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A Word from Woody...

My MFuge Diary

I can well imagine many of you wondering what is it like to be on our youth mission trip called MFuge. Interesting? Yes. Fun? Yes. Exhausting? Yes. Is it worth taking a week of our lives to invest in young people for Christ? Yes! Why? Some of my scribbblings from the trip should reveal the reasons.

Monday, June 12 We meet at the church for 6:00 AM to load vehicles, get the required paperwork for the trip in my hands, take pictures, say our good-byes, and of course be sure everyone has gone to the bathroom. We depart at 7:00 AM on a pretty day. We have a few stops along the way—including one about which I did not know until later where some of our youth went to a pet store to buy a Beta fish for the trip. Why they did this, I do not know. What will happen to the fish after the trip, I do not know. We arrive at Belmont University in Nashville, TN at 4:00 PM, go through registration, supper, worship, and Track Group time—where we are all divided into different mission groups. When bedtime comes about 11:30 we are all ready to hit our pillows!

Tuesday, June 13 Our schedule this year is different from any other of the approximately 10 MFuges we have attended in basically one respect—worship is at 7:20 AM before breakfast. Ouch! We are very tired, but manage to make it through the day. Breakfast is at 8:10, then break out into small group Bible studies at 8:55. Then we gather at 10:15 to go out to our Track mission sites. For this week I have decided to allow our adults not to go to 8:55 Bible study so they can brush their teeth, have their quiet time, and then gather together for about 15 minutes for a group devotional. I am a driver for a Games and Recreation site, and Miles Hallberg is with me. We have about 26 in our group. We go to a facility that has a huge indoor basketball court where we play with the elementary-age children from underprivileged neighborhoods. Miles plays lots of basketball and makes friends. Elena Hingle, Alessandra Dewenter, and Haydee Leigh Hallberg are also in Games and Recreation, and the children love playing with Alessandra and Haydee Leigh, while other children gather around Elena as she tutors them in math. Patricia Hallberg and Randy Roberts are in a PCY Track group that does yardwork in a needy neighborhood. Kaylor Grimm and Elizabeth Mitchell, Kaylor's cousin, are in Special Needs, and are assigned those with mental handicaps and they go places like bowling alleys. Jude Meche and Nathan Hingle are in Social Ministry where they are to help in a community garden, witness to others, and play with children. We arrive back to our dorm rooms about 3:15, go to supper at 4:30, then have worship at 6:45. We break up into our church group at 8:15, and then head



to back to our dorms around 9:30.

Wednesday, June 14 Our day pretty much followed the camp schedule with one big exception. We have our free night tonight from 3:15 to 8:15, so our entire group go to Jack's Bar-B-Que on Broadway in downtown Nashville. We have a great meal, and Elizabeth's family joined us—Amy (Debby Grimm's sister) and Paul Mitchell and their other children Isaac and Audrey. We also hear the tragic, shocking news that a gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers in Washington D.C. Our MFuge week is usually a time when we are cut off from the daily news, but not this time. Much prayer is needed, especially for our U.S. Representative Steve Scalise and his family. We arrive back for worship at 8:15 and church group at 9:45.

Thursday, June 15 It rains and thunders for much of today. I spend the day indoors with Games and Recreation and helping at a food bank. Our speaker for the week has focused on King David, and tonight he addressed David's great sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah from 2 Samuel 11-12. Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin and David repented, and God was gracious to forgive him. In church group time we discuss this a bit—especially the courage of Nathan the prophet.

Friday, June 16 All of us have a good time on our last day on our sites. Jude and Nathan play basketball with youths and make friends. Alessandra and Haydee Leigh enjoy games with children at their site, while Elena continues tutoring children in math. Kaylor enjoys accompanying another person with a mental handicap and helping the person, while Elizabeth leaves early to return to her family. And Patricia nurses Miles back to health from his not feeling well. The speaker tonight addresses David and Jonathan's close friendship relationship from 1 Samuel. 18-20. He pointed out the importance of finding godly friends, and we discuss this a bit in our church group time that tonight.

