

Morris

MEMORIAL

FEBRUARY 2022

What is Discipleship?

Are you a disciple¹ of Jesus Christ? Is it obvious in your walk of faith? Below is Bill Hull's definition of "discipleship" taken from his book *The Complete Book of Discipleship on Being and Making Followers of Christ*; a definition I believe we can use to make a personal judgement of self in our proclamation of being a disciple of Christ.

*"Discipleship isn't a program or an event; it's a way of life. It's not for a limited time, but for our whole life. Discipleship isn't for beginners alone; it's for all believers for every day of their life. Discipleship isn't just one of the things the church does; it is what the church does. It's not just part of the advancement of God's kingdom; the existence of serious disciples is the most important evidence of God's work on earth. Without enough workers, the task languishes and the whole work remains incomplete."*²

A question we might ask ourselves is how do we get to the point in our lives during our faith journey where we live, breath, and practice discipleship without hesitation? I'm glad you asked! This answer might help:

*"Through God's sanctifying grace we grow and mature in our ability to live as Jesus lived. As we pray, study the Scriptures, fast, worship, and share in fellowship with other Christians, we deepen our knowledge of and love for God. As we respond with compassion to human need and work for justice in our communities, we strengthen our capacity to love neighbor. Our inner thoughts and motives, as well as our outer actions and behavior, are aligned with God's will and testify to our union with God."*³

Please take this and chew on it awhile. Only you and God can determine where you are on your discipleship journey.

¹ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/discipleship> "a follower of the doctrines of a teacher or a school of thought"

² Hull, Bill *The Complete Book of Discipleship on Being and Making Followers of Christ* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2006), 24

³ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/teachers-as-spiritual-leaders-and-theologians>; Sanctifying Grace

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mondays:	9:30 a.m.	Nurture in Action
Wednesdays:	10:00 a.m.	MEC Chapel
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Thursdays	6:30 p.m.	Truth Project
Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	2:00 p.m.	Youth

February 1 - Trustees at 6:30 p.m.
February 3 - Church Council at 7:00 p.m.
February 8 - Finance Team at 6:30 p.m.
February 22 - PPRC at 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

Brian Silkwood	February 1	Lesa Eskew	February 11
Mark Hatfield	February 4	Alice Mount	February 13
Anthony Turley	February 6	Polly Stephens	February 16
Samuel Morris	February 6	Jamal Dillard	February 17
Gerald Nelson	February 7	Paul Arbogast	February 23
Ruth Ann Stigall	February 8	Karen Smith	February 23
Kathy White	February 10	Fayette Bowen	February 24
Bonnie Dworsky	February 10	Carolyn Ballard	February 25
		Darby Simmons Stone	February 25

Anniversaries:

Doris & Gael Morris	February 1	Linda & Bob Kendall	February 14
Dan & Carolyn Short	February 10	Ingrid & Roy Smith	February 24
Karen & Charles Winter	February 14		

What is the Morris Enrichment Center (MEC)?

It is a family of people of various ages, backgrounds, faiths, beliefs and lifestyles who come together to grow, encourage, develop, learn, teach, help one another, care for one another, love one another, and strive to show God's love in all they do and say. It is a nurturing environment, a ministry of Morris Memorial United Methodist Church. The youngest is at least six weeks old and the oldest is less than 100 years young. Lives are changed, friendships are formed, and sometimes patience is tested.

We are a blessed community and we share our gifts. We share gifts of food with Common Grounds. We share our blessings of financial grants with the church in providing paper products, cleaning supplies and equipment especially during the pandemic. We installed treads on the stairways so none of us fall. During the last couple of years our blessings have removed worn out carpeting and asbestos flooring, installing new flooring in six rooms of the church. Our cameras help make the church safe. Maintaining the kitchen equipment benefits us all. MEC has also assisted with funding toward repairs to the church building, telephone system, and pre-pandemic provided meals for church members who needed some assistance or were simply in the building for Bible study or a meeting.

Part of taking care of MEC involves becoming responsible to ourselves as well. An investment to make sure we can meet our financial obligations has been established. Currently the board is working to develop a scholarship fund for those who need extra help when life throws a curve. MEC invests in itself by encouraging the staff to take classes, become more educated about the children in our care, and improving themselves.

