

Handley Happenings

June 5, 2017

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS
The People of the United Methodist Church

Bruce's Bible Study

In our series on the history of the Bible, this will be our last column on the Old Testament. I want to talk about some characteristics of this literature, which can be very difficult to read.

1) For one thing, there is a cultural barrier. The New Testament reflects a later time, and the New Testament itself has shaped the way we think and write, but the Old Testament is a lot more verbose, and there are idioms and styles that we find difficult to understand. That gap can be bridged, however!

2) From *Exodus* 20 to the end of *Deuteronomy*, a lot of the literature deals with rules, many of which became obsolete after the destruction of the Jewish temple by the Romans in AD 70. Likewise, there are those terrifying kosher food rules! I'd be a terrible Jew; I just love pork, and shrimp cocktail (shellfish are also non-kosher, like pork) is an endangered species when I'm around! The New Testament (and most particularly, Paul) shows how these things were in preface to the Gospel and are no longer needed. I think that a lot of the kosher food laws were health-based, in a time when they didn't have the wonders of modern canning and freezing. We know that markets have to be very careful with pork, since it can harbor the seeds of the disease we call trichinosis, and during mating season, shellfish produce an enzyme that can make us sick. I think that God was doing His best to insure that His people stayed healthy! If you're determined to read through the Old Testament, I can guarantee that you'll have trouble with the lat-



Our Gifts & Presence Sunday, June 4, 2017

Total Worship.....	46
Total Sunday School.....	16
Budget	\$1603

ter portion of *Exodus* and particularly with the book of *Leviticus*. I'll be honest; the first time I read that portion of the Old Testament, I thought that it was the most boring stuff I had ever read! But that's changed! Now I can appreciate the insights it gives into the Jewish culture of that time.

3) Some people who are familiar with the Greek philosophers are expecting to find material like that in the Wisdom literature. Nope! Jewish wisdom is essentially and *intensely* practical, and obscure matters such as deciding how many angels can stand on the head of a pin, etc., didn't interest the Jews at all! They were more concerned about how to **make life work**. The two best-known advice columnists in the last portion of the 20th century were Ann Landers and Dear Abby----twin sisters, incidentally---and both Jewish. They were concerned with the real problems that people face, and how to deal with them. I was always particularly fond of Ann Landers, who wasn't afraid to be blunt and speak her piece! By the way, there is a small town in Scotland called Deer Abbey---sounds familiar, eh what? As to the wisdom literature, some of *Proverbs* is just plain funny, but then there are some shrewd statements that can take our breath away! Powerful--and practical--stuff.

4) Americans, in particular, are fascinated with the subject of the "End Times," and you'll find some absolute rubbish/poppycock/baloney on the Internet about this sort of stuff. When I see that, I hit the "delete" key so hard that I'm surprised they haven't had to replace it! One thing that is very popular in many conservative churches

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is the idea that modern Israel (the nation) is the fulfillment of *Isaiah* 40-66--which completely overlooks the fact that a lot of that material was fulfilled after the Babylonian Exile, in the 5th century BC! The prophets had a great deal to say to *their own times*, and since human nature doesn't change much when left to itself, the prophetic message can still have a lot to say to us today. But as for the End Times--we know that Christ will return, but even **He** didn't set dates--and if He didn't, I'm not about to! Also, we *can't live in the future tense*. One of my dental technicians asked me, "Where do you think we are on the schedule of the End Times?" I horrified her by saying, "I don't know and I don't care!" But then I explained what I meant: "Jesus said **He** didn't know the day or the hour, and if He didn't venture further, I'm not about to, and 2) His return is **His** business, not ours. Our business is to obey like mad, and whenever He comes, we'll be ready!" One of my seminary buddies used to say, "Repent now; avoid the big last-minute rush!" I like that. At any rate, my dental technician understood why I said what I did. My view is not nearly as fantastic or exciting as that of some of the self-appointed prophets, but it sure works better! More next week.

