

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I am feeling refreshed! I returned on Monday evening from a wonderful vacation in Gulf Shores, Alabama – I do love the beach! My sister Anne and I managed to get some sun (despite the clouds), and play in the Gulf waters (despite the red warning flags), eat some wonderful seafood (trigger fish and cheese grits for breakfast!), We flew a kite in the forceful winds, and even got a great hike in (on *Gator Lake Trail!*) and no strange marine creatures ate, bit, or stung us! So all in all, a pretty good beach trip!

I do thank you for the vacation time away and I know things ran smoothly while I was gone. We have an excellent staff here at Casey UMC and I appreciate Pastor Bob's filling the pulpit for me. On Sunday morning, Anne and I attended the 8:30 traditional worship at the Gulf Shores UMC. It was a beautiful church and a nice congregation. The pastor preached a sermon entitled, *Praying Like Jesus: For Others*. His Scripture was John 17.6-12. I suppose it's like this for most vocations, but when we pastors listen to another pastor preach, there's an irresistible impulse to critically evaluate the sermon. LOL! Actually, it was pretty good. Aside from the fact that he spoke in a monotone and never cracked a smile, I liked the content of his sermon! The pastor said if we want to pray for our friends the way Jesus prayed for his friends, we should offer up a prayer for strength, encouragement, and faithfulness. He said we are all partners in ministry. And how effective we are depends in part on how well we work together...

And in the midst of worship, without warning, my mind turned to our own church's wrestling over the better location for the 8 a.m. service. Indeed, we are partners in ministry and it's important that we work together. As your pastor, I have tried to take it slow and easy as I gently lead

you to tread in water a little deeper than you're accustomed to. I know it's been a struggle and I'm sorry for that. Change *is* stressful. Shifting the 8 a.m. service from the Chapel to the Sanctuary for a trial period has generated some fear, disrupted routines, and moved us away from a beloved space. The critiques *and* compliments have been many and varied. I do thank you all for your patience. On Sunday afternoon, the Worship Committee will decide whether we stay in the Sanctuary or return to the Chapel.

Wherever we land, we will have good work to do because our commission from Christ remains: to make disciples for him and baptize people into God's family and empower them to serve in the world.

Either way, I feel a sense of peace because we are all committed to working this issue out in a way that expresses our love for God and our love for each other. And I am quite confident in Jesus' love for us and the Holy Spirit's willingness and ability to guide our congregation.

I don't imagine it will surprise any of you to know that even on vacation, I was praying for you. You are my friends, I love each of you, and we are in a covenant relationship together, as pastor and congregation. Like any relationship, there are ups and downs and sometimes we disagree. But like any strong covenant, even in the midst of disagreement, we stay connected and work our way through it. So try not to worry. Just pray...

I know I am praying for you. I trust you are praying for me.
See you Sunday.

In Christian Love,

Pastor Penny ☺

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3.13-15

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- Paul, Philippians 3.10-11

I repeat this scripture, not because I have forgotten it, but because it bears repeating. I have felt dead for a long time – totally unengaged, and helpless about how I could come back to life, or if that was even an option. We love God through his people; God loves us through his people.

Because of this new-found knowledge, I now revel at the opportunity of being in the company of others. When the wife says, "Would you like to get together with _____?" my answer is always, "Yes."

*When we are with others, we are alive. Only in this setting do we have the opportunity to be **resurrected**.*

From the book, *To Kill a Zombie*, By David W. Pierce

HORSE TROUGH SUNDAY – MAY 15 (both services)

Again this year we will be offering the Sacrament of Baptism by Immersion on May 15th, on what we have affectionately dubbed "Horse Trough Sunday!" We will have a horse trough filled with water and set up in the Courtyard. Near the end of each service, we will dismiss to the courtyard to baptize those who are ready to publicly confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and be baptized in his name! The person to be baptized will be in a swimsuit (other clothes may be worn over it, if desired), and they will step into the water, sit down, and then Pastor Penny will immerse them into the water as Jesus washes away their sin! When they come up out of the water, it will be as a member of a new family – God's family! And baptism is so meaningful for the congregation, too, as we promise to include them in our care: *With God's help, we will proclaim the Good News and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to God and others.*

It is a really neat experience for those being baptized and for the Casey UMC church family. After all, this is part of our mission, given us by Jesus in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. (NRSV, Matthew 28.19-20)

If you would like more information about this, or to sign up for baptism on this day, please call the church office and speak with Pastor Penny about it. At present, we have one person signed up, but we'd love to have more! If you've never been baptized and are ready to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please talk with the Pastor. There's no sense waiting any longer....

