

The **KINGSWOOD** COURIER

Monthly newsletter of Kingswood UMC

July 2010

KINGSWOOD UMC

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Worship & Spiritual
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Davidson Finke

Worship Band Leader

Judy Smith

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www.kingswoodchurch.net

From the Senior Pastor: Why Be Encouraged?

We are a people of hope, good news, purpose and power! In God our heavenly Father, we have hope. Hope is the absolute assurance that what is planned and promised will indeed be reality. In God the Word incarnate, Jesus crucified and resurrected, we have the best life-changing message to ever be heard and shared. In God the Holy Spirit, we have God dwelling within us. Through the Spirit we have the revelation, gifts, and power to transform the world. My encouragement comes from the Lord! Have you His encouragement?

I am increasingly encouraged in the people of Kingwood. I rejoice we are becoming a Jesus first, Kingdom of God second and Methodist/denomination third prioritized congregation.

During my first year, I repeatedly heard we have an identity crisis. Many conversations focused on questions like-- Who are we? Are we Methodist? Are we non-Methodist? Will we split? Which groups, worship style, and teaching emphases will win out? Are we connectional or congregational in structure? Will we choose Methodist-shared missions, Faith Promise Missions, or local missions? Can we ever stop going backwards? Will we come together, discern, and passionately pursue God's future for us?

Our identity as Christians is always in our relationship with Jesus Christ. More and more people are declaring and celebrating we are Jesus first people. We are putting into action our declaration that Jesus is our Savior and Lord of the Church and our lives. We will be who He commands and the Spirit leads us to be. We are learning to appreciate, honor, respect, and work cooperatively with each other.

Our identity is in the Kingdom of God. The

Church of Jesus Christ is one body! God has created diversity. We are all not alike. We do not all have the same talents and gifts. We do not all have the same roles. We are learning to avoid division and celebrate the diversity of Christ's disciples at Kingswood.

We are celebrating a diversity of Christian faith journeys including the incredible Wesleyan heritage and being blended together by the Holy Spirit. We are training in the Word of God and Christian disciplines. We are training to declare and practice a Christian worldview. We aim to become victorious in spiritual warfare. We are training and being equipped to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am encouraged by the spirit and intensity in which Kingwood is practicing worship, prayer, study, caring for each other and giving/tithing. I am really encouraged that more people are realizing such practices are vital to being disciples of Christ. They are not, however, the pinnacle of discipleship. Worship, nurture, and spiritual growth are to be a foundation for outward service that leads us to be a compassionate, soul-saving, disciple-making and sending community of Jesus Christ.

I am encouraged by the way God is convicting the hearts of many individuals, classes, or ministry groups to take our faith and the hope of Christ to our neighbors, co-workers, school mates, workout centers, etc. Initial efforts have taught us three things.

First, we have been an inward-focused congregation. Kingswood has been a community built around our monument (facility) and not a movement. Second, we have often offered people church but not Christ! Jesus saves, not churches! Third, most seekers are not interested in coming to the Kingwood facility. We must become less focused on

attracting people to Kingswood. We must excel in being a mission congregation in Amarillo, planting ourselves in places of the community and Christ in the hearts of the lost.

Example: why start elaborate coffee shops when many already gather at Roasters, Starbucks, McDonalds, Hastings, etc? Why build gymnasiums when many already gather at Gold's Gym, YMCA, Curves, swimming pools, or golf courses?

I am encouraged we are beginning to realize we must be ready for those God sends to Kingswood in terms of caring, counseling, discipleship development, training, and sending into ministry. We must individually go beyond, "Hello, glad you came today, and hope you enjoyed the service/program." Each of us needs to think about taking our guests to lunch or inviting them into our home. Many of us must be willing to spend an hour a week mentoring a new disciple, engaging in prayers of discernment, or equipping a servant for ministry.

I am encouraged when I hear people realizing we must be a transformational congregation. Many congregations talk about being in transition. Transition usually means they/we are trying a new program, study, structure or the latest model of a successful congregation or national guru. Transitional congregations look busy, but are going in circles, getting frustrated, and dying!

Transformational congregations are Jesus-centered, Biblically-grounded, and Spirit-infused. You can tell a transformational congregation by the way they talk, live, give and serve. It is all about Jesus. These congregations pray for the salvation of lost souls with the same fervor as praying for the sick. Transformational congregations are filled with people who once were worms and now are butterflies, once were dead to God, but now are filled with life in Jesus Christ.

Transformational congregations are full of people who are born again before becoming disciples. These congregations don't have financial campaigns because people tithe and are seeking to give 20% instead of 10%. Transformational congregations don't celebrate mission effectiveness by dollars given, but by lives changed by Christ and how those changed persons are winning people to Christ. They don't talk about God. They live, breathe, and celebrate life in Jesus!

