

# Casey UMC Newsletter

## July 2016

### Off The Cuff – July 2016

By Pastor Gary

The next to the last Thursday in May was when we learned of our new appointment to the Casey UMC, and I would venture a guess that many of you have been doing the same thing that Ella and I have been doing, and that is trying to become as familiar and get as much information about our new surroundings, environment, and folks as we possibly can before we actually arrive. Let's call this "doing our homework". After all, no one likes the thought of being caught off guard or seen as the one who is unprepared, and possibly ill equipped.

A thought that I have been having focuses on possibly shifting the importance of knowing everything before it happens. What if we started the practice of slowing down a little and truly embracing each moment as it arrives? Instead of having to know as much as we can know as early as we possibly can? Without question, there are going to be areas in our lives that require us to be prepared, and these situations insist that we participate in the practice of "getting ready". But does that have to happen in every area of our lives?

If truth be told, I don't think any of us are very accomplished in this practice of setting back and simply letting things unfold. In fact, I'm not too convinced that the majority of people would want to try it. Maybe the reasoning behind this is that most folk believe that whoever has the most information and knows the most will be able to have/or get the upper hand. And in our world today many believe that whoever has the upper hand or knows the most about someone or something has the greatest advantage.

You may hear me ask or say from time to time, "Who's Driving the Bus" which is really asking a question about "control". Most of us are a little reluctant to let someone else drive. Think about it, if you are "driving" you are the one that is most in control. If you don't believe me, then let me ask you why most folks who are over a "certain age" continually ask me to pray for them because their yearly driving exam is quickly approaching?

What I am proposing here will be seen by many as a counter cultural construct. WHAT! Ask people to walk by faith? (2 Cor. 5:7 - for we walk by faith, not by sight.)

Just think of all the opportunities that are going to be given to us by God. Think how wonderful it will be as we discover for the first time – together all that God is disclosing to us! Think about the new relationships that are going to be developed because of this new love that Jesus is offering us. Talk about "Good News"!

I have read and studied many, many theologians and theologies. The one that *fits my soul* best just happens to be the one which John (and Charles) Wesley developed. A theology that most probably was instituted and initiated by their mother. Most call this a Wesley Theology. Not only a "Methodist" theology (although the United Methodist Church embraces this thinking about how and who God is very deeply). I love the inclusivity and openness, the diversity as well as the simplicities that are found. I also am in love with the way we do what we do as we try to find God. The "Quadrilateral" makes sense to me...Scripture-Reason-Tradition and Experience are solid ways and great tools to help us find the language to talk about our God and for us to hear God's voice.

In short, I am looking forward to getting to know each one of you and enter into our new relationship in Christ without having to have any pre-tainted concepts, perceptions or predispositions.

The first verse to the great hymn "We Meet You O' Christ" is:

**We meet You, O Christ, in many a guise:**

**Your image we see in simple and wise.**

**You live in a palace, exist in a shack.**

**We see You, the gardener, a tree on Your back.**

Simply put, this is you and this is also Ella and I. We begin with a clean fresh slate. Sure we will each bring with us some other "stuff" it can't be helped. And some of it will be good. But let's not forget how Great God truly is! Let's take out time, embrace our introductions, keep an opened mind, always be willing to laugh at ourselves when the time arises, but through it all...grow in our love for God through Jesus our Christ.

As you are, I too shall stay;

Pastor Gary

[Welcome Pastor Gary!](#)

This Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have a welcome reception for Pastor Gary and his wife Ella form 9-10 a.m. in fellowship hall.

Join us as we meet, greet and begin our ministry together with them!

**Casey UMC at the Casey Food Pantry**

**Monday, July 18 4 p.m. to get the groceries in bags**

**Tuesday, July 19 1:30 p.m. to distribute the groceries**

**If you would like to help in this ministry of the church, sign up outside the office today!!**

## **Thank You**

A big thank you to all who helped with the free meal! The guys did a great job cooking and the gals with desserts. See you all in August!

Dear Casey UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation. Your kindness is greatly appreciated by all those who loved and cared for him.

Sincerely, Friends of Henry Mericle

Thanks to everyone that helped and attended our 2016 Surf Shack VBS!! What a great week with the kids! We couldn't have done it without you!!

**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
OR ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CASEYUMC.ORG](http://WWW.CASEYUMC.ORG)!**