



The Pastor's Connexion

A Publication of Reverend Terry Goodman

Sunday January 14, 2007

Pastor's Thoughts....

As a new calendar year begins, I find myself coming back from the United Methodist Congress on Evangelism. It was a terrific four days of learning. In the weeks ahead, you'll probably be hearing some of my rehashing of the things that I have learned. I feel as if some of the fire that once burned stronger within me and been rekindled. The time away was much needed and I hope to come back to you as a stronger pastor, preacher, and leader.

-tdg

A Season of Prayer

In January and February, a review begins in preparation for the Fixing of the Appointments at Annual Conference in June. In this sense, "fixing" means "setting". A number of factors arise in the process of review that have to be considered: the desires of the local church, the needs of the conference, and the circumstances in the pastors' personal and family lives. In most cases all concerned are likely to say, "Don't fix something that is not broken." Discernment of the varying needs of church, pastor, and conference for the effectiveness of ministry is the vital business of the appointment making process.

Pastor Parish Relations Committees participate in the process. Each minister of the conference has a time of consultation. The Bishop and Cabinet gather the input from each of these, plus the information from retirements, sabbaticals, leaves of absence, departures from ministry, and new pastors. As all of these factors are considered, clearly the recommendations and decisions need to be under girded by prayer.

On behalf of all our pastors, the Pastor-Parish Relations Committees, and the congregations, the Bishop and Cabinet ask our churches to use the season of Epiphany as a time of prayer for discernment and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the work of the appointment process. The guide on the following page is offered to assist your personal prayer and devotion.

Speaking of appointments...

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet on Monday night January 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The primary item on the agenda will be the discernment of pastoral leadership for the upcoming annual conference year. If you have any comments that you would like to make to the committee members, please contact them prior to the meeting. Members of the committee are: Derrill Douthat, chairperson, Dave Parris, Donna Ward, Willie Lowe, Dona Kirby, Opie Forbes, Deana Hicks, Betty Owoc, and Betty Rorrer.

Prayer Emphases for Epiphany

<p>Week 1: January 7-13, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16</p>	<p><i>Reflection: The whole of ministry in our church and the role of each one.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: For those in authority in the church, that they may have discernment of God's purposes and the opportunities to further God's will, and for each congregation, that they may be faithful in God's calling.</i></p>
<p>Week 2: January 14-20, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Romans 10:14-15</p>	<p><i>Reflection: Those who are in ministry and those who are hearing a call.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: For the Lord to raise up pastors to preach Christ and to care for his Church and for that calling to go out in the midst of Resurrection '07 and in other events for youth.</i></p>
<p>Week 3: January 21-27, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Matthew 5:16</p>	<p><i>Reflection: The gifts and graces needed to draw people to Christ.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: For the gifts and graces of all of our pastors in Holston Annual Conference to be used for God's purposes.</i></p>
<p>Week 4: Jan 28-Feb 3, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:8-14</p>	<p><i>Reflection: Faithfulness in the call to ministry in every change or circumstance.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: For the purposes of God to be met in all of the changes that take place and for transitions to be good.</i></p>
<p>Week 5: February 4-10, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9</p>	<p><i>Reflection: Trust in the midst of unexpected changes.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: For those pastors, families, and congregations experiencing an unexpected change in pastoral leadership.</i></p>
<p>Week 6: February 11-17, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: John 14:18-27</p>	<p><i>Reflection: Preparation for change.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: For those pastors, families, and congregations who are experiencing the grief of leaving while at the same time anticipating new leadership and new places of service.</i></p>
<p>Week 7: February 18-24, 2007</p> <p>Scripture: Revelation 1:14-22</p>	<p><i>Reflection: Commitment to live as bold, passionate, and joyful communities of faith.</i></p> <p><i>Prayer: For renewal within our congregations, that we may be faithful in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.</i></p>

By clicking on the scripture links, it will take you to a copy of that scripture on BibleGateway.

Keep the Youth of the Church and the Annual Conference in Your Prayers

On Friday morning, about 24 youth and adults made their way down the road to Gatlinburg to join up with thousands of other youth and adults to attend Resurrection 2007. The weekend long event will repeat next weekend with different youth and leaders. Please be in prayer for all of them as they attend this important event.