Saturday, June 17 We have breakfast about 7:00 AM, and then clean our rooms and pack our bags and head out the door by 7:45 AM. Check-out goes well. We have devotionals at 8:00 AM our closing worship celebration at 9:45 AM, and we're in our vans by 11:00 AM. We enjoy the time together as we drive home, and arrive in front of the church at about 9:00 PM. We are weary from the week, but also pleased to have had such a great experience. We have grown closer to the Lord, to one another, and been able to touch others' lives with Jesus love. What could be better than that?

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Yours in Christ,

P.s. The Beta fish survived the trip home and now belongs to my son Norwood, who calls him Tiny Blue, Jr.

Youth Corner

Can't Do VBS Without You!

We had a great time last month on our MFuge mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee! Many thanks to the adults who helped make the trip go so well—Elena Hingle, Patricia Hall-



berg, and Randy Roberts. We learned a lot about following Jesus and the example of King David, we grew closer to each other, and we served others in Jesus' name. For a reminder of what the trip was like, please see the *Word* from Woody article on p. 1.

This month we have another opportunity to teach others about Jesus' love through Vacation Bible School! We will need all hands on deck on Monday-Friday, July 24-28 from 6:00-8:30 PM. And don't forget about the VBS Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, July 30 with a water slide!



Church Family Night

Church Family Night takes a break for the summer. But it will be back in September. Watch for news of its return in this space in the September newsletter.

New Website Full of Info You Need!

If you haven't seen our new website, launched on Sunday, April 2nd., you should check it out! It! The new address is lakevistaumc.org. Please take a moment to browse the site and enjoy the new features—like a calendar of events, new pics, some manuscripts of Pastor Woody's sermons, and online registration for Vacation Bible School. Also, follow us on Twitter @lvumc!

SPA Ladies Summer Reading

(S.P.A. means Study, Pray and Act) The SPA Ladies Bible Study changes into a book discussion over the summer. This summer, we are reading Tracey Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, a biography of Paul Farmer, a doctor who set out to cure the world.

The book is available in e-formats, and gently used paperbacks will be available on the book table (\$7.00) or by special order (contact Susan).

The first of *only* three meetings demonstrated much excitement about the book. The two final meetings will be in early and late August. All ladies are invited to join us, whether you have read the book or not. (But it is a great read!) These discussion are good times to bring a friend for a fun and casual way to meet some of the women in the church.



Is he ↓ in our youth group?



Choir Practice

Choir practice continues to meet at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings with our Music Director Leonardo Santos and Worship Leader Randy Roberts. For more information please stop by one Sunday morning.

Gearing Up for VBS!

Come to the **Maker Fun Factory VBS** July 24-28 from 6:00-8:30 PM for games, skits, crafts, science projects, and lots of learning about Jesus's love for us all! We start with supper, then move from one adventure to another in age-related groups 3 years old to those just entering 6th grade! We have a wrap up celebration on Friday night at 8:00 for VBS-ers and families.

The cost is only \$25.00/child, but no more than \$50.00 for the whole family, payable on the first night you come. Online registration is available at lakevistaumc.org, or you can call Susan or Woody at (504) 288-2242 or email office@lakevistaumc.org for more information. Hope to see you on July 24!

Then, on Sunday, July 30 we'll enjoy a big family celebration! VBS children sing during the worship service at 10:30, then we have a free lunch and water slide for friends and families.

VBS Setup Day is Saturday, July 22 from 10:00AM -12:00 noon, with pizza and youth volunteer training from noon to 1:00 PM.

Anyone interested in helping with this exciting event should plan to attend or contact Mary Ellen Herbert to let her know how you would like to be involved.

Meetings This Month

- **Finance Committee and Church Council** meetings, Monday July 17, 6:45 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM, respectively.

M Fuge Exhaustion

had us seeing...

