



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

February / March 2015



From the Pastor's Pen

By Daryl Diddle

In this issue, I present for your consideration this excellent word about prayer, loneliness

and alone-ness from Mark Bauerlein, senior editor of *First Things* journal. (Originally published in *First Things*, December, 2014. Used by permission).

It is easy to overlook those moments in the Gospels when Jesus withdraws from others. They come across as pauses, a rest between miracles, parables, and edifying encounters such as that with the rich young man. The work of Jesus's ministry takes place amid others, and the exchanges can be taxing, as when the Canaanite woman asks His help and He replies that His bread is not for dogs. "And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table" (Matt. 15:26-27), and Jesus relents. The souls He helps and tangles with make Him weep and roar; He denounces, mourns, blesses, and heals. Disengagement allows for calm and quiet. Especially in Luke 4:42, His solitude marks a retreat from the maddening crowd: "And when it was day, He departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought Him, and came unto Him, and stayed Him, that He should not depart from them." Here and elsewhere, the people press and beseech, and Jesus needs a respite.

But, of course, the isolation has a positive content. It's not about getting away from others but about going toward something else. Jesus isn't alone. He's with the Father.

Prayer can happen in company. Church worship is corporate prayer. But there must be times when a soul petitions the Father in solitude. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that "faith is not an iso-

lated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone," but Jesus's example shows the periodic necessity of making God your only companion. Too often the world draws you away from Him, and so you must slough off your circumstances and address Him by yourself, oriented toward nothing else, no outside distractions or commitments. The first commandment is, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Loving your neighbor comes second.

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seclusion are harder to find, and fewer people seek them out. You find a lone bench in the park on a fall afternoon, gaze up at the sky through the branches, and begin

the Rosary only to have a power walker march by barking into an invisible mic. It's not just the noise, it's his connection to absent persons, as if to say that being in one place alone with the Lord is insufficient.

Social media is the culprit. Texting, selfies, updates, chats, snapchats, tweets, multiplayer games, blogs, wikis, and email enable people to gossip, boast, rant, strategize, self-promote, share, collaborate, inform, emote, and otherwise connect with one another anywhere and all the time. The volume is astounding. Earlier this year, Facebook boasted 1.23 billion active users, while late last year Twitter's 200 million users sent 400 million tweets per day. According to Nielsen Media, a teen with a mobile device sends or receives on average around 3,300 text messages per month, in addition to logging 650 minutes of phone calls.

Those habits, which researchers term "hypersociality," dominate leisure time. Data analyst Bill Tancer found in 2008 that social media had passed pornography as the most popular type of

search. The whole range of fallen human motives passes through the tools, but the prime one is, precisely, “I want not to be alone.”

Some commentators highlight the narcissism and frivolousness (the top tweeter, with 53 million followers, is Katy Perry, Justin Bieber coming in second with 52 million—Pope Francis has 4.6 million); others emphasize the human communities social media creates and the revenue it generates for businesses. But the titans of social media understand quite well the social need behind it all. In his Time magazine profile of Mark Zuckerberg, Man of the Year for 2010, Lev Grossman stated the aims of Facebook: “Facebook wants to populate the wilderness, tame the howling mob and turn the lonely, antisocial world of random chance into a friendly world, a serendipitous world. You’ll be working and living inside a network of people, and you’ll never have to be alone again.”

Zuckerberg told a reporter the same year, “And no matter where you go, we want to ensure that every experience you have will be social.”

Reid Hoffman, founder of LinkedIn, announced in a 2012 talk at MIT, “We’re social animals. It’s deep into our identity about how we discover meaning in life, what we think is important about what we do.” In conversation with Andrew Keen, Biz Stone, cofounder of Twitter, states bluntly, “The future will be social.... The social will be the killer app of the twenty-first century.” By this way of thinking, isolation is hurtful abandonment, quarantine, a denial of support. The astronomical success of their ventures suggests that many, many people experience solitude in just that way. When these Silicon Valley moguls explain their creations, they set money, power, and fame below the pledge to cure the human condition. They may be insincere, but their dosages of social media have proven spectacularly irresistible.

