



# From the Pastor

Pastor Hyesook had asked Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPRR) to write her column for this newsletter. Originally, I was going to cover the business we had in our September meeting, however, that meeting had to be changed until September 30th.

I have enjoyed Pastor's quizzes so I thought I would continue on that theme using SPPR info. So I hope you learn at least 2 new things about our committee.

T. F. 1.) The Purpose of the committee is to build strong relationships between staff and congregation as well as our District Superintendent.

T. F. 2.) Consequently to #1 above, a part of our meeting is to review the guidelines for Pastor-Parish Relation (Connect the Pastor, Staff, and Congregation)

T. F. 3.) We are a "secret" committee.

T. F. 4.) Pastor is not required to attend every meeting.

T. F. 5.) The conference has parsonage standards we are expected to meet as to condition and amenities.

T. F. 6.) Our committee is responsible for job descriptions and evaluations of our pay employees (Secretary and Custodian; if we had a paid custodian)

T. F. 7.) Conference state that we are to allow Pastor time for spiritual growth, serve on conference committees, or ecumenical meetings such as Emmaus and RAMA.

T. F. 8.) It is not necessary to discuss goals for Pastor as well as Brushwood.

T. F. 9.) The committee tries to keep you informed and ask for your input to keep communication lines open.

Answers:

1. - True: We are to be communicators in regards to the congregation's needs to the pastor, as well, as the District Superintendent. At the same time we are to communicate Hyesook's and Frances' needs to you.
2. - True: We definitely review a section of the guidelines. We learn the current policies and procedures our committee should review. Some examples are evaluations, budgets for salary, education, spiritual growth for pastor, and books and such that she might need. Others are annual review of our parsonage with a trustee member, interview, and hiring of staff. The above are not all of what we do, but hopefully they provide you with an example.
3. -False: We are NOT a "secret" committee, but we are a "Confidential" committee. Staff concerns are not to be shared outside the committee. If you has a concern about our staff or church you could be put on the agenda to discuss your concern, but would not be able to stay after your presentation is complete.
4. -False: Pastor is required to attend every meeting. If there is a serious problem to discuss about the pastor, the District Superintendent would come. However, the pastor must be told about the meeting.
5. -True: There is a checklist that is followed when a trustee and someone from our committee reviews the parsonage annually. Our main problem is the condition of our water (Sulphur and lead). Trustees have tried to improve its taste but it cannot all be removed.
6. -True: We review on an annual basis the job descriptions for secretary. In the process of hiring Frances we realized we did not have an application or evaluation form. Consequently, we have since developed both.
7. -True: These are over and above Pastor's vacation days. We are to allow her at least 1 week doe Spiritual Growth. This does not include time spent on Indiana Conference or ecumenical activity. These would be additional time off.
8. - False: We do this in January. We review some of the goals as we meet every other month. Are we reaching out to college students, shut-ins, sick, irregular attendees? This is all of our jobs, not just the pastor's. Are we helping pastor to take some burdens off her? For example- teaching bible study, writing this column, visiting sick. Are we asking people to assist in the church activities- serve on committees, children's sermons, worship service? Fruitful Congregation was definitely a goal of Pastor's. We are already seeing some

results of that- sermon question, next week's scripture in the bulletins, different Bible translations available to take home, selection of more upbeat hymns/choruses, discussion of different hours for service and Sunday School in the future.

9. -True: After every council meeting the committee's report is available in the Fellowship Hall on the Welcome Center. We also want your input by asking for it at Council and in our report.

In closing, soon it will be Nomination Committee time to ask for volunteers to serve on Brushwood's committees. This is an interesting committee, you have to be a member of the church to serve on it. If you are interested in serving on SPPR please contact Hyesook or myself to present your name and others to the committee.

Hope you have learned at least 2 things about our committee.

God Bless,  
Merrie Etta Stowers  
Chairperson

# A Word from our Bishop

Beloved Community,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ whose abundant love is always with us!

As United Methodists, our mission, both collective and Connectional, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Now more than ever we are and must remain, committed to this mission in each and every community in the world. It is a mission that requires of us, honesty, respect, humility, courage, and trust in a God who never fails.

