

August 2021

Monthly Publication



LOVE SONGS

Several of you have asked for a copy of the song I sang in church on July 11 entitled “Prayer.” I’ll include that song/poem at the end of this month’s Vic’s Views. I’m grateful for the requests for it.

For me, writing poems and songs are prompted by events in life that have touched a deeply emotional place in the soul. In other words, it’s usually when I’m falling “in love.”

That’s not necessarily “love” in the boy-girl sense of the word (eros). It can be an overwhelming feeling of love for a family member (storge), or about the love of or for a friend (philia). It can be an engulfing sense of God’s love (agape). I’ve written love songs about each one of those connections.

They aren’t the greatest poems and songs in the world. I’m not published. This is food for my soul, though. This is the kind of food that nourishes you only when

it’s expressed, not consumed. No matter how inadequate they are, they are words and tunes that just have to be written and expressed through me. So I write and put words to song.

When I write a song prompted by love, I feel that I express things from a deeper place than where my normal words come from—a more centered place. I wrote a poem after my second date with Debbie, then sang it to her at our wedding 15 months later. Here are two verses (of 12) of that poem/song...

HE MOLDS THE CLAY

*I oft times wonder if God might bless
me with a wife like you someday.
I, so undeserving, who needs so much
learning can’t see that there’s any way.
But I’ll keep on praying so my mind will be
staying on the fact that He molds the clay.*

*That gift would be so great that all the gifts
God makes would fall short, all except
one:
The gift of salvation that outlasts duration
Jesus Christ, God’s only Son.
So I’ll keep on praying and my mind will be
staying on the fact that He molds the clay.*

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

To be sure, music is the language of the soul and poetry is the language of love. Combine the two and you have a powerful messaging system.

That's why we sing in worship! Worship is two-way communication. In Scripture and in the sermon, we hear from God. Through songs and prayers we communicate with God. When we sing praises to God our hearts are opened in ways they don't open normally. We are more "in tune" with God's Spirit when we sing together. Revelation tells us God's throne in Heaven is surrounded by the praises of the saints in song continually. Singing together is a unity of Spirit that is, in truth, rehearsal for Heaven!

And it's all birthed in love.

But love is not always sunshine and roses. Love is especially exposed when the chips are down. When there's much at stake. That's when sacrificial love makes its appearance. Before that happens, it all might be mere infatuation.

The song I call "Prayer," is simple and pure. It cuts away all the fluff and simply tells God my constant need for Him. It has shaped my life and I pray it often. There was a season of my life when I prayed it constantly.

I've learned that God answers this prayer because this is a song of relinquishment...of giving over my life to God, because He loves me and I can trust Him. I hope it does the same for you.

PRAYER

*Lord help me make it through this day
Please show me what to do and say
Cause I need your help to simply stay
Alive...in this world.*

*Lord, keep me from doing wrong
So I'll feel right in singing your song
Cause I know I don't have very long
To stay...in this world.*

(Bridge)

*And when I go to sleep at night
Please let me know if I've done right
And when I've done wrong,
Forgive me...*

*Lord, help me make it through this day
Please show me what to do and say
Cause I need your help to simply stay
Alive...in this world.
...in this world.
...in this world.*

You are Loved!

Pastor Vic



A WORD FROM PASTOR BO....



There must be a constant life-long discipline of emptying and discarding for the people of God. It is because there is no growth without the pain of emptying and discarding. *God's Timing for Your Life*, an inspiring

book written by Dutch Sheets, is a revelatory study of God's appointed times and seasons. Sheets points out the importance of shedding our shells like this: "From time to time, lobsters have to leave their shells to grow. They need those shells to protect them from being torn apart, yet the old shells must be abandoned when they grow. If they did not abandon them, the old shells would soon become their prisons and finally their caskets."

Similarly, Abraham Twerski, a great rabbi and a psychologist, talked about how stress works a bit like the life of a lobster. He said he was sitting in a doctor's office, and there was a magazine that said, "How do lobsters grow?" It is true. A lobster grows uniquely. And he thought, "I don't care how lobsters grow," but then he got bored, and he decided to read. And he read that lobsters are really squishy, delicious animals. Everyone wants to eat lobsters. It is not just humans. All those big animals in the sea want to eat them, too. And so they have this hard shell on the outside that protects them. And what happens is as a lobster grows, that rigid hard body does not grow with it. Eventually, the pressure and stress of that shell begin to confine the lobster, and it has to go under a rock and take off that shell and grow a new shell so it can live its new life as a more enormous, more robust lobster.

