

Thought Provoking Article

This week I received a thought provoking article from a professional resource that specifically address a common church problem. The suggestions in the article are certainly helpful to me as a Pastor, but also apply in most any area of life. With the hope that some of you may find it helpful, I received permission to print article in our bulletin this week. It comes from Mark Tidsworth, President of Pinnacle Leadership Associates.

Congregational Bullying

Congregational Bullying Statement:

"If you don't change _____, then I will stop giving or stop participating."
Translation: "If you don't play my game my way, then I will take my toys and go home."

Bullying is in the news. Anti-bullying programs and books for middle schoolers abound. Many parents and young persons are glad the topic is finally getting attention. But clearly, the halls of our schools and pages of social networking sites don't have exclusive rights to bullying behavior. What about congregations?

Due to the democratic, volunteer, and love-based nature of congregations, they are the perfect organization wherein bullies can thrive. Usually there are just a few in a congregation, or sometimes only one. Typically bullies in congregations are shocked to learn others see them this way. Their behavior may even be motivated by noble concern, yet their actions are disrespectful, condescending, and demanding.

Bullying behavior in congregations fall into various categories. Perhaps these are familiar. Unfortunately, these are collected from our conflict management consulting in congregations.

Threats

"If you don't change the worship service back to the way I want it, then I will _____."

"If you don't resolve this personnel matter the way I think is necessary, then I will _____."

Personal Attacks

"You have not had enough real life experience to be an effective lay leader in this church."

"You don't know what it's like to have to make payroll, so you are ineffective in managing the finances of this church."

Controlling Behavior

"I stood back and watched, and see what happened? Now we are going to take this church back."

"However it gets done, I'm going to get you out of your leadership position."

Insulting or Paternalistic Statements

"If you were a real Christian, you would be a _____(insert any political party)."
"That woman is way out of her league in trying to lead this group."

So what are clergy and church staff to do when bullying behavior is active and tolerated in a congregation? There are no perfect answers, but the following are places to begin.

First, remember Family Systems Theory. For bullies to exist in this system, the rest of the system must allow them to do so. Ask yourself what the pay-off is for the rest of the church by allowing bullies to do what they do. Also, be aware that if this bully or bullies go away, unless the system changes, others will rise up and fill their shoes due to the system's homeostasis.

Continued on the back.

Second, ask the right questions when the bullying behaviors occur. Is this what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Is this how Christ calls us to be church to one another? Is this what Christ gave his life for? Do we aspire to continue or repeat this kind of behavior? Is this the way we want to do relationships in this body of Christ?

Third, avoid direct confrontation. This is not a fear-based response; but a wisdom-based response. When the system is tolerating the bullying behavior, this means it's not ready or willing to stop the behavior. When the pastor takes on the bully toe to toe, then the bully is excited, because pastors are more expendable parts of the system. When the pastor takes on the bully, then the pastor is crawling out on a limb, inviting the bully to saw it off. This is a way to guarantee the immaturity of others in leadership.

Fourth, empower the silent majority. This is where the greatest growth and congregational maturity can take place. In the book Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Goleman's team describes research about the powerful influence of one's peers. Most likely, many people in the congregation and on the lay leadership team are tired of the bullying. They wish someone would do something. As a pastoral leader, these are the people who are ready to change. Invest in them, helping them to find and strengthen their voices. When the laity in the congregation develop the strength to address the bullying, then real change is about to happen. When you hear them saying, "That's not how we treat each other anymore around here," then you know lasting congregational maturity is happening.

When bullying behavior in congregations is identified and addressed, God's Spirit is less constrained and more free to lead us forward in mission and ministry.



Two Pianos /Eight Hands

Concert

Today @ 4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Lenten Organ Meditation

Wednesdays at Noon
March 21 and 28

The concerts are free.

Music for the Passion of Our Lord

Hymns, anthems, and scripture with
Chancel Choir, soloists, and members of
the Long Bay Youth Symphony
on Sunday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m.

March 30-31

Our youth group is doing World Vision's
30 Hour Famine. We don't think it's right that
thousands of kids are dying from hunger every
day. So we're doing something about it.



First United Methodist Church

1001 Fifth Avenue
Conway, South Carolina 29526
(843) 488-4251 www.fumcconway.org

March 18, 2012
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Invocation

Voluntary "Allegro Maestoso" (from **Water Music Suite**) G.F. Handel
Piano Quartet

* Chiming of the Trinity

* **Hymn 364** "Because He Lives" *Resurrection*

* **Affirmation of Faith** "The Apostles' Creed" *No. 881*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

for Hailey Ann Norris daughter of Eric and Jenna

Introduction to the Service

Thanksgiving over the Water

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Baptism with Laying On of Hands

* Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God, I commend Hailey to your
love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm
her hope, and perfect her in love.

*We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we
welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in
the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist
Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the
ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and
our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus
Christ.*

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit
that you may live in grace and peace.

Announcements

Welcome and Announcements

Mission Minute Toby White

Call to Prayer “Surely the Lord Is in this Place” Herbert Colvin

Wesley’s Covenant Prayer

from John Wesley’s Covenant Service, 1780

I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory Variation on “Now Thank We All Our God” Robert Lind

Offertory Anthem “O Lord My God” S.S. Wesley

* **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings** Doxology No. 95

Children’s Moment “Operation Overboard” Mr. Mac

Children ages three through third-grade may go to Children’s Church in room 123.
 Nurseries provided for infants through 3 years in rooms 118 & 120.

* **Hymn 297** “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” *St. Christopher*

Scripture Mark 15:1-15

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon “wishing to satisfy the crowd...” Rev. Mac Kinnet

* **Hymn 327** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” *Diademata*

You are invited to the altar during the singing of this hymn.
 Kneel...commune with God...return to your pew when ready.

