

August 2018

Hilltop Churchline

Pastor's Letter



The Psalmist declares, "Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart..." going on to ask a great question, "How can a young man (or woman) keep their way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word, with my whole heart I seek You; let me not wander from Your commandments! I treasure Your Word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You." Psalm 119: 1-2, 9-11

The great French scientist and observer of the human condition, Blaise Pascal, defined thinking as an inner conversation. We are all familiar with having that inner dialogue, so we become wise to do all that we can to expose that inner voice we're in conversation with to all the truth we can in order to ensure an informed and educated conversation. The Psalmist points us in the most important direction we can journey, encouraging us to treasure God's Word in our hearts.

Therein lies motivation for me to strive with all that I am and all that I have to faithfully proclaim God's Word from the pulpit and in the classroom, not to mention living it out in my day-to-day life. Walking the talk requires a much greater investment of self than talking the talk, but we preachers have been entrusted with a sacred responsibility to proclaim God's Word. So I ask you to pray that your new preacher remains faithful unto our Lord and Savior in doing just that.

I would also encourage you to take seriously your own pursuit of a better understanding and appreciation of God's Word. I am thrilled to find members of our congregation who understand that Sunday School is not just for the young folks in our midst. As we prepare for our fall schedule, I highly recommend you making an effort to participate in the classes being offered here; organizing our lives in ways to grow closer to God and His people is a wise way to live and I challenge you, in addition to inviting you, to take advantage of substantive ways to enhance that inner conversation within you.

Hoping to be learning and worshipping with you in days to come!

John

Points of Prayer

August 2018

Joe Trummer

Judy Rumley

Darcy Gifford

Jeff Stys

Jane Risdon

Ardis Hirt

Barbera Hoogerwerf

Peggy Harris

Brian Barnes

Charles (Dan) Johnson

Sheila Clouse

Bob Rhoades

Bette Stubbs

Gwen Cotton and her family

Janet Rouleau

The Family of Jason Edwards

Marilyn Durham

The Family of Michael DeBruyn

Lynda Porrett

The Family of Bob Baker

Don Richards

The Family of Fran Powell

David Stiles

The Family of Shaun Joiner

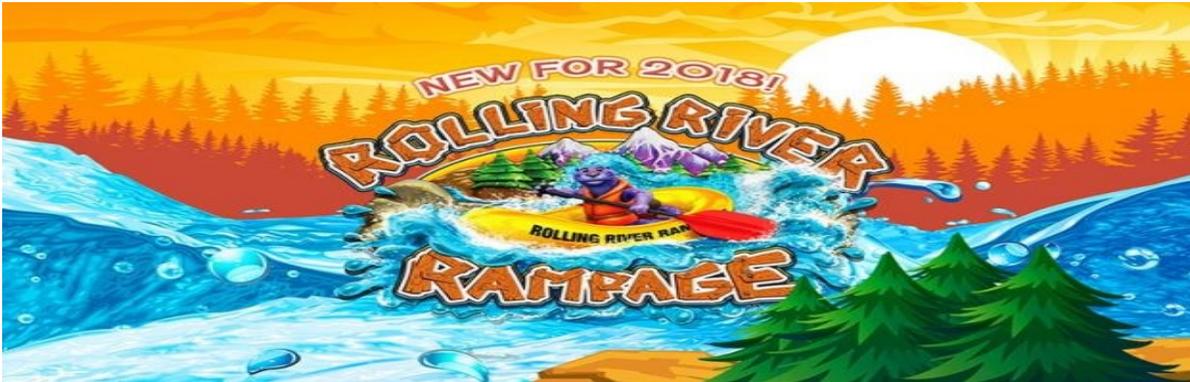
Zaeden Currier

Missionaries

Katie Wilder

Our Military Men and Women

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



AUGUST 5-8TH

5-730PM

VBS Registration Form Student's Name

Parent/Family/Guardian Name ----- Address

E-mail Address ----- Phone

Numbers Home ----- Cell ----- Work -----

Age Information Date of birth ----- Age -----

Last school grade completed ----- Home Church

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: -----

Emergency Contacts Name ----- Phone

Name ----- Phone ----- Dismissal

Information: Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Other Information (church use only) Rafter Group

Are parents/guardians/family members helping with Rolling River Rampage? -----

ON METHODISTS

By: Garrison Keillor



We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodistless place, to sing along on the chorus of 'Michael row your boat ashore' they would look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this with Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach!.... And down the road!

Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you are singing in the key of C and you slide into the A 7th and D 7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress.

- ◆ If you are dying, they will comfort you.
- ◆ If you are lonely, they will talk to you.
- ◆ And if you are hungry, they will give you tuna salad.
- ◆ Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
- ◆ Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
- ◆ Methodists believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there!
- ◆ Methodists will usually follow the official liturgy, and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
- ◆ Methodists believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
- ◆ Methodists think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
- ◆ Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

- ◆ Methodists feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ Methodists are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at the church.
- ◆ Methodists still serve Jello in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna casserole adds too much color.
- ◆ Methodists believe that it is okay to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

All this means that, if you are to be counted among their numbers, you will know you are a Methodist when:

- ◆ You will know you are a Methodist when its 100 degrees outside with 90% humidity and you still serve coffee after the service.
- ◆ You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- ◆ Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- ◆ When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "and also with you."
- ◆ And lastly, you'll know you've been in the presence of a Methodist, if it takes ten minutes to say good-bye!

*Garrison Keillor is an author, storyteller, performance artist, poet and comedian. In addition to the many books he has written he can be heard on NPR's talk radio and has also recorded numerous audio cassettes. Many of Garrison Keillor's books can be found on audio along with recordings of his radio shows, "A Prairie Home Companion" and "American Radio Company." Keillor's voice has a wonderful presence and his great delivery defi-

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Save The Date!!!

UMW Rummage Sale

Friday, Sept. 14, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*You can start to bring in your items August 10th.

