

First United Methodist Church

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Would you say that you've had a "life defining" moment?? You know, one of those moments that truly changed and shaped your life. Maybe that moment even became a means of identifying who you are and why God placed you here on earth. It would be interesting to hear some of the stories of transformation and identification in our church family.

What brings this question to mind is that yesterday, February 9, is a pretty significant day in "Methodist" history. You see, it was February 9, 1709, just before midnight, (which happens to be about the same time I'm writing this article ☺) that John Wesley awoke to find himself trapped in a burning home. The rest of his family had made it out safely, but somehow in all the commotion, John was overlooked and left behind in the 2nd floor children's room. The family was horrified to look up to the window of that room and see John silhouetted by the fire that was engulfing the home.

Fortunately, two quick thinking individuals rushed to the burning home and formed a human ladder. With one standing on the shoulders of the other, these men were able to rescue John from the burning home just in the nick of time, so the story goes. This moment so shaped John's life and identity that later he would refer to himself as a "brand plucked from the burning." Because of this experience, John Wesley believed that God had something unique for him to accomplish with his life.

John did have a unique purpose to fulfill for God. He brought renewal to the Anglican Church and ultimately started a new movement in the Christian faith that today we know as the United Methodist Church.

Actually, I believe that God has something unique for each of us to accomplish in our lifetime. It may not be as "large" as starting a new faith movement...but then again, who knows!! In just a couple weeks our church, along with many other United Methodist Churches across the Dakotas, will be starting a six-week journey, studying Mike Slaughter's book, "Dare to Dream." In this book Rev. Slaughter challenges all of us to consider what our "God Purpose" is – the mission that God wants us to accomplish or fulfill while we walk this earth.

Next week I'll have a list of the different groups that will be available in our church for our "Dare to Dream" study. I hope you will consider participating in this study and that you'll be open to what God wants to accomplish through you.

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

This Sunday is Bible Sunday. At the 11:00 am service we'll be presenting Bibles to our Second Graders. Pastor Keith will continue with the Re-Build series from the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. Also, Rev. Ed Coates will be with us signing copies of his book "Pastoral Love Letters." Our worship service times are Sunday at 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00, and Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Come join us.