

THE MESSENGER

Steele Memorial United Methodist Church
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May 2015

REFLECTIONS FROM PREACHER JOHN

I know that we celebrate Thanksgiving Day toward the end of November. Yet I'm told to be "thankful always for all things unto God" (Ephesians 5:20). "In everything I am to give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning me and you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). All things and everything are harsh words to live by in being thankful. But it's the way we are to mature in our Christian life.

Jan and I thank God for all the members and friends of Steele Memorial United Methodist Church while we ministered among you. As we approach retirement, Jan and I will carry with us all that we have learned here. We also carry with us your love and encouragement as we move in new directions. My last day in the pulpit will be June 21st and we move out of the parsonage on the 22nd. Your new pastor, Rev. Kevin P. Lantz and his wife Kim will be moving into the parsonage on the 24th. Jan and I encourage your continuing ministry as we give thanks for cherished memories.

You have a new parsonage that meets all the Conference's guidelines for great ministry into the future of Steele Memorial. You also have a new church van for future ministry. We are about ready to have a note burning service on paying off the mortgage on the church. This church is so blessed. As the song writer put it, I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together."

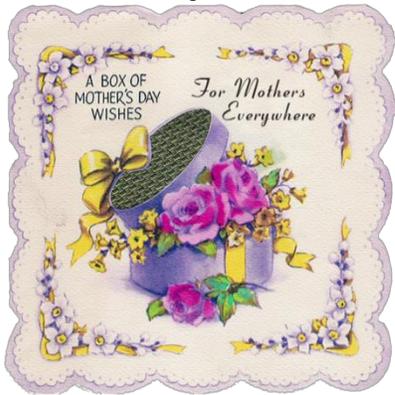
Many thank you's go out to Rev. Sager. He continues to bless the church in all that he does. He was hired in 1995 as a visiting pastor. He is listed in the Conference as an Associate Pastor to this church. He not only visits the older members, but he also teaches Sunday school, leads the 11 AM Worship service, preaches when called upon, visits hospitals and nursing homes, serves communion, and much, much more. "Thank you Rev. Sager for ministering with me."

I pray that the church will take advantage of the upcoming Tri-State Celebration with Will Graham. This celebration is scheduled for November 6-8th. There will be many opportunities to learn from leading authorities on how to witness to others. The course is called "Christian Life and Witness Course." Surveys say that 80% of the people who come forward in the Billy Graham meetings do so because someone has witnessed to them before they get to these meetings. This is a great opportunity to reach this Tri-State Area for Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Preacher John and Jan

Happy Mother's Day May 10



*Of all the special joys in life,
The big ones and the small,
A mother's love and tenderness
Is the greatest of them all.*



GRADUATION RECOGNITION

SUNDAY is May 17, 2015. If you have a son or daughter or grandchild graduating or has graduated since last May, would you please contact Jim Boggess at 304 736-1025 or the church office at 304-736-4583. **The deadline is Sunday, May 10th.**

ESTHER/RUTH CIRCLE WILL NOT meet in May, but will meet on Thursday, June 11 at Delora Call's house. We will continue our study in June, Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, Chapter 4.

LADIES LUNCHEON: Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 in NFH. This luncheon is for ALL ladies of the church (at no cost to you).

This year, our speaker will be Mary Brown from Lily's Place. We do ask that if you plan to attend, to call the church office which will help in our planning for the luncheon. Also, if you would like to bring a donation to the luncheon for Lily's Place, we will have a table for donations. (NOTE: All UMW planning to attend, please bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to the luncheon, as we did last year.)

DONATIONS FOR LILY'S PLACE - any NEWBORN baby items; as well as these needed

supplies (paper towels, toilet tissue, hand wipes, 12-gallon unscented trash bags, Lysol (regular scent), or MONETARY DONATIONS)



What is LILY'S PLACE? Lily's Place is a Pediatric Addiction Recovery Center for babies suffering from prenatal drug exposure. Lily's Place provides medical care to these infants, and offers education and support services to families and communities to help recognize and manage the needs of substance abused babies. With the epidemic of drug addiction in our nation exploding, Lily's Place serves the tiniest victims of substance abuse, newborn babies. Lily's Place provides seventeen beautifully decorated nurseries that ensure a peaceful environment for healing to take place, while offering time for mother and baby to bond in a home-like atmosphere. Lily's Place operates from generous monetary support from the Huntington community.



The 64 annual **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** is Thursday, May 7, 2015. This is an opportunity for God's people to humble themselves, and to seek forgiveness, and to pray for guidance. God's Word says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Psalm 33:12) We are confident that we serve a God of mercy and compassion; and we know He stands ready to respond to our cries out of the abundance of His divine wisdom. This is a crucial time for us to individually and collectively seek God's divine intervention for the challenges facing us. We need to pray for our nation, for our leaders, our churches and our families. Join other Christians on May 7 in sincere prayer and commitment to God's plan in our lives.

