest fighting in the Philippines, he is now retired. For decades, he has been an highly effective pastor and leader in our conference and despite the fact that he and I are often on opposite sides of the political spectrum, he has been a cherished friend and mentor for over ten years. While I respect my colleague profoundly, I have some serious issues with his position of one sided support of the Palestinians. Not surprisingly then, the second sentence in this article is my response to his statement.



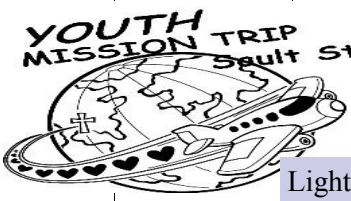
This conversation occurred over eight years ago and was all but forgotten. It came back though in the aftermath of President Obama’s speech on the dramatic changes sweeping the Middle East. Perhaps I remembered that long ago conversation because it seems to reflect to me the opposing sides of this issue. The president affirmed that it is the policy of the United States supporting a two state solution to the Palestinian problem, something that US presidents from both parties have done for decades. But Mr. Obama upped the ante in a way no US president has done before: He called for a two state solution based upon the borders that were in existence prior to the 1967 war. Why is that so important? Three key reasons: first, it puts Israel in the position of giving up land while the Palestinians and their Arab sponsors need give nothing in return. Second, those pre 1967 borders are completely indefensible. At one point under those previous boundaries, Israel is only nine miles wide. The response from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was to flatly reject that position. The third reason is by far the most important to us as believers. In the Book of Genesis, God promises to bless those who bless Israel and to curse those who curse Israel.

This is a complicated issue and we need to spend some more time unpacking it than this space allows. To my dear colleague and those who believe as he does I would say simply this: “yes, the Palestinians have rights.” But to consider those rights outside of a historical and political context is akin to saying that Israel *doesn't* have the right to exist. In terms of who we are as United States citizens and believers, to do so is at best naïve and at worst, it is a duplicitous way to treat an ally. For the Israeli people, to do so would be nothing less than national suicide. In the coming months, we will spend some time looking into the historical and political context and we will consider the spiritual implications of not standing by Israel.

Until then, blessings,

Pastor Jeff

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Lighthouse mission trip kids to West Lafayette First UMC 11:15 AM VBS Kick Off & Lighthouse send off	6  It's time for VBS At West Point UMC	7	8	9	10  Annual Conference June 8th thru June 11th	11
Come to VBS June 6th thru June 10th from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM daily!						
12  YOUTH MISSION TRIP Sault Ste. Marie	13	14	15 United Methodist Women 7:00 PM	16	17	18
Lighthouse Mission trip to Sault Ste. Marie from June 11th to June 18th!						
19 Lighthouse Sunday Mission Trip wrap up	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE
LESSONS

June 5

- 7th Sunday of Easter
- Holy Communion
- Lighthouse Send off
- Summer of Decision Sermon Series concludes
- Moment for Mission—Habitat for Humanity

Hebrews 11:1-12 & Hebrews 11:24-31, 39-40. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "From Dead Ends to Deliverance".

June 12

- Pentecost
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
- Hymn Sing

Pastor Jeff leads the Lighthouse kids on their mission trip to Sault Ste. Marie. The service will be bible exploration and a congregational hymn sing.

June 19

- 1st Sunday of Pentecost
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM
- Lighthouse wrap up of mission trip.

The Lighthouse kids will share their experiences of their mission trip.

June 26

- 2nd Sunday of Pentecost
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

Acts 1:6-14. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Heavenly Minded; Earthly Good."

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

BOB MCCLELLEN	JUNE 6
ANGIE MEADOWS—WILSON	JUNE 20
TRACY ARMSTRONG	JUNE 23
JERRY HARBATH	JUNE 24

Prayer Concerns

Matt Bowman, Nora Lamb, Joan Aikins, Sharon Hughel, Harold Bullinger, Jim Hale, Dexter Andrews, Mary Lou Lawson, Bill Burns, John Patton, Patty Stettler, Vince Barry, Florence Denny, Delaney Loveridge, Clayton Whitehead, Janet Greer, Donna Bell McCall, Bob Bullington, Bill House, Elizabeth Matthews, Jody Fifer, Jake Ferrell, Garnett Baumgartner (Delite Ritter's mom) Heather and Jenny Baumgartner (missionaries) The victims of last winter's tsunami and earthquake in Japan and the Japanese people as they recover from these natural disasters.

