

Inside this issue:

A Message from Rev. Dr. Doug McClain	1
Youth Spotlight	1
Small Groups	2
Lion of Judah	2
Time, Treasures, & Talent?	2
Youth Spotlight, cont.	3
Time, Treasures & Talent? cont.	3
Sunday Sermon Plans	4

A Message from Pastor Doug

As we begin a new year, we anticipate what our lives might look like in the coming months. One thing is certain, 2022 will not be the same as 2021. To help us navigate the swirling currents that make up most of our lives, I have been praying that we all might find a common middle ground in which to grow in faith and service to God and others. Therefore, my messages will come with questions centering us in Scripture.

On January 2 (Matthew 2:1-12) King Herod is disturbed about the news the Magi bring; why do you think all of Jerusalem was disturbed as well as King Herod? On January 9 (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22) The why are the people expectantly waiting? Why and for what purpose is Jesus baptized, when Jesus was without sin? January 16 (John 2:1-11) is

considered by many scholars to be the first of Jesus' miracles, what is the event and how might you relate this event to similar events? On January 23 (Luke 4:14-21) Jesus reads from the scroll a passage that begins; the spirit of the Lord...do you possess the same spirit and how do you use it? If you have the same spirit as Jesus, what concrete actions should you take? On January 30 (Luke 4:21-30) Jesus returns home with good news; how did his audience receive the news and why?

This is just a preview, but you will be able to access all the daily questions on our Facebook page.

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17

Youth Spotlight by Kathy Gordon



Jacquelyn Billiot,
Senior at South
Fork High School

Jacquelyn Billiot, a senior at South Fork High School, advises other youth to try everything that you can in high school, and you will find what you like. She has tried a little bit of everything, from thespian (Miss White in the play, Clue) to fashion designer (Superior rating for costume design of the Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland) to Vet Tech Certified (3 year training) to social activist (President of Best Buddies, new club with 30 members/friends of the disabled) to academia (National Honor Society) to friend (Youth, Warren Willis Youth Retreat). Jacquelyn is headed to college in 2022 (UCF, USF, or UF)



Jacquelyn, Sawyer and Ashley

Growing Through Small Study Groups by Judy Woodward

Small Study Groups is an important ministry for our church. It involves a group of participants meeting together for study, prayer, and fellowship. When we meet in homes, there is a

confidential and comfortable environment. Gleaners is the current group meeting every two weeks in local homes. They have studied several Christian books and now focus their study on Advent bi-

ble scriptures. Please see the Small Study Groups table at the **Ministry Showcase on January 30th**, for Judy Woodward to explain more. New groups are planned for January.

Lion of Judah by Hart Inlow

In 2022 we will be celebrating the 20 Anniversary of The Lion of Judah Academy in Tanzania. With the help of faithful supporters like First United Methodist, The Lion of Judah Academy in Tanzania has been providing a top-notch education to the poorest children in Tanzania, East Africa for 20 years... especially the chil-

dren of Tanzanian pastors, national missionaries, Christian medical workers and others whose children would otherwise have no opportunity to receive a good education. Educating the nearly 800 students is always our top priority! You can find the Sponsorship platform at www.thelionofjudah.info. Currently we are placing

special emphasis on three projects: (1) adding a dining hall, (2) upgrading the entire dispensary, and (3) extending the security fencing around the campus. Hart and Lynn Inlow expect to go over for the 20th Anniversary Celebration and warmly welcome anyone from First United Methodist Church who would like to join them!

The Generosity Inventory—Our Time, Treasures, and...Talent? by Don Brown



What is a “Generosity Inventory”. As part of the discipleship process, we take stock

of the resources God has granted us and, thinking of the relationships that are important to us, we try to allocate more of our resources to growing in Christ-like caring for the needs of others and maybe a little less to

our own pleasures. We divide these resources into three broad areas: our Time, our Talent, and our Treasure. The measurement of how we use our Time and Treasure is probably the easiest to get a handle on. The third parameter, our Talent, is a bit more subtle, and, also, quite a bit more difficult to measure.

When we think of “Talent” most of us might go right to some idea of perfor-

mance...a skill in performing music, or delivering the content of a script, or, maybe, performing some kind of magic trick. I want to offer a little different definition for this term, however, that covers the areas of performance as well. Let’s think of Talent as an application of our mind, or personality. Using this definition, I am applying my Talent resource whenever I intentionally commit my Intellect (what I think),

Youth Spotlight (cont.) by Kathy Gordon

(cont.) the youth group, “I want to find other friends and grow in my relationship with Jesus.” While at college, she will be pursuing a career in Speech and Language Therapy, which she learned about through her mother’s associations as a special educator. Jacquelyn is grateful for the time that she learned how to sew (costume designer), how to care for animals (although not wanting to do surgery like a veterinarian

would), and entertaining people through comedies (thespian performer) because

it led her to her understanding of herself, and how she can better serve God.



Superior rating in Costume Design



Miss White in the play, Clue



Drama Rep in Homecoming

Our Time, Treasures, and...Talent? (cont.) by Don Brown

my Emotion (what I feel), and my Character (what I will to do) to some activity. I think you’ll agree that this is something that’s very hard to measure. As we commit the attention of our minds to something, it probably uses up a bit of time, too. It’s very important to make the effort to identify and quantify how we commit this Talent resource, as there is a limit to just how many things, we can devote our attention to at any time.

I think that many of us who do allocate some of the other resources, Time, and Treasure, to the needs of others might do so with very little commitment of our attention. It may be easy for

some to drop a check in the collection plate, or in an envelope to a charity, without much thought of just what the needs are. Does it make some sense that we might commit a bit of our intellect to gathering some facts about how our contribution is actually addressing the needs? Might we let the facts about the current condition of those who are in need percolate into our emotional center so that some feeling is generated about the plight of those being helped, and, to feel the joy that comes when we see some real results of the work being done? Yes, giving up a significant amount of our attention to understand the

needs of those in our generosity inventory will be difficult, with all that is competing for first place in our minds now. But the payback is in the joy of truly understanding how our generosity is meeting the needs of those we care for.

So...We encourage all of you to give this generosity inventory a try. List out the relationships that are important to you, including any people groups whose needs have a special meaning to you. Where might you apply a little more Time, or Treasure, and, yes, more of your Talent, to showing how much you care for these needs?



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We are a gathering place on fire with the joy of Christ's Spirit.



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Rev. Dr. Doug McClain's Sunday Sermon Plans

A Light to Enlighten the Nations: Jesus's light shines beyond Israel into the whole world.		
1/2/2022	Outsiders Can Become Insiders	Matthew 2:1-12
1/9/2022	We Are Saved to Serve the Entire World	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
1/16/2022	Put a Spotlight on the New Wine	John 2:1-11
1/23/2022	The Mission Itself, Lights the Way	Luke 4:14-21
1/30/2022	He's Just a Hometown Boy	Luke 4:21-30
2/6/2022	Here I Am Lord, It Is I Lord	Luke 5:1-11
2/13/2022	I Am Empty Yet I Am Full	Luke 6:17-26
2/20/2022	No Limits on Love	Luke 6:27-38
2/27/2022	Listen to Him	Luke 9:28-43a