Therefore, the trickiest part for the lobster is the brief period between when the old shell is discarded and the new one is formed. During that terribly vulnerable period, the transition must be scary to the lobster. Ocean currents gleefully cartwheel them from coral to kelp. Hungry schools of

fish are ready to make them a part of their food chain. For a while, at least, that old shell must look pretty good. However, the stimulus for the lobster to grow is its adversity, or severity of the stress, because it made the lobster extremely uncomfortable enough to come out from its old shell.

With that perspective, we are not so different from lobsters. To change and grow, we must sometimes shed our shells – a structure, a framework that we have depended on thus far. Discipleship means being so committed to Christ that we will change, risk, grow and leave our "shells" behind when He bids us to follow.

At times, when we are feeling these stresses of life, we need to go in to the dark, hidden places of our soul, pray, and give our burden to the Lord so he can give us a brand new shell. Stress, or adversity, when it's right, grows us. It makes us mature.

Remember, adversity can deepen relationships, change our priorities about what really matters, and point us to the hope beyond ourselves.

Have a blessed
Crustacea-ous Summer!

Pastor Bo



*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!
(2 Co 5:17)*



Ms. Amy's Adventures

Back to school! We are here and ready to start another school year. Lots of exciting changes for Foundations Preschool. For those of you who do not know me, I am Ms. Amy Cloutier the new Director! Ms. Patty Tuff retired in July, and I am here to fill her shoes. I am very excited and cannot wait to see what the year brings. I would like to welcome my other team members, Ms. Heather Janik will be my Assistant Director and Ms. Abigail Hamsher is our Office Administrator. We are so happy to welcome you all to our school.

This month brings so much joy for the children. For some it is their very first time in school and for others they could not wait to come back and see all the friends they missed over the summer. We are very excited to start a new school year!

Thank you for keeping us all in your prayers.



Abby

Amy

Heather

CUBA PROGRAM

When: August 5, 2021

Where: Doan Chapel

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Given by: Dan Christopherson



Treasured Vacation

Bible School

Was a HUGE Success !

So many "thanks" go out to our congregation for donating craft supplies and goodies for snacks. The seventy-eight kids really enjoyed the snacks every morning.

The forty plus volunteers who served so many hours, EUMC staff for going the extra, extra mile to help make it happen, and the community who entrusted us with their children.

It was a wild, fun, joyful, silly, loving, hectic week and by all accounts, Jesus was there.

Thank you!

Debbie Parascondola



At Home

Janet Albrecht
 Jenny Chastain
 Joe Croce
 Phyllis Eastlund
 Shirley Grayson
 Lori Ierardi
 Howard & Nan Jackson
 Deborah Larsen
 Betty Madison
 Geri Meneely
 Roger & Barb Molendyke
 Jackie Morton
 Ruth Runyon
 Wanda Staneszewski
 David & Val Stevens
 Adele Stewart
 Mary Thompson
 Helen Williams
 Gina Willis

At Nursing Home or Assisted Living

Fran Altman—*Brookdale*
 Rod & Joan Bentson—*Tuscan Gardens
 on Venetia Bay*
 Alice Buck—*Gardens of Venice*
 Margaret Cypher—*Life Care in Punta Gorda*
 Ruth Davidson—*Bay Breeze*
 Jim & Shirley Davis—*Grand Villa*
 Maude Drinks—*Grand Villa*
 Sandra Dussault—*Heritage Oaks*
 Marjorie Fitzgerald—*Family Affair*
 Helen Funk—*Venetian Gardens*
 Dorothy Hill—*Liana Memory Care*
 Claude Lanham—*Manor Care*
 Mary Alice Lanham—*Jacaranda Trace*
 Charles Lindberg—*Heritage Oaks*
 Audrey MacEhiney-Rogers—*Towers of Venice*
 Carolyn McCallum—*Grand Villa*
 Jim Roch—*Brookdale—Venice*
 Jeanne Sawyer—*Inglenook*
 Doris Scott—*Heritage Oaks*
 Marilyn Smith—*Summerfield—Bradenton*
 Audrey Volz—*Drury Lane*
 Joe Walton—*Heritage Oaks*
 Janet Wilson—*Heritage Oaks*
 Millie Wischnowsky—*Heritage Oaks*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Do you live alone? In need of company? Would you like someone to visit, enjoy your company and pray with you? Congregational Care Ministers are on hand to visit with you on a monthly basis, sharing their ministry through prayer and communion.

