



If you want to read more about where I am coming from here, see the articles I wrote with Dr. Fred Southwick, a Professor of Medicine at the University of Florida and an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Gainesville, which appeared in the [Orlando Sentinel](#) and [Tallahassee Democrat](#).

The practices that will heal us right now are prayer, placing the interests of others before our own (Philippians 2: 3; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15), vaccination, wearing masks indoors and maintaining social distances when possible.

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE: Many of you know that beginning September 1, I will be serving two annual conferences, Florida and Western North Carolina.

In some nations where the United Methodist Church is very strong, less than 1% of the population has been vaccinated. This is due to the COVID effect on a denomination that exists in 40 nations.

It is related to restricted travel to large gatherings (visas) and the large gatherings themselves (public health), where new bishops would be elected.

That is some of the background.

Logistically, we will divide our time between Tampa and Charlotte. We moved some things to Tampa in July, and

we moved the remainder to Charlotte this week. My wife Pam has been amazing in coordinating almost all of this.

We are well situated to begin. In Charlotte, interestingly, we will live about five miles from where I served for many years as a pastor. So a lot of that is familiar.

At the same time, I will begin my tenth year with you as your bishop. I work with great people, I am not naive about my capacities, which are not infinite, yet at the same time, I am excited. There is a lot of work for us to do:

- Vital and sustainable local churches and fresh expressions.
- Dismantling racism as discipleship, and sanctification for the wellness and resilience of spiritual leaders.
- A clear vision for the continuing a United Methodist Church that is for all of us now and for the next generations.

The good news: There is strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

Thank you for reading, for the connection, for being a disciple of Jesus Christ and a United Methodist.

I write to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, our Friend and Healer, Jesus Christ.

Ken Carter
Resident Bishop, Florida Conference
The United Methodist Church

News, Views and Gospel Truths

East Naples United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER NEWSLETTER | 2021

A Walk toward the End

The reading of Victoria Barnett's book *Bystanders: Conscience and Complicity* stirred the swelling of stories in my mind from yesteryear. One story in particular surfaced to the forefront of my thinking during my days in high-school. It was an episode that occurred at the end of the school day as I walked to catch the school bus home. As I drew closer to the area of the parking lot where the school buses were idled, I noticed some anxious commotion ahead; there was a fight taking place between one white guy and six black guys. I was bothered by what I witnessed, but I was especially infuriated that these six guys had jumped this one guy. Moreover, I knew them all, for four of them were on the football team with me. Why had they jumped this one guy? As this question raced through my mind, I noticed the white guy fighting back with all he had but, not only that, I recognized his face. He was my neighbor.

In all honesty I was shocked by what was happening to my neighbor. As I stood behind the crowd, I watched as he was repeatedly pummeled and kicked by his attackers. I watched as blood flowed from his face and lip and he wildly flung punches that routinely found only air. I wanted to help. I wanted to help my neighbor. We never went hunting for rabbits or squirrels together. We never rode dirt motor bikes together. And we never invited each other into our respective homes; yet, I wanted to throw myself into that fight and help my neighbor, but I never did. I stood as a bystander and lacked what Rene Girard calls "disruptive empathy" (p. 150). I stood there, neither directly in support nor opposition; yet, my unwillingness to walk into that fight and put myself at risk was a violation of my not embodying a "conspiracy of good" (Exodus 2:11-12; Lk. 10: 25-37). I refused to involve myself in that situation.

Church Events

- Sept 6th—Office Closed
- Sept 12th—Youth Gathering Resumes
- Sept 13th—Joy Bible Study Resumes
- Sept 15th—Wednesday Bible Study Resumes
- Sept 15th—Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month
- Oct 3rd -World Communion Sunday
- Oct 3rd—Children's Sunday School Resumes
- Oct 17th – Laity Sunday
- Nov 8th – Charge Conference



East Naples United Methodist Church
2701 Airport Road S
Naples, FL 34112



A Walk toward the End (continued)

The people of Le Chambon, unlike many at Sonderburg and Mauthausen, embodied a spirit of resistance to the Nazi Way. This village of 3,000 people did not accommodate themselves to silence or passively accept the destruction of Jewish bodies (p. 153). Such people were determined to walk a different path and, therefore, embraced a fierce posture of resistance as they walked the way of Jesus: refused the fascist salute, sheltered the refugee, and demonstrated active courage in the face of death (pp. 154-156).

