



October 2019

Monthly Publication



## Vic's Views....

### The Unopened Bottle

His name was Walt. A faithful member of a church I served 20 years ago. A man in his mid-70s and very interested in my pursuing a doctorate in ministry. He had the gift of encouragement. He had studied theology in post graduate work and earned a PhD and he thought it was a “very worthy expenditure of effort” to grow in knowledge of the Lord on that level. I had completed the year-long classwork and only had writing my dissertation left to do. He offered his North Fort Myers home for me to retreat to and spend many hours researching, praying, writing and rewriting my dissertation (there is no such thing as “good writing” of a dissertation—only “good re-writing!”).

He told me a story about his PhD dissertation writing that has stuck with me. He spent several months in a monastery in Greece writing his dissertation back in the

70s. It was a monastery known for the wine that the monks made there. During his extended time there, he got to know some of the brothers fairly well and got to be good friends with several of them. They appreciated his focused attention to study and his desire for God and learning and growing. When his time there was coming to a close, the monks gave Walt a little going away present.

It was a bottle of wine. A very rare vintage bottle that would have cost a lot out in the marketplace, but it had been produced many years ago by the monks and it was from a batch which was renowned for its great quality. As they blessed him with this gift, they gave him instructions on its transportation and the temperature it should be kept at.

Then they asked Walt to promise to one requirement in receiving this bottle of vintage wine. They said, “This wine is of such great quality, it must not be wasted on any ordinary moment! Don’t open it until you

(Continued on page 2)

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have experienced the highest and most fulfilling moment of your life. Wait for the best moment of your life to enjoy this wine...this wine is worthy of nothing less than that!"

This commitment presented a dilemma for Walt. How would he know if any particular moment was the highest and most fulfilling one of his life? No matter how great a moment might be, whether you just witnessed a total eclipse of the sun, or your daughter got married, or your wife gave birth to your first-born, or you just won the lottery. Who's to say there might not be, after that, an even greater moment waiting for you in the future?

When Walt told me that story, it got me to thinking...first, how cruel of those monks to do such a thing!

But then, it dawned on me that bottle of wine represented something that is true about faith. No matter how great things are in life, we have the capacity to always hope for even greater moments. We are simply wired that way! The converse is also true: No matter how bad things get in life, we have the capacity to always hope for better moments. God, in his infinite wisdom created us to always be reaching for higher and better and more excellent moments.

Even those who have endured horrible situations have displayed this constant supply of hope that comes through faith in Christ.

You may remember a three-line anonymous poem scratched onto a wall in Auschwitz by a victim of the Holocaust.

*"I believe in the sun, even when  
it is not shining.*

*"I believe in love, even though  
I don't feel it.*

*"I believe in God, even when  
he is silent."*

Such is the amazing power of hope!

Our faith in Christ motivates us to keep looking up. Even when everything else forces our heads down to the ground, our spirits are lifted to the source of our hope.

And that bottle of wine? Walt accepted the bottle. Walt died a few years ago at the age of 92. His family told me he never opened the bottle.

Such is the amazing power of hope!

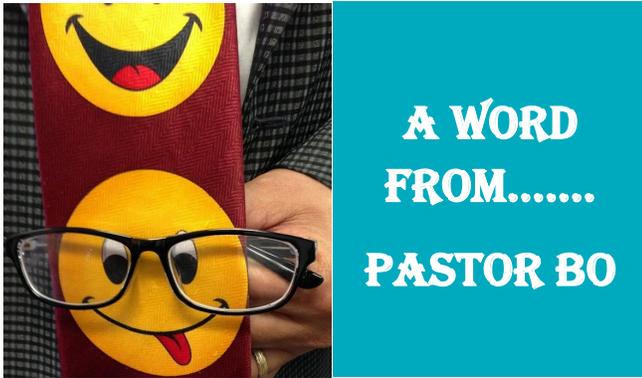
2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV)

***<sup>18</sup> But we all, with open face beholding as  
in a glass the glory of the Lord, are  
changed into the same image from glory  
to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

You are Loved!

