

## A Note from Pastor Craig

It's Sunday evening, September 15th, and I've just returned from a superb hike around Bass Lake. While almost every outing outdoors in any season has memorable moments, today's hike was "one for the ages."

There was hardly a cloud in the sky and nary a breeze. At one point I heard a sound that I thought was the wind beginning to gently blow, but discovered instead that I was approaching a stream cascading down a gully to the lake. Normally the stream is dry, but with our recent deluge it was running again. A loon called a couple times and I heard a number of red squirrels and a few birds. Otherwise everything was still. The late afternoon September light slanted through the trees, highlighting a few that had begun to turn red. It's almost as if all of Creation was enjoying itself as summer began to fade into fall.

These kinds of days feel to me like a benediction to summer, bringing with them mixed emotions. On the one hand, they are so lovely I want to stop everything else I'm doing and stamp them onto my memory. On the other hand, they are a somber reminder that summer is drawing to a close, if not now then sometime in the next six weeks or so.

This time of year I try to remind myself of two things, both which come from the Psalms.

- First, to "taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8) Each season of the year and each

day of our life bring with them something generous and bountiful from God's own heart. We experience these gifts via Creation, each other, and the events of our days. Most spiritual disciplines seek to assist us in being aware and mindful of these precious, yet commonplace moments.

- Second, "Teach us to number our days." (Psalm 90:12) In other words, once we notice these gifts from God, and recognizing how swiftly life passes, we are encouraged to bring them into our hearts/minds and make them a part of our life, lest they pass through our fingers like sand and disappear. The second part of this verse reads, "so that we may gain a wise heart." This doesn't mean so we can become a smarty-pants; it means so that our life is the full and abundant life that Jesus comes to bring.

The out-of-doors, the seasons, and the events of our lives become our teacher, drawing us ever closer to the God we discover through the Scripture Story, so that we may "love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves."

Whatever the shape of the season of life you find yourself in presently, may you experience God's love and have a sense of God's presence with you this fall. Have a blessed October!

Pastor Craig

**Contact Information and Office Hours  
for October 2019**

Church Office: (218) 365-3355  
Parsonage: (218) 365-3716  
Email: [elymethodist@elyumc.org](mailto:elymethodist@elyumc.org)

Pastor Craig is planning to be in the church office from 9 AM to 11 AM on Tuesdays through Saturdays.

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**Church Bazaar  
Saturday, November 2, 2019**

Our Ely UMC Bazaar is held every other year and is a very SPECIAL EVENT sponsored by and hosted by our Women's Group, the UMW.

This bazaar is a great help in the financial support of our participation in God's Ministries here in our church and has been a very reliable fundraiser for many years now.

We invite everyone – women and men – to take some time and consider how they can help with our 2019 CHURCH BAZAAR. We will need  
BAKED GOODS---to be sold  
CRAFT GOODS---to be sold  
DESSERTS---to be shared  
and HELPERS for Craft Sales, Bake Sale and Coffee And..

We'll be discussing logistics for this event at the UMW meetings on September 25 and October 23. Please

contact President Bonnie Berglund, Vice-President Lucy Diesslin or Secretary Jeanne Tomlinson if you have questions or if you are willing to contribute crafts and/or baked goods or help at the event.

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**Community Outreach  
Gift of Giving Program Progress**

The first phase of our *Gift of Giving* program, collecting the funds, has now been accomplished in record time. Our first Free Will Offering on June 30<sup>th</sup> brought in \$715.00 and our second Free Will Offering on August 18<sup>th</sup> brought in an additional \$385.00. With the starting balance, our total is \$1,115.16, exceeding our goal of \$1,100.00. Only two Free Will Offerings were needed to reach our intended goal, one less than our initial program last year. Fantastic support from our congregation.

Phase two, meeting with each facility staff contacts, will begin next month to learn what the residents of the Ely Carefree Living (ECFL) and the Boundary Waters Care Center (BWCC) need and/or would like to receive as Christmas gifts. The results of this process will be amended as the number of residents change from each facility, up or down.

