

The Visitor

St. Marks United Church of Christ
New Albany, IN 47150

June 2007

From the Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. John E. Manzo

June, 2007

June marks the official beginning of summer. This seems odd as it sure has felt like summer through May!

The Kentucky Derby is past.

School is done.

Confirmation is done.

We begin to enter into a more quiet time.

We do have a lot going on, however.

We start, in June, a very exciting venture with a Men's Fellowship Group. We will be having an organizational meeting and breakfast on June 9th at 9:00AM at Treet's Bakery Café at 133 E. Market Street. This is across from the Grand.

Several other things.

The Vision Report is coming out in June.

The Bible Study on the Gospel of John will continue.

We are planning a trip to Savannah and Charleston in September. More information is being shared on May 31st and you'll be able to sign up for the trip.

The work on the Church Directory will continue.

Senior adult programs, youth, and children programs will continue.

Most of all God will be Worshiped each Sunday by us. Summer may be a time for slowing down----but our connections and our need for God never changes and never slows down!

Church Web Site

Just a reminder that St. Marks United Church of Christ has a website with all sorts of information, including sermons, newsletters, and pictures. The address is:

www.stmarksucc.org

The June Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 3 First Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 10:1-23

Sermon Title: *It's What You Learn After You Know it All That Counts*

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am **WORSHIP** with the sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, June 10 - Second Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 10:24-49

Sermon Title: *But He's Not One of Us!!!!*

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am **WORSHIP**

Sunday, June 17 - Third Sunday After Pentecost - Father's Day

Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-4

Sermon Title: *Being a Happy Father*

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am **WORSHIP**

Sunday, June 24 - Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Lori Lewis is Preaching

9:15 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am **WORSHIP**

A Meditation

God's Goodness

Text: Acts 9:32-43

Rev. Dr. John E. Manzo

April 22, 2007

I've been ruminating about this sermon a great deal. I had chosen my text and named the sermon last month. Preaching about God's goodness two weeks after Easter is such a great concept. The problem is that the events of this past week have made many of us feel greatly separated from God's goodness.

At the point in Acts of the Apostles that we are looking at today it immediately follows Luke telling us that the church was growing and thriving and St. Paul was just getting started with his preaching. The scene changes and we have Peter perform two miracles; he heals a paralyzed person and raises a woman named Tabitha from the dead. It is an amazing demonstration of the power God has given people in the early Christian church and it is a magnificent demonstration of God's goodness.

God's goodness.

Years ago when I was a very young, very new minister one of my colleagues in town was having a far better life than I have ever had. Every time you would ask him how he was doing, how things were going, he'd say, "I am wonderful. This is the day that the Lord has made. How can we be anything but wonderful?"

My problem was I could think of some ways to be anything but wonderful. It's not that my life was bad, but not every day was a very good day and some days I felt wonderful and other days a lot less than wonderful.

God's goodness.

If we read the Gospels we read many stories of Jesus performing miracles and sharing God's goodness with people. We read about miracles performed by the apostles in Jesus's name and we encounter God's goodness. The problem is, at some point, if we are reasonably honest with ourselves and others, we sometimes miss or get mystified by God's goodness. Of late the news has not been filled with stories of God's goodness.

This weekend we had dinner with some friends from our old church in Ohio. Their son's college baseball team was playing at Hanover College and we decided to meet up and spend some time together. Their son attends Bluffton University and was on the bus in Atlanta that was in the accident that killed seven people. In remembering that accident and in talking to them my heart was again broken by the tragedy.

Many people reeled when they heard Don Imus'

comments of a few weeks ago. What he said was blatantly racist and, almost overlooked, blatantly sexist. Part of people's outrage was that he exposed the nasty fact of life that racism and sexism still impacts our society. Whether you like Don Imus or not, or whether you agree with the price Don Imus has had to pay or not, he revealed to us that the subjects of racism and sexism are not dead but very much alive and people are still having a very difficult time having rational and civil discussions about them.

But the news of this week was far, far worse.

