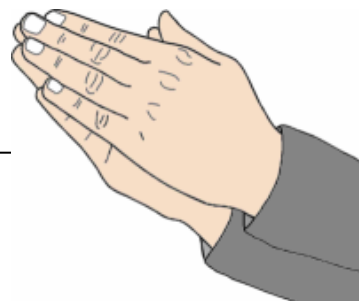


The Onalaska Evangel

A monthly Newsletter of
The First United Methodist Church of Onalaska

August 2008



- *The Lord is Between Your Hands..*

"The Meaning of the Lord is Between Your Hands" was the title of a song presented by the choir from The Ivory Coast Conference. When I heard the song I didn't know the words -- they speak French on the Ivory Coast and therefore, sing in French. DUH! (If the location of the Ivory Coast slips your mind right now -- it is on the West Coast of Africa.)

So, not knowing the words you are left to enjoy the performance. The choir sang with such enthusiasm. They looked at you. They waived those white handkerchieves., which added to their expression of the song. They MOVED!! They didn't stand still. They all moved in the same direction and in synchronization with the music. They were a group -- a body, -- they were one.

The Ivory Coast Conference is a brand new United Methodist Annual Conference. If the choir was representative of the excitement and enthusiasm for their faith, then the Meaning of the Lord was most certainly being expressed by this group
I wondered as I watched, and now remember what I saw and experienced the end of May. Annual Conference has been over for a month or so now -- and yet-- I still have this image, and a memory of the song they sang. You get to thinking about what is. And you get to thinking what could be.

What is. Only questions. Has the Church (in the USA) lost its excitement and enthusiasm for our faith? United Methodists used to known for our excitement and enthusiasm. We were a people charged with "spreading Scriptural Holiness throughout the land (sic John Wesley). We were a people who moved as one Body toward a com-

Is He In Yours...

mon goal. We were the people who sent out the Circuit Rider to form new faith communities. And, so, the question --- Where are those people???

What could be??? Maybe the opposite of the preceding paragraph. A people who sing the song of faith as one Body (the Body of Christ) who move in unison to the beat of the Holy Spirit. A Church who does EVERYTHING with excitement and enthusiasm.

A Church that moves out of our comfort zone -- like Circuit Riders -- to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Church that is ONE -- one with each other, one with Christ and one in ministry to our community and the world.

A Church who knows ---- The Meaning of the Lord is between OUR HANDS.

I'll see you in CHURCH -- where we're gonna get a GRIP on this.

Joy!!!
Pastor Paul



How is your week?

Monday Wash Day

Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday Ironing Day

Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday Mending Day

O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday Cleaning Day

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday Shopping Day

O God, give me the grace to wisely see the gift of eternal happiness you purchased for myself and all others In need of love.

Saturday Cooking Day

Help me, my Savior, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday The Lord's Day

O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

UMW NEWS

Hope all of you are enjoying your summer. Remember to work on your bazaar crafts and start saving nice items for the Twice but Nice. Due to a lack of space at church, I will start collecting these things in September. So if you can, please hang on to those nice things. If you can't, call me and I will come get them. Thanks to all who took craft kits to complete. A list of supplies available for your use in making crafts is posted on the UMW bulletin board.

August 16th is the District School of Christian Missions hosted by Huntington UMW. The three study groups are: Israel and Palestine Geographic Study, Giving our Heart Away Native American Survival and Reading Program-Study Books, catalogs, Lending Library, Etc. If you are interested in attending either of these events, let Jewel Green know.

Thanks to all the ladies who donated cobblers for the Men's Fish Fry fund raiser and to those who did the baking. You are always so giving and so willing to help. Happy crafting. Love you,

Martha Young



DALE'S DIAMOND

THE BEST-LAID PLANS

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart plans his way but the Lord directs his steps.



We may think about the future and plan our lives as carefully as possible, but God has the final word. He is the One who turns our dreams into reality—or who turns our lives in a sharply different direction.

We have all experienced changes in direction. We planned on doing one thing and ended up doing another. When I retired from the Military I planned on being a pastor. But God has directed my steps He led me into the Evangelistic ministry for a period, then the pastorate, now a ministry in Caring.

