



The Booster

Calvary United Methodist Church

August 2013



Pastoral Pondering....

I was cleaning out some files from my computer when I came across this old file. I started thinking about it a lot. It truly is something our entire Congregation needs to look at. So I'm passing it on to you. I would welcome your reflections as you too prayerfully consider the points in the article written by Thom Rainer, a church consultant.

5 Warning Signs of Declining Church Health

by Thom Rainer

December 17, 2004, should have been a day of celebration. Nellie Jo and I had been married 27 years on that date. We were in Naples, Florida, enjoying the sunshine and each other.

Then the phone call came.

We had been given a great deal of confidence that the biopsy would likely prove negative. Proceed with our anniversary celebration, we were told. In the unlikely event that the report was not good, they would let us know. The report was not good. Nellie Jo had cancer. The next two years would prove to be some of the most challenging years of our lives and marriage.

When an Unhealthy Body Looks Healthy

Looking back, it is amazing to recall how healthy Nellie Jo looked. She showed no signs of fatigue or sickness. Had she not seen a couple of warning signs, she might have found out too late about her cancer. She might not be alive today. I've seen it countless times. My team would go into a church for a consultation, and we would begin interviewing church members. We would hear from many of the congregants that their church was healthy and thriving. Then we would see the warning signs. And we would begin to fear that the apparently healthy body was not really healthy at all.

The church was sick. Some of the churches were really sick.

Five Warning Signs

What were some of the warning signs my team saw?

Though the list is not exhaustive, these five issues were common. Some of the churches had one or two on the list; some had all five.

1. The church has few outwardly focused ministries. Most of the budget dollars in the church are spent on the desires and comforts of church members. The ministry staff spends most of its time taking care of members, with little time to reach out and minister to the community the church is supposed to serve.

2. The dropout rate is increasing. Members are leaving for other churches in the community, or they are leaving the local church completely. A common exit interview theme we heard was a lack of deep biblical teaching and preaching in the church.

3. The church is experiencing conflict over issues of budgets and building. When the focus of church members becomes how the facilities and money can meet their preferences, church health is clearly on the wane.

4. Corporate prayer is minimized. If the church makes prayer a low priority, it makes God a low priority.

5. The pastor has become a chaplain. The church members view the pastor as their personal chaplain, expecting him to be on call for their needs and preferences. When he doesn't make a visit at the expected time or when he doesn't show up for the Bible class fellowship, he receives criticism. In not a few cases, the pastor has lost his job at that church because he was not omnipresent for the church members.

The Academy of Lay Ministries has announced it's 2013 fall session.

It will be held at Covenant UMC, 10001 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne IN 46825. The Host is Rev. Karen Koelsch. The dates and times are:

September 15th thru October 13th (Five Sundays)

2 -5:00 pm

Commitment Service is 4:00 pm October 13th.

Week-End Sessions are being held at Auburn First UMC, 1203 East 7th St., Auburn IN 46706

Host is Pastor Ted Jansen

Dates and times are:

October 19, 9-5:00 pm

October 20, 2-5:00 pm

Applications are in the office if you are interested in attending.

Food Bank Report

For the first 6 months of 2013 you have given 1052 food items and \$1835 cash. Waynedale Food Bank has told us they have served approximately 2468 families. Wow, keep up the giving & Joyce & Lloyd Hambrock will continue delivering to the Waynedal U.M.C. food bank. (just a note: we delivered 153 items on 7-15-13. Thanks to the Cub Scouts for helping with items)

VBS 2013

Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS this year so wonderful! One person alone can't make VBS happen. With God's help and the involvement of many talented people giving of their time and energy, that is what makes VBS so amazing! I can't thank everyone enough for stepping up to the plate to make sure the kids had a fun and meaningful VBS.

God bless you all!

Kate

T-Ball Season

T-ball season has ended in success with 51 kids who were able to learn a little about how to play and work as a team. Elaine, Doni, and I would like to thank everyone for donating drinks and snacks and especially the Searchers for helping to serve them. Have a great summer!

Calvary Youth Sports, Tammy Taylor



Study Connection Outreach

The school year will begin soon and so its time once again to ask for volunteers to work Study Connection. If you want to get involved with this wonderful outreach, or if you have been involved before and want to help again, contact Pat White as soon as possible. She would like to get it going by the end of September.

PUSH - Pray Until Something Happens

PUSH may not be meeting on Sunday mornings, but we have not stopped praying for loved ones and for our church and country. If you have a prayer concern, or update for a prayer concern, please do not hesitate to let PUSH know. You can contact the church, or e-mail Ginger at bookermom@gmail.com or Carol at butterflygrandma@frontier.com.

As in James 5:13-16 - Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms; PUSH will lift your prayers to the Lord. Thanks!

PUSH Prayer Group

The Scrip Program is Back!!

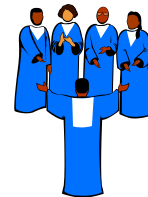
Scrips are a great way to have cards for gifts, groceries, gas, entertainment, restaurants and shopping without having to carry a large amount of cash. At the same time you would be giving back to the church. How you ask?

You purchase the cards at full price through the church and the retailer has agreed to discount the cost to the church and

the difference is paid to the church. Scrips can be paid for with cash or a check written to Calvary United Methodist Church, put Scrips program in the memo line. Example: a \$100 Wal-Mart card with a 2.50% discount. When the card(s) are ordered the scrip company only charges \$97.50 and the church makes \$2.50 for each card ordered.

