

Brainstorming Summary May 25 - July 27, 2014

Karen Booth

Members present: Dave Booth, Karen Booth, Mary Ivanov, Ron Zuker, Vicki Zuker, Mark Erbes, Annette Erbes, Gary Cooper, Jim Post, Lynne Richmond, Roger Richmond, Brad Dean, Laura Dean (and Preston), Betty Kinney, Niki Epplert, and Glenn Chilson

May 25, 2014: "God's Dependents"

6th Sunday of Easter

Synopsis: What do our lives look like when we are fully dependent on God? Is this even possible in a culture that so values independence?

Metaphor/visuals: Declaration of Dependence. Baby's hand held within the father's hand. "In God We Trust" motto from US currency.

Media: "Fourth of July." Cost: \$17.00. Length: 2:14. Synopsis: The 4th of July! Free from tyranny. Dependent on God. A joyous celebration of freedom and devotion. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/33218/4th-of-july>. **Comments:** Use it at the beginning of the message.

Inclusive activity: Have members sign a large "Declaration of Dependence" as they leave worship. Keep it visually similar to the Declaration of Independence. Include verses of scripture.

Music suggestions: 700 Abide with Me; 152 I Sing the Almighty Power of God; 141 Children of the Heavenly Father

Discussion points: 1) Key verse: John 14:18a, "I won't leave you like orphans." 2) Tax connection: As Megan and Matthew Erbes have gotten older, Mark has had to spend more time determining if they still qualified as dependents in the eyes of the IRS. Is it any easier to figure out if as adults, we are dependents or not? 3) Our culture values independence. It is hard to counter that strong message. 4) Do fireworks and an American flag fit here?

Scripture: Acts 17:29-31 (Contemporary English Version)

²⁹Since we are God's children, we must not think that he is like an idol made out of gold or silver or stone. He isn't like anything that humans have thought up and made.

³⁰In the past, God forgave all this because people did not know what they were doing. But now he says that everyone everywhere must turn to him. ³¹He has set a day when he will judge the world's people with fairness. And he has chosen the man Jesus to do the judging for him. God has given proof of this to all of us by raising Jesus from death.

Scripture: John 14:15-21 (Contemporary English Version)

¹⁵ Jesus said to his disciples:

If you love me, you will do as I command. ¹⁶Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. ¹⁷The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.

¹⁸I won't leave you like orphans. I will come back to you. ¹⁹In a little while the people of this world won't be able to see me, but you will see me. And because I live, you will live. ²⁰Then you will know that I am one with the Father. You will know that you are one with me, and I am one with you.

²¹ If you love me, you will do what I have said, and my Father will love you. I will also love you and show you what I am like.

June 1, 2014: Gary Step, Guest Speaker

7th Sunday of Easter

Thoughts from Karen after the meeting:

As I pondered the messages for June and July, I was hoping we could find something that would serve as a note of continuity in the midst of many changes. When Mark took a five-week sabbatical in 2011, we were able to find a common thread running through his July 10 message, "Successful Sowing," and the next five speakers' messages. And so, the six-week series, "Rooted in Faith" was born. Common visuals (right), an ongoing activity (creating a family tree, below right), and speakers who were willing to connect their messages with the theme made what could have been a very disjointed summer feel like it was all part of a plan.

You will notice that I have highlighted "Holy Spirit" (or "one Spirit") in pink in five of the seven weeks listed below. I think it is likely that Susan Hagans will speak of the Spirit's influence on prophets on June 29 and that Mary will connect the Holy Spirit to biblical love on July 27. Perhaps you noticed this connection. Maybe you found another one. **Please think it over and be prepared to discuss it at our next Worship Connections meeting, Monday, May 19 at 7:00 pm.**



June 8, 2014: "Under the Influence"

Pentecost

Synopsis: Whereas spectators at the Day of Pentecost thought that the disciples were under the influence of alcohol, instead they were under the influence of the Holy Spirit. What does that way of being "under the influence" look like in the church? Why is that kind of behavior so essential?

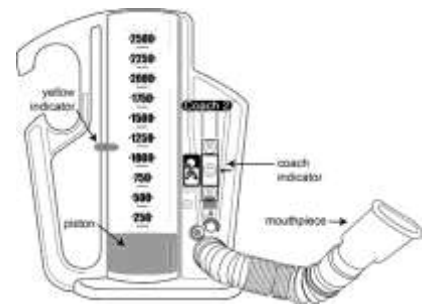
Metaphor/visuals: Flames. Many altar ideas can be found on Pinterest. Lynne's favorites include red, orange, and yellow flames using: 1) Dyed wide gauze. 2) Fabric hung from the cross using fish line attached to the corners of the material. 3) Large sheets of heavy crepe paper (available at Papermart).