Please call Pastor Don at 941-474-5588, ext. 252



MORE GOOD NEWS FROM TANZANIA



The largest country in East Africa and home of Mt. Kilimanjaro is Tanzania. With a population of 5.8 million, it is 40% larger than Texas. Located just south of the equator and bordered by the Indian Ocean to east, Kenya and Uganda to north, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the south, Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the west. Due to soil degradation, deforestation, damage to the coral reef, illegal hunting, particularly for ivory, It is also one of world's poorest countries. Divided roughly into thirds between practitioners of folk religion, Christians, and M*slims (many of whom live on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar).

According to most reputable surveys, population includes more than 120 different indigenous African peoples, most of whom are today clustered into larger groupings. Because of the effects of rural-to-urban migration, modernization, and politicization, some of the smallest ethnic groups are gradually disappearing. With approximately 129 different ethnic groups, the Republic of Tanzania has evolved the greatest linguistic diversity in the whole of the African continent. One of the founding directives of independent Tanzania was that no ethnic group should dominate, and this was made easier by the fact that none of the 129 tribes and sub-tribes exceeds little more than 10% of the country's overall population. A governmental drive continues to reduce tribal differentiation by promoting Swahili and English.



Because of Tanzania's size, radio is an ideal way to reach its scattered population centers. To fill this need, Galcom has several radio partners there. Radio Uhai (life) is the only FM radio station in Tabora, a city of more than 225,000. It has been reaching out to the M*slim community since 2017. Recently 700 Go-Tell radios tuned to Radio Uhai 94.1FM were distributed.

Galcom has targeted groups in remote areas, motorbike riders in towns, secret listeners from M*slim religion and Asians in the city. Reports from the field indicate that both requests for these radios and testimonies from those who have them are higher than expected. People are thankful that the radios are solar-powered as they do not need to purchase expensive batteries.

You can support this ministry by saving your pennies, nickels and dimes in an empty plastic water bottle. You can find bottles outside of Room 101 on the bench below the Mission bulletin board in the Lampp Building.

Nancy Prins, Chair Mission Committee

Memorial Gifts



Foundations

In Memory Of: Jim Abshire
 Given By: Martha Everett
 Quentin & Diane Burkey

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of: Howard Frame
 Vera Thomas
 Given By: Shirley Bauer

Congregational Care Ministry

In Memory Of: Jim Abshire
 Given By: Julie & Frank Nyitral

Flower Fund

In Memory Of: Jim Abshire
 Given By: Marvin Eastlund

Permanent Endowment

In Memory Of: Vera Thomas
 Given By: Margaret Eittrheim

Helping Hand

In Memory Of: Doc Don Nelson
 Robert Schrupp
 Marlys Schane
 Mary Sevensen
 Given By: Sandra Swanson

Non-Designated

In Memory Of: Jim Abshire
 Given By: Theodore & Jane Morin

In Memory Of: Donna & Kevin Rowley
 Given By: Rex L. Rowley

Memorial Corner

6/30 Suzie Doyans

7/10 Karen Dunn

*Our thoughts and prayers are
 with their family and friends.*



Comparative Financial Operations/Performance For the 6 month period ending June 30, 2021



	2021	2020
Tithes & Offerings	\$850,459	\$1,082,005
Cash Expenditures	<u>-\$765,934</u>	<u>-\$795,901</u>
Tithes & Offerings Less Expenditures	\$ 84,525	\$286,104

Guide Team Corner



We will be using this forum to keep you abreast of actions that the EUMC Guide Team takes on behalf of the church. At its July meeting, the Guide Team discussed and/or acted on the following:

- After a detailed review of the past 6 months of the church budget, it appears that the projected receipts will be less than anticipated for 2021. Because of the pandemic, the Loose Offerings (collection plate offerings) were not meeting budgetary expectations. By reducing or deferring \$70,000 in expenses, primarily in Apportionments, the 2021 budget is now projected to be in balance. The expense reduction represents about 4% of the original budget and will have a minimal impact on personnel or programs.
- The permit application process for the new rummage sale storage building is awaiting an update from the building manufacturer to include the additional items requested by Sarasota County. The County has mandated that a new fire hydrant be installed to cover both the new rummage sale and Englewood Helping Hand buildings. We are awaiting the County's list of requirements for the hydrant and then a cost estimate for the project will be obtained.
- The 99-year land lease to Englewood Helping Hand has been finalized. They have just obtained their building permit approval and will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony soon.
- Discussed the contemporary worship services that have been held in Fellowship Hall. We will be doing a survey to obtain feedback and comments on continuing to utilize Fellowship Hall for this service. Before the survey is done, if you have any comments, please address them to the Guide Team and mail them to the church office or e-mail info@englewoodumc.net with Guide Team in the subject line.
- Pastor Vic presented his preaching and teaching schedule for the July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022 period. This includes sermon themes and outlines, bible study schedules, the Sundays each minister will be preaching and an outline of the subject matter.

- Decided to host "Town Hall" meetings likely in October 2021 and January 2022 to keep EUMC membership abreast of church happenings. We expect to offer Town Hall meetings in-person and via livestreaming.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Beth Harrison

Business Administrator

CHOIR RECRUITMENT



The Sanctuary Choir and Voices in Bronze are taking a short break during the month of August, while Fonda is on Sabbatical. Both groups will resume rehearsals on Thursday, September 2. The Voices in Bronze will meet at 5:00 pm and the Sanctuary Choir will meet at 7:00 pm in the Music Suite at the west end of the Fellowship Hall.

Come join us and see what fun we have together as a musical "family". New ringers and singers are always welcome.

Fonda Davies,

Director of Music

ACOLYTES NEEDED!

Acolytes are needed for the 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. church serves. They are needed to light the candles at the beginning of the church service.

Can you help us out for either of the services. Please consider participating in this part of the worship service. There will be a training session on Thursday, August 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the church.

Please call Fran Cooper at 941-828-1346 for more information.



**** 90 (or over) Years Young!**

8/04 Roy Kern
 8/05 Janet Davis
 8/11 David Carlson
 8/16 Bob Kitson **
 8/19 Joseph O'Reilly **
 8/21 Barney Padilla **
 8/22 Shirley Bauer
 8/22 Ed Ferguson
 8/26 Doris Carlson
 8/28 Rosalie Kapfer **
 8/31 Millie Cheek

August Super Senior Birthdays

Super Senior Birthday Registration

Name _____

Birth Date ____/____/____

Month Day Year

Are you a Super Senior of four score years or more? We have the names and birth dates of many of our 80 (or more) years old, but we want to recognize ALL of these honored members. Please register your birthday if you haven't done so already. Just call the church office or send in the registration form.

The Super Senior birthdays are listed each month in the Messenger. Help them celebrate their super birthday by congratulating them on their special day.



Repairing Homes, Transforming Lives

The *Appalachia Service Project* provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation-bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low income families. Making homes *Warmer, Safer, Dryer for those in need*. **Once again our Church is taking volunteers for the week of October 11th thru the 17th to Jonesville, Virginia to participate.** Both men and women are needed, and you do not have to have building skills. A willingness to follow instructions and a desire to service is all that is required. If you would like to learn more, please contact:

Martin Bencsik pinesandbox@sbcglobal.net

or Margie Kennedy mkenn01@hotmail.com

**Forever Building in God
 Martin Bencsik & Margie Kennedy
 Coordinators ASP EUMC**



Wingman Nation is a ministry to help men connect with other men, support each other through life's challenges, and equip them to be the men God created them to be.

An evening of food and fellowship for the men of Englewood UMC and the Englewood community.

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14 *Be on your guard. Stand firm in your faith. Be brave, strong and men of courage. Do everything in love.*

Meets weekly on Thursdays in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.