*Pastor Vic Willis*

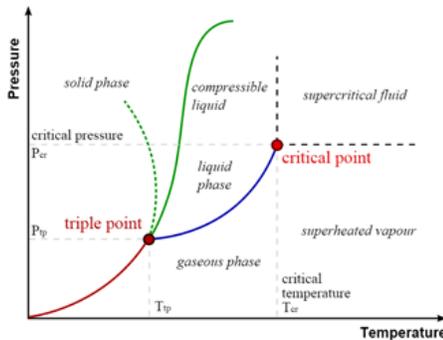




## One Extra Degree of Effort

In the Science of Thermodynamics, there is a physical phenomenon called “*critical point*.” The “*critical point*”

refers to situations where when a fixed amount of something is reached, a multiplier effect is observed. It refers to the fact that amazing transformations arise instantaneously when that fixed amount is reached.



In the *ideal* conditions, for example, water does not boil at 211 degrees Fahrenheit. Water boils only when it reaches exactly 212 degrees. The difference between water and steam is exactly that final one degree of temperature. 212 degrees is the *critical point*. I believe, everything in the world has a *critical point*. As such, in order for something to transform from one state to another, the *critical point* must be exceeded.

At 211 degrees, water is hot. At 212 degrees, it boils. Moreover, with boiling water comes steam. Steam can power a heavy locomotive; can catapult an \$80-million-dollar jet from the aircraft carrier; can produce the electricity for us. One extra degree makes all the difference – one extra degree. Moreover, the one extra degree of effort in life – separates – the good from the great.

If we observe the people God works through, we see that they spend much time in darkness before reaching higher ground. What is important, though, is that they did not give up in dark times and climbed the peak to the end. The way the hours right before dawn are the darkest, the point at which we want to give up on everything is the very point at which we can break through the *critical point*. Those times are the most difficult. Those times are when we need the most energy. However, if we overcome that hurdle, a completely new world opens up for us.

If any of you are enduring hardships that seem like the valley of death, do not despair. Just endure a little longer. Curb your impatience. You are close to your *critical point*. No matter how difficult, do not give up. Just wait a little longer. You will be raised from valley to high ground in His time. Moreover, from higher ground, you will be able to help the countless number of people traversing through the valley after you. You will become an inspiration to those in the valley.

However, completely fill up your need for prayer *while in the valley*. Completely fill up your thirst for knowledge. Completely fill yourself up with devotion. Be filled with patience. Do not distress over hardship. Be thankful for it. Although, it is difficult, *feel the hardship through loving touch of God*. The more we avoid suffering, the more we suffer. Welcome suffering. Receive hardship as God’s gift. God will not let your hardships come to waste.

*Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:3-4 NIV)*

God’s grace with those enduring hardships as run the race.

Joyfully,  
*Pastor Bo*

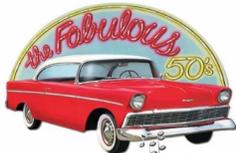


Englewood United Methodist Church Music Ministry 2019-2020 Concert Series Presents

# Pumpkins, Pipes, & Pandemonium

In the Sanctuary

6:30 pm Wednesday, October 23



Music & Antics!



## Malt Shop Memories

Wear a Costume or Dress Up (optional)

For All Ages!

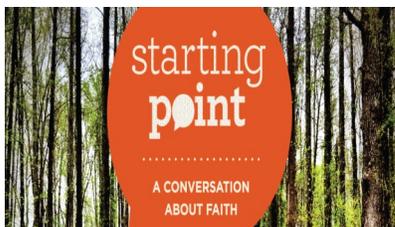
Fonda on keys & the band "Fusion by Fire"



FREEWILL OFFERING



A Fun-Filled Evening!



### Starting Point

8-week conversation on Faith

Thursday, October 10 – November 21

5:00 pm in Room 104

Facilitated by Tom Calderon

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall on Sundays

or call Joyce in the church office 474-5588, ext. 261

Workbooks \$12 \* Scholarships Available

## SAVE THE DATES !!

2nd EUMC Women's Conference

Friday, January 17

& Saturday, January 18

### "Growing in Grace"

Speakers:

Jennifer Speers & Sarah Baldrige

Mark your Calendars!

More details to come!





