

I've been reminded of this several times this year – first in my visit to Africa this past spring, and again when someone visits, looks around with amazement and comments on how spiritually rich we are.

History shows us how easy it is for “rich” people to become lazy, complacent and presumptuous.

Generally speaking, “rich” people find it very easy to complain when they don't get their way.

“Rich” people don't like it when their expectations are not met.

“Rich” people tend to not be very patient or gracious, and can easily come to believe that the world owes them even more than they have.

Maybe that's why Jesus, though He loves all people, tended to favor the poor, not only since He

knew what it was like to be poor, but because the true poor see and appreciate the wealth that they have.

In this season, as we think of Jesus who, for our sakes, became poor so that we could be rich, let's pray that we'll always see and appreciate our spiritual riches, never taking God's blessing for granted, removing the critical or complacent spirit, and being faithful as He calls us to share our riches.

A Simple Prayer

By Jessica Bowers

About 16 years ago, after the birth of my daughter, I remember praying the prayer, “Lord, help me know you and love you more.” As a new parent, I felt completely inadequate to teach and lead my daughter into a loving relationship with God. Even though I had been a life-long church attender and had made a commitment to Christ in my teenage years, my understanding of God was built upon a ‘saved and behaved’ faith and I hoped that it would be enough. Obviously, I limped along in my Christian walk.

I knew there was more to it. I've heard so many testimonies of men and women deeply in love and committed to God, no matter their personal circumstances or what was happening in the world around them. I yearned for that type of relationship, for my sake and that of my family.

I can report that God heard my prayer and continues to teach me about Himself in new and exciting ways. He did not zap me with instant love the moment I prayed that prayer. In fact, I didn't feel any different for a long time. But as I look back,

seeing His gentle guidance these last 16 years, I'm overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude. He is faithful in helping me know and love Him more. I'm excited to tell you what He has been teaching me lately.

Jennifer Fairbairn recommended that I and others in a small group read the book, *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves. Honestly, I wasn't overly interested or curious about the Trinity. I could tell you about the Trinity in very general terms (probably using the 3 leaf clover illustration that I learned from a Veggie Tales video about Saint Patrick). I had heard many sermons about the Trinity by wonderful preachers and teachers, and I could recite the Apostle's Creed, so really, wasn't that enough? Oh thank you, Jesus! He has shown us it is so much better than we could have imagined!

If I could draw a picture of my early Christian walk, it would be filled with sharp, stark lines colored in various shades of gray. God keeps transforming the picture. As I learn new things, new colors and shapes, muted at first, keep gradually emerging. I'm

always so grateful for each new enhancement. But now, I'm starting to really see the Painter for who He is. God, who is Father, overflows with love for His Son, expressed through the Spirit; and the Son returning that love, through the Spirit, back to the Father. This love-filled relationship has spilled over and is the reason that God created us, so that we can join in and be a part of this relationship.

In *Delighting in the Trinity*, Michael Reeves quotes Jonathan Edwards by saying, "This God's very self is found in giving, not taking. This God is like a fountain of goodness, and so, he (Jonathan Edwards) said, 'seeking himself' means seeking 'himself diffused and expressed', - in other words, seeking to have himself, his life and his goodness shared. His very nature is about going out and sharing of his own fullness, and so that is what he is all about." And because in His very nature He is this overflowing fountain of fervent love, Jesus came to rescue us from ourselves and our complete

separation from God. He shows us who the Father is and when we turn to Jesus for salvation, He joins with us, lifting us back into relationship with the Father, and sends the Spirit to continue pouring His overabundant, life-giving love into our lives. This God, our Painter, who is three Persons and yet One, is pulsing with love, beauty, joy, light and life. He wants us, more than anything, to join with Him so we can have "life and have it to the full." (John 10:10) Not a perfect life, but a life of learning and experiencing perfect love so that we can reflect that love back to God and to those around us.

So please, join with me in praying to know and love God more. And if understanding God as Trinity is not something you have spent much time thinking about, I challenge you to start there. You will find that He is so faithful, answering your prayers and giving new life. His love will overflow within you so you, in turn, can love your family, neighbors, and world as He first loved us.

Community Service Center *By Kabe Miller*

Would you please consider giving toward the Wilmore Community Center's Christmas food drive? They support many local families in need.

Please deliver to the CSC, located at 209 E. Main Street, Wilmore, KY, by December 13th at 4:00pm.