The third phase of the project has several tasks including: buying the gifts, having our youth Sunday school participants make the greeting cards for the residents to go with the gifts, plan how to wrap/bag the gifts and identify each gift to a specific resident. We had a wonderful turnout last year to help with these steps and our volunteer list is open to all newcomers who wish to

participate in any of these steps of the project. Contact Margie Olson, Linda Hane or Jay Tomlinson to volunteer.

The last phase of the project is to deliver the gifts and help with the distribution of the gifts to the residents during each of the ECFL and BWCC Christmas parties. This *Gift of Giving* Community Outreach project was presented to the members and delegates of our Annual Conference of the Minnesota United Methodist Church this past June at the Annual Conference.

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### **Visioning Committee Initiatives and Invitation**

Our Visioning Committee recently distributed and submitted the Natural Church Development Survey. This is the third time our church has participated in taking this survey, the first being 2010, and the second in 2015. The survey is designed to provide a profile that reflects the health of the church. Based on the answers submitted on the survey from up to 30 congregation members. Only 30 surveys are provided so if you did not receive one, please do not be offended. Scores are determined for eight different Quality Characteristics, those being: Empowering Leadership, Gift Based Ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Effective Structures, Inspiring Worship Service, Holistic Small Groups, Need-Oriented Evangelism, and Loving Relationships.

The results of the survey not only provide our Visioning Committee with a direction of what we might focus our attention on to improve the health of our church, but also if our efforts between surveys have actually been successful. Good ideas for improving these eight Quality Characteristics are becoming hard to come up with.

However, there are resources that can help including, but not limited to, the following:

- Profile Plus – Profile Plus--for \$85 Profile Plus gives us the individual score for each of the questions asked on the survey. This would give us specific things to work on.
- Coaching – we could seek the advice of a coach. There are 3 in Minnesota, all quite distant, so telecommunications would be necessary. Cost, if any, is unknown at this time.
- Online resources provided by NCD America – one example is a series of prompts that help get us to undertake changes intended to improve the health of our church. (Note: this does not mean we are unhealthy, but simply that there is always room for improvement.)

In the coming months, the Visioning Committee will be addressing the results of the survey and each of the Quality Characteristics and whether we should employ any of the above resources. By the way, the results indicate our church falls into the 70% of all the churches participating in the program and our scores for all eight Quality Characteristics fall between the 35 and 65 range where a score of 50 is average.

One idea that we are working on is to develop a series of group meetings addressing and discussing topics presented at our 2019 Annual Conference of the Minnesota United Methodist Church. Topics might include the Way Forward for our Church Conference, Evangelism for non-evangelists, Lydia Scarves and the 2020 General Conference, the UMC seeks to eliminate Racism, Assimilating New Members, Community Outreach and Inclusiveness.

Our Visioning Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the church and welcomes

anyone who is interested in participating on the committee. We welcome fresh new ideas and can use help in developing programs that improve the health of our church.

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### **Future Dates to Remember**

(Check this month's calendar for October events.)

- Saturday, Nov 2 – Church Bazaar
- Sunday, Nov 10 – All Church Potluck after Worship
- Sunday, Nov 24 – Thanks Gathering at Ledgerock

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### **Articles for the FISH**

Just a reminder to all – the EUMC *FISH* is our church newsletter. We sometimes ask some groups or individuals to write specific articles about coming events but we always welcome articles from any member of the congregation. If you have thoughts or information you'd like to share with other *FISH* readers, please send it to the church. Send electronic versions to [elymethodist@elyumc.com](mailto:elymethodist@elyumc.com) or paper versions to *FISH* Editors, Ely United Methodist Church, 305 E Camp St, Ely, MN 55731.

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### **ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – MINUTES September 18, 2019**

**Call To Order:** Jay Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendees (10):** Bonnie Berglund, Craig Haberman, Dan & Bev Johnson, Margie & Mark Olson, Keith Rue, Donna Rusco, Jay & Jeanne Tomlinson

**Opening:** Pastor Craig provided the “Opening Thought” by sharing some thoughts from a pamphlet about *The Sense of the Meeting* and then opened with a prayer.

