

MT. COMFORT BLESSING



ROOTED IN CHRIST

OCTOBER 2010

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

And He Always Makes some mighty fine Wine!!!

Any of you remember the old Three Dog Night song "Jeremiah was a Bullfrog"? Before the chorus heralded "**Joy to the world**, all the boys and girls...", the line leading into the refrain declared "and he always makes some mighty fine wine." What if we reconsider this expression from a spiritual point of view? What if we, as followers of Christ, think of ourselves as fruit- fruit meant to be crushed to make HIS mighty fine wine?



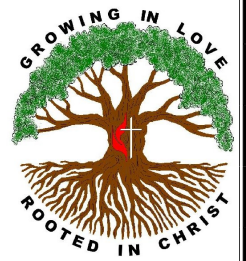
For the last three weeks MCUMC has been focusing on United Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase's recent book 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations. In fact, if you weren't in worship when Sam Neuman gave his ANNUAL CONFERENCE report, the 5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations was, is, and will be the focus of Bishop Coyner and the Indiana Conference for at least the next two years. And God bless Bishop Coyner, the Cabinet, and the Conference, they are "putting their money where their mouth is" literally by selecting churches and funding development of greater fruit bearing churches. Mt Comfort has been selected for this process. In the meantime, locally we are, at MCUMC already up and running on the 5 Practices. Over the last three weeks we have already begun discussing Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, and Intentional Faith Development, with Risk Taking Missions, and Extravagant Generosity to follow. Thanks to the efforts of Kathy Bennett, Robin Hendricks, Pat Shreve, Dale Dickson, and Bob and Norietta Miller, we now have 45-55 people gathering weekly in groups and at least one "Sunday School" class marinating on these Christian precepts. Importantly, Mt Comfort has been selected by the Conference as a "HIGH POTENTIAL" CHURCH. Said another way, Mt Comfort has yet to realize its potential, certainly toward the end of this extraordinary building AND location God has given us. (Do you look at this building and our location as a blessing or more of a financial burden?) The difference between these is the difference of God making good wine or sour wine with us, because you can't make good wine from sour grapes.

The truth is MCUMC stands at a critical crossroads, and we must "prune" our behaviors if we want the grapevine to begin to grow again. Since Pastor Mark asked to leave Mt Comfort over 10 years ago, Mt Comfort has steadily declined downward in attendance from 2002. Oddly, there seems to have been very little historical effort by the congregation to discern positive solutions during that time. Pretty much, it was blame the Pastors and move on. It was the **Conference** who had to insist triage be done. "Save the church efforts" inevitably avoid asking why the church even needs saving! (2002 avg. = 431, 2003 avg. = 375, 2004 avg. = 332, 2005 avg. = 262, 2006 avg. = 190, 2007 avg. = 138, 1st half of 2008 = 127). My pastoral stint started in June 2008 and over the next year we all were encouraged by signs of life (Aug 08 = 154, Sept. 08 = 167, Oct. 08 = 146, Nov. 08 = 179, Dec. 08 = 175. 2009 showed greater promise (Jan. 09 = 179, Feb. = 164, Mar. = 166, April 09 = 235. Sadly, two major "eruptions" in the past year have now reduced us to nearly 100 again. We, as the whole congregation, need to individually own up to OUR mutual responsibility for the overall health of Mt Comfort Church. In the Body of Christ, we are ALL responsible to Christ for the welfare of His body -i.e. the eye does not say the arm is not my problem. Yes, we as pastors are responsible, and so is EVERY member of the laity. THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE. We have to endure the crushing of our egos enough to say, Lord this hasn't been working for **years** and we **are** responsible. Lord, you cannot bear good fruit with us until we admit this vineyard isn't in very great spiritual shape! We all need to pray hard that God will rid us of the spirit of haughtiness Prov. 16:18, and give us humble, contrite, and holy spirits, Prov. 16:19 & Rom. 1:4.

I hear things said like "Well, the church will always be here." No, it won't - the United Methodist Church owns this property, not the people of MCUMC. The Conference can hypothetically close a church at anytime, and start up another right next door if it deems that necessary.

cont. next page =>

Mount Comfort UMC



Senior Pastor
Rev. Reid Walker

Daytime Ministries

Pat Zarse

Director of Music

Elaine Holloway

Office Administration

Betty Carpenter

Custodians

John Bowery

Regina Shelby

Please have any articles (in digital form) for the newsletter turned into the office by the 5th of each month to be included in the next issue.

Articles for the November issue are due Oct.. 5!
No articles are accepted after the 15th.

