

# The Newsletter of Bainbridge First United Methodist Church

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Vol. 22

July 15, 2018

No. 28

## **Staff Contact List**

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## **Brownie Points**

Another Slice of the PIE:  
Your Pastor's Devotional Discipline

There's an old adage that preachers expect their parishioners to "do what we what say, not what we do." I suppose we're all guilty of that to some extent. But it seems to me that if I'm asking you to undertake a devotional discipline, I should have one myself (which I do), and that I should be willing to share my discipline with you. So, as promised, this is my devotional discipline.

But first, a disclaimer: I don't share this with you to make myself into a spiritual giant or hero. Nor do I share it with any intention of saying, "You have to do this my way." I'm as much a pilgrim on the path to Christian perfection (habitual love of God and neighbor and having the servant-mind of Christ) as anyone else. And the way I do it works for me—it may not work for you, and that's fine; you have to find what works for you.

So, having said that, here's what my devotional discipline looks like:

I said last week that a devotional discipline calls us to find a time and a place of solitude where we will not be disturbed. My time is first thing in the morning, before I've had my coffee, breakfast, shower, or anything else. (The exception is on Sundays, when I wait until I get to the church—then my study becomes my place of solitude, which is easy because no one is usually here that early!) My place at home is the den, and I sit in the recliner for my reading and my prayers. Since I do everything aloud, the people at my house know that if they hear my voice, they need to stay out of the den until I'm done!

My discipline is built around the "Daily Devotionals for Individuals and Families" found in the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*. That pattern begins with verses from Psalm 51, followed by the Gloria Patri (spoken, not sung): "Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen." I follow that with a blessing from 1 Peter 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

I then turn to the Scripture. I've created for myself a lectionary (a schedule of readings) that is easy for me to keep up with—and while one of my goals is to read the entire Bible, I don't start with Genesis and try to plow through! I read one chapter a day (which means it takes years to read the Bible completely)—but I find that one chapter is enough to reflect upon more deeply than two or three chapters a day. I've just begun this week reading Matthew's Gospel, and I'm amazed that, even though I've read these words so many times, there's so much that's new for me!

Following the reading, I turn to the Psalms—specifically, one psalm a day (perhaps two or three if they're short, or maybe only a piece of a psalm if it is long). Because I start with Psalm 1 and read through Psalm 150, I will cycle through the Psalms many, many times over the years it takes to read the rest of Scripture one chapter at a time.

Then I say The Apostles' Creed in the traditional version. Why? Because this Creed is essentially the baptismal creed of the Church, it reminds me daily that, through the water of baptism, I have been made a new creature in Jesus and that I belong to God.

After the Creed, I turn to a daily devotional book. This year I'm using *Through the Year with John Wesley*, which offers a verse or two of Scripture and then gives some matching words from Wesley's *Journal*, hymns, *Explanatory Notes on the New Testament*, and biographies of Wesley. Each day's reading closes with a brief prayer.

Next, I read from some spiritual writing. Right now I'm reading *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, which is sometimes tough going—but I'm amazed some mornings at how much I've read! I've also read *The Cloud of Unknowing* and *The Book of Privy Counseling* (by an unknown author), which talks about how to enter the contemplative life; Thomas Merton's *No Man Is an Island*; *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis; three collections of writings by the late Dr. Aubrey Alsobrook; and others.

It's after these readings that I turn to spoken prayer. My prayers include thanksgivings and confessions and intercessions, particularly for those who are suffering in the body. (This is where I find our email prayer chain to be most helpful, because there are people for whom I need to pray that I don't know—but God does, and that's what matters.) I pray for this church and for our entire United Methodist Church, our bishop and his wife, and our district superintendents. I pray as well for my family. And, yes, I pray for myself, because I have needs that I look to God to fulfill. Many of those needs concern changes I need to make so I can be more Christ-like and serve Jesus better as a person and as a pastor.

My prayer time closes formally with the Wesley Covenant Prayer and The Lord's Prayer—but I try to stay open all day to listening to what God has to say to me through the Spirit, through my reading, studying, and writing, and through others. I've said before that prayer is truly more than talking to God—prayer includes listening to God as well!

I conclude my daily devotional with a collect. A collect is a general prayer that is structured around invocation, acknowledgement, petition, aspiration, pleading, and response. I use the same one every day; but on Sundays I also pray the assigned collect for each Sunday.