Bruce

Regular Needs for Eastside Ministries

For Families:
Canned Fruit Pasta

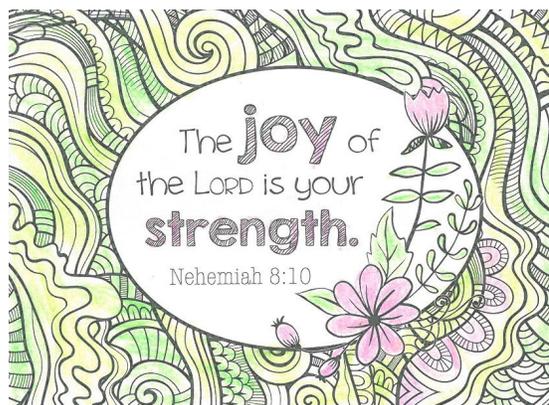
Baby Items:
Baby Formula

Homeless & Family Food:
**Small Pull-top Meats & drinks
Canned fruit, snacks, mac & cheese**

Clothing Items:
**Men's Shoes
Children's items:
including Infant 0-18 mos.
Towels & Sheets**

Feminine Hygiene:
Pads or Tampons

Other Items:
**Powdered Laundry Soap
Quart Zip-lock Bags**



Love, Wanda



What are your favorite hymns??

They can be from the Cokesbury hymnal or the current hymnal. We will be singing your favorites in July/August.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Good Morning Friends,

I would like to share with you all that Pastor Judy Richmond is retiring from active ministry from the United Methodist Church. We at Polytechnic UMC have had the honor of working under her leadership, bearing witness to her commitment and love, and seeing her faith in action. We are thankful we spent this time together and wish her the best on her next adventure.

As many of you know, Judy and BJ both attended Texas Wesleyan as young adults and it seems they have come full circle finishing her professional career working on campus and in the neighborhood of Polytechnic Heights in Fort Worth. They have both strengthened bonds between the church, University, Conference office, and neighborhood organizations. Judy never stopped being a teacher. She loved reaching out to the children in the congregation and neighborhood children she met. She also enjoyed teaching the adults many bible studies along the way as well.

To thank Judy and BJ, we are collecting cards of thanks and well wishes for them. We are also collecting a monetary gift for Polytechnic United Community Center to be given in her name. Please pass this on to anyone you know who's lives have been touched by these two beautiful people.

Send cards to:
Polytechnic UMC Judy's Card Box
1310 S Collard St.
Fort Worth, TX 76108.

May the peace of God be with you always,
Tricia Bowes
Polytechnic United Methodist Church

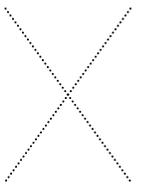
Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Handley Happenings

June 5, 2017

2929 Forest Ave
Ft. Worth, Texas 76112



Address Service Requested

Church Office: 817-451-4321
Church Fax: 817-446-4013

Meetings & Events Schedule



June 6
East Fort Worth Community
Jazz Band @ McClung School

June 7
Wonderful Wednesday

June 11-14
Annual Conference @
FUMC Mansfield

June 12
Handley Neighborhood Assn.

June 13
Mail Out Newsletter

June 14
Wonderful Wednesday

Handley United Methodist Church

www.handleyumc.org
handleyumc@sbcglobal.net

Sunday's Service:

"Therefore, Go!"
Matthew 28:16-20



June 18
Happy
Father's Day!

Installation Reception for
Rev. Ben Disney
as new East District
Superintendent
5:30pm New World UMC, Arl.

June 21
Wonderful Wednesday

June 27
Mail Out Newsletter & Calendar

June 28
Wonderful Wednesday

Usher Schedule

06/04—Paul Johnston's Group
06/11—Mike Williams' Group

Go
THEREFORE AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations...

MATTHEW 28:19, NRSV

