



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

June / July 2014



From the Pastor's Pen

By Daryl Diddle

The Issue Behind the Issue

About 60 people gathered at 6:45 a.m. in the Christian Ministry Center for a great time of prayer back on May 1, the National Day of Prayer. As we followed the counsel of the brochure and prayed through a number of national issues, I found many thoughts coming to mind. For example:

Federal, State and Local Government We, as a people, get the government we deserve. I wonder if God allows oppressive governments at times in order to keep an immoral people in line and even alive, in spite of themselves.

Military We as a nation have come to depend so much on government and military might to solve our problems that we've lost our need for and dependence upon God. We have so much talent, militarily; "we have the world's greatest military," we've heard that for years. Have we forgotten, however, that we have the world's greatest God, who is the power behind all that is good and great?

Media We the people complain a lot about the media, but it is also we, the people, who fund our media; we watch their channels, we buy their products, we go to their movies. Are we not the ones who make the media successful or not successful by the way we spend our money?

Business We, as a people, also make or break businesses. We buy products from immoral businesses. We choose to remain uninformed about moral stances of companies and blindly support companies by buying the products that are maybe cheapest, but made with slave labor or by companies who take well-known immoral stands. Do we unintentionally support business greed by being uninformed?

Education Yes, we want to pray for our schools, but how much do we invest, personally, in our local schools? Do we volunteer in the classrooms of our kids? Do we get to know the teachers and administrators? Do we have a presence that shows Christ in our schools, or do the people in our schools believe, through us, that Christians are just people who are against them? What is our own personal witness in the schools around us?

Church We have so committed ourselves to a life of luxury and stuff that we're working all the time, and have no time left for the things of God like prayer, devotions, and service. A few years ago, a big church near us said that they expect three hours from their people each week – one hour of worship, one of learning and one of service. That's not very much. The truth is, no church can thrive or be a force in the world if that's all the more it's members are committed to giving it.

Family Are we investing in our family? Are we giving our kids and grandkids the time and the discipline and the training and the love that we need to give them, all in the right proportion? Or are we failing our children for the sake of stuff and living a certain lifestyle? Lots of Christian parents today are buying their kids affection – they're kids don't see them because they're working all the time, so to get rid of that guilt, they buy them too much and they discipline them too little. We can pray for families – we need to, but are we willing to make the sacrifices it takes to put our prayers into action...to follow God's commands regarding how we're to interact as families?

Now, I'm not saying there's anything wrong with the National Day of Prayer. Neither am I suggesting that we shouldn't intercede together for all these entities. Still, isn't the underlying source of the trouble in all of these areas a lack of national and personal desire for the presence, passion and purity of God in our lives?

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We say we want God's **presence**, but only when He's convenient. We don't want Him bothering us when we're doing our thing. We'll give Him His few minutes every morning and an hour on Sunday, but is that it?

We say we want God's **passion**, as long as He's passionate about what we're passionate about. As long as He loves what we love. As long as He wants us to be happy above all else, because we can get really excited about our own happiness.

We say we want God's **purity**, as long as we get to define it...as long as we don't have to give up our secret sin or addiction.

The problem is, we don't get to prescribe God's presence or define His passion or adjust His purity to fit our preferences. In fact, we're called to brokenness; we're called to break ourselves so that He can prescribe and define and adjust all those things in us, and it's when we'll do that, when we'll allow ourselves to be broken, when we'll let God have His way with our expectations and morals and finances and preferences and commitments and priorities, then we'll begin living as He wants His people to live,

...and then our attitudes and lives and families will move onto a path toward healing and wholeness,

...and then others around us who are still caught up in the craziness and mania of the world will see that we're different; we're healthy and calm and assured and we have peace, even in hardship,

...and then, they'll want to know how it is that we are as we are,

...and then, they'll hear of Christ and allow us and Jesus to speak into their lives,

...and then they'll come to know Him too, and make Him their Lord,

...and then, they'll begin the same process with others,

...and then, the healing of our land, our nation, and our people, and other peoples of the world will begin.

