



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

April / May, 2024



God's Part, Our Part

By Daryl Diddle

When I was called to leave construction to go to seminary and then to the pastorate, my lifestyle changed

from very active, physical work to the more sedentary and mental "sitting / reading / talking" sort of work. Marrying Annette a year after graduating from seminary changed my lifestyle even more in that, suddenly one person in our household could actually cook. All this lifestyle change affected my weight.

When Annette and I married in 1998, I weighed about 190. By 2008, I was pushing 260, steadily gaining about 6-7 pounds a year. I'd gradually gone from a size 33 waist to a tight size 50, buying new pants every other year (but not getting rid of the old ones, fortunately!)

In the spring of 2008, I said, in a sermon, something along the lines of, "There are things we all know that we need to do, but never seem to get around to doing them. For me, losing weight is one of those things."

The fact is, I knew I didn't want to weigh that much, and that God did not want me or design me to weigh that much. It affected my health, my mobility, how I did (or not) my work, how I interacted (or not) with my kids, and how I felt about myself. For years, I'd thought about losing weight, prayed about it, read about it and tried to exercise my way past it, but nothing seemed to work.

A few months after that sermon, Keith Madill asked me if I was serious about beginning to lose weight, and suggested that what worked for him might work for me...figuring out how many calories I was consuming a day and simply cutting that down.

In late August of 2008, after counting the calories of everything I ate for one week, I realized I was eating an average of 5,000 or so calories a day. I was largely eating good, healthy stuff – that's how Annette cooks, but I was simply eating too much. That day, I capped my calorie intake to 2,000 per day, wrote down every single thing I ate, and by Christmas of that year, I'd lost 40 pounds. The next year, I lost another 30, and have maintained my weight between 185 and 195 pretty consistently since.

In addition to being much more mobile and able to exercise more vigorously, and just feel better about myself, my joint pain and acid reflux disappeared. And on top of it all, I was able to go to the attic and wear, again, all those smaller sized pants that I'd stored...some have even come back into style (and no, I have not kept the bigger ones.)

I have no doubt that God wanted me to lose that weight. Not only did He not design my body and frame to carry that much extra weight, He did not intend for me to have the unhealthy relationship with food that I had. God wanted me to have better discipline than I did, not to mention that eating that much costs money that could be better and more fruitfully invested.

It is God's will for us to be as healthy as we can be, considering we live in a broken world filled with disease and sickness.

But...God needed me to take the initiative and actually act in order to fulfill His will. God did not "zap me thin" simply because to be thinner was both His will and mine.

Neither did God make it easy for me, even though it was His will. Believe me, there were days when a padlock on the ice cream would have been a good idea. There were days I blew it. There were days I had to leave the house and tell myself, "I want to lose this weight more than I want that sandwich / cookie / pizza / cake / whatever.

It was through the struggle, though, that God taught me much about Him...and also about myself. He also taught me the benefit of the struggle. That's why God doesn't usually just miraculously zap His will done. God works with us to accomplish His will, because His working with us is what accomplishes the important work in us.

Most often, we get to know Him better through struggle than we do through miracles.

There are exceptions, of course, but in my observation, the vast majority of the time, when God wants to do something great, He has a part and we have a part, and He needs us to do our part. We see that all through the Bible – God wanting to accomplish something, but instead of just zapping it done, He calls on an Abraham or Moses or David or Paul and says to them, "Hey, how about joining me in this work? You do this, and I'll do that, and we'll make something amazing happen. What do you say?"

Don't get me wrong...it's not as though our contribution is anywhere near what God's is. But God still chooses to use us, since what He'll do in us by "partnering" with Him is nearly as amazing as what He'll do with us and through us and around us.

What is it that you know God wants to do in you, through you, with you? Maybe you've been praying for Him to do it, but maybe He's saying, "I've heard your prayer, and I'm ready to do my part, but now...here's your part; here's what I want you to do and the work I want you to invest in making it happen."

Ethiopia Update

By Jerry Coleman

I'm so pleased to tell you about our open door and "welcome mat" for ministry in Ethiopia! Through God's providence, Asbury Theological Seminary student Fekadu Amenu reached out to me after seeing the Francis Asbury Society website. He longs to see a restoration of the message of scriptural holiness in the Christian churches of Ethiopia. Christianity has been the state religion of Ethiopia since 440 AD.

I was invited by the President of Leadstar Christian University (<https://leadstarchristianuniversity.com>), Dr. Zerihun Gebre, to teach in three conferences in two cities. LCU's vision, besides providing quality academic instruction, is to equip and train 100,000 pastors in Ethiopia over the next five years. They want FAS to be part of that vision.