**Minutes:** The May 15, 2019 Ad Council minutes were approved as printed in the Summer *FISH*. Motion by Bonnie Berglund; second by Keith Rue. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Olson presented the May, June, July and August 2019 Treasurer's Reports. Receipts & disbursements for May were \$8,284 & \$8,997.52, respectively; for June \$7,041 & \$8,277.98; for July \$9,722.20 & \$8,217.27 and for August \$7,271.45 & \$8,742.63. End of August balances: Undesignated Funds \$12,007.42; Building Fund \$3,485.73; Memorial Fund \$10,301.74; Parish Health Ministries \$400; R3 Project \$145.25; Gift of Giving Project \$1115.16. Motion to accept all four reports by Jeanne Tomlinson, second by Keith Rue. Motion approved.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Board of Trustees:** Margie Olson reported (1) Brett Porthan painted the nursery but the kitchen and two basement windows in the parsonage are not done yet; (2) the handicapped sign for the 3<sup>rd</sup> handicapped parking spot has been put on the wall of the church; (3) work has been done to resolve the flooding in the kitchen/fellowship hall but still needs a little more work since the Tuesday deluge resulted in a small amount of flooding under the oven; (4) the basement outside door is rusting – Brett Porthan was going to evaluate it; (5) Phil Hegfors made a sleeve for the railing at

the top section of the stairs going down to the lower parking lot so it can be removed during the winter so it won't be in the way of the snow plowing; (6) the upstairs bathroom has been thoroughly cleaned and a cupboard installed; (7) Margie Olson, Pastor Craig & Jeanne Tomlinson did an official parsonage inspection and determined everything is fine but work will be required if the need for handicapped accessibility arises; (8) the downstairs piano has been replaced with a donation of an electric piano from Susan Germek; (9) the parsonage drier required a replacement of the sensors again – apparently the venting design causes some backdraft that overheats them.

- **Memorial Fund:** Carol Linneman had sent in a report that memorial funds have been allocated to pay for supplies for the Kid's Activity bags and the cabinet for the upstairs bathroom. Their next meeting will be November 12 at 9 AM. It was mentioned that some funds will probably be allocated for the landscape expenses and for more choir music.
- **Finance:** Bev Johnson had some questions about the church finances and the budgeting process. She scheduled the Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, November 13 at 3 PM to work on the 2020 budget.
- **Outreach:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the *Gift of Giving* completed its collection goal of \$1,100 with just two free will offerings and that the project will now proceed through the next steps of

coordinating with the Boundary Waters Care Center and Carefree Living to determine gifts to purchase and then the purchase, packing and December deliveries.

- **Pastor-Parish Relations:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported the committee met on Wednesday, September 4 to begin the annual pastor evaluation process which has changed a bit this year. Pastor Craig shared his current plans for his time away through June 2020. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30 PM to complete the evaluation process and discuss the pastor's 2020 salary.
- **Worship:** Bev Johnson reported that the committee had just met on September 17 to discuss various worship plans and prepare the information for the Church Responsibilities Handbook.
- **Parish Health Ministry:** Donna Rusco reported that Joyce Mattila will be moving to assisted living in Ely once there is an opening and that Wally Fendt and Marcki Murdock have been placed into hospice.
- **Visioning:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the committee will be meeting the next day, Thursday, September 19, primarily to discuss the results of the most recent Natural Church Development Survey. This is the third time we have done this survey (originally in 2010 and again in 2014). Only 24 of the 30 surveys were returned.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Jumpin' Jehosaphats:** Jay Tomlinson reported that the July 31 event was a success. We had a good turnout of over 120 people and collected \$687 for Young Life. The event was advertised ahead of time and an article was run afterwards reporting on the donation which was good publicity for our church.
2. **Progress on Ad Hoc Committee for Church Handbook:** Jeanne Tomlinson distributed an updated Organizational Chart and outline for the handbook and indicated she still had some questions about how to proceed in handling discrepancies between the old handbook, positions we vote on in our annual church conference and our current mode of operation/organization. It was decided that Pastor Craig and Jeanne will meet to try to work out all the discrepancies to come back with proposed revisions to be presented at the next Ad Council.
3. **Revisions to the Church History on the back of the Church Bulletin:** Pastor Craig indicated no work had been done yet since he wasn't sure what changes we should make. It was decided to remove this item from the agenda until some further discussion could happen among interested parties and it would be brought back to the Ad Council at that time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Jumpin' Jehosaphats:** Jay Tomlinson requested that we formally rescind a motion that was made at the March Ad Council meeting about the allocation of funds for the July 31 event and then formalize the motion that had been made on a Sunday prior to the event when it was learned that the band would not be

