

The Onalaska Evangel

A Monthly Newsletter of

The First United Methodist Church of Onalaska

June 2009



The Holy Spirit works thru...

... You & The Church

If you were a keen reader of the Bulletin on May 31st you saw Pentecost defined as the day the Church received the Holy Spirit. And, you may have thought -- Church? I thought that was when Holy Spirit was let loose for me. Well, yes and no.

I guess first we need to define what we mean by Holy Spirit. The Spirit is a member of the Trinity. As the name implies there are three members or parts to the Trinity. Three ways God has chosen to express Himself to us. There is God the Father. The Supreme being. The one over all things. Jesus referred to God as Father even though God has no gender. Jesus, the Son, is the second member of the Trinity. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior. He is the Word of God, the Love of God, the example of the Grace of God, that became flesh and lived among us. His mission was to point us toward God. He came to show us how to live together. He died for our sins so we could have a relationship with God. He came that we might have life and have it abundantly in this life and the next.

During Jesus' ministry he called many people along with the 12 Disciples. The Church was born from all those who Jesus called and those who followed and became Disciples.

Jesus was only one man. The Church could not accomplish

the mission Jesus had set before it to go and make disciples of all nations

(Matthew 25:18). So, something else was needed to help the Church.

The answer was the Holy Spirit, the third way God expresses Himself. The Holy Spirit came to compliment what God had already done through the Law, the Prophets and the Son. The Holy Spirit came to *empower* all disciples.

Let's face it, the Disciples who were with Jesus were hiding in the Upper Room. They were not exactly out there proclaiming the Good News. They were afraid! They needed to be strengthened, encouraged, equipped and sent. To do what? To tell the story of Jesus.

This is what the Holy Spirit came to do. Strengthen, encourage, equip, and send disciples into all nations to tell the story of Jesus Christ. To accomplish what Jesus commanded us to do in Matthew, and in all the other Gospels for that matter.

The first manifestation of the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost where all heard the Good News. All were able to hear the Good News because the Spirit equipped the Disciples. Disciples then went out from Jerusalem to all the known world -- no longer afraid -- to spread the

Good News.

Nothing has changed! The command from Jesus still remains. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 25: 19-20)

How can Jesus be with us? By the power of the Holy Spirit. How are we equipped? By the Spirit giving us gifts to serve in the Body of Christ -- the Church. How are we sent? By seeing the needs on our community and using our gifts to make a difference.

The Holy Spirit is not so much about you individually as it is about the Church collectively. Yes, we all have the Holy Spirit. Yes, the Spirit informs us and advises us and teaches us and enlightens us, and gifts us for service. But, the Spirit is more than just a personal thing. The Spirit empowers all of us, working together, to do great things for God.

I have a little prayer on my desk I say every morning; "Lord God, I expect great things from you; please help me to attempt and accomplish great things *for* you."

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The Holy Spirit helps us accomplish the mission: "Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Let's let the Holy Spirit empower us to do great things for God!

Joy!!!

Pastor Paul

CHURCH LIFE GROUP

July 27th the Church Life Group will host an Oldies Night we are planning on a FIFTIES NIGHT maybe even earlier...

Bennie Langston will be the DJ and a small area will be set aside for dancing. All kinds of surprises will be in store for those who attend.

Eats will be chips, dips, finger sandwiches and cookies. A signup sheet will be available in the fellowship hall.

Make plans to attend and mark your calendar with a big F for a FUN night.

Mark your calendars for June 27th—the date of the annual Methodist Men's Fish Fry. Great food, fellowship and fun, eat in the fellowship hall or take home.

Tickets are on sale now just see any member save \$1

Thank You...

"Many thanks are sent for all the cards, phone calls, gifts & concern during my recent surgery. God Bless."

Pat Mathisen

UMW NEWS

First, the ladies of UMW would like to THANK all of you who braved the weather to stay after Church for our May UMW Lunch. We made approximately \$600 to go towards our missions work.

At our May meeting, Betty Williams reported that 20 school kits were finished and sent to UMCOR. Jewel Green will present the \$300.00 UMW High School Scholarship at the award ceremonies at Onalaska High School on May 28 to Danielle Rodriquez. Danielle wants to teach math. She finished High School in three years, and sounds like a very ambitious little girl.

Please remember to clip your grocery box tops and put them in the can in the fellowship hall. These labels are sent to the McCurdy School in Espanola, New Mexico, where they are used to purchase much needed supplies and equipment.

Martha Martin and Nell Hernden are hosting our UMW Yearly Membership Luncheon the 2nd of June. The program this year is "Membership, Nurture & Outreach". Marion McWhorter will give a book review on the book "Cooking with Hot Flashes and Other Ways to make Middle Age Profitable" (Hmmm sounds pretty interesting to me.) Fellowship begins at 9:30 and the Business meeting begins at 10:00. We are inviting all ladies to attend this meeting and find out what membership in UMW can mean to you.