The first conference in Addis Ababa was January 26-27, with 200-300 pastors and church leaders from across Ethiopia. The second conference was also in Addis on January 28 with 50 staff and key leaders from within LCU university. The third conference in Jimma, (355 miles southwest of Addis) was January 30-31, in a location seated in the midst of a large Muslim community. I taught on holiness – the self-giving love of God.

At the conclusion of the first conference, we experienced a powerful move of God. Following my two presentations, the Holy Spirit filled the room with his presence, and many responded with sobbing and prayer. They were prayers of confession, repentance, and calling out to the Lord with a desire to go deeper and to be filled with his love. Even though it was way past lunch

break, this prayer time went on for at least another hour. We didn't want to leave the presence of God.

I could hardly believe the feedback I received from these pastors and church leaders. One board member from LCU said they have never had someone teach on holiness like this. Many people commented on how deeply the Holy Spirit met them. The LCU president informed me that these messages will be multiplied as pastors and leaders return to their communities.

The one-day conference with staff and key leaders of LCU was marked by their keen attention and numerous follow-up questions. They are concerned about emerging false theology in Ethiopia which goes against biblical principles, and they appreciated more teaching on the theology of holiness.

Our team of four with two Ethiopian leaders and my friend Rev. Hillary Korir from the neighboring country of Kenya, flew to the small city of Jimma. We saw a move of God as the group of 500 pastors and church leaders responded to the message of giving all to Jesus and being led and filled by the Holy Spirit. I am thankful for these opportunities to encourage and challenge pastors and leaders! But I feel a need to share more prayer points with you.

I need to confess that I struggled with the movement of time in Ethiopia – particularly in the small city of Jimma. For example, I was told to be at breakfast at 7:00 a.m., so I got up at 5:30 a.m. to read my Bible, pray, and prepare for the day. Breakfast was not even available until 7:30 a.m. and our ride did not come until 10:00 a.m. So we had time for only one session that morning.

Then we were dismissed for lunch at noon and asked to be back at 3:00 p.m.. After lunch and a nap, our ride didn't come until 4:00 p.m. and our sessions needed to conclude at 5:30 p.m.. That

meant Rev. Hillary and I shared 1:15 minutes of time. I felt rushed and many participants seemed tired and ready to move on.

But the Lord was at work! The Holy Spirit broke through all the barriers and all my frustrations and concerns about time. We shared dinner that last evening with the coordinators and hosts of the Jimma conference. They all expressed gratitude for our coming and sharing. One host said, "People were healed." He went on to say they were healed spiritually in life-changing ways. They also said many participants prayed during their three-hour lunch break for holy, free hearts filled with the Holy Spirit.

Following that dinner, I was whisked away across town and down a dark, unlit dirt road to preach in a local church. This six-year-old church of 200 people bubbled with spiritual energy in a tin-roof, tin-sided building. What a beautiful experience!

One of my four meetings back in Addis Ababa was with the General Secretary of a denomination of 20 million members. We are exploring ways in which FAS might work together with them in the future.

As I look back on these days in Ethiopia, I rejoice in the ways I saw and experienced a beautiful move of the Holy Spirit in these nearly 1,000 pastors and leaders. I have been assured that lives have been changed and these messages will be carried to regions across Ethiopia. Please pray as we discern about the timing of a return to speak in more conferences and churches.

* I was told that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, who is a Christian, and many top government official graduated from LCU.



“Getting to Know You”

Carolyn Rumble

By Sue Adkins

Wilmore was my home from 1988-1994. In 2022, I retired from nursing and returned to the area to find a good church community and to be near my sister, Nancy Ellwood. I am loving it! I have two sons and a daughter, all in their 40's, and 5 grandchildren between the ages of 3-17 who live in Florida, Illinois, and Michigan respectively and whom I visit often.

Most of my career was in nursing and the last 25 years were with Hospice. I was also a missionary in South Africa for two 4-year terms (more on that later). Reading is a hobby of mine with a special interest in biographies, missionary stories, and Christian fiction. I enjoy sewing, knitting, travelling, and browsing vintage and antique stores. But my favorite activity is spending time with my family and friends. I've become involved with various prayer groups at church, in the community, and with friends.

