

The Newsletter of Bainbridge First United Methodist Church

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Brownie Points

So, What Else Did You Learn?

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that I'm always asked, when I return from a seminar or workshop, "Well, did you learn anything?" So I shared with you then something I learned at the recent Generations seminar, and I promised I would share some more with you.

Our text for the seminar was *Shift: Helping Churches Back into the Game of Effective Ministry*, by Phil Maynard. Phil was a local church pastor who has moved into the areas of coaching, consulting, and training. In this book, Phil suggests there are five individual shifts congregations need to make to rediscover their vitality and fruitfulness. I will give a brief description of each, but I want you to think about two questions:

- Where is Bainbridge FUMC in terms of this shift?
- What can we begin to do to make this shift happen?

Here are the shifts:

- From Fellowship to Hospitality—moving from warm welcoming to developing authentic interpersonal relationships with our guests.
- From Worship as an Event to Worship as a Lifestyle—moving from worship as just something that happens at 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. on Sunday to understanding and living out the truth that corporate worship has the opportunity to equip people to be better worshipers the rest of the week.
- From Membership to Discipleship—moving from a focus on adding members to the church roll to a focus on helping people to become real followers of Jesus.
- From "Serve Us" to Service—moving from an internal to an external focus, or moving from the sense that the church exists to meet our needs to the sense that the church exists to reach out beyond itself to share the love of Jesus and make disciples for the transformation of the world.
- From "Survival Mentality" to Generosity—moving from a focus on "staying afloat" financially and taking care of our own to giving to make a difference in the world and be a blessing to others.

I've given you a shorthand version of each of these shifts—there's so much more to understanding what it really means to make these shifts and how we can go about making them. I'll continue to share about these shifts. I'll also share with you opportunities on the district and conference level that can equip us for understanding and making these shifts.

The most important question we need to answer is, Do we as a congregation really want to make these shifts? If we don't want to, then we can join the many United Methodist churches that are in a "death spiral" which will lead to their demise sooner or later. Or we can join the churches that realize they need to make these shifts and then actually make them in order to be vital and fruitful. It won't happen all at once, and there is no magic to making it happen. The process calls us to honesty about who we are now, a vision of who we can be, a willingness to see that our "community" is far more than the people we have now, and a commitment to do the work of becoming the church Jesus is calling us to be. There are plenty of tools to help us along the way and plenty of resource people who can teach us and guide us. The tools are not lacking—we need the willingness to pick them up and use them.

Change is never easy—in fact, we never change until it hurts too much to stay the way we are. No one really wants to change, but, if we in the churches make the changes—if we make the shifts—we can truly be a vital and fruitful witness for Jesus, and we can fulfill the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and the world.

Mike

P.S. Something else I learned—the average United Methodist invites someone to church once every 38 years! When did you last invite someone to worship?

Calendar for May 16, 2018

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 (Last day of Wednesday Night Activities until Fall)

3:00 PM-----Knitting/Crochet Ministry, Simmons Parlor
5:30 PM-----Two Year Old Music Group, Circle Room
*6:00 PM-----Christian Fellowship Dinner, J. O. Smith Building
6:00 PM-----UMYF, Uncle Bill's
6:25 PM-----Preschool Music and Arts, ages 3-4, Circle Room
6:25 PM-----Children's Worship Arts (Grades K-5), Drama Room
6:45 PM-----Short Course on Prayer, Reynold's Chapel
*7:30 PM-----Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, May 17, 2018

10:00 AM------(Last) Thursday Morning Bible Study, Library

Friday, May 18, 2018

7:00 PM-----Youth Lock-In, Youth Basement

Saturday, May 19, 2018

8:00 AM-----Youth Lock-In END, Youth Basement
10:00 AM-----VBS "Drop By", Sharp Building/Gladtown

Sunday, May 20, 2018 - Baccalaureate Sunday

*8:30 AM-----UMM Breakfast for Graduating Seniors, J. O. Smith Building
*9:45-10:45 AM-----Sunday School, Sharp Building and Adult S. S. Building
*11:00 AM-----Graduate Recognition Unity Worship Service, Sanctuary
5:00 PM-----Children's Snack Supper, FUMC/DQ
5:30 PM-----Children's Fellowship, Sharp Building