### *At Home*

Janet Albrecht  
 Fran Altman  
 Mary Lou Bogart  
 Jenny Chastain  
 Joe & Ethel Croce  
 Audrey Grant  
 Shirley Grayson  
 Lori Ierardi  
 Howard & Nan Jackson  
 Jean Kushall  
 Deborah Larsen  
 Betty Madison  
 Geri Meneely  
 Roger & Barb Molendyke  
 Jackie Morton  
 Damon & Ruth Runyon  
 Adele Stewart  
 Mary Thompson  
 Helen Williams  
 Gina Willis  
 Virginia Wilson

### *At Nursing Home or Assisted Living*

Frances Bates—*Heritage Oaks*  
 Alice Buck—*Gardens of Venice*  
 Helen Campbell—*Heritage Oaks*  
 Margaret Cypher—*Harbor Chase*  
 Ruth Davidson—*Pinebrook*  
 Gayle Davis—*Magnolia Acres*  
 Jim & Shirley Davis—*Grand Villa*  
 Geri Demmin—*Pinebrook*  
 Sandra Dussault—*Englewood Health Care Rehab*  
 Marjorie Fitzgerald—*Family Affair*  
 Helen Funk—*Venetian Gardens*  
 Shirleen Gallagher—*Live Oak Manor*  
 Peg Grim—*Heritage Oaks*  
 Colleen Haag—*Heritage Oaks*  
 Dorothy Hill—*Magnolia Acres*  
 George Howard—*Manor Care*  
 Diane Keemon—*Grand Villa*  
 Barbara Liddle—*Aston Gardens*  
 Charles Lindberg—*Heritage Oaks*  
 Audrey MacEhiney-Rogers—*Towers of Venice*  
 Vivian Miller—*Sunset Lakes Village*  
 Janice Reynolds—*North Port Pines*  
 Jim Roch—*Maris Pointe*  
 Jeanne Sawyer—*Inglenook*  
 Vivian Slimak—*Brookdale Palmer Ranch*  
 Marilyn Smith—*Summerfield—Bradenton*  
 Willard & Janet Wilson—*Heritage Oaks*

## **Congregational Care.....**

Do you live alone? In need of company? Would you like someone to visit, enjoy your company and pray with?

Congregational Care Ministers are on hand to visit with you on a monthly basis, sharing their ministry through prayer and communion. Please call Pastor Don at 941-474-5588 to request a CCM Minister.

God Bless You,

*Pastor Don*

## Memorial Gifts

### Pastor's Discretionary

In Memory Of: Jean Dexheimer  
 Given By: Marlene Russell  
 Quentin & Diane Burkey

### Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: Jean Dexheimer  
 Given By: Margaret Rock

### Non-designated Giving

In Memory Of: Jean Dexheimer  
 Given By: Martha Everett  
 Linda Girvin  
 Marcia Collier  
 Susan Hindmarch

In Memory Of: Paul (Jimmy) Clovis  
 Given By: Nancy Remy



## New Members Class

The new members classes will be held Tuesdays, October 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for those interested in joining the church. Classes are from 6:00—8:00 p.m. (room to be announced). Membership Joining Sunday will be October 27<sup>th</sup> during the service you attend.



The classes are a great way for Pastor Vic to get to know you as well as for you to know him, and to learn about the history of EUMC.

If you are interested in joining the EUMC family, please call the church office at 941-474-5588, ext. 105 and let Teresa know you're planning to attend the classes. Childcare will gladly be provided upon request.

## UMCOR 2019-2020 MISSION TRIPS



We are planning to assist UMCOR again to help families devastated by Hurricane Irma (2017). According to Steve Potter, UMCOR Volunteer coordinator, there are many families still needing home repairs.

Riverside Retreat continues to need help with projects at the retreat center and we will plan day trips to assist them. Consider getting involved with either the UMCOR or Riverside opportunities posted below:

- November UMCOR week of Nov.18-22
- November Riverside Retreat day trip Nov.14
- December UMCOR week of Dec.16-20
- December Riverside Retreat day trip Dec. 19
- January UMCOR week of Jan.13-17
- January Riverside Retreat day trip Jan. 16
- February UMCOR week of Feb. 17-21
- February Riverside Retreat day trip Feb. 20
- March UMCOR week of Mar. 23-27
- March Riverside Retreat day trip Mar. 26

**Contact: Peter Patrick 410-713-2406 or [propanepete@live.com](mailto:propanepete@live.com)**



### Comparative Financial Operations/Performance For the 12 months ending August 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Tithes & Offerings	\$1,127,530	\$1,128,351
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$1,105,928</u>	<u>\$1,152,465</u>
Tithes & Offerings Less Expenditures	\$ 21,602	\$ -24,114

## Guide Team Update

Your EUMC Guide Team meets monthly throughout the year and will be writing update articles in the *Messenger* to keep the congregation informed on important matters within the church. We want to be transparent as possible and encourage you to ask questions on any topics of interest. The Guide Team is divided into 3 triads: Finance, Personnel and Property and recent activity is listed below.