This mission also asks each of us to choose hope, as we are reminded in Romans 5:5 (NRSV) that “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

As many of you are aware the final report of the Commission on a Way Forward, which was formed after the 2016 General Conference, is now available to the public and is the representation of intentional work by leaders (lay and clergy) of vast theological perspectives and values who came together because of their shared love of the mission of the Church, but most importantly their passion and belief that the Potter is not done molding us.

The 93-page report is long in length, taking the time and creating space to read, pray, discern, and process all that is before us and the nuances of each plan will provide each of us accurate information in regards to the breadth of theological differences within our United Methodist Church.

While the three plans provided in this report are our primary focus, please remember that other officially submitted petitions will be presented for consideration during the called Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church in 2019. The ability to consider other petitions also means that what becomes adopted in St. Louis may differ from the three plans outlined in the report.

## **2018 Indiana Conference District Call to Prayer and Conversation**

I want to invite you to the upcoming District Conversations regarding the A Way Forward report that will be voted on during the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, next February 23-26, in St. Louis, Mo. The final report contains essential background information (how we got to where we are) as well as the text of the plan (One Church) that was supported by a larger majority of

the Council of Bishops. The report also includes two additional plans that were reviewed at varying degrees: The Connectional Conference Plan and Traditional Plan (*please note that Traditional Plan was provided by a small group of bishops - but was not supported by the Commission.*)

While there were discussions and debates about models put forward, as well as of our commitment to our shared public mission and global witness, there was no disagreement that the world needs the Church.

So there is much before us, and there is so much more yet to come. Therefore, let us come to the table together.

### **Why District Conversations?**

As Ephesians 4 reminds us we should “Try always to be led along together by the Holy Spirit so that we might be at peace with one another.” At this moment, we are at a pivotal point for our United Methodist Church and let us not forget that the world in which we minister to is watching as we move forward. In Indiana, we are committed to being a missional connection of churches throughout our communities as the world abroad. And in our quest to be fully missional, we must model what it means to be the Church. Let us come together not to establish or maintain side, but to offer ourselves with hearts of authenticity and transparency, as we move into deeper relationships with one another without the requirement of voting, debating, or coercing. These conversations are an invitation to pray as much as speak, listen, and discern.

How might we advance the mission while we embrace a way forward that fosters unity amidst diversity?

One or some might ask “why now?” and “why a district conversation?” And it is very clear that we are in a critical moment in the history our United Methodist Church and the bodies that preceded us. And while we are not all able to vote on what plan is ultimately adopted by the Special Session of General Conference, we do have the responsibility to be aware of each plans’ implications on our witness to the world. We have a privilege to pray, with and for one another (those with whom we agree and disagree), as well as for our Church around tables or in groups through Christian Conferencing. And we can join in the hope that our United Methodist Church will face the future united in mission and ministry to transform the world for years to come. These conversations will also allow us to better focus on our goal of being fully missional in every church, every ministry, every community, and every corner of the world because we dialogued, prayed together, and centered ourselves on the love and hope of Jesus Christ even as we face uncertainty.

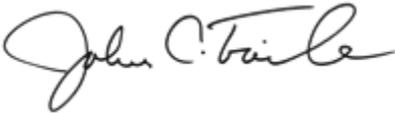
As servant leaders, our bishops live and serve alongside you with a passion for unity that does not sacrifice honesty. As I enter my third year as the resident bishop of the Indiana Conference, I look forward to this opportunity to meet with each of you (laity and clergy) while we engage in conversation, prayer, worship, and close our time together with Holy Communion. As we come to the table, may we remember the God we serve, Christ who died for us, and the world we are still called to reach.

**What are other ways I can support this discussion as we seek a way forward?**

I invite you to pray every day for our delegation and all those who will gather this February in St. Louis. Each day, **I encourage you to pray individually, as well as corporately, from 2:23 - 2:26 p.m.** As we enter into the presence of God may we seek the will of God for our Church, our delegation, and the people God has called us to reach.

As we go forward this day may we remember that we are one Church in many places globally (globally and locally). Let's stay connected, remain prayerful, and in all things, be missional.

