



Almost Christian, Altogether Christian

It was meant as a moment to share the truth. It was received as an insult. Just as he began in earnest to offer the *method* to so many people across the land, John Wesley wrestled with his mentors and friends at Oxford. More than any other place, the University had been a place of serenity and security for him. Though he had loved and respected his parents, home was never the same safe harbor as his beloved Oxford experience.

But the time had come. He could no longer hold back. He found himself in the same situation he believed that Jesus was with the scribes and the Pharisees. The members of the Oxford community, Wesley's colleagues and mentors and friends, seemed different to him now. They certainly bore witness to the highest ideals of the Christian faith, as he had done in his life up to this critical point. But he realized that his highest ideals were not producing fruitfulness and neither were the ideals of the leadership in Oxford community.

So he challenged them. It was meant as a moment to share the truth. It was received as an insult. It was at St. Mary's, Oxford, before the University, on July 25, 1741 that he preached a sermon which he titled, "The Almost Christian." About two thirds of the way through his sermon, Wesley raises the question, "Is the love of God shed abroad in your heart?" What he intended was for his beloved audience to hear and see that though they were faithful in many things, perhaps they were not faithful in all things—especially in loving their neighbor.

The English culture at the time observed a strict social class system. Many, including Wesley's colleagues, mentors, and friends were

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charitable people. They gave alms for the poor as any good Christian would. But Wesley had come to the conclusion that to become altogether Christian, simply giving alms wasn't enough. The altogether Christian needed to have within their hearts the experience of God that moved them toward devoting the whole of their lives to their neighbor—everything an altogether Christian would do and say must come from the heart.

It was the last time that John Wesley would ever be invited to speak at any of the pulpits of the university system at Oxford. This moment in his life would also become the pivotal moment when all of his attention was turned to organizing small group gatherings (he called them classes) for the purpose of helping people live altogether Christian lives—loving God, but also loving their neighbor as themselves through everything, every day, and in every way. This became the *method* that transformed almost Christians into a powerful force that would, in turn, transform nations.

~Pastor Brian



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UPCOMING EVENTS

John Stewart

Monday, May 1, 8, 15, 22 - Prayers & Squares, 9:30 am (Sit-n-Sew, Friday, May 5th @ 9:30 am)

Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Card Ministry, 9:30 am

Tuesday, May 2, 9 - Mryta Moody Circle, 6:30 pm, at We Luv Yogurt

Wednesday, May 3, 10, 17, 24 – Community Meal, 5:30 pm, Praise Team, 6:15 pm & Worship Choir, 7 pm

Saturday, May 6 – Vendor Event (FLC) 12-5 pm

Sunday, May 7 – Sisters-in-Faith, 9 am

Sunday, May 7 - Mother/Child Banquet & “Living Water” Gospel Music group. Call JS for ticket information, 5pm dinner, 6pm program (\$6 adult/\$3 child)

Sunday, May 10 – Geranium orders due, \$5 each (these will be out on the 28th, then planted)

Thursday, May 18 – Compassionate Friends, 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 20 – WOMENS RETREAT, 9-4pm - \$35 each (JSUMC basement)

Sunday, May 21 – Graduation Sunday, (students come at 9:45)

Tuesday, May 23 – Red Cross Blood Drive in the FLC, 12:30 – 5:30 pm

Monday, May 29 – OFFICE CLOSED, holiday – Happy Memorial Day!

Forest

Sunday, May 7 – Fellowship Lunch, headed by Norma Taylor and Sharon Thiel – Our Forest Christian Preschool children will be singing during the morning worship.

Monday, May 8 – Leadership Team Meeting, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Walk with Terri, 6 pm, in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 10 – United Methodist Women, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 17 – USDA delivery, 10:30 am

Monday, May 22 – Forest-Wharton Food Pantry, organization, 9 am; servicing 1-3 pm

Monday, May 29 – Happy Memorial Day!

Saturday, June 3 – Chicken BBQ

Annual Conference: June 4th – 7th

Forest UMC Leadership Team Meeting

Sunday, April 9, 2017

11:30 am

Members present: Clergy: Bob Greene, Laity: Elois Cramer, Martha Cramer, Joe Hochstettler, Kathy Kin, Mike Kin, Bryan Morrison, Stanley Seabert, Sharon Thiel

The Following motion was presented:

I, Elois Cramer, as a member of the Hardin-Wyandot Charge Staff, Pastor, and Parish Relations Committee representing the Forest United Methodist Church recommend the Forest United Methodist Leadership Team approve Terri Exline, Treasurer of the Forest United Methodist Church as treasurer of the Forest Christian Preschool. Said preschool is part of the Forest United Methodist Church and has been since its inception. Furthermore, it should be noted that Terri Exline has agreed to be Treasurer of both entities as an unpaid volunteer.