A Note About Blogging

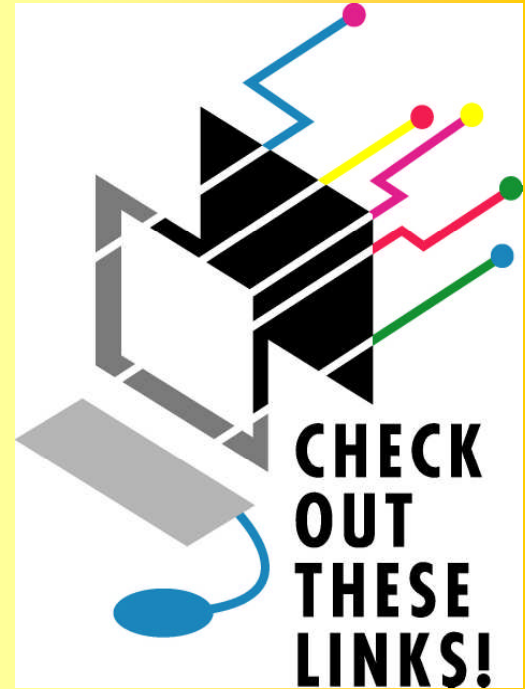
As you might know, I have a blog. The link is found to the right. I encourage you to take the time and visit the blog and offer your comments on what I have said. I just went back and reread some of the thing I have written in the last few months. They are not Pulitzer Prize material. However, I do believe that they are good devotionals. So please take a moment to read some of my thoughts and share some of yours.

Have You Seen the New Faces at the Church?

In just the last few Sundays, I have noticed several new families at the church. Chris Calough (hope I spelled it correctly) and his family have been here the last couple of Sundays. He works with the Scout Troop that meets at the church on Thursdays. Then of course we had Ernest Kirby join the church on Baptism of our Lord Sunday. Please be sure to say hello to him. Today, I noted that Todd & Christa Dunn and their two children were visiting with us. They have just moved from the West Virginia side of the line and live on Fincastle Farm Road. Make sure that you introduce yourself to this family and invite them to come back and worship with us in the future.

Something to Be in Prayer About

I have been talking with the Rev. Richard Edwards at the Annual Conference office and our church is, hopefully, in line to be one of the first churches in the Annual Conference to undergo a Natural Church Development consultation. Persons are still being trained to lead these consultations and once someone can be assigned to us, then we will begin looking at our church from numerous angles to try and discern



[Virginia Avenue UMC Web Page](#)

[Our Church Online Calendar](#)

[The Pastor's Blog](#)

(Please note: Neither I, nor the church, are responsible for the content of the following sites.)

[Holston Annual Conference](#)

[The Official United Methodist Church Web Site](#)

[Sacred Space](#)

The online prayer center of the Irish Jesuits.

[ScreenIt.com](#)

If you are looking for reviews of recently released movies and DVD's check out this site. You don't have to join. Scroll to the bottom of the page on click on NO THANKS

where our weakest link in mission and ministry is located. We will then develop a plan with our consultant to work on strengthening this link in the year ahead.

I need everyone to be in prayer for this process and for the information that it might reveal to us about our church. More importantly, begin praying that we will be able to address the weak link and make it stronger and, in turn, strengthen all the ministries of the church.

Looking Ahead...

- You will want to make sure that you put Sunday February 11th on your calendar. The Ewilda Whitenack UMW Circle is hosting a fundraising Valentines luncheon on that date. A special meal of Spaghetti, salad, bread, and desserts will be served. The cost of the meal is \$5 for adults 13+ \$2.50 for children 6-12, and free to children 5 and under. It would be helpful if you would register for this meal so that we could get a head count.
- If we can convince the United Methodist Men to do the cooking, we will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the church on Tuesday night February 20th.
- We will have a special Ash Wednesday worship service at the church on Wednesday February 21st @ 6:00 p.m.

Alpha Course to Start in February

We are going to start a new Alpha Course on Tuesday February 13th at noon in the fellowship hall. This course will be a one hour meeting with each person bringing a sack lunch for the session. We are going to use the shorter versions of the video to allow a quick study of the material. If you there are 15 sessions in the Alpha Course and we will finish up in late May.

If you are interested, then please contact the church office and let us know so that we can order a student book for you. The cost of the book will be \$10.00.

In case you haven't heard by now, Alpha presents the basics of the Christian faith and helps those attending draw closer to one another in a small group setting. For more information on Alpha, contact one of the graduates and ask them about the course: Buzzie & Linda Douthat, Bonnie Angove, Barbara Nash, Glenda Estep, Boyd & Donna Comer, Cindy Workman, Joe & Jewel Johnson, Dave & Judy Parris, Dorothy Chudina, Opie Forbes, and Betty Owoc.