

Sharing the good news of Jesus and His Kingdom and equipping the church to do the same.



Greg West, Evangelist

Cuba Mission Trip: May 2023

The combination of poverty and persecution make for a people who are very dependent on the Holy Spirit. This was my second trip to work with the Methodist Church in Cuba in eight months. Wow.

I have never seen a people hungrier for the Good News of Jesus! We visited 17 churches in the Cienfuegos District in just six days. We were able to provide \$400 to each church and \$140 to each Pastor and their family. Thank you all for your generosity in giving!

When we invited people forward for prayer, usually half

of the congregation came forward! Two different men literally grabbed my hand and put it on their head so I would pray for them! One of them, while I was praying, held his hands up in the air, while calling out, "Más Espíritu Santo, más!" ~ More Holy Spirit, more! After I prayed, he gave me a giant hug as his face was radiant with joy!

It was a pleasure to work with Jason Goins, who leads Birthmark Ministries. He and I will be working together in the future.



Left to Right: Revs. Matt Meisenhelter, Mary Sullivan-Trent & Brandon Nichols

A New Day at Daybreak Church

I believe God has prepared great things for Daybreak Church! As of July 1, Rev. Jonathan Diggs is the Pastor of Daybreak! I am stepping into the role of Outreach Pastor 1/4 time and 3/4 in my role as Evangelist.

I have been blessed by serving and being in ministry with

the people of Daybreak Church. They are a gifted congregation with a great love for worship and their walk with Christ! One of the recent highlights was the confirmation of 11 youth, which included six baptisms.



Daybreak's Baptism at Jamestown Beach

SEE "DAYBREAK," pg. 2

Living Sacrifice is a brand-new church in Chesapeake! Three of my good friends are planting the church with a Kingdom vision! Church planting is an incredibly challenging and rewarding calling.

I have great respect for Matt, Mary and Brandon.

They each have a great love for Jesus and a desire to build up the body of Christ. Spread the word!

Take a look at their website, www.livingsacrificechurch.com, or their Facebook page. If you're nearby, worship with them!

New Video on Our Youtube



Interview with the Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Cuba

Watch at: <https://youtu.be/iK507JK3GXE>



“DAYBREAK” CONTINUED

I believe Jonathan Diggs is called, equipped, and gifted to serve as the new Pastor. He certainly has a shepherd’s heart and longs for the church to be engaged in making disciples of Jesus. One of his passions is the Alpha Course, which introduces people to the Christian faith and builds the essential foundations for walking with Jesus. Stacey Coopriider also stepped into a new role on our leadership team, in addition to her work as Youth Director. Jonathan, Stacey, and I work well together and are excited about God’s leading at Daybreak.



Rev. Jonathan Diggs Daybreak Church’s new Pastor

My journey with Daybreak began 18 months ago when I became the Pastor of New Town UMC. The plan was for a six-month part-time role leading up to the General Conference for the UMC; It turned into an 18-month role.

This journey included the rejection of New Town’s request to disaffiliate from the UMC, even though we had a 97% vote from the congregation. This was followed by the Bishop removing me as the Pastor for stating that the process was unjust. The leaders and congregation decided to walk away from their building and the UMC. It’s a rather long and complex story that I shared recently at the Evangelical Fellowship’s Banquet in a message titled, “Leaving with Grace and Truth.” More information about the banquet and this message can be found to the right. You can also read “An Open Letter to the UMC” at www.lifeinhisname.net/openletter

I am grateful that I am an Elder in the Global Methodist Church!

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”– Ephesians 2:10, NIV.

“Leaving with Grace and Truth”



Watch at: <https://youtu.be/qCjmtlP2rXw>

I was honored to be the speaker at the Evangelical Fellowship’s Banquet during the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Roanoke.

Here is my message entitled “Leaving with Grace and Truth” in which I tell the story of what happened to New Town UMC and me. We continue to hear false stories about these events and we are misrepresented.

John Wesley said that schisms (church splits) are always grievous, but sometimes necessary. I have said for a long time that the UMC is already split, the question is, can the split be formalized in a peaceful and just manner? For New Town UMC, the process was completely unjust as the rules were dismissed because in-

fluent people had the ear of the Bishop.

When I share the story, it is to prevent further harm. I am aware of many churches and Pastors who are not being treated fairly because they are seeking disaffiliation. Anyone in the VA Conference knows that there has been a seismic shift from Bishop Lewis’ policy of letting all of the churches and pastors be informed so they can make clear decisions about what is happening now.

The words of Jesus from John 17:20–21: “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”



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EPHESIANS 2:10, NIV