Monday, May 21, 2018

6:00 PM-----Church Council, Reynolds Chapel

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

9:00 AM-----Food Bank, Adult S. S. Building

9:30 AM-----Church Staff Meeting, Simmons Parlor

11:30 AM-----Church Staff Luncheon, Happy Days Cafe

6:00 PM-----Board of Trustees Meeting, Library

* denotes 'nursery provided'

Graduate Recognition Services

This Sunday, May 20, we will recognize our graduating high school seniors with two special events:

- At 8:30 a.m. our United Methodist Men will host their traditional breakfast honoring our seniors and their families.
- At 11:00 a.m. we will have a Unity Service honoring our seniors, with our Youth Choir providing musical leadership and our seniors leading most of the worship service. (No 9:00 a.m. Worship this Sunday.)

Join in honoring these young people at this important stage of their lives!

Upcoming Worship Services

May 20—Graduate Recognition Service, 11:00 a.m. (only one service that day)

May 27—Tommy and Rebekah Henderson sharing, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

June 3—Steven Hayes speaking, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. (Pastor Mike and Tammy on their way to Annual Conference)

Short Course on Prayer

The "Short Course on Prayer" concludes this Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. (after Christian Fellowship Dinner) in Reynolds Chapel. This final session focuses on "The Art of Listening." Even if you haven't attended the previous three sessions, you are more than welcome to join us for this last one!

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on Monday, May 21, at 6:00 p.m. in Reynolds Chapel. This is a week earlier than our usual date, but we are trying to avoid the Memorial Day holiday. Council members are *expected* to attend, but all members of the congregation are *invited* to attend.

Church Seeks Contemporary Worship Music Leader

Bainbridge First United Methodist Church is seeking a Contemporary Worship Music Leader for our 9:00 a.m. service. This is a part-time, paid position with compensation commensurate with experience. Playing an instrument and leading singing are required, and the ability to read music is preferable. If you are interested in this position or know someone who might be, please contact Pastor Mike at browncrab59@gmail.com for a job description.

Last Christian Fellowship Dinner

Our final Christian Fellowship Dinner for this season will be this Wednesday, May 16, at 6:00 p.m. Our Children's Worship Arts (K-5) group will present a short program immediately following dinner. Plan to attend!

New Website

Your Church Staff is currently working on creating a new website that (we believe) will be easier to keep up-to-date and that will be more effective in drawing people to our church. Research indicates that, when people are looking for a church, they don't look in the Yellow Pages or the newspaper—they look at church websites! So our site needs to be up-to-date and attractive.

But we need your help! We need of full size pictures of activities in which our church family is participating (both fun activities and service activities). If you have any you are willing to share, please e-mail the full/original size digital file to Ruth in the Church Office at 1stumc1@bellsouth.net. If you have printed photos, drop them off at the Church Office and we will scan them and return them to you. Please also send in the body of the e-mail message what the activity is, and who is in the picture.

Vacation Bible School

We are still in need of a few volunteers in the Science, Crafts, and Refreshment areas. Science can be only one morning out of the whole week! Crafts are already planned— all you would be doing is assisting the children. Snacks are all planned— we just need servers. Please consider giving a little of your time this summer to serving our children. The dates are June 4-8, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. If you are interested in serving, please contact Ida Cooksey, Meg Yarbrough, or Jenny Harper. There will be a 'Drop By' meeting on May 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for teachers and workers to pick up their packets and get ideas for door decorations. If you cannot attend, please contact Ida to arrange a time to pick up your information.

Mission Opportunities at Annual Conference

Annual Conference Special Offering

This year's Annual Conference special offering will be dedicated to "Abundant Health: Gifts of Hope." South Georgia United Methodists have the opportunity to give gifts of hope to enrich the health and lives of people in South Georgia, the United States, and around the world. Givers may choose to designate their gifts to one or more projects, or they may leave them undesignated and the Conference will divide the funds between the Abundant Health Advance #3021770 and the Special Relief Fund for South Georgia Clergy.

If you choose one of the five projects below, your special offering will help support worldwide healing through Global Ministries' focus of extending health interventions to one million children by 2020. The five projects are:

- **water filters, allowing women and children to access clean, safe drinking water.**
- **smokeless stoves to households with children having recurrent health concerns.**
- **fortified peanut meal nutrition.**
- **prenatal care and immunizations for children.**
- **combatting the opioid crisis in the United States by sponsoring at-risk youth to complete resistance and intervention programs.**

If you would like to learn more about the Abundant Health Initiative and ways a local church can partner with Global Ministries in mission and ministry from "Everywhere to Everywhere," visit <http://www.umcabundanthealth.org>.