June is our last meeting for the summer. Our next meeting will be on September 1st.

Don't forget our next UMW Fund-raiser Lunch on August 2nd. The menu will be announced later.

Paulette

CHOIR NOTES

Everything is perking along with the choir. We have had a lot of sickness, accidents, and traveling. We have already (as you read this) presented to you two very new songs. Billie did a wonderful job on the solo part of our Anthem May 24th. More good things are coming. Must commend the Men with their wonderful contribution with those bass parts.

If there is something you as part of the congregation would like to hear us do or if you have any constructive criticism please feel free to let us know. We are here to bring joy to your heart in Jesus Name.

In Jesus Holy Name,

Dottie

Prayer Warriors Needed

Did you know that Onalaska First United Methodist Church has a ministry on the computer. We call it the Email Prayer Warriors. There are about twenty on the mailing list as of now. We would like for you to join in on this wonderful ministry. We pray for those who are facing surgery, loss of a loved one, comfort, any reason a person is in need of prayer. It does not need to be a member. Prayer is so powerful and the more folks to lift up a name to the Lord and ask his blessings, comfort and peace will be so good. If you would want to be a part of this call Dottie Dean Lyne 936-646-3622 or the church office. Or email

dedean@suddenlink.net

Dottie




Beth Moore Bible Study

Plan now to join us on the 3rd Thursday of June, July and August for the Beth Moore Bible study, "He Is." This is a "no-homework, no workbook, no signup" study, and is based on Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He is, and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." This class is open to everyone and will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 6:00 p.m. So mark the date on your calendar and plan to come. Be sure and bring your Bible. Remember, June 18th, July 16th, and August 20th.

Any questions, call Billie Garrison, 646-2881.

Coming Events

 **Spiritual Growth Committee re-scheduled their meeting until May 27th at 7:30 p.m.**

CHURCH LIFE Pot Luck Supper, Monday June 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship Hall—sign-up list in fellowship hall.

UMW Membership Luncheon—June 2nd 10:00 a.m. followed by luncheon All ladies invited, there will be a book review by Marion McWhorter, contact Martha Martin 646-3870

Scrap Booking Class—June 6th at the fellowship hall, 10 a.m. til 5 p.m.—there is a small fee for supplies—given by Jennifer Spinks

UMM—Breakfast 8:30 a.m. June 13, last meeting before fish fry and summer break.

KFCE UP-DATE

The month of April was very busy at KFCE with shoppers looking for Summer clothing and also for Easter clothes. The store was closed for Easter week-end so that volunteers could prepare for company or just enjoy the Easter holiday.

Unfortunately, KFCE has been closed three out of four week-ends in May due to the swine flu scare, Mothers Day week-end, and this past holiday: Memorial Day week-end. The store was opened the 16th and 17th and as expected, extremely busy. KFCE will be open May 29th & 30th, and we expect record turnout since we have been closed most of the month.

Lynn Badgerow has taken a leave of absence from KFCE; so, Althea Elliott needs our help more than ever. One way the UMW of our church is helping our community is through volunteering at KFCE. I thank all you ladies who have faithfully given your time as volunteers down at KFCE since the first of this year. There is always a need for new volunteers, and if anyone has a desire to volunteer at KFCE, please call Linda at 936-646-5350.\

Hazel Taylor, who has been a regular worker on Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays for long time. Her husband, Melvin, had a stroke four weeks ago and was life-flighted to Memorial Herman in Houston. After two weeks he was brought back to rehab in Livingston; but, has had many problems. She probably will not be back to work at KFCE. Besides caring for him, she has health issues, plus a young great-granddaughter living with her.

By the way, our UMM have volunteered to build a wheel chair ramp onto Hazel & Melvins front porch. She fell recently going down her front steps and could not get up; but, luckily she could reach her telephone and called the Onalaska Fire Dept. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Lectionary Readings

June 7

1st Sunday after Pentecost

**Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalms 29

Romans 8: 12-17

John 3: 1-17

June 14

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

**1 Samuel 15: 34-16: 13

Psalms 20 or Psalm 72

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 (11-13), 14-17

Mark 4: 26-34

June 21

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

**1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

Psalms 9: 9-20

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

Mark 4:35-41

June 28

4th Sunday after Pentecost

**2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 8: 7-15

Mark 5: 21-43

** Indicates Sermon Text

**New "Drop In" Sermon Series
"Summer with the Kings" starts
June 14th**

Older adults say: No retirement from ministry

By J.A. Buchholz
Special Contributor

Just because a church has mostly older adult members doesn't mean it's not growing or actively involved in ministry.

The Rev. Warren Langer and the members of Sun City Center United Methodist Church in the Tampa-Bradenton area know that from experience.

The average age of the church's 800-plus members is 82 years old, according to Dr. Langer, yet in 2007 alone the church started 57 new ministries. And while many people might consider their 70s or 80s a time to take it easy and slow down, Dr. Langer says Sun City Center's members are finding just the opposite is true when it comes to their commitment to ministry.

