

Valley Voice

Buffalo Run, Fillmore and Valley View
The United Methodist Churches of the Buffalo Run Charge
"One Congregation Serving the Community and Worshiping in Three Locations"
Pastor Duane Bardo *Office Phone: 814-355-2208*
February 2012

Wilderness Wanderings

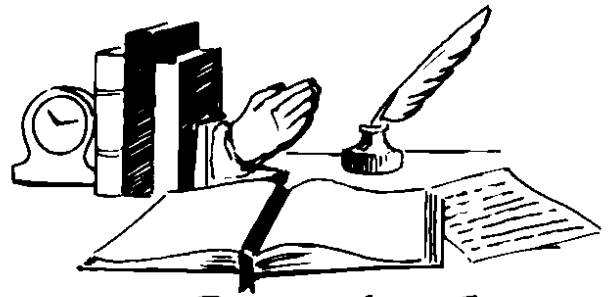
The last few weeks the story of Israel's exodus from Egypt has been in my thoughts a lot. Once Moses leads them out of Egypt, with the Red Sea before them and Pharaoh's troops closing in behind them, they begin to question the wisdom of God's plan saying:

"Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."
(Exodus 14: 11-12)

God protected them and delivered them through the sea.

Later, not long in their wilderness wanderings, uncertain of what was ahead or what God had in store for them, hungry and tired, they began to question Moses and God again.

"And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought



the Pastor's Notes

us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Exodus 16: 2-3

God again saves them by sending quail and bread from heaven. As we follow their journey to the Promised Land through times of difficult trials we can see God's plan being revealed.

Often our lives seem like wilderness wanderings, and it's difficult to see how events fit in God's plan. Yet when we really look closely at Israel's wilderness wanderings we see that not only was God leading them to the Promised Land, he was also shaping them, preparing them as his people. We see one thing for sure throughout the story, God's faithfulness, from beginning to end. God went before them preparing the way and, when needed, God was their rear guard of protection.

This week I was thinking back to our arrival in the Buffalo Run Valley in 2004 with our appointment to Fillmore church. We felt much like I imagine Israel may have felt in the wilderness, unsure what God had in store.

Shortly after we arrived Bonnie and Kusty came and took Terry and me on the grand tour of the area. They took us through the university and downtown. They showed us the grocery stores, Wal-Mart and then we moved onto the really important places like Myers Dairy and the Grange Fairgrounds. We laughed, told stories and began a friendship. I'm not sure where else we went but I think Kusty took us on every back road short cut in the county.

When we got home we really weren't sure where things were, but this simple act of hospitality gave us greater sense of peace about life in the wilderness knowing God was certainly here before us, and we were being called to join you in your journey toward God's kingdom, and make every effort to reflect Jesus in this place now.

Since then everyone here has graciously shared their lives and the love of Jesus with us as God has continued to shape us as His church. We have been greatly blessed to share in God's ministry here in the Buffalo Run Valley.

Last Sunday I shared that the Lord has called us to a new appointment beginning in July, and we have again accepted His call.

As we prepare for this move, we confess our hearts break to go. But we know this for sure, the love of God that dwells in you, which greeted us not only has prepared us to be more for what is ahead, but also will embrace the next faithful step in your journey as the Buffalo Run Charge.

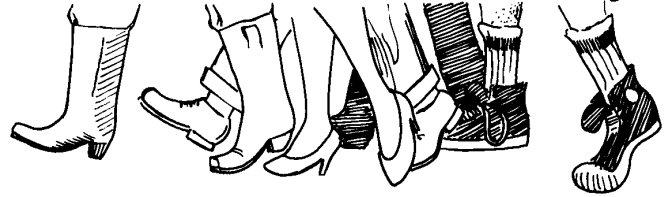
And to borrow the words of the apostle Paul:

"I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

In His Service,

Pastor Duane

Where is Everybody Going?



The Buffalo Run Charge of the United Methodist Church

***"One congregation serving the community
and worshipping in three locations."***

Buffalo Run UMC
Fillmore UMC
Valley View UMC

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:15 a.m. Fillmore
9:30 a.m. Valley View
With Children's Church
10:45 a.m. Buffalo Run
Sunday School
9:30 a.m. at Buffalo Run

OUR VISION:

To work together to grow the Kingdom of heaven by providing a spiritually nurturing environment through worship, mission outreach, Bible study, prayer and Christian education in the greater Buffalo Run Valley.

OUR MISSION:

The Buffalo Run, Fillmore and Valley View United Methodist congregations trust that God Almighty will lead us in His calling to unite in ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

**If you are in need of prayer or would like to have a pastoral visit, please call
Pastor Duane Bardo, 814-355-2208.**

Visit our web site:
www.buffaloruncharge.org

Prop Us Up

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old fellow who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side." After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well sir, you see, it's like this...I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years.

"It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall. Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time.

