



West Point UMC

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 1

“Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money?”

Matthew 20:15





I love October! The leaves are starting to turn and the colors are beautiful. The weather has gotten a bit cooler but it’s not yet cold. The football season is in full swing and the World Series is just around the corner. But for both pastors and laity, there is an element of October that can inspire, to borrow lightly from Hunter S Thompson, fear and loathing. October tends to be the month churches conduct stewardship campaigns. A stewardship campaign is a time in the life of a church where church leadership asks the congregation to make giving commitments so that the church can do its budget and plan her ministries for the coming year. Having said that, there is a lingering perception about the concept of stewardship that is misleading and we would do well to clean it up. One false perception is that stewardship is just a pretty word used by church leaders to get into the pockets of those who sit in their pews. Not quite as bad, but equally misleading is this perception: “A stewardship campaign is a necessary evil so that the churches bills can be paid and commitments can be met.”

We clergy aren’t spotless when it comes to stewardship either. We allow ourselves to be far too concerned about what some of you might think of us on this topic. Far too often we allow the fear of a negative response keep us from preaching effectively on one of God’s most powerful truths. Oh we tell ourselves comforting half truths like: “I didn’t go to seminary to wind up asking people for money!” or “people will think me self serving because I will personally benefit from a stewardship campaign.” But in reality, we clergy are just as human as you and sometimes the truth scares us too. Friends I’ve been in ministry for quite awhile now but it has not really been that long since I sat in a pew just like you do. Here’s what I’ve learned from being on both sides of the pulpit: All of these perceptions are false because they are based upon the notion that somehow all the stuff is ours and not God’s. Maybe that truth is why at our core, we human beings are hard wired to be generous and giving and loving. That’s because we are created in the image of God — a God who is so generous and giving and loving that he gives to us freely all that we have, *all* that we have, and only asks for a tenth of it back. When we give, to the church or to whatever, we aren’t giving up something nearly as much as we are giving back something. Once we understand that in our hearts as well as in our heads, we understand everything.

With that in mind, this pastor is pleased to announce that beginning Sunday October 9th, we at West Point United Methodist Church will spend some quality time together learning about stewardship; what it is and what it isn’t in a four part sermon series. We will look at some of the things that keep us from seeing those great truths and the road blocks that block us from spiritual growth. For example, I refer to Dave Ramsey’s observation about our infatuation

Continued on page four

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				 <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Fishers of Men Trip thru Sunday</div>		
<p>2</p>  <p>"In Remembrance of Me ..." World Communion Sunday</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p><i>Administrative Counsel mtg 7:00 PM</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Morning bible study 9:00 AM</p> <p><i>Little Beamers 4:30 PM</i></p> <p>708</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i></p>	7	8
<p>9</p> 	10	<p>11</p> <p>Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Morning bible study 9:00 AM</p> <p>United Method- ist Women 7:00</p> <p>708</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i></p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>Stidham Baked Stake Sale @ Stidham UMC 4:30—7:00 PM</p>
<p>16</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p>Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Morning bible study 9:00 AM</p> <p><i>Little Beamers 4:30 PM</i></p> <p>708</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i></p>	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>Cluster meeting at Weaver Chapel UMC 2:00 PM</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Morning bible study 9:00 AM</p> <p>708</p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i></p>	28	29
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Light Up the Night! 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM</div>					

**SERMONS & SCRIPTURE
LESSONS**

- October 2
 • 16th Sunday of Pentecost
 • World Communion Sunday
 Guest pastor to be announced
- October 9
 • 17th Sunday of Pentecost
 • Stewardship Sermon Series Begins
 • Communion
- Matthew 20:1-16 & Exodus 16:2-15. Pastor Jeff's sermon title will be "Equal Outcomes".
- October 16
 • 18th Sunday of Pentecost
 • Laity Sunday
- Matthew 22:15-22 & 1st Thessalonians 1:1-10. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Keeping It Real".
- October 23
 • 19th Sunday of Pentecost
 • Cluster Group mtg @ Stidham
- 1st Thessalonians 2:1-8 & Ecclesiastes 2:17-23. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Vanity Fair and Vain Pursuits".
- October 30
 • 20th Sunday of Pentecost
 • Commitment Sunday
- Matthew 23:1-12 & 1 Thessalonians 29-13. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "The Moses Seat".

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- TIM EMERICK** **OCT 3**
RANDY LEUCK **OCT 5**
DAVID BUCKNER **OCT 6**
JACK CHASE
CAROL STOUT **OCT 7**
LARISSA RITTER **OCT 8**
BRANDON SIEBER
BRIAN BILYEU **OCT 12**
TONY HARBATH **OCT 15**
DORIS CRAIG **OCT 17**
HEIDI TEMPLE
JOSH BRIDGES **OCT 20**
TIM BURKE
MATT SMELCER **OCT 30**

Prayer Concerns

Matt Bowman, Jim Deckerd, Jody Fifer, Sharon Hughel, Trish Dowell, Bill House, Mary Lou Lawson, Bill Burns, John Patton, Patty Stettler, Florence Denny, Amy Richardson, Delaney Loveridge, Clayton & Thelma Whitehead, Carla Arth, Dell & Della Grimes, Elizabeth Matthews, Kenny Evans, Amy Richardson, Jake Ferrell, Clara Jackson, Doris Craig, Denny Byers, Jan Palmateer, Peggy Shaft, the Corwin family, John Haley, Remington Tomlin, Michael and Sarah Williams on the loss of their infant son, Jim Nicholas, Ed Keller, The Cory Meadows family on their recent move, Garnet Baumgartner, Heather and Henny Baumgartner (Misionaries)

The family and friends of Harold Bullinger and Bill Burke 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.