Media possibilities:

- "Pentecost" from TWOTP. Length: 1:39. Cost: We own it. Not sure if we used it. Synopsis: Meditation. "In the last days I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons..." Preview it at <http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/pentecost>. **Comments:** Not our favorite.
- "Pentecost" from Faith Visuals. Length: 2:55. Cost: We own it. Last used on 5/31/09. Synopsis: Dramatic reading. Preview it at <http://media.preachingtoday.com/mini-movies/12727/Pentecost>. **Comments:** Powerful. Use it in place of the scripture reading.

Music suggestions: 539 O Spirit of the Living God; 2117 Spirit of God; 333 I'm Goin' a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing; Everyday by Hillsong United (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oW869_Z73vU).

Discussion points: 1) When we think of being “under the influence,” alcohol comes to mind, as it did for the Jews at Pentecost (Acts 2:13). 2) A breathalyzer can be used to measure the blood alcohol levels. Can we measure the how much we are “under the influence” of the Holy Spirit with a “spiritualizer”? Would it look like any of these devices? A) Spirometer: Patients breathe into a mouthpiece attached to a recording device to measure pulmonary function. B) Teaching thermometer. C) Circular gauge. D) Party horns. 3) It can be hard to tell if someone is filled with the Spirit. 4) Even though the skit is meant to be in jest, we need to be sensitive to people who struggle with alcohol addictions.



Skit: Ask two or three volunteers to blow into the “spiritualizer.” Include someone who is: 1) Very quiet, but is filled with the Spirit. 2) Very loud and outgoing (Brad Dean volunteered), but cannot make the meter move no matter how hard he tries. Molly Epplert has spring-loaded droopy eyeglasses that might add an extra effect.

Hands-on item: Party horns.

Scripture: Acts 2:1-12 (The Message)

¹When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

²Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. ³Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, ⁴and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

⁵There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world.

⁶When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. ⁷They couldn’t for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, “Aren’t these all Galileans?” ⁸How come we’re hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?

⁹Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!

“They’re speaking our languages, describing God’s mighty works!”

¹²Their heads were spinning; they couldn’t make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: “What’s going on here?”

¹³Others joked, “They’re drunk on cheap wine.”

PETER SPEAKS UP

¹⁴That’s when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: “Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. ¹⁵These people aren’t drunk as some of you suspect. They haven’t had time to get drunk—it’s only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

¹⁷“In the Last Days,” God says, “I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. ⁸When the time comes, I’ll pour out my Spirit On those who serve me, men and women both, and they’ll prophesy. ¹⁹I’ll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, Blood and fire and

billowing smoke, ²⁰the sun turning black and the moon blood-red, Before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous; ²¹And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved.”

June 15, 2014: “Commissioned for the Mission”

Trinity Sunday

Synopsis: Jesus’ Great Commission reminds us of the importance of “Making Disciples for the Transformation of the World,” the vision of our denomination.

Metaphor/visuals: UMC cross and flame (the flame represents the Holy Spirit). Campaign button. Bumper sticker. TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

Media possibilities:

- “Make Disciples.” Length: 2:07. Cost: \$20. Synopsis: We all have heard the Great Commission, right? But have you heard it like this? This simple and creative telling emphasizes the importance of not only going but of also multiplying ourselves and making disciples. When we invest in others it has an exponential effect. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/53010/make-disciples>. **Comments:** You have to pay attention to the first few seconds or you will miss the point of the video and wondering why they are using so much paper.
- “Therefore Go.” Length: 1:46. Cost: \$19.98. Synopsis: Close out your worship service by reminding your congregation of the church's mission given by Jesus himself. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/56032/therefore-go-closing-benediction>. **Comments:** Good visuals. The global view might make serving seem less doable unless you remember it applies “no matter where you go,” which might not be far away. It needs to be narrated. Use this to close the service.
- “The Missional Life.” Length: 2:32. Cost: \$15.00. Synopsis: The Missional Life is the essence of our life-pursuit as Christians, i.e., to live and share Christ with others for the glory of God. **Comments:** This might work better as we talk about Spiritual Gifts. This would be a good video to introduce adults to local mission opportunities.

Music suggestions: 571 Go, Make of All Disciples; 2239 Go Ye, Go Ye into the World; 2241 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve. The Alleluia Grace Note Ringers and Singing Sisters will be part of the Early Service.

Discussion points: 1) Forest Park Covenant Church has signs at the parking lot exits: You are now entering the mission field. We could make some temporary signs like this. They could also read “Sent forth to serve” or “Transform the world.” 2) Zukers probably have some realty signs we could use.

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 (The Message)

¹⁶Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. ¹⁷The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally.

¹⁸Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: ¹⁹Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ²⁰Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”

June 22, 2014: Jeff Stone, Guest Speaker

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Jeff will preach on 1 Timothy. More details to follow soon.

