

This week's

## Church News and Notes

18 Sep 2011

### Need to Contact One Of Our Ministers?

Pastor Ray Ake	330.531.4221	<a href="mailto:LivingWatersPreach@yahoo.com">LivingWatersPreach@yahoo.com</a>
Pastor Bill Johnson	330.507.6086	<a href="mailto:BillJLSW@aol.com">BillJLSW@aol.com</a>
Pastor Dan Yargo	330.506.3871	<a href="mailto:danyargo@yahoo.com">danyargo@yahoo.com</a>

### The LWC Faith Academy Fall Line-Up

Even if some Academy offerings have already begun, you can still join any and all of our LWC Faith Academy classes. I believe that at every single one of the offerings we have folks gathering together from at LEAST two churches as we stretch towards God together! Thank you for your faithfulness. Here's the weekly schedule if you would like to join us:

**Mondays**    1:30pm    Disciple Bible Study – OT, starting September 12<sup>th</sup>, at Brookfield  
                  7:00pm    Disciple Bible Study – OT, starting September 12<sup>th</sup>, at Coalburg

**Tuesdays**    6:30pm    Zumba, \$3 per session, (Tue & Thurs is \$5), ongoing, at Masury  
                  7:00pm    Grief Recovery starting October 11<sup>th</sup>, at Brookfield

**Wednesdays** 4:30pm    Pathways for Children, starting October 5<sup>th</sup>, Masury  
                  5:30pm    Beginning Yoga, \$5, starting September 7<sup>th</sup>, at Brookfield  
                  6:30pm    Advanced Yoga, \$5, starting September 7<sup>th</sup>, at Brookfield  
                  Kid's Ministries, starting in October, at Hubbard

**Thursdays**    6:30pm    Zumba, \$3 per session (\$5 per week), ongoing, at Masury  
                  6:30pm    Christ-Follower – Gospel of Luke, starting September 22, at Coalburg  
                  7:00pm    Small Group/Devotional, starting September 8<sup>th</sup>, at Masury  
                  7:00pm    Weight Management, starting September 15<sup>th</sup>, at Hubbard

by the by - Jesus said to tell you, "See you there!"

### Here's a Great Clip

This would be a wonderful conversation starter for a Sunday school class or some other group to think about together: <http://www.youtube.com/BOARDOFDISCIPLESHIP#p/u>

### Roll On!

David the Elder was first. I don't know why, certainly wasn't from any example I set. Although, Jason the Younger followed him a few years later. Perhaps David was following in the tire-tracks of his uncle Carl (who has had a delivery route for years and stocks "Little Debbie" products), I just don't really know. Then again, kids have always done all kinds of stuff that is beyond the understanding of their parents.

What I do know is that Jason followed David a few years later. Regardless, both of my boys are tractor-trailer drivers. David the Elder has a 'city' route now and is home every night, Jason the Younger is an over the road (OTR) driver who only makes it home weekends. Both love what they do (can't imagine it). But, it used to be different when they first began, and still is for thousands and thousands of OTR drivers.

Lots of OTR drivers are NOT able to make it home on the weekend and end up spending the required extended 'down time' each week at truck stops across the nation on many, many a weekend. That of course includes the three (Truck World, Flying J, & Love's) truck stops located at Interstate Exit 234 by us. ODOT & Federal regulations require an extended down time once a week, and of course for most drivers that weekly down time falls on the weekend when businesses are closed and not accepting deliveries – my boys hated those 1 - o - n - g down times far from home. Want to bet on if all/most OTR drivers feel the same (yes, yes I know – Methodists don't believe in gambling etc – it's a figure of speech OK, and a sure thing isn't even a bet anyway). I do know from conversations I have had with drivers at Truck World that some OTR drivers do indeed feel that way, and yearn for a way to worship God &/or attend a church on the weekends when they are 'down' and stuck here.