The healing of all that needs healed around us – our bodies and minds, our families and friends, our neighborhoods and towns and cities and nations, it all begins when we, the followers of Jesus, will get serious about pursuing His presence and passion and purity in our lives.

The verse that we so often use when we're speaking of praying for our neighborhoods and nations is that one from 2 Chronicles 7, "*If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*"

The thing about that verse is that we always jump right to the verb, "pray," because, honestly, that's what sounds most spiritual and what, frankly, requires the least of us.

But look at the other verbs in there: ***humble*** ourselves, ***seek*** God's face, and ***turn*** from wicked ways. Those are the verbs that deal with pursuing God's presence and passion and purity.

We can pray all we like, but until we are willing for God to answer our own prayers in us and through us,

...until we're willing to have our hearts broken for His presence and passion and purity,

...until we'll ***humble*** ourselves and ***seek*** His face and ***turn*** from our own sin and wicked ways,

...until we let the Lord break us and fill us and define us, then we are not cooperating with Him as fully as we need to be in order to open the doors to the healing that He so desperately wants to accomplish in our world.

Certainly, it's good to pray, but honest prayer deals honestly with the issues behind the issue that unlocks the power of God.



Lindsay and Margaret Arthur Naomi, age 2

The Arthurs arrived in Wilmore from Barbados in January 2012. At the suggestion of a neighbor in Kalas Village, they visited WFMC and immediately felt at home.

“The rest is history,” says Margaret. “It was perfect for us.”



Naomi was born four months after their arrival. She turned two on May 21.

Lindsay trusted Christ as Savior at age ten, but had stopped at-

tending church until a family crisis brought him back. He recommitted his life and was baptized in 2008.

Margaret had come to Christ a year earlier. After always being “too busy” for church, she felt that something was missing in her life and called a nearby church

to ask about service times. She ended up speaking with the pastor, who led her to Christ. She joined the church in 2008.

It was at this church that Lindsay and Margaret met. He invited her out to lunch, but she said, “I’m busy.” Second attempt, same response. However, they began talking and getting acquainted at Wednesday night Bible studies. They were married in 2010, in a small, intimate ceremony with thirteen guests, at Sunbury Plantation House in the Parish of St. Philip.

Lindsay studied at universities in Canada and Scotland, earned an MBA, and worked as a management consultant in banking. He taught an adult Sunday school class at their church in Barbados. At Asbury Seminary, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies and hopes to return to Barbados, or elsewhere in the Caribbean, to minister in a local church. He feels gifted for teaching, and is waiting on the Lord for direction.

Margaret went straight to work after high school and most recently worked for ten years as a spa receptionist. She calls herself a homebody and is quite content caring for her home and family. She says her one regret in life is that she did not come to Christ earlier.

At WFMC, the Arthurs are members of the Café Berea class, and Margaret does nursery duty once a month.

Claude and Sallie Wells

Claude and Sallie Wells moved to Wilmore in November 2012 and began attending WFMC because it was close by. Jeri Roller’s warm welcome and Pastor Daryl’s sermons soon had them “hooked.” They never considered another church.

Their grandson, John (now six), was a major reason for their move to Kentucky. They care for him every day before and after school. John and his parents, Charles and Jacquelyn Neal, live in Lancaster, and flew to China on May 15 to bring Joshua (five) home to join their family. John is from Taiwan. He loves Sunday school, singing with the Friendship Company, and playing handbells.

Claude grew up in Anniston AL and Sallie in West Palm Beach FL, in Christian families and in Sunday school and church. Sallie made her commitment to Jesus at age eleven when she realized that God was the “Someone Bigger” that she needed to get her through life. Claude made his serious commitment to Christ soon after he and Sallie were married.

Claude studied Business Administration at Jacksonville State University (Alabama) and worked in accounting, retiring in 2009. Sallie studied Elementary Education at

Florida State University in Tallahassee. She taught kindergarten, first and second grades for 29 years in Atlanta. She also retired in 2009.