Like so many people I have tried to make some sort of sense out of what happened. Janet graduated from Virginia Tech took classes in the building where the massacre took place and lived in the dorm where the first two murders were committed. In our home what took place at Virginia Tech has struck hard and deeply. One of the police officers said that it all became too much when he was in a classroom, filled with slaughtered students, with their cell phones ringing and going unanswered. The students were being called by frightened and desperate parents hoping their child was okay. The police officer knew that there would be tremendous grief and heartbreak for those on the other end of the phone.

And then the pictures and the video of the killer. Maybe the less said, the better.

It was a horrible tragedy that reminds us that life is often filled with tragedy.

Perhaps the most eloquent words were spoken by the professor Nikki Giovanni when she put things into some sort of a perspective:

We do not understand this tragedy. We know we did nothing to deserve it, but neither does a child in Africa dying of AIDS, neither do the invisible children walking the night away to avoid being captured by the rogue army, neither does the baby elephant watching his community being devastated for ivory, neither does the Mexican child looking for fresh water, neither does the Appalachian infant killed in the middle of the night in his crib in the home his father built with his own hands being run over by a boulder because the land was destabilized. No one deserves a tragedy.

How can such things happen? How can a good and loving God allow such things to happen?

It is a timeless and eternal question.

Job asked it. All sorts of terrible things had befallen him and he greatly lamented and wanted God to tell him why.

And God thundered back. Literally. And the answer was that if Job was God, Job would know the answer. Since Job wasn't God, there was no answer.

The Book of Job is one of my favorite books of the Bible and it is a book that very much reveals the awesomeness of God, but it is also frustrating because the one answer people really want goes unanswered.

Which brings us back to God's goodness.

People have always grappled with God's goodness and the presence of evil in the world.

Luke, in this passage from Acts speaks of two miracles. The first is when Peter heals a man, Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and was bedridden for eight years. It was a horrible fate to be paralyzed and, I'm sure, as Aeneas laid in his bed day after day he had to question God's goodness.

And then there was Tabitha who died. Tabitha, was a good woman. She helped the poor and was always doing good. Her death was a tragedy and a loss for those who knew her. How could God take such a good person from their midst?

And Peter raises her back to life.

Sometimes when we read the Bible, it is easy to get the impression that somehow God was more involved in people's lives, that more amazing things were taking place. Sometimes we mistakenly believe that they may have had it better than we do.

Please take note that the richest person in all of Jerusalem at that time would have gladly changed lives with anyone sitting here today. Our lives in our day and age are significantly easier, significantly more comfortable, significantly better in so many ways than life was back then. The stories of God's goodness through the signs performed by Jesus and the apostles brought glimpses of hope to people whose lives often seemed hopeless.

That is, in so many ways, how God reminds us that God's goodness is around us. We see the goodness of God in little things. But we often have to be looking because those little things often come in odd packages. A Dutch woman named Corrie Ten Boom's family hid a Jewish family in a hiding place in their home. They were betrayed by an informant and the family was taken to a concentration camp. Ironically, the Nazis never found the hiding place and the people they had been hiding were able to escape. Corrie Ten Boom said that one of the greatest blessings in life was an infestation of fleas. The barracks room where she was imprisoned was infested, badly, with fleas. But she said those fleas were a magnificent gift from God because none of the guards would enter into their barracks room so they were left alone.

It's sometimes little things.

But it's also God's presence.

We often, when there is horror around us, wonder where God is. The answer is that God is always present. And, in my heart, I believe that God's heart is the first to break in the midst of tragedy.

William Sloane Coffin, when he as the pastor of Riverside Church in New York City lost his son. His son had too much to drink and was driving on a dark and rainy night with a broken windshield wiper when he drove off a bridge into a river and drowned. It was

a tragic, needless death.

Coffin said that he was upset when people put their arms around him and said that it was God's will.

Coffin said that it was not God's will that his son drank too many beers. It was not God's will that his son never bothered having his windshield wiper replaced. It was not God's will that his son got into the driver's seat while he was drunk. Coffin said that his great solace and comfort came in believing that when God saw Coffin's son drown in the river, God's heart was the first heart to break.

God did not design roads in Atlanta that are confusing. God did not tell the driver to be in the wrong lane. But God's heart was the first heart to break when the bus plunged down onto the highway.