In the face of 2,500 Jewish lives at stake this community of people, resolved in their faith, decided to disrupt the normalcy of Nazi abnormality made normal. Their enactment of a "conspiracy of good" hinged on their "relationships with each other and with the people they were rescuing" (p. 158). Whereas there occurred a decisive break in relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish residents in Sonderburg, the residents of Le Chambon, moved by empathy, made a choice to embrace and protect human life (p. 159).

In like manner, as we, perhaps, wrestle with the notion or image of God as **participant** and not **bystander** (p. 148), may we conclude that God makes God's way through the crowd of bystanders as bodies are beat down on a school

yard, cooked in a German death camp, packed on a slave ship, corralled in a barrio, huddled in a ghetto, and mangled on sacred grounds. In the wake of evil and violence, yes, one must wrestle with God's apparent absence but, also, see God taking a walk, a decisive step, as the body of God makes God's way toward the abused in history "outside the gates" (Lk. 9:51, 57; 13:22; 17:11; 18:31; 19:11) in order to embrace those who suffer in history.

By
Pastor Dwayne



By Bishop Ken Carter

Blessings to you all.

In the late summer, we struggle with basic civic values, how to see the common good, and how to engage in behaviors in ways that place the needs of others before our own.

The COVID reality at the moment is a crisis, as the school year begins, as hospitals are overflowing. Some states are shipping their COVID patients to states with more robust vaccine participation. Some of these states are importing medical professionals from states where responsible behavior mitigated COVID's effects.

There is a human cost — suffering, death, grief. This weekend two of our pastors struggle near to death with the virus. And we are now fully into our nineteenth month of the pandemic.

The post mortem will reveal that the instinct to put the economy first has actually harmed the economy; that flawed notions of freedom have actually led to less freedom; that the desire of a few people to position themselves for elected office in the future has done great and lasting harm, to their constituents in the present.

We have passed laws in the state of Florida that place children and teachers in peril.

As I have noted on many occasions, the politics are baked in, and the politics have extended this pandemic. If you are reading this far, please know that the last thing on my mind is changing your politics.

Let's reframe the whole matter. Let's simply confess that what should have been a science class, along the way, became a politics class. And we are talking about a virus -- of late, a more aggressive virus.

Some of the present reality:

The leading cause of death of police officers last year— COVID.

- COVID was the third leading cause of death in the U.S. last year, after heart disease and cancer.
- 3 million Floridians contracted COVID, which is almost one in seven.
- More than 42,000 Floridians died of COVID.
- 1,400 known Floridians died last week from COVID.

And there is resistance to a vaccine. No blame or shame here, just lament. I care about you.

I am reflecting on COVID because it is, in my anecdotal experience, affecting many more people now and in a harsh way.

So, masks and vaccines.

I wear a mask not because I am trying to make an ideological point. I wear a mask because it is a proven way to lessen the spread of this latest mutation of the virus, a mutation empowered because so many have not been vaccinated.

Statistically, we are in a "pandemic of the unvaccinated." Some of the casualties are those who have health vulnerabilities. A child with lupus. An adult with melanoma. Another adult with cancer.

I received the vaccine in February and March when my name came up in the ordinary sequence of events. Two weeks after the second vaccine, I had real protection.

I say this because I occasionally read about a person who receives the first shot and then expresses surprise that they become infected. It is a five-week biological process.

I may be preaching to the choir here, but I want to cast a wide net. I listen a great deal across the spectrum, and, at times, it is appropriate to speak. I appeal to you, members of the body of Christ, to find your own best rationale and get vaccinated. I am not smarter or better or more enlightened than you. And I do not write out of fear. My hope is in heaven.

I want us to spend eternity there, yet I want you to be alive one to five to twenty years from now.