Thanks.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (*CONTINUED*)

Others ask "Why don't new people stay?" Perhaps a more introspective question would be "What are we doing and saying to drive people away?" Us? Me? To point, a couple of spiritual maturity started attending MCUMC in the past year, and I worked very diligently to assimilate them. I played golf several times with him, spoke about ministry opportunities, and Marilyn and I broke bread with them at Sunday dinner. Yet they picked up on what they described as active negativity from things said *after the services each Sunday*. "What's with the sniping, the gossip, and the spirit of criticism?" they asked. And they named the names of the snipers. Unfortunately, they have now left our fellowship because of those troubling traits-how deeply disappointing for us and the Lord. **My superiors on the church development team from Conference have encouraged me to call this behavior out in public and to name the offenders by name because this IS the biblical path- Matt 18:17.** *My preference*, and I hope and pray yours, is to head, as quickly as possible, toward resurrection and away from our unfruitful practices. However, if these behaviors do not change then I have no choice as pastor but to follow God's Word regardless of the consequences. Publically vetted criticism does not make anyone look good-especially the one doing it. Sadly folks, we have a reputation about this that extends two counties over! If our reputation is not quickly changed, we won't grow- and this church will die. Not a resume builder for me, not a moment for you and I with Jesus at the Judgment (Rev 20:11), and something in which we all would bring dishonor to God. And the people *responsible* will be each one of us!!! Instead----on the **positive side**:

Let's become committed to becoming Christ followers in Christian fruitfulness. **Imagine yourself as a big ole plump juicy grape for Jesus.** You've been planted, raised, and grown for this very day of harvest -all in the marvelous warmth of the sun of His love. Our job as one of Jesus' grapes is to get----- **SQUISHED** for Him! That's right, fruit is supposed to yield up its juice or it becomes overly ripe and turns rotten. Yuck! Oswald Chambers says in My Utmost for His Highest that we ARE to be broken bread for Him, that we ARE the poured out wine to be given to the world in His name. Now that wine better be SWEET dear friends, or our legacy will be to *sour* the world on Jesus. Whoa the day of judgment on that one -Matt 18:7. So, if in the negative, you and I have any fear of God about the Judgment (a very real Biblical thing 2 Cor. 5:10), or in the positive, you want to be juicy fruit for Jesus :), either way consider this:

The true Christian walk involves suffering 1 Peter 3:17 -- suffering for Jesus, your church, the world, suffering for each other, and even for your enemies. Are you really willing to be crushed for Him as fruit? To be poured out wine for Him? Suffering means giving to Him when you DON'T agree, choosing to love when you do NOT like someone, esteeming others MORE highly than yourself Phil. 2:3, and get this- ridding ourselves of the notion that it is our prerogative not to like someone when Jesus says we are only his disciples IF we love one another. Your key question and mine in this journey is: What would Jesus say about the quality of your fruit- is it sweet or sour? Sweet or sour - remember who the winemaker is because He ALWAYS has some mighty fine wine, and that's supposed to be US.

Growing in fruitfulness for the ONLY cause that matters- love ya in the Lord-

Pastor Reid - a big ole grape for Jesus- but not "seedless" I hope

P.S> As always, I sincerely and earnestly *invite* you to visit with me in person with any questions or concerns you have about this article, *before* you take your thoughts to the street. This is the way the Bible would have us do this.

GOD SMILES WHEN WE OBEY

MARY SPRINGER

If God asked you to build a giant boat, don't you think you might have a few questions, objections, and reservations? Noah didn't. He obeyed God wholeheartedly. That means doing whatever God asks without reservation or hesitation. You don't procrastinate and say, "I'll pray about it." You do it without delay. God doesn't owe you an explanation or reason for everything he asks you to do. Understanding can wait, but obedience cannot. Instant obedience will teach you more about God than a lifetime of Bible discussions. In fact, you will never understand some commands until you obey them first. Obedience unlocks understanding.

Often we try to offer God partial obedience. We want to pick and choose the commands we obey. We make a list of the commands we like and obey those while ignoring the ones we think are unreasonable, difficult, expensive, or unpopular. I'll attend church but I won't tithe. I'll read my Bible but I won't forgive the person who hurt me. Yet partial obedience is disobedience. Wholehearted obedience is done joyfully with enthusiasm. "Obey him gladly" (Psalm 100:2 LB).

God's word is clear that you can't earn your salvation. It comes only by grace, not your effort. But as a child of God you can bring pleasure to your heavenly Father through obedience. Any act of obedience is also an act of worship. Why is obedience so pleasing to God? Because it proves you really love him. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey my commandments" (John 14:15 TEV).

Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him. Genesis :22 (NLT)

“CHANGING HEARTS”

BOB MILLER

The Hancock County Ministry “Changing Hearts” will hold a county wide prayer meeting at Mt. Comfort UMC on Thursday, November 18th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. This prayer movement is challenging us to put God first in our lives and not allow our culture to blot out the presence of God in our lives. Everyone is invited to come and support this event as we are honored to be one of the churches chosen to host this monthly event.

Calling all prayer advocates to come and join us. Serving on the Hancock County Prayer Executive Committee from Mt. Comfort are Rev. Bob Miller and Kathy Bennett.

PRAYER
WARRIOR
1 THESSALONIANS 5:17
"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING"

SCOUTING MINISTRY SPECIALIST CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT

GEORGE MORRELL

Last month I had someone approach me and ask if there were any basic rules that Scouts must follow. I had to stop and think and then responded. There must be certain rules to play any game, whether it is football, basketball or even checkers. You and the others have to follow those rules, or there just isn't any game.