Thank you for your support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Items needed:

- * boxes of stuffing
- * canned vegetables
- * canned yams
- * canned cranberry sauce
- * canned fruit
- * canned soup
- * boxes of cereal
- * cake/brownie mixes
- * canned icing
- * jars of peanut butter
- * boxes of macaroni and cheese



Community Service Center
OF WILMORE-HIGH BRIDGE
CARING HEARTS, HELPING HANDS

Music Ministries

Listed below are musical events you won't want to miss for the Christmas Season!

- ◆ **Sunday evening, December 3rd, 6:00pm** - Our annual *Hanging of the Greens* service, featuring a ladies trio and a variety of readings and congregational carols.
- ◆ **Sunday morning, December 10th, 8:30 & 11:00am** - The adult Christmas Choir Heaven's Harmony children's choir will present a variety of anthems, including a musical work entitled "A Manger Suite." Please join us for this annual "Musical Celebration of Christmas" as we celebrate the joy of Christmas in song.
- ◆ **Sunday evening, December 17th, 6:00pm** - We will be caroling to neighborhoods within the Nicholasville and Wilmore areas. Come ready to sing and ready for good fellowship, food, and fun.

Special thanks to all our ensemble participants this fall! We are so grateful for the sacrifice of your time and talents. Also, special thanks to our music leaders, who give of their time and talents to lead our musical groups. We appreciate you.



Reminder that rehearsals will resume for the new year on Sunday January 14th, Tuesday January 16th, and Wednesday January 17th.

Look for these music events to happen in the coming year:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| •April 22 th | 7:00pm | Spring Ring (Monday evening) |
| •April 28 th | 6:00pm | Children's Musical |
| •May 5 th | 8:30 & 11:00am | Singing Celebration |
| •May 26 ²⁶ | 6:00pm | Youth Choir Homecoming |

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 David Diddle, Lily Prochina, *TR & Marcia Miller*
- 2 Mark Davila
- 3 Andy Bowen, Noel Taylor
- 4 Pam Hiatt
- 5 Patti Butterworth, Lorrie Liversedge, Carol McGlothlin, *Eduardo & Cindi Angelo*
- 6 Rose Branan, Bernie Cobb, Kate Madill
- 7 Emilia Adams
- 8 Don Butterworth
- 9 Dennis Adams, Paul Diddle, John Swaim
- 10 Johnson Cannon, Juliana Gomez
- 11 Jon Steury, Bennett Weinberger
- 13 Juanice Battin, *Johnson & Amy Cannon*
- 14 Barb Crouse, Harold Schmul
- 15 Joel Amstutz, Lynne Neyman, Todd Padgett, Eli Robson, Mark Van Horn, Julie Wells, *Tony & Adina Headley, Cazavion & Sarah Joiner*
- 16 John Ireland
- 17 *Brian & RoseMary Nowitzki*
- 19 Linda Jacobson, Gary Martin
- 20 Joe Dongell, Dwight Winter, *Ted & Jackie Moon*
- 21 Barbara Barker, Roy Lauter
- 22 Ava Hall
- 23 Doug Adkins, Ken Thompson
- 24 Donna Bruner, Aaron Hall
- 26 Carol Coulliette, Jill Land, Seth Langford, Jenny Madill, Lorraine Mink, Cindy Reasoner, *Leonard & Emily Fitch*
- 27 Bea VanValin, Gary Weinberger
- 28 *Kevin & Carolyn Hale, Ed & Sarah Kusche, Jonathan & Irene Raymond*
- 29 Owen Adams, Daniel Jacobson
- 30 Sue Lauter

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Vic & Cindy Reasoner
- 4 Don Schreiner
- 5 Curtis Allen, Marcia Burgess, Mike Reynen, *Erik & Cheryl Johnson*
- 6 Teresa Cassidy
- 7 Sara Bailey, Krista Padgett
- 8 Royce Bourne
- 9 Kaye Payne
- 10 Sandy Miller, Ken Proctor III, Matt Zahniser
- 11 Elijah Kidwell, Bob Peterson
- 13 *Glenn & Grace McGlothlin*
- 14 Ted Moon, Nathan Riffell
- 15 Scott Wells, *Arvid & Judy Metcalf*
- 17 Kevin Hale
- 18 Joy Rice, Coleman Shafer
- 19 Carrie Beth Atkinson, Allen Holmes
- 22 Mollie Robson
- 23 Jonah Evans
- 24 Breanna Bowers, Eleanor Dobie, Paul Langford, Marilyn Van Horn
- 25 Bob Barnard
- 26 Susie Branan
- 27 Susie Bourne, Ron Johns, Ralph Kester
- 29 Alma Cornett, Grace McGlothlin
- 30 *Gary & Mary Ellen Martin*
- 31 Sue Hamann, Pat Tillson

Ladies Night Out

WFMC ladies will be meeting one last time this year for Ladies Night Out. On December 4th at 6:00pm, we will be meeting at Fazoli's in Nicholasville. Ladies Night Out is an invitation to all ladies in the church (bring a friend, if you'd like) who want to enjoy eating dinner with friends at a local restaurant. We have a blast and hope you will join us this time. Contact Ginny Proctor by calling or texting to 859-553-9784 with any questions.

