

Volume 139—Issue 4

April 2011

# The Voice

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Servant Leadership

A Day of Training for Church Leaders

Saturday, April 16, 2011, 9:15 am-1:50 pm

Salem UMC

~Keynote Speaker~

Bishop Scott Jones



Inspiring•Inviting•  
Including•Instructing

**First United Methodist Church**  
Growing disciples to reach others for  
Christ

## **Pastor Doug Tofteland** **"Servant Love"**

It's a common occurrence today to see a fish symbol on automobiles. But, the symbol of a fish was also a way that Christians of the first three centuries of faith identified each other. Since it was essentially illegal and unsafe to be a Christian in the pagan Roman Empire, Christians discovered each other by drawing an arc on the ground. If the other person completed the arc to form a fish, they embraced each other as believers.

Today Christians distinguish themselves by wearing a cross around their necks. But, it is obvious that the mark of a Christian must be more than a symbol. Jesus could not have been clearer as to the mark of a Christian. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35)

In the gathering for the Passover meal on the eve of his going to the cross, Jesus leaves an indelible, visual impression of love in the minds of his disciples. Seared into the memory banks would be love pressed into the mold of a servant fulfilling the role of a household slave. "You want to know what love is ... let me show you." He begins to wash the feet of his disciples.

In John 13:4,5 we read that Jesus strips off his robe-like outer garment so that one end ties around his waist signifying that he is assuming the role of the household slave. With the loose end he dries the disciple's feet. He fills a basin with water that is poured over their feet and catches the water in another basin.

None of the disciples had the humility to play this role. We know from Luke's account that they entered the Passover meal still debating as to who was the greatest. So menial and demeaning was this task of feet washing that in the Jewish culture a Jewish slave would not even perform it because it was reserved for a Gentile slave, or woman, or child.

The picture of Jesus kneeling, gently caressing the feet of his disciples and washing the street grime from their sandal-shod feet sends a message to all of us. We must take up the lowly role and show our love for one another. May God provide us opportunities to do this during the Lenten season and may we be willing to express servant love.

*Pastor Doug*

Pastor Doug

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## **Parsonage Dedication and Open House**

Saturday April 16, at 2:30 pm  
Bishop Scott Jones will dedicate our new parsonage. A come and go open house will follow the

dedication which will last until 4:30 p.m. Our new parsonage is located at 305 Witmarsum West, North Newton.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

The Youth Group will have a **Gift Basket Auction on Sunday, April 17** in Fellowship Hall. Bidding closes at 12:30 pm. There will be a variety of baskets, and this will help fund their mission trip.

**Saturday, May 14 Youth Group Garage Sale and Pulled Pork Lunch.** Start sorting through your closets, garage etc. You may bring items anytime and they will be stored in the 3rd floor Sr. High room. Pre-priced items will help us out. We will accept clothing in good condition. This is also a fund raiser for the mission trip. Thank you, Carrie and Gary Holler and Shaun and Deb Bartel.

## **MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET** **April 30, 2011 6:30 P.M.**

Tickets: Suggested Price

Adults \$8.50 Children \$3.50 (10 & under)

First United Methodist Church

Reservations for the dinner and nursery

by April 26, 2010. The men will be preparing brisket with all the trimmings.

## **BAZAAR WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, April 20, at 1:30. Plan to join us for work and fellowship. Bring your new ideas to help make our 45th Annual Bazaar Extra Special, Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. THANK YOU.

## **SCHOLARSHIP TIME**

**Scholarship funds** are available for FUMC students going to college in the fall of 2011. Application can be picked up in the church office and need to be turned in by May 1.

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## **Connect, Serve, & Grow ~~~ By Roy Pumphrey, Minister of Ministries**

<sup>8b</sup> [Y]ou have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! <sup>9</sup> For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Carefully determine what pleases the Lord." Ephesians 5:8b-10 (NLT)

The "One Anothers" series by Pastor Doug is providing instruction regarding principles to live by in Christian community. The impact of these instructions are amplified for those who are participating in the Real Life Groups on Wednesday evenings. However, the real test as to whether or not the lessons are being learned will be if we are living that way. Life in the community will either demonstrate these principles being practiced or not.

If we are actually living by these, we will be living as people of light. The body of Christ will shine as a light in the broader community. Then we, and those around us, will experience "what is good, right and true."