We have prayed for the church, staff & families when they needed it most. MEC has helped with coping skills in the loss of a parent, family member, or personal problems that may have arrived. It's not just a daycare in the usual sense of the word. It is a living, breathing organism that provides daily care!

Important News

Please don't forget that submissions for our Lenten Devotional booklet are due at the beginning of this month. The booklets need to be edited, printed, and assembled by Ash Wednesday, March 2. Please email all devotions to Jim Caudill at caudillfam@gmail.com.

COMMON GROUNDS NEWS AND NEEDS

Our Christmas celebrations are over and we've welcomed the year 2022! For many it has offered a chance to change their ways---whether it be dieting, exercising regularly, doing a random act of kindness each day, eating healthier, doing daily devotions, reading their Bible regularly, etc. It's a refreshing opportunity to improve. We at Common Grounds are always seeking ways to improve. We realize we have the opportunity to try to be change agents....one box of food at a time, one family at a time. You are an important part of that (if you wish). You may have noticed that when we suggest contributions for foods we suggest making healthier food selections, if possible. We realize that's not always possible and that is okay. Please know that we are so grateful for whatever donations you have for us. Genuine thanks for that!

As another year has begun we at Common Grounds reflect upon the blessings of this past year. The word "VOLUNTEERS" comes to mind. Common Grounds is sponsored by three churches and is operated entirely by volunteers. We would be amiss to forget to thank our outstanding volunteers from Morris Memorial! We have volunteers who collect food from our church and any other donating agencies and those who pick up pastries and breads from Panera on Wednesdays to be distributed on Thursdays when our outreach mission is open. We have people who check the expiration dates of incoming food and put them on the shelves readying them for distribution. We have people who make up small, medium, and large boxes of food to "fit" the size of the requesting families. We have people who greet the families, determine their eligibility, register them, and provide the boxes of food for them and/or requested utility help (limited).

We also have volunteers who collect boxes so we can make up boxes of food. We also have volunteers who serve on the Board and those who come to help on special occasions (ex: the day we distribute Thanksgiving boxes of food.) You who so generously share food with Common Grounds are volunteers as you voluntarily bring food for us to distribute to needy neighbors. Even with all these listed volunteers, this list is not exhaustive. Please forgive me if I have inadvertently omitted you; that does not diminish your importance to us. Our volunteers are INVALUABLE as we work together to do the Lord's work.

Speaking of volunteers, in January we are pleased to share that we welcomed three new volunteers from Morris Memorial this past month. What a glorious day! We look forward to enjoying our work together in the Lord's service each week at our outreach mission! What a blessing!

If you can help us this month, please bring CANNED SOUPS, BOXED OATMEAL, AND/OR CANNED FRUIT (preferably in its own juice). As you know we are grateful for whatever food you donate. Please place them in the woven trunk in the Narthex. If you would like to give a donation by check, please make the check out to Morris Memorial Methodist Church and in the bottom left-hand corner write Common Grounds. Thanks for sharing in whatever way(s) you choose! May God bless you beyond measure!

If you are interested in learning more about Common Grounds, have comments to share, or would like to volunteer with us, please contact Susan Vieweg, our Morris Memorial Common Grounds Coordinator, at (304) 344-2617 or (304) 549-6155. Thank you.

MMUMC Committees and Teams 2022

Church Council

Chair	Bill Vieweg
Chair of Staff-Parish Relations	Jim Kautz
Committee on Finance	Lynn Thompson
Chair of Trustees (elected by trustees)	Neal Stone
Financial Secretary	Lynn Thompson
Recording Secretary	Ann Kautz
Membership Secretary	Lenese Hickman
Lay Leader	Ed Eskew
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Robert Stigall
Treasurer (MMUMC/MEC)	Sarah Frail
President of United Methodist Men	Jim Caudill
Children's Ministry Coordinator	
Young People's Ministry Coordinator	Ryan Anderson
Chair of Christian Education Team	Karen Winter
Chair of Missions Team	Susan Vieweg
Chair of Worship Team	Ann Kautz
Chair of Morris Enrichment Center Board	Karen Winter
Scouting Coordinator	Jerome Hairston
Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator	Pam Higgs
Staff Director of Music Ministry	Larry White

Members at Large: Chris Terpening, Susan Vieweg, Scott Bellamy, and Dean Silkwood