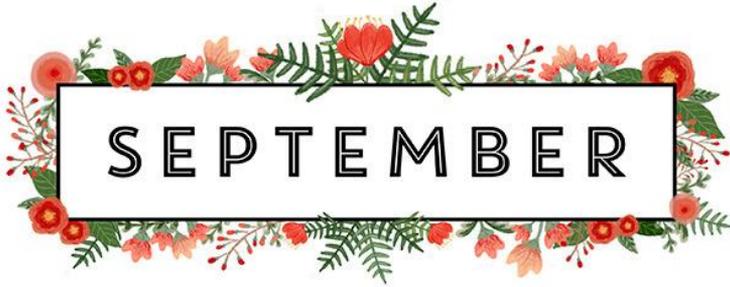
Be encouraged,



Julius C. Trimble

Resident Bishop

Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church



SEPTMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

2-Cindy DeBarge

3-Karen Lattimore

9- Gracie Krintz

11-Pam Meyers

12- Elvis Mitchell

16- Cheryn Kohlhagen

25- Randy Humphrey

26- Sophia Ramirez

## ANNIVERSARIES

13- Cam and Sonya Bales

## **Servants in Action**

## September 2018

	<b>Ramp Greeters</b>
09/02/18	Gail Scott
09/09/18	Morey Johnson
09/16/18	Trudy Bales
09/23/18	Jack and Cleota Warne
09/30/18	Cam & Sonya Bales
	<b>Front Door Greeters</b>
09/02/18	Diane & Wilson Seton
09/09/18	Shawn & Marcia Johnson
09/16/18	John & Nancy Tillema
09/23/18	Dick and June Brewer
09/30/18	Joanne Ziese

**September Ushers: John Smith, Roy Finch, Shawn Johnson, Dave Colbert. (Jason Stowers to fill-in).**

## Children's Sermon

<b>09/02/18</b>	Trudy Bales
<b>09/09/18</b>	Molly Grover
<b>09/16/18</b>	Morey Johnson
<b>09/23/18</b>	Pam Meyers
<b>09/30/18</b>	Jack Warne

**~ Brushwood Prayer Concerns ~**

**Our Church:** The Indiana Conference, Bishop Trimble, The North West District, DS Blinn Gibson, Assistant District Superintendent's Lamar Imes, Rob Seewald, and Hugh Rohrer.

**Our Nation:** Congress, President Trump, Governor Eric Holcomb, other officials. Those in position of authority

**Our Military:** Amber Buster (Laney): Florida (Dee & Phil Malavolta), Douglas Siedelmann: Army-Kuwait .

**Our Missionaries:** Wertzes – Tanzania, Evan and Lydia Smith with CRU Missions at IL University.

**In Ministry:** Wayne Williams, appointed to Mt Ayr UMC and Morocco First UMC. Hal & LuAnn Cohn appointed to Kewanna UMC. Chris Kosary, appointed to Raub UMC. Jodi Kosary appointed to Wolcott UMC.

**Our Shut-ins:**, Bethel Britt, Mary Stowers, Sharon Patrick, Alice Tomlinson.

**Those we lift in Prayer:** Dwight Williams, Debbie Williams, Mimi Baird, Carol Danruther, Mary Stowers, Jack Warne, George & Joan Fox.

Our 8:30am Worship Service; Attendees – those returning to church, those seeking a church, those seeking God

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## September Meetings

*UMW – Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, 3pm*

*Rama- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, 3pm*

*Trustee Meeting- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm*

*Trough -Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, 5pm*

*Church Council- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm*

*Trough -Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, 5pm*

*Senior Saints – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am*

# September Events

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Communion Sunday



Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Colbert Wedding  
(Church Reserved all day)



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>- Community Service at  
Court House- 11am

Children's Sunday School

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Children's Sunday  
School Resumes



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Rensselaer Care Center

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Purdue Extension Youth Program  
(Church reserved-5:30-8pm)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Purdue Extension Youth Program  
(Church reserved-5:30-8pm)

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>- District Conference at  
Logansport Crosswind UMC- 2:17pm



# Attention!

September is "Food Pantry Month"  
Volunteers are needed to work at the Rensselaer  
Food Pantry. Sign-up Sheet is on the Welcome  
Center.

## Jasper County Recovery House is in need of Donations!

### Items Needed:

Canned foods

Office Supplies

Toiletries

They are also in need of a deep freezer, refrigerator, meat, and a truck  
and trailer to haul landscape equipment.

A donation box will be set across from the welcome center until  
October 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the Recovery House, their  
newsletter is posted on the bulletin board.

\*If you have a local event that you like posted on bulletin  
board please place it in the Secretary's mailbox or leave a  
voicemail at (219) 866-3933 with the date, time, location,  
and a brief description of the event.

## Have a Blessed Month