



Connections

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 5

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

DEALING WITH DISCOURAGEMENT

If I were a betting person, I'd bet you're a lot like me. Well, at least in one area of our lives! I'll bet you get discouraged some-times. Am I right?

And, I don't know about you, but truth be told, when I'm discour- aged, I have lots of trouble even communicating with ME, let alone anyone else! When I'm

of imagination to these things— well, it's off to the races for me! I'm gone!



But, IF you don't ever get discouraged, well then, there is no reason for you to read any more of this front page



discouraged, every- thing seems harder than it should be and everything I try to say seems to come through a negative filter and this makes everything more difficult. Being

So, what five minutes ago was just another challenge to be solved, NOW feels like an unsolvable problem that I'll never be able to figure out! I feel like what was a very do-able problem is NOW hopeless and I really need the answer RIGHT NOW! And, it's that out-of-control feeling that tends to bring me down and get me discouraged because one of the things I love about my Call is that it is not easy. The truth is, I like to solve problems, and the tougher the better, but it's hard to attack challenges when you're feeling discouraged, isn't it? It sure is for me!

article. You might want to go and do something more productive— like pray for the rest of us who DO get discouraged. And, I'm guessing that is by far the majority of human beings on planet Earth. I mean, if you don't get discouraged from time to time, well, you sure know something I don't know!

discouraged is TOUGH!
Some years back, I spent some considerable time and prayer on what causes discouragement and, interestingly enough, at least with me, I discovered that some part of my discouragement can come from getting "stuck" in a negative place—based on listening to some of the negative things that I happen to be thinking at the time—and knowing that there is some truth to them. So, given that I already believe what I'm thinking is true, if you add even a modicum



I've often found that at least part of my discouragement comes from hearing and believing something that ends up not actually being the WHOLE truth. Most often, it's about listening to the little

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Our Mission: God has called us together to become like Jesus in authentic community for the sake of the world.

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voice that whispers HALF-truths to us—things like, "You're not good enough!" Or, "You're the worst parent (spouse, friend, teacher, pastor, etc.) on the planet!" Or, "You're just a loser and you've always been a loser!"

Have you heard any of those voices? So, what do you do?

Well, let me be clear that I'm not hearing out-of-body voices here! ☺ Some call these voices the Holy Spirit and even Satan. I've no doubt that there are supernatural influencers—scripture says this is true. But, no, the voices I'm referring to are the ones we usually hear from ourselves when we're discouraged—the small voices that have roots in things like doubt, worry, stress and a lack of confidence in THAT moment or with THAT issue—sometimes DEEP roots.

So, what do you do when you're dealing with this? Is there a switch that I can just flip and these things will just go away? Not that I'm aware of. But, if you happen to know of one, please share it with me! Because, currently, I'm "flipless!" But nonetheless, I'm NOT without a resource that seems to help me and I'm guessing it can benefit you, as well.

It seems to me that my discouragement most often erupts at the times I'm weakest, grumpiest, the most stressed out, or whatever is needed for me to get down on myself and start to challenge myself with just half of the truth. My solution? **I regroup**

and give myself the other half!

I confess to myself (and not for the first time) that, yes, it IS true that I am not a perfect father, grandfather, or husband. BUT I am loved unconditionally by One who IS Perfect. And, yes, I confess that I can't sing, I can't dance, and have many other



limitations; but I remind myself that I am (both) chosen and loved by the One who invented beauty, both visual and audible and all

the other ways a human being can perceive beauty. And, through HIM (and only through Him), I am beautiful indeed whether anyone else ever recognizes it or not. If they don't see Jesus in me, they'll struggle to find beauty.

And, while I'm thinking about it, I go ahead and tell "Mr. Voice-in-my-Head" that I already know that I am completely unworthy on my own to be a pastor, so there's no need to go there. Indeed, and in fact, the only thing that can make me worthy is Christ in me. But, through Him I am able to do what I've been called to do. If I ever forget that, well, it's time to do something else.

See, when my tired mind whispers to me that I'm not good enough, I recognize that as the truth—as far as it goes. But, I remember that we're not limited to living OR doing by ourselves, right? When it comes to the most important aspects of our lives, it is not, and it never

has been, about what WE can do by ourselves. But, you already knew that, didn't you? I'll bet you did!

