

# WHO WE R

Realizing  
Teaching  
Reflecting  
Reporting

It is now 2 weeks since we concluded our church Revival. I am hopeful that a conversation has been sparked among us regarding who we are as followers of the Way of Jesus in the midst of our families, our church and the extended community. It is my hope that a conversation has been sparked about 'next things', about embracing the unknown of 'all things new' and possibilities for extending the Good News of God's love and acceptance of all people in Jesus our Lord. A couple of things have informed my own thinking and praying these past two weeks. (I am fully anticipating that God will continue to show me and we and us ever so much more – but for now here is what is before me.)

- 1) I pulled out the goals we took on for 2018 at our Charge Conference. There are 5 purposes that have been identified as opportunities to meet the 5 deepest desires of people. 3 of those 5 we do very well or at least we offer the opportunities for participation and growth. Those 3 are Worship, Fellowship, and Discipleship. I encourage you to avail yourselves of those opportunities every chance you get. The 2 we need to (I would use stronger language as in 'must attend to') focus our energy and commitment and our trust in God's guidance with us are in the areas of evangelism and service.
  - **Evangelism**, as in telling the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ is **the** purpose of the church. Telling obviously involves knowing and telling the Story. Telling also involves living the story in such a way that invites others 'in'. Telling also involves seizing opportunities and even creating opportunities to engage others in meaningful conversation about what matters most in life. I have heard many times that 'we' don't know how or that 'we' are uncomfortable putting ourselves and others in those kinds of situations. To that end some specific opportunities to learn and test and experience *ways to 'do' evangelism* will be offered. There will be some reading and discussion offered over the summer months and then through Wednesday Night Alive in the fall, a specific class will be offered.
  - **Service** gives us a profession to live out. Service in Jesus' name is wide and deep and big and 'we' will seek a variety of ways for you to put your body, your creativity, your talents and skills to work for the glory of the Kingdom. There are many among us who are already 'doing' in Jesus' name. Hopefully, in times of worship, persons will be invited and encouraged (maybe even with a little arm twisting) to tell their story of where, when, and how they serve.
- 2) The second provocation arrived via an e-mail newsletter I receive from Wesley Seminary/Lewis Center for Church Leadership. The article, by Mike Bonem is titled *Positively Urgent*. He distinguished between negative urgency and positive urgency. Positive urgency, *runs toward desired outcomes, emphasizes hope and opportunity, sees a community that can be reached, and highlights the potential of new outward-facing programs*. He distinguishes between a dream and a positive thrust in the here and now.

In the midst of and now after Revival 'we' can be a church on the move. Are YOU in on that?!?

**Mission Central Work Days** If you have some time and energy to spare, there is good work to be done to get Mission Central up and open. Mission Central is located at 1712 Smithland Rd. aka Cedar Grove United Methodist Church. The work days are **May 9 – 1 (not Sunday)** . All kinds of help is welcome. Specific skills while helpful are not a requirement. Contact Reverend Bob Talbott for details and to volunteer ([pastor-bob.asburyumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor-bob.asburyumc@gmail.com) OR 540-421-2500).

**Project Crossroads** We are sending a team to work in this southwest Virginia mission July 29-August 3. If you are interested in making that journey and working with a team, let Lee Judy know as soon as possible. ([leejudy7948@gmail.com](mailto:leejudy7948@gmail.com) OR 271-8343). **DEADLINE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE IS MAY 10!**

**Retirement Celebration** Our District Superintendent Tommy Herndon and his wife Carolyn are retiring at this year’s Annual Conference in June. Tommy and Carolyn have served our District with creativity and energy and joy for 8 years. Also retiring is Glen Langston who has served as District Program Director. Many have been blessed through Glen’s leadership and teaching. A Celebration of Ministry will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2-5 pm (come and go) at the Dayton UMC. Special presentations will be made at 3:30 pm. A basket for each of these outstanding leaders will be provided for notes and letters of appreciation. The District churches are encouraged to receive an offering for Tommy and Glen (deadline for contributions, Sunday, May 13.)

**Sanctuary Flower**

May 6	Sue Rinker
May 13	Ron and Cindy Cartee
May 20	Jimmy and Bonnie McLarty
May 27	
June 3	Craig and Dale Waters

If you would like to volunteer to provide flowers for the sanctuary next year you can sign up in the social hall or call the church office.

*Team Schedule*

May 6	Team 2
May 13	Team 3
May 20	Team 4
May 27	Team 5
June 3	Team 1
June 10	Team 2
June 17	Team 3

Have a child or grandchild graduating this year. Please contact Millie Sager with their information immediately so they will be recognized on Graduation Sunday.  
[milliesager@gmail.com](mailto:milliesager@gmail.com)  
 746-4788