### Finance

- ◆ YTD operating receipts and expenses are in line with our budget through the end of August. Praise the Lord!
- ◆ As per usual, summer doldrums are upon us, so we operated at a loss of \$41,999 for the month of August; however, YTD receipts have exceeded expenses by \$21,602.

### Property

- ◆ In support of the annual Rummage Sale and our growing Youth Ministry, the Guide Team has been working diligently to get approvals from Sarasota County to build a metal building on the west side of our church property adjacent to the current Englewood Helping Hand building. DMK Engineering has been contracted with to go through the necessary permitting/planning process and we will keep the congregation informed on the progress. The Rummage Sale will take place in February 2020.
- ◆ We are working on replacing the roofing outside Fellowship Hall and along the covered walkways throughout the EUMC campus.
- ◆ The 30+ year old air conditioning in Doan Chapel has stopped cooling. As a result, we will be replacing the a/c system there with a new energy efficient one at a cost of almost \$16,000.
- ◆ We are making upgrades to the audio systems in both the EUMC Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

*Beth Harrison*

Business Administrator

## Ministry of Music

Happy Fall! That means Christmas is approaching, and the Sanctuary Choir is already working on their music for the Christmas Cantata. If you would like to sing with the Choir for the Cantata, come to Thursday evening rehearsals about 7:45 pm. That's the time during the rehearsal when we work on it. This year's is "Noel, Night of Everlasting Joy". It has much of the music used at the Epcot Christmas Processional program each year.



The 2019-2020 Music Ministry Concert Series brochures are available at the church. Please take a few and share with neighbors and friends. We have some great events planned. The first is our annual "Pumpkins, Pipes and Pandemonium" for the whole family on October 23 at 6:30 pm. We will be revisiting the sounds and fun of the 1950's in "Maltshop Memories". Additionally, I will have some surprises on the organ.

We have many opportunities to participate in the Music Ministry of EUMC. Let me know which ones YOU would like to be a part of!

Cheers,  
*Fonda*

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**

Volunteers are needed,  
both men & women.  
Help is needed with: set-up,  
working a shift at the  
bazaar, clean up and baking for the bake sale  
table: Brownies, fudge, breads and cookies.  
Please sign up in Fellowship Hall  
after each church service.





## *Ms. Patty's Playroom.....*

I am a woman on a mission. As you may or may not know, 1 in 4 children within Charlotte County are experiencing or have experienced a traumatic situation. Sarasota County children statistics are not much better.

When I first started as the Director for the preschool, the Sarasota Early Learning Coalition had a contract with the Florida Learning Center to work with children who have Mental Health Issues. They were wonderful there and very helpful. This contract no longer exists and last year, it was almost impossible to get help for kids with mental health needs. This week when I spoke with my contact at the coalition, she said she has people who can come out to observe the teacher and give them techniques but they don't have anyone to help with Mental Health Counseling for the children. This is not acceptable to me. I have children who need help from a qualified counselor who specializes in children. My mission...find this kind of person.

I have started with the Florida Learning Center but have not yet had a direct phone conversation with them. It is my hope that we will connect soon and figure out a way to contract directly with them to receive services as needed. Until I speak with someone directly however, I can't be sure of costs or feasibility.

I am sharing my mission with you because I'm thinking there may be someone in this congregation who has credentials in the Mental Health field and might be willing to contract with us to help the kids. I know it won't be easy and there may be some hoops we will have to jump through to meet Florida requirements but I sure could use your help.

Any missionary will tell you that prayer was the key to their effectiveness. As a result, I covet your prayers for this mission. If you have the skills we need, we pray we will find each other. If you have a connection to someone who can help fill this need, I ask that you step out in faith and ask for their help.

May God fulfill this mission in extraordinary ways!

*Patty Tuff*

Director of Preschool



## **Dinner in Fellowship Hall 5:00-6:30pm**

There is a \$7 suggested donation.

Take out meals are available for \$7 each.

As always children eat for free!

Kid's meals are always served.