Youth Ministries

By Brianna Bowers

There are many different youth events at WFMC each week. On Tuesday mornings there is the Youth Prayer Breakfast, Wednesdays hold Youth Group, and Sundays contain church, Sunday School, and afterglow. Let me walk you through a regular week of youth activities .

We start with Tuesday morning Prayer Breakfast. The youth show up and slowly break into small groups. In my small group, we take praises and prayer requests before praying for certain people each week. Then we each pray about specific things in our friends’ lives. We then gather in the hospitality room and have a short devotional time before we eat breakfast and fellowship with each other. About 8:20am, we load up in the church vans and are dropped off at school.

On Wednesdays during Youth Group, we have been learning about spiritual disciplines. Each week we will have a different discipline. So far, we have gone through meditation, prayer, fasting, simplicity, and worship. After Caitlin talks to the youth as a whole, we are released into our small groups (of 5 to 7) where we talk on a deeper level about using this discipline in our own lives. In my small group, we are usually given a challenge to complete related to that discipline. For example, after the talk about meditation, my small group leader gave everyone a sheet of paper which had Bible verses about meditation. We were supposed to look these up and find a time to meditate each day. This past week, we were given a 30-day challenge of being

thankful to God for his many different attributes. These challenges are pushing me toward a deeper relationship with my Best Friend and I am so thankful.

On Sundays, there is church, Sunday school, and afterglow. I signed up to help the 4 and 5 year old Sunday school, so I am unsure what is being taught at the moment in the high school Sunday school. After evening service, the youth are taken to the host’s house or to the gym for a time of fellowship and food. At about 8:30 we are taken back to the church where parents pick us up.

After Sunday, we start the week over and do it all again. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the youth group and am excited to learn even more and grow in my relationship with the Lord.

This past weekend (October 27-29), we went on fall retreat. These retreats only happen twice a year, but are very special times. About 60 of the youth went to fall retreat this year at Eagle Ridge in Bowling Green, KY. I have been going to Eagle Ridge since I was in 4th grade, and I love it. It is a special place where many have the opportunity to get away from the stress of life and reconnect with their friends and God on a deeper level. At fall retreat this year, we heard from some of our youth leaders who shared their testimonies. It was very impactful to hear how the Lord is working in our midst even now!

Overseas Fellowship

By Carol McGlathlin

The winter meeting of the Overseas Fellowship will be on Friday, January 26th at 6pm in the Hospitality Room of Building C. The evening will start with a covered-dish dinner and the program will follow at 7 pm.

The program will feature Jon and Vera Steury who are based in Nairobi, Kenya. They serve as Africa

Regional Directors for World Gospel Mission. The primary focus of their ministry is to support and facilitate the WGM workers in Africa as they fulfill their ministry callings. We are eager to hear from them.

This fellowship is open to everyone. Won’t you join us? We look forward to seeing you.

Asia Ministry Update

By Jerry Coleman

Jerry and Jan Coleman recently had the privilege of serving Christ in various cities across Asia. The names of these cities have been purposefully omitted.

The primary focus in the first city was a four-day event to celebrate 45 years of Free Methodist ministry. More than 2500 people were in attendance. Most of the attendees travelled many hours (and even days) on trains and buses from remote villages. In addition, local dignitaries and politicians from the area who are sympathetic to the work were invited. A Free Methodist bishop and his wife followed the Holy Spirit's leading to reach the unreached with the Gospel. Now they oversee 400 Free Methodist congregations with over 50,000 people, plus many orphanages, primary and secondary schools, and colleges. The Holy Spirit helped Jan as she addressed 400 women and me as I twice addressed the large gathering.

Our primary focus in the second city was an event with Nazarene pastors and district leaders. We were invited to speak in this two-day conference which focused on unity of purpose and mission. Jan addressed the group on the topic of prayer. After my message on forgiveness and reconciliation we witnessed a spiritual breakthrough with leaders weeping and reconciling with one another! The conference leader who invited us had shared that there was long-standing division and conflict between a number of pastors which was really harming the ministry. She was thrilled with the evidence and testimony that unity was happening before our eyes. Praise the Lord! The testimonies around the evening campfire went on extensively.