You may wish to give to The Fund of Special Relief, which has been around since 1830. This fund assists clergy in our Conference when they are faced with special needs, such as unforeseen medical bills. A small committee is able to provide confidential aid when the need arises. This fund provides a tangible expression of caring for those who serve us. (Pastor Mike has served as Treasurer and Chair of this committee and can testify to the helpfulness of this fund for needy clergy families.)

If you wish to make a donation to the special offering, please make a check payable to Bainbridge FUMC. If you wish to designate your gift for a particular project, please indicate on the memo line. Please make your donation by May 27, so we can get our check ready to take to Annual Conference on June 3. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Mission Outreach Emphasis

Agencies within the bounds of our Annual Conference are changing lives as they reflect the ways they are *Alive Together in Christ*. They are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ as they help to meet the most basic of needs. We are grateful for their work and want to show our gratitude. The agencies listed below have selected items that will help them in their day-to-day operation.

- Magnolia Manor: Jigsaw/Word Search puzzles, hardback books, \$10 Walmart gift cards, Kleenex
- Methodist Home: Personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste)
- Open Door: Travel size personal hygiene items and small journals
- Vashti: \$10 Walmart gift cards, CEB Student Bibles, sturdy book bags
- Wesley Community Centers: baby wipes, pocket size facial tissues and hand sanitizer
- Wesley Glen: Dove body wash, Aveeno or Eucerin lotions, adult wipes, regular size boxes of Kleenex packet/pocket size boxes of Kleenex

Collection bins will be available in the J.O. Smith Building and near the Sanctuary for your donations. Please bring your donations to the church by June 2, so Pastor Mike and Tammy can take them as they go to Annual Conference on June 3. Thanks for your support!

Summer Camps at Epworth By The Sea

For nearly 70 years, summer camps for children and youth have been a ministry of the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church at Epworth By The Sea. This coastal camp is located on the banks of the Frederica River on St. Simons Island, Georgia and has 100 acres of beautiful property on which to spend a week away.

At Camp Connect, our staff strives to create a meaningful camp experience by engaging campers in a week of fun, forming new friendships, and encountering Christ in and around us.

Someone once said that kids can learn more about their relationship with Jesus in a week of camp than they might in a year of Sunday School. Because of that, we take our time with our campers very seriously. Days are filled with outdoor activities like the ropes course, boat rides, dock fishing, games, art, beach trips, and pool time. Nightly camp-wide competitions bring everyone together and each evening closes with a worship service. Woven throughout each of these activities is a greater purpose—sharing Christ's love with every camper we encounter.

With a "Blueprints" theme this summer, a week at Camp Connect will teach campers what God's design for their life looks like. Diving into Scripture and sharing life stories will show them they are created in God's image and created for a purpose.

Each week of summer camp costs \$315. Here are the dates for this year's camps:

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP for students entering grades 9-12 as well as graduating seniors
June 11-15, 2018 (Deadline: May 29)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPS for students entering 6th-8th grades

Session 1: June 18-22, 2018 (Deadline: June 4)

Session 2: June 25-29, 2018 (Deadline: June 11)

ELEMENTARY CAMPS for students entering 4th-5th grades

Session 1: July 9-13, 2018 (Deadline: June 25)

Session 2: July 16-20, 2018 (Deadline: July 2)

For more information or to register, visit
<https://www.campconnectumc.org>

Services of Worship

May 20, 2018

11:00 AM – Pentecost/Graduate Recognition Unity Service

OFFERTORY-----"Sing Praises to God"-----Youth Choir
ANTHEM-----"The Plans I Have for You"-----Youth Choir
The liturgy and messages will be led by our graduating Seniors: Anna-Morgan Fleming, Mary Mercer Reynolds, Haydn Griffin, Edward Moorhead, Camry Fillingame, and Mark Loeffler.

Music Notes

Children's Music and Arts Ministries:

Two Year Old Music Group (for ages 18 months-2 years old): meets on Wednesdays from 5:30-5:55 p.m. in the Circle Room for developmentally appropriate music activities: singing, instrument playing, and movement.

