



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

July / August 2011

From the Pastor's Pen By Daryl Diddle

Check Our Tech

A few weeks ago, I was speaking with missionaries Josh and Jennifer Reynolds as they were preparing to return to Mexico. Our conversation touched, just briefly, on the subject of how advancements in communication technologies have changed so many things, including the ways and means of world missions.



It used to be that missionaries sailed off on a boat for distant lands and communicated with their families a couple times a year by letter, maybe; I say maybe because it was anyone's guess if those hand-written letters ever reached their destinations. The cost of travel meant coming home was a once-in-a-lifetime, or, if you were lucky, a-few-times-in-a-lifetime luxury. Becoming a missionary meant saying goodbye, and meaning it, for years at a time.

How things have changed! Due to the internet and cell/i-phones and Facebook and services like Skype, our missionaries who live thousands of miles away now seem like they're right next door. Grandparents can talk to grandchildren and even watch them grow up. Issues on the field can be dealt with in timely manners. News travels fast. Needed supplies can be shipped out UPS and nearly guaranteed delivery.

The blessings of instant communications have changed these, and many other parts of life for good, and we celebrate the good. Why drive a horse and buggy when you can drive a car, right? Change is good.

Like any development and change, however, there are not-so-good things that come with the good, and there is always a period of time in which people have to allow their prudence and wisdom to catch up with their abilities – including their technological abilities. Just because it's possible, doesn't mean it's wise.

Here are a few of those places where we as a culture, and especially we as Christians, can get tripped up by our "new" technologies unless we deliberately choose otherwise.

1. **Technology presents need for continued planning ahead**

It's OK to be a spur-of-the-moment kind of person – it's often very fun and exciting. We can't, however, live our whole lives by seat-of-our-pants planning. Last-minute decision-making is actually pretty expensive. It costs us financially, relationally, often physically, by the stress it puts into our lives and those around us. Technologies allow us to push decision making back until the last possible moment, but good decisions are rarely made in last-minute situations. Just one example of this is buying airplane tickets. The same ticket bought well in advance costs much less than one bought the day of the flight. If only for the sake of stewardship, we need to fight this tide of last-minute living. Keep planning ahead, in spite of the increased ability we have to live on the edge.

2. **Technology demands erecting boundaries for respect.**

Instant and mobile communication allows us to communicate with many people, even simultaneously, but we are losing our ability to be "with" people. Too often we're choosing the urgent over the important, and unless wise

priorities are recognized and respected, we will become (in many ways we have already become) a culture that is a mile wide and an inch deep regarding our relationships and the quality of our personal communications. More does not always equal better.

To me, if a person is important enough to spend time with, then that person should be the present center of my attention. What does it say to family and friends when we constantly excuse ourselves to read or reply to some comment that pops into our phone? It says to them, "You don't matter as much as whoever this is on my phone," which is pretty rude, when you think about it.

"...if a person is important enough to spend time with, then that person should be the present center of my attention."

A few years ago, our pediatrician posted a sign in his office demanding that cell phones be turned off during consultation. He explained how, while he was speaking to parents about the health of their child, they would interrupt him to take a call from their teenager at home asking where their shoes were. Some communication boundaries need to be erected if we are to be a people who respect each other. We need to use our heads about giving people access to us.

3. Technology demands discipline and caution to maintain respect in our responses.

The truth is, we all say dumb things, sometimes hurtful things, often because we have not adequately thought or prayed about them. We make commitments that we should not make for the same reasons.

I was told once that persons should never make big decisions while they are sick or after midnight. The reason? Those are two of many times when a typical person's judgment is clouded and it's during times like these that people do and say things they later regret.

"Some communication boundaries need to be erected if we are to be a people who respect each other."

Having the ability to reply immediately is another convenient means to saying a dumb or offensive thing. We get caught up in emotion and we don't use our heads and spit something out there that we have to apologize for later. Meanwhile, our thoughtless word has damaged a relationship.

Now, of course this can happen in person. But often it doesn't, because there is something about being present face to face that tempers our statements, isn't there? We're more likely to offend people via electronic communication because, for most of us, we will write things that we don't have the nerve to say in person. On top of this, in e-mail or texting particularly,

there is no tone or body language present to soften or contextualize what we say... only bare, typewritten words which communicate just a portion of what we intend. As we can, we should push back the

urgency of communication.