The motion was accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Martha Cramer, Secretary



Walk with Terri

Tuesday nights at 6 pm in the FUMC fellowship hall.
All are welcome.



John Stewart Youth

May 6th, 13th and 20th – Work days/Spring Cleanup or other odd jobs – We come to you!

Wednesday Night John Stewart UMC Community Dinners

@ 5:30 p.m. All are welcome for food and fellowship! Menu is subject to change.

April 26th Grilled cheese – chili soup

May: 3rd Hot dogs – chips – baked beans

10th Shredded Chicken – pasta salad

17th Beef stew over biscuits – fruit

24th MYSTERY DINNER (last meal for the year)





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CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Reaching children worldwide™

Greetings Friends and Family,

I am excited to share with you that I feel the Lord is calling me to full time Children's ministry. The ministry that I feel the Lord is calling me to be CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship). CEF is the world's largest mission agency to children. CEF reaches out to nearly 20 million children a year with ministry in nearly every country of the world. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work with CEF as a volunteer coordinator at the Good News Club at Riverdale along with leading small group time at this club. During this time, I began feeling that God was calling me to get involved in CEF in a larger, more full time way.

The result of this call is that I applied to come on staff with CEF. I have been voted in by the local CEF committee to begin preparing for this new chapter of my life. The role I will be filling is that of a Children's Ministry Specialist in Hardin County. My role will be working with several area Good News Clubs in Hardin County (Ada, Kenton, Ridgemont, Riverdale and USV). Good News Clubs meet once a week during the school year in public schools, community centers, homes, churches, and day cares. In the summer time, I will be helping present the Gospel at fairs and festivals in the area, as well as helping with backyard Bible clubs (5-day clubs) in local neighborhoods.

Since this is a full-time missionary position, I will be raising my financial support. My goal is to raise \$24,000 yearly to cover my salary, taxes, and ministry expenses. Would you prayerfully consider joining the Lord in what He is going to do in and through me? If you can give financially, please consider giving a monthly donation to help me meet my yearly goal. During the process of raising support, I will continue to volunteer at Riverdale and take a training program called TCE (Teaching Children Effectively) from my local director Mike Todd. In the future, I will take TCE 2 and be trained in Middle School ministry. I am excited about what God is calling me to do, but I need your help.

My target that I need to reach by January 1st to come on staff is \$1,000 per month with the goal of raising that amount to \$2,000 per month during 2017. Will you join me in the wonderful adventure of sharing the Gospel and impacting this generation for Jesus?

In Christ,
Cathy Morris

Mark 16:15 – He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

- ☐ YES! I would like to be a prayer partner and receive email updates! Email: _____
- ☐ YES! I would like to make a donation to Cathy Morris in her ministry with CEF!
Monthly gift of: \$25 __ \$50 __ \$100 __ \$150 __ \$200 __ \$300 __ other: ____

One-time gift of: _____

Make checks payable to: CEF of Greater Findlay with Cathy in the memo.

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ohio, Inc.

Greater Findlay Chapter

Serving: Hancock, Hardin, Marion, Wood, Wyandot and surrounding counties

P.O. Box 454 – Findlay. OH 45839-0454

Mike Todd – Local Missionary Director – 1-419-957-0403

cefogreaterfindlay@hotmail.com

Cheryl Lee – Chapter Chairperson 1-740-262-0939

Fun Facts:

Did you know that the **Card Ministry** at John Stewart
has sent over **4,500 cards** since 2011!!!

The **Prayers & Squares** have sent over
320 quilts and over **3,000 pocket prayer quilts!!**

God is good!!

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still” – Exodus 14:14



Women's Retreat

May 20, 2017 9 – 4:00 p.m. John Stewart UMC

Cost: \$35 – includes: materials, snacks & lunch (please list any diet restrictions)

Payment & Registration Due: Monday, May 1st

Payable to: John Stewart UMC, upon registration

Please fill out one form per person – you may combine payments.

If you are unable to pay – please let Becky or Sue know, we have funds to help you!

We want everyone to be able to attend.

Keep top half for your reminder

XX

Return this half with your information and payment: JS or Forest (office) Becky or Sue

Registration

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Paid: _____ (check, cash)

Special Diet/Restrictions: _____

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



I forget. Do we do things for YOU on Mother's Day, or are you s'posed to do things for US?"

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