



Buffalo United Methodist



January 2019

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Thousand Points of Light

This December 10 blog posting is Bishop Haller's response to the death of #41, President H. W. George Bush. The Bishop's complete commentary is available at her website: <http://www.lauriehaller.org/the-points-of-light-shine-on/>

I believe that President Bush's legacy will be carried on for years to come by the phrase "a thousand points of light," first used by Bush in his speech accepting the nomination for president at the 1988 Republican National Convention. He compared our American volunteer organizations to "a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky." In his inaugural address on January 20, 1989, Bush again referred to all of the community volunteer organizations throughout the U.S. as a thousand points of light and said, "The old ideas are new again because they are not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in."

During his presidency, Bush handed out "Point of Light Awards" six days a week to citizens working to aid their communities through volunteer work. Today Points of Light transcends borders by mobilizing millions of volunteers around the globe . . . As in his life, President Bush has inspired me in his death to celebrate thousands of points of light that are transforming lives every year through the ministries of United Methodist churches. This is just a sample.

- **Drakesville UMC** gave a generous donation to "Shop with a Cop," a program that provides a wonderful Christmas for underprivileged children.
- Seminary student and pastor Fredrick Killian, of **Calvary UMC in Stratford** knocked on the door of every single household (population 650) this fall to introduce himself, welcome each one to worship, and

offer to pray over their concerns. The result? Several small groups, including Bible studies and support groups for young adults and couples.

- **Iowa Falls, First UMC** hosts a free meal on Wednesday night that serves 250 to 500 people. This includes home deliveries to 100 people.
- **Vida Nueva UMC**, led by Rev Ruben Mendoza, is training small group leaders to organize bible studies in four locations around Wright and Hancock counties.
- **Boone, First UMC** delivers a large plate of holiday blessings and sweets to the employees of businesses open on Christmas Eve.
- **Grace UMC** in Marcus tried a "late start" for worship after a snowy Sunday morning. They had a great turnout and no accidents on the way to worship!
- **Spirit Lake UMC** partnered with the high school football team to launch the "Then Feed Just One" meal-packing ministry.
- **Bertram UMC** funds and regularly hands out gift cards for gas and groceries to people in need. They also have a funeral assistance fund that is used to help out with funerals for anyone in the community.
- **Christ Community UMC** in Marion hosted an annual 5k run/walk that raised \$7,000 to support the Marion Senior Living Community. They also have a community garden that provides produce to those in need.
- **Altoona UMC** had its annual Turkey Mission Dinner in November and raised \$150,000. All of the proceeds will support local and global missions.
- **The Mabaan South Sudanese** congregation in Des Moines raised up 13 lay servants last year, as they continue to grow into a beloved community and reach out to more diverse people in other regions.

The points of light in Iowa United Methodist churches . . . are a brilliant diversity, spread like stars that reach way beyond a thousand because we, too, are committed to a kinder, gentler church, nation, and world.

United Methodist Women

Please join us on Thursday, January 17 at 9:30 am in the Meeting Room at church. There will be a short business meeting and the program will be provided by Mary Fredericksen, Verna Cartano, and Joyce Hartmann.

Neighborhood Potluck

Mark your calendar for the potluck on Thursday, January 10 at 11:30 am. Everyone is invited. There is always plenty to eat and lots of good conversation. Place settings and beverages are provided.

Expressions of Gratitude for Jobs Well Done

- ☉ Gary Hackney: installing the high rise commode in the ladies bathroom.
- ☉ Judy and Gary Hackney: purchasing the memorial plaques for the Little Library and the benches.
- ☉ Fred and Marlene Himes: donating the oranges, apples and peanuts for the Christmas Eve treat bags--and to other church members who donated the candy.
- ☉ Becky Durand: Becky's Christmas tree cookies were an added treat after the Christmas Eve service, each cookie created with loving care.
- ☉ Pastor Kathryn: conducting a lovely Christmas Eve Service with beautiful music and an inspiring message.
- ☉ Carla Lindball: counting out bags for the backpack food; it sure helps to have the bags ready to fill on the days we fill backpacks.
- ☉ Nancy Carter and Pastor Kathryn: initiating the Advent collection of \$280 for disaster relief.
- ☉ Buffalo congregation: sponsoring and assisting with the Taizé service in November. One visitor attending the service was recently diagnosed with cancer in his lymph nodes. He shared with us that the service was "perfect" for him on both a personal and spiritual level.
- ☉ Buffalo congregation: donating money and food items for the Linn Community Food Bank.



Garfield School Projects

- Sixty treat bags containing such items as candy and pencils were distributed before the winter break on Friday, December 21 to the backpack students. These bags were definitely a big hit with the Garfield "wildcats."
- Over \$350 has been collected to purchase books for the Garfield School Library. Since new hardback books can cost \$25 or more, any further assistance we can give will certainly be appreciated.