Sallie noticed Claude when they lived in the same apartment complex in Atlanta and arranged to meet him. They were married December 1, 1973, in Smyrna GA.

Claude was active for many years in the Emmaus Walk ministry and in Kairos, a similar program for prisoners in Duluth GA. He and Sallie were active members of the Wesley Sunday School Class at their church in Atlanta.

They love the music and Sunday morning worship at WFMC, and are members of Grandparents Who Pray. Sallie helped with VBS last summer.

Favorite leisure activities are gardening, reading, and taking walks together. Their dreams for the future are to be the best grandparents they can be, and to watch their grandchildren grow up to love God with their whole heart.



Getting to Know You
By Shirley McMillan

Bible Quiz Team Update

RESULTS FOR THE FINAL THREE QUIZES FOR THE 2013-14 SEASON

The **first** of two Bible quiz meets for the seventh month of the 2013-14 season was held at the Brooke Hills FMC in Wellsburg, WV on Saturday, April 5, 2014. This was a quiz meet for the Genesis Conference of the FMC (northeastern U.S.) to which we had been invited.

Wilmore took four teams, consisting of 12 quizzers, to this meet in the following divisions (with the trophy positions indicated in parentheses):

Senior Teen Veteran A - 2 teams (1st place)
Young Teen Veteran A - 1 team (1st place)
Young Teen Rookie A - 1 teams (1st place)

10 quizzers reached the final round (i.e. the top six) in their respective Individual's division, with the following five quizzers placing in the top three (which were the trophy/medal positions):

STVA: Adam Schell - 1st place; Stephen Wright - 2nd place; Garrison Wright - 3rd place
YTVA: Evelyn Madill - 1st place;
YTRA: Kate Madill - 3rd place



The **second** of two Bible quiz meets for the seventh month of the 2013-14 season was held at the Vincennes FMC in Vincennes, IN on Saturday, April 12, 2014. This was the conference finals meet for the combined conferences of Gateway and Wabash. (Next month, our last monthly meet of the year, is a multi-regional, comprehensive quiz meet.) In addition, this was the meet in which the 5th grade quizzers were invited to participate against other "newcomer" quizzers from the Gateway and Wabash conferences.

Wilmore took five regular teams, consisting of 15 quizzers, and two 5th grade teams, consisting of six quizzers, to this meet in the following divisions (with the trophy positions indicated in parentheses):

Senior Teen Veteran A - 1 team (3rd place)
Young Teen Veteran A - 1 team (2nd place)
Young Teen Veteran B - 1 team
Young Teen Rookie A - 1 team (3rd place)
Young Teen Rookie B - 1 team (1st place)
Newcomers - 2 teams (1st & 2nd places)

5 quizzers reached the final round (i.e. the top six) in their respective Individual's division (Newcomers do not participate in Individual quizzing), with the following three quizzers placing in the top three (which were the trophy/medal positions):

STVA: Sarah Blankenship - 3rd place
YTVB: Katie Winter - 2nd place;
YTRA: Paul Robert Stackhouse - 1st place

The **final** monthly Bible quiz meet of the 2013-14 season was held at the West Morris Street FMC in Indianapolis, IN on Saturday, May 10, 2014. This was a multi-regional quiz meet with teams from around the midwest.

Wilmore took eight teams, consisting of 27 quizzers, in the following divisions (with the trophy positions indicated in parentheses):

Senior Teen Veteran A - 2 teams (3rd place)
 Young Teen Veteran A - 2 teams (1st place)
 Young Teen Veteran B - 1 team (1st place)
 Young Teen Rookie A - 2 teams (2nd & 3rd places)
 Young Teen Rookie B - 1 team

11 quizzers reached the final round (i.e. the top six) in their respective Individual's division, with the following five quizzers placing in the top three (which were the trophy/medal positions):

STVA: Adam Schell - 1st place; Jonathan Liversedge - 2nd place
 YTVA: Evelyn Madill - 2nd place
 YTRA: Kate Madill - 2nd place; Paul Robert Stackhouse - 3rd place



MONTHLY QUIZ MEETS FOR 2013--2014 ARE COMPLETED



As this was the last monthly quiz meet of the year, I want to express my appreciation for all of the adults who gave liberally of their time and energy over this past year to help this ministry continue its work -- the coaches, the drivers, the parents, the quote listeners, those who opened their homes for visiting quizzers, etc. THANK YOU!