Preschool Music and Arts (children age 3 by September 1-age 4):

will have our final class of the season this Wednesday, May 16.

Children's Worship Arts (Grades K-5): will be presenting a short demonstration program following Christian Fellowship Dinner this Wednesday, May 16. We will meet in the J.O. Smith Activities Building at 6:30 p.m. Following our presentation, we'll have popcorn and a short movie. This Wednesday will be our last meeting of the season, and we'll resume on August 8.

Chancel Choir: meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00. We will not be in the Choir Loft this coming Sunday, May 20, due to the Youth Choir's leadership in music that morning.

Youth Choir (Grades 6-12): will be providing the musical leadership this coming Sunday, May 20, for the 11:00 a.m. Unity/Graduate Recognition Service; wear formal attire. We'll warm up at 10:00 a.m.

Music Camp registration is completed! Please bring your deposit. Medical release forms and the "What to Bring" letter will hopefully be available soon.

Handbell Choir: will be taking a break and doing some small-group ensemble ringing during the summer.

Children's Chat

This will be our last Children's Fellowship of the 2017/2018 year. We will be saying good bye to our fifth graders.{sob,sob}

Just because we won't be meeting on Sundays doesn't mean we won't be seeing each other. First up is Vacation Bible School, June 4-8! Following VBS, we will be meeting on Wednesdays for our Rest and Road Trips. I have a great summer planned, and I hope to see you all at as many of our activities as you can fit into your busy summer schedule.

Youth News

Calling all youth! We are having a youth lock-in on Friday, May 18, to celebrate our graduating Seniors. We will have games, food, and a whole lot of fun!! Bring a friend or two and come help us end the school year with a BANG!!!!

We are planning a Children and Youth Family Movie Night on Sunday, June 3, to kick off Vacation Bible School and our summer activities. Bring a blanket, some friends, and an attitude of fun as we kick off our summer of excitement!!!!

Youth Summer Calendar of Events

May 16	End of School Celebration @ Uncle Bill's
May 18	Youth Lock-In
June 3	Children and Youth Family Movie Night
June 4-8	Vacation Bible School
June 10-15	Music Camp
June 27	Youth Night @ Uncle Bill's
July 13*	Road Trip to Tallahassee (*subject to change)
July 15	Resume Sunday Night Bible Study
July 21	Road Trip to Six Flags in Atlanta

Members to Visit, Call or Send a Card

Marcia Barber	1633 Wesleyan Drive, Unit 122, Macon, GA 31210	
Charles Burch	1032 Julia Circle, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-246-4707
Mary Ruth Gilliam	906 Pine Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-246-7581
Betty Hester	1020 Julia Circle, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-246-1845
Bobby Higdon	P.O. Box 454, Bainbridge, GA 39818-0454	229-246-2377
Bill & Nita Holt	1407 Botts Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-246-4334
Sue Jones	1904 Douglas Dr, P.O. Box 245, Bainbridge, GA 39818-0245	246-3141
Steele & Kathy Malone	1808 Woodridge Drive, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-246-1381
Gloria Murphy	111 Bunny Lane, Bainbridge, GA 39817	229-246-8005
Ruth Sansom	161 Redwood Drive, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-220-2313
Pat Smith	1118 Julia Circle, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-246-0875
William & Peggy Wildhagen	1104 Douglas Court, Bainbridge, GA 39819	229-248-0817
Anne Fowler	Wildwood, 3333 E. 28 Street, Tulsa, OK 74114-5915	918-935-9352
Betty Jo Fulmer	Riverside Place, Room #152, 1151 W. College Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819	
Evelyn(Pat) Morgan	Memorial Manor, Room #16, 1500 E. Shotwell Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819	
Pat Reynolds	Memorial Manor, Room #73B, 1500 E. Shotwell Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819	
Helen Tillman	Riverside Place, Room #113, 1151 W. College Street, Bainbridge, GA 39819	

*Cadet Nathaniel Lambert P.O. Box 2533, West Point, NY 10997-2533

Memorials

Memorials

General Fund

In Memory of:

Heidt Neal

Brenda Doss

Youth Fund

In Memory of:

Wallace Hayes

By:

John & Marian Monk

John & Marian Monk

By:

John & Marian Monk