We also ask our church members to continue to be in prayer during the month of May and participate in **PRAY 31**. PRAY 31 is based on a simple plan: 31 days of FOCUSED prayer. During May, make a commitment today to join with other Christians and PRAY 31. There is a growing concern about the spiritual health of our country. A day seldom passes without some indication of a breakdown of moral standards. Important principles are being rejected-Biblical principles that have blessed our nation for more than 200 years. This is a matter of concern, but more importantly, it is a matter of PRAYER. Use this guide for a 31-day journey of praying specifically and earnestly for a few minutes each day. "If my people, who are

called by my name, will humble themselves and pray; seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

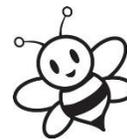
- 1) PRAY FOR OUR NATION — for spiritual renewal that all ages, all races, all backgrounds will be drawn to God and receive His salvation.
- 2) PRAY FOR OUR PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT — that their heart will be guided by God.
- 3) PRAY FOR OUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS — that they will govern with God-honoring discernment
- 4) PRAY FOR OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM — that these leaders will be vigilant, discerning, wise
- 5) PRAY FOR OUR ARMED FORCES — pray with appreciation, and ask God to bless them with strength and protection
- 6) PRAY FOR OUR STATE LEADERS — that they will serve with integrity and uphold moral standards
- 7) PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES — that they will be lighthouses of truth, havens of hope, and centers of love
- 8) PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES’ LEADERS — that they will be godly leaders and moved by God to seek what is just and moral
- 9) PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS — that we will be faithful witnesses of the gospel, humble servants of God, and positive influences within our communities
- 10) PRAY for a great outpouring of God’s spirit on America
- 11) PRAY for fellow believers to unite in earnest prayer
- 12) PRAY that Christians will be spiritually challenged and personally encouraged by this simple act of praying each day
- 13) PRAY that by interceding for 300+million people who live in our nation, that lives will be won for Christ
- 14) PRAY that God will use Christians to help accomplish His purposes
- 15) PRAY that we will “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12
- 16) PRAY that we will “Trust in the Lord with all (our) heart, and lean not on (our) own understanding; in all (our) ways acknowledge Him and He will direct (our) ways.” Proverbs 3: 5-6
- 17) PRAY that we will not “...grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will

reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

- 18) PRAY that we will choose “faith over fear”; and remember to: “Fear not for I am with you. Be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strength you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand” Isaiah 41:10
- 19) PRAY for us to have “muscles of faith” — and to exercise those muscles each day so our faith will become stronger
- 20) PRAY for God to open our mind, and guard our thoughts that we may honor Him in all we say and do
- 21) PRAY that we will live for this day only, and not brood about yesterday, or worry about tomorrow
- 22) PRAY that we will not dwell on thoughts or situations that are out of our control
- 23) PRAY to make a conscious effort to be more agreeable, a little kinder, and a little more courteous to those who cross your daily path
- 24) PRAY to be more accepting of others, even those who may disagree with you, or appear unlovable
- 25) PRAY to gather courage to do and say what is right, and take responsibility for your actions
- 26) PRAY to be thankful in all things, even when the cares of the day close in around you
- 27) PRAY for your family, your loved ones, your neighbors
- 28) PRAY for ‘help’ organizations (UMCOR, Samaritan’s Purse, Red Cross, UNICEF)
- 29) PRAY for peoples suffering around the world, that they may be delivered from their oppression
- 30) PRAY for missionaries around the world, as they take the gospel to the front lines of opposition

BUSY

year draws
thank our



continued prayers and support. You have brought us many blessings. During the month of May we will simply be wrapping up our school year. We will have our End of the Year and Commencement Programs, and a movie day. Our Last Day of School Celebration will be Thursday, May 21. Thank you for all you have done for us this year. Special thanks to the preschool advisory board for their continued



commitment to the preschool program. Have a blessed summer and BEE COOL!

SAVE THE DATE! Please plan to join us on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 for the End of the Year All Stars for Jesus Celebration and 5th Grade All Stars Graduation. The ceremony will be in the sanctuary, and a reception will follow in the new hall. It would be awesome if our entire Steele Memorial church family could attend and show your love and support for this fabulous group of young people!



Thank you, **Ms. Peggy**, for planning and cooking a delicious meal for our 5th Grade All Stars and their parents on April 22. It was absolutely perfect! The other children asked when they could drink from the fancy cups! Too funny! I told them that when they are 5th Grade Graduates, they can drink from the "fancy goblets." So, stay in school!! I could write a book about all the funny things they say!! We are finishing up our Bible Study as we learn about Nehemiah and active faith. God desires for us to serve HIM with all our hearts. "Whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Colossians 3:23

Steele Memorial will be home to the All Stars for Jesus **Arrow Island Shell Shop** on Wednesday, May 13. Our kiddos have been learning their Bible verses and sharing fabulous facts from their Bible stories in exchange for sand dollars to spend at the Shell Shop! If you would like to help stock our shelves, please bring in new trinkets and toys by Sunday, May 10. There is a donation box by the office and one downstairs by the basement door! We appreciate your support! In His Service! Ms. Becky



YOUTH attended Winter Jam in Lexington Kentucky at Rupp Arena on March 28-29. The youth worshipped with over 15,000 people and heard 10 different bands. We would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible with your generous donations by supporting our pancake breakfast and the bake

sale. It is truly a blessing to watch the Lord work with our youth.