Left over food is given to

Englewood Meals on wheels.

### **October 2**

Chicken Piccata

Rice Pilaf

Corn

Tossed Salad

Mint Chip Brownies

### **October 9**

Lasagna

Antipasto Salad

Garlic Bread

Cannoli Cream Cups

### **October 16**

Chicken ala King with Puff Pastry

Chef Salad

Pumpkin Cream Cheese Swirl Cake

### **October 23**

Shrimp Po Boy

Baked Beans

Potato Salad

Strawberry Cheesecake Shooter

### **October 30**

Country Fried Steak

Mashed Potatoes

Sliced Carrots

Cesar Salad

Caramel Apple Cake Cups



Join us on Wednesday  
evenings for dinner!

**\*\* 90 (or over) Years Young!**

10/07 Larry Derrah  
 10/19 Earle Bretz  
 10/14 Ray Wallasky \*\*  
 10/29 Howard Kosnick \*\*



*Happy birthday wishes to all!*

## October Super Senior Birthdays

### Super Senior Birthday Registration

Name

Birth Date / /

Month Day Year

Are you a Super Senior of four score years or more? We have the names and birth dates of many of our 80 (or more) years old, but we want to recognize ALL of these honored members. Please register your birthday if you haven't done so already. Just call the church office or send in the registration form.

The Super Senior birthdays are listed each month in the Messenger. Help them celebrate their super birthday by congratulating them on their special day.

### Family Promise..... Having A Place To Belong - *A current families perspective*

Our experience has been beyond positive. Family Promise and everyone who volunteers have made us feel wanted, loved, encouraged, and most of all unashamed. They have given us a true sense of belonging. Family Promise is truly a caring advocate for homeless families.

When we first came to Family Promise, we were greeted with understanding and open arms. The whole staff listened to our story with compassionate ears instead of with harsh judgment. Family Promise is by far the best program for homeless families.

The host sites and volunteers are great! Family Promise has carefully trained them with professionalism. What I mean by this is that they don't pry into your life. But if you chose to talk or share your story, they are very understanding and very friendly. The volunteers to treat each family with respect, love and kindness. My favorite part of this program is when we meet our new host site each week and they are excited to meet us!

Thank you,  
*Shandi*

My experience has been amazing. All of the staff here are very supportive and knowledgeable. The Family Service Coordinator, Allisa, has gone out of her way to give the support and guidance needed for our success. The outstanding volunteers make it easier to cope with our current situation. They make us feel so welcome. It is truly a blessing not to have to sleep in our car. Everyone is so loving, open, respectful, and warm hearted! I have not felt judged for being homeless.

Thank you,  
*Gary*

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are the backbone of the Family Promise program. Would you consider preparing a meal or simply reading a story to a child, and offer compassion and support. Just being there gives hope, by knowing someone cares. Remember, even a couple of hours of volunteering can change lives.

#### Our next host date is:

December 1st through 8th

**If you are interested in volunteering, simply attend one of the following Orientation Sessions:**

Tuesday, November 19th @ 9:30am in FH-1  
 Thursday, November 21st @ 6:30pm in FH-1

**For more information, contact  
 Maria Ciampi at 941-473-0945**

## Good News from the Field

When we work together we can make great things happen for young children. What a privilege to be able to share Jesus with these young minds. EUMC has contributed significantly to these programs through your gifts and prayers. Can we get a mighty Hallelujah?



Nursery classrooms are finished at Kayongo's Hope. Construction on the kitchen and latrine has begun with the goal of officially opening the nursery campus in a few weeks! Already 100 nursery students have registered to attend this campus. Never have we had that many students in our nursery section!



More good news! A new well has been dug and the water is flowing! This means that the children will no longer have to walk a long distance and carry water from the river or a neighboring village.



Congratulations are in order! This is the primary 7 class that will be graduation from Rising Star in November. Out of this class of 28 students, all but a few have studied from Rising Star since they were in Kindergarten. 2019 is going to be another great year thanks to all of YOU!!!!

**Report from Peru** ..... The Norths coaching the little ones at Soccer Club in the Brickyard area on the outskirts of Arequipa.



During a recent Soccer Club we had enough volunteer coaches, so I sat down with some of the parents and they began to ask a lot of questions. We have been in the area for several months now trying to gain their confidence. In the course of our conversation, one of the moms said "we need a

church here." What an answer to prayer. We found the person with an open heart. She even suggested a Bible study in a home. It's like she knew our desire before we even announced those plans. Pray for more open hearts.



