



DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 21, No 2 February 2013 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship
11:00 Koinonia

Starting Sept 9
Sunday school
Youth 9:00 a.m.
Adult 11:15 a.m.



District Meeting

New Places for New People

3:30—6:00 p.m.

Sun, February 24



February 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Oakland
Congregational UCC Church

Lent Bible Study 11:15
a.m. starting Sunday,
February 17.



Congregational Meeting



Planning Session

February 10 after worship



**God doesn't call the qualified;
He qualifies the called.**



Dear Brothers and
in Christ,

It is not easy to think
about the Easter season
when it is so very cold

and there is snow on the ground. Yet, ready or not, the Easter season, Lent, is beginning on February 13. February 13 is Ash Wednesday. It is true, calendar wise, Ash Wednesday is early this year. Through the years Ash Wednesday has been earlier, but not by much. February 4th is the earliest Lent can begin. Of course the date of Ash Wednesday has everything to do with the date of Easter. Since Easter is early this year, too, March 31, that makes Ash Wednesday come early.

Lent is a season of 40 week days and six Sundays and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the word *lencten*, which means "spring". The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of confessing sins and seeking forgiveness by all Christians. Lent is a time to get closer to God. Lent is a journey from self-serving to self-giving. People may give up something they enjoy for Lent or fast for certain meals. Others give up a favorite activity, like watching television or internet browsing.

Recently I read a book entitled *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* by James W. Moore. The author suggests that instead of giving up something for Lent, like desserts, we consider giving up something bad, something that keeps us from being all God has called us to be, such as jealousy, apathy, bitterness, anger, gossip, etc. with the hope we will be able to give it up long term, not just for the season of Lent. Personally I think he is on to something. If one of the hopes of the Lenten season is that we will be able to get closer to God, what better way than to be obedient to God by getting rid of the things that can cause harm to us and to others.

Lent is an invitation to "be with Jesus," to seek His

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face and enjoy His presence and to revel in His amazing love. I encourage you to make the Lenten season a time to begin or renew or deepen your relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30pm on February 13, at the Oakland United Church of Christ and our Sunday morning worship services at the Oakland UMC at 10am. Let us join together to spiritually prepare for Easter. There is nothing more important than drawing closer to the One who loves you so much that He gave His only Son to die for you so that you may have life and have it abundantly!

And All God's Children Said,

"Amen."

Pastor Karen



Ash Wednesday

You are invited to attend the Ash Wednesday Service at the Oakland United Church of Christ on Wednesday, February 13, at 7:30pm. At this service we will begin to observe a Holy Lent; by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, and by reading and meditating on God's Word. Those in attendance will be invited to receive the mark of ashes as a sign of our mortality, repentance, and new life in Christ. Please join us and bring a friend with you.

Planning Session planned for Sunday,

February 10th after worship. Subs will be provided for lunch. We will be done about 1:00. Everyone is invited to participate in this planning session. All committee members are requested to attend.



See the article about Visioning with Ed Kail in this newsletter for more information.

February Calendar of Events

Sun, Feb 3	10:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Sunday School/Confirmation/Choir Practice Worship/Communion Koinonia Adult Bible Study Hispanic Worship Service
Wed, Feb 6	6:30 p.m.	Jr.& Sr. High Youth Groups
Sun, Feb 10	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Sunday School/Confirmation/Choir Practice Worship/Disabilities Sunday Planning Session (subs will be provided for lunch) Hispanic Worship Service
Mon, Feb 11	Pastor Karen out of the office	
Wed, Feb 13	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Jr.& Sr. High Youth Groups Ash Wednesday Service at Congregational UCC Church
Sun, Feb 17	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Sunday School/Confirmation/Choir practice Worship/children sing/3rd Sunday offering Koinonia Lenten Adult Bible study Hispanic Worship Service
Mon, Feb 18	6:30 p.m.	Dave Ramsey Classes
Wed, Feb 20	6:30 p.m.	Jr.& Sr. High Youth Groups
Thu, Feb 21	7:00 p.m.	Administrative Board Meeting
Sun, Feb 24	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 3:30—6:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Sunday School/Confirmation/Choir Practice Worship/Baptism Koinonia Lenten Adult Bible study New Places For New People meeting -Everyone is welcome Hispanic Worship Service
Wed, Feb 27	6:30 p.m.	Jr.& Sr. High Youth Groups

NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS



- 3 Norma Bolton
- 10 Barb Schorsch
- 17 Kyra Martens
- 24 Sheila Applegate



USHERS,

GREETERS,

CANDLELIGHTERS

- 3rd Doc & LaVinna Blanchard
- Skip & Ilene Applegate
- Candle lighters
- Andrew Jones & Sarah Jones
- 10th Marty & Kristie Rieken
- Gerald & Carol Wilson
- Candle lighters
- Kyra Martens & Kristian Martens
- 17th Ward Young & Ronnie Lockwood
- Jean Blackburn & Jessie Shiffer
- Candle lighters
- Emma Ehmke & Anna Duhachek
- 24th Joan Shanno & Dawn Turner
- Lisa Rollins & Lauren Schueman
- Candle lighters
- Grace Gleaves & Camryn Pierson



KOINONIA

- 3rd Louise & Dick Merkle
- 10th No Koinonia—Planning meeting w/ lunch
- 17th Jenn Wilson
- 24th Bernie & Norma Bolton



Teacher's schedule

- Nursery Kyra Martens
- 3rd Pre Sheila Applegate
- K-1 Lynelle Jeppesen
- 2-4 Jenn Wilson
- 5-8 Kristy Rieken
- 10th Valentines Craft Day
- 17th Pre Lindsey Henderson
- K-1 Lisa Pierson
- 2-4 Sue Duhachek
- 5-8 Kristy Rieken
- 24th Pre Leigh Bell
- K-1 Lynelle Jeppesen
- 2-4 Jenn Wilson
- 5-8 Kristy Rieken

5:00p.m. Hispanic Worship Service

- | | Host | Nursery |
|------|----------------------|---------|
| 3rd | Sarah & Sharon Jones | |
| 10th | Barb Schorsch | |
| 17th | Louise & Dick Merkle | |
| 24th | Cyndy Haines | |

**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!
YOU'RE THE
GREATEST!!!**

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Potluck to Honor Gordon Frizzell

On Sunday, January 20, following the worship service, Gordon Frizzell was honored at a potluck for his more than 36 years of service to the Oakland UMC. Gordon retired from his position as custodian on Dec. 31. Following the potluck, words of appreciation were shared with Gordon and his family for the many years Gordon has so wonderfully taken care of the church. We have all been blessed by your service! Thank you and Happy Retirement!

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Classes

The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Classes will begin on Monday, February 18, at 6:30pm at the Oakland UMC. The classes will meet weekly for nine weeks. For more information or to register for classes, please call the church office at 712-482-5530 or Lynelle at 402-650-0332.

New Places for New People Winter Event

The New Places for New People Event will be held at our church on the afternoon of February 24 from 3:30- 6:00pm. This is a district event so pastors and laity district wide will be attending. This time together will provide the opportunity to see more clearly what a new place for new people is, what it might look like within the context of your own specific community, and to get help in developing a ready to live out plan or blueprint for making your vision a reality, as well as identifying resources that will support you in your venture. Please join us for this time of mutual sharing and learning!

Youth News

The 7-12 graders who meet on Wednesday evenings visited the Oakland Manor and Oakland Heights on December 12. The youth shared fruit/cookie plates with our members and sang Christmas carols to all of the residents. The youth also went caroling to some homes in our community.

Your Aid and Assistance Dollars at Work

Thank you for your contributions to the Aid and Assistance Fund in 2012. Your donations were used to help those in need in our area. Because of your generosity, we were able to help individuals and families with their rent, utility bills, fuel, and medical expense.

Using the Aid and Assistance Fund to help those in need is one way we can show the love of Jesus to others. Thank you for being a part of this ministry. of the church.

Caroling/Movie Night

On the first Sunday in Advent, December 2, adults and children met at the Oakland UMC to go caroling at the Oakland Manor and Oakland Heights. Thanks to Lyle Bentley we were all able to ride together to go caroling. Lyle provided his trolley for transportation. After a time of caroling, we returned to the church and enjoyed popcorn, cocoa and the movie, "The Christmas Story."

Date Night Challenge

Watch for future information on the second "Date Night challenge"

Lenten Bible Study

We will be using the best seller book and DVD, "Final Words from the Cross", by Adam Hamilton for our Lenten Bible Study. In this study, Hamilton examines Christ's last hours- and his final words as seen and heard by those who stood near the cross. We will meet following Worship/Koinonia beginning on Sunday, February 17, the first Sunday in Lent. If you would like to have your own copy of the book Final Words From the Cross please feel free to purchase it on your own or we can supply you with one for \$10.00. Please let the office know if you are in need of the book.

