

# The Lighthouse

Rev. R.L. 'Rick' Barnett  
www.edgertonchurch.com

**EDGERTON & EMANUEL UMC**

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Pastor: rev@saa.net  
Secretary: eumcsec@gmail.com

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Church office: 419-298-3243  
Pastor's cell: 419-783-8168

## New District Superintendent Announced



On February 9, 2014, the WOC announced the appointment of Rev. Barry R. Burns as the Conference Superintendent to the Northwest Plains District, effective July 1, 2014. Rev. Burns will be replacing Rev. Stephen Bennett, who is retiring on June 30.

Rev. Burns was raised in Lima where he and his family attended Sharon Park United Methodist Church. Ordained an elder in the West Ohio Conference in 1990, he currently serves as lead pastor at Community United Methodist Church in Circleville. Prior to that he served at Bluelick and Ridge United Methodist Churches, was an associate at Shawnee United Methodist Church, and led Asbury in Toledo and Lindenwald in Hamil-

ton. Barry received a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary.

Having served in a variety of church settings, Barry brings with him the ability to come alongside congregations whether they are a small rural two-point charge, an urban congregation or a large community church, as they discern and live out God's vision for transforming ministry. His passion is to see a congregation move from inward to outward focus, engaging the world outside the walls of the church.

Barry and his wife, Julie, have been married for 25 years and have four children (two sets of twins). Two are third year students at Ohio Northern University, two are graduating from high school this spring and heading off to college.

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## 57 Cents That Made a Big Difference

I recently received an email with a sad, but amazing story, which it said was true. I decided to share it in this newsletter; but as I was researching, searching for additional information, & possibly a picture, I came across an article telling the real story– the one in the email was a mixture of truth, with some exaggerations & some details changed to make it seem more dramatic. So I decided, instead, to share the story as told by Dr. Russell H. Conwell (who was the pastor), in his book, *“Acres of Diamonds”*:

Pastor Conwell told of seeing a young girl turn away from a Sunday School classroom, crying because there was no more room in the class for her. Taking her by the hand, he walked her into the room & helped find a place for her, telling her as he did that someday they would have a classroom with plenty of room for all the children who wanted to come to church (there had been discussions about building a bigger church, but no real plans had been made, because there was no money to begin the process).

Unbeknownst to Dr. Conwell, the little girl when home that day & told her family she wanted to save money to build a larger church. They indulged her, letting her do errands around the house to earn a little bit of change.

Only a few short weeks later, the little girl became ill and died. At her funeral, the father quietly shared with the pastor that she had been saving money to build a larger church, and handed the pastor what she had collected so far– .57¢, all in pennies.

At a meeting of the trustees, the pastor shared the story, telling them that they had their first donation towards the proposed building fund. The trustees seemed impressed, but he didn't realize just how impressed they were. Only a few days later, one of those trustees went to the pastor and told him he thought that Broad Street would be an excellent location to build their church; and that

there was a piece of land for sale on Broad Street, so the pastor went to talk with the landowner. The landowner was not a church member– in fact, he wasn't a churchgoer at all. But he listened to the pastor's story about the little girl's gift to the church. The landowner was touched by the story, and agreed to sell the land to the church for \$10,000, with an initial payment of just .57¢, and with the remainder of the balance standing on a 5% mortgage!

Soon, the church came to own the land free and clear, because someone gifted them the \$10,000 to buy the land. There is no mention of who, or how it came to be.

The email tells that a generous realtor sold them the land for .57¢, but we see that only the down payment was .57¢; the actual price was \$10,000.

The email story also talks of the media reporting the story (which brought in donations from all over), and that the congregation gave generous donations. There is no way of knowing if any of those facts are true.

What we do know from this story was that this little girl's generous gift set in motion the events that led to this large church being built– something that had only been a dream before... How often do we make plans, or talk about dreams, but not follow through with them? God wants his church to be a church of action. Not just talk the talk, but walk the walk...

We aren't merely supposed to be followers of Christ, but to be disciples of Christ. Being a disciple of Christ means leaving the comfort of the church and going out and ministering to others in word and actions. This little girl's actions prove that you are never too young or old, and no gift is too small to accomplish great things.

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The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been identified as "Subsequential Internal Non-morality," more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

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1. Love
2. Joy

3. Peace
4. Patience
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Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (BEST Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

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3/12 Wade Lutterbein  
3/13 Neal Imm  
3/26 Corey Haury (Sr)  
3/30 Judy Ludwig  
3/31 Lynne Grandey



Kerry & Darcy Carnahan	Melanie Hall
Wendy Karcher	Gretchen Prichard
Karlyn McPike	John Weller
Joan Riehle	Baby Kye
Tom Nichols	Patsy Koerner
Tanya Likens	
Family & Friends of Helen Ryan	
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### Edgerton Liturgists

**3/2**– Denise Farnham (communion)  
**3/9**– Janice Hill  
**3/16**– Shawn Kill  
**3/23**– Denise Farnham  
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*Eileen Word*  
&  
*Mary Nelson*  
**At Emanuel**

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*Coffee Hour*  
 *Eileen Word*  
&  
*Mary Nelson*  
**At Emanuel**