The truth is, I'm betting that we all get discouraged from time to time and, frankly, most of it will pass naturally just by having a talk with the person you always talk with when life gets tough. Usually they can point out that all of us get discouraged from time to time and suddenly you aren't alone anymore and that feels pretty good. Friends, if you don't have a person in your life that you can talk about important things—without judgment— you need to get one. And I'm not talking about your boss, or your spouse, or your best friend. They are often predisposed to cheer you up so they might be more likely to tell you what you want to hear than what you NEED to hear in that moment.

But, when I get discouraged right down to my toes, I know I have to talk with one of the people in my life that I know I can turn to and get honest feedback. And, they are wise people. So, when they say,

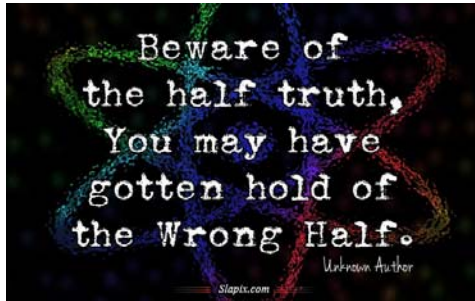


"Pat, you sound discouraged," then I know I've got some talking to do— to ME. It's time for me to hear the rest of the story.

Scripture tells me that God knows the number of hairs on my head, that He knows what's in my heart, and He has the limited list of gifts that I possess—so He already knows I'm not perfect, nor does He expect me to be. He knows me. And He knows you every bit as well. Scriptures also tell me that

(Continued from page 2)

whatever He calls me to be and do, He will help me to get it done. I just need to remember who I serve. I serve an all powerful God, and by-the-way, I happen to believe this is not just PR! I believe that our God is able to do immeasurably more than I can even imagine or ask for. Well, that kind of help can sure take a lot of the pressure off!



We all get discouraged and most of it will pass on its own. But, when it doesn't and we start really getting down on ourselves, one way to handle that is to make sure we concentrate on more than the half-truths we tell ourselves. When we present the whole argument to ourselves, it's likely that the sun will begin to shine again and we'll regain the confidence we talked ourselves out of believing. The truth is, if everything depends upon me, I know I'm in trouble! But, the whole truth is, it never has all depended on me, or us. God will do, must do, the heavy lifting and when the lifting gets too heavy, it is usually me trying to do it myself.

Friends, let us be determined to be encouragers to each other. I find that prayer is a great way to partner with discouraged people. Also, inviting them to have a cup of coffee and talk is also a great way to offer our support. I like to call this the Ministry of Presence. Just being there is often a great lift to discouraged people.

But perhaps a gentle reminder that we are not expected to figure it out all by ourselves can help us.

Feeling insufficient is often where discouragement gets started—because that's half of the truth. We ARE insufficient. But, luckily, our goodness or worthiness or giftedness is not the end of important matters.

It's merely a beginning. Where we fall short, God gets started.

The truth is, together, we (God & us) make a pretty good team. If you don't

believe that, or need confirmation, ask the families we serve through Family Promise. Ask the people who use the programs we help sponsor at LUM. Ask the students we have provided

scholarships for at Africa University. Ask the families we serve through our children and youth ministries and the people our youth serve on their spring and summer mission experiences. And these are just a very SMALL part of the daily, weekly, and yearly Kingdom things we are engaged in and get done with God's help.

And, on our own, we wouldn't likely be doing this much! The whole truth is, we don't need to be on our own. When we follow where God is leading, combining His will and our hands and feet, we can be confident that we are making a difference in the world! **Hear the Good News of the WHOLE truth. Friends, let us BE encouraged!**

Pastor Pat



BE IN THE KNOW!

Occasionally, the church office feels there is a need to inform or notify the congregation of matters that are of some urgency. It may be that a member of the St. Andrew congregation has passed away or weather related cancellations have occurred or some other similar current event that affects a large number of the congregation. In such cases, the office would like to be able to send out an e-mail to those in the congregation who have indicated a desire to receive such notices. This notification system will not be used routinely, but in more urgent situations. **Would you like to receive these e-mails?** Simply let the office know of your desire and make sure we have your most current e-mail address.

If the church has your e-mail address, you should have received some similar e-mails recently. If you have not received any e-mails with the church heading on it, the office does not have a current, working e-mail address for you. You should let us know if you do NOT wish to receive these notifications. Thanks for your help with setting up this new system.

