



Lovilia Circuit Writer



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Pastor Jill Leveck

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into the most trouble with the religious leaders because he associated with 'sinners.'

In **The God of the Towel**, Mr. McGuigan suggests that these authority figures missed the most important question - why would sinners want to hang out with Jesus, a man without sin? God's love shone in Him and through Him. When they looked at Jesus, they felt accepted and they trusted Him. Zaccheus is a case in point. He had a good vantage point from up in that tree and when Jesus looked him in the eyes and spoke to him, he was changed forever for the better.

Trust - how much do we trust God? It figures that we trust Him when the road is smooth and everything is working out 'right.' But do we trust God when He doesn't answer our prayers the way we want Him to? The catching and selling of cod is big business in the Northeast. There is a market for these fish all over the country. This demand created the challenge of how to ship the fish. They tried freezing them, but the process took away much of the flavor. Then they tried shipping them alive in tanks of seawater. Not only was it more expensive - the cod still lost flavor and arrived soft and mushy at their destination. Then a creative individual tried placing the cod in a tank of seawater with their natural enemy - the catfish. From one coast to the other, the catfish chased the cod around the tank. When they arrived at market, they were as fresh as when they first were caught with no loss of flavor. Do we trust God when we feel like the only cod in a whole tank full of catfish? It's the difference between verbal assent and lifetime commitment.

If we build our life on the foundation of trust in Jesus Christ, I am absolutely certain that we can deal with however many 'catfish' come our way.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Kevin and I are science fiction fans from way back. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, we like the old 50's flicks like **The Day the Earth Stood Still** about an extra-terrestrial who comes to earth to issue a warning to the human race. In fact, we do live on what Jim McGuigan calls "the Visited Planet" - visited by God Himself: God "with name, rank and serial number; God with a Galilean accent." (p.3)

God loves us that much; He is willing to pitch His tent among us so that we can better understand that love and the grace He makes available to each one of us. Jesus walked the dusty roads of Galilee healing the sick, forgiving sins, giving to folks a new lease on life and showing what Kingdom living is all about. He got



Reader's Corner

"Discipleship is living in the image of God in whatever life situation we find ourselves." Jim McGuiggan puts these words on the second page of the introduction of **The God of the Towel: Knowing the Tender Heart of God**. They serve as a challenge to each one of us as we journey along the always new and often pockmarked road of life.

To bring into clearer focus what God is like, the author spends a lot of time on repentance and is convinced that it is not a series of isolated acts on our part but a state of mind and a way of approaching life. We repent and God forgives. He cites Corrie Ten Boom's observation that "...God casts our sins into the deepest part of the ocean and then puts up a sign: no fishing!" (p.118)

Servanthood is another part of God's character; there is a big difference between doing acts of service that are required of us and having a servant's heart as did Christ. As pastors through the ages like John Wesley have insisted, we are called to serve where we can, when we can and how we can.

Whatever our task, it should be done for the glory of the Lord. Whether we work on the line at Pella Corp, in a restaurant, a law office, in the pulpit or at home, our tasks are "...sacred or secular depending on the heart." (p.208) If someone wants to know what we're doing to further the kingdom, Mr. McGuiggan suggests that we "ask them if living with integrity under difficult circumstances counts." (p.210).

This is a well written book and raises some thought-provoking questions as it celebrates not finding answers to everything but cherishing the mystery.

LUMC News

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September

- 2 ■ Max & Lorena Bowman
- 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

UMW Notes

Our United Methodist Women will meet on September 7th at 1:30. The lesson leader is Pat Frye. Everyone is invited to bring a favorite finger food for refreshments. The Love Offering will be received. The evening group will meet at 7:00PM with Sheila Lundstrom as lesson leader and hostess.

September 14th is the District UMW meeting in Knoxville from 9:00-3:00. Since it's so close, this would be a good time to go and see what it's like.

The ice cream social for August was cancelled. The Outreach Committee has rescheduled it for Sep 17th at 5:00 pm.

Finances

Our income for July was \$1,767. This included the quarterly contribution of \$100 from the UMW. If our budget is to be met we need \$2,076.51 each month.

“Lovilia Talent” and Ice Cream Social

Remember when folks in the community got together for fun and fellowship? We're going to bring those good old days back for one evening this fall. On Sunday, September 17th, we'll chow down on ice cream and cake in the church basement at 5:00PM and then head upstairs to enjoy a variety of talent from our own community at 6:00PM

There is no cost for this evening of great entertainment. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and share in the fun.

If you would like to be in the talent show, registration will be on Sunday September 10th from 1:00-3:00 at the church. You can also register on our website (lumc.webs.com) at any time up until the 10th. If you have an ice cream freezer and would like to make some ice cream, contact Gayle Hastings or Pastor Jill by September 10th. We will also need cakes and brownies. How would you like to help?

Kids Club

This Fall we're going to try something new with our children in first through sixth grades. For twelve weeks on Wednesdays beginning September 6th from 3:30-5:00PM we will have an after school program called Close Encounters with Creation. Since buses arrive from the different school systems at various times, we will have games and refreshments from 3:30 to 4:00. At 4:00 we will begin the lesson and have the craft.

