



The Link



Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church, 318 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, KY 40213 502-585-2176
 Official Supporter of the Fairness Campaign
 Pastor: Reverend Jean Hawxhurst
 May 2009

Our Mission: To share the Love of God in the heart of the city

The Spiritual Discipline of Prayer

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17, TNIV)

We continue, with this May edition of the LINK, thinking together about the ten spiritual disciplines of the United Methodist Church, as upheld by our bishops. This month I invite us to intentionally engage in, the discipline of PRAYER.

I believe prayer simply (...and profoundly... and divinely) is communication with God. Prayer is our most clear-cut way of being in relationship with our Creator. It is not something of which we need to be afraid, or which we think we cannot do well. Prayer is something all of us can do, in ways that are unique to us and to our own relationships with God through Christ.

I like to think of prayer as being similar to the communication we share with anyone with whom we want to be in positive relationship. The difference in the dialogue of prayer is that it is with the One Who Is Holy and Eternal, our Best Friend and our Savior. So, this kind of communication takes on special significance in our lives as God-seekers.

As any good communication is, prayer is both talking and listening. Mahatma Gandhi said it is “a longing of the soul.” It is our expression of our desire to be as close as we possibly can to that which is divine. So, in prayer we both share that desire with God, and we listen out of respect and to learn.

So often we Christians use prayer as a means to an end. We want something, so we ask God for it, and that is the deepest level we experience in prayer. Unfortunately, that leaves us doing all the talking and none of the listening. Sharing our deepest thoughts and needs with God is vital in our relationship, but prayer is so much more than that. Quieting ourselves in order to listen to God is also vital. James Dillet Freeman said, “Sometimes the answer to prayer is not that it changes life, but that it changes you.” We can only allow changes to happen if we listen and are open to what God has to offer us.

When we begin to joyfully pray, to communicate with God, on a constant basis (as is suggested in 1 Thessalonians 5:17) our whole lives become a prayer. With every action we are in communication with God, and everything we do or say becomes about being in prayer with God. Just think how our lives would be different, Fourth Avenue would be different, and this city would be different if we all lived in prayer with God!

Blessings, Pastor Jean



Jean Hawxhurst

Leadership Reminder

There are several ways to communicate with the church and community. If you have a message you want to get out to everyone you can do any of the following:

1. Get a short announcement for the weekly Sunday bulletin to Jeanne Parcher in the office by Thursday at noon. (Let her know if you also want the announcement to be included in the powerpoint for Sunday morning, and she will get it to Kimberly Jones.)
2. Get an announcement or a short article for this monthly newsletter to Louis Martin on or before the 20th of the month. E-mail louismartin48@yahoo.com
3. Get an announcement to the "Religious Happenings" section of the Courier Journal. They usually like to receive the announcements by Tuesday.
4. Write a report for the Leadership Council to be shared with all the leadership of the church. These reports are due to Bob Boutell on the Sunday before Leadership Council meetings.
5. If you would like to put up flyers around the church building, please ask Pastor Jean.
6. If you would like an announcement to be considered for inclusion in the pastor's weekly email, please ask Pastor Jean.

Worship in May in the 10:45 Sunday Service

On Sunday mornings, may we be about worship. Let's not "do business" on Sunday mornings, unless we absolutely have to. Instead, let's focus on God, loving God, and being in holy fellowship with each other.

- May 3 – John 10:11-18, The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Communion.
- May 10 – John 15:1-8, The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Mothers' Day and Hat Day!
- May 17 – Dr. Wayne Anderson preaching, The Sixth Sunday of Easter.
- May 24 – Psalm 1 and 1 John 5:9-13, Aldersgate Sunday.
- May 31 – Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27 and Acts 2:1-21, Pentecost.

8:45 a.m. Worship Schedule

May 3—Prayer, Praise & Healing
May 10—Roxie Keese
May 17—Larry Curry
May 24—Chris Baker
May 31—Bob Boutell

Joining the Church

There are four ways we welcome people into membership in the United Methodist Church:

1. By professing faith in God through Christ and baptism.
2. By re-affirming a faith that has fallen asleep for a while.
3. By transferring membership from another congregation.
4. By becoming an affiliate or associate member (who retains membership in a different home congregation).

