

INFORMED

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CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

Discovering Spiritual Gifts

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

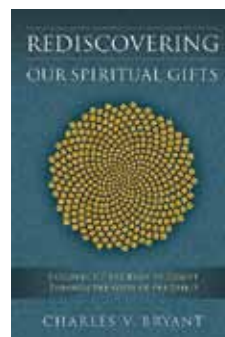
We have all been given something from God that makes us unique. Think about that for yourself for a moment. What is the thing you do that helps you feel close to God, like you are serving your neighbor, like you are loving God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength?

In his book “Wishful Thinking,” Frederick Buechner says, “There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Super-ego, or Self-Interest.”

One of the ways in which we discover our calling as Christians—not as professionals or workers but as children of God—is through discovering our spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are many and there are examples of them throughout the history of Christianity. They are not all the same but they all serve the same purpose and that is building up the body of Christ.

Over the month of July we have a sermon series on spiritual gifts. Throughout the month you will have opportunities beyond worship to learn your spiritual gifts and begin to study them and how they might be used for God’s kingdom. A workbook will be given to every member who wants one, free of charge. We just ask that when you take the spiritual gifts inventory you let me know your results. This will help in the ways that we serve the church. Leadership just doesn’t happen on committees or on Sundays. We lead and serve every day. I hope that you will take the time to pick up the workbook on Sundays or during the week when the office is open. A book, “[Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts](#)” by Charles V. Bryant, is a good companion and will help you dig deeper.

I pray for you and our congregation during this time of discovery and growth. May God bless us as we serve together.



Did you know?

- Resources on race and prejudice and how to talk about it with others are available. An online version for families is offered [by clicking here](#) or you can find it printed in the children’s packets on Sunday mornings. Adult resources are available at [cokesbury.com](#). Questions? Contact Rev. Carson Thaxton or Rev. Allyson Lawrence.
- Worship services have resumed in the sanctuary. When you feel comfortable to return, [please follow these guidelines](#). Services are offered at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. with the sanctuary doors at the narthex opening 15 minutes before each service.
- Online links to all worship services are available at [FayettevilleFirst.com](#). We anticipate live streaming in the near future.
- The **church office** is open:
 - Monday through Thursday:** 9 a.m. to noon; 1 to 3 p.m.
 - Friday:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Closed July 3 for holiday.*

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FFUMC and Square Foot Ministry Reaches Out

Florida's Panhandle took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael in October 2018. Since that time, people have been trying to rebuild their lives. Square Foot Ministry is partnering with America's Home Place and the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church to rebuild houses in Port St. Joe, Florida. Thanks to the efforts of around 30 volunteers, half of them from this church, one man will have a new home by the middle of July. Volunteers came out Saturday, June 27, to build the walls for a 700-square-foot house in the parking lot of FFUMC. These walls will be transported to Port St. Joe and assembled next week, July 7-10. Square Foot Ministry volunteers will raise the walls of the house, put the roof on, and get it ready for electricity and plumbing to be installed. Needless to say, this man is "giddy with excitement" about his new house according to one of the contacts in Port St. Joe.



*Becoming
tools of God's
love one
square foot at
a time.*