I grew up in a country pastor's home and went to church every time the doors were open! My parents read the Bible stories to us as children, and we had family devotions together at the end of every day. Church camp was also very influential. My Dad did a lot of community funerals, so life and death were very real to me, as was the gospel message. Though I had gotten “saved” frequently at revivals or camp meetings as a small child, at age 12 I submitted my life fully to God and promised to walk with him every day. My parents hosted missionaries often. The missionaries would present their slide shows at our church and speak on their ministry overseas. Afterwards they would come to our house to stay overnight. We would beg them to show us the

slides they hadn't shown at church and tell us all the exciting behind-the-scenes stories. Some became surrogate family to us. As a result, I was hooked on missions from a very early age!

My call to missions came during a youth camp following a class on William Carey, a missionary to India. At the last camp service, the speaker invited all the young people to follow God wherever He led. When he said, “God may be calling some of you to be missionaries,” I just knew in my heart that God was speaking directly to me. In preparation, I took science classes in high school and then went on to get my nursing degree at Indiana Wesleyan University. I worked for a couple of years as a nurse and then the Wesleyan Church reached out and we were asked to go to South Africa. I spent many happy years there and fell in love with the people and country. My daughter was 5 months old when we went to South Africa, and we returned to the States with two more children.

The next fifteen years of my faith journey were often painful, and I had many struggles including an unwanted divorce. I was very disappointed in God. I felt as if I had obeyed him (imperfectly, but faithfully) and God had let me down. The battle to forgive was lengthy. But the day came when I was able to give it completely to God and let him take it once and for all. I was still tempted to pick it up from time to time, but the main battle was over and done. Today, I can say with assurance that God has directed all my paths (Proverbs 3:6). I am contented in Christ and experiencing the fruit of joy and peace.



Music Ministries

By Rose Evans

Take "Note"

Important upcoming dates to remember...

- April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. (Monday night) Spring Ring: Handbell and Chime Concert-All Handbell and chime choirs, children through adult, will participate in this special musical event. This year's theme is songs about "Love."



- April 28th at 6:00 p.m. children's musical: "The Lions, the Switch, and the Warm Robes," a children's musical including cool songs and fun dialog that help bring some of the true stories of the Bible to life.
- May 5th at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Singing Celebration -Adult and Youth Choirs combine to lead us for these special services celebrating God's gift of song to us. All are encouraged and invited to come and sing.

- May 26th at 6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Homecoming Service: We are the "final tour destination" for our youth choir on their spring tour weekend. Please come out to hear and see all the Lord is doing through their musical ministry.

For Your Information...

- Sometimes we get so familiar with the "way we do things" that we forget that others, especially visitors, may not be so familiar with the way we sing, etc. As you notice folks around you who may not be familiar with or used to using a hymnal or worship guide insert, please help them out, show them the hymnal, the worship supplement, offer an encouraging word, and a smile! We want everyone to feel free to participate in corporate worship, no matter their background. Thanks for your help.

Please contact Mark Schell or Rose Evans if you have any questions regarding the music ministry at WFMC or if you are interested in being a soloist for music ministry, on a music team for worship services, or in a music ensemble. Let's continue to "sing and make music to our Lord."

PrimeTimers

By Marcia Miller

Hello church family! Are you in the prime of your life? If so then we would love to see you at our April and May luncheons. On April 4th we will celebrate Taco Thursday at 12:00 p.m. in building C. Our program will be Steve Pham from Camp Nelson. In May we will have a pot luck luncheon with our program being the Elkhorn pickers. We will meet on May 9th at noon. Please make plans to join us.



VBS 2024

Ahoy!

Grab your binoculars and don your life vest!
We are off on a great adventure!

When: June 3-7 * 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

How: Sign up near the pith helmet
in the foyer under the world map



Travel with us through the 7 C's of History. The ports are called Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross and Consummation. Amid sloths, butterflies, river dolphins and dart frogs, we hope to help answer questions like: Did God create everything? Was Noah's Ark real? Why do I need to be saved? Can I trust the Bible? We need lots of Guides and River Guides to travel with the children from port to port. Registration for our little travelers will begin in early May. We hope you can join us on this epic journey!

On Working

By Karen Koehn

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

~ John Wesley

I've finally accepted my doctor's repeated diagnosis of "Long Covid" for the continual weakness I've been experiencing for many weeks/months now. I've also learned that I'm certainly not the only one experiencing it, even here at WFMC.

I love to work. Love to enjoy accomplishing projects. One of the things I've struggled against the most has been my inability to work in the way that I've done all my life.

Not long ago I read an article written by a Christian leader about the significance of our working diligently in Christ's kingdom, ending the article with the thought that God is looking for people who are willing to do that. ...and I've been thinking about that.

I would have been happy to have taken on a faith project and worked diligently and happily giving myself to it – but I've not had the strength. Is God valuing me less than those who can? The article, like our society, seems to me to put more value on those who work hard, than those who don't or can't. But I don't believe that.