God did not make us racist. God did not make us sexist. God has never taught anyone to hate. We do that all by ourselves. And when we share hatred, God's heart is the first heart to break.

God did not tell the young man to purchase the guns. God did not tell the young man how to kill. God did not compel the young man to kill. He did it himself. And God's heart was the first to break as he watched an innocent slaughter.

God's goodness is present. God's goodness often shows up in little things. But mostly God's goodness shows up quietly, by being with us, loving us, and suffering with us through the most difficult of times.

In my office I have a sign which reads, Bidden or not bidden, God is still present. I actually have it in English and Latin. Often we see it and recognize it as recognizing that no matter what we say or what we do, God is with us. Sometimes we don't like this because, well, when we are doing something we ought not be doing and we aren't thrilled that God is present.

But, bidden or not bidden, God is present. This means that no matter what, good or bad, wonderful or dreadful, God is present. And where God is present, goodness is present, and where goodness is present, ultimately there is always hope, even in the midst of great despair.

Senior Adult News

From Rev. Lori Lewis

Dear Friends,

I have something new on my office door! I have a locked mailbox on my office door with a slot in which you can put all of your money (in envelope with your name please) for our senior trips. Next to my office door on the wall will be a sign up sheet for each senior trip. Please sign up at my office door and pay your money there. This will keep it all in one place. It's

also great because I'm always looking for ways to give Patty less work when possible. She does so much already!

Here's what is happening for our "June Event" - On June 28, we will meet at church for lunch at 11:30 a.m. followed by a performance by our community's "Silvertoners" - a large group of senior adults that sing together.

Lunch is being catered by Treet's Café in New Albany. Please pay and sign up for your choice of food no later than Sunday, June 24.

Cost of lunch is \$7.00 and includes sandwich, chips, pickle, side salad and dessert bar.

Sandwich choices are: tuna salad, egg salad, chicken salad, turkey, or ham all served on choice of white or wheat.

Side Salad choices are: coleslaw, potato salad, or pasta salad.

Blessings,

Lori

Attention All Chrysalis (Age 5 - 2nd Grade) And FROGS (Grades 3-6) From Rev. Lori Lewis

Here's What's Happening Next for Frogs (Grades 3-6) and Chrysalis (Age 5 - Grade 2)

It helps me a lot if you sign up ahead of time for all events so that I know how many kids to plan for. Friends are always welcome! Several parents are needed for all of the events. Let me know when you can come! Thanks! See me with any questions - Lori

Youth Night/Friday Nigh Live - Friday, June 15 from 7 :00 - 8:30 p.m.

All Children ages 5 - Grade 6 are invited for a night of games and activities here at church!

Dinner is served at 6:00 - 7:00, if you'd like to come eat first!

CHRYSALIS TRIP - This is just for the Chrysalis group! We're going to Hubers on Wednesday, June 27 and here's what we get to do there:

Visit the Petting Zoo

Ride Down the Mountain Slide - (As many times as

we want to!)

Find our Way Through Mazes

Ride Miniature Tractors

Have a Picnic Lunch Together

We will meet at St. Marks at 9:15 a.m. and return by 1:30 p.m..

Cost is \$5.00 (bring cash that day) and you need to bring a packed lunch and drink.

Please sign up no later than June 24.

FROGS TRIP - This is just for the Frogs group! We're going to Camp Cedar Ridge in Louisville to do a Low Ropes/Teams Course on Wednesday June 20.

This is an awesome experience for kids! We will have a person from the camp lead us through challenges in a wooded course in which the kids will have to use team work, cooperation, thinking skills, etc. It is a great group builder and a self esteem builder as well.

We will meet at St. Marks at 2:00 p.m. and return to church by 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 (The actual price is \$17.00, but I am using some money from the Frogs budget to offset the cost). Please bring a packed lunch and drink too.

Please sign up and pay your money no later than June17.

Something New - I now have a locked mailbox on my office door where you can put all permission slips and money marked in an envelope for trips. Also, next to my door is now a place where sign up sheets will be posted.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast! Men's Fellowship Breakfast!