If we can't, then it's more important than ever to listen to the still, small voice of the Spirit in our interactions.

4. Technology puts our replies and responses into a permanent record.

All we need to know here are two words, "Anthony Weiner." The dumb things we say electronically are with us forever.

5. Technology makes prayerful vigilance a daily necessity.

Accessibility is exactly why pornography is such a problem today. Twenty years ago, porn was only a problem for dirty old men who had the nerve to wander into those kinds of magazine stores. Today, porn is literally in the air, and everyone with an i-phone has access to it wherever they are.

No new news here, but it's more important than ever before to guard our hearts and eyes. In these days of advancing technology (and declining moral standards), the times of outer controls (like public shame) are gone. It will only be because of an advancing inner control that we will be kept from sin. This inner control is the domain of God. It's what He wants to build into us and He does this, interestingly, by communication.

Years before 4G, God set up prayer as the most advanced communication network. He asks us to get on His network every day and spend time with Him, learning from Him. He'll build the inner control into us to handle today's technologies, if we're willing.

WFMC Music Ministries: Take "Note"

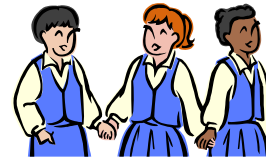
Music Ministry Opportunities

COMING FALL 2011

As you are relaxing and enjoying your "summer vacation", please keep in mind that beginning in September our music ensembles will once again be rehearsing on a weekly basis. Below is a general list of all ensembles that will be offered this coming Fall, please check future Plumblines articles for specific details regarding these groups:

CHILDREN'S VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

Young Musicians (age 4 by October 1st)
 Friendship Company (Kindergarten-1st Grade)
 Heaven's Harmony (Grades 2-5)
 Chimes of Joy (Grades 2-5)



YOUTH AND ADULT VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Youth Choir (Grades 6-12)
 Sanctuary Choir (Post-High School and above)



YOUTH AND ADULT INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

Allegro Handbell Choir (Grades 6-12)
 Tintinnabulation Handbell Choir (Grades 6-12)
 Blessings Adult Handbell Choir (Post-high school and above)



Do you play a musical instrument or enjoy singing? If so, we would love to have you minister with us by joining one of our music teams for morning worship, or by playing your instrument for an offertory, or by using your gifts to sing a solo for music ministry! For more information regarding ensembles, as well as Sunday morning and evening music ministries, small groups, and instrumental opportunities, please see the music brochure at the Welcome Center in the main foyer of the church or contact Mark Schell or Rose Evans. We want to hear from you!

Children's Summer Schedule

SUNDAY AM

Children's Sunday School - Children will attend their normal classes until Promotion Sunday on August 14th.

Children's Worship, Jr. - Continues for the 2 & 3 year olds throughout the summer.

Children's Worship - Begins July 3rd for 4 year olds through finishing 1st graders.

WEDNESDAY PM

Summer Fun - A fun lesson and play time for 2 year olds through finishing 5th graders. Wednesdays at 7 p.m., while parents are in prayer meeting or working with the youth.

Library News and Reviews

New Books for the Library

For Preschoolers:

- Ronnie Wilson's Gift
- Remy Rhino Learns Patience
- Skid and the Too Tiny Tunnel

For Beginning Readers: (I Can Read Series)

- Berenstain Bears Neighbor in Need
- Berenstain Bears Kitten Rescue
- What's Up With Lyle?
- Larry Boy Meets the Bubblegum Bandit
- Princess Petunia's Sweet Apple Pie
- Jesus Raises Lazarus
- Joshua Crosses the Jordan

For Grades 1-5:

- Lily and Miss Liberty
- A Pony for Keeps
- A Pony in Trouble
- Ponies to the Rescue
- Ponies on Parade
- Special Gifts
- Summer Party
- Some Good News
- The Bronze Bow
- The Best School Year Ever
- Concord Cunningham The Scripture Sleuth series

For Adults:

- Fit to Be Tied
- A Matter of Character
- Every Now and Then
- The Act of Marriage
- I'd Rather Be Laughing: Finding Cheer in Every Circumstance
- Connecting: Healing for Ourselves and Relationships
- Till We Have Faces
- Mountain Top
- Higher Hope
- Deception
- Song in a Strange Land
- Tread Upon the Lion

New DVDs for the Library

- The Chronicles of Narnia: the Voyage of the Dawn Trader*
- Albert Schweitzer Called to Africa*
- Best of Thomas*
- Best of Percy*
- Best of James*

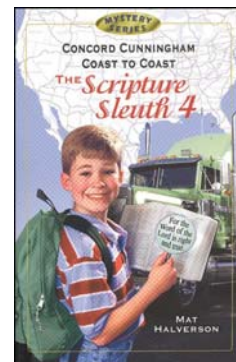
Book Reviews

The Scripture Sleuth

by Mat Halverson
(The Scripture Sleuth series)

Hi my name is Isaac. I want to tell you a little bit about **The Scripture Sleuth** by Mat Halverson. In **The Scripture Sleuth**, Concord solves mysteries. My favorite mystery is the "The Stolen Flamingo." The flamingo was made of salt so when the creator cut the fire alarm wire and threw a smoke bomb in the window, the sprinklers went off and dissolved the flamingo.

That was just **one** mystery! So remember the title if you like it - **Scripture Sleuth.**

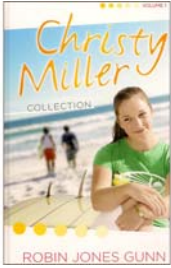


Isaac Madill - 7 years

Please Renew Items Promptly

If you need to renew any items, please check with the librarian, Bonnie Koteskey, at 858-3436. It is important to return the materials when they are due so that others can check them out. Please leave them in the return box which is to the left, just inside the library door.

Summer Promise by Robin Jones Gunn
(Christy Miller Series, Book 1)



Summer Promise is a good book to read because it will encourage kids to surrender their lives to Jesus and to always look at situations from God's point of view.

Its main character is Christy Miller and it takes place during a visit to her aunt and uncle's house in California over the summer. Things really kick into high gear when she meets a Christian boy and his friends from church.

One of my favorite parts of the book is when a boy named Shawn dies while surfing. After this, Todd tries to explain to Christy how to become a Christian.

Why don't you read this book over the summer? Then you can really feel like you are on the beach with Christy and Todd.

Katie Cook - Age 10 years

Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo

Kyla and I are excited to recommend a new book in our church library! Neither of us were able to put the book down until we had each read through this fascinating account of a boy's experience in Heaven. **Heaven is For Real** is written by Todd Burpo about his 4 year old son, Colton, who visits Heaven during an emergency surgery. Over the course of the year after surgery, Colton gave his first-hand accounts of heaven to his parents, it's many splendors and people who are already there. Kyla especially enjoyed reading about Colton's descriptions of Heaven. We both think you ought to add this book to your summer reading list! You won't be disappointed!



Kyla Winter and Kelly Winter



Thad and Ruth Gouge
Reid (8), Shannon (almost 7), Ron (9 months)

Getting to Know You
By Shirley McMullen

The Gouge family moved to Wilmore in August 2010 and began attending WFMC right away.

"When God began doing a new work in us," says Ruth, "we sold our dream home in Vermont in 2009 and volunteered in Honduras for ten months at a boarding school for underprivileged boys." Seeking God's direction for their next step, they thought Kentucky, the horse capital of the world, would be the perfect place for Thad to pursue his vocation as a farrier (he shoes horses). Plus, they were tired of Vermont's cold winters.

Ruth grew up in Vermont and Thad in Bolivia, where his parents were WGM missionaries. They met in Vermont when he was living with his uncle – whose daughter was Ruth's best friend – while apprenticing as a farrier. They grew as friends for two years before getting married in a church outside Montpelier. "We are still best friends," says Ruth.


They bought a home in Wilmore, and Thad "carries his business on his truck," working three days a week at Fraley Equine Podiatry Center and the rest of the time at area horse farms.