This is a reminder to all women of EUMC that the Englewood United Methodist Women will resume monthly meetings on Thursday, September 2nd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This year we will again not be holding our usual "Cookie Luncheon," but will be collecting cookies for Meals on Wheels. During the month of August until Noon on September 2nd, everyone who wishes to bring store packaged cookies to the Church Library, where a box is located behind the desk on the right. Please place your cookies in the box or bring them to the UMW meeting on September 2nd. (Sorry we cannot accept homemade cookies at this time.)

If you prefer to make a financial donation for cookies, please make your check payable to: **Englewood United Methodist Women (EUMW)** and note on the memo line: Meal on Wheels cookie donation. Send your checks by September 2nd to: **EUMW, 700 S. Dearborn Street, Englewood, FL 34223.**

We welcome all women to our Unit Meeting. We will have a special enactment of women of the Bible as our program.

EUMW

Wednesday Morning Craft Group

Meets every week in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Anyone that interested in working on the many crafts are invited to join the group.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Back to School "Starts with a Good Breakfast"

Helping Hand needs the following items:

- Boxes of Cereal**
- Instant Oatmeal Packets**
- Pancake Mix**
- Boxes of Granola**
- Breakfast Bars**
- 64 oz. Bottles of Apple or Grape Juice**



Please bring the above items to the church service you attend on August 8th. EUMC Youth will be collecting items at all entrances.

Thank you for your continued support of Helping Hand!

EUMM

Country Breakfast

**NEEDS
YOUR HELP!**

**The first breakfast will be held on
November 13th.**

If you are able to help contact:

**Rick Nelson
941-473-7978**



IGNITE

Englewood UMC Youth

This word is like a fire in my heart, I can't hold it in. Jeremiah 20: 9

EUMC is a servant church, and our youth live by this example. Youth today have all the pressures of the world on their shoulders in and out of school, through the news, adult-teen conversations and social media. An outlet is needed for these young people to thrive in our society, and to become the next leaders.

Ignite Youth continue to participate in worship services on the second Sunday of each month. Whether they are opening doors, handing out bulletins, or reading to the congregation.....they are serving. They also continue to serve the community, along with our local Girl Scouts, as they collect food for the hungry.

AUGUST 8TH IS THE NEXT FOOD DRIVE AT EUMC. Please bring in nonperishable “breakfast food” items for our youth to collect and contribute to the Helping Hand pantry on the EUMC campus.



Serving is one awesome outlet, yet another we strive for at Ignite is FUN! We have been having so much fun this summer growing as a Christ-centered group. There have been outings at the bowling alley and the pool. I'm looking forward to an ice cream social, games and movies. Glad to share these good times with these great kids! If you know someone entering 6th through 12th grade, have them try it out.

Chrissy Church

Contact me for more information:
 (941)474-5588
 chrissy@englewoodumc.net

Book Buzz.....

Our subject for today:

How Dogs Eat

Upon listening to Pastor Vic's sermon, a couple weeks back about his dog I decided to do a little research on why dogs "wolf down" their food. Our neighbor's dog, Tia, acts as if she has been starving for two weeks when she comes in for a treat. And I wonder why.....so here goes.....



I marvel at how fast dog food is consumed. I imagine these "wolf" hounds would eat as much as you would put in front of them. That being said, when people eat, we try to eat slow enough so that the saliva in our mouths begin to break down food. When it enters our stomachs, it is ready to be further digested and its nutrients are then sent throughout our body giving us energy and good health.

When a dog eats its food, the digestion does not happen until the food enters its stomach. Hence, dogs don't need to chew their food.

Most dogs probably eat so quickly because in the days before they were domesticated, they had to survive by eating their prey before another dog stole it. The evolutionary programming of dogs dictates that they eat and keep moving. As a species in the wild, they did not have the luxury of hanging around and eating at their leisure.

Let's talk about our teeth. In humans, teeth are flat and designed to facilitate chewing. But as you look into your dog's mouth, Pastor Vic, you will notice that your dogs' teeth are pointed and designed to allow the dog to grab its food and swallow it whole.

Domestication hasn't changed most dogs' eating habits very much. Even when given meals regularly each day, most dogs will gulp down their food so that no scavenger can take it away.

So, there you have it, Pastor Vic.