Looking forward to our time together to reflect on Jesus' final words from the cross.

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Visioning with Southwest District Field Outreach Minister, Rev. Ed Kail

Rev. Ed Kail lead us in a time of visioning on Sunday afternoon, January 20. Those in attendance were asked to complete a SWOT Assessment. As a church, we were asked to list our **S**trengths and **W**eaknesses and our **O**pportunities and **T**hreats.

Following is what was shared:

Strengths

- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Financial Stability
- Leadership
- Hispanic Outreach
- Faithful Members
- Willing Volunteers
- Increased Attendance
- Young Families
- Dave Ramsey Classes
- Music Ministry, Adult & Children
- Technological Capabilities
- Vacation Bible School
- Working with Other Churches
- Generous Givers

Weaknesses

- No Women's Group
- No Men's Group
- Lack of Adult Study Groups
- Accessibility Issue
- Inactive Members
- Not Able to Communicate
with Our Hispanic Friends
- Lack of Involvement in
the Life of the Church
- Sound System in Fellowship Hall
- Nominating Committee Difficulty
- Lack of Community Involvement

Opportunities

- Un-churched Families/Youth
- Outreach to Adult Singles
- Minister to Those Negatively Affected by the Economy
- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Adult Study Groups
- Hispanic Folks and other Culturally Diverse People in the Area
- To Give
- Missions
- Elevator

Threats

- Resistance to New Ideas/Ways
- Outside Perception We Are Not Friendly
- Aging Leadership
- Burn Out
- Lots of Choices of How to Use One's Time
- Accessibility Issue
- Churches Who Have More Variety to Offer with Regard
to Church Programs

Ed challenged the church to continually keep the following question before us:

Why are we here and what does God want from us?

He also shared steps we can take as we hear and see the Spirit of God moving among us:

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(Visioning Cont'd)

- 1) Discover what God wants to accomplish; study the Bible to learn God's purposes for the Church. Pray for God to show you what you are to do.
- 2) Research your community: learn who is there and what human hurt and hopes are present.
- 3) Do something! Start with small acts of service, in which you "lay down your life" for Jesus' sake.
- 4) Learn from your experience. Repeat steps 1-4.

We encourage you to take time to read the following scriptures to help us discover what God wants us to be and do:

Isaiah 1:11-17

Micah 6:6-8

Luke 4:16-21

Matthew 5:1-16

John 15:1-14

Acts 1:1-8

Romans 12:1-13

Ephesians 1:3-10

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

As a follow up we will have a Local Planning Meeting after the worship service on February 10. Prayerfully, as the Body of Christ, we will discern what God is calling us to do. We will develop a plan to carry out our calling, including what we hope to accomplish for God and what action we will need to take.

Please join us for this special time in the life of the church! We do need and want you to be a part of this process.

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. How was the woman with the issue of blood healed by Jesus?
2. What woman got up and started doing household chores after Jesus healed her of a fever?
3. What unproductive tree did Jesus wither by cursing it?
4. Where did Jesus work his first miracle?
5. Who appeared with Jesus at his miraculous transfiguration?
6. Which apostle did Jesus enable to walk (briefly) on water?
7. What disciples did Jesus call after blessing them with an enormous catch of fish?
8. Whom did Jesus send to catch a fish that had a coin in its mouth?
9. When Jesus healed the blind man of Bethsaida, what did the man say people looked like?
10. What widow had her dead son brought to life by Jesus?

(answers in next month's newsletter)

THE ROAD TO JSS (JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL)

About one mile off the Numan/Jalingo Highway, a road...well, that's not exactly the right word to describe it...leads into JSS where the United Methodist sponsored high school is located. This road is rough, full of potholes which have standing water during the rainy season, has no shoulders, is full of deep gully's where erosion has taken place, has no culverts for run off thus making the trek into JSS like being on the slow speed in a blender.

During the school holiday in early September the Jalingo area experienced a deluge so that the road into JSS was not passable. Prior to the resumption of classes staff voluntarily prepared the road so that families could bring their students back to class. They picked up sticks and branches to place in the potholes and filled some with dirt making it possible to get to the campus. Staff has a daily challenge to get to school as they rendezvous in Jalingo and are taken six miles to the school on a daily basis but have a arduous trek over this road into JSS.

Low areas of the campus were muddy and water logged causing a soggy mess for students to go to/from classes to the dorms. Because of the deluge experienced by persons in the Jalingo area, the standing water breeds mosquitoes causing several students to come down with malaria. Snakes lose their habitat and one student was bitten by a viper.