ECHOES OF THE GOSPEL BOOK GROUP

Everyone is invited to join the Echoes of the Gospel Book Group to discuss this very thoughtful book (a great book to read for Lent):

Book: *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns
(discussion led by Luci Keazer)

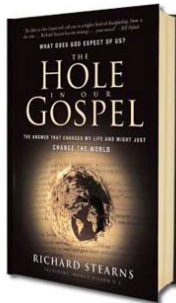
Date and Time: Sunday, April 27, 6 p.m. Snacks provided

Location: St. Andrew UMC, Adult 2

Richard Stearns is the president of World Vision. Here is a little bit about Stearns from his website:

richstearns.org:

"Today, Rich is known among both Christian and secular audiences as a trustworthy voice illuminating the critical issues that affect the world's poor, and urging those who can to make a difference. Rich is also the author of two acclaimed books— *The Hole in Our Gospel* and *Unfinished*—that address the vocation of Christ-followers to live out the whole gospel, bringing the good news to a hurting world in not only word but also deed. In his time with World Vision, Rich has traveled to more than 40 of the nearly 100 countries where World Vision works, and has a firsthand understanding of the issues that affect the poor."



CALLING ALL ST. ANDREW MEN!

The Men's Group and the Fellowship committee are teaming up to serve the congregation Easter breakfast once again!

Easter Breakfast

Breakfast will be served from
9:30–11:00 a.m.
on Easter Sunday, April 20

They could sure use some help serving breakfast to everyone that morning. If you are interested in helping with the breakfast by serving, cooking, or if you could provide some food for that morning, please contact John Baldwin, John Chapman, or Gavin Stetler.

NAME BADGES TO PURCHASE

St. Andrew provides a magnetic name badge to all of the new members of the congregation so that they might meet and greet others each Sunday. You may have admired these nice badges in the past. Some members who joined the church prior to this gift being offered have asked about being able to purchase badges for themselves. This is definitely a possibility.

Purchasing

If you would like to purchase a name badge like the ones given to new members, just contact the office and let Donna know by March 24. The badges cost \$10 each, paid prior to the ordering. Make checks payable to St. Andrew with "Name Badge" on the memo line. Please include the spelling for your name the way you want it to appear on the badge.

An order will be placed before the end of the month and the badges should be ready within a week or so of placing the order. Don't miss out on this opportunity! You will love having one of these lovely name tags.



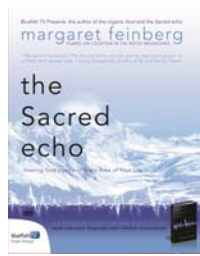
THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Who would have guessed these words from his own mother would come back to haunt him.

WINGS BIBLE STUDY

WINGS (Women in Need Gaining



Strength) is excited to begin a new six week DVD-based series by Margaret Feinberg. *The*

Sacred Echo: Hearing God's Voice in Every Area of Your Life will help you recognize God's leading in your life, walk more confidently into all God has for you, discover joy in talking to God, and experience a fresh and renewed prayer life. Join us Wednesday, March 19, as we begin this new study. We would love to share this experience with you!

Questions? Janet Dietz (janetdietz@frontier.com) or Pamela White (suza24white@mymetronet.net).

PRAYER QUILTS IN PRAYER ROOM



The idea behind a prayer quilt is simple, yet powerful. A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt layers and the ends are left free to be tied with a square knot. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is offered for someone in special need. When all the ties are knotted, the quilt is given to the person(s) for whom it was made.

You are invited to come to The Prayer Room and say a prayer while tying a knot on the Prayer Quilts made for:

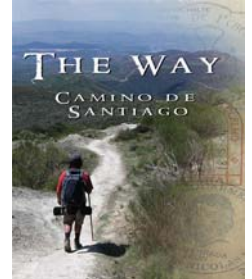
**Rosanna Dyer
Jim and Norma Dirlam**

PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY

Do you like to walk? Have you ever considered taking a pilgrimage? What if the two were combined? A walk on a pilgrimage?

I am looking to find a group from St. Andrew who would like to join me in a pilgrimage walk across northern Spain. The route is called the Camino de Santiago, or Follow the St. James Way.

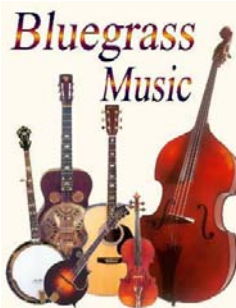
The purpose of your pilgrimage may be different from mine. Since a pilgrimage is a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance, some take this pilgrimage to quit smoking. Others, to gain ideas for writing a book that is based on the experiences and learning from the pilgrimage. Mine is that while I walk, I want to walk with fellow Christians to talk, to meditate on God's word, and to worship.