Pam Heady,

Your church librarian

Now Hiring!



Nursery workers for Sunday mornings.
8:30-10:30 and special services.

Pay is \$10 an hour with a minimum two hours paid for each scheduled shift.

A background check and
Child Protection Training
is required and will be provided.

References will be checked.

Come by the office for an application or
call Deb Parascondola 474-5588.

Why Church?

It is so good to be in church. Sometimes I like to come and sit in the sanctuary alone, up close, where the cross in the dark, is a stark reminder of what Jesus did for me...for you.



I think about that for awhile and pray prayers of humble thanksgiving and wonder.... what if? What if Jesus did not die on the cross, what if God did not raise Him from the dead?

What would that mean for us?

I then look at the stained-glass windows and ponder the stories they tell; stories of a young, gentle, and loving man who was bullied, blasphemed, and beaten, because He loved! He loved and dared to publicly care for the unlovable; those with leprosy, the adulterers, murderers, and thieves. He is God!

Some of you may be wondering how Barbara copes with her daughter being so ill. Why doesn't she whine and feel sorry for herself? Why doesn't she get mad at God?

Because I sit in church all alone and speak to God in prayer. I pour my heart out to Him in the dark. I feel His presence and listen for His voice. I know He is there. He is in control. He is God!

Sunday mornings the lights in church are on, shining brightly illuminating the cross and the stained-glass windows. Most times sunlight shines through making the glass windows beautiful to look at, and the stark darkness of the cross, now softened by light, is a reminder of the selfless love of Jesus.

People are in pews; the masks are off. There is the sound of organ, piano, and chimes. The Bell Ringers are treating us to what seems like sounds from Heaven. The Chancel Choir is singing lovely songs of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. I love being part of it.

One of our Pastors fills the sanctuary with words of scripture; a message that speaks to our hearts; one of accountability, repentance, guidance, and love. Words that were give to him from God, words God wants us to hear.

I sit in church and wonder.....is worship going on, or are people just sitting in the pew? Genuine worship of God must be done in spirit and truth, a total spiritual recognition of God's gracious loving kindness and divine majesty. (John 4:23) He is God!

Spirit means our praise must come from the heart. Truth means our worship is not just emotional. Unless it is based upon God's Word, all we have is a soothing sentimental feeling. This kind of experience never lasts or promotes the spiritual growth God wants for us.

Please take some time and ask yourself why do I attend church? Ask yourself, is it habit or duty? Am I seeking to catch up with friends? Am I looking for an experience or, do I honestly come to praise and adore God?

Barbara Terardi

Prayer, In His Presence

Rummage Sale News.....



**The drop-off shed
will be CLOSED
until September 1st.
PLEASE do not leave
any items in front
of the shed
OR in the office.**

Volunteer Opportunities at EUMC

We are excited to be re-opening the church for more programming, bible studies and fellowship opportunities! A number of volunteer opportunities are available:

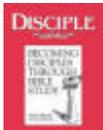
- Sunday morning nursery workers—Critical Need!
- Contemporary Worship Service – coffee bar service, musicians, ushers & laundry
- Englewood Helping Hand – EUMC volunteer team (Captain, Co-captain needed)
 - Food Service Ministry – Wednesday night dinners
 - Congregational Care Ministers
 - Disciple class instructors
 - Sunday school teachers
 - Youth program volunteers
 - EUMW Wednesday morning craft ladies
 - EUMM Country Breakfast

Call the EUMC office at 941-474-5588 and let us know of your interest. Thank you!

Disciple Classes Beginning in September

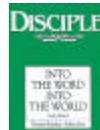
Facilitators Needed

Disciple classes are intensive and transformative. They have 6 days of homework and a weekly 2-2 1/2 hour class. As the name implies, they are an excellent step in an individual's spiritual growth. They require a commitment but are often a pivotal study for those who take it. They typically begin in September and conclude in May. If you are interested in taking Disciple I, II, III or IV or if you would like to facilitate a class, please contact Joyce at Joyce@englewoodumc.net. You must have taken Disciple I to facilitate or take classes 2-4. Classes 2-4 can be taken in any order.