Experts have said that unless the drainage issue is addressed at JSS the structures on campus will develop cracks and eventually collapse in the

coming years. The school considers this a serious situation and their number one priority.

Financial support is needed at the Junior Secondary School so contributions are welcome sent through your local church to the Conference Treasurer designated INP, #230, JSS. Prayers for staff and students is encouraged as quality education is provided by Christian staff.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

The 2013 Iowa United Methodist Student Day Merit Scholarship criteria and applications are now available on the [Youth & Young Adult Ministries page](http://www.iaumc.org) of the conference website at <http://www.iaumc.org>. Ministries; Youth and Young Adults. Three Iowa United Methodist students were awarded 2012 Merit Scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each. Generous giving by Iowa United Methodists through the Student Day offering on the 4th Sunday in November make these scholarships possible. The 2013 Merit Scholarship application deadline is March 15, 2013.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dave Applegate
- 2 Hank Beedle
- 6 Ron Waggoner
- 6 Keaton Wright
- 6 Allyee Pierson
- 7 Collette Beedle
- 7 Drake Roller
- 9 Carol Carley
- 9 Ellyanna Henderson
- 10 Arlene Hackett
- 10 Mark Jeppesen
- 10 Christan Jacobsen
- 13 Tim white
- 13 Nathan Parkhill
- 14 Dave Allen
- 14 Larry Kinnison
- 15 Cyndy Haines
- 16 Robert Copenhaver
- 17 Erica Carley
- 18 Debbie Parker
- 19 Ilene Applegate
- 19 Jackie Hildebrand
- 19 Marilyn Hebing
- 20 Lisa Putnam
- 22 Alex Gleaves
- 23 Brianna Skank
- 25 Amy Kelly
- 27 London Schueman
- 28 Kyra Martens



REMEMBER OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Kristie Copenhaver, John & Mary Lou Copenhaver's daughter; **Jared Myers**, son of Robert Myers and Sid & Tami Skank; **Tyler Williamson**, son of Michelle Swope; **Sonja Husz**; **Lucas Smith**, Addie Mae's grandson; **Brian Thornton** from Avoca; **Tyler Clark**, Marvin & Carolyn Clark's grandson; **Brad Grosvenor**, Cathey Grosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men and women. **Landen Pedersen**, son of Tab and Lorie Pederson & great-grandson of Edith Haines



If you have a loved one in the service and wish to have them listed on our prayer list, please contact the church office.



Valentine Cards for Our Shut-ins

See the church web page for the college ministry articles.

<http://www.oaklandiaumc.org>



Click the WESLEY FOUNDATION Tab

If you have a student in college, please contact this office with their address. We would like to keep in touch.

NURSING HOMES - Remember those in the nursing homes with cards and visits.

Oakland Manor: Margaret Alff, Eileen Haines, Audrey Hartje; Ralph Pierce

Oakland Heights: Lucille Bentley, Erma Cleaveland, Janice Harris, Pat Burgett



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Administrative Board

November 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Barb Schorsch, Terry Gleaves, Dick Merkle, Pastor Karen, Norma Bolton, Cathey Grosvenor, Peggy Bentley, Bernie Bolton, Gloria Gleaves, Lyle Bentley, Merlin Jones, Skip Applegate, Mischa Martens.

After prayer concerns and requests, Pastor Karen led the Board in prayer. Chairperson Barb opened the meeting.

Secretary's report: Merlin corrected a line to read that the speakers in the basement "are now working" even though that may be somewhat temporary. Lyle motioned to approve the report as corrected. Merlin seconded the motion and the report was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's report: Dick explained the Treasurer's report. Norma motioned to approve the report and Skip seconded the motion. Report is approved.

Finance Committee: Terry Gleaves reported that the committee is still looking into elevator options and will meet again before the end of the year.

Trustees: Pastor Karen reported that a few repairs were made at the church in the Youth room and also a few tiles were replaced.

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Bernie reported that the committee had met earlier this evening to discuss the retirement of Gordon Frizzell. Dick and Jo Kates are willing to try the position of church custodian for a 90 day trial period to see if it works for them and also for the church. Bernie motioned that the Board approve a 90 day trial period with pay for Dick and Jo Kates as custodians. Skip seconded the motion and the Board unanimously passed the motion. A potluck dinner to honor Gordon is also being planned.