Please pray for the 20 quizzers who will continue studying and practicing for another six weeks as they prepare for Quiz Finals in Greenville, IL. And

please congratulate the three graduating seniors who are wrapping up their time in this ministry -- Sarah Blankenship, Adam Schell, and Stephen Wright.

IMPORTANT UPDATE!: The month of April during each quiz season in the Wabash Conference is *Quote the Word Award* month. Each quizzers who can successfully quote (word perfect!) all of the quote passages for the year (38 passages in the Gospel of Matthew) receives a nice plaque honoring this achievement. Wilmore had **19** quizzers who received this honor this year for quoting all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING QUIZZERS:

for earning this year's *Quote the Word Award*

Hannah Bellew
 Anna Blankenship
 Sarah Blankenship
 Ezra Boileau
 Elizabeth Brown
 Meg Hull
 Jonathan Liversedge

David Madill
 Evelyn Madill
 Kate Madill
 Lora Prochina
 Adam Schell
 Kelleyann Stackhouse

Paul Robert Stackhouse
 Jessie Thompson
 Tyler Thompson
 Ian Wang
 Garrison Wright
 Stephen Wright

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Communion a.m.	2 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray	3 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray	4 7:00pm FMY Prayer Meeting	5 6:00pm Providence School Graduation	6 PUBLIC SCHOOL ends at Noon	7
4:00pm-Bible Quiz	8 Pentecost Sunday 9:40am Sunday School Breakfast 4:00pm-Bible Quiz	9 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7:00pm Men BB	10 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7:00pm Men BB	11 7:00pm - FMY Prayer Meeting in Sanctuary	12	13
Vacation Bible School 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon						
15 FATHER'S DAY No Sunday School Teen Camp June 15-22 4:00pm-Bible Quiz 6:00 pm VBS Evening Program 7:00 pm VBS Social	16	17 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7pm Men BB	18 Family Camp June 18-22 7:00pm FMY Summer Fun Begins Adult Prayer Mtg	19	20	21
22 7:00pm Seniors Game Night	23 Kids Camp June 23-28	24 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7pm Men BB	25 7:00pm FMY Summer Fun Adult Prayer Mtg	26	27	28
7:00pm Bible Quiz	8 BIBLE QUIZ NATIONALS / GREENVILLE, IL June 29-July 3	9	10	11	12	13
29 7:00pm Sidewalk Social	30	31	1 BIBLE QUIZ CAMP / CMC	2 6:30pm First Year Fellowship	3 5:30pm Men's Wild Game Feast	4


1	Tobias Reilsnyder
2	Sophia Montgomery
3	Joanna Crabtree Jordan Kellogg June Lintemuth Burnam Reynolds
4	Burnam & Machel Reynolds Andrew Weinberger
5	Cecil & Johnetta Zweifel
6	Wes Eisemann Walker Swaim Traeshaun Warren
7	Rowan Bickert Shirley McMillan Lyn Neyman Del & Lyn Scarls
8	Sam & Pat Gilmore Tyler & Devon Zweifel Ellen Jones
9	Paul & Sue Hammann Dexter & Dickie Lee Porter
10	Sean Kidwell, Mark Schell David & Carol Coulliette
11	Robert Erny, Joy Ireland Bonnie Lashbrook, Emma Padgett, Colin Winter Wally Underwood Lynn & Rosie Cooper
12	Kenny Isaac Proctor V Bruce & Laura Branam Don & Devon Roxberry
13	Madison Zweifel
14	Violet Macill
15	Sam Montgomery Gabby Long, Arv Metcalf Eileen Wright
16	Amy Cannon, Laurie Hood Nellie Kester
17	James Demaray James & Charlene Demaray Barry & Fran May Julie Jobryce
18	Don & Patti Buttenworth Milke Smith
19	Ed & Sharon Bryson Michael & Carol Dickie Lee & Noel Taylor
20	David McPeake Jeremy Wheelock
21	Skip & Darlene Elliott Jon Reilsnyder Joe & Barb Crouse
22	Audrey Thompson Richard & Barbara Barker
23	Ron & Bonnie Koteskey Paul Kellogg, Hannah Long Cathy Stonehouse