In the game of Scouting there are certain rules too. These rules are the Scout's code; they are the Scout Oath or Promise and the Scout Law, the Scout Motto and the Scout Slogan. When you take the Scout Oath, you promise to play the game according to these rules. Of all the requirements to meet to become a Scout, understanding and keeping these rules is the most important. If you don't know the Scout's code, and do your best to live up to it, you are not a Scout, no matter what badge you wear on the uniform.



Your honor...a Scout promises “on my honor.” It was over two hundred years ago a group of men made a solemn promise on their honor. “And for the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.” It is the closing paragraph of the Declaration of Independence.

“I will do my best.” A Scout's best is something that every boy or girl (if they are a Girl Scout) can do. Not everyone can get high marks in school, or is good in athletics. But the more important thing that is within a Scout's power – to do their best.

“Duty to God.” Scouts are encouraged to regularly worship God with their family in the church of their choice. They try to follow the religious teachings that they have been taught and are faithful in church school and help in church activities. Above all, a Scout is faithful to Almighty God's Commandments.

“To help other people at all times.” Captain John Smith, who came over with the early settlers in Virginia, and whose life was saved by Pocahontas, was a tough and seasoned soldier. He had fought in all parts of the world, but had a good and kind heart. He was a fine “Scout.” One of his favorite sayings was, “We are born not for ourselves, but to do good to others, for the love of God,” and he carried it out all his life.

“Morally Straight”...George Washington said that morality can not be lasting without religion. A morally straight Scout knows how to love and serve God in the way He wants him to. We are created by God and we owe certain duties to this Heavenly Father of all of us. On Mt. Sinai God gave to Moses the Ten Commandments. He laid down certain definite laws for all, not just for the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. Not to steal, not to lie, not to abuse your body are some of these Laws. Keeping these Commandments is an important step towards being morally straight.

The Ten Commandments...aren't these the rules, which are very similar to the 12 Points of Scout Law, that YOU follow everyday in the game of life?

DAYTIME MINISTRIES
PAT ZARSE—DIRECTOR

DAYTIME MINISTRIES

*O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen,
he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.*

Psalm 68:33

This month in preschool we learn about the 5 Senses and that these are gifts from God. When I was reading one of my devotional books, I came across this scripture and an article about listening. It states that listening is the sense that is most poorly used. How many times do you ask a question and have already formulated the answer or don't hear the answer because you are already thinking of something else? We need to pay attention to the pauses between words, the sighs, and the tone of voice coming our way.

Do you enjoy listening to music? Can you hear the different instruments in the orchestra? Can you hear the softness and the loudness? Can you hear the slowness or fastness of notes? There is a song titled, "Be Still And Know That I Am God." If we don't take the time each day to spend with our Lord, how will we know what He has to tell us? Are you struggling with a decision? Turn it over to Him and patiently wait for His answer.

Are you listening to the sounds of life – the geese honking as they fly south, the night sounds – crickets, frogs, and the cicadas, children laughing, and dogs barking?

On a recent family vacation to Alaska, I seemed acutely sensitive to the stillness surrounding us. It was so quiet. One day I went out on deck to enjoy the early morning peacefulness and received a special gift. The ship was passing a glacier and there were chunks of blue ice in the water. Also, a men's gospel quartet warmed their voices by singing "This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and 'round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the wonders wrought." He said it was a beautiful experience.

So clean out those eardrums, turn up the volume, and enjoy all that is around you provided by our AWESOME GOD!!!



Serving Him,

Pat

Lord, open my ears to hear the sounds around me—the sounds that wake me to the beauty and grandeur of Your wonderful world. Amen.

PRESCHOOL NEWS
PAT ZARSE

I'm excited to announce we have started our 22nd year of ministry in preschool. . We have 3 classes of 4's, 4 classes of 3's, and 3 classes of 2 year olds. Our total number of children is 118. We have 9 on staff. We thank God for every child and family involved in this program.

Our units of study in September were I am Special, Families, Pets, Manners, and Fall. Thanks to all our parents who brought in their pets. This week for Fall the kids are having fun cutting open pumpkins.

Special thanks to Mrs. Wherry for her donation of school supplies; and to the anonymous donor of school supplies and math cards.

Please continue to keep in your prayers the programs of Daytime Ministries including the children, their families, and our staff.

CHILDCARE
PAT ZARSE

We welcome on staff Jill Plank from Shirley. Jill will be assisting part time in childcare Monday – Friday. She has two sons and ran her own daycare for two years so she has some good experience in this area.

We are starting to fill up once again in childcare. Losing 10 four year olds to kindergarten left a large void. Please share this info and our number with anyone seeking childcare.

A special thank you to the children from our summer Bible School program. They provided boo boo envelopes for children getting hurt. Each envelope was filled with a band aid, an alcohol swab, a sticker, and candy. The children also decorated the envelopes with their drawings. How cool and thoughtful. Thanks again.

KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT
PAT ZARSE

These kids have been busy learning now for a month and a half. They are a great group of kids. Please observe their artwork and printing in the hallway outside their room.