*Nancy Prins,*  
Mission Committee Chair

## Book Buzz.....



It is always wonderful to receive book donations. This month I write about two books that are special to the Oakley family.

*And God Smiled On Utila* by Gary E. Wilson, M.D. is the fascinating story of Gary's mission trip to a tiny island off the coast of Honduras. You will read about his 1977 journey to this island to provide medical care to the people there for one month. This is a great read of adventure about a short-term medical mission ending in a long-term blessing.

The following is a note from Pastor Bill Oakley regarding this author: "I first met Gary Wilson, MD while serving as Pastor of First UMC in Brooksville, Florida. Both Gary and his wife, Marilyn, were active in local and foreign outreach ministries. Facing retirement, Dr. Wilson began reminiscing about his adventures providing medical care and Christian witness in remote and isolated places like Utila. Taking along his wife (as his nurse and lab partner) and his children (for the "experience") on these adventures provided opportunities for Christian witness, improving healthcare for the Utila Island residents and rich memories and character development for his whole family.

The second book by Dr. Wilson shared by the Oakleys is entitled *Even Adam & Eve Needed A Marriage Counselor: Moses Tells All*. With a unique, tongue-in-cheek approach, Moses of Old Testament fame lets us in on a well-kept secret: Adam and Eve had the same marital troubles the rest of us deal with! This book reveals how marriage can become what God desires it to be.

Hope you all are spurred into becoming regular readers of our nice selection of books in the church library! Please come in and browse. We are located across from the main reception area.

Welcome back to our snowbirds! We are glad to see you!

*Pam Heady,*

Your Church Librarian

## Memorial Corner

8/15 Al King

8/22 Dick Davis

8/30 Ed Phero

8/31 Donald Schroeder

9/10 Marge Laney



*Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.*



We are scheduled to gather for Prayers & Squares on Thursday, October 17, 2019 in Fellowship Hall 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Your presence, whether to observe or possibly help, will be welcome anytime. We are all blessed to be serving while having lots of fun. ***Please, in case there is a schedule change, contact me at the phone number or email listed below to see if there has been a change or cancellation.***

The purpose of Prayers & Squares Ministry is to encourage the prayer life of our congregation. Simply put, "it is **NOT** about making quilts, it's **ALL ABOUT THE PRAYERS!** Hope to see you or talk with you

If you'll bring a bagged lunch and beverage (refrigerator & microwave is available), we'll be saving a special place at the table just for you at 12:30! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

*Jane Parker*

[firstjp@aol.com](mailto:firstjp@aol.com)

941-564-6844

## Blessings Upon Blessings, Upon Blessings, Upon Blessings!



We Christians are a large part of the world population. The Bible tells us we are not of this world, but a part of God's Kingdom. We are here on earth by God's choosing. We have a purpose. We look around and we see a world that has changed in our lifetime. The color of one's skin, the political choices one makes, and the religion one chooses, are in serious conflict with each other.

Please take a moment and look close; see all we have here at Englewood United Methodist Church. There is love for Jesus everywhere. We are in harmony with each other. There is unity and there is peace. We genuinely love and look after each other. We encourage, we share our joys, and we cry together, too.

All the above is not by chance or coincidence. This is a gift; a gift from a mighty, powerful, and loving God! Think about that. We are so blessed here. This is not so in every church. Do we appreciate the gift God has given to us? Judging by those I've asked this question, I would say a resounding yes! For the most part we are very grateful and realize how blessed we are.

The Church is God's people, us. It is also the Shepherd or Shepherds that leads us. Blessings upon blessings, upon blessings, upon blessing have been heaped upon us through our Pastors.

October is Pastor Appreciation month. We have three active pastors; Pastor Vic, Pastor Bo, and Pastor Don; God's chosen, who answered the

call to lead (shepherd) His people. Mere men, yes, but touched by the blessed power of the Holy Spirit. Each one caring for us, teaching us, and show us the way. These special men of God love us, are approachable, and even at times discipline us; themselves humble men serving the Father by His will.

What more could we ever want or need? So, yes, please contemplate all we have at EUMC, and in some way let our Pastors know they are love and appreciated. They too, are human and they too, need positive affirmation; then thank our God, and pray for them.