Loneliness is everywhere. I see it in my students when I tell them to turn off the TV while studying and one blurts out, “I couldn’t do that—the silence would drive me crazy.” Or when you watch someone at a bus stop end one phone call and promptly dial up an-

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other one, and the words you hear have no urgency to them, proving that the only need lay in finding someone to talk to. Contact fends off the terrible feeling, the unease Robert Frost caught while staring at the snowy field and desolation enveloped him: “And lonely as it is, that loneliness will be more lonely ere it will be less.”

A voice, a photo, some words from someone, somewhere, hold it at bay. I may be only one of Britney Spears’s 37 million followers, but a short message makes her a part of my life. I may be estranged from my job, but if my LinkedIn connections reach three figures, a richer future awaits. The sad truth about all this has two parts.

One, the friends and connections one forms, the attention one gathers through digital tools, fail to meet the spiritual hunger. The universal hope that I-am-not-alone-and-unacknowledged needs stronger stuff—we aren’t so shallow. This is why the stunning geometrical growth in social-media volume has occurred. This and that connection aren’t enough, so you grasp for more of them, more “Friends” and “People Talking About This.” A fresh “request” compliments you, but only briefly, so you yearn for more, as if a steady sequence of friends’ and strangers’ regard will expel your loneliness for good. The motto is “Only connect, and do it often.” Maintaining that network takes hard work, but the lure of recognition and the pain of forlornness provide enough excitement and desperation to keep it going, however vainly.

And two, most pitifully, it obscures the surest and permanent source of comfort: God. People awash in social media can’t get past the paradox that the best salve for loneliness is properly applied alone. They look for answers in added connections, and more emotional ones, but God isn’t a closer contact and better friend. He transcends the social, and you must seek Him beyond the medium of “share” and “like.” In solitary prayer, the secular pleasures dissipate and the successes of social media melt into nothingness. You drop your social self.

At the same time, the more you socialize, the less you follow Jesus into the wilds and prove the psalm’s

promise, “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.” You build your life upon sand, and when the sand shifts, you add more sand . . . and more . . .

This may explain the findings of a recent study showing a correlation between Internet use and religious disaffiliation. Using data from the General Social Survey, computer scientist Allen B. Downey concluded that Internet use accounts for 20 percent (5.1 million people) of overall decreases in religious commitment since 1990. The science is fuzzier than Downey allows, but the trend matches our assumption that more social media means less prayer. People spend fewer minutes alone with God, and, more damaging, they acquire a sensibility less inclined to seek Him out.

That disposition has hit most strongly among the young, the heaviest users. To reverse it, my advice to parents, ministers, and other mentors is not to speak to

Prayer must become a practice among our children, and if we can use the bait of social media to plant it into their daily affairs, then we may have faith that the call of God will, sometimes, entice them more than the news of their friends.

them of God’s greatness and love, nor to assure them, “God is with you always and best felt in solitude.” Young people trust most the evidence of their own experience. So, give them a spiritual exercise to perform before each session of social media begins. When you buy your seventeen-year-old a new tool, hand your charge three psalms, or the Sermon on the Mount, or the Nicene Creed, and say, “Here is your gift, but you may have it on one condition. When you sit down in Starbucks, before you open the tablet, you must recite these words. When you walk home from school, before you text your friends, you must recite these words. Say them slowly and mean them. It will only take a few minutes. I want your promise.”

Prayer must become a practice among our children, and if we can use the bait of social media to plant it into their daily affairs, then we may have faith that the call of God will, sometimes, entice them more than the news of their friends.

Anticipating the completion of our new building, please note that the room designations are changing: Sanctuary Building rooms are designated “A,” new Discipleship building rooms, “B,” and Christian Ministries Center rooms, “C.”