There is a company, Camino de Santiago Tours, which will take care of carrying and transferring luggage from point to point, as well as securing night time arrangements in respectable accommodations. I am looking at "The Easy Walk," or "Camino Easy Days," that are a mere 65 km (40 miles) over 7 days/6 nights. This is daily average of 3 hours/13 km(8 miles) per day, allowing ample time for savoring the well-known Galician seafood along the way, as well as absorbing the aesthetic beauty of the green hilly landscapes of Galicia, the eucalyptus woodlands, and typical rural villages.

I have no specific time chosen, although the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter are not recommended. Those interested in learning more and contemplating the possibility, please contact me (463-2398) or conlon4940@hotmail.com and let's establish a time to exchange.

Julie Conlon



BLUEGRASS FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, March 22, at 4 p.m. (about 1 1/2-2hrs)
at St Andrew in The Intersection.

Come one, come all!! Beginners to seasoned players.
Guitars, banjo, fiddle, spoons, etc., etc., etc....

We are gathering to enjoy and learn from each other. If you like bluegrass music, and want to just enjoy being with others that have the same interest, then come check us out. You are not obligated to come to every gathering, but we hope you come to as many as you can and/or want to come to. The hope is some day, we will be good enough, and know enough songs, to go to some nursing homes and play for the folks. For now, we are just trying to gather and have a good time. Any questions, call Andrew Daigle [765-413-7580](tel:765-413-7580) (email zowilveram@hotmail.com) or Rich Hinshaw [765-427-9312](tel:765-427-9312) (email richjhinshaw@yahoo.com).

BLOOD DRIVE APR 6!

The second blood drive of the year is coming on April 6. The Blood Mobile will be at St. Andrew UMC between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on this date. Look for it in the parking lot, pulled up to the church sidewalk. Lots of time slots are available before, between, or after worship and Sunday School! Giving blood doesn't take long and snacks are included. A sign-up sheet will be in the commons to schedule an appointment or you can sign up at donorpoint.org. Many people depend on this life-saving gift! The January drive was down a bit, mostly due to weather. Now that winter is behind us, I hope you'll donate on April 6!! Peggy Hoover, contact at 404-8128; peg4billh@yahoo.com



LUM MEALS

Next Date is April 13!

The second Sunday of this year's even months is a regular date that St. Andrew congregants prepare meals for Lafayette Urban Ministry's overnight shelter. April 13 is the next Sunday for St. Andrew to do so. For the winter months, a basic soup or stew or chili is requested for the meal along with



crackers/saltines for up to 30-50 folk. April can be also be considered a "summer" month for preparing sandwiches, you can go either way. Please encourage your group, family members, or friends to prayerfully consider hosting a LUM meal through St. Andrew. Contact me, if interested, or for additional information. Thank you for the consideration and thoughts/prayers!! Peggy Hoover, contact at 404-8128; peg4billh@yahoo.com.

LUM GOOD SAMARITAN FUND FOLLIES—APRIL 4

The Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) will again host the Good Samaritan Fund Follies at St. Andrew on Friday, April 4. This light-hearted evening of food, fun, and fellowship will benefit the children and families served each day at LUM. A reception and silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Follies show.

Our own Simply People Puppets group will be among the performers. They were a big hit last year, and the show was excellent. Please don't miss this great evening for a great cause. Reservations cost \$42 (LUM is 42 years old), with \$27 of this amount being a contributions to LUM's Good Samaritan Fund, so tax deductible. You can make your reservations by getting a mail-in form in the church office, by visiting LUM's web site at www.lumserve.org, or by calling LUM at 423-2691. **If you would like to sit at a table with other St. Andrew folks, please be sure to indicate that with your reservation.** If you have questions, contact Cathy Potter (743-9804 or cathrynpotter@juno.com).