Happy Pastor Appreciation; Pastor Vic, Pastor Bo, and Pastor Don!

*Barbara Terardi*



### United Methodist Women October Meeting

It's toe-tapping time!  
Come enjoy the  
ENGLEWOOD COUNTRY LINERS,  
a fun and community minded nonprofit that  
helps local charities.  
They'll bring a smile to your face with their many  
types of line dances.

Thursday, October 3, 2019

11:30 Social Time

12:00 Noon Salad/Dessert Luncheon.

If your last name starts with A-M bring a salad;

N-Z bring a dessert.

Sarah Circle: Hostess

Ladies Bunco will held on Saturday,  
October 26, at 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

Cost of \$7 includes:

pizza, salad, drinks, dessert and prizes.

If you have any questions call:

Brenda Bradley 941-473-0150



## Englewood United Kids Ministry

*"They will be called Oaks of righteousness, A planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor."  
Isaiah 61:3*



Good News Club is a ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship. This EUMC hosted, afterschool program begins at Myakka River Elementary school on November 4th. We sing songs, play games, learn verses, engage in missional concepts and of course learn tons about the Lord through the Bible. This is a fantastic way to engage unchurched kids! We would love to have you join our team!

# Child Protection Training

Do you like children and love Jesus? Children's Ministry Volunteers are currently being recruited! Child Protection Training will be held Sunday, October 6th upstairs in Room 300 at 12:30pm. Room 300 is located in the Education Building. RSVP through the Church office, 941-474-5588, ext. 257, [suzie@englewoodumc.net](mailto:suzie@englewoodumc.net) or just show up!



## Mother—Son Event Planning



On Monday, October 7th we are having a meeting to start planning for our February 8th Mother—Son event. Please join us in Room 300 (upstairs) of the Education Building at 6pm. Moms or Dads are welcome to plan with us.

Do you have questions about our program? Or if you are led to get involved through mentoring our awesome kids, contact me through the church office.

Please pray for our efforts. Thank you! Suzie Asa

941-474-5588, email [suzie@englewoodumc.net](mailto:suzie@englewoodumc.net) or [susanasa93@gmail.com](mailto:susanasa93@gmail.com)



Ignite kicked off the school year with a new series of lessons called "Journey to Freedom". Section one called "Three Big Questions", focused our students on "Who is God?" "Who am I?" and "Where do I Fit In?"

In our first lesson, "Who Is God?" we found that we all carry a picture of God in our minds. Some people might see God as a kind, old, grandfather type who has slowed down and is a bit boring, but he still pays attention. Others might picture God as an angry guy in the sky who's waiting to stomp out trouble. Still others try to relate to God the way they relate to their distant and uninvolved earthly father. Some might see God as a copilot type who doesn't get in the way; God pretty much goes along with life and is there when you need him.

Our goal was to give students an accurate view of God, which is more than just knowing facts about him. We wrestled with the concept of the Trinity and how it's found throughout Scripture. We also talked about character traits of God, and how God wants to be known personally. All of this provides a solid foundation for growing closer to Jesus and experiencing greater freedom.

Our second lesson we wrestled with the big question of "Who am I?" We talked about our immeasurable value to God and how our faith in Jesus gives us the undeserved privilege of experiencing God's goodness. We talked about the meaning of salvation and how we all need the rescuing power of Jesus in our lives. We also talked about how all followers of Jesus receive spiritual gifts from God to use for his glory.

Our final lesson examined the question "Where do I fit in?" Our conversation focused on Colossians 3, and we explored several truths about how God has a place for us in eternity, in the body of Christ, and in this world.

We are currently in section two of the series which focuses on our Identity. We will recap that in next month's newsletter.

Our students will have the opportunity to attend a weekend retreat at Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center in November. We ask that you be in prayer for our students as they are making decisions to attend, for finances, and for time to attend this potentially life changing weekend.

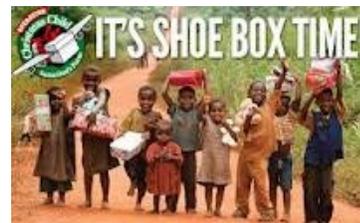
## Halloween Safewalk



Donations of individually wrapped candy for the Community Halloween Safewalk are now being collected. Please drop off donations at the church office before October 30<sup>st</sup>. Then join us on the 31<sup>st</sup> for an evening of fun in the community as we hand out candy and water to the community.