Overseas Fellowship

Caring for Missionaries

By Doug & Carol McGlothlin

The first meeting of the Overseas Fellowship this year occurred on the evening of January 9. Following a delicious meal we appreciated being able to hear from Art and Sylvia Brown and their pastoral ministry to Free Methodist missionaries in Africa. We were reminded of the changing face of missions and the challenges brought to the modern missionary. Through travel and varied means of communication Art and Sylvia strive to be a listening ear in order to assist and encourage the missionaries. Serving through “member care”, Art and Sylvia are dedicated to the hearts of missionaries who give their lives in service.

Following the presentation those present were asked to make suggestions as to how home churches in the US can better serve missionaries on the field and also on furlough. From the years of missionary experience represented in the room many valuable ideas were put forth. Around the room heads could be seen nodding in agreement and understanding. Concluding this time of sharing was a period of prayer for specific needs and concerns as relating to the ministry of Art and Sylvia Brown.



CONSTRUCTION PLANNING TEAM UPDATE

By Stan Wiggam, Construction Planning Team Leader

Due to poor weather conditions the shingle decking is just getting underway, at this writing. Installation requires many days of dry weather conditions because there can be no moisture under this roofing system. The good news is the workers have completed the steel framing work even while working in severe weather conditions. Other workers have completed the installation of the insulated exterior wall panels. With the completion of the wood decking, the building will be “buttoned up” which will allow for great progress on the interior. To date, the “bad soils” issue under the corridor that will connect the new building to the CMC has not been resolved. This issue should soon be solved, however, which will permit both connectors to be constructed simultaneously.

The current projected date of occupancy for the new building is now June 1. Once in the new building, renovations on the main floor of the Sanctuary building will begin—a two to three month process. It is the CPT’s hope and prayer that we will have the full use of the new building for VBS this summer. With no further complications, the staff will soon be able to schedule the summer programming for the sanctuary and the rest of campus.

Deep appreciation and thanks to the volunteers that provide the weekly breaks and monthly luncheons for the workers. Thank you for demonstrating that we are “A Community That Reflects Jesus’ Vision and Values.”



For more updates and pictures, click on www.wilmorefmc.org/pastors-blog/

Spring Renewal Week

With great anticipation, we look forward to this year’s Spring Renewal Week, February 22 through 25, and the presentation of the word of God by Vic Hamilton. Vic is a world-class scholar and preacher with a genuinely soft and humble heart toward God. We set all other activities of the church aside for these four days in an effort to give God space in our lives to speak a new word to us. If you’ll do the same, you will not be disappointed.

Services are Sunday morning, 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.; Sun Evening, 6:00 p.m.; Mon through Wed, 7:00 p.m.

Nursery is available for children through age 2 for each service.

Older children (ages 3 through 6) will be dismissed midway through the services to their own story time.

About our speaker:



Our friend and brother in Christ, Dr. Victor Hamilton, was professor of Old Testament studies at Asbury College (now Asbury University) for 36 years, and following retirement, served as scholar in residence for five years. A noted teacher and preacher, Vic’s spoken at a number of other college campuses, as well as for retreats, pastors’ seminars, family conferences, camp meetings, and more recently, overseas in Japan and Jamaica. For the last 30 years, he has preached (through an interpreter) one Sunday a month at the Lexington Chinese Christian Church.

Vic’s degrees include a BA from Houghton College, a BD and ThM from Asbury Theological Seminary, and an MA and PhD in Mediterranean Studies from Brandeis University. His special areas of interest in the classroom are Pentateuch, Jeremiah, preaching from the Old Testament, and Old Testament theology.

Vic has published several books and commentaries on the Old Testament which are widely used and translated into other languages. Vic also served on the translation team for two modern Bible versions, the New King James version and the New Living Translation and has written notations for several of the most popular study Bibles and Bible dictionaries.