The children have begun the usual studies of writing numbers, a letter of the alphabet each week, and journaling. They have been studying a fun unit on insects. This is a great time of year to listen to them at night in the back yard. Several days I have found frog visitors in their room. Thanks boys!!!



MARY SPRINGER'S CORNER

MARY SPRINGER

I've been doing a lot of soul searching, reading the Bible, and preparing for "Light the Flame."

If you have not signed up for a group during the next 5 weeks, please see Kathy after the service.

We, the church, have so much to be thankful for. God has truly blessed this church in many ways. When Gene and I started going to the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, we were worshipping in the little White Church before the tornado move it off the foundation.

My memories at that time, I was preparing to join the church – Gene came in on transfer from Gwynneville UMC. Our son was young when the ground was broken for the new church (which is now the old fellowship hall). I drove to Anderson weekly to take organ lessons. Debbie was little at that time. The only person who could handle her was Rose. Thank God for Rose McKinney.

By the time the church was ready, I was ready to play the organ. At that time, Debbie Kidwell accompanied me on the piano. We really enjoyed sharing our talents that God had graciously given us. I played the piano for Vacation Bible School while Carol Simmerman led the children singing. There are great memories. Wow!

I was still playing the organ when it was moved to the present sanctuary. Mary Lou Holliday played the piano and played for the choir.

I am saying all this because I want the future of this church to hold memories for other children. God has led me to work with the youth. I want them to get to know God and be able to use their gifts at this church too. So let's put everything behind us and go forward trusting and having faith in God to continue to bless this church in the future.

There are many ways we can change for the better. Greeting and welcoming strangers, making them feel you love them and that they are very special people regardless of their social status.



YOUTH IGNITION

MARY SPRINGER

The Outlet Youth "Ignition" had a cookout with Drew McClellan grilling the hotdogs. Carol Seng furnished nacho dip. We also had chips, veggies, smores, and nacho dip. Tracey Rhodes came to play his guitar and we sang with him. Thanks Tracey!

Youth in attendance were: RJ Bratton, Maggie Chatman, Kreig Frye, Sam Frye, Lucas Gibson, Vivian Hoepfner, Derrick Keene, Brandelyn McCarroll, Mallory Ross, Ben Thompson, and Matt Thompson.

We played the following games: cornhole, washer toss, and had ladderball and bocci available. We wanted to set up the volleyball net; however, weather was not in our favor. God sent us some rain in the late afternoon; however, since the burn ban was on for Hancock County we did not get to have the bonfire. Hopefully we can try it again at a later date.

Mentors at the "Ignition" were Drew and Jamie McClellan, Kenny and Lori Thompson, and Zach Ahonen and Natalie Livengood. Thanks for all your help!

Kenny Thompson provided us the story about the rainbow. Do you know why God provides rainbows?

We ended with prayer. God is truly awesome.

Thanks for all who made the "Ignition" possible through your prayers and support. God Bless You!



OUR INHERITANCE: GRACE, PATIENCE, WISDOM, AND POWER BY RICK WARREN (SEPT. 5, 2010)

God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 1 Peter 1:4 (NLT)

The New Testament gives great emphasis in our rich “inheritance.” As children in God’s family we get to share in the family fortune, that everything God has belongs to us (Galatians 4:7). The apostle Paul adds, “I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance He has given to His people” (Ephesians 1:18 NLT).

What benefits do we inherit?

As children in God’s family we are given “the riches ... of his grace ... kindness ... patience ... glory...wisdom ... power ... and mercy” (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 2:5; 9:23; 11:33; Ephesians 3:16; 2:4). We also inherit eternal life and God puts his Spirit inside us now as a guarantee of all that is to come.

What an inheritance! You are far richer than you realize, which is why Paul could write with confidence: “My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Phillippians 4:19 NIV).

Your eternal inheritance is priceless, pure, permanent, and protected; no one can take it from you. It can’t be destroyed by war, a poor economy, or disaster. This inheritance, not retirement, is what you should be looking forward to; retirement is a short-sighted goal.

GOD BUILDS YOUR FAITH BY GIVING YOU A DREAM MARY SPRINGER

“Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers desires, thoughts, or hopes.” Ephesians 3:20 (LB)

Faith is like a muscle: it can be strengthened. It can be weak or it can be strong, depending on how much you use it.

How does God build your faith? He uses a very predictable pattern that we will look at; and, if you understand it, you can cooperate with him in developing greater faith. It’s like when the father, seeking help from Jesus for his son, said, “Have pity on us and help us, if you possibly can!” (Mark 9:22 TEV)

Jesus replied, “What do you mean, ‘If I can’? ... Anything is possible if a person believes.” (Mark 9:23 NLT)

The first thing God does to build your faith is give you a dream. When God wants to work in your life, he will always give you a dream – about yourself, about what he wants you to do, about how he’s going to use your life to impact the world.

There are many examples in the Bible of this:

- God gave Noah the dream of building an ark.
- God gave Abraham the dream of being the father of a great nation.
- God gave Joseph the dream of being a leader that would save his people.
- Gove gave Nehemiah the dream of building the wall around Jerusalem.

