Looking for Trouble

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” - James 1:2-4

Have you noticed that the villains always seem to have the best lines? In the movie, The Fifth Element, one of my favorite cheesy sci-fi Bruce Willis movies, the evil John Baptiste Emmanuel Zorg (enough biblical, Christian references there?), played by Gary Oldham, has a great line. He says, "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

I think his character liked to say this because he was generally trying to cause mayhem, kill people, ruin their lives, and unleash the Ultimate Evil in the universe (as all villains are prone to do). The saying has some truth to it. But, for Zorg, it was a justification for his evil life. The same could be said for many people today - this kind of attitude excuses indifference, complacency, callousness, injustice and evil.

I have been rereading the book of James. One of my favorite sections of this book is James 1:2-4. James writes about keeping joy when faced with trials and temptations. It almost sounds like the same sort of sentiment from the movie, but really they are not. The first saying, from the movie, is a very stoic, self-reliant justification for evil in the world (and often our participation in it). James' advice to Christians is very different. By placing our trust in God and relying on him for strength, for growth and for direction, we actually WILL grow and mature through the difficult times of life. Further, we can so completely rely on God's grace and love, that we can be joyful when we see difficult times ahead.

Is that an overstatement? Should we be saying, "Oh goody! Another miserable day! More rotten stuff is happening to me! I'm so happy!? Maybe that's a little over the top, but if we can move in the direction of seeing God's hand guiding us through those difficult moments, helping us deepen our faith and trust in him, helping our character and endurance grow, then perhaps we can see where James is trying to lead us.

Should we look for trouble in life? I don't believe we should. But, we needn't fear it either, because as we move through life in faith, acting in love and living in forgiveness, we can truly know that growth and blessings will come -- not on our schedule (chronos time), but on God’s schedule (kairos time).

So, don't fear the trouble that comes by living faithfully, for Christ and Paul both warned us that we may actually get ourselves into some hot water when we are doing Kingdom work! By God's grace, we become strong, we endure, grow and mature. And, as we grow stronger, we experience His Kingdom of grace, love and forgiveness, as it grows in and through us.

Blessings and peace. Pastor Karen Crawford
September Preaching Schedule

3 Labor Day – Rahab, Joshua and Caleb “From Harlot to Savior”
13th Sunday After Pentecost
Josh. 2:1-24, 6:17-25; Heb. 11:31; 13:2; Mt. 1:1-6a; Jms. 2:25

10 Grandparent’s Day – Paul and Titus: “Teaching Grace”
14th Sunday After Pentecost
Psalm 103:13-22; Titus 2:1-8, 11-15 (CEV)

17 Lois, Eunice and Timothy “Thank God for Generational Blessings”
15th Sunday After Pentecost  Steve Follrod, Preaching
2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-17; Exodus 20:6; Deut. 7:9

24 Nehemiah “Nehemiah’s Knees”
16th Sunday After Pentecost  Steve Davis, Preaching
Nehemiah 1:1-11

Meeting Schedules:

September

Trustees:  Sep 10 after service (FH stage CR)
SPRC:  Sep 12, 6:30 pm (L)
Worship:  Sep 20, 6:30 pm (L)
Ad Board:  Sep 18, 7:00 pm (L)
UMW:  Sep 11, 5:00 pm @ Linda Wil.’s

Dates to Remember in September

Sep  1  Be Kind Day  (Click on Links to find out about Holidays & Events)
Sep  2  VJ Day, WWII
Sep  3  Labor Day – Rahab, Joshua and Caleb
       “From Harlot to Savior”  13th Sunday After Pentecost
       9:45 Pre-service music; 10am Worship
Sep  4  Labor Day  OFFICE CLOSED
Sep  5  Men’s Prayer Breakfast: 6:30 — 7:30 am at Snider’s
       Redbud Co-op School: 10:00am-3:00pm (RH + K + PG
       Int’l Day of Charity
Sep  6  Praise Band Rehearsal: 5:15 — 6:30 pm (S)
       Full Moon
Sep  7  Ladies Retreat: 5:00 pm (FH + K)
       Athens Barbershop Chorus: 6:00 — 7:30 pm (FH)
       Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30—9:00 pm (S)

