

A Few Short Words... by Pastor Phillip Short

What will the new year bring? It will bring a new structure and emphasis. It is entitled “The Methodist Way.” What is “The Methodist Way”? It is five areas that we as Christians and Methodists concentrate upon so as to make a proper and effective response to Christ. These five areas are:



PASSIONATE WORSHIP—We as believers of Jesus Christ should be prepared to worship Him with a zeal and a passion, out of a sense of honesty, humility, and true thanksgiving. The recently completed renovation of our sanctuary should help in this area immensely.



RADICAL HOSPITALITY—We as believers in Jesus Christ should welcome all people to the new life in Jesus Christ. Beyond mere welcoming, we should care for people in the way of responsible Christian discipleship. So radical hospitality will welcome people on Sunday morning, but it will also visit the infirmed in the hospital throughout the week.



INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP— The Stuart First United Methodist Church will continue its emphasis on The Great Commission by making disciples of Jesus Christ. We get to know what Jesus said, what He taught, what He offers, and how He loved. Torch and the rest of the Discipleship Work Area have put together an impressive offering of courses for this winter. Read about it in this edition of *The Steeple Echoes*.



SALTY SERVICE— This is another expression of missions. The Stuart First United Methodist Church has a great tradition of being strong in this area with our Mission House, Manna Kitchen, and our missions emphasis in the youth, Band of Brothers, and United Methodist Women. This involves serving others and working for justice and earth care (ecology).



EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY—This implies giving away money. And I know that these are hard times. So the Stuart First United Methodist Church will understand extravagant generosity in terms of Christian service and volunteerism. This is why the Administrative Council has voted to form “E.V.O.T.” This stands for “Every Volunteer Organizational Team.” Yes, we have volunteer coordinators that want to see everyone who has a calling and a passion get involved in the service of the church. Please look to the website: www.stuartfumc.org and take the volunteer survey to get involved.

So there you have the five portals of the Methodist Way. Please know that our church staff is now organized around these portals. Also know that we will be making sure that all of our sermons, programs, ministries, and out-reaches are built on these portals. We will be measuring our successes and failures in this area. We will even introduce a series of sermons so that we can introduce these to the congregation.

I am hopeful and enthusiastic about this new season in the life of the church!

>< Love! Pastor Phillip