Birthdays & Anniversaries continued....

23	Ralph & Nellie Kester
24	Brian & Darla Kidwell
25	Larry & Sammie Moore
26	Rose Evans
27	Robert Bickert, Adam Schell
28	Jon Liversedge, Lauren Ury
29	Ethan & Leah Goforth, Michael & Pam Pepper
27	Margaret Arthur, Sharon Bryson
28	Glen Weinberger
29	Caleb & Aurora Kuo Wang
30	Amanda Bailey, June Lowry
31	Dave & Carli Blankenship
1	Thad & Ruth Gouge
2	Curt & Timberly Kidwell

JULY 2014

WFMC Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7:00pm Men BB	2 3-9:00 pm Blood Drive / CMC 7:00pm FMY Summer Fun Prayer Meeting	3	4  7pm Independence Day Picnic / Fireworks	5 FM Youth Conf. / CO July 5-11
BIBLE QUIZ NATIONALS / GREENVILLE, IL, June 29-July 3						
6 Communion a.m. 9:40 Connections Class 5:00pm Marriage Min	7	8 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7:00pm Men BB	9 7:00pm FMY Summer Fun Prayer Meeting	10	11	12 FMYC / Colorado
FMYC / Colorado July 5-11						
13 7:00pm Sidewalk Social	14	15 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7:00pm Men BB	16 7:00pm FMY Summer Fun Prayer Meeting	17	18	19
20	21	22 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7:00pm Men BB	23 7:00pm FMY Summer Fun Prayer Meeting	24	25	26
27 7:00 pm Sidewalk Social	28	29 6:30am-Men pray 8:00am-Ladies pray 7:00pm Men BB	30 7:00pm FMY Summer Fun Prayer Meeting	25 Ryan Padgett, Josh & Jennifer Reynolds 26 Don Sweigard, Mark Underwood, Sadie Upton 27 Esther James 28 Summer Swain 29 Nellie Smith 30 Cathy Thompson, Parker Weinberger, Stan Wiggam Earle & Dottie Bowen; Ralph & Gracie Yoder 31 Dale Underwood Keith & Jenny Madill		

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1	Jamie Faul Maren McGimsey Schmidt
2	Kathi Munoz
3	Bill Descoteaux, Audrey Goodloe, Aiden Lane
4	Tony Headley, Faith Reynolds, Bob Thurman
5	Cathi Blankenship Nathan Hiatt
7	Ricardo & Beth Gomez Wesley Cannon, Lydia Evans
8	Bob Cassidy, Emily Fitch Don Koehn, Dorothy Thompson
9	Shaun Warren Eric Barnard, Jody Brock Ethan Goforth, LeAnn Roberge
10	Chadwick & Sarah Spencer Dale Hale
11	Carole Dickie Scott & Eileen Wright
12	Dick Crane
13	Dalton Cannon, Shannon Grouge
14	Debbie Eggum, Letha Jones, Rick Maynard
15	Curtis & Arlene Allen Chuck Sweetser Don & Robbie Joy John & Marilyn Swaim Paul & Jill Swaim
16	James Conn, Susan Folsom, Matt Liversedge
17	Ben & Renee Riffell Mary Bennett, JonMark Bickert Leah Goforth Nikki Montgomery Kennedy Roberge, Jesse Zweifel Mark & Rose Evans Bob & Faye Neal
18	James & Jody Zweifel Machel Reynolds Don Zent
19	Bob & Teresa Cassidy Rick Boyd
20	Joe Cooper, Peter Cooper Carter Schmidt, Mike Tillson
21	Warren & Marguerite Bride Timothy & Joyce Thomas Priscilla Probst Skip Elliott
24	Gilbert & Jeri Roller