June 29, 2014: “Guess Who’s Coming to God’s House?”

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Susan Hagans, Guest Speaker

Fifth Sunday

Beginning thoughts from Susan:

Prophet or preacher? Both? Whom are we welcoming? The challenges of being a prophet in the pulpit. How unwilling we are to listen to what we don’t want to hear. How are we truly welcoming? What do we expect from Mary? Do we come to church to be comfortable? What happens when the preacher makes us uncomfortable?

What most churches asked for in a new pastor. Not one mentioned someone who preaches about justice or social issues. Interesting. How do we practice hospitality with each other, when we disagree? These are just a few quick thoughts. I plan on ending up on a very positive note. Of course!

Music suggestions from Susan can be found on the planning sheet.

Discussion points: 1) Begin the service by turning to our neighbors and say “Welcome to our worship.” Turn to someone else and say “I’m glad you are here.” Follow with the passing of the peace. 2) Include people from both services. 3) What type of gathering will we have? Brunch? Extended coffee hour? Any suggestions? On a related note, see some thoughts about a different Fifth Sunday schedule at the end of this summary.

Psalm 13 (Contemporary English Version)

¹How much longer, Lord, will you forget about me? Will it be forever? How long will you hide?
²How long must I be confused and miserable all day? How long will my enemies keep beating me down? ³Please listen, Lord God, and answer my prayers. Make my eyes sparkle again, or else I will fall into the sleep of death. ⁴My enemies will say, “Now we’ve won!” They will be greatly pleased when I am defeated.

⁵I trust your love, and I feel like celebrating because you rescued me. ⁶You have been good to me, Lord, and I will sing about you.

Hebrews 13:2 (Contemporary English Version)

²Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it.

Matthew 10:40-42 (New Living Translation)

This is the main scripture reading

⁴⁰“Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me.

⁴¹If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs. ⁴²And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.”

July 6, 2014: “Life in the Spirit: Called and Welcomed”

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: The Holy Spirit is God's presence with us. We experience God's presence in many ways through the power of the Spirit in our lives. The sacraments are one example. As we begin a journey together in ministry, we remember our baptism and our call to ministry, and we remember that Jesus is the one who bring us together as welcomed friends around the table.

Metaphor/visuals: Baptismal font or tabletop fountain where flowing water could be heard. Blue fabric flowing from the altar. **Mary will need a Christ candle (one that can be moved).** THE SPIRIT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Communion: We serve communion by intinction at both services. We offer the small cups and bread cubes at one station at the Early Service too. The Early Service has been using the musical setting 2257abcd. The Celebration Service has used a shorter, spoken service.

Media possibility: "The Holy Spirit --- Don't Forget About It!" Length: 3:12. Cost: \$20.00. Synopsis: We really like to focus on Jesus and we really like to talk about God and so sometimes the Holy Spirit gets a bad rap. The Trinity does not work without the Spirit and so this video re-energizes our understanding of what the Spirit does and how it works. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/46874/the-holy-spirit-dont-forget-about-it>. **Comments:** It needs to be narrated. It is rather long and could be stopped part way through (at 1:17, 1:32, 2:11, or 2:40). Memorable quote: The Spirit changes everything. Use an edited version of the video.

Discussion points: 1) The July message series grew out of a discussion between Mary, Mark, and Naomi Garcia, our VCI coach, and is part of prescription #3 "Intentional Faith Development." We will begin the series by focusing on the sacraments of baptism and communion. 2) Use one of the creeds this week.

Activity: Reaffirm our baptism. Set the baptismal font and at least one other station at the front of the sanctuary so that people can touch the water before taking communion. There is a fountain in Jimmy's office.

Youth mission trip: Niki will give the names of the participants to Mary. Invite them to gather at the end of the Early Service and the beginning of the Celebration Service so they can be blessed/commissioned.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16 (Today's New International Version)

¹As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

⁹(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?

¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is,

Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

July 13, 2014: "Life in the Spirit: Gifted"

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: Not every person has all of the spiritual gifts, but all of the gifts are present in the Body of Christ. All of the gifts are present in every local church. What would it look like if we discovered, opened, unwrapped them in our spiritual lives and used them "for the common good"? For the sake of Jesus Christ and our mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world? For the United Methodist Church? For the ministry of LHUMC?

Metaphor/visuals: Wrapped gifts, to be kept up during the series, adding more each week and/or unwrapping one each week.

Media possibilities: These videos could be used at different points in the series.

