

Anona UMC
Sermon Series 2008

August 3 - "The Shadow of Influence" - Acts 5:12-16 - Rev. John H. Hires, Jr.

Every person has example value-it is inseparable from existence. Albert Schweitzer is quoted as saying, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing." It is almost scary-how am I influencing those about me in becoming more like Jesus. In one of the communion prayers is this petition, "that we may grow into his likeness, may evermore dwell in him and he in us." May the shadow of our influence help win others to Christ.

August 10 - "Be the Rabbi" – 1 Samuel 3:1-12, JAD Denmark, Director of Student Ministries

What is our role in the church? What is our role in the world? How do we respond to this world of hurt? How do we use this shadow of influence? Be the rabbi. We will explore the Hebrew scriptures to help guide us to answer these questions.

August 17 - "The Authority of Scripture" - 1 Peter 1:24-25

"The word of the Lord endures forever." Methodists are scripture centered. We base our lives on the word of God. It is inspired in its writing. It is inspired in its preservation. It is inspired in its reading. It is inspired in its hearing and it is inspired in the doing. This Sunday we will talk about these five points of inspiration. We will also cover the spectrum of belief about the bible. You may be interested to see where you fall along that line.

August 24 - "Doctrine" - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

It's hard to think of doctrine as "man made" but it's true. The doctrines of any particular age as opposed to scripture keep needing to be adapted. Scripture endures forever whereas human thinking about God is just that, human thinking. The word of God is revealed whereas doctrine is figured out. The bible is unchanging while Christian doctrines are in constant need of reforming to be true to the biblical witness and relevant to the human condition.

August 31 - "Labor Day" - Revelation 14:13

This is the final revelation. The word of God in its final inspiration is portrayed in our actions. It is written, preserved, read, spoken and heard but in the end lived. We have to "walk our talk" if we are to be believed and taken seriously as people of faith. Our actions follow us throughout our lives and scripture says even unto eternity.