If you want to talk with one of our pastors about what it might mean to join the church, please call the church office at 502-585-2176.

Wednesday Evening Open House Schedule

The Wednesday Open House continues to be a space for us to fellowship and form our faith. Continued thanks to Jose' and Martha for the music, and Peggy and friends for the snack suppers. *In May we will be doing a Bible study on the Gospel of John, in order to follow along with the sermons for the 10:45 services on Sunday mornings.* Read ahead, and come and join us!

Musical Practice Times

If you would like to become a part of one of these wonderful musical groups, please see Ann Jones, Martha Stewart or Pastor Jean!

The House Band (contemporary music) practices on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
The Gospel Group practices on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
The New Song Choir (variety, choral music) practices on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Loving God's Creation

As a member of **Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light**, Fourth Avenue is committed to doing our part to care for God's creation. Here are some tips from Louisville Gas and Electric that will do just that – and save you money!

*When your home is dark, walk through all the rooms. Notice the little red or green lights on your electric devices. All these are using electricity. Consider unplugging.

*If you have a yard, consider adding trees and bushes to reduce energy bills, regenerate the earth's oxygen, and provide a home for birds.

*Join the LG&E Green Energy Program for as little as \$5 per month and ensure renewable energy is being developed and used. (www.eon-us.com/green)

Arts and Spirituality

From Courtland Rose

The Caryl Keely families collaborative artistic expressions began on April 27th and will be on exhibit in the Central Hall through May 31st. Look for their meet and greet mid month.

A special thank you to the members of the church staff for last month's displays that showcased their "hidden" talents.

Got artistic talent, or would you be interested in beginning and leading an art class? Contact Courtland.

Help Ministries

Help Ministries is our local, area ministry. They exist, as an arm of the ministries of 7 local churches, in order to provide help to those in our neighborhood in need. Their building is located at 1031 South Fourth Street, and their office hours are 9:30 to 11:30 weekday mornings.

Children's Ministry

Our children are wonderful, fun and beautiful. If you would like to help with the Children's Sunday School class, please see Bob Boutell. If you would like to help with the children's time during the 10:45 worship service, please see Jan Cieremans.

DTV

If you need a \$40 coupon to get your TV converter box, please see Pastor Jean.
(And, thank you to Edy Johnson, who donated this coupon!).

Financial Update

Your Stewardship Team continues to be hard at work for you. A new audit team has been formed, and is going to check over the books to make sure we are using best practices in all our finances. Thanks to Marjorie Dufek, Pam Anderson and Jack Steiner for this effort to keep us moving in a good and healthy direction.

Meanwhile, we are running a bit of a deficit already this year. We have been spending more than our offerings have been. If you haven't sent in a donation in celebration of Easter, please remember to do so!

May Birthdays

From Jeanne Parcher

May 3 Jose' Gonzalez
May 3 Greg Sanders
May 4 Josh Coffey
May 5 Rev. Pauline Carr
May 6 Ron King
May 10 Barbara Sayler
May 10 Debbie Sokoloff
May 11 Bill Yates
May 12 Matthew Blandford
May 14 Lindsey Christensen
May 17 Ed Copeland
May 17 Jeanne Parcher
May 18 Chuck Kleinhans
May 18 Alphonzo Rodriguez
May 20 Alex Richardson
May 21 Reiss Heady
May 21 Juanita Kissling
May 22 Chris Baker
May 22 Carol Rhodes
May 25 Carolyn Cressman
May 25 Edy Johnson
May 26 Margaret Carroll
May 28 Sarah Richardson-Sloan
May 29 Jean Gross

In Memoriam

From Jeanne Parcher

Tom Holladay entered into eternal life March 30. Visitation was at the Highland Funeral Home on April 2. The service of death and resurrection was also held at Highland on April 3rd with burial at Resthaven Memorial Park. We will all miss Tom very much and our prayers are with his family.

