

- Worship
- Teaching
- Example



Volume V9
September 2007



Lovilia Circuit Writer

Our mission at the Lovilia United Methodist Church is to show the love of Jesus the Christ to our community through worship, teaching, example and tangible acts of love.

What is our business?

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...In This Issue...

- ☛ **Pastor's Column (pg. 1)**
- ☛ **Reader's Corner (pg. 2)**
- ☛ **Mission Minute**
- ☛ **Beyond the Local Church**
 - Safe Sanctuaries
 - New District Superintendent
- ☛ **Parish News (pg. 3)**
 - Pass It On Youth
 - Parish Bible Study
 - Talent Show and Potluck
 - Chicken Noodle Supper
 - Parish Potluck
 - Charge Conference
- ☛ **LUMC News (pg. 4)**
 - Birthdays and Anniversaries
 - Kids Club
 - Thoughts and Prayers
 - Finances
 - Bible School Collection
 - Thank You Fred and Goldie!
- ☛ **September Calendar (pg. 5)**

Once again, the school bell is ringing and schedules fill up with this, that and everything in between. After a summer of being outdoors and doing as much or as little as we could, depending on our approach to the season, it's back to business as usual.

But the question is - what is our business? Our business is to be the body of Christ in the world. By a combination of talk and action we are to share God's love and His offer of grace with those around us. We plow the fields, plant the seeds of discipleship and encourage the growth that will come by way of the Holy Spirit working in minds and hearts. As Mair remarks "To give purpose to our lives, we must look outside of ourselves to our Creator, God...and, once an individual invites God to take the wheel and devotes his or her life to learning how to best serve Him, life becomes full and rewarding."(pp.140-141)

However, churches today face a real danger in terms of who they are and what they are to be about. "Churches often fall into the rut of routine. After a while, people are attending church as a task, not as a spiritually fulfilling event."(p.206) When that happens it's very easy to forget our mission. We start to worry more about meeting the budget and how much something costs than about our neighbors who know nothing of Jesus and His love and our commission to reach out with the gospel message.

I've never been a number cruncher (except when I'm working on a Sudoku puzzle), but we need to look around on Sunday morning. If there is even one empty pew, we have work to do, we have a mission to accomplish. And that mission is our 'business as usual'.

Reader's Corner



A Life With Purpose

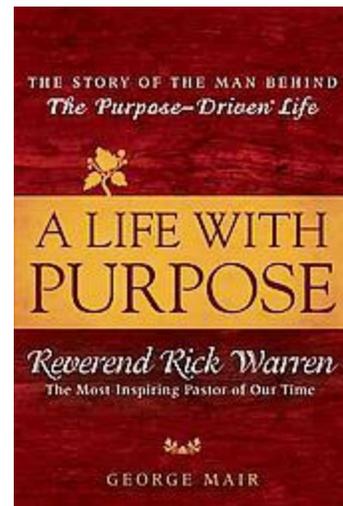
On his deathbed, evangelist Jimmy Warren was still talking about "saving one more for Jesus." Such is the legacy that Rick Warren, his son, carries with him into life and ministry. George Mair, in his *A Life With Purpose*, fleshes out the times and beliefs of the man behind the purpose driven life phenomenon.

In the process, he looks at religion in America today and shares the philosophy behind the growth and success of the mega churches like Saddleback. Folks like Norman Vincent Peale and Robert Schuller and their influence on pastor Warren are discussed.

I found myself asking questions as I read. The 16,000 member church that Rick Warren pastors focuses on the worshiper - getting people there and bringing them back. But several times in the discussion the thought came through- where is God in the consumer-oriented approach to faith? God is very much a part of the overarching goal that fuels Warren's ministry: he wants "to help the world discover God and God's purpose for their lives." (p.23)

In his baseball diamond illustration of growth and participation in the Saddleback Church that highlights mission, membership, maturity, and ministry, magnification of God is at the pitcher's mound, the very center of the church's life.

To find out what pastor Rick is up to now and how his ministry is going worldwide, pick up Mair's book and read, read, read.



Mission Minute

Ingathering



With big sales on school supplies, now is the time to purchase items for the school kits that will be taken to Ingathering in November. Below you will find the items needed to fill the kits.

2 Notebooks, 8 and a half x 11, wide ruled; 12 sheets of heavy construction paper; one box of 24 crayons; 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers; 1 2 and a half inch eraser; 1 blunt scissors; 1 30 cm metric ruler; 1 hand pencil sharpener.

CROP Weal update - We will hold a planning meeting for this year's CROP Walk on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30PM at the Lovilia Church. If you are interested in getting in on the ground floor of this mission effort, come to the meeting. Part of the money raised comes back to our parish to support our local efforts.

Has your family started to gather items for the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes? By now it is hoped that you have made it a family tradition to fill a shoe box for a child who would otherwise receive nothing.

Beyond the Local Church

Safe Sanctuaries

All three boards/councils in the next few months will be hearing about and making decisions regarding the Safe Sanctuaries program that has been implemented by the Annual Conference. Further details will appear in future newsletters.

New District Superintendent

Chuck Kellogg completed his six year term as a DS and is now serving in Spencer, Iowa. He is missed. Our new DS is Bill Poland. He will work with Paul Smith, the new Field Outreach minister for the South Central District (our district). Hopefully, over the next few years we will get a chance to meet and work with both men. Our first opportunity will be at our charge conference in Albia on Sunday, October 14th.

Parish News

Pass It On Youth

A new school year would not be complete without our parish youth group which is open to all youth grades 7-12. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 9th from 4:00-6:00 at the Bussey church.

