In August of 2008 I started my first semester at the University of Evansville. A short time later I joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and started making friends and memories I will never forget. I also learned many lessons that I still carry with me today. One of those lessons is one that many churches and individuals would be wise to consider.

When I pledged ΣAE they were in the process of eliminating hazing from the pledge program. The seniors my freshman year were the last group to go through things like waking up at 4 am to clean the stairs of the fraternity house with toothbrushes. Activities like this were longstanding traditions within the fraternity and more than a few of the older members were not pleased that they were being taken away.

However, the leadership of the fraternity realized that hazing was not actually useful for building relationships and forging brotherhood. They reexamined what we were doing and why we were doing it in order to guide the fraternity toward living its stated mission and goals.

One of our guiding mottos in my time with UE's ΣAE chapter was, “Just because we’ve always done it that way doesn’t mean that’s the right way to do it.” This lead to careful examination of our practices, which lead to making changes, which in turn lead to chapter growth and culminated in winning the Zeal award, denoting the best chapter in the nation, from Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s national leadership.

Many churches today could benefit from a similar motto. Like ΣAE, I have seen many churches continue traditions that do not contribute to their stated mission and goals. I have seen churches resist changes that could better serve their members and surrounding communities for the sake of tradition and preference. I have seen many churches afraid to say, “Just because we’ve always done it that way doesn’t mean that’s the right way to do it.”

I’m proud of Ridge for taking the leap and changing service times and I’m excited to be a part of the Ridge family through this process. I know that it is hard to change the way things have been done and it is scary not knowing if the desired result of the change will occur but it’s also invigorating as we make intentional changes to move closer to Christ on a communal level through our weekly worship.

I’d like to encourage you to adopt the motto “Just because we’ve always done it that way doesn’t mean that’s the right way to do it.” Careful examination of our practices and habits is necessary for organizational and personal growth. Where can this benefit our church and where can it benefit your personal life?

I look forward to following Christ with you.

Paden Gullquist
Dear Ridge Family,

Thank you for your letters and gifts for our wedding! Your generosity and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated. You have made us both feel welcome and loved in our time here and we look forward to many more years with you. Thank you for being a part of our journey!

Paden and Katie Gullquist

Dear Ridge Church Friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers and concerns before and after my surgery. Also, many thanks for all the wonderful cards I received. They all put a smile on my face, even with the pain, knowing so many cared. May God bless all of you.

Barbie Smith

Clester, Doug, Brad & Wendy Goins

CONGRATULATIONS
Phillip and Lindsey Martin
On your Wedding
September 30 2016

Thank you for your sympathy,
Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. (in regard to the passing of Jacque Goins)

Thank you Ridge Families for your generous donations of school supplies. You were able to help six classrooms of students to have the necessary school items on the first days of school. We were also able to help another teacher from another Hammond school with her new classroom. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

Lafayette students appreciate your kindness! Thank you!!

Mrs. Rina Horgan

Thanks from teachers: Tina Wallace, Mary Mann, Jill Sosnowski, Pam Frich, Sarah Betustak, Michelle Clifford

September RAFT visited
County Line Orchard
in Hobart on Thursday, September 15th

After had a nice lunch at Lake Park Restaurant in Hobart...Fun had by all...
One more thing from September:

RidgeUMC wants to congratulate Russ Synder in receiving the highest honor given to a Hoosier SAGAMORE OF THE WABASH Awarded on September 19, 2016

ALL-CHURCH FALL WORK DAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH 9 A.M. TO NOON

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS October 15, 2016
You can help bring joy this Christmas to children, through this United Methodist mission, more than 3,000 children will receive gifts and know that they are loved. Kathy Giannini makes it easy to do—just pick up a shoe box at church and follow the instructions! HO HO HO

Book Group “Playing with Fire” by Tess Gerritsen
A beautiful violinist is haunted by a very old piece of music she finds in a strange antique shop in Rome. The first time Julia Ansdell picks up the incendio Waltz, she knows it’s a strikingly unusual composition. But while playing the piece Julia blacks out and awakens to find her young daughter implicated in acts of surprising violence. And when she travels to Venice to find the previous owner of the music, she uncovers a dark secret that involves dangerously powerful people—a family who would stop at nothing to keep Julia from bringing the truth to light.

Call the Munster Public Library today to reserve a copy, or go online to lcplin.org to place a request. Then join the discussion on October 19, 2016 in the Parlor at 7:00.

It’ll be fun!
**Halloween Fun on Sunday, October 30th**

**Halloween Carnival**
Kids through 5th grade are invited to put on their Halloween costumes and get ready for a great time! 4-5 pm.