Thank You's to

- *Jan Cieremans for coordinating the children's time during the 10:45 service.
- *Paul Porter for blessing us with his trumpet playing
- *Marjorie Dufek for leading the audit team
- *Louis Martin, Lisa Schmitt, Joyce Wilmoth, and Connie Myer for helping Gil Schroerlucke form the LINK Team
- *the UMM and friends for the great Easter breakfast!
- *all those who helped decorate Easter eggs and carry out the Easter egg hunt.

Congratulations to

- *Sami, Chris and Adam Baker on the new addition to their family. Rachel was born
- *Yana Linton on the baptism of her daughter, Emmoni.
- *John Anderson, Louis Martin, Regina Edwards, Blair Butler and Theo Butler, who have all joined our church family within the last couple months.

Church Calendar

May 6- 5:00 p.m. prayer in chapel.
May 6- 5:30 p.m. snack supper in parlor.
May 6- 6:00 p.m. study and discussion on John in parlor
May 6- 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee.
May 9- UMM at Kavanaugh.
May 9- 12:30 p.m. Bible Study.
May 10- 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School.
May 11- 5:00 p.m. Worship Team.
May 13- 5:00 p.m. prayer in chapel.
May 13- 5:30 p.m. snack supper in parlor.
May 13- 6:00 p.m. study and discussion on John in parlor
May 13- 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee.
May 16- 12:30 p.m. Bible Study.
May 17- 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School.
May 17- Craig Tuck graduates from Louisville Seminary!
May 17- 3:00 p.m. District meeting at St. Matthews UMC.
May 20- 5:00 p.m. prayer in chapel.
May 20- 5:30 p.m. snack supper in parlor.
May 20- 6:00 p.m. study and discussion on John in parlor
May 23- 12:30 p.m. Bible Study.
May 24- 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School.
May 24- 12:30 p.m. Music meeting.
May 25- OFFICE CLOSED.
May 29- Community Music Event – see Pastor Craig.
May 30- 12:30 p.m. Bible Study.
May 31- 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School.

Saturday Bible Study

We continue to be blessed by Dr. Dean Harper of St. Paul United Methodist Church with a quality Saturday Bible study. The study is open to all members and anyone in the community. We meet from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the art room, and we are currently working our way through the book of Acts. You do not need to make a reservation – just show up!

Welcome New Members

From Jeanne Parcher

Blair Butler, Regina Edwards, and Theo Butler were welcomed into the family of Fourth Avenue on April 12th. Regina and Blair are married, and joined by reaffirmation of faith; their daughter, Theo, joined by profession of faith. Their two foster children, Vivi and Isaiah will be added to our constituency roll.



Blair is a teacher, Regina is an attorney who likes to act, and Vivi is, according to our sources, said to be a young aspiring “thespian”. The family resides at 1517 S. Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40208

Fresh Stop Soon Coming

From Deborah Pennington

Our aim is very simple: Feed people, support local farmers and serve our neighbors.

We want our neighbors to experience the delight of preparing, cooking and enjoyably eating field fresh farm produce, raised locally and harvested within hours or a few days of delivery.

Beginning Saturday, June 6th, farm share members will bag and pick up their fresh produce every Saturday at the church from 10am-12pm. Fresh Stop continues through October 17th. Every Saturday, there will be cooking demonstrations, music, holistic health mini-seminars or other fun activities as a way of encouraging our neighbors to share the joy of fresh food and healthy living with each other!

To build a more sustainable food system, Fresh Stop shares can be purchased at a 50% discount by low income shareholder families. This fair price is possible in part because of donations. We invite and encourage donations!

The creation of this program was inspired by the City-Fresh Cuyahoga County, Ohio program. We owe thanks as well to The Community Farm Alliance for bringing the program idea to our church.

Shitake & Kale Recipe

From Lindsey Christensen

Prep Time: 2 minutes

Cooking Time: 10 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

1/2 pound shiitake mushrooms

1 tablespoon olive oil

1-2 cloves crushed garlic

1 bunch kale, chopped

pinch of salt

Directions:

- 1. Warm oil in pan on medium heat with minced garlic until aromas of garlic are released, about 2-3 minutes.*
- 2. Add chopped shiitake mushrooms, stir-fry for 5 minutes.*
- 3. Add chopped kale, stir-fry for a couple of minutes.*
- 4. Add a splash of water and pinch of salt to pan, cover and let steam for 4 minutes.*

United Methodist Women

Meeting Dates

From Joyce P. Wilmoth

May 5- Rose Circle; Program by Mary Sands -10:30 a.m.