You are invited to a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, June 9

9:00 AM

Treet's Bakery Café 133 East Market Street, New Albany

(Please plan to pay for your breakfast.)

This is an organizational meeting to brain storm with you and find out what it is you would like do with this Men's Fellowship in the future (Bible study, work projects, etc.) This is an *AGELESS* event. You are welcome no matter what age you are.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast! Men's Fellowship Breakfast! Men's Fellowship Breakfast!

2007 College Graduates

Carrie Barksdale
Daughter of David and Debbie Barksdale
Graduated May 7, 2007 from Indiana University Southeast
with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

Jennifer Gream
Daughter of Lynne Oakes and Roger Gream
Graduated in December 2006 from Louisiana State University in New Orleans, Louisiana.
Currently living in New Orleans working for I-Conn Corporation.

Aaron Hughes
Son of Jeffery and Hawley Hughes
Graduating in August 2007 from Briarcliffe College in Bethpage, NY with a B.A. in Graphic Design.
Aaron is also pursuing a career in Commercial Aviation and
is currently attending the Academy of Aviation in Farmingdale, NY.

Whitney Johnson
Graduated December 16, 2006 from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business
Currently living in Louisville, KY working at Blue and Company as a Staff Accountant.

Katie Taylor
Graduating in December 2007 from Indiana University
with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business for Accounting and Operations Management

Our 2007 High School Graduates

Tiffany Elaine Barr
Daughter of Larry and Montanya Barr
Graduating from Floyd Central High School - May 27, 2007
I am already in the Army Reserves and will be going to AIT early August.

Cathy Cronin
Daughter of Patrick and Susan Cronin
Graduating from Floyd Central High School - May 27, 2007
Plans For The Future:
I will be attending Indiana University Southeast pursuing an associates degree in accounting.

Briston Hatchell
Son of Susan Bandy
Graduating from Floyd Central High School - May 27, 2007

Ellen Howell
Daughter of Mark and Sandy Kersey
Graduating from Floyd Central High School - May 27, 2007
Plans For The Future:
I will be pursuing a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in psychology.

Michelle Elizabeth Manzo

Daughter of Rev. Dr. John E. and Mrs. Janet Manzo

Graduating from New Albany High School - May 26, 2007

Plans For The Future:

I will be attending Ball State University majoring in Journalism and/or Television Communications. After college I hope to be part of a major newspaper or television station.

Michael Clayton Mills

Son of Drew Mills and Sherry Mills

Graduating from Floyd Central High School - May 27, 2007

Plans For The Future:

I will be attending Purdue University's School of Engineering. I will pursue a degree in chemical engineering.

Alicia Reising

Daughter of Steve and Ellen Reising

Graduating from New Albany High School - May 26, 2007

Plans For The Future:

I will be attending Purdue University and pursuing a career in Aviation.

Within The Family

Our Love And Sympathy To:

The family and friends of **Esther E. Schwender Rhoads**. Esther is survived by her son, Charles E. Rhoads, Jr. (Dianne); her daughter, Kay Ann Hall (Ron); her sisters, Kate Newbanks and Lucille Percy (Lucille passed away on May 11th); four Grandchildren; and six Great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on May 5th.

The family and friends of **Mary Ann Carnighan**. Mary Ann passed away on May 5, 2007. She is preceded in death by her son, Harry Michael Carnighan; and her granddaughter, Catherine Elizabeth Cicarella. She is survived by her daughter, Ann Carnighan (Thomas Cicarella); her son, Kelly Carnighan (Barbara); and five grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at St. Marks on June 2, 2007 at 2:00 pm.

The family and friends of **Olive Nance**. Olive passed away on April 16, 2007 in Arizona. Olive is survived by a daughter, Betty Love; and other family members. A private grave side service was held on May 11th.

The family and friends of **Doris Braden**, Grandmother of, Lisa Orr (John), David Braden (Holly), and Jonathan Braden. Funeral services were held on May 11th.

The family and friends of **Lucille L. Schwender Percy**.