(Continued on next page)
Click on [Links](#) to find out about Holidays & Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td><strong>Health Screening/Flue Shots:</strong> 9:00 am—2:00 pm (Narthex + L)</td>
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<td><strong>International Literacy Day / Stand Up to Cancer Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 9</td>
<td><strong>Teddy Bear Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 10</td>
<td><strong>Grandparents Day</strong> – Paul and Titus: “Teaching Grace”</td>
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<td><strong>14th Sunday After Pentecost</strong> 9:45 Pre-service music; 10am Worship</td>
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<td><strong>Trustees Mtg.:</strong> after service (FH stage CR)</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Group:</strong> 12:30—1:30 (Youth class room)</td>
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<td>Sep 11</td>
<td><strong>UMW:</strong> 5:00 pm @ Linda Wilsons</td>
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<td><strong>911 Remembrance / Patriots Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 12</td>
<td><strong>Men’s Prayer Breakfast:</strong> 6:30 — 7:30 am  at Snider’s</td>
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<td><strong>Redbud Co-op School:</strong> 10:00am-3:00pm (RH + K + PG)</td>
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<td><strong>National Day of Encouragement</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 13</td>
<td><strong>Praise Band Rehearsal:</strong> 5:15 — 6:30 pm (S)</td>
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<td><strong>International Chocolate Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 14</td>
<td><strong>Athens Barbershop Chorus:</strong> 6:00 — 7:30 pm (FH)</td>
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<td><strong>Chancel Choir Rehearsal:</strong> 7:30—9:00 pm (S)</td>
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<td><strong>POW / MIA Recognition Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 14-17</td>
<td><strong>Clean Up The World Weekend</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>**Lois, Eunice and Timothy ** “Thank God for Generational Blessings”</td>
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<td><strong>15th Sunday After Pentecost</strong> 9:45 Pre-service music; 10am Worship</td>
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<td><strong>Marriage Encounter Group:</strong> 6—8:30 pm (FH + K)</td>
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<td><strong>Constitution Day / Citizenship Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 18</td>
<td><strong>Admin Board Mtg.:</strong> 7:00 pm (L)</td>
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<td>Sep 19</td>
<td><strong>Men’s Prayer Breakfast:</strong> 6:30 — 7:30 am  at Snider’s</td>
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<td><strong>Redbud Co-op School:</strong> 10:00am-3:00pm (RH + K + PG)</td>
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<td><strong>Coffee With the Pastor</strong> (New Members): 6:30—7:30 9m (L)</td>
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<td>Sep 20</td>
<td><strong>Praise Band Rehearsal:</strong> 5:15 — 6:30 pm (S)</td>
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<td><strong>Worship Mtg.:</strong> 6:30—8:00 pm (L)</td>
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<td><strong>Rosh Hashanah</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 21</td>
<td><strong>Athens Village Dinner:</strong> 6:00—7:30 (FH + K)</td>
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<td><strong>Athens Barbershop Chorus:</strong> 6:00 — 7:30 pm (L)</td>
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<td><strong>Chancel Choir Rehearsal:</strong> 7:30—9:00 pm (S)</td>
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<td><strong>International Peace Day (UN)</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 22</td>
<td><strong>Autumnal Equinox / Native American Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 23</td>
<td><strong>National Hunting &amp; Fishing Day / Public Lands Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 24</td>
<td><strong>Nehemiah “Nehemiah’s Knees”</strong> <strong>Steve Davis, Preaching</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16th Sunday After Pentecost</strong> 9:45 Pre-service music; 10am Worship</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Group:</strong> 12:30—1:30 (Youth class room)</td>
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<td>Sep 25</td>
<td><strong>Family Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Men’s Prayer Breakfast:</strong> 6:30 — 7:30 am  at Snider’s</td>
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<td>Sep 27</td>
<td><strong>Praise Band Rehearsal:</strong> 5:15 — 6:30 pm (S)</td>
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<td><strong>National Health &amp; Fitness Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 28</td>
<td><strong>Athens Barbershop Chorus:</strong> 6:00 — 7:30 pm (L)</td>
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<td><strong>Chancel Choir Rehearsal:</strong> 7:30—9:00 pm (S)</td>
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<td><strong>National Good Neighbor Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sep 29-30</td>
<td><strong>Yom Kippur / Sep 29 International Coffee Day / World Heart Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 30</td>
<td><strong>Family Health &amp; Fitness Day</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Tuesday Mornings
Breakfast and Bible Study
Each Tuesday @ 6:30 am
44 Elmwood
Contact: Mark Sn.