Pastor's Report:

Calendar:

The RCA Thanksgiving meal is this Sunday (Nov. 18th) at 6:00.

Nov. 21st - Pastor will give a Thanksgiving sermon at the Senior Center

Nov. 29th - Pastor will attend a Healthy Church Initiative meeting in Harlan and would like others to join her.

Youth:

During November, the youth have been collecting food from area communities for the Food Pantry.

In December, the youth will make, decorate and deliver cookies.

Lay Leader: Merlin reported that the sound system in the basement is on its last leg and while searching out repairs found that Radio Shack has a 30w amplifier that could be hardwired to work for the basement. The cost is around \$100. When the current system dies, that may be a better alternative. Merlin also reported that there is a need for locks on the doors for the English classrooms so that computers and supplies can be safely left unpacked. It will save about 15 minutes on each side of the class if these supplies can remain setup between classes. The Board approved allowing Gordon to purchase 3 new locking doorknobs to install on the English classrooms. Child care was also a concern but is being handled by Mr. Ruhle.

Missions Committee: Mischa reported that November was Ingathering month and that is done. December, the mission will be Shoe Box Angels and she is working on that. It is undecided what their mission will be in January, but the committee will meet to come up with next year's plan.

Nominations Committee: The report of the Nominating Committee was presented to the Board for their approval. Peggy asked that she be

(cont'd)

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(Administrative Board Minutes cont'd)

removed as Recording Secretary for the coming year. The committee asked the Board to approve

the report with the few remaining names to be filled in as the positions are assigned. Merlin motioned to approve the report, Bernie seconded the motion and the report was approved.

Education Committee: Kristy was absent and no report was given.

Memorial: Lyle reported that he thought All Saints Sunday went well. The Donor plaque has been updated and will be hanging in the Narthex before the next Sunday. A water cooler has been purchased and will be placed in the Narthex also. The Committee is looking for suggestions for new projects. Lyle thought that perhaps they should look into new stained glass window coverings for the south side of the church as the ones there are quite yellowed and don't allow the beautiful windows to show through.

Old Business:

Nativity Set: Norma has been looking for an outdoor nativity set to replace the one that we currently have. It is in much need of painting/updating. Several people said that they will get the word out that we are looking for one. Mischa will post a request on a swap page. Peggy will contact Tammie Shellberg to see if she has any interest in painting the old ones to be used next year.

New Business:

Mitten Tree will be put up in the Narthex.

Christmas Eve Service times will be: UCC Church at 6:00 p.m.; United Methodist at 9:00 p.m.; Christian Church at 10:00 p.m.

Healthy Church Initiative: Pastor passed out a bulletin on the Health Church Initiative that Ed Kail would like us to participate in. Pastor will be attending a seminar in Harlan on November 29th and she would like a few church members to attend with her.

December 2nd - Caroling and a movie is being planned in conjunction with the Lion's Club chili supper.

January 20th - Planning session with Ed Kail. Ed will preach the sermon and a potluck is being planned for after church.

After discussion - it was decided that the December meeting will not be held due to everyone's busy holiday schedule. If a meeting is needed, it will be called for after church on any given Sunday.

Merlin brought up purchasing meals for needy families in our community at Christmas time. Barb told us about Share Iowa and the service that they provide. It was decided to order 10 meal boxes at \$30 each. Dick will get a check to Barb before Saturday as that is when the order must be placed and paid for. Pastor will get names of needy families through her contacts with other area ministers. Merlin motioned that the above mentioned things be brought to fruition. Terry seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Merlin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Norma seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Barb closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Bentley

Recording Secretary



Thank you for your donations of gloves, mittens, hats, & scarves for our Mitten Tree. We appreciate you helping those in need.

Thanks also for your contributions of coats.

Your donation do make a difference in the lives of people in need!



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Scott Hibben

LDM for Evangelism & New Ministry

No Problem!

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

– **Matthew 11:25**

Grace, our three-year-old granddaughter, melts this grandfather's heart with her generous spirit and exuberance for life.

Over Christmas she was getting into everything, actively exploring Grandma and Grandpa's house, when she found the picture of Loveness on our refrigerator; the little girl from Africa that my wife and I sponsor. "Who is she?" Grace wanted to know. So my wife began to explain it all to her. "Why do you sponsor her?" asked Grace. "Because she is hungry and wouldn't have much to eat, or be able to go to school, or the doctor, if we didn't." "Why don't her parents do that for her?" Grace kept pushing. "Because her parents are poor and can't give her enough to eat."