Library News

New Books for the Library

(Loan Period: 3 weeks)

Children's Books

The Most Precious Gift

The White Trail

A Load of Trouble

Angels in the Snow

Mandie and Joe's Christmas Surprise

Heads I Win, Tails You Lose

The Sparkle Egg

The Amazing Journey: Jesus, Creation, Death and Life

The Sheep No One Could Find

The Whale Tells His Side of the Story

Who Brought the Bread?

The Tale of Despereaux

Hey God, I'm Having An Awful Vacation in Egypt

Thanks to Moses

Adult Books

Singing Through the Night: Courageous Stories of Faith of Women in the Persecuted Church

This Isn't the Life I signed Up For, But I'm Finding Hope and Healing

The Key to Your Child's Heart

The Bride Wore Blue

The Last Sin Eater

You Bring Confetti, God Brings the Joy

The Mystery of Marriage

Unglued: Making Wise Choices In the Midst of Raw Emotions

Large Print Books

When Courage Calls

The Bridge

Learning

Leaving

Unlocked

New DVDs for the Library

(Loan Period: 1 week)

The Prince of Egypt

Heidi

The Great Divide

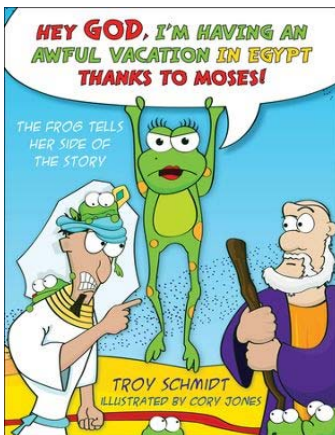
Alice in Wonderland

The Confession

Veggies in Space: The Fennel Frontier

Book Review:

Hey God, I'm Having An Awful Vacation in Egypt Thanks to Moses by Troy Schmidt



Hey God, I'm Having An Awful Vacation Egypt Thanks to Moses is about a frog that was not happy with the swamp that she lived in so she moved to Egypt. In Egypt she got a brochure about the Nile turning to blood. Then she saw an old guy wearing stinky, dirty clothes. It turned out to be Moses. So, she decided to talk to him about the Nile of blood. Then something worse happened--millions of the frogs from the swamp rained down on Pharaoh. Pharaoh and the frog talked to Moses about getting rid of the frogs. Over the course of the frog's vacation, she experiences all 10 plagues that God sent upon Pharaoh-- and she didn't like it. But she learns a very important lesson. You will have to read the story to find out the lesson that God teaches her. I enjoyed the book and I think it is a book worth reading.

Reviewed by Paul Diddle - 4th grade

Please Renew Items Promptly

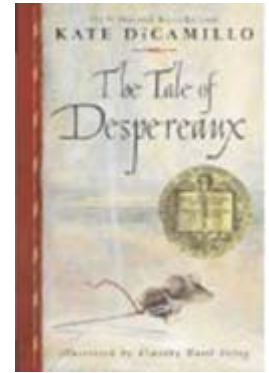
If you need to renew any items, please check with the librarian, Bonnie Koteskey, at 858-3436; or leave a note on the library bulletin board. It is important to return the materials when they are due so that others can check them out.

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

The Tale of Despereaux is about a mouse, a princess, and a spool of red thread. The title character is a small brave mouse that goes into the darkness to save Princess Pea and bring back light to the kingdom of Dor.

This courageous little mouse is brave throughout this amazing book, like when he stands at the foot of the king himself. Or he was brave to say, "No" to the Mouse Council because he could be sent to the dungeon for that. Also, he is brave when he sneaks through the castle kitchen where he had earlier lost his tail. This mouse meets two girls and saves their lives. These two girls both want the same thing...their mothers. This is an amazing book about light and darkness that I think this church would greatly enjoy.