If we are trusting the Lord, we need not panic or despair when our plans fail or when our life abruptly changes direction. It is wise to make plans, but the Lord is the One who ultimately directs us as He wills. And His way is always so much better than we could have chosen. So write your plans in pencil but give God the eraser.

"He leadeth me! O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort
fought! What'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
(Gilmore)

DALE

GOODNEWS BIBLE CLASS

We have recently had some of our members visiting doctors. Ravell Powell had a pace maker installed, and seems to be recovering well. Harold Browning has had to have blood work, and has finished after 4 days, and are now on a trip to Indiana to visit relatives. We have had good attendance during the summer. We are enjoying our study of Jesus's ministries. We have an open invitation for anyone to attend our class.

Yours In Christ,
Dean

Good News Class
Dean Blau



The Sunshine Class

We have had several members out due to physical ailments. I have noticed that our church has a number of illnesses also. Please keep them in your prayers. We challenge you to spend time daily reading God's word and in prayer for each other.

Blessings, peace and joy.
The Sunshine Class

Marion

BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY

"Stepping Up: A Journey through the Psalms of Ascent" explores Psalms 120-134. Traveling pilgrims sang these psalms both on the way to the great festivals of the Jews and as key elements of the worship at those festivals. Students will interact with Beth Moore and the Scriptures in new ways. They will gain a new appreciation for the life of faith as a journey to greater fellowship with and worship of God.

Beth says, "I am expecting nothing less than a new level of relationship and intimacy with God through these psalms. I ask you to settle for nothing less as well. The more we unveil our faces to God and bare our souls to Him, expressing what is on our hearts, the safer we'll feel with Him and the closer we'll draw to Him."

Our study will begin on Thursday, July 10th at 6:00 p.m. There will be no morning class for this one. The class is 7 weeks long, and the first night is an introduction. Workbooks are \$12.95, and I strongly encourage each of you to have your own workbook. I know this is short notice, but God doesn't always give us long lead times on what He wants us to do. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Make your checks payable to FUMC, Onalaska.

Even if you don't do the workbook, plan to join us on Thursday evenings at 6:00 for this study. Beth Moore always brings us a word from God.

If you have questions see Billie Garrison or Martha Young. This class is open to both men and women.



Two Little Boys

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window.

The older of the two, a five year old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole.

As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother runs to the yard in a panic.

'Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!' she asks as she shook the older boy in anger.

'We were just playing 'church' mommy,' he said.

'And I was just baptizing him.....in the name of the Father, the Son and in...the hole-he-goes.'

E-Prayer Warriors

The E-Prayer Warriors list is finally moving forward. We have had so many to need special payers for so many things and are getting such good response. If you would like to be a part of this please send my your email address so I can add you to the list. All you do is as soon as you see the name of the person in need of prayer on your computer, you stop and take a moment to pray for that person.

If you would like to add a name to be prayed for send me an email or call me on the phone. You don't need a computer to add someone to the list. It can be for you, a family member, or a friend.

We are a loving praying church and are anxious to raise you up in time of need or illness.

DottieDean-Lyne,

dedean@suddenlink.net

or 936-646-3622.

**Lost and Found Sunday
School Class
The Book of Hebrews**

In the midst of persecution and rejection, the Hebrew believers, who had come from a background of legalism and works, were tempted to hold onto symbols, rituals, and traditions that were grounded in the requirements of the old covenant. Then God came to earth in the human flesh as the new covenant, and these believers discovered the freedom they could have in Jesus Christ, and the relationship they could have with their Savior.

The book of Hebrews contrasts the old and new covenant and brilliantly reveals that Christ is higher than any Old Testament character, priest, ritual, or sacrifice. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Christ is the perfect sacrifice --- our own High Priest --- giving all believers unfettered access to God.

This bible study promises everyone who wants to understand the message of Hebrews for the church today will benefit from this excellent and timely resource.

Step out of your box. Get up earlier one Sunday morning and enthusiastically give your all to God. Come early and join your fellow Christian brothers and sisters in the body of Christ for teaching, fellowship, and brotherly love in the name of Jesus. Everyone is welcome and our class prays we will see each of you soon.