RICHLAND UMC
Worship Schedule:
Gathering Music @ 9:45
Praise & Worship Celebration @ 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School is available at 11:15 am

Adventure Land: After Children's Moment in Fellowship Hall
First Look is available from 9:45 to 11:30 for those wishing to use nursery service

Richland UMC Worship
Sunday mornings for Babies, Toddlers & Preschoolers
Nursery Hours: 9:45 to 11:30 am

Medical Outreach Ministry:
Thank you to all who have supported this venture so far this year.
We will be doing a fundraiser to provide ‘medical blankets’ for the homeless during the winter months.
These blankets will be given to the Sheriff’s Department who will distribute them to the homeless, especially those living in tent-cities in our area.

PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE
Please know that our prayer shawl ministry is alive & well. If you know someone who would like a prayer shawl, please contact Peete B. to make arrangements to have a shawl sent to you.

Fall Emmaus Walks
Are you interested in a spiritual boost? Have you wondered the next best step in your spiritual journey?
The Southern Ohio Emmaus community has spring and fall Emmaus Weekends, which might be for you! If you would like to be a part of weekend this fall:
Women’s Weekend: September 14-17, 2017
Men’s Weekend: October 12-15, 2017
Also, there are monthly Gatherings (worship experiences) the last Sunday of every month, 3pm, at The Plains UMC.
If you have any questions, please see Pastor Karen
Annual Conference Report, 2017

During the 2017 West Ohio Annual conference at Lakeside, there was a balance between church business, worship, and the revealing of our theme for the second term of Bishop Palmer. The West Ohio Conference (WOC) includes 1,568 clergy and 1,020 churches filled with 168,842 members.

Bishop Palmer spoke bluntly about issues pressing upon our denomination, such as gun violence and the abuse of, and addiction to, opiates. The Bishop challenged everyone in attendance to act with urgency in the communities we serve and to have conversations with our neighbors, community leaders and congregations. The theme for the Bishop’s new term is – BE NOT AFRAID, which is appropriate for us as Christians. We sometimes become fearful of trials and challenges, ultimately doing nothing instead of focusing on the power and majesty of the one who called us to be light in the darkness.

On the last night of conference, there was much to celebrate in the arena of vocational ministry. Five deacons and 22 elders were commissioned to serve in a provisional capacity at current or new appointments. Additionally, Elizabeth Heft was commissioned as a missionary to Palestine. In addition to celebrating those starting their ministry, we thanked 35 members of the clergy with a total of 884 years in ministry who retired from vocational ministry.

For the 5th straight year, the WOC paid 100% of its apportionment. Because of this achievement, the conference was awarded the 2016 Highest Total amount given to UMCOR and the 2016 Highest Total amount of Giving to the Advance with a total of $1,889,495.

The WOC launched Light the Way Campaign, which is focused on increasing the vitality of existing congregations and the development of new faith communities. This initiative received over $1.1 million in pledges and in cash from individuals, districts and churches.