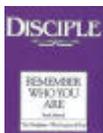
Disciple I “Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study”

Spans the entire Bible in 34 weekly lessons



Disciple II “Into the Word Into the World”

Concentrates on Genesis, Exodus, Luke & Acts in 32 weekly lessons



Disciple III “Remember Who You Are”
Concentrates on the prophets and the Letters of Paul in 32 weekly lessons



Disciple IV “Under the Tree of Life”
Concentrates on The Writings of the Old Testament, Gospel of John & Revelations in 32 weekly lessons

Part 4 “History of Englewood and the Church”

25th Anniversary

During Rev. Stauffer’s pastorate the men put on a ham and egg breakfast at the Woman’s Club Easter Sunrise Service. They charged .85¢ and cleared \$88.

A Fellowship Hall was added at the back of the church building, and the church qualified for two \$500 loans from the conference because it was still in the missions bracket. The Rev. Stauffer wrote a history of the congregation, now grown to 81 members and 162 church school enrollees, and a service was held to “Honor Our Pioneers” in the fall of 1953, twenty-five years after the church was built.

Finances were in good shape. The pastor’s salary was \$2500, the minimum plus \$100 in those days. The budget was \$6100 and the estimated receipts \$6300 reported at the fourth quarterly conference, with the fiscal year still measured from June first. Dale Hagler, who called himself “Ole Red Tape,” was District Superintendent. The budget listed mission items such as \$54 to bombed-out Korean churches and \$65 to Cuba, our Advance Special project. For ourselves, there was a new organ, a pedestal fan for the sanctuary, heaters for the Sunday School room. No salary was voted for the organist, but a gift of \$100 was approved to avoid setting a precedent. Remodeling of the narrow front door made church funerals possible, for caskets could be carried in, and the practice of graveside services with a small organ was discontinued.

Pews were installed to replace the old slat benches and chairs in the sanctuary. Lena Page recalled: “Those old highbacked pews were not conducive to nod or doze, and we had no desire to do so, for, as I recalled, the Lord had sent good men to minister to our church.”

Area residents in 1955 numbered 1400 with double the number in winter. New members, swelling the total to 101, showed the emphasis on evangelism—”trained mind, warmed heart, and serving hand.” A Prayer Group proved to be successful and a set a practice followed ever since. Methodist Youth met on third Sunday evenings. “Chappie” had earned a \$50 monthly increase and an invitation to stay another year, but....

Growing Pains

The Bishop’s cabinet ruled otherwise and Hugh E. (Pat) Murphy became pastor in 1956, and Bill Hart was the Charge Lay Leader. Pledges were \$75 per week but \$80 was needed. Long over-crowded Sunday School rooms caused combined classes, and attendance fell. For extra classroom space, the Board even considered renting the room behind Hicks’ barber shop across the alley.

Other evidence of growth was a cultivating committee which worked on prospects reported by districts—our first Zone plan. Ushering, greeting, and candle lighting were needed services twice each Sunday during the winter months, and 300 bulletins were printed for Easter Sunday. The forerunner of the Long Range Planning Committee forecast a need for 2400 more square feet for Sunday School space and a sanctuary to seat 300. Rev. Murphy predicted the number would be 600 in 15-20 years, and he was right!

But economy dictated caution. With the pastor’s study moved to the church, a curtain was proposed for the study in the parsonage to create a guest room there; hand fans were placed in the pews; the bad water at the parsonage could not be corrected because of the cost of a new well; a special collection paid for a new lawn mower but only repaired the old vacuum cleaner. As for repainting the parsonage— “only as fund allow.”

“The Storm” in the fall of 1957 kept the road commissioners busy so they couldn’t fill the infamous hole in the driveway; and the blue-lighted cross on the church, a memorial from Mr. & Mrs. William Lord for their sons was blown away and had to be removed. We were outgrowing our facilities, but there was to be “no more building ‘till our debt on the Fellowship Hall addition was paid.”

To be continued next month.....

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THE MESSENGER

A SERVANT CHURCH

*Following the example
Of Jesus Christ,
The Englewood United
Methodist Church
Shall strive to make God
And His Kingdom
More real through our
Caring, worship, study
Fellowship & outreach.
To this end, as a
Servant Church,
We offer ourselves
And our facilities
For the Christian growth
Of all persons.*

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Adopted 1978 Revised 1989