* **Benediction and Choral Response**

* **Chiming of the Trinity**

* **Voluntary** “Toccatà in E minor” Johann Pachelbel

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory
 of our mother, Mamie Jenkins, on her birthday
 by Churchill Jenkins and George Jenkins with their families.

Evening Service in the Hut
 Reverend Ken Land, speaker

Special Thanks

Thank you so much for all of the visits, cards, calls and especially the prayers during Ken’s hospital stay and surgery. Please continue to keep him in your prayers as he recovers. It is so awesome to have such a wonderful church family! Thank you again, the Ken Senn family.

Crossing the Jordan

“Crossing the Jordan” meets at 9:45 a.m. in the second floor Commons area.
 Next week: Women of the Well vs. Renegades!

Worship Committee and Church Council

The Worship Committee will meet on Monday, March 19 at 5:45 p.m. in the FLC. The Church Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the FLC

Wednesday Evening at FUMC

Wednesday evening meal at 5:30 in the FLC. **The menu will be:** Chicken bog, green beans, rolls, salad bar and dessert. \$5/pp or \$15/family. At 6:15 p.m. the Mickey Efird Bible study, the book of Acts, will be held in the Jr. High room.

Lenten Luncheons

The next Lenten Luncheon will be on Thursday, March 22 at Noon. First Baptist Church will be hosting and Rev. Mac Kinnett will be the speaker.

Altar Flowers

The flowers for the altar are provided by families in the church as a gift and are not a budgeted item. The flower calendar is located in the Narthex. Please sign up today!

VBS Donations

VBS will need lots of empty paper towel rolls. Please leave your donations with the Outreach Collections, first floor Commons Area.

CAP Food Needs This Week:

Rice or dried beans.

Stewardship and Attendance	Birthdays this Week
Operating Fund 8,103.84	March 20
BBCS 2.00	Jan Gawith, Patrick Carter
Good Samaritan 110.00	
CAP 35.00	March 21
Lent Offering 25.00	Dick Sayre
Music Discretionary 319.96	
Lily 180.00	March 22
Lily Child 95.00	Meredith Schlaefer
Red Bird Mission 100.00	
Building Fund 756.66	March 23
Total 9,727.46	Janet Roche
	March 24
Sunday School 139	Andy Hendrick
Morning Worship 211	
Evening Service 17	March 25
Lenten Organ Meditation 37	Anne Marie Martin, Chad Steinfield
Wednesday Night 57	

CAP Food Items Collected

8

Help4Kids “Snack-Pak” Project

Our Goal: 2200 cans

Beanie-Weenies	332
Vienna Sausage	1327
Total	1659

Serving This Sunday, March 18

Altar Guild: Wilmarie Boatwright, Callie Timbes and Peggy Turnes
Counting Committee: (Monday): Maxine Dunn, Margaret Thompson
Trustee Duty: Jim Edwards
Sound Technician: Lee Hickman / Charles Hucks
Ushers: Mark Brooks (Head Usher), Jim Edwards, Chad Hardwick, Tommy Harper, Billy Jones, Bennie Land, Britt Stiltner, Brad Todd, Jon Hayes, Alex Todd
Nursery Volunteers: Amanda Roof, Sallie Goldfinch, Caroline Todd
Children’s Church: Lynn Hammond
UMYF and Children’s Program: Neal Hendrick
UMYF Meal: Patrick and Julie Carter

Serving Next Sunday, March 25

Altar Guild: Wilmarie Boatwright, Callie Timbes and Peggy Turnes
Counting Committee: (Monday): Maxine Dunn, Margaret Thompson
Trustee Duty: Jim Edwards
Sound Technician: Lee Hickman / Charles Hucks
Ushers: Mark Brooks (Head Usher), Jim Edwards, Chad Hardwick, Tommy Harper, Billy Jones, Bennie Land, Britt Stiltner, Brad Todd, Jon Hayes, Alex Todd
Nursery Volunteers: Jill Nelson, Candace Baxter, Erin Todd
Children’s Church: Sharon Schlaefer
UMYF and Children’s Program: Neal Hendrick
UMYF Meal: TBA

This Week at FUMC

Sunday, March 18

9:30 a.m. Clips in the Commons / Upstairs
 9:45 a.m. Coffee in the Commons / Downstairs
 9:45 a.m. Crossing the Jordan / Upstairs Commons
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. The Hut Bible Class / Broadcast 100.9 FM
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship / Sanctuary
 4:00 p.m. Two Pianos / Eight Hands Concert / Sanctuary
 5:30 p.m. UMYF and Children’s Program / FLC
 6:00 p.m. Evening Service / The Hut

Monday, March 19

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
 5:45 p.m. Worship Committee
 7:00 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, March 21

12:00 p.m. Lenten Organ Meditation
 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. Evening Fellowship Meal
 6:15 p.m. Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 22

10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study

Prayer Concerns

Waccamaw Rehab: Bobbie Davis

Assisted Living Facilities: **Kingston:** Ruth Anderson; **Conway Manor:** Edith Lewis;
Agape Senior Living: Gladys Alexander, **Laurinburg, NC:** Carolyn Cox;
Cornelius, NC: Helen Wakefield; **Zephyrhills, FL:** Faye Perrault

At Home:

Jane Gore, Bonita Smoak, Ken Senn, Libby McCutcheon, Charles Dusenbury, Julia Land, George Kyzer, Gwen Mishoe, Mildred Jones, Diane Rodwell, Wallace Singleton, Tootsie Atkins, Frankie Hart, Tommy Jordan, Irene Calhoun, Gene Grace Holbert, Ruth Thomas.