We are still in need of helpers who can be there for the whole time and individuals who could do the lesson for one week. There will be sign up sheets in churches for helpers, lesson givers and folks to bring refreshments. If you have any questions, contact Nathan Chamberlain or pastor Jill who are serving as co-coordinators for this program.

Youth News

This year our youth who are in 7th through 12th grade have the opportunity to participate in the parish youth group that will meet on Sundays. The first meeting will be Sunday, September 10th at 6:00 at the Bussey Park. We are hoping to involve young people from Lovilia, Bussey, Hamilton and Attica.



The family and friends of Beatrice Ivins, the family of Clifford Stillwell, Thelma Smith, Warren Jones, Margaret Conner, Donnie Tucker, John Waters, Curtis Davis, Dale Allison, Lois Walter, Edith Barnes and Pastor Jill's parents.

Parish News

Parish Youth Group

With the start of school comes the chance to get together with other young people in our parish. We're working on crafting a youth group for grades 7-12 and you're invited to be a part of it. Our first event will be a barbeque on Sunday, September 10th at 6:00PM at the Bussey Park. Games, fellowship and lots of good food will be the menu for the evening. Come and bring a friend.

We will talk about attending the Youth Service Fund Day at Adventureland on Saturday, September 16th. On that day, United Methodist young people from all over the state will enjoy the rides and shows at a cost of \$18.25 per person with a portion of that amount going to youth service projects around the world.



United Methodist Men

Men, begin the school year right. Come for good food and fellowship on Saturday, September 9th at 7:00AM. We'll set up a day to cut the wood for the PET Mobile. See you there!

Lake Miami Potluck

On Sunday, September 24th at 12:30 we'll gather at the shelter house by the elk pen for our annual parish potluck and activity. We will have some special guests to inspire and entertain us. So bring a lawn chair, a covered dish and your own table service. Drinks will be provided. Come and enjoy the outdoor setting and the fellowship of your friends in the parish.

Charge Conference

This year, charge conference for our county will be in Hamilton at the Community Building on Sunday, November 5th.

Crop Walk (Oct. 8)

We have a chance again this year to help folks far away and close to home by getting pledges and walking. What are you going to do to help? If you plan to walk, contact one of the following members of the planning committee - Bill Barnes (Lovilia); Katie Burton (Hamilton); Jane McCombs, Cecilia Wilson or Renee Clark (Bussey). Let's see if we can't break the \$1,000 mark this year.

Parish Bible Study

Our summer vacation is over and we will continue our parish Bible Study on the book of Revelation. Watch your Sunday bulletins for day and time. The first time we get together will be a review to catch us up - so if you have not attended before, it's not too late to be a part of this study.

Beyond the Local Church

Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Our parish was represented by Rick Hoy, Goldie Kraber and Pastor Jill. Fifty years of women in the ordained ministry was celebrated with a special service. The two task forces on apportionments and a change in the structure of our conference were passed by a GOOD majority. It was voted that we change the structure to streamline it. This will include going from 12 district superintendents to eight with supporting staff. Apportionments will come down to us from the conference for at least one more year EVEN THOUGH a majority voted to change to a tithing system of 10% of the income of the individual churches being sent to headquarters.

However, at the end of conference the Bishop ruled that the rules of order were not followed so the whole thing was referred to a committee appointed by the Bishop. There is so much confusion that few know what is going on at this point. I will add that I was very disappointed and disillusioned with the actions taken at the end of the conference.

Mandatory Clergy Workshop

All appointed clergy are mandated to attend the workshop on clergy ethical behavior to be held on October 5, 2006 at Oskaloosa Central UMC 9:00-4:00.

Safe Sanctuaries Training

Each church of the Iowa Conference is required to have a child and youth protection policy in place by July 1, 2007. Districts will be presenting workshops to help local churches with this important task.

Mission Minute

- The Ottumwa District accepted a challenge to provide funds needed for Adama Grace Kefas, of Nigeria, to attend Africa University. Next semester's fees are due, and the cost is \$2600. Please send your contribution to Advance #241 (Direct Aid to Adama Grace Kefas) c/o Jeremy Jolly, 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321

- At the junior Secondary School in Jalingo, Nigeria, there was an opening for thirty-five students to be enrolled in Grade 7. One hundred thirty-eight students took an entrance exam to qualify. 50 will be chosen and interviewed from this total. This church-run school in Taraba State has a high scholastic rating along with the reputation for quality teaching so that many families clamor to have their children attend. Thanks to lowans who value education, the dreams of many will become a reality. It is so exciting when people have a chance for a better life.

- Are you saving your empty shoeboxes for the Project Christmas Child? Have you started gathering items to fill them?



Karen realizes she needs to explain to her daughter the difference between Veggie Tales and lunch!



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The Outreach Committee is holding the annual Ice Cream Social Sunday, September 17th at 5:00 PM before the community talent show.



Community Talent Show, "Lovilia Talent", will be held September 17th at 6:00 at the LUMC. Registration is online and will be held outside the church from 1-3 PM on September 10th.

..... *Featured Articles*

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- Crop Walk (pg. 4)