

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The "Father of Methodism," John Wesley, had a methodology for everything.

He had a method for learning called "Societies," what we would call "Churches" today.

He had a method of changing behavior called "Classes." Every member of a Society was, at the same time, a member of a "class" of 10 to 12 people. These classes were mixed as to age, spiritual maturity, gender, marital and social status.

He had a method of changing emotions and motives called "Bands." These were made up of 4 to 6 members of the Societies who wanted to walk more closely with God.

Most of the work of the Society (church) was done in these small discipleship groups, the members of which were accountable one to another about their lives and sins, prayed for each other and encouraged one another to love, good works and holiness. They examined the teachings of the Bible in light of their personal experience, tradition and reason, while new leaders were born and equipped for ministry. These meetings were characterized by an atmosphere of trust, confidence, and encouragement.

It was a great method and it worked! Is it any wonder then the people who subscribed to these methods of following Christ were called "Method-ists?"

The Society known as Paradise United Methodist Church is expanding in the methodical way of Wesley, too. Take a look around the website (ComeToParadise.org) and you will see what I mean.

There is the new Wesleyan Roots study group, which meets every Tuesday evening at 7pm. We had a wonderful turnout for our first of twelve sessions last Tuesday, as we learn what makes United Methodists distinct.

The men's service group known as "The AMen" meets every first Saturday morning at 8am for breakfast, a short devotional, fellowship, and a little business. Our first mission project was building a wheelchair ramp and we are open to suggestions for service projects in all parts of our mission field.

While the men are meeting on Saturday morning, as of this writing the women were planning to meet at a local eatery for a group fellowship and devotional (led by Tammy Krause). I can see this becoming a regular thing.

The Prayer Group is an ongoing Bible study and prayer session which meets each Tuesday morning at 9am.

The Adult Sunday School class meets each Sunday morning at 9:45am. Right now, they are deep into a study of Romans.

These small groups are totally Wesleyan! In them you will find mutual encouragement and understanding, a call to accountability, and realize what it means to be a working member of the Kingdom right now! I encourage you to find one you like or start your own.

It is totally a Methodist thing to do!

Blessings on your head! Pastor Rob Ernest

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School group is working on a study by Jada Edwards, Romans: Live with Clarity. If you would like to join us, contact Angie at pedbones@aol.com. She will get you a book and send you a link to join us virtual or you can join us in person Sunday mornings at 0945. There is always room for more!

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

Welcome to Summer! We have an in-person mission opportunity for July. We will be helping A Turning Point in Gladstone from 8am until noon on July 16th. Please see the article below for details regarding this activity.

We also have an ongoing opportunity to help at the Smithville Food Pantry on the first Tuesday of every month at the Christian Church in Smithville. The times are from 8:30-11am and duties include sacking groceries, assisting clients out with the items they have selected, etc. There is a sign-up sheet on the back counter in the sanctuary. The July volunteers are Kirk & Susan Jessen.

For July we will collect canned vegetables for the Smithville Food Pantry. They have requested NO corn or green beans, as they have a donor who provides those items for them. Items may be left on the table in the far end of the family center. Also on the table is a white container for a monetary collection for the Plattsburg Food Pantry. They are connected with a food bank in St. Joseph and prefer cash donations.

The recap of June collections: 52 boxes of cereal, 6 paper towels, 2 cans of soup, 1 cake mix, 1 jiffy corn bread mix, 2 envelopes brown gravy, 1 bag of pinto beans and a bag of potato flakes for the Smithville Food Pantry, and \$200 for the Plattsburg pantry. We also collected \$275 for the Christmas store at Grace Community Church. Thank you for your generosity.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

We will be volunteering at A Turning Point in Gladstone on Saturday, July 16th, from 8:00a.m. to noon. For the first couple of hours, we will assist their clients in their food pantry and then they will give us a different assignment. Because we need to let them know how many will be participating, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. All ages and abilities are

encouraged to volunteer as it is a great opportunity to serve others and there is always plenty of tasks for us to help the staff with. Hope to see you there!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

We will be picking up trash along Highway W on Saturday, July 23rd. We will meet at the church at 9:00a.m. to get our equipment and figure out our assignments. Hopefully it won't be too hot, and we'll be able to get it done this month!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BAZAAR

The Ice Cream Social is coming August 21st! Bring your friends and neighbors for some great summer treats!

Plans are underway to hold a bazaar in conjunction with the Ice Cream Social. More details to follow in the coming weeks, but please start working on those craft projects and planning the yummy baked goodies you'll make to donate to the bazaar. It's always been a lot of fun in the past and it's a great way to bring in funds for the church!

LIVESTREAM GREETER

We are in need of someone who can engage with online worshippers during the 11am Livestream on Facebook. This person would need to greet folks as they comment, take prayer requests and pass them on to the pastor, and answer general questions. If you are interested, contact Tooti at 816.305.3745

MONTHLY REPORT

The Monthly Report for June 2022 is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$31,202.17
Offering:	+\$5,992.00
Expenses:	-\$5,121.52
Final Balance:	\$32,002.65