June Cleavers
on Fathers' Day?



Happy Birthday, Mrs. Reynaud!

Prayer Focus

- ✝ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✝ Jeanette Lynch and family, loss of Howell and mother
- ✝ The UMC, unity and faithfulness to the Bible and its doctrines
- ✝ Wisdom as to whether Lake Vista UMC should join the Wesleyan Covenant Association
- ✝ Gayle Roniger, health
- ✝ Lee Ann Grimm, health

Should We Join WCA?

Should We Join Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA)? The Church Council decided last month to set a new date for voting on whether we should join it. The vote will be held on Sunday, August 27th after the worship service in the sanctuary. The WCA is an unofficial United Methodist association of United Methodist congregations, clergy and laity. It has been formed as a response to the abandonment of the final authority of the Bible as seen in such provocative actions as the consecration of Karen Oliveto, who is in a married lesbian relationship, as a UM bishop last summer. According to its home page on its website wesleyancovenant.org, **the WCA believes "change is coming" and "will connect, resource and encourage clergy, laity, congregations, regional chapters, and bishops by committing to the authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ", "creating a unified response to the Bishops' Commission [on a Way Forward]'s recommendations while maintaining orthodox Wesleyan beliefs", and "developing a plan for a positive and faithful future".** Dr. Hingle sees at least five advantages to joining this year: (1) in the midst of great theological and moral confusion in The UMC as well as the world, we would formally align ourselves with biblical truth; (2) we would be distinguished from other UM churches, perhaps all UM churches, in the New Orleans area; (3) all members of **our church could attend WCA's wonderful conferences** with discounted prices; (4) members of WCA would be able to vote on the direction this association should go in the future; (5) we would send a message to the **Bishops' Commission on a Way Forward, which meets with General Conference in February 23-26, 2019, that churches will not countenance straying from biblical truth.**

Read your newsletter online at <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>

Mission Opportunities: VBS Setup Day and VBS

It would be a great blessing to have you help prepare and decorate the church for Vacation Bible School on Saturday, July 22 from 10:00-12:00 noon. After this, from 12:00-1:00 PM, there will be a pizza lunch and training time for teenage volunteers. For more information please speak with Mary Ellen Herbert or Pastor Hingle.

We can still use your help with VBS itself, too! It's an experience you won't regret!

Addressing the Skeptics

We will take a break for July from this gathering. Our next meeting will be Friday, August 4th at 12:00 noon in the Parlor. **We will discuss Dr. Francis Collins' *The Language of God*, ch. 10.** We'll enjoy a bag lunch and church-provided soft drinks/ bottled water and we enjoy discussing the relationship between science and the Christian faith.

Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood



This month's prayer walk will be Saturday, July 15th, 10:45 -11:45 AM. Please join us for this wonderful ministry!

Small Group Offerings

Newcomers are welcome at all the gatherings below!

Wednesday SONset and Wonderful Wednesday Bible and book study: Dr. Hingle and Rocky Ruello are teaching Rebecca Pippert's book *Out of the Salt Shaker* on Wednesdays, July 5 (Ch. 14), 12 (Ch. 15), and 19 (Ch. 16). (These meetings are cancelled on Wednesday, July 26 because of Vacation Bible School.) SONset is 5:30-6:30 PM, and the study starts at 7:00. Bring a bag supper and join us for conversation in between, and for the study whether or not you have read the book!

S.P.A. Ladies' Summer Reading *Please see the article on p. 2 about this group.* This summer we are reading Tracey Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. The second and final meetings will be in early and late August, respectively. Please watch this space, our web calendar, and bulletins for more details. All ladies are invited to attend, even if you haven't read the book!

Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. The adult class meets in the Parlor. Youth and children meet in the Education Building. Come and get to know the Lord with us!

Please call Susan in the office (504-288-2242) if you have any questions, and please be in prayer about coming to some of these offerings.

A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.

Lake Vista

United Methodist Church

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