Lucille is survived by her husband, Carl; a son, Carl E. Percy, Jr.; three daughters, Sharon Warlick (Dan), Shelley Gulley (Trent), Phyllis Hamilton (Frank); her sister, Kate Newbanks; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on May 14th.

The family and friends of **Leroy T. Johnson**. Leroy is survived by his wife, Bertha Zurschmiede Johnson; son, James Johnson (Delores); step-children, Shirley Perry (Gary), William Zurschmiede, Marvin Zurschmiede (Elizabeth), Lorna Kamber; eleven grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at St. Michael's Church in Bradford, IN on May 21st.

Memorials And Donations In April

Altar Flowers Fund;

In honor of Joe and Alice Kroskey's 60th Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on May 17, 2007

From their loving family

Celebration Singers Fund:

In honor of Sandra Carter

by Max and Anna Bohrer

In honor of Sandra Carter

by Katie Taylor

Music Fund:

In honor of our Grandchildren, Barrett and Emery Archibald
by Kerry and Debbie Stemler

In honor of Sandra Carter
by Kerry and Debbie Stemler

Seniors Fund:

In honor of Rev. Lori Lewis
by Max and Anna Bohrer

Van Fund:

In memory of my Mother, Blanche Leslie
by Valerie Tanzilli

Thank You ♥

Dear St. Marks Family;

Thank you so much for all of your care and support during this difficult time. Your thoughts and prayers, cards, food and expressions of sympathy were greatly appreciated. It meant a great deal to all of us.

The family of Esther Rhoads

Dear St. Marks Family;

A sincere thanks to all our St. Marks family for all you did during this difficult time for us. We thank you for your kind words and prayers, for coming to visitation, and for the many flowers, cards and donations you gave. Also, a sincere thanks to the ministers and staff for everything you did. It is comforting to know that we have our church family for support.

Carl Percy, Sr. and Family

Dear St. Friends;

My thanks to St. Marks for the lovely altar flowers. They were a real lift and a "picker-upper." I miss our service on the radio

and now settle for the other services that are on TV. Please do come visit anytime.

Thanks,
Dorothy McCooe

Attention High School Youth And Adults

I am looking for two responsible people each month to staff the Nursery during Friday Night Live. It is the 3rd Friday of every month. You can sign up for one month or several months in a row. You'll need to be in the Nursery by 6:50 pm and can leave as soon as the last child goes home.

There are plenty of toys for the kids to play with here or you can get creative and bring an easy project (coloring books, easy crafts, etc.) for the kids to do. Also, if you want to bring your favorite kids movie (it has to be rated G) to watch, I can have the TV/VCR set up for you.

If anyone is interested there will be a sign up sheet on the door of the crib nursery, or please call me anytime at 948-1312.

Thanks,
Tammy Tackett

All Accessible Restroom . . . Update:

Six weeks ago we set about the task of collecting \$9,000 to build an all accessible restroom in the Education Building. With the help of 56 St. Marks families, Electives Class, Fitness Flock, Mr & Mrs Class, New Directions, Sewing Ladies, TNT, The Women's Circle, and Community Bank, I am happy to report to you that as of Sunday, May 6, 2007, we have exceeded our goal by raising \$9,277.

Our thanks for their participation go to:

Dr. Manzo for helping with the site selection and the suggestion of putting the progress reports in all the restrooms in both of our buildings. It was a wonderfully effective method of communication.

Skip Piotrski and Alan Mason for working to insure the necessary utilities were available in the site that was selected. Skip will also be our General Contractor for the new restroom.

Bob Kissinger for his services as our architect on this project. He will insure that everything we do will meet the

requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Trustees have given their approval to start construction as soon as Skip can work the project into his schedule.

My thanks to all of you who contributed your money, your suggestions and your words of encouragement?

Donna Garrison

Community Outreach

Clothes Closet 2007:

	People Served	Items of Clothing Distributed	No. of Blankets Distributed
Jan	273	1,324	19
Feb	234	1,061	14
March	273	1,250	2
April	263	1,207	0

CLOTHES CLOSET NEEDS . . . The Clothes Closet is in desperate need of SUMMER CLOTHES ... especially Babies' and Toddler's.