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:	Neal Stone
Class of 2022	Mark Miller, Elizabeth Harrah, Matt Skiles
Class of 2023	Amanda Eads, Tim Basford, Scott Bellamy
Class of 2024	Jackie Frazier, Neal Stone, Pam Higgs

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chairs of Committee on Finance	Lynn Thompson
Treasurer (MMUMC/MEC)	Sarah Frail
Financial Secretary	Lynn Thompson
Chair of Church Council	Bill Vieweg
Chair of Trustees	Neal Stone
Chair Staff Parish Relations	Jim Kautz
Lay Leader	Ed Eskew
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Robert Stigall

Members at Large: Class of 2022: Mary Townson, Bob Wade
Class of 2023: Jim Caudill

COMMITTEE ON STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Chair	Jim Kautz
Lay Leader	Ed Eskew
Lay Member of Annual Conf.	Robert Stigall
Class of 2022	Mary Collins, Jerry Townson, Carolyn Gibson
Class of 2023	Jim Kautz, Carl Fletcher, Tim Basford
Class of 2024	Teresa Bellamy

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Chair	Pastor Ray Stonestreet
Lay Leader	Ed Eskew
Class of 2022	Mary Jo Nichols, Ann Kautz,
Class of 2023	Tim Basford, Cynthia Fletcher
Class of 2024	Michelle Stigall, Debbie Burdett, Dave Cole

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Ray Stonestreet
Chair	Ann Kautz
Director of Music Ministry	Larry White
Pianist	Bruce Reed
Organist	Judy Darr
Others	Deborah Burdett, Bill Collins, Mary Collins, Mary Jo Nichols, Jim Caudill, Marie & Dave Cole, Ashley Skiles, David and Sharon Byrd, Hilda Hedrick, Micki Bowles, Doris and Gael Morris, Ann Kautz, Carolyn Ballard, Karen Smith, and Teddi Smith

NURTURE “N” ACTION TEAM

Karen Smith, Teddi Smith, Carolyn Ballard, Bill and Mary Collins, Marie Cole, Mickie Bowles, Danny Baker, Judy Darr, Michelle Stigall, Deborah Burdett, Doris Morris, and Cathie Brown

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

Chair of Children’s Christian Education	Karen Winter
Director of Children’s Music Ministry	Candice Anderson
Co-Sunday School Superintendents	Cynthia Fletcher, Teddi Smith
Adult Sunday School Subcommittee:	Adult Sunday School Teachers
Children’s Sunday School Subcommittee:	Children & Youth Sunday School Teachers
Spiritual Formation Subcommittee:	Jim Caudill, David Byrd

OTHER OFFICES

Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference	Sharon Byrd
Lay Members to District Conference	Tim Basford and Sharon Byrd
Alternate Lay Members to District Conference	Carolyn Ballard

MISSION TEAM

Chair	Susan Vieweg
Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes	Candice and Ryan Anderson
Prison Ministries Angel Tree	Gloriann Caudill
Union Mission	Kay Brooks
Covenant House Adopt a Family	Adult Sunday School Classes
Undie Sunday	Sharon and David Byrd
Common Grounds	Susan Vieweg
Medical Mission Trips	Jim and Gloriann Caudill
Community Outreach Dinners	Mark Miller, Gloriann Caudill and Marie Cole
Crop Walk/Heart and Hand	Sharon and David Byrd
Kairos Ministries	Barney Frazier and Jim Caudill
Habitat for Humanity	Bill Vieweg
Univ. of Charleston (feeding athletes during dorm closure)	United Methodist Men

WITNESS TEAM (under development for 2022)

Chair	Mark Miller
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FAMILY MINISTRIES TEAM (under development for 2022)

Chair
Church Fellowship Dinners, First Friday Dinners, Movie nights, game nights, retreats, etc.

MORRIS ENRICHMENT CENTER BOARD

Voting Members

Chair:	Karen Winter
Class of 2022	Darby Simmons-Stone, Ed Eskew
Class of 2023	Mickie Bowles
Class of 2024	Barney Frazier, Karen Silkwood

Parent Representatives:	Angela Oldham, Leslie Rader
Trustee Representative:	Neil Stone

Non-Voting Members:

Treasurer:	Sarah Frail
Director:	Georgeanne Leake