**TRUNK or TREAT at 5 p.m.**
This is where grown-up kids can join in the fun! Bring your Halloween treats to the church parking lot and decorate your cars and get ready! Beginning at 5-6 pm children will be invited to “trunk or treat”.

Susan Bryce the chairperson for the event requests:
Donations of candy for the Halloween Carnival would be greatly appreciated. NOTHING WITH NUTS. Please drop them off at the Church office during the week or at the Nursery on Sunday mornings. Also needed are 15 large coffee cans with lids. These can be dropped off at the same places. Thank you!

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**“Ridge Adult Fellowship Time” The Shrine of Christ’s Passion**

Thursday, October 20th
Experience the passion of Christ. Come take the journey of the interactive Prayer Trail. See the new Moses scene.

As stated in The Shrine literature: "People of all faiths marvel at the 40 exquisite life-size bronze sculptures, the original music and the thoughtful meditations they hear at each scene. Come and experience this incredible journey."

There is no charge for this journey, as donations and sales from The Gift Shoppe support The Shrine. Our RAFT participants may either walk the Prayer Trail or ride as a group on motorized club cars.

Gather at church at 9:30 a.m. for carpooling, or go directly to The Shrine where we will meet at 10:00 a.m. Then we browse The Gift Shoppe and then go to Dick’s Restaurant for an 11:45 a.m. lunch. The restaurant is located just two blocks south of The Shrine.

The Shrine of Christ’s Passion is located at 10630 Wicker Avenue (Hwy. 41), St. John, Indiana. Rain date for this outing is October 27.

Sign up on the church bulletin board by Monday, October 17. Please indicate if you need a ride, or you would be willing to provide a ride to other RAFT participants. Direct questions to Sue Gray at 838-7039. (Mark your calendar for the November 17th Ridge Adult Fellowship Time. Outing information to be announced.)
**Beginning October 9 to November 13** Pastor Michelle will offer a 6 week study DISCIPLE’S PATH:

*Deepening Our Relationship with Christ and the Church* Sign up to reserve your $9.00 workbook, (couples can share)

Pastor Paden is going to lead a 12 week study on Romans starting on October 2.

*It will used Disciple Bible curriculum and provide an in depth look at the content and theology of the book of Romans, a book that has had a significant impact on Christianity during the reformation and on our Methodist heritage.*

Please sign up in by either entrance to the church. Materials will be $10.

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**Hartsfield Village**

Beginning October 2, 2016 Ridge pastoral staff or our lay speakers will offer a worship service at 2 pm in the multi-purpose room. Ridge will be at Hartsfield for this worship service on the 1st and 5th Sundays of the month. Ridge UMC members who are residents at Hartsfield are encouraged to invite their family or friends to join in worship.

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**Charge Conference**

**Date**

**October 23, 2016**

**At 6:30 pm**

**Crown Point UMC, Crown Point**

All of the church family is welcome to attend this lively worship and learning event.

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**Men’s Walk**

**October 13-16, 2016**

**Women’s Walk**

**October 20-23, 2016**

at Camp Lawrence

For more information, visit

www.mcemmaus.net

See Sue Cook or Bill Payne for their stories.

Cost is $98 (partial-to-full scholarships are available—ask Pastor Michelle).
Hope Mathy (above) is our new Office Coordinator as of September 6, 2016, Hope most recently worked as a Paralegal for Christian Brothers Services in their Risk Management Department. She is happy to serve God once again with Ridge UMC. She is married to Michael Mathy and they have 4 grown children. They recently moved to Highland IN from IL. She does a little quilting in her spare time and helps her husband with his Classic Rock Band of Illinois SNAPSHOT advertising, posters, picture taking, and maintaining the website - facebook page.

Dan Williams our Traditional Music leader is now the new Worship Director for Ridge UMC.

Thank you for all the ways you help us say "good bye" and "hello" to these wonderful servants of Christ.

RUMC OPERATION TEAM MEETING
From the September 20, Meeting:

- Treasurer Linda Boender provided Profit & Loss reports for income and expenses for June and July, and year to date:
  - 2016 Operating Income: $291,423
  - 2016 Operating Expenses: $284,663
  - 2016 Net Income: $6,760

- Mortgage Income for August: $4459
- Monthly Mortgage Payment: $5,673
- Mortgage balance: $743,050

- Walk of Emmaus dates are October 13-16 for the men and the Ladies is October 20-23.