PLEASE HOLD WINTER CLOTHES UNTIL FALL as we have nowhere to store them.

Pastor's Relief Fund 2007:

No. Of Families Assisted	Assisted With
15	Electric Bill Assistance
4	Gas Bill Assistance
5	Rent Assistance
1	Water Bill Assistance
8	Emergency Assistance
Total 33	Total of \$2,160.43

Soup Kitchen:

The Soup Kitchen serves an average of 75 people a hot meal each Saturday.

To TEAM LEADERS: If you need help, please contact one of our eager subs from the following list:

Pat Miller
Maxine and John Dersch
Mike Scroggins
Skip Piotski
Susie Hammond

Remember to check the pantry and freezer for available menu items. We received a generous donation of soup and have several packages of cookies on the shelf. If you need additional food items, please contact Patty to pick up the Kroger card.

Thank you,
Susie Hammond,
Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Happy Birthday

Kara McDonald	06/01	Audrey Carter	06/14
Norma Veron	06/02	Sandy Boofter	06/15
Christian Auspland	06/02	Lindsay Livingston	06/15
Christian Stovall	06/02	Michael Stokes	06/16
Mike Johnson	06/03	Lynne Oakes	06/17
Zachary Lewis	06/03	Thomas Johnson	06/17
Tony Beemer	06/04	Susan Wells	06/18
Patrick Ridout	06/04	Norman Veron	06/19
Blake McDonald	06/06	Alicia Reising	06/21
Linda Baker	06/07	Michelle Manzo	06/22
Chuck Haworth	06/07	Cecile Boring	06/23
Grace Megenity	06/07	Mildred Kendall	06/24
Clay Wrege	06/08	Dana Wright	06/24
Audrey Hall	06/09	Melissa Hutchins	06/24
Donald Payne	06/09	Marie Wolf	06/27
Wayne Ramp	06/10	Angela Shaughnessy	06/27
Bill Gimbel	06/10	Emily Lewis	06/27
Tiffani Blank	06/10	Katie Wadsworth	06/28
Amanda Bultemeier	06/10	D. J. Ramp	06/28
Hannah Holt	06/10	Larry Grant	06/28
Polly Miller	06/11	Mandy Archibald	06/28
Audrey Moser	06/12	Krista Kovert	06/28
Dorothy Brown	06/12	Marilyn Montgomery	06/29
Jane Steinert	06/12	Kenneth Brown	06/30
Julie Shultz	06/12	Steve Baxter	06/30
Cathy Cronin	06/13	Noelle Kirk	06/30
James Bohrer	06/14	Emma Byrd	06/30

**Loving God
Back**

Serving You in June

Greeters:

June 3	Open
June 10	Mike and Tammy Recktenwald
June 17	Kyle and Susan Ridout
June 24	Derrick and Lesley Schmaltz

Welcome Table:

June 3	Sandy Koerber
June 10	Jane Milton
June 17	Lynda Arkwright
June 24	Joy Knopfmeier

9:00 Liturgist:

June 3	Evelyn Crooks
June 10	Carol Flispart
June 17	Tara Hengartner
June 24	Carolyn Hook

Ushers:

Usher Captains: Ron and Jana Judd

Nursery:

June 3	Francesca Kemper
June 10	Brian and Amy Bowden
June 17	Ellen Kennedy and Dianne Rhoads
June 24	Cindy Scroggins

Altar Flower Delivery:

The Electives Class

Van Drivers:

June 3	Mike Scroggins
June 10	George Streckfus
June 17	Lari Ann Stein
June 24	Joy Knopfmeier

Soup Kitchen:

June 2	Team 5/ Hines Team
June 9	Team 6/Genesis Team
June 16	Team 7/ Mike Sands Team
June 23	Team 8/ Kennedy Scales Team
June 30	Team 9/Boofter Team

Bulletin Assembly

June 7 -	10:00 am	Dot Galloway, Millie Brock
June 10 -	1:00 pm	Carl Percy and Brenda Hiatt
June 21 -	10:00 am	Dot Galloway and John Dersch
June 28 -	2:00 pm	Ed and Linda Donahoe and Jim and Jane Steinert