Having grown up in a Christian home, Ruth doesn't remember a time when she didn't love Jesus. At fourteen she made a conscious decision to follow Christ, and at 21 rededicated her life to him. Thad also loved Jesus from early childhood, and confirmed his faith by being baptized at age 22.


The Gouge family enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, camping and canoeing. Thad helps with the church's golf-cart ministry and plays on the softball team, and Ruth participates in Mom-2-Mom and helps with VBS. They are members of the Home Builders ABF (Adult Bible Fellowship).

Ruth also volunteers at the Assurance Crisis Pregnancy Center in Lexington. After losing their baby girl, Marian, at birth in 2008, due to a genetic aberration, the Gouges gained a new life focus. "We realized that serving God is the only thing that counts. Nothing else matters. This is what we want to teach our children."

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Wilmore Free Methodist Church 1200 Lexington Road Wilmore, KY 40390</p>						
<p>3 B—Bill Descoteaux Audrey Goodloe Aiden Lane Communion</p>	<p>4 B—Anthony Headley Grace Holmes Faith Reynolds Church Office Closed 7 pm Independence Day Picnic—fireworks</p>	<p>5 B—Cathi Blanken- ship Nathan Hiatt</p>	<p>6 4—8 pm Blood Drive</p>	<p>7 B—Wesley Cannon A—Duane & Charma Mathias</p>	<p>8 B—Bob Cassidy Emily Fitch Dorothy Thompson</p>	<p>9 B—Evelyn Barnard Jody Brock A—Chadwick & Sarah Spencer</p>
<p>10 B—Neil Flanigan Dale Hale 7 pm Sidewalk Social</p>	<p>11 B—Carole Dickie A—Scott & Eileen Wright</p>	<p>12 B—Vodis Thompson</p>	<p>13 B—Dalton Cannon FMC General Conf</p>	<p>14 B—Letha Jones Rick Maynard A—Curtis & Arlene Allen Dave & Ginny Schrein- er</p>	<p>15 B—Chuck Sweetser A—Don & Robbie Joy John & Marilyn Swain FMC General Conf</p>	<p>16 B—Susan Folsom Matt Liversedge A—Ben & Renee Riffell FMC General Conf</p>
<p>17 B—Mary Bennett JonMark Bickert; Leah Goforth; Jesse Zweifel A—Mark & Rose Evans James & Jody Zweifel FMC General Conf Wilmore Camp Mtg - AU Hughes Aud</p>	<p>18 B—Machel Reynolds Don Zent A—Bob & Teresa Cassidy Wilmore Camp Mtg - AU Hughes Aud</p>	<p>19 B—Rick Boyd Wilmore Camp Mtg - AU Hughes Aud</p>	<p>20 B—Joe Cooper, Peter Cooper, Mike Tillson; A—Warren & Marguerite Brude No WPMC activities Wilmore Camp Mtg - AU Hughes Aud</p>	<p>21 B—Priscilla Probst Ladies' Night Out Wilmore Camp Mtg - AU Hughes Aud</p>	<p>22 B—Carter Schmidt Wilmore Camp Mtg - AU Hughes Aud</p>	<p>23 B—Dorothy Mitchell</p>
<p>24 A—Gilbert & Jeri Roller 7 pm Side- walk Social Underwood A—Keith & Jenny Madill</p>	<p>25 B—Ryan Padgett A—Josh & Jen Reynolds</p>	<p>26 B—Don Sweigard Mark Underwood</p>	<p>27 B—Esther James Herbert Livingston</p>	<p>28 B—Summer Swaim</p>	<p>29 B—Laura Barnum Nellie Smith</p>	<p>30 B—Julie Caldwell; Kirk Fraser; Cathy Thompson; Parker Weinberger; Stan Wiggam A—E & D Bowen; V & A Thompson; R & G Yoder; J & C Prochina</p>