We experience a diversity of circumstances during our lifetime. Sometimes we can work, and sometimes we can't, but always we can follow Jesus and love Him, ourselves and others. (Isn't being able to accept ourselves when we don't have the strength to work, part of loving ourselves?)

I've learned to accept God's value of me and love for me as separate from my level of activity. I've also learned that in the quiet of inactivity there is strength to open myself more deeply to hear Him. And I'm grateful.

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Bari Kay McMillen, Nichole Shafer, Golf
Tonglamun
- 2 Donna Flanigan, Glen Flanigan, Janis Riffell,
Deano Sarantakos
- 3 Darin Land
- 4 Lizet Bowen, Ruoxin (Rosie) Li
- 5 Cheryl Schell
- 6 Joyce Underwood
- 7 Kimberly Ostroske, *Scott & Julie Wells*
- 8 Bonnie Descoteaux, Ricardo Gomez
- 9 Kendra Spivey
- 11 Jack Coleman, Miguel Ramos, Renee Riffell
- 12 Cindi Angelo, Dexter Cannon
- 15 Levi Branan, Isaac Madill
- 16 *Bob & Norma Jean Erny*
- 17 Jonathan Raymond
- 19 Neil Anderson, Kris Dietrich,
Perrin Fiskeaux
- 20 Jonathan Atkinson, Warren Brude
Aiden Dedman, Micah Kidwell
Brad & Carrie Beth Atkinson
- 22 Warren Todd, Melyssa Wittenberg
- 23 Liam O'Neal
- 24 Kathy Davila
- 26 Carol Killam
- 27 Mark Killam, Irene Lian, Keith Madill
- 28 Chase Padgett
- 29 Genia Schumacher
- 30 Steve Liversedge

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Curt Caldwell, Catherine Gaffney
Clay Winter
- 2 Kay Bickert, Bryan Blankenship
Sharon Madison
- 3 A. J. Kinnell, Carson Roberge
Charlie & Patti Fiskeaux

- 4 Hope Branan, Jaiden Dobie
- 6 Violet Burke, Ben Howard
Chuck & Lynne Fuller
- 7 Don Roxberry, *Jeff & Pam Hiatt*
- 8 Beth Gomez, Carolyn Hale, Grace O'Neal
Samuel Oliver, Cindy Peterson
Lyn & Lynne Neyman
- 10 Miriam Langford, Glenn McGlothlin
Renae Thompson, Lucas Weinberger
- 11 Sylvia Brown, Joe Valentino
- 12 Pat Gilmore, Roberta Zent
- 13 Jeremiah Elayaraj
- 14 Elliot Crabtree
- 15 Christy Liang
- 16 Bette Crouse, *Randy & Debbie Richardson*
- 17 Wes Folsom
- 19 Miriam Kamp, Benjamin Randall, D Simpson
Don & Roberta Zent
- 20 Arlene Allen, *Christian & Caitlin Gothay*
- 21 Manorama Davis, Christian Gothay
Jerry & Katie Diddle
Chris & Annette Wittenberg
- 22 Virginia Valentino
- 23 Reid Gouge
Clinton & Carolyn Pauley
- 24 Jan Snyder, Ron Welling
- 25 David Coulliette, *Art & Sylvia Brown*
Dick & Mary Ann Crane
- 26 Brad Atkinson, Lois Cobb, Dan Searls
Dickie Lee Porter, *Bernie & Lois Cobb*
Benjamin & Emily Randall
- 27 June Eisemann, *Dean & Ruth Cook*
- 28 Bruce Branan, Judy Graham, Josiah Saunders
- 29 *Ken & Christina Proctor*
- 30 Anna Belle Bevins

What I've Been Learning (Over the Past 87 3/4 Years)

By June Eisemann

As I searched and looked to the Lord for something to share with you (Wednesday Prayer Meeting), my soon to come 88th birthday kept coming to mind. Surely, over that many years, I have learned, or am in the process of learning something.

A sermon of Pastor Daryl's I look forward to each year, "What I Learned Over Summer Vacation," connected with the thought of learning and birthdays. Too often, I am a slow learner of the truths the Lord wants to teach me. Some things I have learned, but many other things are a continuing process.

So instead of "What I Learned," I'm choosing the title, "What I Have Been Learning Over 87 and 3/4 Years of Living."

The following comments are a few of the random recollections that come to mind.