Praise and Worship Band has been rocking it out. They have been practicing every Sunday evening with Megan. As most of you heard, this is truly a special group that is serving the Lord with their talents. If you were not able to hear them in April, come on Mother's Day and I BELIEVE you will find it a blessing. I would like to thank Megan Turman for all her effort she puts in with this group.

The youth are not slowing down for the summer; as a matter of fact, we will be kicking it up another gear. It is that time of the year again, "Mulch Madness" The sun is out, grass is growing and mulch needs refreshed. If anyone needs help putting down new mulch, please call the church office and the youth will help.



VBS: It's that time of year again! Vacation Bible School will be taking a safari to Camp Kilimanjaro on June 8th-12th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The children will learn what it is like to travel through the book of Proverbs. We are excited to teach them: 1. How to be wise and have ears that hear and do God's word! 2. How to be wise and have a heart that trusts in The Lord! 3. How to be wise and have a tongue that speaks in a God-honoring way! 4. How to be wise and have hands that get to work! and 5. How to be wise and have feet that walk with the wise! We hope you bring your children to this wonderful week this year!



"Have you looked in a mirror since you comforted the sick this morning, pastor?"

Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Barbara Miller
3	4 <i>David & Christy Hedrick</i>	5 <i>Jason & Beth Carney</i>	6 Ronnie Dolin Brandon McClung Jana Whitt	7	8	9
10 Ethan Ball	11 <i>Robby & Lois Baker</i>	12 Jon Fannin	13 <i>Bob & Kay Ratcliff</i>	14 Evan Jarvis Doris Staton	15 Maddie Nease	16
17 Audrey Pickett Owen Smith	18 Todd Lester	19 Seth Adkins Sharon Hockenberry Clayton Holbrook Dr. Terry Triplett	20 Julia Dickens Elizabeth Williams	21 <i>Terry & Robin Triplett</i>	22	23 Mary A. Howard
24 Amy Adkins Pat Cornwell <i>Brian & Angie Lingenfelter</i>	25	26 <i>Dan & Becki Harless</i>	27 Kristi Bowen Janice Eddy Georgann Holbrook Carson Rhoades <i>Paul & Vickie Short</i>	28 Richard Fillmore <i>Jim & Teresa Pickett</i>	29 Sandy Boggess	30 Danielle Whitley
31 Karen Canfield Ella Fetty						

Parking Lot Greeters

5-3-15	Larry Dickens	Kelly McGuffin	5-10-15	Kim Stanley	Pat Cornwell	5-17-15	Gary Cox	Tony Ryder
5-24-15	Donnie Barbour	Mike McClung	5-31-15	Monica Jackson	Larry Dickens			

May 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 UMW Luncheon 11 in NFH -Eagle Scout cer. 6 in NFH
3 COME event at Community of Grace 12:30 District Conf. 3:00 -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -VBS Workers Mting after worship -S. Wagoner 2 PM in SFH -Youth Group 6:00	4 Cub Scouts 6:30 -Sea Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	5	6 Church family dinner & Bible Study 6:00 -All Stars 5:30 -Middle Sch. All Stars 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Youth 5:30 -Choir Practice 7:45	7 Nat'l Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Mother's Day -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	11 Cub Scouts 6:30 -Sea Scouts 6:30 -Trustees 7:00 -Boy Scouts 7:30	12	13 All Stars 5:30 -Middle Sch. All Stars 5:30 -Bible Study 6:45 -Youth 5:30 -Choir Practice 7:45	14 Lydia Circle 1:00 -Busy Bees end of yr. program 5:30 in Sanc., rooms, & SFH -Troop 88 7:00	15 Busy Bees end of yr. program 5:30 in Sanc., rooms, & SFH	16
17 Ascension Sunday -Graduation Sunday -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	18 Cub Scouts 6:30 -Sea Scouts 6:30 -Finance 6:30 -Adm C. 7:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	19	20 All Stars end of year celeb. 6 in NFH -Bible Study 6:45 -Youth 5:30 -Choir Practice 7:45	21	22	23
24 Pentecost -Aldersgate Day -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30	25 Cub Scouts 6:30 -Sea Scouts 6:30 -Boy Scouts 7:30	26	27-Bible Study 6:45 -Youth 5:30 -Choir Practice 7:45	28 Troop 88 7:00	29 Martha Elem. 5 th grade graduation 11 AM in NFH	30 Holly Fannin SFH 12 PM
31 Peace/Justice Sunday -Early Worship 9 AM -Sunday School 9:45 -Morning Worship 11:00 -Youth Group 6:00 -Evening Worship 6:30						

A Mother's Day card for our children to color for their mothers



I Love you Mother