



West Point UMC

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

“And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”
Matthew 11:6 NRSV

Natalie Munroe was an obscure high school English teacher in Philadelphia when her suspension from duty last February gained national attention. What did this young teacher, mother of one six year old expecting her second child do? She vented about her students on her blog. She said, among other things, that her students tended to be rude, lazy, out of control whiners.” She went on to say that “they curse, discuss drugs, argue for grades complain about everything, fancy themselves entitled to whatever they desire and are generally annoying.” Another part of her blog was aimed at some of her student’s parents. Of them she wrote what she would really like to say on parent-teacher communication, as opposed to what she actually says: “[Your child] is a complete and utter jerk.” “Although academically okay, your child has no other redeeming qualities.” “It’s not our job to raise your kids.” As these comments became more and more widely read, the pushback became intense, leading to her suspension. In response to the suspension and all the unexpected publicity, Mrs. Munroe stated that “never in a million years” would she have guessed that her words would be seen by so many people nor did she ever intend for them to be. If she had, perhaps she would have chosen her words more carefully. What’s really fascinating to me though is that she says in effect, while her words were meant for far more private consumption, she nevertheless stood by them. Natalie Munroe was not fired although her school board seriously considered doing just that. Perhaps the very real threat of a lawsuit based upon the First Amendment right of free speech dissuaded them. The story which began last February has resurfaced recently. Mrs. Munroe’s employer, Central Bucks High School, has been besieged by petitions from parents who insist that their child not be assigned to her classes. They don’t want their children to be taught by teacher who has suggested in a months old blog that some of their fellow students are “frightfully dim.”

Personally, there are a couple of things I take away from this story. The first is that you shouldn’t put anything on social media that you aren’t prepared to have widely read. The second is this incident seems emblematic of how easily we tend to become offended in our society today. It’s almost like a significant number of folks today are not simply easily offended, they seem to find validation from being offended. Have we as a nation become so hypersensitive that we can’t take a little criticism? Perhaps Natalie Munroe’s words were unduly harsh, maybe not. I know that what I say in the privacy of my prayer journal is far more raw and blunt than what I would say in public even though the message might be essentially the same. Natalie Munroe’s words didn’t occur in a vacuum. I suspect that there is much truth behind the obvious frustration of this beleaguered teacher. Sometimes the truth hurts. Here’s a

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September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		<i>Administrative Counsel mtg</i> 7:00 PM	Morning bible study 9:00 AM <i>Little Beavers</i> 4:30 PM 708	<i>Disciple II</i> 7:00 PM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 Bible Presentation		Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM PASTOR PARISH COMMITTEE MTG. 7:00	Morning bible study 9:00 AM United Methodist Women 7:00 708	WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG. 6:00 <i>Disciple II</i> 7:00 PM	Scott Greeson Concert Lafayette Theater 8:30 PM	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
 Baptism Service		Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM	Morning bible study 9:00 AM <i>Little Beavers</i> 4:30 PM 708	<i>Disciple II</i> 7:00 PM		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM	Morning bible study 9:00 AM 708	<i>Disciple II</i> 7:00 PM		

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE
LESSONS

September 4

- 12th Sunday of Pentecost
- Holy Communion

Matthew 11:1-6 & Matthew 11:11-15. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "On the Offensive"

September 11

- 13th Sunday of Pentecost
- Trinity Mission Presentation
- Bible Presentation

Matthew 18:21-35 & John 8:1-11. Pastor Jeff's sermon title will be "The Yardstick".

September 18

- 14th Sunday of Pentecost
- Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17 & Micah 6:6-8. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "On Following the Humble".

September 25

- 15th Sunday of Pentecost

Galatians 6:11-18 & Acts 15:1-11. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "What Unites Us".

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

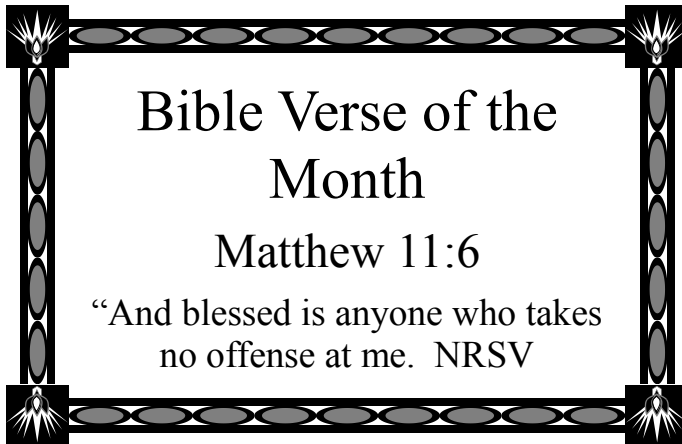
JANE HAAN	SEPT 2
CORKY BYERS	SEPT 4
WALLY ROSEN	SEPT 10
SANDRA HOLTMAN	SEPT 11
LISA SNIDER	SEPT 14
RAE RITCHIE	SEPT 15
KAY CHASE	SEPT 18
MARY LOU LAWSON	SEPT 19
PAM KATTER	SEPT 22
JOSH CRAIG	SEPT 24
DEB MARTIN	SEPT 24
DARLENE CHRISTIAN	SEPT 27

