



Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist

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Editor's Comments:

Please use my e-mail address to submit stories, events, happenings, or other information that you would like in the newsletter. If you do not have a computer, please give it to me in person or mail it to me. The deadline for all news items to be submitted is the 20th of each month. That will give me time to have it compiled and printed for distribution on the last Sunday of the month.

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Pastor's Ponderings:



On our recent trip to Germany, I was excited to go to Wittenberg,

Germany, the city where Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church and started the Reformation. We picked this year and the tour we took to coincide with the 500 year anniversary of Luther's act. It was amazing to walk from one end of the city to the other, tracing the steps Luther took some 500 years ago. What made this trip even more meaningful is that Wittenberg has not been damaged by world wars and is basically the same medieval city it was when Luther lived there.

We walked from one end of the city to the other, from Luther's residence (which at one time was the monastery where he lived) to Wittenberg University, where Luther was a theology professor and later obtained a doctorate. We saw the local shops and restaurants and the twin towers of the local parish church where Luther also preached. It was in one of those towers that Luther stayed for a while and had his "Tower

Experience," in which he formulated his theology that "Justification is by faith alone." Good deeds would not get one saved from sin.

Luther's act of defiance on October 31, 1517, set off a series of events which resulted in the Reformation. Prior to his act, sermons and church liturgy were only given in Latin, made more difficult by the fact that only 10 percent of the population could read and write. Communion was given only with a wafer, not by the bread and grape juice we now experience. Priests were not allowed to marry, and there was a great emphasis on Purgatory. With the Reformation, these things changed. Luther himself later married and lived in the building that had once been a monastery. Luther translated the New Testament into German. People felt more freedom and believed it was alright to free themselves from the constraints of the Roman Catholic Church.

Luther was not without controversy. He had anti-Semitic views. His theology on women's role in the family and church was not very progressive. When the peasants rose up in revolt in the 1520s largely due to his writings, he favored the government authorities and the putting down of the rebellion.

The lesson for us is that Luther was willing to take a risk, a risk that was needed to reform the church. By doing what he did, he risked being excommunicated by the church (which he was) and also being burned at the stake. The prince electors protected his life, and without this protection he probably would have been killed.

We also realize that Luther's actions show that his objections to the Roman Catholic Church were calculated. He knew people were upset with the church. The selling of indulgences by the Pope was not popular with many people. The financial power of the Roman Catholic Church was resented by many. There had already been some revolt by theologians such as John Huss.

Luther also knew he had the power of the printing press, which had recently been invented. He was able to use the power of words to spread his ideas and defend himself.

As Latimer looks at dealing with what steps it takes in the future, it can use Luther as an example. It must be willing to step outside the box and do the following. First, be willing to take risks to make needed changes. Second, make sure these changes are well thought out under the circumstances. Third, use all resources at your disposal. Finally, be constantly in prayer about God's will for the church and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is what we learn from Martin Luther.

- Pastor Wally Culp

Anyone interested in seeing Where to See Martin Luther's Germany go to:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/follow-martin-luthers-footsteps-through-germany-180963481/#Tb5QFylybmoCPLpM.03>

From the Nurture Team:

"Guide My Steps, Lord, while I run this race for I don't want to run this race in vain."

In August, we usually want to bask in the "Dog Days of Summer", however looking ahead, the area schools will be starting up this month, and the fall quarter for our Sunday School materials are already here. We can celebrate the Good News – witness for the Lord and reflect His love for others at all times. Giving thanks for our Sunday School Leaders, and Nursery attendants, let's recognize the following dedicated folks:

Andy Bullions – Men's Group

Ron Walfield – The Huffman Class

Gloria Eaves – The Hipp Class

Pastor Wally and John Pinson – on call for the Teen and Young Adults

Pat Wilson – 4th – 7th Grades

Glenda Conley and Sandy Sorrow – Preschool and early Elementary Class

Nursery – Gloria Eaves, Judith DuBose, Regina Bullions, Andy Bullions, and Hannah Brooks

On call for Nursery – Gay Walfield and Susie Howell

As I write this article we anticipate much fun for a successful Block Party (7/28) and Vacation Bible School – August 1, 2, & 3. Thanks to the leaders and workers for making this possible. More thanks and updates will be announced in next Newsletter.

Also, thanking the Outreach Team for preparing and serving our July Fellowship Meal. The August Food and Fellowship meal will be August 27, hosted by the Hipp Class.

I am interested in sharing a “Comment Section” in my Newsletter article about your response to “WHY I LOVE LATIMER MEMORIAL UMC.” Come talk to me. One word, one sentence, one thought.....Each month I will post your answers.

Remember our sick and shut-ins. If you know someone who would like a visit, a Newsletter, copy of Wally’s sermon, let me

know so we can ensure no one is skipped. A phone call and cards are effective ways to let our shut-ins know they are loved and have a family here too. Continue prayers for our church,

Our next meeting is August 22, 2017 at 10 am.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

On June 30th we provided and served lunch (hotdogs, chips, watermelon, cookies, tea, and water) to the Salkehatchie youth and leaders. They made repairs on five houses during the week they were in the area. I hope we were able to encourage them in their work as well as serving them a meal. Some people may not realize that the ones who come to work pay a fee to participate in making improvements to houses. The Grief Support Group did not meet in June. We will prepare and serve lunch when the group

meets on July 26th. We are happy that two people from the community have joined the group. They saw the announcement on the sign in front of the church.

The Fellowship meal on July 30th will be provided and served by the Outreach Team.