When cards are ordered there is usually a 2-3 day turn around. So if the cards are ordered on a Sunday, you would usually get them the next Sunday. It is better for us to order a large number of cards to cut down on the cost of shipping and handling. Orders made take slightly longer from Thanksgiving to Christmas, because it is the busiest time of the year. There are also times when certain retailers increase the percentage that they will give back to the church for a brief period of time. We will try to alert you to these increased percentages.

Profits will be split between youth programs and towards new playground equipment. Complete Scrips list are on the Welcome Station in the Narthex. We will try to put lists of retailers who are increasing their percentages with the other Scrips list in the Narthex. See, email or call Anita Pearson, 424-6110 to order Scrips or if you have questions. If Tom is willing and it doesn't interfere with his work keeping our church clean, there may be occasions when Scrips can be picked up from the church Monday-Friday between 9:30am - 12:30 pm from Tom.



You're Invited!

Please consider sharing in the music ministry of Calvary United Methodist Church.

Chancel Choir rehearsals begin, Thursday, August 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m. All singers, young adult and ages up are welcome. Several persons discourage themselves from singing in a choir because they "don't read" music. To read music, you just need to know that if the note is higher on the staff than what your singing, then your voice has to go up, lower on the staff, you go down in pitch. Rehearsals go till around 8:00 p.m. Please consider joining us and share a very special gift with the congregation

Children

One of the things I remember when my daughter was young was her reply when I asked her to do something she didn't want to do. "When I'm grown up, you won't be able to tell me what to do" she would say. Now she's grown and guess what, I still tell her what to do, the difference is I wait until she asks. The funny thing is, she takes my advice most of the time. Isn't it amazing how smart parents get when the children grow up?



Coffee and Conversation

The August Coffee Host– Mission & Outreach



We want to thank everyone for the cards and our celebration. Our 60th anniversary was the best and to our wonderful kids and Lloyd & Joyce, Thank you!!

Ked & Sue

Pastor Mike Harris and the Waynedale UMC congregation would like to thank you for your donation of \$305 to the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry served 478 individuals in June, your continued support is appreciated. God Bless you.

Thank you

I just wanted to say thanks to everybody who helped send me to camp. It will be tough to top the amount of fun and growth I experienced at Epworth Forest. I recommitted myself to God, made tons of new friends and grew closer to old ones. I never would have been able to go to camp if it wasn't for the awesome people here at church who went to our fundraisers and supported us. I really appreciated all the amazing letters and goodies you sent me. It was nice to read the letters and know that people were praying for me every moment while I was away. It was nice to know that people in the church cared about me so much and I could hardly wait each and every day to read the letters because they brightened my day. I just wanted to say a BIG thank you to everybody who either helped us with fundraising, sent anything in the goodie bag, or took time out of their day to write letters to us.

Thanks a bunch,
Heather Rowlett



People to keep in our prayers Chelsa DeMarchis, Denise DeMarchis, Paula Girdner, Olive Paxson, Erv Umber, Lynn Umber, Tim White, Al Zimmerman

Nursing care, Assisted living and Homebound: Charles (Bogie) Boghosian, Gil & MaryAnna Brookhart, Edna Eickhoff, Norma Fisher, Paula Girdner, Delight Hostetler, Ruby McKee, Naomi Osborn, Evelyn Phillips, Jo Pond, Jim & Joan Roth, Al & Marge Zimmerman

Prayers for our service men & women

Benjamin Garrison is in Alaska, (grandson of Marge Hughes, nephew of Jay Hughes); Kent Taylor is in the National Guard Reserves, Nathan Stocking serving in San Diego (nephew to Phylis Richter); Brandon Fawbush is in San Diego (grandson to Elaine & Sheldon Light)

GOD'S LIGHT

Summer's long days can remind us of our Creator, who made the sun and wants us to live in his light.

Directions: First, write the opposite of each word in parentheses. Then use the Word Bank words, in order, to complete 1 John 1:5-7, NIV.

WORD BANK: is in is at if in as is in with

God _____ (dark); _____ (her)

there _____ (yes) _____ (light) _____ ness _____ (none)

But _____ we _____ (run) _____ the _____ (dark),

_____ (she) _____ the _____ (dark),

we have fellowship _____ one another. ...

1 John 1:5-7, NIV

Answer: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ... But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. (1 John 1:5-7, NIV)



08/01 – Marilyn Somers
08/02 – Benjamin Booker
08/02 – Jodi Walters
08/05 – Betty Hinton
08/05 – Mildred Richter
08/06 – Braylon Sheefel
08/07 – Don Sheefel
08/08 – Teri Vorndran
08/09 – Austin Taylor
08/10 – Gloria Dennie
08/11 – Beanie Guebard
08/11 – Charlotte Hullinger
08/15 – Tim Brehm
08/16 – David Kaiser
08/16 – Evelyn Phillips
08/20 – Tammy Taylor
08/23 – Treva Tracey
08/24 – Joshua Muth
08/29 – Susan Weaver
08/31 – David Dickerson



08/02 – Shannon & Tom Bleakney - 16 years
08/04 – Don & Alice Monce - 6 years
08/09 – Kim & Terri Herstad - 38 years
08/20 – Ron & Chris Jonas - 25 years
08/23 – Kenneth & Lisa Weaver - 26years