August, 2011

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 B—Daryl Diddle; Ben Marchál; Jeff Hiatt; Seth Padgett A—Aaron & Amy Hall; Andy & Faith Reynolds	2 A—Matt & Hannah Eckhardt	3 B—Elyssa Maynard David McMichael	4 B—Mary Sutherland A—Chuck & Jody Brock	5 B—Faith Branan A—Dannie & Laurie Hood	6 A—Mark & Cheryl Schell
7	B—Rosie Cooper 7:15 pm CE Training for all children's workers	8 B—Ruth Brown Marguerite Brude James Zweifel	9 B—Annetta Finley Pearl May Christina Proctor A—Dale & Joyce Underwood; Dennis & Priscilla Probst	10 B—Ann Kuhn; Mark Schell; Aidan Reifsnnyder; Bill Tinsley A—Andy & Lizet Bowen; Bill & Bonnie Descoteaux Public School opens 7-8 Adult prayer walk	11 A—Chuck & Luci Long	12 A—Keith & Sharon Madison Steve & Ruth Hersey	13 B—Andrew Sweigard, David Tullar; Daniel Weigle, Johnetta Zweifel A—Ted & Sandy Hall; Craig & Rebekah Saunders
14	B—Stephen Crow 9:40 am Promotion Sunday (SS & ABF) Ministry Fair 7 pm Sidewalk Social	15	16 B—Sandy Hall 7:15 am Youth Prayer Breakfast begins 4-6 pm Open Gym (new time)	17 B—Debby Marchál Del Searls	18 A—Dale & Melanie Kierstead; Howard & Jan Snyder	19 B—Michele Martin A—R & S Boileau; J & A Sherry; D & L Sweigard; K & R Thompson Ladies' Night Out Sleepover	20 B—Don Joy Mary Ellen Martin Fran May
21	A—Mike & Christine Smith Children's Worship begins (4—3rd grade) AM Worship—CE worker dedication 6 pm Baptism service	22 B—Karen Jamison Cheryl Faul A—Ron & Nadara Welling; Stan & Marna Wiggam	23 A—Steve & Lorrie Liversedge	24 B—T.J. Goodwin Nathan Wittenberg A—Roy & Sue Lauter	25 B—Nathan Saunders Caitlyn Tuller A—Don & Kathleen Demaray	26 David Bauer Jonathan Skaggs Caleb Wang	27 B—Ed Bryson A—Bryan & Carol Blankenship Gary & Amy Hogue Children's Worship workers training
28	B—Curt Kidwell 7 pm Sidewalk Social	29 B—Nathan Liversedge	30 B—William Kusche	31 B—Melody Branan Kelly Smith	 Wilmore Free Methodist Church 1200 Lexington Road Wilmore, KY 40390		

Foundation, Faith, Future

by John R. Swaim

In most previous FFF articles such as this, we've focused less on the financial aspect of the campaign, and more on the motivation, purpose, and people needs which drive what we are trying to achieve together. So, with about 6 months to go in the current phase of the campaign, it seems like a good time to give a brief financial update. Following are some items of note;

At this writing, we have approximately \$1.2mm in cash on hand, and if present trends continue we could end 2011 with approximately \$1.5mm in cash.

There are 139 pledgers to the campaign, and if present trends continue, more than 90% of those pledges will be fulfilled completely and on time. That is truly remarkable and a testimony to both the Lord's blessing, and your faithfulness to your commitment.

In addition to the pledged giving, approximately \$150,000 of unpledged giving has been received.

The total projected cost of the expansion is approximately \$3.4mm and we need to strengthen our position further in order to protect the church from undue financial risk.

We continue to believe that it's entirely possible to complete this project debt-free.

As was mentioned in a letter a few weeks ago, the Board of Administration has recommended a two year campaign extension, subject to final membership approval, in the form of a "second mile" phase. This would begin January 1, 2012, after the current phase concludes. Everyone would have an opportunity to pledge again, at whatever level they could.

Experience with the current campaign tells us that your pledges are highly reliable. No surprise there. We would be confident in using your pledged commitments under the "second mile" campaign as a solid foundation on which to move ahead, if they are a sufficient total amount.

Since we began the original FFF campaign, many new families have come to our church. Most have not had a formal opportunity to fully engage in the pledging process. A "re-launch" of the campaign into this "second mile" effort would help them do so.

We have grown, and so have our needs. But so has our giving capacity. For example, if 200 families give \$2000 per year for two years in a "second mile" campaign that would be \$800,000. If 200 families give \$2500 per year for two years, that would be \$1mm.