May 12- Benz Circle - 10:30 a.m.

May 18- Wesleyan Women - 6:00 p.m.

May 22- Virginia Morton Circle - 6:30 p.m.

The Hospital Hospitality House is in need of coffee (ground), laundry detergent, and Endust.

A Word From the President

From Caryl Keely

You have no idea how many children need a toy to hold on to during difficult times. The UMW would like to invite the Fourth Avenue United Methodist Members to join our search for stuffed toys such as stuffed bears, dogs, rabbits, etc. We want to give the donated stuffed animals to Kosair Charities so they can be distributed to children in need. Please leave your contribution in the mail room marked "UMW."

Benz Circle Meeting

From Joyce P. Wilmoth

Surely the spirit of the Lord is in this place.....

The Benz Circle met on April 14 with nine Christian sisters gathered around a table eating coffee cake baked by Mary Bomar.

We shared devotionals from books by Max Lucado, handwritten essay by Juanita Kissling from her college days and memories from Easters (past and present).

One highlight was a plate which had been presented to Mae Salyers in May 1967 and signed by many who worked in the kitchen. It was nostalgic to hear the names read again and remember our brothers/sisters.

Another special moment is sharing "the way we were" in 1999. We have minutes of circle meetings from a decade ago and it is a blessing to remember those who used to meet with us.

United Methodist Women love God and each other. Visit a circle and find out for yourself.

Rose Circle Meeting

From Sally Rose

Pam Scott, Program Director of the Healing Place for Women presented the program at the UMW General Meeting on Tuesday, April 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Mary Sands, a former member of Fourth Avenue, will give the program at the Rose Circle meeting on May 5 at 10:30 a.m. She will talk about her experiences since walking the Appalachian Trail some years ago. She will show us the latest quilt she has made. Epworth UMC quilters make the quilts and sell them, giving the proceeds to the Children's Home in Versailles. We welcome all to this meeting. She's anxious to see her old friends at Fourth Avenue.

United Methodist Men

From David Stewart

Important Dates

May 9 will be a work day and a birthday celebration for Bill Yates at Kavanaugh.

The National gathering of United Methodist Men will be in Nashville, Tennessee from July 10th through the 12th.

----- **B R E A K I N G N E W S** -----
B R E A K I N G N E W S -----

S A V E T H I S D A T E !

The music ministry will raise funds during the month of June to expand and enhance the sanctuary's sound and video systems. Specifically, please mark your calendar **NOW** for Friday evening June 12th and Saturday June 13th. Those hours will be packed with fun and excitement at the church - activities sure to please church members of all ages and our guests in the Old Louisville Neighborhood.

Planning for the event, known affectionately as Fourth Avenue LIVE, is still underway and committees are forming. If you'd like to lend a hand and become a part of this effort, please contact Ann Jones or Jack Steiner. As of this writing, firm activities include a **Silent Auction** with fabulous and exotic wares, **LIVE Shares** to "own" an interest in the goal and **Fourth Avenue Idol** featuring live acts of talent and spirit. Of course, a United Methodist happening would not be complete without plenty of delicious food, beverage and sweets! A highlight will be a traditional **Pancake Breakfast** by the UMM on Saturday morning.

The 24th chapter of Luke describes the journey of two believers traveling to the village of Emmaus. Along the way they were joined by the risen Christ but they did not recognize Him. Later, during the fellowship of a meal, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and their hearts burned with the Holy Spirit. The music ministry wants to emphasize music and singing as a part of the fellowship of worship. Can you imagine worship without hymns, without music? Isn't it often music that opens our eyes to the living Christ? Keep this in mind as you consider your participation in this important weekend.

