

## *The Kedron Connection*

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**Volume 13**

**June 2014**

**Issue 6**

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### **From Pastor Angela,**

Transitions are always a good time to think about who we are and who we want to be. Outsiders have important perspectives to share about how we are perceived and how we affect the people around us. It's not often we get visitors to tell us what they really think about their experience with us, but my friend Carli has graciously agreed to share some thoughts about her recent visit.

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to attend the worship service at Kedron with my dear friend, Pastor Angela. We have been friends since serving together in the Peace Corps in the Kyrgyz Republic, but this was my first opportunity to hear her preach. I'm so glad that I got a chance to join your church community on Sunday.

Of course, Pastor Angela's sermon about "the way" struck me for many reasons. As I was thinking about the call to action included in her sermon, I was also thinking about what it means to be the newcomer in an established community. This is not a new feeling to me. I left my family and friends to live in the Kyrgyz Republic, moved from my tiny hometown in Minnesota to make it big in Washington, DC, and recently joined the giant federal bureaucracy. I've been the newcomer in smaller situations, too, walking into unknown classrooms and attending trainings and lectures.

As the new person, I am the outsider, the one unaccustomed to the rituals, habits, expectations, and power structures of those around me. This thrills me because I will almost certainly learn something new about the organization or group I am joining. It also frightens me because I don't know if I will be able to blend in, to assimilate to what is unknown to me. It's a time of testing the waters to see if a particular community will be a place where I can find personal expression and be valued for my individual thoughts and gifts.

My various new beginnings, both big and small, have shown me that some communities help this process while others build walls that add additional, and often unintended, barriers to welcoming and embracing the newcomer. While I was sitting in your church, I was thinking about what makes for a welcoming community. And Pastor Angela asked me to share three quick things with you.

First, a welcoming community is one that embraces the newcomer. Rather than whispering behind their backs, the welcoming community embraces the newcomer with a kind greeting, without being inquisitive or intrusive. This warm greeting can and should include an introduction and an offer to answer questions, but should not be a barrage of unwanted questions with the only intention of satisfying curiosity.

Second, a welcoming community allows the newcomer to assimilate at their own pace. While some newcomers may want to participate quickly in the plethora of activities in a new place, others want to observe and hang back before joining.

Finally, a welcoming community embraces the diversity of all community members, both established and new. In small communities, I've often found that a small grouping of characteristics is held as being most valued. But I've found that it is crucial to recognize the talents, skills, and ideas that every person brings to a community. A welcoming community allows this diversity of talents to flourish, and gives newcomers time to offer their talents and wisdom.

Thank you for inviting me into your church community. It was a treat to hear my friend lead your service, but I also appreciated being able to reflect on how important welcoming communities, churches or other places, are for bringing people together.

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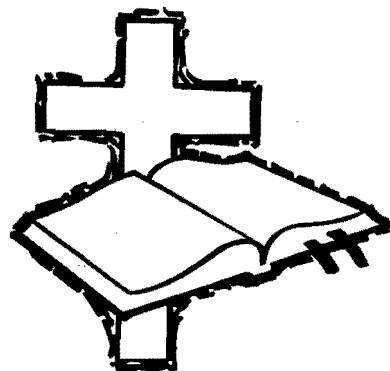
### **Pastoral Change**

As reported in May, the appointments for the next conference year have been announced. Our new pastor will be Rev. Barry Culbertson. Rev. Culbertson is a fully ordained elder with more than 30 years of experience as a pastor. He is a member of Holston Conference. His most recent appointment was Chaplain at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. He has for some months been working with the congregation of Eagleville United Methodist Church as the pastor there had serious health problems. Rev. Culbertson's first Sunday with us will be June 29.

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We at Kedron send our prayers with Pastor Angela as she leaves us.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Barry and pray for our time together.



## **Fellowship Supper**

Our June First-Wednesday covered-dish fellowship supper will be June 4. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. Come, join us for good fellowship and good food.

## **Men's Breakfast**

The monthly First-Saturday men's breakfast will be on June 7 in the Kedron fellowship hall. Breakfast will be served at 7:00 a.m. Men, come join us.

## **Handwork Ministry**

The Handwork Ministry meets the third Wednesday of the month to knit and crochet. The next meeting will be June 18. The location will be announced. We will begin at 9:30 a.m.

## **Choir Notes**

We will continue to meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. Choir members, let's discuss other practice times. New members will be welcomed.

## **Bible Study**

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group is now meeting at the home of Lytle Hodge on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. The address is 507 Hazelwood Drive, Smyrna.

## **Rutherford County Laity**

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will meet June 23 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be at Dunaway's Chapel UMC. Please remember to bring hygiene items for the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna.

## **Bucket Offerings**

In June, the offerings placed in the buckets at the morning worship service will be donated to the Room at the Inn in Murfreesboro.

## **Food Bank**

You may bring food donations for the Smyrna/LaVergne Food Bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month and they will be delivered to the Food Bank. The suggested item for June is oatmeal. The need is great. All non-perishable foods are accepted.