How do you know when a dream is from God or when it is just something you have thought up yourself? Te Bible tells us that God, “by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes” (Ephesians 3:20 LB)

In other words, if a dream comes from God, it will be so big in your life that you can’t do it on your own. If you could do it on your own, you would not need faith. And if you don’t have faith you’re not please God, because the Bible says whatever is not of faith is sin. (Romans 14:23)

God starts to build your faith by giving you a dream. He may be speaking to you now. But you just don’t recognize it for what it is. That dream you have – the idea, the concept – that thing you have been thinking about doing that would be of real benefit to other people, where do you think that idea came from?

God starts with a dream as he works within your life to build faith.

OUT OF THE OFFICE BETTY CARPENTER

Personal Inventory

I was in a group at one time called Adult Children of Alcoholics. Since my father was an alcoholic, I obviously fit right in with the issues and the dysfunctions of people growing up in an alcoholic environment. I find I still use the tools I learned in that group to reflect and analyze my thoughts. You see, those thoughts typically affect behavior in some way either consciously or sub-consciously. One of those tools is taking a Personal Inventory. The Personal Inventory is just as it sounds, a personal cleaning of house to put it in simple terms. An inventory of our lives as we see them. That is, the individual relationships we have with our parents, our children, friends, co-workers, our job, our spouse, our Pastor, our church, our sibling(s) and, most importantly, God.



But, I get ahead of myself. The Personal Inventory is the 4th step of 12 in the process of cleaning house. The actual beginning of the 12 steps is to “Admit we are powerless and our life has become unmanageable.” The next step is we “Come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity” and for me, this power is God. Step three is to “Make a decision to turn our will and our life over to the care of God, as we understand Him.” Then comes the point of this article, step four, “To make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.” So, what does this mean? I can only tell you of my experiences with the process.

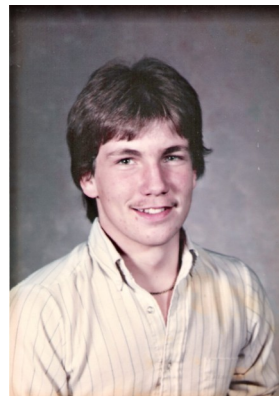
As I stated earlier, step 4 is a cleaning house of past or present obstacles that prevent me from moving forward in my life. For each relationship/area I describe where I am in that relationship at that time then make a list of my resentments, my fears, my appreciations, and my regrets. So, the searching and fearless moral inventory began. In my step 4 relationship with God, my description included my many struggles after my son’s death trying to understand His purpose. Searching means a thorough cleaning of behavior you would really prefer not to dig out again or feelings you might not want to admit. I didn’t want to admit the depth of my anger with God. I felt as though He had completely abandoned me. What terrible thing had I done in my life that could possibly deserve this unbearable pain? Why did He take my son and leave this immeasurable void in my soul? Those were just some of the questions I had for God. Of course, I had many fears that related to my anger with God. How could I possibly be angry with God? Isn’t that just against all religious teachings? Isn’t that just the absolute worst thing I could do?

Then, I got to the appreciation part and I realized the incredible depth of God’s love for me. **Oh what love!** Oh, don’t get me wrong, this didn’t happen overnight. In the first personal inventory I did, the appreciation was there but was much more surface level. It was only after about 3 to 5 years of doing an annual personal inventory that God so deeply touched my heart with His love that I understood. The regrets portion of my God inventory are usually many. The blessing is always forgiveness. That’s God’s love.

*My point of all this is that if we always look in the past, focus on a negative relationship or a negative experience, we simply miss what God has in store for us today. We miss all of God’s blessings today if we are consistently looking at what has been. In fact, we just might miss God’s calling of what He really wants us to do to glorify Him. That doesn’t mean we get rid of the memories, it simply means we get rid of the garbage that prevents us from moving forward. For instance, if I constantly focus on the death of my son I diminish his short life. I diminish the wonderful young man he was and all the people that were affected just by knowing him. When we constantly look back at all the negative experiences in our life we fail to see God’s grace and we diminish the life of Christ, the blessings He provides us each day, and the love He came to bring. **When we get rid of the garbage there’s more room for God.***

By the way, I’ll never forget my son. I know he’s in heaven with his Savior. He was a wonderful young man with a heart of gold. I know I will see him again and, after this many years, I can see how God has worked in many of the lives that were touched by Chris and his death, including mine. I know that’s a blessing from God!

Maybe it’s because I got rid of some of my garbage.



In Memory of
Chris Canter
06/28/70
to
02/06/86

AS I SEE IT—JOHN BOWERY

Well summer is at the end and the ladies Bible class has started back up. I had the honor to drive them to the “Beef and Boards” production of “Church Basement Ladies”. If you had worked in the kitchen then it was very appropriate. It was hilarious and we all laughed all the way through. So they started in the right spirit and it seems that laughter will abound again. This group has more fun than any. Activity is up again for the coming season, so please remember to turn out the lights and lock the doors.