"I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

"Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord.'"

---Anonymous

Making Friends

"Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of going out of one's self, and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another."

---Thomas Hughes

Legend of St. Valentine

"In Rome in A.D. 270, Valentine had enraged the mad emperor Claudius II, who had issued an edict forbidding marriage. Claudius felt that married men made poor soldiers, because they were loath to leave their families for battle.

The empire needed soldiers, so Claudius abolished marriage.

Valentine invited young lovers to come to him in secret, where he joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Claudius learned of this 'friend of lovers,' and had the priest brought to the palace.

The emperor, impressed with the young priest's dignity and conviction, attempted to convert him to the Roman gods, to save him from otherwise certain execution. Valentine refused to renounce Christianity and imprudently attempted to convert the emperor.

On February 24, 270, Valentine was clubbed, stoned, and then beheaded."

(From Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things)



Suggestions for a Lenten Sacrifice

Why not increase your capacity for joy by giving up the things that force joy out of your soul?

Give up resentment and become more forgiving.

Give up hatred and return good for evil.

Give up complaining and be more grateful.

Give up pessimism and become more hopeful.

Give up worry and become more trusting.

Give up anger and become more patient.

Give up pettiness and become more noble.

Give up gloom and become more joyful.

---Lent: Discovering Joy in a Solemn Season
Fr. John Catoir, Christophers News Notes

A Lenten Lesson

"Issue a blanket pardon. Forgive everyone who has ever hurt you in any way. Forgiveness is a perfectly selfish act. It sets you free from the past."



Repentance

Repentance doesn't mean going through life with your head down, feeling remorseful for being so bad. It means start doing something good. Start practicing what you believe in.

Repent means start doing the things that you know you should do. If you are alienated from somebody, be reconciled.

If you are self-righteous in relation to others, humble yourself.

If you have been uncaring toward the poor, now is the time to get some moral imagination and put yourself in the plight of another human being.

If you have been callous about prospects for peace in the world, now is the time for you to start praying and begin working for those things in your own neighborhood that make for peace.

If you have put your trust in the accumulation of things so that you are slave to a whole host of masters, now is the time for you to unload some of the stuff and to put your trust in God.

And if you assumed to this point that you are going to be judged on your ability to avoid evil in this life, this is the time for you to hear that you are going to be judged on your courage to do the good.

Repentance is not some negative, life-denying gesture. In fact, repentance doesn't mean turning to a past way of thinking or doing at all. Repentance means turning to a new way. Repentance does not mean to change from what we are to what we were. It means to change from what we are to what we are going to be.

---Mark Trotter
You Haven't Seen Anything Yet—Cycle "B"

Dancing with God

"You changed my mourning into dancing..."

Psalm 30:12

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music.

One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another.

It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw "G" I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God," "u" and "i" dance." God, you and I dance.

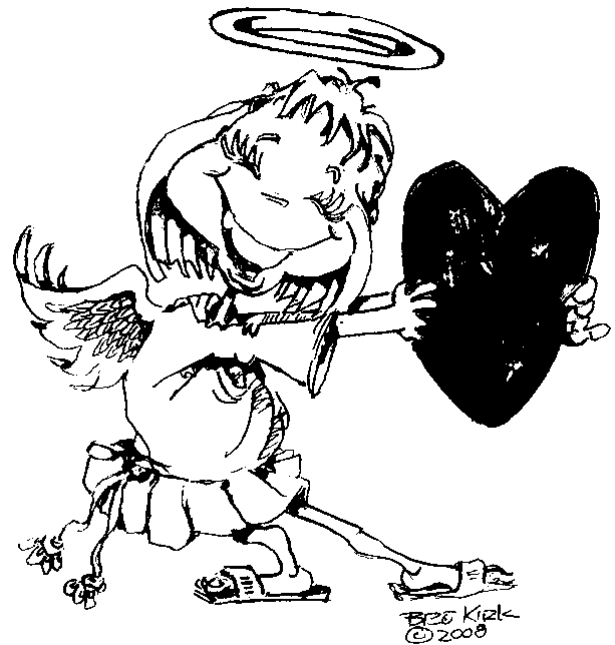
As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies be upon you on this day and every day.

May you abide in God as God abides in you.

Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

---Anonymous



Messengers of Joy

"Christ came to bring joy: joy to children, joy to parents, joy to families and to friends, joy to workers and to scholars, joy to the sick and joy to the elderly, joy to all humanity. In a true sense, joy is the keynote of the Christian message and the recurring motif of the Gospels... **Be messengers of joy.**"

---Pope John Paul II

Sharing God's Love ...

The Fillmore Greeting Card Crew would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who purchased this year's selection of Christmas cards. With your support we raised \$963.00. This year's earnings were divided equally between Centre Volunteers in Medicine and Interfaith Human Services.

---The Proud, the Few, the Card Crew