I am encouraged about the revival and renewal in

United Methodism! What's a Methodist? True Methodists are Jesus first-, Kingdom of God second-, and denomination third-minded Christians. True Methodists aren't about organization and structures that limit the cause of Christ. Organization and structure exist to cast vision, develop the plans of God, gather the resources, equip and empower the people in ministry to make Christian disciples.

More so around the world than in America, United Methodists are about loving Jesus, sharing the Gospel of Jesus, spreading Scriptural holiness, practicing the disciplines of Christ, starting groups-congregations-ministries in their houses, on campuses, any where the Spirit leads.

True Methodists engage in the ministry of justice that people may know we are willing to bear any cross like Jesus. We do so that people can see and know the love of Christ, profess faith in Him, and leap for joy because they are saved from sin and death. We want everyone to experience God's abundant life daily amidst the struggles of life and serve with Jesus and the Church on the mission fields of life.

As the new president of Asbury Seminary declared at Annual Conference, Jesus championed the small group, house church, cell group, and organic movement models for future generations to plant churches and make Christian disciples. The early churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesians, and Thessalonica were great Biblical examples of transformational congregations. A second great example was the Methodist/Wesleyan movement in the 17th & 18th century, followed by the Pentecostal movement in the early part and the Charismatic movement in the last part of the 20th century.

There is a new wind blowing in the 21st century. We recognize that wind as the Holy Spirit. The call, gifts, and ministry of the Spirit are the same today as in the days of Pentecost. May God find each of us ready to go into all the world and make disciples for Jesus Christ starting in Amarillo. I am encouraged in God the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, and in the awesome Holy Spirit. I am encouraged by what I am experiencing and seeing God do in the Kingswood family.

Be encouraged,

Pastor Jeff

Ceta Canyon 2010



July 5-9 One Way 6/7 grades
July 12-16 Vision~10-12th grades
July 19-23 Crossroads~7-9th grades
July 26-30 Whoz-We-R~4-6th grades

Cost for these camps is \$245.

Contact the office or Ms. Marnie or Ms. Robbie.



Twelve Lunches Program

The Mission Teams invites members & friends of Kingswood UMC to volunteer to bring twelve sack lunches once per quarter. Please call or email Judy Smith or Sarah Rejino and let them know which Sunday you will provide hope and lunch for twelve homeless people in Amarillo. You can also sign up for a date in the Narthex.

Men's Morning Prayer/Study Group

Saturday mornings @ 7 am in the Library

New study "The Secrets Men Keep" by Stephen Arterburn

All men are invited to attend!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO!!!

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- A decorative border of small, stylized sun icons surrounds the list of names.
- 2 John Doggett
 - Jackie Hamby
 - 3 Dennis Reed
 - 5 Kimberly Dudley
 - Matthew Malleck
 - 6 Darla Meason
 - 7 Evan Bennett
 - Emily Quintanilla
 - 8 Rachael Goehring
 - 9 Brooklin Eager
 - Sandy King
 - 10 Flint Wood
 - 11 Tommy Liedtke
 - Tammy Morris
 - Joanne Norrid
 - 15 Alex Alvarez
 - 16 Bob Alexander
 - 18 Erin Kelley
 - Erika Moreland
 - 20 Scott Erwin
 - 21 Kodie Eager
 - 22 Terry Lawler
 - 24 Lynsey Cunningham
 - Marjorie Roy
 - 26 Norissa Aguirre
 - Donna Day
 - Jeff Zirkle
 - 27 Louise Carey
 - 29 Xaine Freeman
 - Caleb Goehring

Missions

The Missions Committee would like you to be aware that Bill Eddy & his family will be with us on Sunday, July 18th. Bill & Marie have served in Madrid, Spain for over twenty years. They minister to teens, churches and pastors and their wives serving throughout Spain. You won't want to miss hearing how God is using them to reach Spain for Him!

Tithing and Percentage Giving Help People Grow Spiritually...

The *Bible* tells us that we should give ten percent of our income to the church. If you look at the early church some gave all—I am referring to the Book of Acts. These people gave all then gave to others as they needed. I know that is not possible today, but if you read Acts 2:42-47, you will see that many blessings and miracles happened when they gave with a joyful heart. The church grew not only by membership, but spiritually. Wow, can you imagine what that would look like today if our whole congregation was giving with a joyful heart, giving ten percent, or what you can! I know that times are tough at this point in the history of the United States. You can read it or hear about it on the news. I am just asking you to read your *Bible* and pray and listen to what God is asking you to give to Him and His church. If this isn't what you wanted to hear about this ask Penny Plunk what it means to her! She has an awesome testimony for this! ~Jennifer Malleck

SECURITY SYSTEM

After the break in a security system has been installed at the church. The doors will remain locked during business hours but if you will come to the South narthex doors (the ones by the office) and ring the door bell (on the right side of the doors) a staff person will let you in. If you have a key card please visit with one of the staff members about using it. As other changes are made we will try to communicate how you may be affected. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope that you will extend grace to all of us as we work through the changes we are going through.