We'll do some planning for the year, set up the Adventureland trip which will take place on Saturday, September 15, and enjoy snacks and devotions together. **PARENTS - YOU ARE INVITED TO THIS MEETING!!!** There is so much that we can do and learn. So, let's begin.



Parish Bible Study

Do you like a mystery? Well, if you do, come to the Bussey Church on Sunday evening September 9th at 6:00PM. We will begin a Bible Study that will help you grow as a disciple of Christ. But you'll have to come to find out what it's all about.

Talent Show and Potluck – September 30

Lovilia will host its second annual talent show on Sunday, September 30. A potluck supper will kick off the evening. Bring a dish to share, and your own table service. Then come upstairs to enjoy the many talented people we have in our area. If you have a talent that you would like to share, contact Nathan Chamberlain as soon as possible at 641-814-2815 or email at nchambe@ebcsd.com.

Chicken Noodle Supper in Hamilton September 22

The Hamilton Church will have a Chicken Noodle Supper on Saturday, September 22 from 5:00-7:00pm at the VFW building in Bussey. Enjoy homemade chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls, and variety of tasty pies. Come and eat and see the quilt that will be taken home that evening.

Parish Picnic September 16

The pastor parish committee decided earlier this year to have our annual picnic at one of the churches instead of Lake Miami. It will be on a rotating basis and Hamilton gets the first one which will be held on Sunday, September 16 at 12:30PM. Bring a potluck dish to share, your own table service and a lawn chair. We'll enjoy good food and fellowship as we listen to the sound of frogs croaking and fish jumping in the pond behind the church. Come ready to have a good time and bring a friend!

Charge Conference

We have the privilege/responsibility of being a part of the first charge conference in our district under the new system. That means it's extra early - October 14, so we need to work in our individual churches on budgets and officer lists as well as in evaluating our goals/expectations/achievements. The PPR committee, boards and council want to hear input from as many of you as possible. As much of a pain as the charge conference reports are, they do serve as a way for us both to look back and look forward.

Is there an area in our church life where you have a special interest (like missions, children, worship or the upkeep and care of the facility)? Volunteer to serve in that area - there is plenty of room for everyone.

LUMC News

Birthdays & Anniversaries September

- 2 Max & Lorena Bowman (A)
- 3 Cheryl Allison
- 5 John Johnson
- 6 Mary Wells
- 8 Pat Bellon
- 10 Hannah Gilkerson
- 13 Bill & Connie Barnes (A)
- 15 Wilma Bryant
- 17 Nathan Maughan
- 18 Colleen Visser
- 22 Danny Weldon
- 23 Shiela Lundstrom
- 26 Connie Barnes
Jill Leveck
- 27 Tom Gullion

Kids Club – Sep 5 CALLING ALL KIDS FROM FIRST THROUGH 6TH GRADES!

Come and participate in our Close Encounters Kids Club for 12 weeks. This Fall, from 5:00-6:30PM on Wednesday evenings we will explore who we are in relation to the world, each other and our Lord. Stories, games and activities are on the plate as well as supper, so come and have a close encounter at kids club.

If you would like to help or provide the meal for one or two or three... weeks, there is a sign up sheet at the church. We look forward to another great year.



Beverly Mick, Lois Walter, Margaret Conner, Donnie Tucker, Thelma Smith, Lucille Boyer, Eleanor Frost, Janice Schisel, Zibby Kendal, John Trinkle, Irma Smool, Ethel Jacobs, Marcella Clark, Diane Maddy, Jill Bennett, Don and Irene Finch, Judy and Lonnie Clark, Edith Barnes, Betty Grace, Pauline Wilson, Annie Dykstra, Eddie Weldon, Liz Hauenstein, our service men and women around the world, our shut-ins and their caregivers and our leaders.

Finances

Our July tithes and offerings totaled \$2,037.50 for five Sundays. Our monthly expenses (according to our budget) will average out to be \$2,267.45. We have a bit of work to do!

Bible School Heifer Project Collection

Our kids brought \$116.92 to purchase chickens for Heifer Project. Way to go!!!

THANK YOU FRED AND GOLDIE!!!! (again)

All of the rain that we have had recently flooded our basement again. Thank you Fred and Goldie for spending two days bailing us out again. Our trustees will be making some decisions about what we can do to eliminate the water problem before we do whatever we're going to do to fix the floor etc.

This quote appeared in a recent brochure: "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out." John Wesley

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5 PM Kids Club (L)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9-2 District UMW Meeting in Albia 7 PM UMW (L)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>4-6 PM Pass It On Youth in Bussey 6 PM Parish Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 PM PPR Meeting in Lovilia (if needed)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5 PM Kids Club (L) 6:30 PM CROP Planning Meeting in Lovilia</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7 PM Nominating Committee (L)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Youth Service Fund Day – Leaving Bussey at 9 AM</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Parish Potluck Picnic in Hamilton at 12:30 PM 6 PM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5 PM Kids Club</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6 PM Nominating Committee in Lovilia 6:30 PM Trustees (L) 7 PM Ad Board (L)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Gather Concert in DesMoines</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>6:30 PM District Conference and organizational meeting in Osky 7 PM Installation of new DS at Central UMC in Osky</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5 PM Chicken Noodle Supper for Hamilton at Bussey's Legion Hall</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5 PM Kids Club (L)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>5 PM Potluck (L) 6 PM TALENT SHOW!!!!!! (L)</p>						

Happy School Year!



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