Vic and his wife Shirley celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this coming September, and have four married children and thirteen grandchildren. Both Vic and Shirley were born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, and have dual citizenship, Canadian and American. Vic is ordained in the Wesleyan Church, and while he and Shirley have their membership in the Milliken Wesleyan Church in Markham, Ontario, they have been attending the Wilmore Free Methodist Church for approximately nine years.

Marriage Ministries

Submitted by Ron Johns

Anyone get the afaJournal? I "bumped into" an article in the most-recent edition entitled "The real threat to marriage." I found it to be most interesting. I had been wondering about the state of marriages in our country...how much was fact, how much was fiction. I know. You have to be careful about your sources nowadays. Are they reliable? One-sided? Hidden-agenda prone?

Well, I have to trust someone, somewhere, sometime. This seemed to be a good place to begin---so I began to read the article about the state of marriages in the USA inspired by a book written by a respected Harvard/Wall Street analyst and social researcher (No kidding!). Want to read some excerpts? [If not, feel free to turn to the next Plumblines page.] I'll list some of what I believe to be, "interesting and thought-provoking" statements regarding marriages, so you can stop to think through, pray through each one....and maybe check out the book itself.

The article begins with these two questions: 1. Have we been bamboozled by easy-release figures that support pessimistic attitudes about God's design for human relationships? AND 2. Have we been given a heavy dose of disillusionment along the way?

An eight year research project by the above, as yet unnamed, author produced these thoughts:

1. Divorce is not the biggest threat to marriage. Discouragement, due to false information is.
2. The divorce rate in America is nowhere close to 50%. And it never has been. Twenty-five percent for first marriages.
3. 27% decrease in the number of divorces among those who had been to church in the last seven days.
4. 50% lesser occasion of divorce among those who share the same faith and attend church.
5. No matter which way you cut it, divorce IS lower than the numbers pushed by secular media and others.
6. Marriage remains a sought-after establishment...contrary to much current opinion.
7. About 80% of marriages overall are happy, and more than a third go beyond the "happy" mark, overflowing into the "very happy" category.
8. Of those currently in struggling marriages, 80% will still be in "very happy" marriages five years later.
9. When one spouse is less than happy, 82% of the time, the other spouse is not aware of it.
10. In most cases, having a good marriage or improving a struggling marriage doesn't require couples to solve "deep, systemic issues." Instead, small changes can and do make a big difference.

Wow! You "can believe in marriage." He sent encouragement: "Take heart! I have overcome the world."

What do you think? Some thoughts to help you on your Marriage journey? To help encourage others...your friends, family members....?

The book? [The Good News About Marriage: Debunking Myths about Marriage and Divorce](#) by Shaunti Feldhahn with Talley Whitehead.

Women's Ministry News

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SMALL GROUPS—"*IF*" TABLES.

Would you like to be a part of a small group of ladies, meeting monthly for fellowship and discussions of faith? These small groups have been meeting since September but there are a few openings in some of the groups for new members.

Questions? Call Rachel Weinberger at 576-0397.

TUESDAY LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

begins February 10
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

We continue our study of the Three Epistles of John and the life of the writer. Come join us at the home of Sammie Moore, 117 Hawthorne Drive, Nicholasville.

Questions? Call Sammie Moore at 881-0562 or Ruth Cook at 858-4940.

COMMON THREADS

begins February 5
Thursdays, 10:00-12:00, Room A114

We create beautiful prayer shawls for those who are going through valleys, celebrating victories, or simply going step by step in their journey of life. Come join our weekly fellowship.

Questions? Call Fran May
At 887-3857.