Dr. Langer is glad he didn't heed the advice he received nearly six years ago when he was appointed to the church as its senior pastor—that older adults only wanted a pastor who would hold their hand until they die.

"I was told not to ask much of them and not to expect much of them," he said. "That's not biblical. You are always called to be disciples of Christ. You don't retire from that."

And with all the ministries at the church, its members—whose numbers increase to about 1,000 each Sunday during the winter months when part-time residents are in town—have many opportunities to serve.

Dr. Langer said he stresses that everyone has passions and talents, and when those are combined with spiritual gifts, people find their niche. Once that niche is found, he said, there is little turnover in ministries. When ministries are left with no one to organize them, they are allowed to end.

"I don't twist arms to keep a ministry going," Dr. Langer said. "People go where they are led."

The only restriction on people's service is that they don't do anything that jeopardizes their health, Dr. Langer said. He said his oldest church member active in a ministry is 101 years old, and the woman who faithfully leads the church's prayer ministry is 92.

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The Rev. Gary Bullock, founding pastor at New Covenant United Methodist Church in The Villages, says the key to helping older adults remain active is tapping into the potential they hold for ministry as well as getting them to realize God isn't done with them.

New Covenant is a predominantly older congregation in a large retirement community. Mr. Bullock now serves part-time in outreach at Sun City Center United Methodist Church. "There is no retirement plan as long as you're still breathing," he said.

Dr. Langer said Sun City is the only congregation he's ever led that has the time to serve others.

"They are not working; they are not raising families," he said. "This congregation doesn't need a few people to do all of the work that needs to be done in the ministries. It uses a lot of people to do a few things, one or two hours a week or month, depending on the ministry."

Those ministries include a traveling disaster-response team, a gleaning ministry that saves 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of produce each year from being wasted, and a team that gives respite to full-time caregivers twice a week.

Although there are churches of other denominations nearby—including Baptist, Episcopal and Presbyterian congregations—Sun City Center UMC is growing, Dr. Langer said. The church had 40 professions of faith in 2007, up from 13 in 2006.

A key to that growth is a unique partnership with nine of 14 real estate developers who are constructing homes within 6 miles of the church, Dr. Langer said. The developers alert the church when a home is sold so the church can welcome the new residents and invite them to worship. In return the church helps the developers plan and organize events, even holding some of those activities at the church.

The church is alive and thriving, not because it's full of different people,

Dr. Langer said, but because it's full of people who have found where they truly belong.

"We don't ignore the aging process; we acknowledge it," he said. "[Members] may not be able to get on a roof if they are in disaster response, but they can tear out Sheetrock or remove carpet. You can still serve, but just in a different way."

It comes down to a church having the expectation of discipleship, and once that invitation is made, members accept, Dr. Langer said. Along with that comes a welcomed byproduct—a boost to the church's finances.

Seventy percent of disposable income in the United States is controlled by people 60 years and older, Dr. Langer said. In September alone, he said, the church received \$45,000 in deferred gifts from deceased members.

"People ask me when am I going to leave here," said Dr. Langer, who is a Baby Boomer. "I hope to retire here. The people are pleasant; there isn't all that politicking that goes on in other churches."

Until about a year ago, Dr. Langer said, the youngest member of the church was his wife, Karen Su, who is in her early 50s. Then the church hired a music director who is married and has young children.

Although there aren't many children, the church has developed a master plan that includes a preschool and youth center as well as an adult day-care facility.

Members know that as properties around the church sell, families with children will be part of the equation. And church members want to be ready, Dr. Langer said.

"We have Baby Boomers moving in this area all the time," Dr. Langer said. "They don't want to belong to a church for the sake of belonging to a church or maintaining an institution. They want to belong to a church that is making a difference in the community."

"We are doing that, and by the church making the decision to include these things in its master plan, it shows where our heart is and who we truly serve."

This story is reprinted from the Florida Conference e-Review.

KFCE UP-DATE (CONTINUED)

and they came out to help her up. She told me she needed a walker with a seat. So, if any of you have one you are not using, please call Linda at 936-646-5350. Please keep her family in your prayers.

For the month of June, I have a key and plan to be at KFCE on the following days & times:

Monday: 10am - 2pm

Tuesday: 9am - 1pm (*)

Wed.: 9am - 1pm

Friday: 10am - 3pm

(*) With the exception of June 2 because of UMW meeting.

If you are a new volunteer, please come by one of these times and I will be happy to show you around.

NOTE: KFCE is open on Saturdays from 10am - 3pm. There is always a need for volunteers this day.

Together, the UMM and UMW are continuing to make a big difference in this community. Thanks again for all who give their time to help.

Serving in His name,

Lnda Kendall

We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the
load



May Picnic Pictures

Soon to be on the website

Great food, fellowship, Fun

Join in YOUR Church Activities...