Again, let me stress that I am not trying to present myself as a spiritual giant or hero, nor am I saying that you have to do it this way. I simply want to say that this is what *my* devotional discipline looks like and invite you to find yours.

Mike

PS: I'd like to hear from others what their devotional discipline is like. Please feel free to send it to me by email ([browncrab59@gmail.com](mailto:browncrab59@gmail.com)) or by snail mail at the church (P.O. Box 541). This way we can encourage one another in the life of prayer!

## **Calendar for July 11, 2018**

### **Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

10:00 AM-----Children's Rest & Road Trips, Wakulla Springs, FL  
12:00 PM-----Keenagers, J. O. Smith Building  
3:00 PM-----Knitting/Crochet Ministry, Simmons Parlor  
5:30 PM-----Two Year Old Music Group, Circle Room  
6:00 PM-----Contemporary Worship Team, Simmons Parlor

### **Saturday, July 14, 2018**

TBA-----Youth Road Trip, Tallahassee, FL

### **Sunday, July 15, 2018**

\*9:00 AM-----Contemporary Worship Service, J.O. Smith Building  
\*9:45-10:45 AM----- Sunday School, Sharp Building and Adult S. S. Building  
\*11:00 AM-----Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
5:30 PM-----Youth UMYF, BFUMC/Dairy Queen

### **Monday, July 16, 2018**

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

### **Tuesday, July 17, 2018**

9:00 AM-----Food Bank, Adult S. S. Building  
10:30 AM-----Seasoned Saints, Colquitt, GA

\* denotes 'nursery provided'

## **Welcome New Members**

Bainbridge First United Methodist Church welcomes Wes and Martha Stant as professing members. Wes and Martha come to us by certificate of transfer from another United Methodist congregation. Welcome, Wes and Martha!

If you would like to become a member of the church, please contact Pastor Mike.

## **Pastor Mike's Upcoming Sermons**

Sermon Series: "Kissed by Grace"

July 15—Ephesians 2:1-10— "By Grace You Have Been Saved"  
July 22—Ephesians 2:11-22—"United!"  
July 29—Ephesians 3:14-21—"Grace: Doxology"  
August 5—Ephesians 4:1-16—"Living Out the Gifts"  
August 12—Ephesians 4:25-52—"Imitators of God"  
August 19—Ephesians 5:15-20—"Filled with the Spirit"  
August 26—Ephesians 6:10-20—"The Armor of God"

## **Keenagers**

Our July meeting of Keenagers will be Wednesday, July 11, at noon. Mr. J.B. Swicord will be our guest speaker. If you are able to attend, please call the Church Office and make your reservation.

## **"Seasoned Saints"**

We invite all of our "Seasoned Saints," ages 65 and over, to join us for a lunch outing on July 17. We will leave the church at 10:30 to eat lunch at Mural Cakes and Deli in Colquitt. In order to make reservations and travel arrangements, please call the Church Office or email Lauren to reserve your place. We ask that you please do this no later than Friday, July 13.

## **It's a Celebration!**

Kim Hayes from The Methodist Home for Children and Youth will join us in worship at both services on Sunday, July 22, to thank the congregation for its contributions to the Home and to tell us about upcoming events and opportunities. We plan to present a check at that time for The Home, representing the proceeds raised for the Home from the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper as well as a matching grant from the Olivent Mission Fund for the Pancake Supper and the Spaghetti Luncheon. (The original amount raised by the Spaghetti Luncheon has already been sent!)

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

On Sunday, July 29, we will celebrate a new school year at our Unity Service. We are inviting all children preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to bring your backpacks to church. We will have a special time of blessing for you and for your school year.

## **Fifth Sunday Unity Lunch**

Our next Fifth Sunday Unity Service and Luncheon is July 29. The Epworth Sunday School Class will assist with set-up and clean-up that day; however, we welcome anyone who is willing to assist in any way. Please bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert to share; the church will provide the chicken and rolls/biscuits.

## **School Supply Drive**

Our church will assist students in need this year by hosting a school supply drive. We ask that you bring any or all of the following items as part of the drive: clear book bags, lead pencils (not mechanical), crayons, colored pencils, gallon zip lock bags, hand sanitizer, notebook paper, or spiral notebooks. There will be containers in the Narthex, at the Florida Street entrance, and in the J.O. Smith Building for collection. You may also bring the items to the Church Office. Thank you for helping with this important project.