Here's what God has been fussing at me about: All four of our LWC churches are close to Exit 234, and we have the most wonderful thing in the world to offer anyone. At the truck stops there is a group of folks every Sunday with no friends, no transportation, no appointments, no commitments STUCK here with no options to go and do (surprisingly enough, according to David the Elder and Jason the Younger, few businesses, shops, restaurants, malls and parks etc seem to welcome semi tractors pulling into their lot for a casual visit).

Sooooo, let's see – 4 churches and 4 weeks in a month, Jesus Christ's command to go forth and comb the back ways and alley-ways (etc, etc) to all the world . . . . If one person who from each church would be willing to commit to make the rounds once a month . . . . .

Dare we not???? We could easily set it up with the truck stops so that word gets out to the drivers that someone will pick them up for worship each week **IF** you are willing! We would need at least one person from each of the LWC churches to commit to swinging by the truck stops one Sunday a month and offering them Christ. There may, of course, be weeks when it is a wasted trip and one one comes – and there may be weeks when it is the most important and powerful thing you can do for someone else in a whole month of Sundays.

Can you help? Is God calling you to make this your personal ministry? It would be a commitment for one Sunday a month to run down to the truck stops before and after church (less often of course if there are several folks from your church that are willing to give it a try) Please hold this in your prayers and if God is talking to you, please contact your Pastor!!! What the heck, I bet we could even get magnetic sign or two to put on the car/van so that all you had to do was show up at the right place at the right time and honk the horn!

## **Fall Faith Focus**

So friends, have you started working on the Charge Conference forms yet? Neal (Masury UMC) noted that the CFC (the evaluation form the SPRC is working through with the pastor, and the center of the new efforts to focus the church towards ministry and future instead of self and past) is based on the book by Bishop Schnase, [Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#) by [Robert Schnase](#) (Paperback - May 1, 2007). Neal was wondering if perhaps since [5 Practices](#) is obviously being used as a foundation stone for the renewal and re-visioning of the Methodist Church if we shouldn't as a church share in what it being envisioned as our future together!

Well, duh! Nothing more powerful than a man with a Vision, a Word from God. So . . . . I know that Hubbard must have been listening closer to the Holy Spirit than the rest of us and already started down this path of hope (well done Pastor Dan and the Hubbard faithful), and oh wait, Brookfield looked at this and I think spent a year with “Radical Hospitality” being their focus (so, well

done Bill and the Brookfield faithful too!) but as for us slow to get going folks, let's get going . . . . .

**Here's the challenge folks:**

- 1) Every family in the church is challenged to get a copy of 5 Practices and we will read it together as a church, one chapter a week.
- 2) Pastor Ray will be preaching a series of 5 sermons each based on one of the practices at Coalburg and Masury. Pastor Bill will be doing the same at Brookfield.
- 3) We will have a discussion/study time (or times if necessary to help everyone participate) during the week based on the sermon and chapter for the week. I have already ordered study guide materials so we will start soon, perhaps October!

Schnase contends that successful congregations often have certain characteristics in common. These fundamental practices demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. They also help churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**The five practices of fruitful congregations:**

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- Extravagant Generosity

Did you notice the power of the adjectives used in describing these practices? Not just hospitality, but “Radical” hospitality etc., “Passionate”, “Intentional”, “Risk Taking”, “Extravagant”. Wouldn't those be great words for people to use in describing OUR church!!!!!!

If you don't have a copy already, please order yours as soon as possible!

**Cokesbury**

<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/search.aspx?ddlSearchScope=&txtSearchQuery=5%20Practices%20of%20Fruitful%20Congregations>

**Amazon** [http://www.amazon.com/Practices-Fruitful-Congregations-Robert-Schnase/dp/0687645409/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1315920956&sr=8-1#reader\\_0687645409](http://www.amazon.com/Practices-Fruitful-Congregations-Robert-Schnase/dp/0687645409/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1315920956&sr=8-1#reader_0687645409)