willing to accept any offering funds. Bev Johnson moved that we rescind the March 20, 2019 motion to sponsor the Jumpin' Jehosaphats for \$200 and take a free will offering to cover the costs and give the balance to the band. Margie Olson seconded the motion. Motion to rescind was approved. Margie Olson then moved that we retroactively sponsor the Jumpin' Jehosaphats for \$200 and take a free will offering at the event for the Ely Young Life ministry. Bev Johnson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

2. **Programmable Thermostats:** Margie Olson reported that she had received an email proposal from Butch & Lucy Diesslin offering to pay for, install & program programmable thermostats for the church sanctuary and the basement, replacing the existing ones. The proposal included providing detailed programming instructions as well as simple override instructions. Margie brought a motion from the Trustees to accept this proposal. Bonnie Berglund seconded the motion. Discussion included questions about who would be responsible for programming them should the need arise and the thought that we should probably add lockable covers for the new thermostats to keep unauthorized folks from changing them. The vote was taken with no change to the motion. Motion approved.
3. **Landscape funding:** Dan Johnson asked if the council could set a date for him to make a plea for additional landscaping funds since what was spent has exceeded what has been collected. Margie Olson suggested the Memorial Committee would probably be able to allocate some funds to cover the

deficit. It was suggested that for next year we include regular funds in our budget to cover expected annual costs. It was agreed that we change the "Building Maintenance" budget line item to be "Building & Grounds Maintenance" and then plan to increase that item's budget amount accordingly.

4. **"Welcome Visitor" Pew Pamphlet revisions:** Jeanne Tomlinson reported that she'd been working on updates to the trifold pamphlet we have in the pew pockets that outline various church activities that may be of interest to visitors. She asked to have folks review the changes before she proceeds with getting it printed to replace the current stock of those pamphlets. She'll email a copy to Ad Council members for review.

**Correspondence** – None

**Items of Information.**

1. **Hanging of the Greens & Potluck:** During the Worship Committee meeting on September 17, the question was raised as to who is responsible for coordinating the Hanging of the Greens and subsequent potluck dinner. It was felt that there should be some group assigned to take responsibility for this in order to eliminate the randomness of getting replacement decorations when needed as well as making sure the event is a bit more organized. No decision was made although it was suggested the Worship Committee think about forming a sub-committee to take this on.
2. **Small Group Meetings:** Jay Tomlinson reported that he was meeting with Lucy Diesslin to discuss the possibilities of forming small discussion groups after

church potlucks similar to what was done at the Minnesota Annual Conference.

3. **Project Bulbs:** Jay Tomlinson brought up that the projector bulb burned out during his conference report in June and still needs to be replaced. He recommended we buy two and asked Mark Olson if he could see if he could order those from Quill. Mark will need the projector information in order to do that.
4. **Front Porch Sensor:** Dan & Bev Johnson reported that the motion sensor for the front porch lights may need some adjusting since the lights didn't come on until they were part way down the steps the previous night.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM with a unison reciting of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Tomlinson, Ad Council Secretary

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**A CALL FROM GOD**

One Saturday night, a pastor was working late and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10:00 PM, but his wife didn't answer the phone. The pastor let it ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer but decided to wrap up a few things and try again in a few minutes. When he tried again, she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that it hadn't rung at their house. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry ways.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone that he'd used that Saturday night. The man that he spoke with wanted to

know why he'd called on Saturday night. The pastor couldn't figure out what the man was talking about.

Then the man said, "It rang and rang, but I didn't answer." The pastor remembered the mishap and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife.

The man said, "That's okay. Let me tell you my story. You see, I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, 'God if you're there, and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.' At that point, my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, '**Almighty God**'. I was afraid to answer. "

The church that the pastor attends is called the Almighty God Tabernacle.

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### **TWO CUPS OF COFFEE**

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up

everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else---the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.'

'Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first--the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked. The coffee just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'