Then practical Grace set in to solving the problem. "We've got food", she said, as she went to our pantry and opened the door. "Here's some", and she grabbed several cans of vegetables. "Well," my wife tried to explain to her, "Loveness lives a long, long ways away, in Africa." Grace didn't let up. "We could put it on an airplane and get it to her." And so in Grace's mind the problem was justly handled.

It was simple arithmetic to her: Loveness was hungry + we had food and the means to get it to her = No Problem. It's hard to argue with a child's simple (and honest) logic.

Many (most?) of the problems of our world, our

country, our local communities, our churches and yes also our own lives are really not that complex, if we just had the simple, generous, practical spirit of a child. (Think of the oh-so-near possibility of wiping out polio in the entire world, except for the "complexities" of war and hatred in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria that continue to proliferate its seed.) Simply God put us in this world to be God's instruments, and so has given each of us the means to be God's blessing to others. (II Corinthians 9:11— "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and ... your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.") IT IS as simple as that. We are the ones who want to make it complex and so difficult.

Mother Teresea once said, "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world." Not the author, just the instrument. It's as simple as that. "Problems" result when we try to be more than we are (like play the role of God).

N. T. Wright described our role in God's plan in this way:

But what we can and must do in the present, if we are obedient to the gospel, if we are following Jesus, and if we are indwelt, energized, and directed by the Spirit, is to build *for* the kingdom. This brings us back to I Corinthians 15:58 once more: what you do in the Lord *is not in vain*. You are not oiling the wheels of a machine that's about to roll over a cliff. You are not restoring a great painting that's shortly going to be thrown in a fire. You are not planting roses in a garden that's about to be dug up for a building site. You are---strange though it may seem, almost as hard to believe as the resurrection itself--- accomplishing something that will be come in due course part of God's new world. Every act of love, gratitude, and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delight in the beauty of his creation; every minute spent teaching a severely handicapped child to read or walk; every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support, for one's fellow human being and for that matter one's fellow nonhuman (cont'd)

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(No Problem cont'd)

creatures; and of course every prayer, all Spirit-led teaching, every deed that spread the gospel, building up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption, and makes the name of Jesus honored in the world—all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, into the new creation that God will one day make. That is the logic of the mission of God.” (*Surprised by Hope*, p. 208)

Simple arithmetic: “Loveness is hungry + we have food and the means to get it to her = Problem Solved”. Even a child knows that, and at times teaches us that. “Go and do likewise,” Jesus urges us (Luke 10:37c).

In the cause of Christ, together,

SCOTT

Training: **United Methodism 101** - United Methodist Communications

United Methodism 101 (UM101) This online course is designed for new United Methodists and anyone wanting to know more about the denomination. Are you a ... www.umcom.org www.umcom.org/site/c.../b.../Training_United_Methodism_101.htm LabeledUMCom Sites

Registration open through February 14

Start each course when it best fits your schedule and move at your own pace. Each course includes six weeks of instruction. A course facilitator will respond to your work and answer questions via forums.

Lifelong United Methodist? New to United Methodism?

United Methodism 101 is designed for new church members and anyone else wanting to know more about our: **About the Course**

The course includes four web-based lessons, each with many interactive features. Lessons take about 30

minutes to complete.

Cost: \$9.99 | Preview | Register **Dates:** February 20 - April 3 **Credit:** Upon successful completion, learners are awarded .5 SACEM CEU. **Offline Option:** You also may order United Methodism 101 CD (KIT). The same interactive course blends audio, video and written materials into a fast-moving learning experience. This kit is ideal for groups. Each kit includes five identical CDs and one leader's guide. Additional CDs may be purchased.

Trust in God

Once there was a man who asked God for a flower and a butterfly.

But instead God gave him a cactus and a caterpillar.

The man was sad, he didn't understand why his request was mistaken.

Then he thought: Oh well, God has too many people to care for....and decided not to question.

After some time the man went to check up on his request that he had left forgotten.

To his surprise, from the thorny & ugly cactus a beautiful flower had grown.

And the unsightly caterpillar had transformed into the most beautiful butterfly.

God always does things right.

His way is always the best way, even if to us it seems all wrong.

If you asked God for one thing and received another, TRUST.

You can be sure that He will always give you what you need at the appropriate time.

What you want is not always what you need.

God never fails to grant our petitions, so keep on going to Him without doubting or murmuring.

Today's thorn is tomorrow's flower.