*Kory Hall*

Director of Youth Ministry



The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child gift boxes will be available for you to pick up on Sunday, October 20. See the information inside the box for suggestions of what to pack and what not to pack.

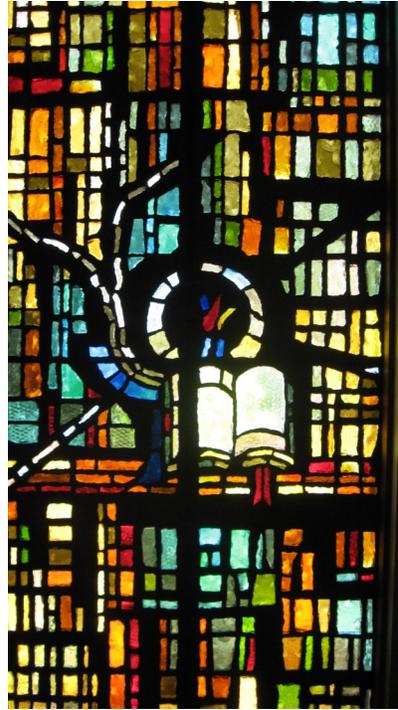
Collection Sunday will be on November 17. Bring your filled box to the church service that you attend. All boxes must be returned by that date for the 2019 shipment to the far corners of the world.

## Stained Glass Windows

Have you ever wondered what the stained glass windows depict in our sanctuary? Here is the artists concept.

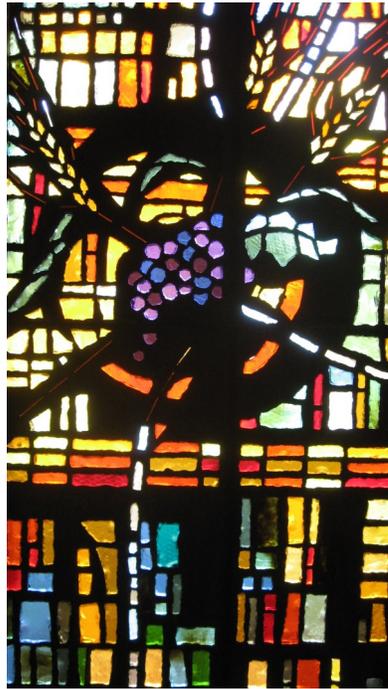


*The shell and waters depict the eternal waters of baptism; our entrance into the church and eternal life with God.*

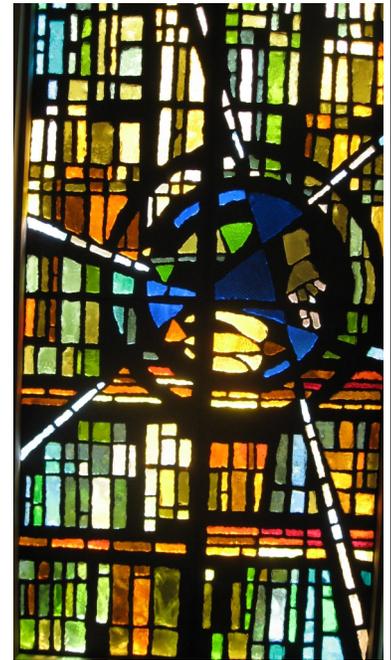


*The open book and candle represent the Scriptures and the Word of God given to us to light the way to eternal happiness with God.*

*The wheat and grapes symbolize the Lord's Supper in its most natural form, as the Lord has given it to us.*



*The fish, the hand of God, and the dove, enclosed within the triangle and circles, convey the Trinity. This depicts God's presence to man as Jesus; the Son of God, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.*



*Take a moment and enjoy the beauty of EUMC's stained glass windows.*

**Englewood United Methodist Church**  
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October 2019

# THE MESSENGER

## **A SERVANT CHURCH**

*Following the example  
Of Jesus Christ,  
The Englewood United  
Methodist Church  
Shall strive to make God  
And His Kingdom  
More real through our  
Caring, worship, study  
Fellowship & outreach.*

*To this end, as a  
Servant Church,  
We offer ourselves  
And our facilities  
For the Christian growth  
Of all persons.*

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**  
Adopted 1978 Revised 1989