This is a new book in the church library.



Reviewed by MariBeth Sophia Kierstead, age 9

Rule One: Don't Quit

Lee Taylor

If I were to have the audacity to give anyone advice on prayer it would come down to three basic rules. Rule one: don't quit. Rules two and three would follow: see rule one. There are many volumes of prayer helps, suggestions, and principles; some of them quite excellent, but in a short article I stand by rule one. It only follows that since we are conversing with an omnipotent God who wants relationship with us, the one big disaster is to tune him out.

Consider Samuel, the Old Testament judge and prophet. Though a complex figure, Samuel leaves a solid legacy for those that would seek after Yahweh. Concerning prayer, there is a particular statement Samuel makes that speaks directly to rule one. The context is thus; the people of Israel, against Samuel's emphatic advice, have exercised the option to pursue a human king. This puts them in step with the other nations, but Samuel knows this is a rejection of Israel's unique theocracy. He also senses personal rejection in their move. Even so Samuel in his reply makes this benchmark statement: *...far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you.* (1 Sam. 12:23a NIV) Here we see the man of God wise enough not to allow rejection to dissuade him from his sacred call to intercede for the people. It is precisely when prayer seems difficult, painful, or impossible that it is most crucial.

What if our lost appetite for prayer lacks a clear root cause? What if we've slowly drifted in our affection, or somehow sense that God himself has drawn back? Whether we are let down by others, recognize personal failures, or simply sense distance, the sage advice of the prophet remains true. Don't cease to pray. Practically speaking if our prayer time is crowded or we otherwise feel stuck, what should we do? This may be where a practical volume, alluded to in paragraph one, can help. One thing is certain, when our prayer life is stuck, or worse, we are not in uncharted territory.

I have frequently taken comfort in Martin Luther's advice to Master Peter, the barber (*A Simple Way to Pray*). A portion of which is cited below:

First, whenever I feel that I have grown cold and disinclined to pray, because of other tasks or thoughts (for the flesh and the devil always prevent and hinder prayer), I take my little Psalter, hasten into my room, or, if it is during the day and I have time, to the church where others are gathered, and begin to say the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and then, if I have time, some words of Christ, Paul, or the Psalms, saying them quietly to myself just as children do. Therefore, it is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last of the evening. Guard yourself carefully against such false and deceitful thoughts that keep whispering: Wait awhile. In an hour or so I will pray... (Doberstein, John W. (Ed.).1986. *Minister's Prayer Book*(p.436-37). Philadelphia: Fortress Press)

Though our preference is for natural, free, and spontaneous conversation with God, sometimes a hard reset of form and discipline may be the right tonic. Many of us understand what Luther means when he talks of becoming cool and joyless, and all understand when he speaks of seemingly urgent things crowding out prayer. What to do? Please see rule one above.

Marriage Ministries

Men Are Made For “Tweaking!”

Just this afternoon (4/27/14), while cleaning up the sanctuary, I stepped into the church library. [C’mon, men, you do know where our library is!] Bonnie Koteskey had a number of books on display and I spotted Tony and Lauren Dungy’s new book **Uncommon Marriage**. Fifty-one years of my own marriage has convinced me of two things: 1) Wow! Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! 2) How has my wife been able to do it!? I think, --I know--I’ve still got a lot of work to do to put the “frosting on the cake!”

If you are like me (O my!), men, it was hard for me early-on to spend a lot of time in a book (I’m retired now!). For men who work outside of academia, spending a lot of time reading isn’t the problem. It’s find-ing the time to read that is! Here’s a suggestion for those who recognize the importance of growing in their marriage relationship, but do not feel that they have the time to do much reading. **SKIM-READ**. But, in your **skimming**, be alert to the promptings of the Holy Spirit! “Settle-in” on these promptings!