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 B—Regina Dongell Jacob Miller Aaron Yoder Communion a.m. 9:40 am Membership Class #1 Connections Class	2 B—Lydia Sweetser Faye Montgomery Prayer for the Lost @ Margaret Dargan's home	3 B—Amie Hall	4	5 Moms Who Pray @ Annette Diddle's home	6 B—Robert Kierstead Senior's Luncheon	7 B—Sam Cooper Paul Hamann
8 B—Reed Wilbanks Luke Hiatt Christopher Demaray Lowell Williamson 9:40 am Membership Class #2	9 B—Arda Wilday, Pat Moody, Andy Reynolds, Howard Snyder, A—Bob & Cindy Peterson	10 B—Patty Brown MariBeth Kierstead	11 B—Bonnie Koteskey Jacob Schaefer	12	13	14 B—David Madill
15 B—Dan Owsley Glen Ellwood 9:40 am Membership Class #3 7 pm Chili Social	16 B—Dottie Bowen Keturah Lovell	17 B—P.R. Roher	18 B—Sammie Moore John Neal Ash Wednesday	19 Moms Who Pray @ Annette Diddle's home Grandparents Who Pray @ Margaret Dargan's home	20 B—Anita Sweetser	21 B—Missy Upton Men's Third Satur- day Breakfast @ Asbury University
22 B—Jerry Marchál Renewal Series am 9:40 am Membership Class #4	23 B—Gabriel Spencer	24 B—Dean Cook Bethany Ury	25 B—Dexter Porter Chuck Fuller, Sarah Bradley, James Evans, Carole Prochina	26 B—Rachel Powdrill Ian Wang Ruth Hersey Dave Schreiner Devon Zweifel	27 B—Mary Jane Behm Rebekah Saunders	28 B—Abbie Diddle
Feb 22-25 Renewal Series Speaker: Vic Hamilton 7:00 pm						
29 B—Annette Diddle	30	 Wilmore Free Methodist Church 1200 Lexington Road Wilmore, KY 40390				

March 2015

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 B—Lori Hall Brian Kidwell Communion a.m. 9-40 a.m. Connections Class	2 B—Darlene Russell Wes Blankenship Joyce Dickinson Barb Bray A—Bob & Pat Moody Prayer for the Lost @ Margaret Dargan's home	3 B—Barry Dickinson A—Tim & Bari Kay McMillen	4 B—Kenzie Lovell, Glenn Sidler	5 B—Norma Jean Erny Moms Who Pray @ Annette Diddle's home	6 B—Betty Tullar Wyatt Weinberger Senior Adult Lunch	7 B—Katie Diddle Ezra Boileau Joseph Bowen Ruth Gouge Andrew Montoya	
	8 A—David & Patti McPeake Daylight Savings	9 B—Abram Sweetser Maquel Sarantakos 7 p.m. Symphony of Gifts	10 B—Lyle Van Horn	11 B—Myrna Hale Ken Proctor, Jr. Olivia Proctor Emily Randall	12 B—Joy Branan Shirley Hamilton Henry Proctor	13 B—Nadara Welling	14 B—Charlie Fiskeaux	
	15 B—Ron Kotesky Ethan Adams 7 pm Crock Pot Social Youth Retreat Eagle Ridge March 13-15	16 B—Alice Crouse John Schaefer IV	17 B—Nancy Johns Darlene Anderson Peggy Thurman A—Glen & Nancy Ellwood	18 B—Thane Ury	19 B—Eric Brown Moms Who Pray @ Annette Diddle's home Grandparents Who Pray @ Margaret	20 B—Spencer Hall Joseph Redmon Melanie Kierstead	21 B—Chris Wittenberg Men's Third Saturday Breakfast	
	22 6 pm Healing Service Communion	23 B—Duane Cassidy	24 B—Daniel Brabon Lisa Sidler Bryce Ury	25 B—Chris Bauer A—Wes & Susan Folsom	26 B—Margie Swaim Gwendolyn Crabtree A—Reed & Ann Wilbanks	27	28 B—Davis Tilson Palm Saturday Children's Ministries	
	29 B—Larry Moore Palm Sunday Evening - community service	30 Spring Break March 30-April 3	3/10:30 am Youth Brunch 11:30-1:00 pm Open Gym	 Wilmore Free Methodist Church 1200 Lexington Road Wilmore, KY 40390				