David Johnson



UMM & Missions

While we have the privilege of serving the members of this Body and outreach to the community, we are not an identifiable group. The faces change depending on the task God puts before us. The Lord also burdens the hearts of the people He wants to serve on a particular task. We cannot function without the support of all the other parts of the Body, so we thank you for your prayers and support throughout the year.

June is the end of the UMM fiscal year and we take a break from meeting until the second Friday in September. The fish fry this year was a success, only \$70 less than last year. We thank all the ladies who helped, all the ticket buyers, all the anonymous contributors, and more importantly we thank everyone who showed up to help eat the catch and fellowship with one another.

We continue our support of Kids Free Clothing Exchange (KFCE) and check in with them each week to assist in moving boxes to and from storage, and taking adult clothing to the appropriate places for distribution.

Thanks to your support, our food basket was overflowing with canned meats and other goodies for the Assembly of God food bank. We also had the privilege of serving some members of this Body this month. It brings joy to our heart to receive a request from one of our members. To serve one another is our first priority.

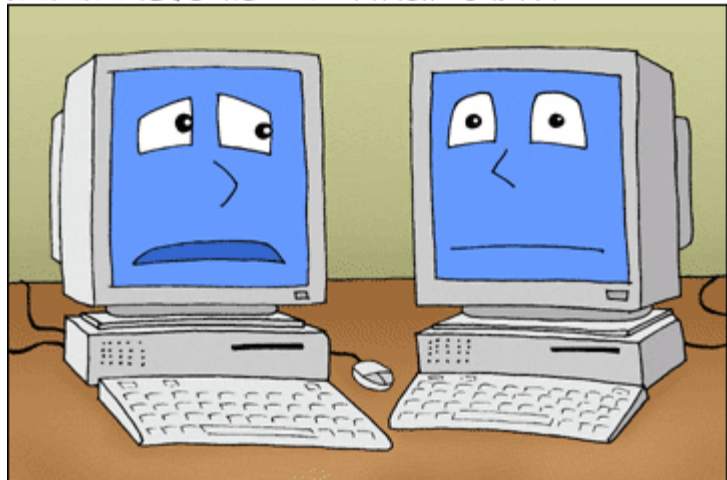
In closing, I would like to leave you with some words from God through Peter:

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” (Quote marks are mine.) Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:8-11

May His word bless and keep you now and always.

Ken Garrison

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Thanks to Kerry Hodgkinson

11-29-2005

OH MY NO ... HUMANS DIDN'T INVENT US AT ALL ... WE EVOLVED FROM PLASTIC, WIRES, AND LITTLE MICRO THINGERS

DO YOU BELIEVE?

THE BEAR MINISTRY

Have you taken a few Bears and Bear Wanna-Be's to someone in need of God's love lately? Take one when you visit a shut-in, a nursing facility or to a sick neighbor down the street who you don't know. Spread the Good News that God loves them and so do we, as we pray for the Bear recipient. Thanks to everyone who brings the bears. And a special thanks to Valerie, the Bear Ranger!



A Plausible Explanation

One day, Adam sat outside the Garden of Eden shortly after eating the apple, and wondered about men and women. So looking up to the heavens he said, "Excuse me God, can I ask you a few questions?"

God replied, "Go on Adam but be quick. I have a world to create."

So Adam says, "When you created Eve, why did you make her body so curved and tender unlike mine?"

"I did that, Adam, so that you could love her."

"Oh, well then, why did you give her long, shiny, beautiful hair, and not me?"

"I did that Adam so that you could love her."

"Oh, well then, why did you make her so stupid? Certainly not so that I could love her?"

"Well, Adam no. I did that so that she could love you."

In spite of everything God tells us in His Word, do you, in your heart of hearts truly believe that God is on your side? Are you secretly convinced that God created man with very high hopes only to have them dashed? That we've proved to be a terrible disappointment to Him, but because He is faithful to His covenant, He's obligated to see the plan to completion? So He tolerates us because He's stuck with us? You may not necessarily feel that God is against you, but you may doubt that He is truly for you.