**CBD** <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/5-practices-of-fruitful?store=book>

**Brookfield Happenings**

- Sunday School – 9:30 am
- Sunday Worship – 10:45 am
- Disciple Bible Study - O.T. Monday – 1:30 pm
- Yoga – Every Wednesday
  - Beginners class – 5:30 pm
  - Advanced class – 6:30 pm
- PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO ANGEL FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR THE MONTH OF

SEPTEMBER

**Check out this page when you get a spare moment:**

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=756434a4416d9bc710b1f7cfe&id=41dde66a04&e=0cb8c5f3a9>

**Pastors Ray and Cathy are gonna have a PICNIC**

Mark your calendars and grab the plates and forks! The good people of Masury and Coalburg are invited to join us on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 9:00pm at the “Coalburg Parsonage Park” under the pavilion. We'll have a bonfire, and there are swings, sandbox and climbing wall for the little ones. Also a volleyball net and horseshoes for the older if laughing, feasting and talking aren't enough. We'll take care of the meats and buns, coffee and drinks. Bring a dish or two to pass, table service for your family and we will all be blessed to be a blessing together.

**Hubbard Happenings**

The HCIA provides assistance for approximately 60 families each month. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help with the food drive by picking one or two of the items listed to donate. Our goal is to get 60 of each items listed. Thank you in advance for your help in this very necessary project. Items needed are: Spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, strawberry preserves canned peas, pork & beans, elbow macaroni, egg noodles, grape jelly, peanut butter, mac & cheese, jello, crackers, celery soup, fruit cocktail, tomato soup, pancake mix, green beans, tuna fish, vegetable soup, chicken soup, syrup, toilet paper, paper towels.

On Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00pm we will be hosting Joe Troyer, a Mennonite Missionary to speak on the issue of human trafficking. Please plan to attend and learn about this heart-breaking problem. A love offering will be taken for Mr Troyer's work.

From September through November, Missions will be collecting loose change for the “Secret Santa” Project to help children of the Hubbard area enjoy a happy Christmas. Last year the project fell short of funds. We are working in conjunction with Hubbard High School on this project. There will be a table set up in the Overflow room and back of the Sanctuary. Please consider taking a jar and filling with 'loose' change to help this worthy cause for our Hubbard children.

The annual Crop Walk will take place on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2:00pm. Registration begins at 1:30 pm.

**Attention ALL Youth Leaders!!**

As our youth groups are getting up and going for the year, we need to add a strong YOUTH focus to this weekly News and Notes e-news. I would like to have the “youth news” become the lead off information each week, and I will need your help to do so. The youth leaders of all four churches need to get information in to me by Thursdays so that it can get inserted into the News and Notes. You also need to get the e-mail addresses from your kids so we can make sure they are all receiving the news letter. Please help us help our kids!

**Here's a great site with all kinds of Hope and Ideas**

[http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspxc=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084849&ct=11199857&n\\_otoc=1](http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspxc=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084849&ct=11199857&n_otoc=1)

## The Last Word

- How's this for an idea: Creating a LWC Saturday evening Faith Community
- How's this for a name: Souper Saturdays
- How's this for a plan: Soup Supper starting say at 6:00pm, casual gathering – coffee house feel, child care, blue jean preaching, contemporary music – band/live
- Location: Masury Fellowship Hall (big space, attached kitchen, outside entrance etc)
- Ministry Objectives: Place for young folk, couples to worship and see as 'their' space would enable our churches to offer an entirely different faith experience might grow into a full fledged worship community might become a 'food' outreach into our poorest community

What we would need is some folks willing to commit to making a crock pot of soup or two. We would need to find some music folks, keyboard & drum? A garage band looking for a venue to play regularly. (they wouldn't even need to be Christian! We can evangelize them for Jesus!) Someone to make some signs, posters, put something in paper, our church newsletters etc. I'd be willing to preach and Bill and Dan will too.

Well, that's about it for this week folks, God Bless all and enjoy living in the Kingdom@

P.S. Be careful out there and be nice to someone – tell them about Jesus