



## *St. Mark's Remarks*

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*“Live your life in such a way that those who know you but don't know God will know God because they know you”*

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Rev. Dr. Bradley Gabriel

Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way,

I am taking the liberty of reprinting an electronic post from a friend and colleague. The Reverend Sky McKraken is Superintendent of the new “Purchase District” comprising the Kentucky portion of the Memphis Annual Conference.

It is a time of anxiety for both church and pastor. As a district superintendent ...I know how difficult this day is, and how many people will be affected by changes that are announced today. I also know that most people will be hearing this news for the first time today. Perhaps the following will help answer questions you might have:

### **\*\*Why do pastors move within the United Methodist Church?\*\*\***

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the United Methodist Church is the itinerant system in which pastors move from appointment to appointment. “Itinerancy is the system by which the Methodist Church moves its ministers from church to church so that at all times every preacher has a church and every church has a preacher...” (From Encyclopedia of World Methodism). This system dates back to the days of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

Itinerancy is part of the connectional nature of the United Methodist Church, which stresses the “united” nature of all United Methodist churches. This system means that, “all leaders and congregations are connected in a network of loyalties and commitments that support, yet supersede, local concerns...” (From Sharing God's Gifts - Glossary of United Methodist Terms).

All local churches are bound together by a common mission and common governance. This is how United Methodists work together to accomplish mission and ministry throughout the world.

### **\*\*Who makes the decision to move a pastor?\*\*\***

The bishop and cabinet are given the responsibility of making all pastoral appointments. Bishop William T. McAlilly serves both the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences of the Southeastern Jurisdiction (known as the Nashville Area), and I serve as the district superintendent – the extension of the bishop's office - for most of the Purchase Area of Western Kentucky.

### **\*\*Why doesn't the congregation have a say in whether or not a pastor stays with a church?\*\*\***

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and pastor in each local church consult with each other, and reach a consensus about the needs of their church and whether the pastor should remain or move for the next conference year. This preference is then shared with the district superintendent, but the role of the

committee is advisory only. The district superintendent reports the advice of the S/PPRC and pastor to the bishop and the rest of the cabinet.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline states: "Clergy shall be appointed by the bishop, who is empowered to make and fix all appointments in the Episcopal area." The bishop and the cabinet (all district superintendents in the two conferences) look at the appointment needs throughout the conference, taking into consideration the needs of each church, the gifts and talents of each pastor, and other circumstances in the conference. These circumstances might include vacancies that will have to be filled in the future. The bishop considers the needs of the pastors' families as well. When a spouse's career or children's schooling is affected, the bishop must weigh the cost-benefit of any appointments that might adversely affect the family. During this process, *\*each\** church and pastor are prayed for - by name. In fact, the whole process is bathed in prayer as the bishop and cabinet seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

### **\*\*How long will a new pastor stay at a church?\***

Since appointments are decided by the Bishop and cabinet, there is no way of knowing the tenure of the new pastor. Given the many growth opportunities within the church, the Bishop and cabinet will consider the health of the church and its missions before making any significant changes in leadership.

**\*\*Will there be a gap between a pastor leaving and the appointment of the new pastor?\***

No. The transition is almost seamless. This is the benefit of the way our clergy are appointed.

### **\*\*How can I make the transition easier on the new pastor?\***

It is not unusual for the new pastor to feel all the things that congregational members feel about his/her new appointment. He or she may be feeling grief, joy, apprehension, relief, expectation, and excitement. This is an anxious but hopeful time for everyone involved.

Remember, this is a learning process for both the pastor and the congregation and there will be challenges along the way. The first few weeks will involve getting to know one another. The new pastor will then begin working with church leadership and understanding expectations and the culture of the church. Eventually, the pastor will discern the core values of our church and begin to shape a vision for the future. This process occurs intentionally, so it is not haphazard. However, it cannot happen quickly.

One cycle of adjustment describes the process as orientation, disorientation and then, re-orientation (or enchantment, disenchantment and then, re-enchantment). These words suggest that persons experience a variety of feelings and concerns through the process. Change is an opportunity for conflicts to arise, but it is also a chance to re-vitalize, re-focus, and re-commit to the mission and life of the church.

It might help to share your name with the new pastor for several months. Also, if you like something he/she has done, say so. If you are involved in church committees or activities, continue with those tasks.

The strength of a church has always been in the people in it, not just the pastoral leadership. Most importantly, hold this transition process in prayer. Re-affirm to yourself and others that this is God's church, under the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit. As in everything, we can expect great things from our gracious God.