Special Offering in January

The special offering in January on Human Relations Day is used to strengthen outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Together, we extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles.

Did You Know?

John Wesley wrote one of the all-time bestselling medical texts.

Wesley was deeply convinced that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. To that end, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled *Primitive Physick*. The book detailed the current knowledge about home remedies and went through 32 editions, making it one of the most widely read books in England.

Many of Wesley's cures and tips on healthy living remain widely accepted. The most important part of his philosophy was his insistence on continual observation to support hypotheses. Wesley boldly questioned modern doctors--how they sometimes treated humans like machines; that much of their "medicine" lacked merit and they lacked evidence to support its efficacy. By the same token, some of Wesley's beliefs certainly needed more supportive evidence. For instance, Wesley recommended holding a puppy against the stomach to cure stomach pain. He offered dried and powdered toad pills for asthma. He also enjoyed regular dips in cold bathwater, thought to be a near panacea. But in Wesley's defense, who doesn't feel better after holding a puppy?

Source: <http://www.umcom.org/>

Administrative Board Summary of Meeting Wednesday, December 19, 2018

- Board members discussed transferring a portion of the Land Condemnation Fund to the Iowa Methodist Foundation. Interest earned through the foundation is higher than a CD or Money Market account, and the fund is used to support worthwhile UMC projects. No action taken at this time.
- The stool in the women's bathroom by the sanctuary runs intermittently. Gary Hackney suggested replacing the stool, and the Board authorized Gary to proceed with the installation of a more efficient model.
- The overhead door on the shed will not open. Gary thought he knew the source of the problem and would see about getting it fixed.
- Pastor Kathryn expressed her pleasure at the attendance and participation of the congregation in the Annual Charge Conference in October.
- Bob Marrs distributed a summary of the three focus group sessions and suggested possible mission statements. [A copy of the report is included in this newsletter.] The Board decided the congregation would discuss the focus group report on Sunday morning, January 13 and perhaps choose a new mission statement for the church.
- Heaven's Best Carpet cleaners did a good job cleaning the church carpet and pews.
- The Taizé Service held on November 28 was judged to be a success. The Board decided to change the date of the Lenten Taizé service to Thursday, March 28, to avoid conflict with other church services and choir practices on Wednesday evenings.
- Pastor Kathryn spoke about the Family Promise program. Displaced families are housed at area churches one month at a time until adequate housing is found. A volunteer stays overnight at the church with the family. She mentioned a possible northeast side group involving Kenwood Park UMC, Coe, Mt. Mercy College, and other churches. We could provide meals.
- Pastor Kathryn reported that the Cedar River First Nations Church have worshiped and shared a meal at Buffalo. They hope to use the church for a drumming ceremony and are interested in finding ways for the two congregations to work together.

- The Board discussed developing a multi-function outdoor area that could be used for worship services, picnics, and community events. Later this winter some Board members will meet with the Marion artist/sculptor Cara Farmer to discuss possible design/landscaping ideas for this project.
- The board granted permission for the Gochenouer family to celebrate George's 90th birthday on Saturday, May 4 at the church.

Recent Bison Blog Postings to the Buffalo UMC Website

- "Reclaiming the Name of Jesus" (26 Dec). A link to a 4-minute video created by a diverse group of Christians affirming their faith in Jesus and his message to the world.
- "An Advent Poem: *O Radix*" (20 Dec). A short poem by the contemporary English poet and priest Malcolm Guite exploring the image of Christ as the root ("radix") of the Christian faith.
- "La Posada Sin Fronteras' Imagines Mary and Joseph at the Border" (14 Dec). An article by Karen González reminding readers that Mary and Joseph were forced to become immigrants in a foreign land.
- "Those Winter Sundays" (8 Dec). A marvelous short poem by the American poet Robert Hayden.
- "Advent Meditation: When You See These Things" (2 Dec). A commentary by Debie Thomas on the lectionary readings for the first Sunday of Advent.
- "One Day at the Iowa Annual Conference" (20 Nov). A commentary by Buffalo's lay delegate on one day at the 2018 Iowa Annual Conference.
- "A Remembrance Day Sonnet" (10 Nov). A short poem reflecting on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the fighting in World War I.
- "There Are No Small Churches" (30 Oct). A piece for pastors but relevant reading for any member of a small church congregation such as Buffalo.
- "Interview with Todd Bol, Founder of the Little Free Library" (21 Oct).
- "Climate Change is a Civil Rights Issue" (11 Oct) by Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Durley.
- "A Different Approach" (6 Oct), an article by Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III on the issue of financial stewardship.

