



# This week at Mission Bell

## Monday, September 4, 2017

### Pastor's Pontification

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#### "Stories"

Ethel is in the process of sorting, saving and disposing of old photos. Our sons told her, "Don't save pictures of scenery or people we don't know, because when your gone, we are not saving them." So she's preparing to scan the photos of family and friends and save them on flash drives. The task looms large before her, for we are the beneficiaries of my mother's photo albums (black/white and colored pictures) as well as fifty years of accumulated photos.

While going through my mother's albums, she ran across photos from 1933. My father was stationed in Tennessee at a Civilian Conservation Corp camp and worked on the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Civilian Conservation Corp was a public work relief program for unemployed, unmarried men from relief families and it was a part of the New Deal. My father became a CCC because he was trying to support his mother and seven siblings.

As I looked at the pictures, memories flooded my thoughts. From the time I was eight or nine years old I rode with my father as he made deliveries for the Binghamton-Ithaca Express. We would travel to small hamlets, towns and cities. All along the way I would quiz him about his childhood, young adult years and things he recalled from the past. Riding the truck with dad was my introduction to 'story-telling'. The photos jarred memories of a man who was my father and the best man at our wedding. He lived from 1912 to 1970.

Stories are the way we connect the past to the future. Stories are a method of conveying the momentous as well as incidental experiences in our lives. Each person's personal story is significant to our human existence.

Last Lenten Season, Ron Folkwein and I taught a class from a book entitled *Think, Act, Believe Like Jesus* by Randy Frazee. The book is written as a step-by-step guide by which the reader is trained to tell his or her personal story of conversion. In my experience, most folks new to the Christian faith find their way to Christ through the stories of other Christians. We can preach the Gospel every Sunday, as well we should, but the thing that brings people through the door of the church are stories told by folks who were lost, lonely and disillusioned until they heard someone else's story of finding joy and peace in Jesus Christ.

Mission Bell will continue to disciple folks of Jesus Christ as long as its members tell their personal stories of finding love, joy, and peace in Jesus Christ. Remember, the key to sharing your story is the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Through the Holy Spirit each person has the ability, gift and strength to tell their story; a story which someone else needs to hear. So, tell your story loud and proud.....someone is waiting to hear it!

### Dinner Group Potluck

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Dinner Group Kick Off is a potluck on Sunday, September 10 at 12:30 at Mission Bell. All members of the Dinner Group and guests are invited. We suggest you bring Sandwiches, Salads, finger foods or dessert.



Everyone brings something to the table

### What's Happening This Week

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**Birthdays:** Brooke Lentz 9/6, Cynthia Reid 9/7, Kevin Ehlers 9/8

**Have we missed** your birthday or Anniversary? Please notify the office of any changes.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** BEGINS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at **8:57** am.

Detailed information on the second page of this Newsblast or Check the signage in the Narthex for classroom assignments.

Bell Ringer 2.0



## Mission Bell UMC

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Worship begins at 10 am

Sunday School begins at 8:57 am

and runs until 9:45 am



Sunday School resumes September 10

Hey!

New Adult Class

Guess What?

We'd love to have you join us!

# Sunday School will resume

Sunday September 10

At 8:57 to 9:45 am

New times 8:57 - 9:45

Lively Discussions

Adult Class - grab a cup of coffee and join us in the choir room for "lively discussions" on core Bible teachings as they relate to today's world (not your typical Adult S.S. So come check us out.

Check us out!

How the Bible relates to teens in their world

Junior High & High School - in Room 2

Discussions on how the Bible relates to teens in their world

Children of all ages

(pre-K through 6th grade)

Room to be announced -  
Come join us for Bible stories and crafts

Bible stories & crafts