Bible Verse of the Month
Genesis 16:12

"He [Ishmael] will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand will be against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his bothers.



OCTOBER

“Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money?”
Matthew 20:15

Continued from page one

with what he calls “stuffitis.” How we compare ourselves to others and wind up being either vain or bitter. How we pursue things that in the end, don’t really matter. And on Sunday October 30th, the last installment of the series and commitment Sunday, we will still be talking about stewardship, but we won’t be talking about money. We will be talking about ministry. Hopefully, it’s because we will have grown.

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

This Fall at West Point UMC

Coming Sunday November 6th, the annual West Point UMC annual smorgasbord and Bazaar!

From 4:00 PM to 7:00PM you can sit down to that meal that will remind you of the Sunday dinners that mom and grandma used to make. *When you come to the smorgasbord, you aren’t just eating a meal, you are reviving precious memories.* So come and enjoy the succulent roast beef, the scrumptious chicken and noodles, a mind blowing variety of salads and desserts. **Don’t just come to dinner at West Point UMC. Come home.**



Get an early start on Christmas shopping. Check out the creativity and deals that our community artists and artisans have to offer at our bazaar.



How things stand with our new property

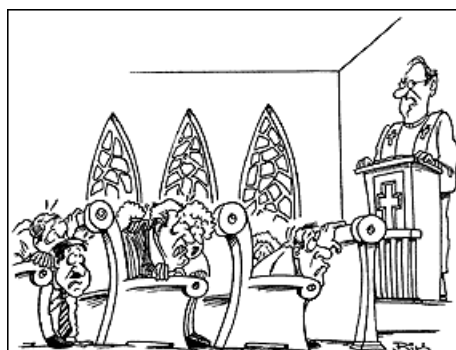


Could I share a personal confession? It may well be a confession to something that many of us have in common. It is very difficult to wait on God's timing when I want so very much to use my own time table. A recent trip to the Book of Genesis has given insight. Abraham and Sarah have received a promise from God that they would become the parents of a great nation but they were the age most folks enjoyed grandchildren when they received the promise. So they tried to jump start God's time table by having a child through a surrogate named Hagar. She had a son whom Abraham named Ishmael. Long story short; it was an unmitigated disaster. Sarah eventually had Isaac, the child of promise and she, shall I say it? She nagged Abraham until he ran Hagar and Ishmael off because she didn't want her son to have to share his inheritance with Hagar's. When Ishmael was born, an angel of the Lord assured Hagar that he would be blessed by God but the angel also made a prediction:

“He [Ishmael] will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand will be against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his bothers. (Genesis 16:12)

When Ishmael was banished from his family, he was at an age when he was just beginning to need his daddy in his life the most. I am quite certain that Ishmael loved his dad so the banishment must have been seen by him as a huge betrayal. Well no wonder he grew up to be a hostile man! Furthermore, tradition has it that our Jewish brothers and sisters are descended from Isaac and are Moslem brothers and sisters are descended from Ishmael. Talk about sibling rivalry disjunction and millennial consequences! And all so unnecessary! If only Sarah had waited on God's timetable instead of rushing the divine plan. If only Abraham had insisted that his wife wait. How things could have been different. When it comes to our future, I confess that everything in me wants to go! go! go! But in my heart, I am convinced that God is telling us to wait, wait, wait on his timing. Perhaps the consequences of waiting or not waiting will not be as dramatic as Sarah's. Just the same, I don't want to find out the hard way — do you? I think we'll wait.

Blessings, Pastor Jeff



“All right, perhaps I should rephrase that last question...Which of you 'Brave Committed Souls' would be willing to fill in today in our preschool?”

Bible Studies Coming this Fall:

On October 5th the Wednesday morning bible study group begins a new bible study based on Adam Hamilton's *"Why? Making Sense of God's Will"*. This great little book grapples with the tough questions: "Where is God when it hurts? Why do the innocent seem to suffer? What's going on when prayers seem to go unanswered? These are questions that plague all thinking Christians and non-Christians alike. Join as we seek answers. As always, all are welcome.

DISCIPLE II

DISCIPLE II IS IN FULL SWING! WE CONTINUE TO MEET ON THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM AND LEAVE OURSELVES OPEN TO HEARING WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY TO US THROUGH THE BIBLE AND BE GUIDED INTO SERVICE IN THE WORLD BY THE SCRIPTURE AND OUR STUDY OF IT. 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, it is not too late to 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. We meet on the second, third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 6:00p.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, Delite Ritter, Jay Blessing or any other wise looking woman.

October Birthdays

Lexie Clark	Oct 7
Nolan Burke	
Carter Noseworthy	Oct 14
Shelby Krueger	Oct 16
Ashlyn Maxon	Oct 29



Hey Light House;

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

Little Beamers!!!

Little Beamers is off and running. We will meet on Wednesday October 5th and Wednesday October 19th. As always, we will have fun bible lessons, entertaining and informative crafts and oh yeah, SNACKS!!! Come join us. We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends there.

As for you adults, we are always happily ready for any of you who would like to volunteer to help make this marvelous program go. See Pam Katter or Pastor Jeff if you can help.

We are once again on the move in 708 and learning about Jesus. We are watching the bible study video by David Nasser where we explore not Jesus said and taught, but who Jesus is today. And we are seeing the "where" of Jesus activities in Israel through the lens of the camera.

Check out our October schedule:

October 5th: Jesus: Miracles or Illusion?

October 11th Making caramel apples for mission trip fund raiser.

October 18th Is Jesus the Only Way to Heaven?

October 25th Hanging out

Looking forward to seeing you there and please, bring a friend.



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

West Point UMC
4923 Monroe Street
Post Office Box 8
West Point, IN. 47992