These principles, and others taught and demonstrated by Jesus and the apostles, give guidance to how we behave in the church and broader community. When it comes to specific situations, however, we must decide how they are applied. When we encounter new situations we must "carefully determine what pleases the Lord."

Small groups, like the Real Life Groups, and spiritual companions are helpful in learning how to apply these principles in specific situations. So, get connected with a small group and find friends in whom Christ dwells. We need Christian companions and the world desperately needs the light of the Lord to shine from his followers.

\*For study guides at [http://www.firstchurchnewton.org/learn\\_grow/grow\\_in\\_christ/#c286](http://www.firstchurchnewton.org/learn_grow/grow_in_christ/#c286)

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## **MISSION MOMENTS ~~~by Jay Anderson**

### **WHAT IS A FAITH PROMISE?**

At the Global Impact Celebration on Sunday, April 10, we will each be given an opportunity to make a Faith Promise for Missions. It is a promise between you and God, in addition to your church pledge, to commit yourself to giving a certain amount of money for our church's mission efforts both local and beyond. It could include giving directly to a missionary, a mission project, or a mission organization that is seeking to fulfill our Lord's Great Commission to make disciples of all the peoples of the world. It is a way, in addition to prayer, for every church member to be involved in fulfilling this Great Commission.

Where will this extra money come from?

- Unexpected income
- Reordering our priorities like buying fewer soft drinks, or having fewer meals at a restaurant
- Innovative ideas like growing and selling fruit and vegetables at the Farmer's Market, or for a teenager trusting God to provide enough babysitting jobs.

How do we make a Faith Promise?

1. Pray for what the Lord would have you do and know that what He commands He also enables.
2. Commit yourself by faith to a specific sum for missions, realizing that your faith will grow as you stay committed

to that promise.

3. Look for different ways God will use you to give your Faith Promise.
4. Be faithful to give as God provides. You are not committed to pay the pledge if the Lord doesn't provide. This is a great opportunity to grow in our faith in God. Don't miss it.

### **STEP UP TO EXCELLENCE**

**A Day of Training for Church Leaders.** Want to know the Basics of Methodism? Need help with Worship Technology? Interested in Growing As A Leader? Desire to Keep Positive in Difficult Times? Sponsored by Hutchinson District Program Team. Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Newton Salem UMC, 115 Old Main, Newton. \$10, lunch included. To register, contact Joyce Neahring at [jneahring@kswestumc.org](mailto:jneahring@kswestumc.org) or pick up a registration in the church office. Registration are due as soon as possible.

### **Remember the Spring Clothing Exchange**

Clothing exchange will be Friday, April 1, 2-6 pm and on Saturday, April 2, 9- 2pm. Bring those pieces of clothing hanging in your closet (or cedar chest) that you haven't worn, don't like, doesn't fit etc. Let someone that does like it and whom it does fit take it home. You may bring your clothing after 9:30 am on Thursday, March 31. If you have questions contact Evelyn Mathews at 283-2453.

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**Return Service Requested**

**We're on the Web**

**[www.FirstChurchNewton.org](http://www.FirstChurchNewton.org)**

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Dr. Doug Tofteland, Lead Pastor

Jay Anderson, Missions Pastor

Roy Pumphrey, Minister of Ministries

Roxie Truan, Office Secretary

Beverly Stigge, Choir Director

Barry Fulmer, Praise Team Leader

David Portlock, Custodian

*This newsletter has been prayerfully prepared for:*



## Easter Services

### Maundy Thursday

will be a communion service at 6:30 in fellowship hall.

### Good Friday service

will be a community service at 7:00 pm at Grace Community Church.

**Sun Rise Service** will be at 6:43 am on the front steps of the church.

**Easter breakfast** is being prepared by the youth. I would like to encourage everyone to attend the breakfast this year. The breakfast will be served between 7:30 and 8:30 A.M.

We are hoping for a **BIG** attendance and that everyone will enjoy the good food and fellowship. So please plan ahead and attend. The worship service will be a combined service and will be at 9:00 A.M. This will be the only service Easter day.

Pastor Doug



## Global Impact Celebration

April 8, 9, 10.

Jesus gave His disciples a clear command in Acts 1:8 when He said,

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Who should attend? The entire congregation! !

Missionaries that have served in various parts of the world as well as in Newton will be here.

Start with a kickoff dinner on Friday at 6:00 catered by Hog Wild.

Don't be left out!!