



Special points of interest:

- Montgomery Opelika Up-coming Events
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- Local Church events

Checking your Assumptions

By Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

I have developed a huge interest in Leader Development in the Church. I will be posting some information about this process in articles in the future. Please read them and share them with your Church leaders. The more we can learn about how we develop as Christian leaders, the more powerful and influential we will become in terms of forwarding the work of God's kingdom. Please let me know what you think about these articles, and provide any insight or information that you believe will be helpful to others. I will post it on our website so we can encourage other as we grow in learning, leading, and loving. Thank you for the good work you are doing. You are a blessing to me and to many.

Ron

Checking your Assumptions

By Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

Peter Drucker maintains that most organizational problems are not the result of groups doing things poorly but rather because the assumptions on which the organization was built, and on which it still runs, no longer fit reality. Could our congregations be taking for granted some things that were safe assumptions in the past,

but no longer fit? In a previous *Leading Ideas* article, "Do Our Assumptions Still Fit?," I listed common assumptions in church life that may require rethinking. Some additional ones follow:

☐ *If new people are really interested, they will join the church.* Many people today participate actively in church without joining. Some may never join.

☐ *New people will attend worship first, some will then join a class, and eventually some will participate in mission.* The sequence today may be just the opposite, especially for the young. Serving may be their entry followed by a small group and then worship.

☐ *Visitors will check out our doctrines and then decide to stay or go.* Beliefs and values are important and should be clear, but decisions about choosing a church are based far more on relationship and belonging. People are more interested in what you believe once they feel they belong.

☐ *Most new members will come from our denomination.*

There was a time when newcomers would find the nearest church of their denomination to attend. Denomination matters much less today while a church's vision, ministries, and relationships count for far more.

☐ *Guests will want to be recognized.* Some may, but many do not. There are multiple ways to show hospitality without public recognition.

☐ *People will attend a church near their home.* The distance people travel to church is getting greater. One example is that 25 percent of Roman Catholics who attend church go to a church outside their geographical parish.

☐ *Changing worship and study schedules for the summer helps change the pace.* Usually the change is primarily the presence of fewer people. As people attend church less often, schedule changes are more problematic, especially those that signal low expectations.

☐ *Lots of people are moving away.* Perhaps. But check your local figures to make sure. People moving from one state to another is at a 60-year low.

☐ *We know our community well.* Make sure you do because the longer a church is in existence, the less connected it tends to be to community changes. A new congregation, however, is likely to know the pulse of the community well.



Calendar

July 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 06:00 PM Frazer UMC Sunday Evening Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 06:00 PM Frazer UMC Sunday Evening Service	11	12	13 Potluck with a purpose Aldersgate UMC 5:30pm	14	15 Spiritual and Emotional "Care Team" Trainings	16 Spiritual and Emotional "Care Team" Trainings ERT Aldersgate
17 06:00 PM Frazer UMC Sunday Evening Service	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 06:00 PM Frazer UMC Sunday Evening Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 06:00 PM Frazer UMC Sunday Evening Service						

Prayer Needs

Please Pray For Us:

Our Nation, Our Leaders, Our Churches

To submit a Prayer request Please visit our website @ www.themontgomerydistricts.com

Prayer request: We are sorry to report that Mr. Freddie Winfred, father of Rev. Patsy Gibson, Bowen/Tuskegee First Charge, passed away yesterday, Sunday, June 12th, following a long illness.

Update:

Graveside Service - Friday, June 17, 2011 11:00 a.m. **Eastern Time
Evergreen Memory Gardens
4400 St. Mary's Road Columbus. Georgia 31907
(706) 687-0379

Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of grief and healing. You may send cards of love and concern to Patsy and her family at P. O. Box 565, Tuskegee Institute, AL 36087-0565

6-28-11

My sister Kerri Lawler Davis was hospitalized last night at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington DC. She is bleeding internally and undergoing test today, surgery to follow, she is in critical condition. I am leaving today to be with her.

Please keep her in your prayers. God's blessing on all you all Michael Lawler, Brundidge UMC

Update: 6/28/11 Update on Mrs. Dixie Grady, wife of Rev. Fred Grady, Maplesville UMC. She has been moved to a room and is doing much better. They still have not determined why she passed out last week.

MTOP Clergy Family Picnic



Date: Thursday, August 04, 2011

Time: 06:30 PM -

Location: Aldersgate UMC

Join us for a fun time of fellowship, delicious food and a very short meeting to receive your Charge Conference Packets

*****WE MUST KNOW***** how many are coming (you, your spouse, your children) and the age of anyone under 15 (for planning purposes)

RSVP by Thursday, July 28th, by registering on-line at www.themontgomerydistricts.com scroll down on the home page, or you can click on the calendar date; or by calling 334-239-7329; or e-mail

mtopds@knology.net

Local Church Needs

6-29-11

The Librarian at St. James UMC has lots of books that she would love to donate to a needy church or several churches. Some are new and some are pre-loved but all are suitable for a church. Please contact Nelda at nmg@knology.net if you would like to know more.

6/13/2011

If you will remember; Pentecost UMC in the Montgomery-Opelika District, burned last year. The congregation has decided to rebuild their church and have exhausted their funds.

They are now in need of pews, furniture, communion table, etc. If you have anything to help furnish this church, please contact them with the specifics and contact information. Ms. Julie Rogers at 334-750-4484 has been working to gather funds and materials throughout this process; contact her with any information you may have.

Thanks,
Linda

Local Church Job Posting

To submit a need or answer a need send email mtpods@knology.net or fill out the short form online www.themontgomerydistricts.com Help –A—Church Page. We post these needs on the website and Facebook, to maximize the potential for your need to be known. With lift these needs in Prayer and with faith God will provide what we seek to Glorify His name.

If you would like to submit an event to be placed in the monthly newsletter, please email it to mtpods@knology.net before the 15th of each month. We would love to feature what your church is doing. Community events like bible studies , Children and Youth functions, and special Services all help people find your church. These events are posted on the district calendar with any write ups about the event. Our newsletters are online and with google keywords, your events are searchable. Thanks for all you do!

Local Church Event:

Potluck with a Purpose

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 Time: 05:30 PM - Location: Aldersgate UMC

WHAT: Bring a dish and dessert to share. We will provide the tea. Stay for an interesting presentation by Chad Emerson, from the Hampstead Institute. He will give an overview of the redevelopment efforts that are ongoing in downtown Montgomery. The Hampstead Institute is committed to promoting sustainable growth through education, agriculture, and sustainable design. Dinner starts at 5:30pm Presentation at 6:00pm WHERE: Aldersgate UMC in the CAC Contact: khristencarlson@gmail.com

Spiritual and Emotional "Care Team

Date: Friday, July 15, 2011 Time: - Location: Blue lake

Disaster Response Spiritual and Emotional "Care Team" Trainings

Date: Friday and Saturday, July 15 & 16 Sponsored by the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Conference and the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Alabama-West Florida Disaster Response and Recovery Team for more information please visit our website @ www.themontgomerydistricts.com

ERT Aldersgate

Date: Saturday, July 16, 2011 Time: -

Aldersgate UMC, 6610 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, will be hosting the Disaster Training First Responder Course on July 16th. Rev Chris Perry will be doing the training. As always, the cost is \$25 and will cover the training, lunch, your handbook, t-shirt & badge.

RSVP to Rev Dave McKinney at Dave@aldersgateumc.org to register. Rev. Dave McKinney Minister, Outreach and Recreation Aldersgate UMC www.aldersgateumc.org 334-272-6152



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