



The VINE

The newsletter of Soddy United Methodist Church
September 2016



One of the questions I've heard church members ask from time to time is "What do we need to do to grow our church?"

Everyone wants to see their church grow, not only in numbers, but in professions of faith, baptisms and spiritual maturity. Church conferences, workshops and training events often spend hours dissecting, exploring and discussing this question, trying to equip pastors and lay people to go back to their church and help it grow. In reality, the answer to the question "What do we need to do to grow our church?" is pretty simple:

Be proud and enthusiastic about your church.

There it is. That's it.

No deep theological meaning. No advanced education degree needed. No public speaking abilities required. No certifications, continuing education, money or prestige.

Just be proud and enthusiastic about your church.

People are attracted to things that generate a "buzz," that others are talking about. We are curious why our friends are encouraging us to see a certain movie, watch a television program, or read a particular book. Not long ago I kept seeing my friends posting on Facebook about a new television program. It's on Netflix

continued

From Pastor Todd, continued

and it's called "Stranger Things." So based on the premise of the story, and the positive support it was receiving from friends I trust, I decided to watch it. I've finished the first season and am glad I paid attention to my friends' enthusiasm and recommendations.

When church members become excited about what their church is doing, it becomes easier to tell people about it, and to invite them to check it out. The single greatest reason someone decides to join a church is not because of the quality of the preaching, music, children's programs or outreach, although these things can contribute to that decision. The main reason someone joins a church *is because they have a relationship with another church member, they've been invited to worship or another church function, and they've been warmly welcomed.* And the best way to do that is by being enthusiastic and proud of your church!

I've said it before and I'll say it again: it's a true blessing and honor to serve among a group of people who ARE enthusiastic and on fire for their church! It's a pleasure to see the people of Soddy UMC expressing the love of Christ in their service, hospitality, grace and generosity. I encourage you to keep it up! Let your excitement for your church be infectious to those around you! People *will* notice and they *will* want to know what you're so joyful about.

Why not take a moment and thank God for what he is doing in your church? Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to people who need to hear your enthusiasm and pride for your church.

Go and tell. Go be enthusiastic. Go be proud of what the Lord is doing among us. **GO GROW YOUR CHURCH!**



September Birthdays

2	Bailey Nelson
8	Roger Graham
	Brandi Powell
11	John Bramlett
13	Samara Jolly
	Emily Gallaher
16	Marcy Woodall
17	Victor Rogers
21	Patrick Mulkey
25	Trish Jordan
27	Cindy Cunnyngnam

September Anniversaries

3	Mike & Carla Anderson
16	Mitch & Suzie Weber
20	Carl & Carole McLaughlin
21	Frank & Jimmie Lou Mulkey



BY THE SWEAT OF YOUR BROW

In September, Americans pause to observe Labor Day. How does Scripture view work?

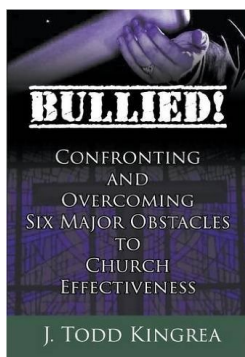
God created human beings to work in the Garden of Eden and care for it. Work must have been a joyful blessing. With the fall into sin, work became more of a burden. God tells Adam, “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food” (Genesis 3:19a). Now thorns and thistles would complicate farming. Much sorrow would enter the picture.

Work still represents God’s purpose for people. Much blessing and fulfillment accompanies faithful labor. But, like Adam, we toil by the sweat of our brow because of sin in the world. Work problems multiply. Labor-management strife develops. Unemployment affects many. Some work takes a tremendous physical toll. Other work exacts a serious mental and emotional price. Sometimes we let work rule our lives with no room for God or people’s needs. Sometimes we devalue work and become lazy, expecting others to provide for us. Both distortions reveal our sinful rebellion against a loving God.

But in our labor we remember Jesus Christ. He is the One who worked with His hands as a carpenter and called to Himself rugged fishermen and tax collectors. He did the work of God who sent Him (John 9:4). In prayer His sweat was like drops of blood (Luke 22:44). He completed His saving work on the cross and rose from the dead.

Jesus knows our needs and our labor problems. He promises to be with us. He restores our work to its joyful significance in God’s creation. We continue to toil by the sweat of our brow, but through the sweat we see His face.

