



Roger's Ramblings

by Rev. Dr. Roger Clayton, Jr.

It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.

– C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

So many times, I have done a Bible Study or listened to a sermon about temptation and adversity, only to come away thinking that I'm not doing too bad at either. My reason for this thought process is the fact that the study tends to focus on the big moments in life. In other words, the leader/teacher focuses on decisions, choices, and events that are life-altering/life-changing.

If we are only looking at our faith and strength when it comes to the 'big moments', many of us will get a false sense of security that we are doing quite well. In this light, I love the quote from C.S. Lewis that describes so perfectly the idea that the 'size' of the sin isn't really the problem. Just because you passed many of the big tests, doesn't mean that you also passed most of the smaller ones.

The power of having real faith is not only having the knowledge and understanding that all sin is sin and that there is no hierarchy of sin, but it is also realizing that every moment is important. It's not good enough to simply place your faith in God or to turn towards God in just the big moments... we must turn to him every second of every day. If we don't recognize this, then we are in grave danger of succumbing to the 'gradual path'.

Pastor Roger

Christian Friendship

by Carolyn Henry, Congregational Care Coordinator

The Bible defines a friend as someone who shares love, loyalty, selflessness, and support, even to the point of self-sacrifice. True biblical friendship involves commitment to each other through both good times and bad. There are several examples of friendships throughout the Bible. For example, David and Jonathan, Paul and Silas, and of course, Jesus and his followers.

I have been blessed by meeting and getting to know many friends during my years of membership at St. John's. Being with friends makes me feel good as we share mutual interests and activities. A true friend is someone I can be myself with.

I have found that as I have reached out to others by getting involved in the many ministries and activities that St. John's offers, I have met and enjoyed good Christian friendships. Some examples of this include Emmaus groups, Disciples Bible study, the prayer team, strong bones, the women's ministry, and the "friends by faith" community. (congregational care)

Friends have given me support and encouragement, words of advice when needed, have brought me food and medicine when I've been sick, have invited me to join them in various activities, have given me rides when needed, and have been there for me through thick and thin. I hope to have done the same for them.

And, my greatest friend is Jesus, who laid down his life for me. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)



October Events

10/02 - Chosen Study Group begins
10/12 - St. John's Exodus Class
10/13 - CoM Meeting
10/14 - Methodist Men Meeting
10/21 - Women's Bible Study begins
10/21 - Bergquist/Carlson Circle Meeting
10/27 - Single Board Meeting
10/31 - BooFest

October Birthdays

10/02 - Rejeanna Fraser
10/03 - Butch McCain
10/03 - Terry Nygaard
10/12 - Allen Munson
10/14 - Keith Miller
10/14 - Bob Shelton
10/16 - Ken Gusnowski
10/16 - Barbara Supak
10/20 - Gordon Eurom
10/22 - Tom Bewley
10/24 - Michael Dean
10/24 - Lisbeth Munson
10/24 - Kris Van Sickle
10/29 - Dean May
10/30 - Barbara Knorre
10/30 - Joe Smith

October Anniversary

10/02 - Floyd & Bennie Chambers
10/12 - C.W. & Linda Honea
10/18 - Ken & Rhonda Kondo

October Wesley Value Meals

- Oct 01 - Chicken Alfredo Pasta
(proceeds to benefit Matching Grant)
- Oct 08 - Sloppy Joes
(proceeds to benefit Matching Grant)
- Oct 15 - Beef Tips & Noodles
- Oct 22 - Pizza Pasta
- Oct 29 - Pulled Pork

Crying Out to God in America

by Debby Leshar (inspired by events of 09/11/01)

God, where are You in all of this?
Are You sitting high above on Your throne someplace?
Did You see what happened here in America?
We are urgently crying out for Your mercy and grace!

It was not war as fought in other countries, at other times.
This was a single, planned out plot to kill and destroy.
Some say they saw the devil's face outlined in the smoke.
We need to see Your face on every man, woman, girl and boy.

Satan tried to break down this country with his demonic evil
He tried to turn the world from You with wickedness.
But people everywhere have turned to You instead,
Down on our knees seeking Your love and righteousness.

Walk with the leaders of America, hand in hand
As they march along the paths of decision and deed.
Moment by moment, day by day, stay beside them.
Give them the strength and wisdom they will need.

The American people are ready to fight.
We are emotionally prepared for war.
Steady our hearts; help the anger to fade.
Encourage us as we look to You more.

Lord, You alone have all the answers.
There is no way we can discern or will ever know
The absolute righteous road to follow, but
If we ask, You will take us where we need to go.

So Father, we are down on our knees once again.
Acknowledging Your presence in this war-torn place.
Asking Your will, Your guidance in what to do next.
But, most of all, Father, right now we are seeking Your face.

We all agree that America will come out proud and shining.
That Your blessings will descend upon this land.
We know You will be our God if we will turn to You
And walk along the path on which America began.



St. John's Methodist Church History

St. John's has been a part of the Georgetown Community for over 140 years.

We started as a group of Swedish immigrants who joined together in their homes to study, worship and pray and built our first church building in 1882. At that time, we were known as the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Brushy Church (Svenska Metodistkyrkan at Brushy). The original church stood at the intersection of Westinghouse Road and FM 1460. Our church cemetery is still at this location.


In 1906 we moved to town, to our present home at 311 E. University Avenue, and in 1938 we changed our name to St. John's Methodist Church. In 1968, when the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, St. John's became St. John's United Methodist Church.

In 2023, St. John's disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church, changing our name to St. John's Methodist Church and joined the Global Methodist Church.

Come join us and share in our rich history and heritage of celebrating God's love.

Match recap as of:		9/30/2025
\$ 50,000.00	Funds to match	
\$ 32,036.70	Total funds received to date	64.07%
\$ 17,963.30	Remaining funds needed to match	35.93%

The Wesley Value Meal Committee will be contributing 100% of proceeds from the Wesley Value Meals on Wednesday, October 01 & 08 to the Matching Grant!

 AUGUST 2025 DATA Table of income, expenses, and net total		
	Church Activity YTD	Church Annual Budget
Income	\$404,209	\$541,848
Expenses	\$386,418	\$610,183
NET	\$17,791	(\$68,335)

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