- Financial review-- Treasurer Linda Boehner commented that the Mortgage and Operating funds were short—which is typical for the summer months. The month was unusually warm there for the increase in the operating costs. Gale Osgerby Operations Chair stated that it was the second month of the year that Operations had to help with the mortgage which wasn’t too bad.

Old Business:
- IT--Pastor Michelle stated that they were close to finalizing the pick of the IT team and should be done by the end of October.
- Debt Reduction--there will be an online survey to align the upcoming campaign. After which a Summary page will be shared.
- Conference invitation to participate in Stewardship-program--Fall Campaign plans ( ) series culminates with a brunch at the beginning of the Sunday School and fellowship time that all are welcome to join and celebrate the pledging of the membership for the upcoming year, on November 20.
- Apportionment Review: It was voted on and agreed upon to pay a little more in September than later.

- Banners: Were purchased from the Dye Fund.; were put up in the Fellowship Hall. The Fountain near the Columbarium plans were also discussed.

New Business:
- Changes to Internet and Phone System: Was discussed that not bundling was causing the bill to be substantially higher. Options will be looked into.
- Results of Security by Munster Security--Notes were taken by Dan Percak and the results were discussed.

Maintenance Issues were taken care of by the Building Manager, concerning the leaks in the men’s bathroom and other areas that appeared weak. So far 8 out of 10 speakers have been replaced since obtained. New buffer/cleaner was demonstrated.

Missions Team, from the September Minutes:
- Walk to Emmaus, Jon Lair and Cindy Leber signed up to attend, paying $25 each, Missions will sponsor them with $70 each for a total of $95 out of the Ridge Missions Scholarship account.
- Ridge Youth served lunch to Kokeh and his wife in August and heard what it was like for teens in Liberia. It made an impression on the group according to their teacher. Kokeh expressed the need for the implements for the tractor they already have. Specific information was given and it is hoped that money can be raised, while people remember his visit with us.
- Local Mission Report: Kathy Giannini The youth want to host another movie night in November for a fund raiser to send to the kids in Liberia, With many more ideas for raising money for a variety of missions.
- Shoebox Christmas, Angel Tree and the Coat Drive missions that will start soon.
- Money has been allocated to sponsor a table of eight for the upcoming dinner fundraiser for Children of Abraham.
Happy Birthday!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2. Mary Webber
3. Margaret Forsythe
   Lorrayne Schmock
   Barbara Hinkens
   Laurelyn Goralczyk
4. David Wickland
5. Jim Hamblin
9. Daniel Cappo
   Sheryl Walters
11. Diane Payne
12. Tim Zatorski
   Roy Absher
   Shane Smolinski
14. Debbi Kiefer
15. Linda Ehlebracht
16. Thomas Mybeck
17. Delores Shevchenko
   Adam Tenbarge
18. Ethan Bazewicz
19. Diana Rodger
   Miranda Hoehn
   Barbara Powell
   Jim Kane
24. Allison Kostelich
   Larry Washington
   Eric Knight
25. Jenny Conley
27. Michael Comandella
   David Walters II
   Brandon Goralczyk
29. Monte Novak
30. Shelley Cohs
   Kara Boganwright
31. James Dye

IN OCTOBER

Ushers
9:00 am
Cheryl Sorrels
Ray Howe
Larry Giannini
David and/or Laura Elkins

Liturgist
9:00
2nd—Wayne Cable
9th—Cindy Regnier

Greetings
9:00
2nd—Tom & Virginia Schreuder
9th—Lew & LaVerne Grasty
16th—Rina Horgan & Donna Hill
23rd—Tom & Ellie Marinier
30th—Bill & Diane Payne

Happy Anniversary!

4th. Carrie & Eric Messmer
5th. John & Monte Novak
11th. Richard & Shirley Matthews
13th. Richard & Louis McLaughry
21st. Eric & Michelle Knight
26th. Matt & Nora Hay
Do you have news to share? The deadline for The Connection is October 15th.

**UPCOMING sermons**

- **October 2, 2016**
  - World Communion Sunday
  - John 14: 26; Mark 1:11; Matthew 28:19—Salvation of Dr. Who Series #4-Three in One

- **October 9, 2016**
  - Luke 17:5-10 Increase Our Faith

- **October 16, 2016**
  - 2 Tim: 3:14-4:5, Psalm 119:97-104
  - Preacher Roll Call

- **October 23, 2016**
  - Gratitude 1: Tithing the Overflow of Blessing
  - Malachi 3: 8-12

- **October 30, 2016**
  - Healing Service,
  - Gratitude 2: The One Luke 17:11-19