I have mentioned in a prior column that the tree frogs like my clean windows for hunting. A little while ago I managed to get him to stay still long enough for a portrait shot and the photo is added here for posterity. He hides behind the door handle.



Security for August:

Doors unlocked—Outside 4, Inside 19.

Lights on 13.

Until next time,

“Don’t leave the lights on for me”.

May God Bless you all.

John,

One of your Custodians



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



John Pleak	10-02		
Daniel Neer	10-03	Kathy Aldrich	10-14
Jon Yanan	10-04	Sam Neuerman	10-16
Becky Gibson	10-05	Jane King	10-21
Irene Beeson	10-07	Richard Griffin	10-23
Kylie Meredith		Jay Kleine	10-26
Hazel Hanssen	10-08	Debby Dunn	10-27
Linda Neer		Dana Voelkel	10-28
Donna Weiler		Max Marsh	10-30
Linda Yates	10-12		

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Rob and Sharon Adams	10-02
Rudy and Janet Nylund	10-15
Steve and Lisa Dant	10-17
Bill and Janet Muffler	10-18
Jarrold and Janet Beeson	10-26
Max and Thelma Marsh	10-28



MAY GOD SMILE ON YOU MARY SPRINGER

Since pleasing God is the first purpose of your life, your most important task is to discover how to do that. The Bible says, “Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.” (Ephesians 5:10 MSG)

Fortunately the Bible gives us a clear example of a life that gives pleasure to God. The man’s name was Noah.

In Noah’s day, the entire world had become morally bankrupt. Everyone lived for their own pleasure, not God’s. God couldn’t find anyone on earth interested in pleasing him, so he was grieved and regretted making man. God became so disgusted with the human race that He considered wiping it out.

But there was one man who made God smile. The Bible says, “Noah was a pleasure to the Lord” (Genesis 6:8 LB).

God said, “This guy brings me pleasure. He makes me smile. I’ll start over with his family.” Because Noah brought pleasure to God, you and I are alive today.

Over the next few days, we will learn from Noah’s life the five acts of worship that make God smile.

God smiles when we love him supremely. Noah loved God more than anything else in the world, even when no one else did! The Bible tells us Noah “consistently followed God’s will and enjoyed a close relationship with him” (Genesis 6:9 NLT).

This is what God wants most from you: a relationship! It’s the most astounding truth in the universe: our Creator wants to fellowship with us. God made you to love you, and he longs for you to love him back. He says, “I don’t want your sacrifices – I want your love; I don’t want your offerings – I want you to know me” (Hosea 6:6 LB)

Can you sense God’s passion for you in this verse? God deeply loves you and desires your love in return. He longs for you to know him and spend time with him. This is why learning to love God and to be loved by Him should be the greatest objective of your life.

Nothing else comes close in importance. Jesus called it the greatest commandment. He said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38 NIV).

May the Lord smile on you. Numbers 6:25 (NLT)

October 2010

The calendar changes daily. For up-to-date listings please refer to the calendar posted on the bulletin board by the office.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00 pm Shank/ Nickel Wedding Re- hearsal (Sanctuary) 7:30 pm Givan BB	2 9:00 am Dayspring Math (109) 12:00 pm Shank/ Nickel Wedding (Sanctuary)
3 Trad. Service 9:00 Christian Ed. 10:00 Connect Svc. 11:17 6:00 pm "The Outlet" Youth Program	4 8:30 am Walking (FLC) 9:00 am Bible Study (105) 6:30 pm Men's Bas- ketball (FLC) 6:30 pm Charge Conference	5 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109) 6:00 pm Boy Scout Parents Mtg. (107) 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 236 (FH) 7:00 pm Prayer Team (Sanctuary) 7:30pm Givan BB (FLC)	6 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (107) 4:30 pm Herb John- son Karate (FLC) 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes (FH) 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (FH)	7 12:00 pm Comforters (FLC) 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109)	8 Givan Basketball (FLC)	9
10 Trad. Service 9:00 Christian Ed. 10:00 Connect Svc. 11:17 2:45 pm Girl Scouts (Patty Lorsung's Room) 3:00 pm Scouts Eagle Court of Honor (Sanctuary, FH) 6:00 pm "The Outlet" Youth Program	11 8:30 am Walking (FLC) 9:00 am Bible Study (105) 6:00 pm Girl Scouts Troop 850 (108) 6:30 pm Men's Bas- ketball (FLC) 7:00 pm Worship Committee (105)	12 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109) 6:00 pm BS Troup236 (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 pm Cub Scouts—Russell 107 6:30 pm Girl Scout 2521 (207 or Café) 7:30pm Givan BB (FLC)	13 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (107) 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes (FH) 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (FH)	14 10:00 am Women's Bible Study (107) 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109)	15 7:30 pm Givan Bas- ketball (FLC)	16 8:00 am Rummage Sale (FLC) 9:00 am Dayspring Math (109)
17 Trad. Service 9:00 Christian Ed. 10:00 11:17 am Connect 12:00pm Community Hog Roast (FLC, Kitchen, Lobby) 6:00 pm "The Outlet" Youth Ignition	18 8:30 am Walking (FLC) 9:00 am Bible Study (105) 6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 850 (108) 6:30 pm Men's Bas- ketball (FLC) 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg. (105)	19 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109) 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 236 (FH) 7:00pm Daytime Ministry Mtg. (Parlor) 7:00pm Prayer Team (Sanctuary) 7:30 Givan BB (FLC)	20 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (107) 9:00am Common Threads (FLC) 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes (FH) 6:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 236 (FLC) 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (FH)	21 10:00 am Women's Bible Study (107) 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109) 6:00pm Girl Scout Team Mtg. (Parlor) 6:45pm Girl Scout Leaders Mtg. (Café)	22 7:00pm Geek Night Out (Café) 7:30pm Givan BB (FLC)	23 Dayspring Math Ministry (109)
24 Trad. Service 9:00 10:00am Christian Ed. Connect Svc. 11:17 2:45pm Girl Scouts (Patty Lorsung's Room) 6:00 pm "The Outlet" Youth Program	25 8:30 am Walking (FLC) 9:00 am Bible Study (105) 6:30 pm Men's Bas- ketball (FLC) 7:00pm Church Council (105)	26 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109) 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 236 (FH) 6:30pm Russell Cub Scouts (107) Girl Scouts 2521 (207 or Café) 7:30 pm Givan BB (FLC)	27 7:30 am Men's Bible Study (107) 5:30 pm Kid's Chimes (FH) 6:00pm Cub Scout Pack 236 (FLC) 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir (FH)	28 10:00 am Women's Bible Study (107) 4:00 pm Dayspring Reading (109) 7:00pm Finance Mtg. (105)	29 7:30pm Givan BB (FLC)	30
31 9:00am Trad. Svc. 10:00am 5th Sunday Fellowship 11:17am Connect Svc. 6:00pm "The Outlet"						