Library News

New Books for the Library

(Loan Period: 3 weeks)

Children's Books

Anne of Green Gables
Battle for Control (Kidsboro)
All Safe in the Stable
Kangaroos and the Outback: Travel in
Australia (Adventures of Kerrigan Kids)
Pajama Day
A Child's Treasury of Beatrix Potter
The Great Big Treasury of Beatrix Potter
A Child's Garden of Verses
Zaccheus Has a Good Day
Zoomer the Monkey Helps Mr. Noah
Danny and the Dinosaur

Adult Books

The River
A Day to Pick Your Own Cotton
Seek Me With All Your Heart
Undaunted: One Man's Journey From
Unspeakable Memories
Coming Home
Angels Watching Over Me

Large Print Books

Shepherds Abiding
A Common Life
A New Song
The Yada Yada Prayer Group Gets Real
The Family of Jesus

Please Renew Items Promptly

If you need to renew any items, please check with the librarian, Bonnie Koteskey, at 858-3436; or leave a note on the library bulletin board. It is important to return the materials when they are due so that others can check them out.

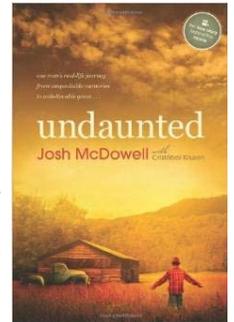
New DVDs for the Library

(Loan Period: 1 week)

The Christmas Candle (Max Lucado)
Undaunted (Josh McDowell)
Adventures in Friendship (Children's DVD)

Undaunted by Josh McDowell Reviewed by Ron Koteskey

This is Josh McDowell's story which begins in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and includes years of being sexually abused by the farmhand who lived with the family. He ridiculed Christian faculty and students when he went to college. A fellow student suggested, "Disprove the resurrection and you'll disprove the claims Christianity. Prove that Jesus Christ did not rise bodily from the dead, and you'll find a crack in the foundation that will cause all of Christianity to come tumbling down." Josh searched the Bible, books by atheists and agnostics in the college library, and finally went to great libraries and museums in Europe where he could read the original documents themselves and talk with scholars there. Finally one evening about 6:30 P.M. after several hours of reading in the Evangelical Library in London, he realized that the evidence he had collected demanded a verdict, and he said aloud, "It's true." The rest of the book details the changes that then occurred in his life. It was hard to put the book down--because Bonnie might pick it up!



Palm Saturday

Did we really say Palm "Saturday?" Yep! On Saturday, March 28, we will have a Palm Saturday event for the Sunday School and CLC children. There will be crafts, activities and a Holy Walk. The 4 year olds through 1st grade will come from 9:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. and the children in grades 2-5 will come from 12:15 -3:30 p.m. Mark your calendar and look for more information to come through Sunday School and CLC. Registrations coming soon.



Mom's Who Pray

Do you feel a burden to pray for our public schools --
the administrators, teachers and students who attend them?

If you do, please join us the first and third Thursday of each month from 9:30-11 a.m. at the home of Annette Diddle, 201 Asbury Drive, Wilmore.

We fellowship together from 9:30-10 a.m., then share requests and pray from 10-11 a.m. You don't have to currently have children in the public schools to join this group--all who are willing to pray are welcome!



A Family That Prays Together, Scatters

By Jerry Coleman

So there I sat in my favorite chair...on Father's Day...and all alone. I knew I would be all alone on this particular day. I just hoped that I would hear from my children scattered around the world.

Where did it go wrong? Because on that day, we were all scattered on three different continents, four countries, and all different area codes. All three grown children have taken off! Our whole family of five (now six) became involved in living for Jesus and inviting others to do the same.