Grace for the Journey,

*Brad*

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# Happy Birthday

Jane Conner	May 2	Phyllis Folsom	May 17
Barbara Montgomery	May 7	Jonathan Bishop	May 20
Sabrina Cline	May 11	Terry Draughon	May 27

## Visitors in April

Hazel Conar	Mike & Gena Johnson
Aaron Foster	Liza Southerton
Laurette Thymes	Jane Melton
Pat Levine	Diana Stein
Bradley Gosser	David Melton
Jarrold Draughon	Emily Hoover
Joyce Ritter	Hunter Reid
Roy & Nancy Gookin	Loper Family
Taylor Pettinger	Gary & Diane Reid
Bernice Tutterow	Bell Family
Rachel Tate	
Chuck, Kari, Reilly & Peyton Burge	
Mikayla, Thomas, & Daniel Hardin	

## April Average Attendance

Sunday School	19
Morning Worship	79



Thank you for your  
faithfulness!  
2015 Budget: \$151,000.00

<b>Budget Required through 04/30/2015:</b>	<b>\$50,332</b>
<b>Budget Received through 04/30/2015:</b>	<b>\$48,602</b>
<b>Budget Disbursed through 04/30/2015:</b>	<b>\$49,361</b>

## Memorial Gifts Received

In Memory of Norris Gabriel  
By: Bill and Kay Hill

In Memory of James Mitchell  
By: Bill and Kay Hill

In Memory of Glenn Melton  
By: Bill and Kay Hill

In Memory of Marcia Shum  
By: Bill and Kay Hill



Scarlette Rose  
Germantown Methodist  
Hospital You are in our  
thoughts and prayers.

## St. Mark's United Methodist Women

The UMW was very busy this month. We helped with the Easter Egg Hunt and the church-wide Rummage Sale. Both of these events were very successful. Thanks to all the ladies who helped with these activities.

This month the UMW will be sponsoring the Memorial Day Candle Burning as part of the service on Sunday, May 24. Be looking for the insert in the bulletin on Sunday, May 10 and Sunday May 17.

Please don't forget our ongoing projects: the First Sunday luncheon, the Food Pantry, and The Golden Cross baskets! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Barbara Jenkins at: (901) 378-7990 or jenkinsba3@gmail.com.

First Sunday Luncheon	May 3
Candle Burning	May 24
First Sunday Luncheon	June 7 (Bro. Brad's last day)

## THANK YOU!



Thanks so much for all the help with our Church wide Rummage Sale! Numerous hours were dedicated to sorting, pricing, setting up, selling, and cleaning up! \$1,216.35 was raised for our apportionments and \$871.15 for our Wesley Sr. Ministries.

## Wesley Sr. Ministries July 4<sup>th</sup> Veterans' Treats



It is not too early to bring canned drinks (Pepsi/Cokes) and bottled water to be used in our project. See Sherry Raggett for details.

# May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts 12:30-4p Oakkhaven Reunion Group
3 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Svc 11:30a 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun Lunch followed by Choir Ptc	4 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	5 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	6 7:00a Emmaus  <b>6p Fellowship Dinner</b> <b>6:30p Bible Study</b>	7 6:00p Yoga	8	9 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
10 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	11 <b>6:30p SPRC Meeting</b> 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	12 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	13 7:00a Emmaus  <b>6p Fellowship Dinner</b> <b>6:30p Bible Study</b> <b>7:05p Finance Committee Meeting</b>	14 10:00a-Lds Bible Study  6:00p Yoga	15 <b>6:00 p Family Movie Night (FREE)</b>	16 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts  3-6p King's Mill Assoc. Picnic2015
17 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	18 <b>6:30p Church Council Meeting</b> 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	19 <b>6:30p UMM Meeting Fields Hall</b> 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	20 7:00a Emmaus  <b>6p Fellowship Dinner</b> <b>6:30p Bible Study</b>	21 10:00a-Lds Bible Study  6:00p Yoga	22	23 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
24 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service <b>UMW Candleburning</b> 11:30a Choir Practice	25 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	26 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	27 7:00a Emmaus  <b>6p Fellowship Dinner</b> <b>6:30p Bible Study</b>	28 10:00a-Lds Bible Study  6:00p Yoga	29	30 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
31 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice						

## Capleville Community Food Pantry Numbers:



	Year-to-Date
Families Served	393
Adults	470
Children	383
Seniors	266
Total Individuals Served	1119

**Thank you for making this possible!**