During the session’s times of holy conferencing, members:

- Voted on 5 amendments to the denomination’s Constitution, including one that addresses discrimination against women and girls within the UMC.
- Approved apportioning $22.3 million for 2018, which reflects no change over 2017.
- Passed Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommendation for the continued offering of retiree health care and in the active health insurance plan.
- Passed limiting the maximum number of years of eligibility for all Equitable Compensations grants to 5 years per pastor or church.
- Affirmed the human rights of all migrants, immigrants, refugees and foreign students and others on extended visas to the U.S., and through its offices and congregations will seek to provide opportunities for such persons to attain legal status, if desired. The conference will actively oppose xenophobic, racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Christian and anti-Muslim threats.

Full reports are on the Ministry Table. Also, for more info. see: http://www.westohioumc.org/conference/news/annual-conference-2017-summary

Submitted: Chip G.

Coffee with the Pastor

Have you been thinking about church membership, but have some questions? Then coffee with the Pastor is where you need to be! On Tuesday evening, September 19th at 6:30pm, come and gather in the Lounge and have some coffee, tea or ice water, and a sweet treat, as you sit and hear about what RUMC has to offer, and how you can be involved. – Pastor Karen
Prayer needed for the World and Our Nation as we face many problems: violence, hunger, health care issues, global warming, lack of respect for others, lack of resources and work, greed among many...

Butch Skidmore—cancer treatments not going well
Rod Bowen—healing from surgery
Norma Ann Crist—Richard & Yvonne's S-in-L — passed away 8/19
Marilyn riley—in need of prayer
Anna Marie Counts—passed away—8/13
Bob Turner—tests for Parkinson's
Kathy Pittman—broken foot
Cindy Oliveri—back issues & physical therapy
Merlin Swart—fighting cancer
Vickie Cochran—head trauma, being watched
Danny Crawford — recovery/eye surgery
Gene (Ruth Mayer's brother)—Parkinson's disease
Suzanne Kohlmann — recovery from brain surgery
Dave Davis—pray for complete healing
Charlotte Jones — hospice care following stroke
Dorothy Cooley: hospice care @ Laurels
Skye: 5 month old — surgery on lt. eye, soon
Nancy Shaulder: surgery recovery
Patrick Crist—ACL surgery rehabilitation
Lil Collins—healing from surgery on wrist
Brenda Davis—Arthritis surgery recovery
Melanie Whalery—end stage cancer
Bowen Family—peace, strength, healing
Linda Wilson—recovery from surgery
Alex Tyre—recover from surgery
John Bedilion—new home—hospice care
Sarah Keaton—finished chemo; starting radiation
Matt, Ember and Shian and their families
Hailley Parsons—cancer surgery complications
Lois Ward—adjustment to new living arrangement
Lorraine—rare illness; medical management
Steve Pearson—Parkinson's disease
Larry Grossman—Barb Ward’s friend; cancer
Del Dodrill—ongoing struggle with illness
Charlotte Smith—stage 4 pancreatic cancer
Mary Longo—brain surgery recovery
Dan Abdella—continued progress in recovery
Bob Gleason—end stages of cancer

Our military members, family, and friends
Noah Davis, Grace Kirkland, Zach Isaac, Seth Shull, Rusty Henry, Brandon Follrod, Matthew Robinson

**September**

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<td>Kristina G.</td>
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<td>Jim Sil.</td>
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<td>Connor Coo.</td>
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<td>Mikayla Brad.</td>
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<td>Sarah Ab.</td>
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**September**

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<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Dante &amp; Cindy O.</td>
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<td>Roderic &amp; Janis Geh.</td>
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<td>Micah &amp; Emily Di.</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Kaitlyn H.</td>
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<td>Chad &amp; Samantha Col.</td>
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**In Sympathy**

Condolences to the family and friends of those who have passed on to dwell with Our Lord!
Richland UMC Groups

**Youth Group**—every other Sunday

Sep 10th & 24th  12:30 to 1:30 pm  
in Youth Room
Jump on board the train!

**Blood Drive:**  August 17

If you wish to pre-book/ volunteer for the next drive, just let me know by calling Diane T. @ 740 592-1688

Next Blood Drive: October 19

Community Center Blood Drive:  
Sept 11; need 100 units

**Greeting card ministry:**  On the Ministry table (or close to it) will be cards for all of the congregation to sign. These will be mostly for get well, recovery, encouragement, etc. though we may have a birthday card, retirement or new baby occasionally.