Youth America Camp 2010 in OKC, OK

July 19-23, Cost is \$200.

Scholarships are available through the church office. If you are interested in attending camp contact Ms. Robbie.



Family Friendly
Mission Trip
planned for fall.
For information
please contact
Steve Venable.



Recycled Teens
July 13th @ noon
Fellowship Hall



Counseling Ministry

Sarah Rejino, highly credentialed in counseling, has offered to provide lay counseling on Wed. or Sunday evenings at the church facility. The Staff Parish Relations Committee and Church Council approved her proposal on April 18, 2010.

We are grateful to Sarah and pleased to have her gifted counseling services along with Pastor Zirkle available to our congregation. Please understand Sarah and Jeff cannot receive any compensation or gifts for counseling services.

You may contact Sarah at 584-1566 (please call after 7:00 in the evening).

Please keep this ministry in your prayers.



Summer Camp

Be sure to pray for our Kingswood kids heading to camp this month!

Neighborhood Block Party

Sunday, July 25th
6:00pm

Invite some friends, bring your family and come party with us!

Adult Children's Church Helpers:

2nd Sunday: Darinda Bergeron

3rd Sunday: Denise Moore

4th Sunday: Adrienne Fowler

Attention: The list of Youth Children's Church Helpers is on the Pre-wash bulletin board located by the kitchen. Thank you!



Vacation Bible School:

July 26th thru 30th

We'll need lots of help, but we'll have a blast working together! Please visit

www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/prewash or
www.prewashkids.com for more information;
to register your kids; to volunteer; or to donate to donate items or money.



Sunday mornings @ dL 9:45

Currently studying the book of Esther.

Sunday evenings @ dL 5-6:30

Parents you and your students get to pick a Sun night and plan the activities and help sponsor. This gives everyone a chance to decide what they want to do and gives all the parents a chance to be a part of Dirty Laundry. Calendar is open for Aug-Dec. Contact Ms. Robbie to set a date!

Wed evenings @ dL 6:30-8

We will meet through July 14 then take a break for a couple of weeks before we start a new small group topic in Aug. July 11 from 2-6 Splash Amarillo cost \$10 July 25 at 6:00 Kingswood Block Party

Youth America Camp: July 19-23

We are going to camp... and yes you can still register. Watch for details...

VBS July 26-30

Youth we need your help to be crew leaders to guide the children along the High Seas Expedition. Let Ms. Robbie know if you are going to help!

Hang out with Ms. Robbie this summer!

Check Out what is going on...

mydirtylaundry.org

The blog page is up and working. Go check it out and leave your comments.



Dirty Laundry
Recycles
Cans

Save your aluminum cans for Dirty Laundry. Every can adds up and adds \$'s to our fund. Collection barrel in the back of Fellowship Hall.

Missionary Prayer Needs for July 2010

Canterbury Apartment Ministries:

- They are down to 3-4 children since one of their families moved to Nebraska. These remaining children have asked to hear again stories from the New Testament about Jesus. Pray that they will come to know Jesus personally as they hear about His life.
- There is a need for persons to help fill in on Saturdays during summer while workers are out of town. So if you are interested talk to Wanda Hayes
- Pray that the parents/children will want to take advantage of a weekend camp offered at the Baptist encampment on Aug. 6-8.

Holly Hayes (YWAM):

- Pray for continued breakthrough in counseling
- Pray for strength and diligence in creating new mindsets grounded in the Word
- Pray for Joy and Hope!!

Bill & Marie Eddy (Missionaries in Spain)

- Pray for their journey here to Amarillo on July 16th – 20th
- Pray for safety on the road as they travel throughout the U.S.
- Spiritual Wisdom to be sensitive to present the gospel as they present the work they do.

Tom & Debbie Mills: (International House of Prayer IHOP):

- Pray for Tom as he continues to prepare for next years school
- Pray for their finances. Pray for townhouses they own in Lubbock to sell. Right now they are losing money on them.

Arthur & Jay Raj (International Ministries Fellowship, India)

- Pray for a smooth completion of their chapel.
- Pray for protection and endurance in the midst of persecution

Abbey Daughtrey (CFNI – Christ for the Nations):

- Pray for a time of rest and refreshment while in Amarillo this summer

Cherry Fields (Campus Crusade)

Tammy Evans (YWAM)

Ryan & Laura Wolf: (Central Asia)

Wade & Tammy Morris: (YWAM)