1. I was 3 or 4 years old, playing in the loft of our barn with my older sister and her friends. They were cleaning the loft to build "a house." There was a large opening for the ladder that provided entrance from the barn floor to the barn loft. The girls covered the opening with newspaper, so that their house would not have a hole in the floor. I asked if that made it a real floor and was told "yes." So, I tried walking on the covering and landed on the barn floor about eight feet below. Thus, I began learning at an early age, you can't believe everything you are told!

2. At the age of 8 or 9, I attended my first funeral service. A few days later, I decided I would like to conduct a funeral service. Shoe boxes provided coffins for my dolls. I remember one was a sweet little black doll and another, a blond, Caucasian doll. I dug holes and buried the dolls in the shoe boxes. Then I proceeded with the service

– no audience. My dog, Fido, may have been present. A few days later, I decided I wanted to play with my dolls, only to discover when I dug them up, all their skin was peeling. The dolls were totally ruined. The lesson I learned? Don't bury your dolls in the damp, sandy Mississippi soil if you do not intend for that hole to be their final resting place!

3. Easter Sunday when I was 6 years old, weeping, I went forward at the invitation because my heart was greatly disturbed. No one prayed with me or explained to me the plan of salvation. Lesson learned: If there is any indication a child is wanting to know Jesus, do not assume the child cannot adequately understand. The Holy Spirit is working in that heart in terms the child does understand. Seven years passed before I went forward again to give my life to Jesus.

4. The Christmas I was 6 years old, I very distinctly remember praying that I would get sick, thinking this would result in receiving many sympathy Christmas gifts. A few days before Christmas, I developed an abscessed tooth and pain...easily comparable to the pain of childbirth! When my parents and siblings arrived at my grandparents with a big box of gifts, I was in too much pain to even be interested. Whatever the theology of this example, I learned this lesson: God answers prayer and it's best not to pray so selfishly.

5. The summer I was 14, I met a couple who lost their son in World War II. Since the loss of their son, this couple had reached out to other people's sons, sharing the love of Jesus and shelter for varying periods of time to more than 25 young men. Four years later I met another couple whose son died in World War II. The loss made them angry and bitter toward God. You could see the hardness in their faces.

I could not help but compare these two couples. Perhaps it was at this time I began to learn that it is not our circumstances, but what we allow God to do in our lives with circumstances that make us better or bitter.

6. My father was killed in an accident a few days before my first birthday. A Greyhound bus came over a hill on the wrong side of the road and hit the truck in which he was a passenger. My mother, sister and I moved in with my grandparents.

Two years later, my mother remarried. My granddad and I were very close. He told mother, "You can take Peggy with you, but you cannot take June." After that, I lived part of the time with my grandparents and part of the time with my mother and family. Because they lived in different school districts, at age 6 I was given the choice of living with my parents or my grandparents. In spite of the emotional pain and loneliness experienced at times, in God's good providence, I chose to live with my grandparents. Ten years later, at age 16, on a hot summer day in Mississippi, I was walking alone on a sandy road near my uncle's house, perhaps experiencing some of that pain and loneliness, when I strongly felt the Lord's presence and heard His voice as clearly as if it had been audible: "June, you have lived at the best place possible to come to know Me. All the family, friends, and pastors who influenced you to follow Me, have lived here." A deep peace filled my heart and I began to understand more deeply the meaning of Romans 8:28: "In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

7. In conversation with Dr. Don Demaray some years ago, I was questioning "why" of the Lord. Dr. Demaray reminded me, "June, God is sovereign!"

Is it not the ultimate in arrogance to think that our sovereign God is required to explain everything to us? Is it not presumptuous to think we could understand the mind of God even if He explained all of our whys? I quote from an unknown author. "There are so many questions to

which I have no answers. I have decided to not agonize over my whys (doubts), but to reckon and come to grips with my beliefs. Let me move from the agony of questions I can't answer, to the reality of answers I cannot escape."

I'm also learning that we can waste so much time with minutiae trying to determine if "the chicken or the egg came first!" An Indian sage of the last century, Tagore, said, "I have spent my days stringing and unstringing my instrument, while the song I came to sing remains unsung. Lord, help us learn to sing our song, the song You gave us, during our brief sojourn on earth.

8. If your path leads you through a time of caring for someone you love who has any form of dementia, I am learning that you never raise your voice, you never argue, you never lose your sense of humor – probably a wise way to interact with anyone!

9. Our family verse is Ephesians 4:29, "Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you." Your words may not be too harsh, but you do not know what the person has already experienced that day. Your word, or words, may be the last straw and may take the person down.

10. To parents of young children: I've learned that you will never regret spending too much time with your children, but you may well regret spending too little time with them. Our children are our first mission field. I wish I had learned this earlier! I thank the Lord for His faithfulness and that our two children and their spouses love Him with all their heart.

