

Bedrock Scripture:

But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

John 4:4-15 (NRSV)

New Year, New Faith by Pastor Morie

It is my vision for Living Waters, that we are more than your "go-to-worship-on-Sunday" church. What do I mean by this? Well, I mean that I want everyone to know that Living Waters is:

- A church made up of individuals dedicated to God's wisdom and Christ's work.
- A church that embraces Jesus' vision by challenging the status quo of both world and religion.
- A church who is doing something that matters in the community and world.
- A church that balances faith with intelligence, prayer with action, and worship with mission.

How do we continue to grow into this vision?—We work at it both individually and as a community! And what better time to dedicate ourselves to such work than the start of 2008...

In this spirit, I am going to boldly challenge us all to dedicate ourselves to growth in faith this year. With growth must be roots, and so, we can start by individually committing to our "prayers, presence, gifts and service"* in the life of Living Waters:

Prayers—No matter how you do it, develop a daily prayer routine...Pray for yourself and others...Listen to God's direction for you...Pray by yourself and with others...Pray for the church...Just pray!

Presence—Attend worship regularly...Participate in education opportunities...Enjoy special events...Be present with God and others!

Gifts—Give yourself to God's work...Share your talents for making God's realm and reality...Pledge your financial support to God through your church...Let your gifts be used for good in the world!

Service—Spend time working at making other lives better...Be humble while serving...Offer yourself in areas of leadership...Just serve beyond yourself!

Out of our personal commitment to growing in new faith we will continue to become the community of faith we can become. I am both excited for you and for us, as we look forward to what God has in store for us. Many blessings in this new year.

Sincerely, *Pastor Morie*

* UM Hymnal, *Baptismal Covenant*

We Kings and Queens of the Callatin Are...Bringing our Gifts

At Epiphany (the church season after Christmas) we celebrate the manifestation of God in the world—we celebrate the revelation of Christ as a gift to us. This always begins on Jan. 6 when we hear how the magi (a.k.a. wise men or kings) bring their gifts to the Christ-child. This year, Jan. 6 falls on a Sunday, and we will have the opportunity to bring our gifts also. (*please remember that worship will start at 9:30 a.m.*)

Although Pastor Morie will still be leading worship on Jan. 6, we will have a special guest preacher at the 9:30 a.m. service.

Rev. Bill Mullette-Bauer, Director of Connectional Ministry for our conference, will share some insightful thoughts regarding stewardship in the life of faith. During this very special worship service, as we come forward to receive communion, we can dedicate our pledge to God. Included in this newsletter is a pledge card for 2008. This is one way that you and your family can commit to the spiritual discipline of stewardship—giving yourself to God's work in the world. May you spend the next week in prayer as you follow the star towards the manger...bringing your gifts. (see more on the card)

Website:

www.living-waters-umc.org