Looking back on Methodist and black history

From Charles Brockwell

This is an abbreviated version of the article, "Looking back on Methodist and black history", written by Donald W. Haynes in the February 2009 issue of *THE UNITED METHODIST REPORTER*. Dr. Haynes is an instructor in United Methodist Studies at Hood Theological Seminary. Edited by Louis Martin.

The *Chicago Tribune* published in 1880 a southern Methodist preacher's sermon around Thanksgiving. Other major city newspapers reprinted it. Soon Atticus Greene Haygood was the talk of the nation in circles far beyond his small college in Oxford, Ga. Haygood was president of Emory College and a former chaplain in the Confederate Army.

Haygood went on to outline areas in which the South was "woefully lacking," including schools that "are painful inadequate," Southern literature that does not glorify the old South, the lack of endowed funds for its colleges and universities, and a lack of initiative in moving from an agrarian society into the Industrial Age.

To children of impoverished parents, he preached: "The true golden day of the South lies not in the past when some were in shackles but is yet to dawn since all are free. The light is breaking; the shadows will flee. If I never see it, my life must be dedicated to the propositions that my children will."

He admitted a change of heart and said he had received "new light" regarding the issues of the South. "I do believe many things now that I did not believe twenty years ago," he said. "Moreover, if it please God to spare me twenty years longer, I hope to have on many present problems more new light! I expect to believe some things I now reject and to reject some things I now believe. And I will not be alone."

As for Haygood, his sermon propelled him into the national limelight, but did not turn his fellow Georgian Methodists against him. They elected him as bishop in 1882, but he refused the honor and became director of the John F. Slater Foundation, working "on behalf of the Negro in education, voting rights, and ownership of property."

Haygood was again elected bishop in 1890 by two-thirds majority, though he was not even a delegate to General Conference!

When the Confederacy fell, northern Methodists by the thousands came south to educate and evangelize former slaves. The northern Methodist missionaries to whom Haygood referred came with three differing messages:

The African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) and A.M.E.Z. missionaries came with the "gospel of freedom," which called for black separatism and dignity. Theirs was a message that re-surfaced in the 1960s as "black theology."

The Methodist Episcopal Church missionaries came to bring the Methodists who had bolted in 1844 back into the mother church. Their message was called the "gospel of inclusiveness" calling for the end of all racial barriers. Their vision was the "radicalization of the nation" as a casteless, bi-racial society upending the old order. They stressed sobriety, hard work, honesty, marital fidelity, self-discipline, education and personal achievements.

By 1868, the "northern" Methodist Episcopal Church had won enough converts from former slaves and white Republicans to form eight new conferences in the states of the old Confederacy. Those southern conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church remained intact until 1939!

In the Confederacy in 1865, seven of every 10 former slaves who were baptized were Methodists! Wesley never wavered on his commitment to abolish slavery; Asbury did. So did our venerable bishops McKendree and Soule.

The God-given opportunity of 19th-century Methodism often haunts me. In the introduction of my own book on the history of Methodism, I write, "It is a defensible hypothesis that Methodism could have prevented the Civil War if her preachers had kept the 1784 position on the abomination of slavery."

All of it must be contextualized by the times, when Methodists of different regions and races were figuring out the mission of the church. Most importantly, Caucasian Methodists were "connecting" with African Americans, and millions became children of Wesley.

Oh, that in the 20th century we had maintained the passion and zeal!

A Thought.....

This article about Atticus Haygood demonstrates how social issues, slavery in this case, perplexes us, and creates personal struggle as well as division in families, communities, countries, and the church. Haygood himself, in reflection, admitted his change of opinion on that specific issue. Many of the current social issues, such as abortion, women's rights, gay/lesbian issues, access to health care, illegal immigration, and ethnic (faith) conflict, involve the same struggles and division that slavery did. There were peoples and leaders who changed their minds and discovered it was wrong to have supported slavery. At what point in time may we be reviewing our history and observing that there were those who acknowledged their change of views on these current social issues which are just as perplexing and divisive as slavery had been?

Louis Martin

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Did You Ever see the signs that read,

**IF YOU LIVED HERE
YOU WOULD BE HOME NOW**

?

Well, if you had contributed an article, you could be read here now!
Consider submitting something for the June issue.
Contact **any** member of the LINK team.