The Casey United Methodist Church Evangelism Team presents:

A WEEKEND WITH JIM OZIER

(motivational speaker/preacher and church coach)

April 29, April 30 and May 1, 2016



Friday, April 29 * 7:00-8:30 p.m

“Making First Impressions Last”

Romans 12:3

In this fast-paced, interactive and fun presentation, Jim Ozier will train the congregation on “Creating a Culture of Hospitality” where every member every day extends welcome and friendship.

**Free will offering will be taken*

Saturday, April 30 * 1:00-3:00 p.m.

“Accelerate Your Growth”

In this short workshop, everyone will participate in learning to master simple proven techniques to grow the church in attendance and discipleship.

3:15-5:00 p.m.

“Saying Goodbye, Saying Hello”

Since Casey UMC is now entering The Changeover Zone in which the church will be saying goodbye to one pastor and hello to another, this workshop will demonstrate fun, creative ways to grow during transition.

Cost for the Saturday workshops: \$6 for one or \$10 for both.

No pre-registration necessary - Checks made payable to Casey UMC

Sunday, May 1 * 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship

“The Net Worth of a Church”

Luke 5:1-11

Jim concludes his weekend with an inspirational message to keep the church being outwardly focused to make an impact in the community.

“I absolutely love coming alongside pastors and churches to help them get clear on their culture, improve their hospitality, and accelerate their growth... even if they are going through a pastoral transition!”– Jim Ozier

Mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for a wonderfully reviving weekend!

Piyo Exercise Class meets in the Casey UMC Fellowship Hall on Saturdays at 7 a.m.

Next Sunday Evening Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, May 1st – 6:00 p.m.

LADIES NIGHT AT THE UMC...IN HONOR OF GALS OF ALL AGES

May 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Find the sign-up sheet in the hallway bulletin board. Please include the approximate number of your party attending and add what side dish you will be bringing. Visions will supply the chicken and ham.

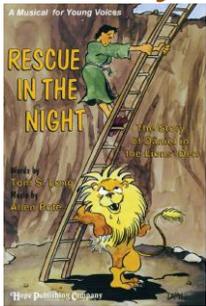
We will be celebrating the FIRST LADIES... including some from the Bible!

Youth Bake Sale, Sunday May 15th in the Narthex! Help support our youth on their mission trip with the Appalachian Service Project!

Sunday, June 5, 2016 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Join us for the Children's Choir Musical
*Rescue in the Night***

The story of Daniel in the Lion's Den



Tote A Meal

We are currently looking for Tote a Meal delivery people for May 16, 17 & 19. If you would like to help, please sign up outside the office. Thank you!

A message from the Bishop...

"Your support matters. In a couple of months, we'll complete our campaign to raise one million dollars for the Africa University Endowment Fund. One million dollars will educate 8 students annually for the life of the institution. Pray and work for our Miracle Offering on June 8th at the 2016 annual conference." - Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton.

For more information on "Looking for a Miracle" please visit <http://www.igrc.org/blogpostsdetail/4184986>

THANK YOU

To **Casey United Methodist Church**: Just a note to thank you all for the thoughts and prayers you have bestowed on the **John Nees Family** for the last 5 ½ years. We also appreciate **Pastor Penny Barber** and her many visits to **John** while he was in the nursing home at Heartland.

- **The Family of John Nees**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the Valentines care package you sent me. Every year when I get it, it always brings a smile to my face. It has something I have enjoyed for the past four years while I was away at school.

Thanks again, **Taylor White**

Thank you for the gift card! I really appreciate you thinking of me.

Best, **Kelsey Edens**

Dear Casey UMC,

Thank you for the donation of the TV. We love it!

Tammi – from **Deborahs House** in Terre Haute, IN

Thank you Pastor Penny and to those of you—family, church family, friends, who visited me at the hospital and/or nursing home, sent a card or message through FB or email (and gorgeous flowers from Visions), brought food, and drove me around, but most of all prayed for me during my emergency surgery and the aftermath. I'm finally feeling more like myself and am catching up on responsibilities and back to subbing. God Bless All Of You! I know He has."

Patty Richards

Thanks to Pastor Penny for our Valentine Dinner and Movie Card. We enjoyed dining at Red Lobster and saw the movie Risen. It was written by an unbeliever and it tells the story of Christ from Crucifixion day to His ascension. We highly recommend it many more times. It has a great ending!

Bob & Carol Thompson

The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank you for your donation for the Easter in Park Event. It turned out to be a beautiful day, and once again we had over 200 kids! Without the support of community this event could not have been successful. Again, thank you so much for your donation!

Millie Malone – Chamber of Commerce

Thank you everyone for all the prayers and concerns while in the hospital. They meant so much to me and George.

Diane Waggle