## **Campmeeting Days**

Campmeeting Days at our 11:00 a.m. Service will continue through September 2. We'll have more singing and take out some of the more "formal" elements of our service. Feel free to dress more casually, and let's enjoy this great tradition in our church.

## **Financial Faithfulness Check-up**

We have passed the halfway point of 2018, and it's a good time to see where we are in financial faithfulness to the work of Jesus through Bainbridge FUMC. Are we up-to-date? Can we perhaps give a little more? Do we need to catch up? Giving statements will go out soon—please check yours against your personal records and let Mary Nell know if there are any discrepancies. Most importantly, ask the Spirit to help you be the financial steward Jesus is calling you to be!

## **Still Waters**

Still Waters is a nondenominational, faith-based, temporary residence for women and children. The ministry relies on volunteer help and donations of items. They are always in need of the following: Trash Bags (13 gal.), Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue, Kleenex Tissue, Dishwasher detergent, Dish detergent, Laundry detergent, Dryer Sheets, Vinegar, Bleach, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Soap, Deodorant, Towels (new), and Washrags (new). Contact Karen Howell at Still Waters (229-416-4061) or the Church Office for more information.

## Food Bank

### Food Items Needed:

Peanut Butter (16 oz), Dried Beans (16 oz), Evaporated Milk (12 oz), Canned Soups (10.5 oz), Chunky Soups (18 oz), Canned Vegetables – Green Beans, Corn, Tomatoes, etc. (14.5-15 oz).

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**I will support my church with my prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

**July 8, 2018 Attendance:**

Sunday School -----	72
Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. -----	61
11:00 a.m. -----	81

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## Members Who Minister

**Ushers for July 2018:** Charles Walker, Bolton Yarbrough, Greg Burch, Jason Murray

**Greeters for July 15, 2018:** 9:00 AM Lucas Reynolds  
11:00 AM Edward Reynolds & Max Griffin

**Contemporary Worship Leader for July 15, 2018:** Brent Farrington

**Offering Steward:** Craig Fletcher

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## Services of Worship

**July 15, 2018**

**9:00 AM – Contemporary Worship Service**

**11:00 AM – Traditional Worship Service**

SCRIPTURE-----Ephesians 2:1-10-----Rev. Mike Brown

SERMON-----"Kissed by Grace: By Grace You Have Been Saved"-----Rev. Mike Brown

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## Music Notes

### Children's Music and Arts Ministries:

**Two Year Old Music Group (for ages 18 months-2 years old):** will resume our regular schedule on July 11, 5:30-6:00 p.m., in the Circle Room of the Sharp Building.

**Preschool Music and Arts and Children's Worship Arts:** will resume on August 8.

**Chancel Choir:** will be taking a break during the month of July.

**Youth Choir (Grades 6-12):** will be taking a short break from rehearsals before beginning our new season.

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

## Children's Chat

We leave at 10:00 a.m. this Wednesday for Wakulla!! Don't forget to pack a lunch. Next Wednesday we will have our Craft & Game Day. I'm thinking Uncle Bill's Pizza for lunch. There are only 24 spots for Craft and Game Day (due to the necessity of ordering craft supplies ahead of time), so sign up early!

## Youth News

July 14—Youth Road Trip to Tallahassee for dinner and a movie. Departure time from the church TBA.

July 15—We will start back our Sunday Night UMYF Gatherings with a Dairy Queen Night. We will meet **at Dairy Queen** at 5:30 pm. Bring a friend!!!!

July 21—Youth Road Trip to Six Flags. The tickets are \$45.00 each. You will also need money for food. We will gather at 6:30 a.m. at the church to head to Atlanta. Bring sunscreen and be prepared to have fun!

## Youth Summer Calendar of Events

July 14	Road Trip to Tallahassee
July 15	Resume Sunday Night UMYF Gathering
July 21	Road Trip to Six Flags in Atlanta

## Corrected Change of Address

John and Marian Monk  
4082 Greenleffe Drive  
Statham, GA 30666

## 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
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

### **General Fund**

#### **In Honor of:**

Dr. J. Sydney & Carol Cochran

#### **By:**

Edward, Jenny, Charlotte, Vivian, Ben and Ruby Cochran