Around the dinner table and before bedtime became opportunities for prayer. We reviewed the day, celebrated the victories, encouraged each other through difficulties, and prayed for more of God's blessings. I could always depend on the circle of family.

Until now. When I sat thousands of miles away.

It's true that as the followers of Jesus grew closer to him and his heart, they were willing to move away from him. The more love and grace they experienced, the more they had to give away. The more of the Kingdom of God they saw, the more they wanted to show the Kingdom to others. So, they traveled to the ends of the earth, sacrificing family ties, comforts and reputations.

So, I had always heard that, "The family that prays together, stays together." I don't think this can sum up the whole truth. Sure, our family prayed together... every day. Now, well, the distance could hardly be greater between us! Following a couple of decades of prayer, a unique purpose unfolded for each member of the family. One day at a time, one risk at a time has put great distance between us. What a celebration!

A family that prays together, scatters.

Finding the Unexpected ...at Church

My own experience is that when I first became a Christian, about fourteen years ago, I thought that I could do it on my own, by retiring to my rooms and reading theology, and I wouldn't go to the churches and Gospel Halls; and later I found that it was the only way of flying your flag; and, of course, I found that this meant being a target. It is extraordinary how inconvenient to your family it becomes for you to get up early to go to Church. It doesn't matter so much if you get up early for anything else, but if you get up early to go to Church it's very selfish of you and you upset the house. If there is anything in the teaching of the New Testament which is in the nature of a command, it is that you are obliged to take the Sacrament, and you can't do it without going to Church. I disliked very much their hymns, which I considered to be fifth-rate poems set to sixth-rate music. But as I went on I saw the great merit of it. I came up against different people of quite different outlooks and different education, and then gradually my conceit just began peeling off. I realized that the hymns (which were just sixth-rate music) were, nevertheless, being sung with devotion and benefit by an old saint in elastic-side boots in the opposite pew, and then you realize that you aren't fit to clean those boots. It gets you out of your solitary conceit.

---from "Answers to Questions on Christianity," *God in the Dock*, C.S. Lewis

WFMC Music Ministries: Take "Note"

*If you have not yet been able to join one of our many music ensembles there is opportunity for you to join us in the New Year. Also, if you are interested in using your musical gifts as a soloist, we welcome the opportunity to talk with you. If you are an instrumentalist, please contact Mark Schell and if you are interested in vocal music ministry please contact Rose Evans. Let's continue to offer our musical gifts to the Lord!

*Here are some important music dates to remember for the coming months. Mark your calendars now.

- March 9th 7:00 p.m. (Monday night) Symphony of Gifts
- April 12th 6:00 p.m. Youth Musical
- April 20th 7:00 p.m. (Monday night) Spring Ring XII, Handbell and Handchime Concert
- May 3rd 8:30 a.m. and 10:50a.m. Heaven's Harmony Musical
- May 10th 6:00 p.m. Singing Celebration

***Short-term vocal ensemble opportunities:** This spring the Sanctuary Choir will be presenting two anthems for our Easter morning services on April 5th. We will also be preparing music as part of the "Singing Celebration" on May 10th. We welcome singers interested in making a *short-term commitment* to an ensemble to join us as we prepare music for these special events – be sure to check future weekly bulletins for more detailed announcements regarding rehearsals, etc... Please come and join us!



SonSpark Labs VBS

June 15 - 19 9 a.m. - noon

Come find out what GP4U = J means!
We will need Professors and Lab Assistants
as we prepare to fire up the imaginations
of our little scientists at SonSpark Labs.

The sign up for helpers will begin soon. Don't miss out on this wonderful week at SonSpark Labs!