Prayer Concerns

Matt Bowman, Jim Deckerd, Jody Fifer, Sharon Hughel, Harold Bullinger, Bill House, Mary Lou Lawson, Bill Burns, John Patton, Patty Stettler, Florence Denny, Delaney Loveridge, Clayton & Thelma Whitehead, Dell & Della Grimes, Elizabeth Matthews, Kenny Evans, Amy Richardson, Jake Ferrell, Clara Jackson, Doris Craig, Garnett Baumgartner, Denny Byers, Clint Thomas, the Corwin family, Carla Arth, John Haley, 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 Cletus Zook and Frosty Richardson 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.



Please come and join **Carl & Sandra Holtman** as we celebrate our **50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday September 17, 2011 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM** at the West Point United Church. Your presence is the best gift we could re-

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Matthew 11:6 NRSV

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painful truth; if some of our youth today do tend to be narcissistic, rude and disengaged, it's because we've taught them to be or allowed them to be. Over the last twenty to twenty five years we've taken the wonderful objective of enhancing our children's self esteem and turned it into an idol of self indulgence which has generated a false sense of entitlement.

For all of his legendary kindness and a stellar reputation as the prince of peace, Jesus never hesitated to give criticism when merited. That was true for Pharisees and the ruling elite, but it was also true for friends and allies. When John the Baptist was in prison, he sent messengers to Jesus asking “Are you the one who is to come or should we expect another?” Jesus responded by suggesting that his deeds spoke for themselves and that the messenger should go back to John and tell him that. But as the messenger was leaving to report back to John, Jesus said this: “and blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” (Matt. 11:6 NRSV) Essentially, what Jesus is saying is that he knows his ministry style is radically different than John's. He knows that John is concerned that his approach of reconciliation and relationship building is far different than John's style of thundering confrontation. With gentle criticism Jesus essentially says: “Hey John, I am prepared to allow the results of my ministry speak for themselves. I am prepared to stand on my record.” Here's the thing: John was not only a powerful spiritual and cultural warrior in the quest to transform the world, he was Jesus' cousin. The man was family! Jesus also knows that John was in a dark prison cell facing a very scary and uncertain future and still Jesus offers up this critique: “don't judge this book by it's cover John.” If Jesus would respond to John in this way and under these circumstances, don't you think he'd not hesitate to do the same with us?

I wonder how I would respond if my child had been the object of Natalie Munroe's criticism. Since they are all about the same age as Mrs. Munroe, I can't know. But I would like to think that my knee jerk reaction would not be to “shoot the messenger”. Christians are obligated to speak the truth in love — no question. But we are equally obligated to hear it when it is directed at us. That very simply means that sometimes in life, criticism is going to come our way. When it is justified, it will make us better people. When it is not it will help shape our resolve to be the person we are created to be in the sight of God. Either way we win. We only lose if we allow political correctness to shelter us from any criticism.

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

Missouri—Alabama — Okla-
homa Relief

UMCOR
Advance
#3021326



Japan/Pacific
Emergency

UMCOR
Advance
#3021317

How things stand with our new property

Cadet park was the sight of the fourth annual community picnic last month and as expected, a good time was had by all. Scott Greeson and the Trouble with Monday band came and once again, entertained and delighted all of those who came out on a beautiful Saturday in August. We had record numbers and lots of new faces. Thanks much to Lisa and Rick Snider for organizing the event and to Chris Emerick for the wonderful publicity and to all who made this event not only a success this year, but for making it an ongoing highlight in the year of our community! And while we are on the subject, how wonderful it is to be able to worship on the sight of our new property as we did that following Sunday. I can't help but believe that these are just exciting previews of all that is to come at the future home of West Point United Methodist Church. Our vision is coming true! How else can you interpret the events of last month? Keep up the good work of evangelizing and reaching out to our community folks. God is watching and I cannot help but feel His pleasure in our efforts. 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 is well into fall bible study. We are studying various scriptures through the eyes of Dr. James Moore via his recent book: A Heart Strangely Warmed. Please come and join us for all are welcome.

DISCIPLE II

WILL BEGIN IN EARNEST ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 7:00 PM. THIS BIBLE STUDY ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO OPEN THEMSELVES TO HEARING WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY TO THEM THROUGH THE BIBLE AND BE GUIDED INTO SERVICE IN THE WORLD BY THE SCRIPTURE AND THEIR 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.



September Birthdays

Tyler Bilyeu	Sept 4
Jordan Coblantz	Sept 13
Kirsten Burke	Sept 25
Nathan Anthrop	Sept 27
Alex Nicoson	Sept 30

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

Little Beamers!!!

It's that time of year again!!! Little Beamers starts this month. Our first Little Beamers will be on Wednesday September 7th and we will meet again on September 21st. 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.



Hey Light House;

708 is just around the corner. We will begin on September 7th at — what time again? 7:08 PM. We will meet every Wednesday.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Seven O Eight will resume in September. Looking forward



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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