A REFLECTION OF SISTERS IN CHRIST

BECKY COFFMAN



Sisters in Christ is an organization of women who unite to share and explore the teachings of the Bible. We develop Christian fellowship and love. We have supported many activities to raise money for our church and the less fortunate in our community and world.

Here are highlights of the activities completed and people we've served in the last three years. The women of Sisters in Christ have supported the Hope House Style Show by providing drinks for 300 and we've given monetary donations. We helped with Operation Christmas Child by offering items and wrapping the shoe boxes that were delivered overseas. Through a December Children's Style Show, we helped Angel Connection at Mt. Comfort Elementary School by donating Christmas presents for the needy children of Hancock County. Through World Visions, we have furnished monthly donations to Mirriam Luuma in Zambia. We've helped the Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen Inc. in Greenfield by providing food and necessary kitchen supplies. We helped Navy soldiers by making available Care Packages and we provided an abundance of baby supplies donated by the congregation for the Better Indy Babies Pantry.

Our Sisters have contributed money to Mt. Comfort Church's utility bills, the Caroline bells, the youth group, bell choir and certain Mt. Comfort Church families in need. We've contributed money to the Pregnancy Center of Greenfield, The American Red Cross, Missionary John Carrick and to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky.

The Mother-Daughter (pitch in) Banquet was well attended all three years with 56 guests our first year and 76 our third. We were entertained at the banquets by Amanda Tewell and Darrel Day, the Ellenberger family, the Mt. Comfort Men's Quartet, Elaine Holloway and the Cathedral High School girls' choir.

We hosted a huge fund raiser we called "The Taste of Mt. Comfort" in order to promote the sales of our own cookbook. There were more than 30 homemade recipes from our Comfort Food cookbook to sample. We sold cookbooks, RADA knives, and had a drawing for a handmade quilt created and donated by Maureen Bowery. Also, there were fifteen vendors who sold their wares.

The Sisters in Christ organized and provided free will offering luncheons of chicken and noodles, vegetable soup and chili after the church services in the Family Life Center. We organized the rummage sales. In December, we baked cookies at home and assembled them in tins at church and we created "cookies in a jar" which were sold after Sunday church services.

Recently we invited guest speakers to inform the group. Jo Sullivan educated us about the importance of mammograms and Julie Carson explained how colors related to the Bible relate to our daily lives.

Our social events included shopping trips to Chicago and Edinburgh. We attended and enjoyed laughing together during *Menopause the Musical* at the American Cabaret Theatre in Indianapolis. We shared Christmas pitch in dinners and gift exchanges, took part in craft projects, enjoyed devotions and desserts during the monthly meetings. We traveled to Ft. Wayne and Indianapolis to participate in the *Women of Faith* conventions.

Wow! The Sisters in Christ accomplished a tremendous amount during the last three years. We made a remarkable impact and benefited our church, community and others in countless ways. I would like to especially thank the officers, Connie D'Angelo, Melissa Ayers, Jackie Gast, Patty Wilkinson, Gail Malloy and Linda Neer, who greatly helped me during my term as president. I would also like to thank the other fantastic women of the church who worked very hard to successfully complete our goals.