Web Address: <http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>

Report for Administrative Board on Three Focus Groups (Nov./Dec. 2018)

Rethinking Buffalo's Mission

First Focus Group (Nov. 11): Buffalo's "Good Points"

Participants identified Buffalo's positive qualities and accomplishments:

- Support of Food Bank, Garfield Elementary, HACAP, elections
- Special events for congregation and neighbors: rummage sale, fall bazaar, ice cream social, trunk or treat, neighborhood potlucks, Taizé service
- UMW and its strong support of missions
- Communication efforts: electronic sign, website, mailings to neighborhood, newsletter, welcome bags for new residents
- Improvements and maintenance of physical building, playground, benches, Little Free Library
- Commitment to environmental concerns, including construction of bioretention cells
- Flower, vegetable, and herb gardens; sharing of vegetables

Second Focus Group (Nov. 18): Reviewing our Challenges and Brainstorming Ideas for the Future

Issues raised in this discussion:

- Clarify the boundaries of our neighborhood and our relationship with the Garfield Elementary community.
- We might consider ourselves as a "grandparent church" and how that might enable us to connect with young families.
- Explore options for multiple uses of the church building (for example, becoming a resource for mothers and young children or a retreat center for local businesses and social organizations).
- Develop more summer-time, outdoor activities; perhaps a monthly backyard party.
- Experiment with different kinds of church services at different hours on different days of the week.
- Consider the option of becoming part of a dual charge with another Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids.
- Strengthen our commitment to "undergirding" our congregation through education and prayer.

Third Focus Group (Dec 5): How We Portray Ourselves as a Congregation

In sharing our personal Buffalo stories and experiences, we came up with the following memories, images, descriptions:

- A place for finding connections.
- A place where we can make noodles and become basement church ladies.
- A place where we cut down a tree and share our wood with everyone.
- The old Buffalo camp outs (great bonding experiences)
- A place where we learned to work together
- We moved, we changed location: it was tough (like *Little House on the Prairie*), but we survived and became even stronger because of the people.
- We are an open door, faith-based community, accepting of other people.
- We are a hands-on community; we like to do things.
- We are there for each other.

Possible Buffalo Mission Statements

This is an initial attempt to find a language that fits with how we see ourselves as a congregation. Key words and phrases that emerged during our three focus group sessions: connecting, fellowship, love, care, fellowship, commitment, community, reconciliation, inclusion, doing good, faith-based.

- *Connecting people in a fellowship of love and care for one another.*
- *A fellowship committed to communal care and reconciliation.*
- *An inclusive community committed to doing good right here, right now.*
- *An open-door, faith-based community.*

A church motto that popped up while working on the above list of mission options: *A Small Country Church on 30th Street.* [Alternative: *"A Small Country Church in the City."*]

Report prepared by Bob Marrs

January 2019

Human Relations Day: January 20, 2019

Turn on the news or drive around Cedar Rapids and you will find what Jesus called “the least of these”—those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. To continue the ministry of Jesus, the United Methodist Church established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday calling all of us to help God’s children realize their potential.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” ~MLK		1	2	3 Mission of Hope, 11:30 am	4	5
6 Worship Service, 8:45 am	7	8	9	10 Neighborhood Potluck, 11:30 am	11	12
13 Worship Service, 8:45 am	14 Clean Church, 9:00 am	15	16 Administrative Board Meeting, 4:00 pm	17 United Methodist Women, 9:30 am	18 Popping Corn at Garfield, 8:00 am	19
20 Worship Service, 8:45 am Christmas Dinner, 12:15	21 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship Service, 8:45 am	28	29	30	31	“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” ~MLK	

January Birthday Celebrations

- 6 Charlotte Stanford
- 8 Ward Seufferlein
- 14 Hepburn Hentrich Jr
Nancy Lacy
- 22 Sheryl Arnett

January Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Hep Hentrich & Eileen Kaplan



Buffalo UMC Winter/Spring Events

January 10: Neighborhood Pot Luck (11:30 am)
January 14: Clean Church (9:00 am)
January 16: Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)
January 17: UMW Meeting (9:30 am)
January 18: Popping corn at Garfield (8 am); profits
donated to HACAP for the backpack program
January 20: Christmas Dinner (12:15 pm); playing
BINGO, bring 2 small wrapped gifts to share (\$2
or less)
March 6: Ash Wednesday(first day of Lent)
March 28: Taizé Lenten Prayer Service (7:00 pm)
April 2: Pancake Breakfast (7:00 to 11:00 am)
April 21: Easter Sunday
June 13 & 14: Buffalo Yard Sale

Pastor Kathryn's Office Hours
Every Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Phone: 319-389-3187

Buffalo United Methodist Church
1000 30th St
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Back Pew Humor

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

* * * * *

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

* * * * *

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless.