We often tend to determine whether God is *against* us, *for* us, or *tolerating* us based on how He appears to act in our circumstances. In other words, our litmus test for whether we think God is really for us is circumstantial evidence. If I don't get the promotion, God was for the other guy. If the relationship doesn't work out, God didn't root for me. If the cancer treatment doesn't take, I'm not a high priority to Him.

As Jesus was washing His disciples' feet, He said to them, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." When we, in the midst of our particular circumstances, don't know where we stand with God, He says to us "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

God knows when something glorious in the future necessitates something difficult in the present. And because He knows the glory will be worth it, God will risk being misunderstood. Yes, God wants us to have joyful, satisfying lives, but He also wants us to have crowns to cast; rewards to receive; character to develop; compassion to give; testimonies to tell. In the midst of those painful processes, God makes bold promises. According to Romans 8:28-39, He promises He will make sure that all things work together for your good. He promises He will make you into the exact image of His Son. He promises that He will never let you be separated from His love. He promises that He will glorify you. These are promises straight from God. He is not against you. He does not just tolerate you. He doesn't stick around because He feels obligated to you. God is on your side because He chooses to be. Why aren't we living with the confidence of these promises?

Remember: *GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS AND HE CAN DO WHAT HE SAYS HE CAN DO and YOU ARE WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE.*

Adapted from Beth Moore Bible Studies, "Believing God" and "Stepping Up", and shared by Billie Garrison.





“The Perry’s” are coming to town!

Please mark your calendars for a great night of music on Thursday August 24 at 7:00pm and enjoy the music of the gospel group The Perry’s all the way from Gallatin, Tennessee.

Down through the years of Southern Gospel music, there have been many great groups to grace a stage, groups who have set out to make a difference in this world by spreading the message of Jesus Christ and who have proven that they have just what it takes to make it in the industry. One such group that would fall in this category is The Perry’s.

Beginning their amazing journey gathered around a piano in 1970, the Perry’s trusted and knew this was what God had called them to do. Since then they have followed and watched as God has unfolded His plan for their ministry and has allowed them to achieve far beyond what they had ever imagined.

And now they are coming to our Church to spread His word through their music and we as members have a great opportunity to invite others to come and share this night with us. This is the chance for us to introduce ourselves and the ministry of this Church and reach out to those in need of a Church home. So mark your calendars and start spreading the news!

More coming on this great event!

Patti

Thursday Bible Study

Our current study, “Stepping Up – a journey through the Psalms of Ascent”, will finish on August 21st. This is our first study that isn’t “women only,” and we’re happy to have three men in our class. We’re working our way through Psalms 120 through 134, generally accepted as songs sung by Jewish pilgrims as they made their way to Jerusalem for the three great festivals each year. These are the songs Jesus would have sung, along with his brothers, cousins and uncles as they traveled the road to Jerusalem. This is an interesting and uplifting study, but then any study of God’s Word teaches us more about the God we worship and draws us into closer fellowship with Him. We have four weeks left of this study and then we’ll take a break.

Our next study will be another Beth Moore, “Daniel – Lives of integrity, words of prophecy.” Just as the prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressure to compromise his faith in a hostile culture and was constantly confronted by temptations and threats, today’s believers face similar trials. We will learn how to boldly live in our modern-day Babylon without falling prey to its allure.

This is a twelve-week study, broken into two parts. We’ll begin the new study on Thursday, September 18th, and cover the first six lessons, finishing on October 30th. The second six weeks will begin after the first of next year, and will cover the prophecy portion of the study.

Classes will begin at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The morning class will be for ladies only and the evening class welcomes the men as well. Workbooks will be \$14.95 and this covers both six-week sessions. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

If you have questions, call Billie Garrison, 646-2881.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Few Onalaska First people come to pray on Wednesday mornings at 10 am in the Sanctuary. Why? Yes, many people are sick, dying, grieving or hurting from a certain burden or life situation where they cannot come to pray. We Intercessors pray for those people, as well as for the church, community, State of Texas, our nation and world. Come and see and pray with us.

God gives all of us the gift of prayer. How much faith do you have? Do you REALLY BELIEVE in the power of God? Miracles happen only to believers in the Lord who can do all things. Romans 10:10 - 11 says, “For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, ‘Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed.’”