The second contact in this city was with an independent Pentecostal church. I spoke at their prayer meeting one day and the next day at a meeting with 30 pastors who live on the most basic of resources. As the pastors introduced themselves and their ministries we learned of the sacrifices and hardships they endure to follow their call. A number of them have been severely persecuted and even physically beaten for proclaiming the Gospel. We were shown a paper file on the statistics and learned that many of these pastors and their families live on practically nothing (one pastor reported a monthly income of \$13). At the conclusion of the meeting the pastors received an envelope with \$3 for transportation costs. They also received a sack lunch. We were awed and humbled by these saints!

We spent one day at a nearby seminary with the director. The seminary has an official affiliation with our local seminary. Jan spoke to 20 student wives. I taught a cross-cultural communication class and a report on the recent Outpouring with some teaching on awakening in the chapel prayer service.

In the third city I preached in a local Free Methodist Church Sunday morning. Jan spoke to 50 women from the district conference. She had time with the wife of the bishop, and also did home visitation with ladies from the church. My last event was addressing Free Methodist pastors of the district conference. I shared accounts from the recent Outpouring along with Scripture challenging us to prepare for awakening. The meeting was both live and online.

Throughout our time, we had many opportunities to meet with people individually for sharing and counseling. We prayed with many

Prison Ministry

Men - By Ted Moon

In October, Charlie Payne, Craig Saunders and I had the opportunity of visiting the inmates in the Nicholasville jail. I read the Scripture from Daniel 6. After reading the chapter, one of the inmates said, "I've never heard the entire story like I heard it this evening." It reminded us how important it is to not just tell the story but to read it directly from the Bible. Charlie then spoke about how God was in control of Daniel's situation in the lions' den and how He was also in control of their lives in jail. Then Charlie shared something in his life that he was facing and affirmed that God was also in control of his life. Charlie's transparency had a definite impact them. Then Craig led the inmates in communion. The bread and the juice reminded them of what Jesus did on the cross for them. It was evident that the Holy Spirit was there in this service of remembrance.

As we left, one of the inmates thanked us for sharing "solid food and not a water down message." We thank God for your prayers for us as well as the inmates as God's Word is shared with them.

Before we left, we were able to give them stamped envelopes to write to their families as well as pages from a large print Daily Bread given to us by Robbie Joy. We also provided some physical food in the form of chocolates. They were very appreciative of these small kindnesses.

Women - By Pauline Blanka

On October 5th, 2023, Kaye Payne and I went to the jail in Nicholasville to minister to the women. It was my turn to lead the devotional. I chose the 23rd Psalm. It's amazing how much we learn as we study and prepare to share the Bible with people who are willing to listen. The people who lived at the time the Psalm was written would have known and understood about shepherds and sheep. For most of us, not so much. The part that impacted me the most was, "Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies." At that time, if a traveler was accepted as a guest by the host, he was protected as long as he was there. I wonder if that custom still holds true in the Middle East. It just goes to remind us to study and show ourselves approved, rightly delivering the Word of Truth.

The women ask us to pray for them and their families. It's a goal to help them know how to help their children and grandchildren know the Lord and how to pray.

Kaye led communion and the prayer requests for the ladies.

In October, we had a record 17 ladies attend. Please keep Carolyn Hale, Kaye Payne, and me in your prayers as we minister to these women.

Food for Schools

By Jessica Bowers

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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 sustaining needs 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 designated items in 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:

- Dec 2023 - Condensed Soup - Tomato or Chicken Noodle
- Jan 2024 - Pudding Cups
- Feb 2024 - Canned Pasta (such as Ravioli or Spaghetti and Meatballs)
- Mar 2024 - Oatmeal Packets
- 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

Prime Timers

By Marcia Miller

Do you feel like you're in the prime time of life? If so, we have something for you. Prime Timers are a fun-loving group of seniors who would love for you to join us at our Christmas celebration. Our annual Christmas dinner will be in building C at noon on Thursday, December 7. This will be a potluck dinner, and we invite those with last names that begin A-F to bring a salad, G-L a casserole, M-S a dessert, and T-Z a vegetable dish. Bread, meat and drinks will be provided by the committee. This will be our last meeting of 2023. There will be no luncheon in January or February due to the uncertainty of the weather. Please make plans to join us for this great time of fellowship. Rose Evans will bring the program which will be filled with all your favorite Christmas carols and hymns.

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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 Plumbl ine

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

December 2023 / January 2024



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 3, 6 p.m.

Join us for an evening of beautiful music and
decorating as we prepare our sanctuary and our hearts for the Advent season. Don't forget
to bring an angel ornament for the tree!