The Outreach Team will be helping with the Block Party and Vacation Bible School.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The Witness Team last met on June 15, where we discussed several topics. The main two topics were about us as a team helping out in this year’s VBS and where we can be of help. It was decided that we will take our marching orders from the VBS Team and fill in as they direct. This also applies to the night of the Block Party.

The second item discussed was about helping with the door Greeter and setting up the self-serve coffee and goodie table on Sunday mornings. It was left that this would be on a volunteer basis.

The next meeting was set for [after] VBS to discuss what we learned and were blessed by the VBS experience.

- Bob Emhof

Richard Campbell Veteran's Nursing Home:

"Brinner" at Richard Campbell Veteran's Nursing Home will be Wednesday, August 16th.



Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:

The UMM breakfast will be Sunday, August 20th

Prayer Breakfast:

Join us at the Prayer Breakfast each Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Women:

The UMW will not meet in August.

The Jolly Mixers:

The Jolly Mixers will not meet in August.

S/PPRC:

The S/PPRC continues searching for a New Organist /Choir Director and your help is solicited. If you are aware of someone who might be interested in being our organist/choir director please have them contact Andy Bullions or Rev. Culp. This is a part-time paid permanent position.

The Treasurer's Report:

Needed YTD - \$68,353
Received YTD - \$60,785
Over/(Under) - (\$ 7,568)



Financial Committee:

The Finance Committee met on July 11 to address the increasing deficit with the church's budget, especially the decreasing operating balance. At the last Church Council meeting, emergency measures were recommended to address our 2017 budget concerns.

Around May, it was evident that the amount of money we had available for expenses was not sufficient

to cover expenses. We lost members the beginning of this year which reduced the monthly income by \$1,000. Money available was depleted, and monthly income has not been sufficient to recover from this shortage in giving.

It should be noted that a church budget is odd. Instead of saying, "We have this much money, how will it be spent?" The church says, "We have these expenses and we have faith that we will receive enough to cover the expenses."

When one looks at the budget they see \$1,150 for Sunday School materials. We don't have \$1,150. That is just what we expect to pay over the year. A majority of our budget is set. Items such as salaries, insurance, direct billing, and utilities have to be paid, so there is nothing to cut but apportionments. This however, reduces our commitment to missions and outreach on a global basis. Apportionments are our connectional giving.

With the Finance Committee's recommendation, the Church Council agreed to the following steps:

- Stop the monthly payments to Apportionments.
- Move \$5,000 from the rental houses' account to the operating fund.
- Move an additional \$1,000 / month from the rental houses' account through this December to the operating fund.

These measures should see us through December, if and only if, the offerings continue as they have.

- Ron Walfield
Finance Chairperson

Church Council:

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, August 8th at 5:30 PM.

Offering Counters:

August 6th - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
August 13th- Ron Walfield
Kent Milwood
August 20th- Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
August 27th- Ron Walfield
Bob Emhof

Ushers:

August - Frank Sorrow
Ken Millwood

September - Frank Sorrow

Bits of History:



In 1976 when Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church celebrated its first 100 years, several people researched the history of the church. Among those who searched for Latimer's story was Rev. Frank Buie, Marvin Woodson, and other members of the church. I hope to share some of the interesting discoveries they made as well as some of the history people shared with me. I will share bits each month. Rev. Frank Buie said that as he studied the history of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church that what he learned impressed and inspired him.

1876 - The church was organized. It was called Belton Methodist Church. Meetings were held at the Presbyterian Church.

1881-1882 - Mr. Ira C. Williams donated the land for the church. A frame meeting house was built. The logs for the

building were donated by Lorenzo Dow Harris (Mrs. Selma Folk's grandfather). Joe Frank Pinson's grandfather, Joseph Duncan Pinson, owned a saw mill in Belton and he sawed the lumber for the building. This frame meeting house is still part of the present building.

- Pat Wilson

Forward Focus Group:

A condensation of the second congregational meeting of the Forward Focus Group is attached to this Newsletter.

The next meeting of the Forward Focus Group will be August 8th at 10:00 AM.



Grief Support Group:

The Grief Support Group will meet on Wednesday, August 23rd at Noon. Lunch will be provided.

Shut-Ins:

Charles Campbell
Ernie Emhof
Jane Woodson
Phillip Brannon

Our Prayer Concerns:

Phillip Brannon, Jackie Manning, Stephen and Dot Peck, Sarah Raditz, Thomas Burris, Nancy Nagel, Jane Woodson, Jim Grubbs, Frank Woods, Chip Wynne, Bonnie Moore, Randy Morrison, Georgia Keen, Brenda Parfitt, Emily McAlister, Nancy Cothran, Tommy Wright, George Lesh, Linda Squyers, Family of Ellen Halvorson, Joan Sears, Ben and Nancy, Peggie Bromeling, Millie Brackett, Bessie Clark, Teresa Wood, Racine Owings, Kallie Hinkle, Danielle Clavier, Katie Coward, James Holloway, the family of Charles Meeks, the family of Sheila Okamoto



The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Red Lobster on August 16th at Noon.

Charge Conference:

Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, September 24th at Trinity UMC in Honea Path.



The Fellowship Meal:

The Fellowship Meal will be Sunday, August 27th and will be hosted by the Hipp Class.

Refurbished Playground:



I'm sure you've noticed that our playground has been refurbished. Frank Sorrow and his team of helpers have been working on this for quite a while. We are so glad that it is now ready for our Block Party and Bible School. His team includes Ron Walfield, Angela and John Pinson, and Myra McDowell.

Leadership Training:

The Anderson District Leadership Event will be held at the First UMC in Easley SC on August 27th from 2:30 pm until 6:00 PM. This training

would benefit anyone who is a church officer, chairperson, or leader. If you are interested in attending, get in touch with Wally before August 21st.