The victims of recent severe weather in the United States particularly in Alabama, Missouri and Oklahoma.

The family and friends of Jerry Robinson, Kyle Rhoades, Jim Aid, Shirley Lutes, and Pastor David Cross of Wabash First UMC on their recent passing.

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



Bible Verse of the Month

Genesis 12:3

I will bless those who bless
you and whoever curses you I
will curse

**Japan/Pacific
Emergency**

**UMCOR
Advance
#3021317**

Please give
generously to
our Japanese
Friends.

Missouri—Alabama
— Oklahoma Relief

**UMCOR
Advance
#3021326**



How things stand with our new property

Last month we talked about a meeting with the county in which we received some disappointing news: to have an entrance to our church property from highway 25 we would have to pay for modifications to the road that would be prohibitively expensive. Sometimes rejection is protection and sometimes a door closing is God's handiwork in opening a window of opportunity. As we told you last month, we are not deterred! That remains true but we've also had a chance to reflect on where God is leading us in this process and we went back to our mission statement which says:



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; providing all the opportunity to know and to serve God; offering fellowship; providing spiritual leadership and teaching the Word of God.

The key words of that statement suggest that we see ourselves as the focal point of our community. To live that out we have been forced recently to reexamine our plans. What we are hearing is a question from God: "Are you willing to put your needs and desires as a congregation on hold so that the needs of my people in the West Point community can come first?" As pastor, but also as somebody who has closely observed the desire of this congregation to be obedient, I think that answer is "yes we are." Which leads to a second question we sense God asking us: "I thought I told you guys to build a community center?" Make no mistake, I see us worshipping in a building like the one the architect drew for us. The only question for us to answer is "which does God want us to build first, the church or the community center?" Is it possible that the "closed door" at Highway 25 is really God's direction, or maybe more accurately, God's redirection for our mission? Much prayer is needed to answer these questions but I believe we are being lead in a powerful way.

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

2011 Memorial Day Flowers Thank You

- In Memory of loved ones
Jeff and Ronda Smith
- In Memory of Kathleen Jarvinen
Helen Van Hook
- In Memory of Helen Pearson
Larry Pearson
- In Memory of loved ones
Jay Blessing
- In Memory: Mark & Lucille Beers; Rex Buckner
The Buckner & Burke families
- In Memory: Myra Lefevers
Bob Lefevers
- In Memory: Bill Haan
Jane Haan
- In Memory of all our loved ones
Mark and Darlene Christian
- In Memory of loved ones
Pam & Phil Katter
- In Memory of Jim Emerick and loved ones
The Emerick Family
- In Memory of family and loved ones
JB & Nellie Van Sickle
- In Memory of loved ones
Jerry & Vickie Harbath

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Winds Up

One more lesson remains in our Revelation Bible study with Dr. Ben Witherington. We will conclude this study on June 22nd, taking time off for the youth mission trip and Vacation Bible School. At that time, in addition to concluding our bible study, we will decide what to do next. There is always room for more so please come join us!

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.

June Birthdays

Mason Birge	June 5
Joey Stout	June 11
Garrett Emerick	June 13
Kayla Liggett	June 22
Kirsten Button	June 24
Jordana Bilyeu	June 30



Hey Light House;

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

Little Beamers!!!

We had a great year in 2010—2011! We will have an even better year next year. So stay tuned in to your newsletters and in church for news about next year!

In the mean time, Vacation Bible School is happening from June 6th through June 10th. You all come! The wrap up program is on Friday night, the 10th, at 7:00 PM See Pam Katter for details. See you at VBS!

Summer is here and as always, it's going to be very busy. Our Sault Ste. Marie trip is from June 11th to June 18th. The youth will be in charge of the worship service on June 19th as we do our mission trip wrap up.

We would like to thank the church for it's tremendous generosity in supporting the efforts of our youth group this past year. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts



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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