11. There are three misconceptions I think I subconsciously held growing up. The first – crossing the ocean to serve in a foreign country makes you a saint. The second – simply growing old makes you more like Jesus. The third – waiting until you get sick and in bed is a good time to catch up on praying and reading God's Word. I've learned that the distractions, including pain, may take away your ability to concentrate.

12. In addition to growing up with the expectation of pleasing my uncles and aunts, (after all, I

was living with their parents), I grew up in a Christian culture that expected you to be good enough to go to heaven. This made it difficult for me to fully trust in God alone for salvation. The most incredible, wonderful thing I've been learning these last few years, from the head to the heart, is that I can never do enough, or be enough, to earn salvation. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:8-9 that "God saved you by his grace when you believed; and you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

I want to continue learning to love the Lord Jesus more and more as He deserves to be loved, in view of all that He did for me on the cross, and not because I have to measure up or repay a debt I can never repay.

"Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt; Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured; there where the blood of the Lamb was spilled."

Youth Update

By Caitlin Gothay

This semester in youth group we are studying the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' words were important for the disciples sitting around him on the mountain, and they are important for us disciples today. In January the high schoolers braved the slopes in Indiana. They challenged themselves mentally and physically and in their reliance on God. In February a group was able to attend Winter Jam to hear a variety of Christian artists. We also went on our annual ice skating trip. Thank you for praying for this ministry!



Prison Ministry

By Charlie Payne

About 15 prisoners attended our March prison Bible study. I spoke on how God is so personally involved with each of us by using our five senses (God hears us; God sees us, etc). We gave out bibles to each inmate that they could keep and I gave several Bible verses for each sense. We had a very meaningful response. Craig then led us all in communion. Ted talked in February about Jonah. We had about 16 inmates. I then did communion. We both stressed to them how much God loves them and the worth they have in His eyes. We passed out envelopes so they can write home. We had a great response; we could all feel God's presence. They were very appreciative of our coming.

Food for Schools

By Jessica Bowers

Our school outreach team is so thankful for your continued support! Each week of the school year, a team of committed youth and adults pack 80 bags of food which are delivered to our schools to be distributed to families who struggle to meet the needs of their families over the weekend.

Each month we highlight an item that is included in our bags. If you would like to help us fill the bags, please place the item our basket in the lobby next to the Welcome Center. Most of our food is purchased, so if you would like to contribute to our fund monetarily, please designate your offering to 'Food for Kids' on the memo line of your check.

Thanks so much for helping us serve our Jessamine County neighbors and families!

Here is our 'Item of the Month' list for the coming year:

- Apr 2024 Macaroni and Cheese Boxes
- May 2024 Peanuts or Peanut Butter Crackers
- Jun 2024 Vienna Sausages or Cans of Tuna
- July 2024 Canned Pasta (such as Ravioli or Spaghetti and Meatballs)
- Aug 2024 Ramen Noodles
- Sept 2024 Applesauce Cups
- Oct 2024 Macaroni and Cheese Boxes
- Nov 2024 Oatmeal Packets
- Dec 2024 Condensed Soup - Tomato or Chicken Noodle

Ladies' Night Out

Ladies' Night Out (LNO) Is So Much Fun!

Ladies' Night Out is an invitation to all ladies in the church (bring a friend, if you'd like) who enjoy eating dinner with friends at a local restaurant, just for fun. We have a blast and hope you will join us at 6:00pm the first Monday of each month. We have only two more LNO nights together, so post the following schedule on your calendar and look forward to a great time! Contact Ginny Proctor by calling or texting to 859-553-9784 with any questions.

Schedule for April and May

April 1 at 6:00 p.m. - Fiesta Mexico, 801 South Main St., Nicholasville

May 9 at 6:00 p.m. - Smashing Tomato Italian Pizzeria by Fayette Mall, 3801 Fayette Mall Rd., Lexington

Looking forward to seeing you there!



Bible Quizzing Update

By Paul Stackhouse

Bible Quizzing Ministry Growing Locally and Regionally

Imagine a building with rooms of young people from Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky respectfully competing, fellowshiping, reciting verses and answering questions over the Gospel of Matthew. On a recent sunny February Saturday, you wouldn't have to imagine, because it happened right here at Wilmore FMC!

Bible quizzing is a ministry that combines the natural competitiveness of youth, a little bit of athleticism, with the intense study of significant portions of the New Testament. This year our young people are learning the last half of Matthew and I & II Thessalonians. As of mid-February, Wilmore quizzers had perfectly mastered 829 quote passages from Matthew and correctly answered in practice 3809 questions out of 4674 asked, for an 81% correct answer rate. Impressive, isn't it?