FAMILY PROMISE

St. Andrew is forming a team to participate in the Greater Lafayette Homeward Bound walk on April 6 at 3 p.m., at Riehle Plaza, to benefit Family Promise. If you are interested in walking, please sign the list at the welcome center or contact Etta Lazaros (ettaroselazaros@yahoo.com). If you would like to pledge to support our walkers in their efforts to help raise funds by walking, go to HomewardBoundIndiana.org, click on Greater Lafayette Area and search for St. Andrew's team to pledge.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SUNDAY, MARCH 30



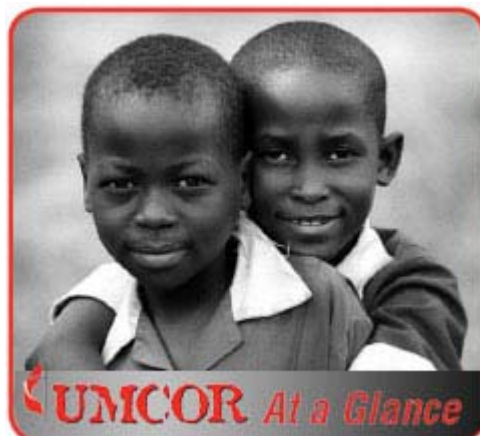
Throughout the United Methodist Church the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the remarkable agency of our church which had its origin several years ago at a meeting of the General Conference of the Methodist Church. There, retired Bishop Herbert Welch, in view of the horrific violence in China and Europe, prior to World War II, called for the formation of an agency to respond to the vast needs of human suffering

worldwide and to act as a "voice of conscience among Methodists." That was the beginning of UMCOR.

Once each year, "One Great Hour of Sharing" is celebrated to focus on the ministry of UMCOR. This Special Hour is absolutely essential to UMCOR in carrying out its mission to alleviate human suffering throughout the world—at home and abroad. Gifts to this offering underwrite UMCOR's "cost of doing business." That helps UMCOR keep its promise that 100 percent of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project, not on administrative costs.

UMCOR delivers aid to people without regard to race, religion, politics or gender, honoring cultural differences. We seek input from local communities in identifying needs. All people have dignity and worth. The most essential partner in UMCOR's work is the beneficiary, the ultimate end-user of our service. UMCOR always works with partners, usually in local settings. Civic organizations, faith communities, school leaders, and other local resources are great assets to sustainable recovery and development, particularly after massive traumatic events.

Sunday, March 30, is the designated date for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing, the major UMCOR offering opportunity during the year. Please join other Christians following in the footsteps of those who have given in the past to One Great Hour. Make a "sacrificial offering" to help those who are hungry, poor, refugees and displaced, or victims of war, earthquakes, and other disasters.



LENTEN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Join our worship services each Sunday during Lent. Worship times are:

8:45 a.m. - Traditional Worship
10 a.m. - Acoustic Worship
11:15 a.m. - Praise Worship

Our MidWeek Worship Services are every Wednesday at 7 p.m. During Lent we will focus on digging deeper in the scriptures discussed the Sunday prior to each Wednesday. The MidWeek Service meets in The Intersection.

Holy Week Worship

April 16

Holy Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

April 17

Maudy Thursday—Simple Service of Communion 7 p.m.
The Intersection

April 18

Good Friday Service—7 p.m.

April 20 **Easter Sunday**

8:45 a.m. - Traditional Hallelujah Chorus & Brass

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast Served

10:00 a.m. - Traditional Hallelujah Chorus & Brass

11:15 a.m. - Contemporary Drama & Special Music

Lent



St. Andrew Connections

St. Andrew United Methodist Church
4703 N. 50 W.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Thursday, March 13, 2014

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St. Andrew UMC
Phone: 497-7755
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.
Traditional Worship: Sunday 8:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship: Sunday 10 & 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.



Your St. Andrew Staff

Pastor	Tim Burchill
Associate Pastor	Pat Sleeth
Pastoral Assistant	Hyesook Kim
Church Administrator	Donna Biehl
Church Secretary	Laurie Klenosky
Financial/Office Asst	Tricia Sembroski
Dir. of Children's Ministry	Jan Collins-Cutter
CrossRoads Dir. of Programs	Dana Kirkwood
Dir. of Small Group Ministries	Barb Jones
Dir. of Music Ministry	Dave Evans
Dir. of InTouch Ministry	Sue Burchill
Organist/Pianist	LuAnn Boggess
Asst. Organist/Pianist	Lisa Tally
Chancel Choir Director	Ben Waltz
Worship Leader MWS	Katie Biehl
Caretaker	Juan Valdez
Childcare Coordinator	Jan Collins-Cutter
Trustees	Trustee Concerns

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