I do want us to honor the body that is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6. 19). And in the body, we are connected. This is social holiness. This is the connection of the people called Methodist.

Occasionally, a saint will write and say, I am a lifelong Methodist, and John Wesley never talked about politics or health.

And yet he did.

John Wesley ensured that the most vulnerable had access to health care in 18th century England. And he wrote letters to government officials, one of the last one being to William Wilberforce, a member of Parliament, on the necessity of ending slavery.

The health of the body, the church, is the health of each member and how we see each other in the body and seek to strengthen one another. In the body of Christ, we need each other (1 Corinthians 12. 21).

I write to United Methodists in Florida now because, by any measurement, our common life, and in some instances

Talking About God

**Wednesday,
September 15th**

Everybody has an idea about God - even those who claim they do not believe in God. But we seldom talk about our ideas and experiences about God.

Come and join us on Wednesdays, beginning September 15, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. as we begin our Talking About God Series.

Upcoming
Event

We will engage in conversation around the following topics

- What's Your Experience of God?
- How Do You Talk About God?
- Who Are You to God?
- Where is God in Your Life?
- What is God Doing?
- Whose Side Is God On?
- How Can Believers Live Together?

Message from Scott, the Bookkeeper

Hello –

I'm getting in touch with you today to share the exciting news that giving to East Naples United Methodist Church and its ministries has gotten much easier. The new Vanco Mobile App makes this possible. You can now make your contributions from virtually anywhere by using your phone or other mobile device.

To get started, simply download the app from the App Store. The information below will give you step-by-step instructions:

You install Vanco Mobile from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store, depending on the type of phone you have.

1. In your App or Play store, search for Vanco Mo-

bile Faith Engagement



2. Tap the Vanco Mobile app or tap **Install**.
3. Follow the screen prompts to complete the install.
4. Open the application.
 - a. On the Welcome screen, tap **Find your organization**.
 - b. On the **Search Organizations** screen, enter your organization's name.
 - c. Tap your organization.
5. At the bottom of the screen, next to **Already signed up?**, tap **Log in**.
6. Enter your MyVanco credentials.

Also, be sure to check out the brand-new look on the Contributions tab of our website, where you can find out more about the various areas where your giving can make a difference.

We at East Naples United Methodist rely on your generous contributions year-round. The new VANCO online app helps make your support count, even when you might be away.

TLC in the Spotlight—

By Michele Micieli

Congratulations to our VPK Graduating Class of 2021. A huge thank you to all the children, families and teachers who made this another fabulous year at The Learning Center. The New 2021-2022 School Year will begin in August.



The Learning Center is open year round for children ages 1-5 FREE VPK. For more information please call 239-775-0745 or email us at: tlc@enaples.org



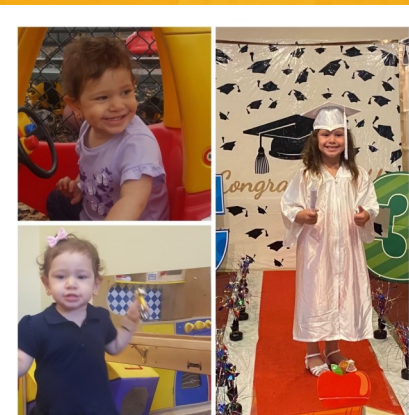
HOW TO GIVE USING VANCO MOBILE

Support our ministries from anywhere. Go to the App Store or Google Play to download the Vanco Mobile app for free.

- 1. Search for Our Church**
Enter our church's name or use the invite code and click Search. Then, select our church.
- 2. Select Your Fund and Amount**
Select your fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.
- 3. Enter Payment Method**
Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.
- 4. Choose to Cover Processing Fees**
You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.
- 5. Complete Your Donation**
Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.