We are now in need of other leaders to step forward and proceed from here. We need to continue donating time and money to the needs of our church and community. Children will continue to need clothing and toys. The hungry still need to be fed. Women of Mt. Comfort will need to continue fellowship and love. We need to continue to follow the teachings of Christ as in Matthew 25: 37-40, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my family, you did it to me." **Please call the church office and let them know that you are willing to lead the Sisters in Christ.**

May God give us grateful hearts and keep us mindful of others. I am grateful and thankful for all of the support Sisters in Christ has given others. It was a very rewarding experience for me. Thanks for the memories.



GOD SMILES WHEN WE TRUST MARY SPRINGER

Can you imagine this scene? One day God comes to Noah and says, "I'm disappointed in human beings. In the entire world, no one but you thinks about me. But Noah, when I look at you, I start smiling I'm please with your life, so I'm going to flood the world and start over with you and your family. I want you to build a giant ship that will save you and the animals."

There were three problems that could have caused Noah to doubt:

1) Noah had never seen rain because prior to the flood God irrigated the earth from the ground up (Genesis 2:5-6). 2) Noah lived hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean. Even if he could learn to build a ship, how would he get it to water? 3) There was the problem of rounding up all the animals and then caring for them. But Noah didn't complain or make excuses. He trusted God completely, and that made God smile.

Trusting God completely means having faith that God knows what is best for your life. You expect him to keep his promises, help you with problems, and do the impossible when necessary. The Bible says, "He takes pleasure in those who honor him, in those who trust in his constant love" (Psalm 147:11 TEV)

It took Noah 120 years to build the ark. I imagine he faced many discouraging days. With no sign of rain year after year, he was probably criticized as a "crazy man who thinks God speaks to him." I imagine Noah's children were often embarrassed by the giant ship being built in their front yard. Yet Noah kept on trusting God. In what areas of your life do you need to trust God completely?

Trusting is an act of worship. Just as parents are pleased when children trust them, your faith makes God happy. The Bible says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)

By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told . . . As a result, Noah became intimate with God. Hebrews 11:8 (MSG)

5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP NORIETTA MILLER

**Please join us for our
5th Sunday Fellowship
on Sunday, October 31
during the Christian
Education Hour.
The Seekers Sunday
School Class is hosting
this event.**



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA JOHN FORCUM

**Hey Everybody,
Santa is coming to
Mt. Comfort Church!**



**Have breakfast with
Santa on December 11th. Details will
follow but put this date on your calen-
dar to bring your children and your
grandchildren.**

THE MT.COMFORT BIBLE ACADEMY—KATHY BENNETT

One of the first fruits to come from our study of Bishop Schnase's Cultivating Fruitful Congregations will be a new plan for even more Bible Study. In November, Mt. Comfort United

BIBLE STUDY
Biblical | Challenging | Relevant



Methodist Church will begin to invite our own members, and anyone else in our community, to existing Bible study classes and several new ones which are being planned. The third chapter in this current study is entitled "Intentional Faith Development." In it there is a challenge for each member of our congregation to take part in at least one study during the next six months. As an increasingly fruitful congregation, we have been able to offer numerous opportunities for spiritual growth and, soon, will be offering even more. Plans are being made to create a Class List that includes every study we already have available, time and place offered and leaders. The list will also include several new classes which will be offered. We will then make our Class List available to anyone in our church and our community. We will publish the list of our current and future classes and study groups in our bulletins, newsletters and in local newspapers with an open invitation to join us as we grow in faith together.

**Plan to attend the Mt.
Comfort Church**

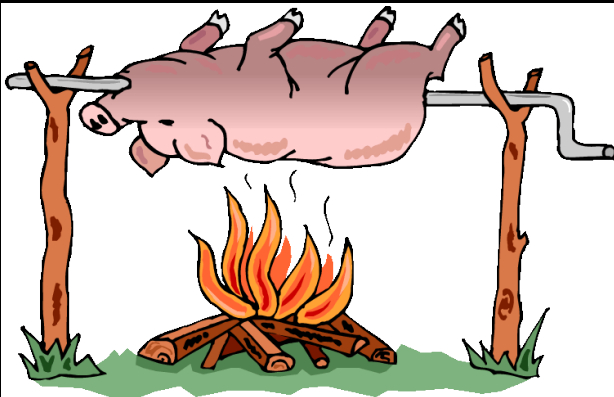
**Harvest Dinner on
Sunday, November 21**



**Look for more details
to be announced at a later date.**

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church
3179 North 600 West
Greenfield, IN 46140

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Mt. Comfort Church Hog Roast!!

Plan now to attend the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church Hog Roast.

Sunday, October 17, 2010

4 to 7 PM

This will take place in the Family Life Center.

Entertainment will be available throughout the evening. This event is an important part of community activities in our area; thus, we will need much help from the congregation. Sign up sheets will be available in the Welcome Center for food donations of baked beans, slaw, and dessert. Workers will also be needed on Saturday when the hog arrives, and workers (waiters, servers, cleanup and setup) will be needed on Sunday.

The Community Ministries Committee has worked diligently on this event.

Thanks to Cohron Mobile Homes and a Private Donor for sponsoring this event!!