For example:

Your eyes fall on **the title**...Uncommon Marriage? You don’t want your marriage to be just a common every-day sort of marriage (See #1 in first paragraph), do you? Try telling your wife you just want a “common” marriage! That won’t get you very far! The title prompts you to “exceed” your grasp of what a marriage really is. “Lord, make me an “uncommon” husband!”

The co-author Tony...Nine children! One wife! Former head coach of the SuperBowl champions (at the time) the Indianapolis Colts! Highly respected in both his personal and professional life! I want him to “mentor” me. One who has had thirty years of need-to-grow-husband experiences! **Skim over** his thoughts!

The inside front-jacket...Perhaps the words “discovering” or “getting past tensions” or “arguing smart” or “working through obstacles”...are words to think about, and perhaps, investigate further --in or out of the book!

Skim over the table of contents...Any chapter title there that prompts you to look further into the book? 1The Sky’s the Limit? 6 Spousal Support? 9 Living...the Dream? Or they might just prompt you to pray for growth?

The end of the book, pages 221-229. The **Core Principles** of an Uncommon Marriage. Nine pages instead of 234! A **skim-look!**

And then, one last example...Whoa! I almost **skimmed** by it too quickly without much thought! **It’s the challenge** found in **the publications** (No less!) listed in the last few pages of the book: It’s the title of one of Tony and Lauren’s DVDs! **Dare To Be Uncommon!** That very challenge --for you **to dare**--- ought to spur on all of us who are husbands, to be satisfied with more than the status-quo. As with Christ, there is ALWAYS room for your own marriage to grow! Dare to let the Spirit prompt you!

Skim if you have to, but go beyond what you think about your marriage! Beyond what you think regarding how good a husband you are! **Be intentional in your skimming!** **Skim** a “good-read!” Who knows? It may not be only you and your wife who benefit... but others you love as well! Blessings!

---Ron Johns, a member of our church’s marriage ministry team

WFMC Music Ministries: Take "Note"

WILMORE
FREE METHODIST CHURCH

A Word of Thanks...

...to all of the volunteers who have participated in music programs at WFMC throughout the past spring and fall. Each week, you sacrifice your time to be a part of this important ministry to our church. We greatly appreciate your willingness to use your gifts as a sweet offering to the Lord and could not minister without you.

...to the wonderful congregation for your support of the music ministry at WFMC and for the vibrant singing that you continually offer on a weekly basis. You are the most important choir of the church and we are blessed...thank you.

As you are relaxing and enjoying your "Summer Vacation" please keep in mind that beginning in September our music ensembles will once again be rehearsing on a weekly basis. Below is a general list of all ensembles that will be offered this coming Fall, please check future Plumblines articles for specific details regarding these groups:

CHILDREN'S VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

- Young Musicians (age 4 by October 1st)
- Friendship Company (Kindergarten-1st Grade)
- Heaven's Harmony (Grades 2-5)
- Chimes of Joy (Grades 2-5)

YOUTH AND ADULT VOCAL ENSEMBLES

- Youth Choir (Grades 6-12)
- Sanctuary Choir (Post-High School and above)

YOUTH AND ADULT INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

- Allegro Handbell Choir (Grades 6-12)
- Tintinnabulation Handbell Choir (Grades 6-12)
- Blessings Adult Handbell Choir (Post-high school and above)
- Beginning Level Adult Handbell Choir (Post-high school and above)

Do you play a musical instrument or enjoy singing? If so, we would love to have you minister with us by joining one of our music teams for morning worship, or by playing your instrument/singing a solo for an offertory. For more information regarding ensembles, as well as Sunday morning and evening music ministries, small groups, and instrumental opportunities, please see the music brochure at the Welcome Center in the main foyer of the church or contact Mark Schell or Rose Evans. We want to hear from 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

June / July 2014



Coming soon to Wilmore Free Methodist Church

Trail Life USA, a Christ-centered high adventure program for boys and young men.

For more information go to: <http://www.traillifeusa.com/who-we-are/> or contact Mike Smith.