- "Everyone Has Gifts." Length: 2:20. Cost: \$17.00. Synopsis: A fast-paced energetic video reminding people that regardless of how we feel, the Bible says that we've all got gifts, they are all important, and it's all for the glory of God. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/14982/everyone-has-gifts>. **Comments:** Blue Man Group type sound track.
- "Gifts in a Closet." Length: 2:45. Cost: \$15.00. Synopsis: Have you ever wondered what would happen if we treated all our gifts the way we do our spiritual gifts? God picks all our gifts out with the utmost care, and often times we never even look at them. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/19882/gifts-in-a-closet>. **Comments:** Good as inspiration for a skit.
- "Gifts." Length: 0:45. Cost: \$22.00. Synopsis: Many of us live most of our lives with unopened gifts. Preview it at <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/44853/gifts>. **Comments:** Short and to the point. Uses the same blue paper and white ribbon as the luxury jewelry, Tiffany and Company.

Discussion points: 1) There are four passages that talk about gifts of the Spirit. 2) Possible theme: "Christmas in July." 2) We will also complete a congregation-wide spiritual gifts inventory by mid-August. The results will be collected and used by the Lay Leadership Team in the nominations process. Mary's favorite test has 85 statements and can be completed online in about fifteen minutes. We can set up a computer bank at church to facilitate this process. 3) Serving from the Heart: Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service is a good resource. It can be ordered at <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=975917>. 4) Unwrapped gifts are pretty, but not useful. 4) Kids want to open gifts. Adults are better at waiting to open them, but often lack excitement over giving or receiving gifts. Why? 5) Gary's story about unopened gifts in heaven can be found at <https://www.google.com/#newwindow=1&q=a+man+goes+to+heaven+story+and+finds+unwrapped+gifts&safe=active>. 5) All spiritual gifts exist in a congregation.

Skit or service introduction possibilities: 1) Show how different people open gifts, i.e. some rip through the paper, others are very careful and methodical. 2) Have some people walk around, carrying unopened gifts. 3) Show a small group of people trying to do an activity, like cooking, without success because their gifts remain unopened. Note: The congregation must be able to get a glimpse of the contents of the unopened gifts.

Hands-on item: Small wrapped gift or small, new bow, so it has the sticky stuff still (or mounted to a magnet).

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (Today's New International Version)

¹Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

²You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

July 20, 2014: "Life in the Spirit: Your Gifts Matter"

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: See July 13.

Metaphor/visuals: Unity/diversity.

Media possibilities: See July 13. Here is an additional option that we did not have time to view at the brainstorming: "Here Is the Church." Length: 1:11. Cost: \$15.00. Synopsis: The Church isn't a building, it's people. It's the body of Christ. That body is made up of many different part. This video is a creative illustration of how God designed each of us to play a very specific role in the Church. Preview it at <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/44006/Here-Is-The-Church>.

Discussion points: What happens when people refuse to open their gifts? Illustrate this as follows: Create large jigsaw puzzle. Wrap one piece per box. Give them to people to open and assemble. While they are doing that, one person walks off with his/her unopened gift.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (Today's New International Version)

¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

July 27, 2014: "The Greatest Gift"

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Synopsis: See July 13.

Metaphor/visuals: Unity/diversity.

Media possibilities:

- "Choose Love." Length: 2:24. Cost: \$19.98. Synopsis: Based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and 1 John 4:8, this mini-movie looks at the Biblical meaning of the word "Love." It also shares how each of us can live out that kind of love in our everyday lives. Preview it at <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/43605/Choose-Love>. **Comments:** Offers insight in how to live out the day-to-day "stuff" that comes with love.
- "Do You Love?" Length: 1:05. Cost: \$17.98. Synopsis: Do you love? Do you really live the biblical definition of love? This mini-movie, based on mark 12:29-31 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, tells us what it means to love - the way God intended. Preview it at <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/43665/Do-You-Love>. **Comments:** This challenges us to examine ourselves.

Discussion points: 1) Key point: Love is the motivation for service. 2) Mars Hill/Rob Bell quote: Love wins. 3) Videos: This might be a two video Sunday. Trying to decide between them is like going to the eye doctor for an exam and having to say whether number one or number two is better. 4) While 1 Corinthians 13 is often read at weddings, it is not about romantic love. It is about a church in conflict.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Today's New International Version)

¹If I speak in human or angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹²For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Odds and Ends

Sunday Schedule: Think about changing the Sunday morning schedule this fall, i.e. 9:00 am Early Service, 10:00 am Sunday School, 11:00 am Celebration Service.

Fifth Sunday Schedule: Our next Fifth Sunday is August 31. Talk about having a brunch or fellowship gathering at 9:30 am and the combined worship service at 10:30 am.

Worship Workshop: It is not too late to sign up for the May 31 worship workshop with Pastor Jeff Reese in Fellowship Hall. The Worship Connections Teams will talk about last minute details like snacks, beverages, set-up, equipment needs, etc. at our May 19 meeting.

Sat., May 31, 2014

9 am - noon at Lake Harbor

WORSHIP WORKSHOP



with Pastor Jeff Reese

RSVPs encouraged:

798-2181 or

lakeharbor@aol.com