Let’s pray together:

“Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.”

The Book of Common Prayer

Some of us lay hands on others, anoint, ask for healing and pray boldly. If you need that in your life, talk with God, Pastor Paul and me. Expect a blessing. Believe!

Pray joyously and continuously,

Bonnie Magid

Prayer Coordinator

Scripture Readings For July

August 3rd
12th Sunday after
Pentecost

Genesis 32: 22-31
Psalm 17: 1-7 15
(UMH 749)
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21
Sermon:
"Self-Giving"

August 10th
13th Sunday after
Pentecost
Genesis 37: 1-4
12-28
Psalm 105: 1-6,
16-22,45b
(UMH 828)
Romans 10: 5-15
Matthew 14:22-33
Sermon
"How Do I Know
I'm Saved/",

August 17th
14th Sunday after
Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
(UMH 850)
Romans 11:1-2a,
29-32
Matthew 15:10-20,
21-28
Sermon
"The Calling of

August 24th
15th Sunday after
Pentecost
Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalms 124: UMH 846)
Romans 12: 1-8
Matthew 16: 13-20
Sermon:
"Gifts"

August 31st
16th Sunday after
Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-
26, 45c
(UMH828)
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:9-21
Sermon:
"Attributes"

Onalaska Methodist Church Website

<http://www.onalaskamethodist.org>

Pastor Paul asked if our website could be reactivated and for the past month slowly that has taken place. This is your website that will serve two purposes, one to have a working calendar and information for our members to keep abreast of the events and meetings and services, but perhaps more important in this digital age it will afford those who may be seeking a place to worship an opportunity to "meet" us and learn what our church has to offer, before coming to a service or meeting. Pastor Paul will direct much of what we project through the site and with the congregations help all of our events will be listed on the calendar, our various groups will have an explanation and invitation to those seeking a church home.

The new address is [onalaskamethodist.org](http://www.onalaskamethodist.org)

Additionally there are new email addresses that will allow larger files, pictures to be sent (yahoo had limitations)

pastorpaul@onalaska,ethodist.org
secretary@onalaskamethodist.org
newsletter@onalaskamethodist.org

The prayer requests now go direct to Pastor Paul rather than being routed through the office, allowing much faster response to needs.

There are photo sections and as your groups have activities we can add those showing the world that we are a happy, active church.

The newsletters will probably stay for 3 months to allow travelers and guests to read what we have been doing – AND the "One Line Sermon" item will have a new sentence every day, as a treat ro entice you to visit daily and check out not only those but also the calendar, if you have some to offer send them to newsletter@onalaskamethodist.org.

As you visit the site please feel free to send suggestions on things that we can add, enhance, update, we do not want it to become static—to be useful it must be looked at, and must be kept current, we will do it with everyone's help





**PROMISE KEEPERS
A Ministry for Men**

**Each time we reach out to God's people,
we are ministering to the Lord.
The hand that touches others also
touches the heart of God -----
every blessing we extend blesses Him;
every caring act honors Him;
every loving expression pleases Him.**

Recently a request was made to our Promise Keepers group to supply and donate silicone wristbands that tell the Gospel story of Jesus in colors (you may have seen them around being worn by almost every member of our group) to a group of young people attending a summer camp to learn more about Jesus.

Our eagerness to serve God in the past has resulted in supplying full uniforms to one of Onalaska's High School basketball teams last season and providing all the children's Christmas gifts from "Santa Claus" for several families in the Onalaska area last year.

Our group was more than happy to provide these wristbands to these young people. In a thank you card sent to us after the end of the summer camp, the following words were written:

PK, thank you for planting a seed into the hearts of our young people. A message was delivered to the kids at Junior Summer Camp about salvation and "how to run the race for Jesus." The Bracelets were passed out to all the kids and workers to be a constant reminder of our purpose and the goal that we as Christians are striving to obtain. So again, we would like to say a special "Thank You" to the Onalaska PK group.

*Signed,
Rev. Dennis Hodge
and the Students and Staff of the
2008 District Full Gospel Junior Camp*

A group picture taken at the closing ceremony of the summer camp shows the students and staff proudly displaying the wristbands given to them by your local PK Ministry.

David Johnson