VANCO FAITH

TLC IN THE SPOTLIGHT



SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Beddow Megan	1-Sep	Blake Judy	3-Oct
Griffin Carol	1-Sep	Garcia Rauldel M.	5-Oct
Nulton Edmund W. (Ed)	1-Sep	Baylina Lourdes	6-Oct
Moxam Isabel C. (Elizabeth)	2-Sep	Oetman Devin P.	8-Oct
Kilburg Maxine	4-Sep	Spieth Biannu Z. (Bian)	8-Oct
Hinklin Robert L. (Bob)	5-Sep	Warren Sharolyn K. (Sheri)	8-Oct
Baylina Renaldo	7-Sep	Garcia Ivia M. (Ivia)	9-Oct
Price David C. (Dave)	8-Sep	Peden Ivy	9-Oct
Saso Diane	8-Sep	Thompson Thomas A. (Tom)	9-Oct
Fralick Ruth	9-Sep	Fogler Kathy (Kathy)	10-Oct
Ricardo Ester	9-Sep	Nelson Debra (Deb)	11-Oct
Denson Derene	10-Sep	Klement Judith (Judy)	12-Oct
Smith Jacob (Jack)	10-Sep	Olson David	12-Oct
Cunningham Ronald L.	15-Sep	Keefer James (Jim)	14-Oct
Torres Udene	17-Sep	Perry Pauline (Polly)	15-Oct
Tatem Gisela	19-Sep	Quade Patricia (Patty)	15-Oct
Lewis Kathie	20-Sep	Watson Virginia G. (Ginny)	15-Oct
McElroy Tom	20-Sep	Pautvein Dick	16-Oct
Lee Noel	21-Sep	Spieth Lucile Z. (Lucy)	17-Oct
Weldon Bettie	21-Sep	Light Kathryn (Kay)	18-Oct
Ahlquist Hannah (Hannah)	22-Sep	Lightner Emerson (Bud)	25-Oct
Chism Virginia (Ginny)	23-Sep	Perez Brandon C.	26-Oct
Mahan Charles (Chuck)	28-Sep	Lemley Romelle	28-Oct
Delashmet Tyler	29-Sep	Shields Bonnie G.	28-Oct
Wilson Roy A.	30-Sep	Matthews Virginia	30-Oct
		Holt Pearl (Pearl)	31-Oct

May God bless and keep you always, may your wishes all come true, may you always do for others, And let others do for you. May you build a ladder to the stars and climb on every rung, may you stay forever young, Bob Dylan

Children's Sunday School For Elementary

What are the most important Bible Lessons each child should know to help them grow in their faith? Children's Sunday School will help connect the heart and mind of each child to God's word and truth.

We will include the following with each lesson:

- A Bible Story
- An Object Lesson
- An Activity

We are excited to begin our Sunday School on Sunday, October 3, 2021, for our elementary-age

but the word of the Lord endures forever.

1 Peter 1:25



children. We will practice social distancing, provide individual activity boxes/packs, provide a sanitizing station and ask all children and teachers to wear masks. We want to create a loving and safe atmosphere for our children to learn and grow in their faith.

If you would like to be a teacher, volunteer by helping with decorations/materials or assist by providing snacks. Please contact Nancy Hargie, sign-up in the narthex, or contact the church office.

We look forward to seeing you.
-The Sunday School Team

Youth Gathering

We will resume our youth gatherings on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. We will share in a time of fellowship and friendship-making as we enjoy a meal together, play games and spend time in devotion.

Our devotion time will be an opportunity for young people to engage in conversations around faith and the issues of life. We will hold conversations around the following topics:

- What's your idea of God
- How do you deal with peer pressure
- What's a sin?
- Where does evil come from?
- How do you choose a friend?
- Who do you want to become?
- How do you know what is right?

Joy Bible Study

Come join Joy Bible Study on Mondays, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. in Elsey Hall (small room).

We will study David part 2, II Samuel and I Chronicles Chapters 22-29. This study weaves the old testament narratives with the new testament gospel of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; his teachings; and the letters of Paul and other disciples.

Subtopics and Life Applications:

- Superstition vs. Faith
- Keeping Promises
- Overcoming Temptations
- Dealing with Family Heartache and Disappointment
- Discouragement, Rejection
- Losses

We are excited for you to join us! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pat Poorman.



Mission Moments from East Naples UMC by Kris Clemmensen

"Connecting Christ to people through love."