Some will be able to do more; some may not be able to do as much. But we need everyone's help. If the combination of cash on hand at the end of 2011 and new pledges received in the "second mile" campaign exceed \$2mm, based on what we know today, we can start to plan for a construction phase sometime in 2012. We'd ask you to begin now to seek the Lord with respect to how you might be involved in a "second mile" campaign.

These are interesting, sometimes dicey and exciting days. Yet, the Christian walk has never been for the faint-hearted. Let's persevere together and see this through. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Showing the Love of Christ



One tangible way we as a church show the love of Christ is by providing a meal for a bereaved family.

We will be updating our volunteer contact list over the next few weeks.

If you are interested and available to provide a dish for a meal or to help set up, serve or clean up please contact Marilyn Swaim.

Telephone: (859) 792-8473 ; or e-mail MJSwaim@windstream.net

Or, write "funeral meals" on the *Welcome* card at church and we will contact you.



PERSONAL FINANCE

by **Don Butterworth, Financial Peace University (FPU) Coordinator**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Nuclear disasters, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, snow storms, ice storms, terrorist attack, medical emergencies, job loss. As we have come to see lately, the potential for catastrophe is all around us. It can be so overwhelming that we get disaster fatigue and just stop listening, or preparing. Instead of putting our hands over our ears and going la, la, la, la, la, let's use these disasters to motivate us to get prepared.

It is a fact that within any 10 year period you are very likely to experience an unanticipated event that will cost \$7,000 or more. That is why the first steps in your financial plan should be to first establish a \$1000 emergency fund, then pay off all of your debts (except for the house) and then increase your emergency fund to 3 to 6 months of expenses. Personal financial emergencies are coming. Get ready.

It is also a good idea to prepare for natural disasters. They do happen, even in Kentucky. How about the flooding we had last year? Remember the ice storm we had just a few years ago? Are you ready if the lights go out? Here are some things you can do to prepare.

Start with communication. If a disaster strikes, cellular phone service may be disrupted, but texting has a better chance of making it through. If you have a "smart" phone, there is software you can download that can be useful. Some of these "apps" cost a nominal fee, while others are free. Consider downloading a NOAA app that gives you access to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather maps and alerts. Another app to consider getting is one that lets you broadcast your location with GPS coordinates.

An alternate means of communication, when cell phones do not work, is the old fashioned two way radio. For around \$40 dollars you can get a pair with a 26 mile range that includes NOAA radio. Beside NOAA you will also want an AM/FM radio and a flashlight. An emergency battery/solar/crank powered radio/flashlight/USB charger is also available for about \$40.00.

It is also a good idea to have at least a one month supply of non-perishable food on hand. Let's take a lesson from our Mormon friends. Because of the great persecution they experienced at the beginning of their movement, one of the disciplines many practice is to have a full years worth of stored food. Perhaps that much is overkill, but think of how much easier life would be if you experience a catastrophic job loss but had a three month supply of food.

If you ever visit Utah, you will find acres and acres of community orchards. Maybe we should consider planting more fruit and nut trees too. Although they can be challenging, there are all sorts of fruit bushes and trees that can be grown in Kentucky. Some nut trees to consider growing are Northern pecans, heartnuts, hickory nuts, Persian walnuts, American hazelnuts, and Chinese chestnuts.

For more information on emergency preparedness be sure to check out www.ready.gov.

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Wilmore Free Methodist Church

Vision Statement

A Community Reflecting the Vision
and Values of Jesus

Mission Statement

Wilmore Free Methodist Church
will faithfully offer
members and neighbors,
near and far,
the written Word of God,
the overcoming love of the Father,
the saving grace of Jesus,
and the transforming power
of the Holy Spirit.



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

July / August 2011

2011 Vacation Bible School

We had a fabulous time at the beach during VBS!
The halls were filled with around 250 kids and 135 hard-working volunteers.
The weather was great and we learned some answers to some BIG questions about Jesus.
A HUGE thank you to all who helped out that week and to
those who prayed for us! As Mac taught us - Woot! Woot!