Fruitful Labors...after 70

In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, Psalm 92:14

By Patti Fiskeaux

In the early 1990's, Al and Arda Wilday, both newly retired at age 70 and with plenty of energy, wanted to be involved in ministry. They saw the need for a fellowship for the church's senior adults and began a senior adult Bible study and potluck lunch. They met at 11:30 a.m. for Bible study, followed by a lunch. The attendees took turns leading the Bible study, with Irma Morris and Esther James often teaching. In 1994 when the Wildays moved to Greenwood, IN, for Arda to recuperate from a bout with cancer, Esther James took over the leadership role. The seniors chose the name "Amazing Grays" for their group. At one interesting meeting, Irma Morris was teaching and running considerably overtime. Lily Thomas raised her hand and said, "I think we should have prayer." "Well, all right Lily, you lead us," Irma replied. Rev. Lily Thomas promptly prayed a prayer of dismissal! So, they were finished!

When Esther James moved to Albuquerque, NM, to care for her daughter, Lee Taylor stepped in and led the seniors group. He initiated occasional field trips to expand the program.

At some point, Pastor Jason Leininger persuaded me to be the senior adult ministry director, and our group of seniors, now named the Prime Timers, continues to grow and grow! We now host a monthly luncheon with various programs and occasional outings to see interesting things. Our group is open to all age 60 or better. Come and join us on the first Friday of each month from September through May.

Je Suis Charlie? Not Really.

By Pastor Daryl

As I write this, many around the world are chanting “Je Suis Charlie” (“I Am Charlie”) in support of the Charlie Hebdo magazine...if not in support of their religion, or lack thereof, at least in support of their freedom of speech.

We’re all, of course, saddened and repulsed by this senseless act of terrorism and cowardice on the part of the Islamic militants. And, of course, we’re all for freedom of speech. I do, however, resonate with Pope Francis in his comments regarding the overarching context of this incident...his point being that there are limits to freedom of expression and those limits lie in it’s helpfulness to the right and moral development of society’s common good.

Just as you cannot hope to have true democratic governance in a society that lacks the basic Judeo-Christian moral standard and ethic (as our involvement and governmental restructuring in the Middle East are proving before our eyes), so can you not hope to have sustained freedom of expression, or any sustained freedom really, without an underlying Judeo-Christian societal fabric either.

It is faith in God – and specifically in the God of the Jews, who has perfectly revealed Himself in Jesus Christ – that opens the door and then holds that door open to good and right freedoms – freedoms practiced in ways that build up, not tear down; freedoms that encourage and feed the fruits of the Spirit on a societal and cultural level; freedoms to disagree and to speak disagreement, but to do so with words seasoned with grace.

These are not the freedoms that Charlie Hebdo practices.

It was E. Stanley Jones who observed that, even if Jesus was proven a fraud...even if there was no afterlife as described in Scripture...still, the Christian way is absolutely the best way in the world to live. It is the way to life.

Both godlessness and the following of false gods (including both Muhammad and the god of unrestricted freedom) are trajectories to death – personal and societal, short- and long-term, as the events in Paris prove. Truly, the only way to life is Jesus Christ.

Now, certainly, Christian faith has not always produced life, to our shame.

But when and where Christianity has been what it should be, life has been the outcome: freedom has been sweet, democracy has worked, and people, though they may disagree, do so with grace and live together successfully. Where the Christian underpinning is absent, however, these good things have also been absent, sooner or later.

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Wilmore Free Methodist Church

Vision Statement

A Community that Reflects
Jesus's Vision and Values

Mission Statement

Wilmore Free Methodist Church
will faithfully offer
members and neighbors
the Word of God,
the love of the Father,
the grace of Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
We will be Christ's presence
in our world.



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

February / March 2015

A Symphony of Gifts

come hear. come see. come taste. come enjoy.

Wilmore Free Methodist Church
Monday, March 9
7:00 p.m.



Get dressed up, invite your friends, and join us for a lovely evening as several members of our church family share their God-given talents. A recital will be presented in the sanctuary, followed by a visual arts display in the Christian Ministry Center with delicious refreshments. Childcare (during the music program only) is provided for children up to 36 months.