You are the hands, feet, and heart of God in our community and the world!

We have reached out and met the needs of students in our community and people in Haiti. Thank you so much for your continued prayers, presence, gift, and service. They lead to evangelism in our community and world.



Back 2 School Bash - July 31

We distributed over 100 backpacks to children in 29 families with the help of your donations and 21 volunteers.



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

HELP FOR HAITI - WOW! We received a plea for supplies to send to Haiti by Pastor Max Pierre, a Haitian Methodist pastor at Wesley Memorial UMC on Friday afternoon, August 20. The information and a list of supplies were distributed at church on Sunday. Thank you so much for your donations and support. Pat Poorman & Kris Clemmensen delivered your donations to Pastor Max Wednesday afternoon. The supplies will be shipped on Friday, August 27. Pastor Max appreciated our support and will report to us when he returns from Haiti. We are also sending money to UMCOR. UMCOR is working with the Methodist church in Haiti to fund medical supplies and other needs for the people.



September – Packaged Dinner for the staff and families of our New Horizons Program.

After speaking with our partners at our New Horizons Program we decided to delay the sending home of packaged meals for the families and staff. The New Horizons program started back on Monday, August 23. We have tentative plans to have our meal distribution on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

Our previous three Drive-Thru Dinner meals have been so appreciated by the staff and families of The Learning Center and New Horizons. Thank you for your continued help and support of our Fill The Table activities this year.

Mission Moments (continued) Endowment and Memorial Garden

September - Hear the latest news out of Cuba

A wonderful opportunity to learn more about the current conditions in Cuba.

Date: October 2, Saturday

Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Free BBQ pork lunch being served

Location: Christ United Methodist Church, 1475 Center Road, Venice, Florida 34292

Guest Speaker: Rev. Ricaldo Hernandez born and raised in Cuba

Contact: Kris Clemmensen 239-331-4889 for more information if you are interested.

We are currently working to collect \$450 for a replacement filter and UV light for the water purification system at Cañamazo, our Cuban sister church.

If you have a heart for mission and outreach and would like to join our team please email Kris Clemmensen at kriscllem@comcast.net. Next Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 4:00pm Elsey Hall



If you are interested in serving on either of the above groups, please contact Danielle Poff at 239.403.8855 or email her at raspiwave@aol.com. Seasonal residents are also encouraged to lend a hand. Thanks!

Bargain Nook News

Happy Fall Y'all!! Yes, cooler temps and fall breezes are right around the corner. The store will be putting out Halloween and fall décor later in September. Please stop by to take a look and if you have items to donate, drop them off on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-1.

- Carol



Altar Flowers

Flowers are a lovely way to make a dedication or recognize a special moment in your life. The cost is only \$40. You can call the church office, email officemgr@enaples.org, or place your giving in the envelope and denote Altar Flowers. We need the donor, donor's phone number, the Sunday you are requesting and the wording of the dedication/special event along with your giving of \$40.

Youth Spotlight

This month's spotlight is on Genesis Barron. On May 1st, she turned 14.

Genesis is looking forward to beginning high school, and she will be a freshman at Lorenzo Walker High. Her favorite subject has always been math. Some of her favorite things include tacos and karate. She attends karate classes with her cousin, Ashley Lugo, who is also a member of the youth group.

Genesis has been in our youth group since the 6th grade. She has enjoyed the youth trips to

Warren Willis camp in Leesburg, and she loves playing gaga ball and other games at youth group. In her free time, you can find Genesis volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and helping with her school food bank.

Genesis hopes to become a nurse, in the future. Lorenzo Walker High has a nursing program that she is excited about, and the curriculum will help her reach her goal.

Genesis, God loves you and so does your church family!



“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Danielle Poff is coordinating care packages to young adults on behalf of the church family. If you would like to help put the boxes together, write a note of encouragement to a student, or donate some items for the packages, please contact Danielle at email raspiwave@aol.com. Your donations for and support toward our young adults is greatly appreciated.

If you know of a young person who could use a “pick-me-up” this fall, please send the correspondence information to Danielle. God bless!