At the Bluegrass Open tournament our church fielded ten teams of two or three middle and high school youth across four divisions: Veteran high schoolers (STV), Veteran middle schoolers (YTV), Advanced rookies (MixRA), and a fourth division of less-advanced teams from any grade level (MixB).

In the Top division, in addition to Wilmore earning fourth and eighth place, the team of Caspian Fiskeaux, Grace O'Neal, and Mollie Hasehoff were awarded a trophy for third place. In the middle school division, Elisa Clark, Perrin Fiskeaux, and Cadence Robersshaw won the second-place trophy; while Jean Robersshaw, Larkin Deitrich, and Jeremiah Elayaraj won third. The other Wilmore YTV team earned fifth. In the Rookie division, Milena Alt and Luke Kim won first. In Mixed B division, Lucas Weinberger and Gwendolyn Crabtree earned the second-place trophy, while

Jared Lim, Charlee O'Neal, and Jessica Elayaraj won third. Wilmore's other team in this division earned sixth. So, for those keeping track, we brought ten teams and earned six trophies!

In addition to team quizzing, the ministry also offers individual quizzing, where each quizzing team is one. Wilmore had twenty-seven competing in this division in February. Earning medals: 2nd (STVA) James Evans, 3rd (STVA) Parker Weinberger, 3rd (STVB) Elyssa Maynard, 3rd (YTVA) Jean Robersshaw, and 2nd (MixR) Milena Alt.

The Wilmore tournament is well-known for the hospitality offered by our congregation. Many of you housed teams in your homes (sorry to several who volunteered but whom we couldn't use). Many of you provided food for our lunch. Many of you helped with set-up and clean-up. Many of you came and cheered us on! For each of you who served, or prayed, or encouraged our youth – Thank you.

Bible Quizzing had invited youth in fifth grade or above who have never before quizzed to join us for an eight-week training season this winter that culminated in a tournament in March where they competed with other beginners. This year we had a bumper group of thirteen Newcomers, with ten competing in Greenville, Illinois. They all did fantastic with Lilly Hardman and Ephraim Segre-Lewis coming home with a second place trophy, and Ellie O'Neal receiving third place in individuals!

In other quizzing results from the March meet, Nicholas Howard, Mollie Haselhoff and Susie Branan received first place in MixB division. Milena Alt and Charlee O'Neal received first place in MixRA division. In the YTV division, Jean Robersshaw, Perrin Fiskeaux, and Elisa Clark received first place. In the STV division, Caspian Fiskeaux, Liam O'Neal, and Elyssa Maynard received third place.

Violet Madill, James Evans, and Grace O'Neal received second place. In individuals, Milena Alt received third in Rookie A division. Jean Robershaw received second place in the YTV division. Caspian Fiskeaux received second place in the STV division. Grace O'Neal received first place also in STV.

This summer we head east for our international finals leaving Wilmore on June 23. Continue to pray as our youth gain an appreciation and understanding of God's word through Bible Quizzing.



Adult Elective / Group Offerings

By Diane Munoz

Grace for Grief

A grief support group, open to all, will continue to enable an ongoing safe space to process life's griefs and losses. Our Jewish friends would call this Sitting Shabat. As humans, designed in the wonderful image of God, we find sharing our sorrow and heartaches with God and each other enables healing. Together, we remember God's grace and promises and find strength for the journey.

Ongoing attendance not required or expected – come and go as need be. We meet in B106 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. through May 15, 2024.

We all experience a vast array of losses: deaths, serious illnesses, disabilities, divorce, abuse of various kinds, infertility, shattering of dreams, suicides, betrayals, natural disasters, moving away from neighbors/churches, job losses and the list goes on. The intent is not to stay focused on these losses but to honestly process, listen, pray and draw strength from one another.

Not either/or but both/and. Life is hard and God is good. Come join us as you feel led.

Strengthening Families

Raising kids today can be complicated, and families face challenges from external as well as internal forces. Strengthening Families meets bi-weekly to provide support and encouragement to families facing the unique challenges of parenting children with special needs, children placed in their care through foster care/adoption/kinship care, children living with grandparents, children of divorce, etc. Our group is also open to any adult seeking support in their parenting and grandparenting journey.

Ongoing attendance not required. Come and go as need be. We meet in B106 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. through May 22, 2024.

