

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church Sullivan, Missouri

July 2008

Steve's Scribbles

Where do pastors come from? How do pastors get to be pastors? Is there some magic words, some secret formula, that turns certain people into pastors?

The process actually starts in a local congregation, where people are nurtured in the ways of faith and service. And sometimes, that nurturing opens the way for a call to the ministry, and an invitation to begin a journey to explore that call further. All candidates who begin that journey do so with the recommendation and support of their local church.

Their journey then continues with District and Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry, who help the candidate in the process of further clarifying and defining that call. After a few years of intense study and work, the candidate receives ordination, a gift from God that comes through the church, that sets that person apart for specific kinds of ministry and service, and is appointed to serve a local congregation.

Even after ordination, ordained pastors continue to receive training and nurture and support, through workshops and seminars provided by the Conference Center for Pastoral Excellence and the Center for Congregational Excellence.

And again, the local congregation is a part of this process, through its Apportionment Support of the Center for Congregational Excellence (\$2,787.00), the Center for Pastoral Excellence (\$337.00), and the Ordained Ministry Team (\$46.00). Think about it - our apportionment giving to these groups allows them to train and nurture pastors, who in turn come back into the local church to train and nurture churches in ministries of service and disciple-making and transforming the world!

While it may seem that a lot of our apportionments go to administrative sorts of things, it is the kind of administrative stuff that can have a great impact on the church, and on the lives of people that the church touches. They are, in fact, vitally important for the life and ministry and outreach of the church!

So, part of the answer to the question "How do pastors get to be pastors?" is simple. God works through the local church to make that happen, through its nurture of people, and through its giving. In other words, God works through YOU to make it happen!

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Worship In July

In July and August, Paul's Letter to the Romans will guide our worship. Although it is a book heavy with "churchy language", it also contains some of the most uplifting and promising passages of any of Paul's letters. Come and hear about the grace of God as only the apostle Paul can tell it!

July 6 - Ephesians 6:10-19
"For the Good Times"
Myrna Johnson, guest preacher

Sunday, July 13 - Holy Communion
Romans 3:22-31

Sunday, July 20
Romans 4:13-25

Sunday, July 27
Romans 5:1-8
During the 10:45 worship, we will also get a chance to see and hear from our boys and girls and their experiences at "Beach Party" Vacation Bible School!

Where's The Beef?

This month's community dinner will be grilled hamburgers. We're asking for the donated hamburger patties to be at the church a week early so they can be grilled ahead of time. Your help is needed especially in July and August since some of our regular workers and delivers are not going to be able to help. Please keep this mission opportunity in mind.

There's a Fifth Tuesday in July!



And that can only mean one thing - it's time to go to Centenary UMC, and assist them in serving meals to homeless persons! We will leave Grace UMC's parking lot at 3:30 PM, and return between 7:30 and 8:00 PM. While at Centenary, we will help with the serving of meals, washing dishes, and cleaning up after the meal is over. No special skills are required - just a willingness to serve! If you are interested in participating in this hands-on ministry, or need further information, please talk to Pastor Steve. Thanks!

Vacation Bible School Beach Party!

We are inviting all children to be a part of the excitement at our Vacation Bible School, Beach Party: Surfin' Through The Scriptures.

At this Beach Party, your children will become surfers riding the wave of God's love.

The Bible stories presented at the Scripture Scene encourage your children to develop Beach Be-Attitudes: Be Obedient, Be Kind, Be Forgiving, Be Bold, and Believe.

Your children will extend their learning through every activity: making their own special memories in Beachcomber Crafts, singing fun tunes at Sound Waves, experiencing science activities at the Surf 'n' Sand Science Lab, participating in recreational activities at Rockin' Rec, and enjoying tasty snacks at the Snack Shack.



Come enjoy the surf and sand at Grace United Methodist Church on Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25 from 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon. And don't forget the kick-off beach party on Sunday, July 20, at the church at 5:00 pm. To register for our beach party or to find out more, call the church office at 468-6010.

Sincerely,

Rachel Williams

Your Beach Party: Surfin' Through The Scriptures VBS Director

Military Prayer Requests

Doug Archambo, Texas
Nathan Shelton, North Carolina
Sean Stumpe, North Carolina
Jake Rice, Afghanistan
Michael Richards, Iraq
William Burkhardt, Iraq