—taken from *My Daily Devotions* by Stephen J. Carter



Copies of Pastor Todd’s new book, ***BULLIED! Confronting and Overcoming Six Major Obstacles to Church Effectiveness***, are still available. Cost is \$15.00 each.

Please see Pastor Todd if you’d like to purchase a copy.

You may also purchase paperback or digital copies online at <http://www.electiopublishing.com/index.php/bookstore>, amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, or other book retailers. Paperback copies may also be ordered from any physical book store.



Scripture cake

A divine dessert inspired by
ingredients found in the
Old Testament



Ingredients

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 3 eggs, divided
- 1 cup figs, chopped
- 1/2 cup almonds, chopped
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground mace
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup water

(Judges 5:25)
(Jeremiah 6:20)
(1 Samuel 14:25)
(Isaiah 10:14)
(Jeremiah 24:5)
(Genesis 43:11)
(Leviticus 24:5)
(Amos 4:5)
(Exodus 30:23)
(2 Chronicles 9:9)
(2 Chronicles 9:9)
(2 Kings 2:20)
(2 Samuel 16:1)

- (1) Preheat oven to 375°. Grease and flour a 10" round pan and set aside.
- (2) In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar with mixer at high speed until light and fluffy. Mix in egg yolks, water and honey.
- (3) In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, mace, cloves and salt. Toss figs, raisins and almonds with flour mixture.
- (4) Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into batter. Spoon evenly into prepared pans and bake until a tester inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean (45-50 minutes).
Let cool completely on a wire rack before serving.
Garnish with fresh figs, if desired.



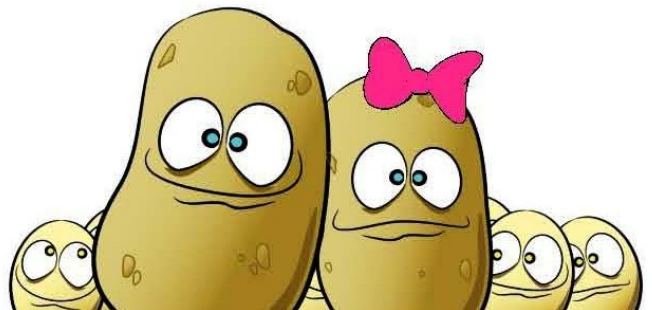
- ★ **We will need bingo prizes again this year for the Fall Festival.** If you have any items that you would like to donate, just leave them on the pew in the Friendship Hall. Pat will put them away.
- ★ **Marthas & Marys Bible study will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 6th, at 10:00 AM.**
- ★ **Wednesday fellowship dinner resumes on Wednesday, September 7th.**
- ★ **The deadline for items to be published in "The Vine" will be the 20th of each month.** We'd like to get more contributions from all of you.



INTRODUCING THE TATER FAMILY

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|---------------------|---|
| Spec-tater | the one who sits by and lets others do all the work |
| Imi-tater | the one who imitates everything |
| Agi-tater | the one who always Causes conflict |
| Dic-tater | the one who wants to tell everyone what to do |
| Rotten-tater | the one who likes to spoil everything |
| Sweet-tater | what everyone wants to be: loving, kind and prayerful toward others |

Submitted by "loaded-tater"
Jerry Haynes





SEPTEMBER **CALENDAR**

Friday, September 2nd

Soul Sisters Bible study

Sunday, September 4th

SERMON SERIES: THEN SINGS MY SOUL
 "There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood"

Monday, September 5th.....LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 6th

Marthas & Marys Bible study resumes
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 2)

Wednesday, September 7th

Wednesday fellowship dinner
 Choir practice & youth gathering resumes

Sunday, September 11th

SERMON SERIES: THEN SINGS MY SOUL
 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Monday, September 12th

Prayer shawl ministry

Tuesday, September 13th

Marthas & Marys Bible study
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 3)

Thursday, September 15th

United Methodist Women

Sunday, September 18th

SERMON SERIES: THEN SINGS MY SOUL
 "Shall We Gather At The River"

Tuesday, September 20th

Marthas & Marys Bible study
 AARP meeting
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 4)

Sunday, September 25th

SERMON SERIES: THEN SINGS MY SOUL
 "The Old Rugged Cross"
CLEVELAND DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Monday, September 26th

Prayer shawl ministry

Tuesday, September 27th

Marthas & Marys Bible study
REVELATION Bible study (Chapter 5)