## **Field Trip**

Another field trip has been planned for our youth. Friday, June 6, we will meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. We will go to a Jewish synagogue in Franklin. All in our church are invited to go, not just the youth.

## **Tennessee Annual Conference**

The Conference will be in session June 8-11 at Brentwood United Methodist Church. Let's be in prayer for the clergy and lay delegates. Danny Fraley is the delegate for our charge, and Larry Fraley is an at-large delegate for our district.

## **Safe Sanctuaries**

This training event will be Monday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 25 from 6:30-8:15 p.m. each evening. Safe Sanctuaries is a system of helping churches to protect all of the children who are on our property and interact with our adults and other children. We will have an opportunity to view policies of other churches and to recommend policies that would work well here. Patti Smith will lead the training. The General Board of Discipleship suggests that pastors, SPRC members, trustees, lay leaders, people who work with youth and children, parents of children and youth, and anyone else interested in these issues attend the training.

## **Fifth Sunday Singing**

Our fifth Sunday singing will be June 29. We will be at Kedron as Lock's Memorial hosted the previous fifth Sunday. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. We will sing songs requested by the group. After we sing, we will share snacks and have a time of fellowship.

## **Charity Fundraiser**

Cut Out Cancer Event - Benefitting  
American Cancer Research Foundation  
Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Hair Cuts for donation, \$5.00 minimum  
Music and More  
Bring your chair for outdoor entertainment  
Just A Cut Away Barber Salon  
196 Lowry St., Smyrna  
(This event is sponsored by Kim McMillan.)

## Happy Birthday to:

Larry Lee	June 6
Larry Fraley	June 8
Melanie McCollum	June 11
Miranda Rhodes	June 12
Rev. Angela Hawkins	June 21
Ernestine Clark	June 22
Tyler Patterson	June 25
Jaden Fraley	June 27
Delann Harris	June 29

## Happy Anniversary to:

Ray & Peggy Lee	June 7
Wayne & Linda Lee	June 13
Gary & Reba Jackson	June 16
David & Lynne Lee	June 21

## Who said this?

"By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given of his Spirit.

--NRSV (hint, 1 John)

**Proverbs 18:10** written by Solomon was the quotation in the May newsletter.

*Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with.*

Peter Marshall



## June Calendar

Sunday, June 1:

- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, June 3:

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, June 4:

- 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper

Friday, June 6:

- 4:30 p.m. Meet at church for field trip

Saturday, June 7:

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, June 8:

Day of Pentecost

- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, June 10:

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, June 15:

Father's Day

- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, June 17

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, June 18:

- 9:30 a.m. Handwork Ministry

Sunday, June 22:

- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, June 23:

- 6:30-8:15 p.m. Safe Sanctuaries training

Tuesday, June 24:

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, June 25:

- 6:30-8:15 p.m. Safe Sanctuaries training
- July newsletter information due today

Sunday, June 29:

- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 6:00 p.m. Fifth Sunday Singing at Kedron



## Happy Father's Day!

Father's Day is celebrated in June in the vast number of the

world's countries. The idea for the day began in Spokane, Washington. While listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd thought how much she would like to honor her father. The month of June was chosen for the simple fact that that was the month of her father's birth.

June 19, 1910, was the first Father's Day. While Dodd primarily wanted to honor this selfless man who had raised her and five others after their mother died in childbirth, the popularity of the day soon spread. The date was firmly planted in many people's minds before President Richard Nixon established the permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June.

Unlike Mother's Day – which began as a day for mothers to work for peace – this day has always been one simply for recognizing the good gifts of fathers. This of course is not always the case, as there are fathers who do not care for children. Yet for each of us, there are those men who have provided – and continue to provide – wisdom beyond measure, wise counsel, and will toss a ball at a moment's notice.

## Fathers in the Bible

Match the clues with the name.

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. David was the youngest of his many sons (Ruth 4:17)                  | 1. David   |
| 2. He built an ark with his three sons (Gen 6:10)                       | 2. Abraham |
| 3. He ruled for 40 years and was the father of King Solomon (2 Sam 5:4) | 3. Jacob   |
| 4. The 1st King of Isreal, Jonathan's father (2 Sam. 9:6)               | 4. Elkanah |
| 5. He was asked to sacrificer his son Isaac (Gen 22:1-2)                | 5. Boaz    |
| 6. Father of Seth, Cain and Abel (Gen 4:25)                             | 6. Jesse   |
| 7. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)   | 7. Noah    |
| 8. His sons were wicked (1 Sam 2:12)                                    | 8. Isaac   |
| 9. He gave the birthright of Essau to youngest son, Jacob (Gen 27:30)   | 9. God     |
| 10. Father of Samuel (1 Sam 1:19-20)                                    | 10. Eli    |
| 11. Our Lord's Father (Eph 1:3)   | 11. Joseph |
| 12. He had 12 sons (Gen 35:22)  | 12. Adam   |
| 13. His wife Mary, Jesus' mother (Mat 1:20-21)                          | 13. Saul   |