If you have cards with envelopes lying around that you do not plan to use would you mind donating them to our project. We especially like those with a scripture verse but that is not mandatory. Lay them on the counter top between the coat rack and the office door.

Any questions can go to Diane T.  740 592 1688.  Thank you.

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**FINANCIAL REPORT 2017**

Yearly:  $202,468  (weekly)  $3,894  
Behind Budget:  —  $ 25,000  
District Apportionments:  Up to date  
Conference Apportionments:  Behind 65%  

*The Budget deficit trend in 2017 is a serious matter.*

Thank you for your prayerful attention to the support of the work of the Lord through Richland UMC

Electronic giving cards are on the ministry table or available in the office. You can use that option when you travel, for you convenience, or one time gift. Keep this in mind for the summer—consistency is needed.

Mark Sn., Treasurer  * Steve Fol., Finance Chair

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**UMCOR:**

If you are wanting to give to UMCOR for the Texas flooding, please mark your envelopes & checks as “Texas Flooding”.

**Habitat News:**  We are very close to the $35,000 needed for the second Amesville build which will begin in November.

**Special Offering:**  
Habitat for Humanity during September.

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**Music News:**

**Chancel Choir News:**  
Weekly Rehearsal  
Thursdays @ 7:30—9:00 pm  (S)

**Praise Band:**  Weekly Rehearsal—
Wednesdays @ 5:15 —6:30 PM  (S)

**Youth Praise Band:**  Weekly Rehearsal — after worship service
UMW: September 11, 5:00 pm @ Linda Wil.’s

New Healing Ministry
Are you interested in seeing healing in your body, spirit and soul?
Are you wanting to learn more?
Are you willing to be involved in developing this Ministry?

Proverbs 4:20-22 says, “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life to those that find them, and health to all their flesh.” (KJV)

The Hebrew word for “health” in verse 22 is “medicine.” God’s WORD is medicine to all our flesh. Isaac Leeser’s translation of Exodus 15:26 reads, “I the Lord am thy physician.”

Many make the mistake of substituting belief in healing for the actual taking of God’s medicine – His WORD. They say, “I believe in healing” without actually taking the medicine. What good would it do for you to believe in food if you didn’t eat it? You would starve. What good would it do for you to believe in water if you didn’t actually drink any? You would die of thirst.

God’s WORD is His medicine. There are several parallels between God’s medicine and natural medicine.

1: God’s Word is a healing agent, just as natural medicine is a healing agent.
2: Medicine will work for anyone who takes it.
3: Medicine must be taken according to directions, to be effective.
4: Remember that it takes time for medicine to work.

Take your medicine. Read God’s WORD. Think on what you’re saying in your heart. Use them in praise to the Father. His WORD is medicine to all your flesh.

If interested, please speak to Pastor Karen, Chip G. or Steve Fol.

Membership Rolls:
During the next few months, the membership records of RUMC are being reviewed and updated. There are members that no longer live in the area, no longer attend or tithe. Our United Methodist yearly apportionments are based on our total membership numbers. We are currently paying for approximately 50 members who are not attending or tithing, resulting in a burden on our budget and our active membership. If you are attending somewhere else, or have a family member who is a part of a church elsewhere, and would like your membership removed or transferred, please send an email to:

daveandlilcollins@yahoo.com

Lillian Col.

Looking for singers and all types of Instrumentalists for the RUMC Musical Ensembles!

We are looking to grow our ensembles: to make them more diverse with talent and with a broader range of age.

If you have a musical talent and wish to join one of our ensembles or do solos and small occasional works, contact the Music Director.

If you know individuals from the community of Athens who might wish to join us, please direct them to the Music Director.

Music Director—
RichlandUMC Phone: 740-593-88541
Email: richlandumc@richlandumc.org