Overseas Fellowship

The Overseas Fellowship is excited to announce the speaker for the spring gathering. We are delighted to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Bradley Ihrig to be our guests for the evening. As a teenager called to medical missions, Dr. Ihrig followed the call and served twelve years in Mongolia, meeting and marrying his wife there. Dr. Ihrig now practices general family medicine in Nicholasville. We are looking forward to hearing from both Dr. and Mrs. Ihrig.



Prayer

By Grace McGlothlin

Have you found time to be still in your thoughts and schedule to pray? Is making space for quiet meditation and reflection hard as you allow God to talk?

Two years ago, I started working nights in healthcare. I would spend my lunch break at 2:00 a.m. walking our church campus before returning to finish my shift. At first, I would turn on music or listen to a podcast and focus on waking my body from the sleepiness that often hit at that hour. But when the shifts got harder, I craved conversation. That's when I realized that the Lord was awake with me, so I turned off my device. He readily met me during those weekly walks. He would remind me of Scripture and hymns, He directed my thoughts after venting my frustrations to Him. It was peaceful and powerful. When I returned to work, my mood had improved, and I felt more energized.

Here are some takeaways that can help your prayer life:

1. Meditation can be beneficial as you seek to understand Scripture or are waiting for a word from God. We often mistake meditation as that done in

Eastern cultures. Christian mediation focuses on Christ and His Word rather than on our inner good to bring peace and restoration. It does not require a specific posture or chant.

We can meditate at any time, but the goal is to bring us closer to God. Psalm 1:1-2 states that the Godly person meditates on the law of the Lord—day and night.

2. We should consider solitude and stillness as essential parts of our schedules to better direct our thoughts and prayers in mediation. I certainly struggle with this one. As a Christian (and human) I long to be with my family (in church and at home.) However, God needs us to hunger for Him more. I have found I hear Him best in solitude and stillness. Jesus practices this throughout the Gospels (Matthew 14, Mark 1, Luke 6.) This is not an excuse to hide from your work, surf social media, or shop. The purpose is to connect more deeply with our Heavenly Father and ask for strength, correction, and inspiration. I am reminded that we need community and fellowship while also responsibly setting boundaries to live more in step with the Spirit.

How can we do these things? First, establish them as habits. Set the goal to practice them for 30 days and see what the Lord reveals. Second, start small. Perhaps 5 minutes every morning is all you can spare. Finally, focus on verse, hymn, or short prayer list to keep your thoughts centered. Look into *Lectio Divina* for more inspiration. It is a monastic practice Andrea Tinsley introduced to me many years ago. It means divine reading.

God wants us to grow mature and not stagnate in our faith and practices. May we all strive for that in each other and ourselves. 1 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but gives us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline."

Children's Sunday School Update

By Anna Van Horn

The 3rd grade Sunday school class is studying the Old Testament using the What's in the Bible curriculum, developed by Phil Vischer, co-creator of Veggie Tales. This is a wonderful series that walks us through Genesis to Malachi, teaching us that God has had a rescue plan laid out for us from the beginning. We learn not only the who, when, and where's of the Old Testament but the why's and the how's. Why do we need salvation (what is salvation?) and why do we need a redeemer (and what is redemption, anyway?) We learn how God works through the men and women of the Old Testament to bring fulfillment to the promises made to Abraham back in Genesis. The ultimate fulfillment is in Jesus, which the kids will be studying in 4th grade when they dive deeply into the New Testament. The Old Testament is full of adventure, triumph, and desperation as the cycle of apostasy is continued

over and over again (What is the cycle of apostasy, you ask? Just ask a 3rd grader, they can tell you!) During class, we watch one or two short video clips and reinforce what we have learned with games and activities. Each week we build on the content we studied before, which helps us understand that God, our Father, has never abandoned us and that we, too are a part of God's great redemption plan.

WFMC children's Sunday school classes ages 2s-3s, 4s-5s, first/second grades, third grade, fourth grade, and fifth grade have wonderful teachers and helpers assisting each week. Sometimes there is a week where we need a substitute in the class. We are looking for more volunteers to add to our contact list. Would you be a name we can count on to help once or twice a semester when teachers need a sub? Please contact Anna Van Horn or Cheryl Schell. Thank you!

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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

April / May 2024

MOWERS NEEDED!

Ahhh...springtime is coming. The bitter cold of winter is past and new growth is starting to appear. That means the grass will be starting to grow soon, and that in turn means we need people to mow and weed eat!

If you are willing to serve the Lord and the church in this ministry, please call Kevin Hale at (859)797-9775 and let him know you would like to join the mowing team. Teens and women are encouraged to participate. If you don't know how to use the equipment, we'll happily teach you.

