



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.

Susie Howell
Witness Team
susiehowell@bellsouth.net
635 North Main Street
Belton SC 29627

Pastor's Ponderings:



A Compelling Vision:

About two weeks ago I heard a very enlightening

reflection from our District Superintendent Susan Leonard-Ray on the future direction of the church. She pointed out that the Christian church has faced a major change every five hundred years in its history. In 410 AD, the Roman Empire fell, forcing the church to make a major shift in how it did ministry. In 1056 AD, the Roman church split from the Orthodox Church. As you have heard me talk about from my trip to Germany this summer, in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg and started the Protestant reformation. Today, we are at another 500 year crossroad as we seek God's guidance on the direction of the church.

Susan related the story of the Israelites' exodus out of Egypt to how we need to approach our journey today. When the Israelites were finally safe from attack by Pharaoh's army, they were only a few miles from the Promised Land. Yet, it took them forty years

to get there. Why did it take so long? One reason was that it gave the people time to get to know each other so they could work as a people. They had to learn how to live in community. Latimer does not have to wait forty years to work as a community. The people of Latimer already know each other. Latimer, though, has one of the problems faced by the people of Israel. It does not have a compelling vision which is telling it where to go. Latimer has several fine ministries it does, but as we have discussed in our forward focus team meetings, right now Latimer is not on a road which takes it to a specific place. As I learned this past weekend while attending the School of Congregational Development in Atlanta, Ga, that vision needs to direct Latimer in how to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. With that vision Latimer will be able to travel on a road which has meaning.

I attended several seminars which gave me exciting ideas to suggest to Latimer as it develops its vision. The titles of some of these seminars were “The Rhythm of Discipleship,” “Reaching and Discipling Younger Generations,” “A Missional Mindset,” “Roadmap to Renewal,” and “The Rural Multisite.” I look forward to sharing these ideas with Latimer. Latimer can also engage other resources as it works on its vision of ministry.

As we learn from the story of the Promised Land, some will grumble. There are those who do not want to change. Some of the Israelites wanted to go back into Egypt. They wanted to give up their freedom for the easy way out---just doing it like they had always done it. They romanticized a past which had not been very good to them.

There are also many who will be scared. When twelve Israelites were sent in to survey the Promised Land, only two, Caleb and Joshua, came back and were confident that the Israelites could make their way into the Promised Land. The rest expressed doubt and talked of the

giants they could not conquer.

Latimer will make its way into the Promised Land. The synopsis of what I learned at the School of Congregational Development is that Latimer has to be open to many ideas and has to include all people in its vision of ministry. A roadmap can be developed as long as faith is kept and we trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

- Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

I hope everyone is rested after celebrating the August Eclipse and their Labor Day activities.

John Wesley’s Advice for daily living:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

WHY I LOVE LATIMER MEMORIAL UMC:

Sandy - “The people and their caring ways – believing in Jesus’

message to love one another.”

Alice likes Latimer because it is so accepting and non-judgmental.

Special Offering from SC Annual Conference:

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Though it is summer now, soon school will be back in session and the annual Epworth Work Day will be upon us.

This offering tradition dates back decades when church members would give a day’s worth of wages for the children at Epworth. Over the years the emphasis has changed a bit, but its importance is still very much alive. Remember, **Epworth is not an apportioned item** and relies heavily on this offering to provide for the 80 to 100 children who are in our care each day.

An Epworth offering helps break the cycle of abuse and neglect of children and helps tackle the issues of poverty and illiteracy in our communities.

I thank you in advance for your faithfulness.

John Holler
President, Epworth
Children's Home

As we go forward, we are trusting God for the next steps in the process called Forward Focus. Some of us are overwhelmed, some are excited and hopeful, and some are sadden. Keep our church in prayer for all decisions facing us and other congregations too. Let Pastor Wally know of your concerns.

We are still in need of another Nursery Helper to be in the weekly rotation order. Let me know if you are interested in helping.

Men, Women, Boys and Girls:

Choir Members wanted!!
Give Glenda a shout out.
The best seat in the house!
Choir robes come in assorted sizes – we have one for YOU!

Thank you Hipp Class for hosting the Food and Fellowship meal in August.

Our next Food and Fellowship meal is Sunday Sept. 24, POTLUCK

hosted by the Nurture Team.

Our next Nurture Team meeting is Wednesday, September 6th at 2:00 PM.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

Members of the Outreach team helped prepare and serve "Brinner" to the veterans at Richard Campbell Veterans' Home on July 19, 2017. They will also be helping on Wednesday, September 20th.

We prepared and served lunch to the Grief Support Group on July 26, 2017. A lady from a church in Seneca joined us.

We prepared and served the Fellowship meal in July.

Outreach Team members supported and helped with the Block Party on July 28, 2017. A lot of fellowship, fun, and good food was enjoyed by church members and people from the community.

The Youth Sunday School class walked over to our neighbor church, New Jerusalem, on a Sunday

morning to invite their members to the Block Party and Vacation Bible School. We gave a donation of \$20.00 to help with their monthly soup lunch for anyone who needs a meal.

The Outreach Team supported and helped with Vacation Bible School on August 1, 2, and 3. The numbers may have been small but the spirit was abundant.

Isaiah 55:11- The Lord said, "My word...that goeth forth out of my mouth...shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please."

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The Witness Team met on Wednesday, August 23rd with two things to discuss.

The first was to go around the table and discuss and get feedback from everyone about VBS, both the block party and the actual 3 day adventure. From what everyone said, they felt it was a huge success. We also talked about what we might do next year to add even more

excitement than what we had for this year's block party.

Next we started the discussion about taking part in this year's, "Belton Standpipe Festival". We will be having a booth and will be offering nachos with cheese and chili, balloons, and bottled water. There will be sign-up sheets to help man the booth on the library table starting in the first part of September.

Proceeds from this booth will go towards offsetting the cost of the new Church Directory which will come out the first of next year.

- Bob Emhof

Richard Campbell Veteran's Nursing Home:

"Brinner" at Richard Campbell Veteran's Nursing Home will be Wednesday, September 20th. Members of the Outreach Team will be helping with this.



Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:

The UMM Club meeting and breakfast will be

September 17th at
9:00 AM.

Prayer Breakfast;
The Prayer Breakfast is every Tuesday at 8:00 AM.



Choir Practice:

Choir Practice is every Wednesday at 6:30 PM except for Wednesday, September 20th. We will not be having choir practice on that Wednesday.

Bible Study:

Rev. Culp will lead a Bible Study in October and November on Adam Hamilton's "Moses." A starting date and time have not yet been determined. Details will follow later. For anyone interested, the books will be \$15 each. Please pay Rev. Culp directly for the books. There are two large print editions available.

Anderson District Covenant Group:

The Covenant Group of the Anderson District will meet in the Fellowship Hall on September 21st from 9:00

AM to 2:00 PM.

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.

Charge Conference:

Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, September 24, at 3:00 pm at Trinity UMC in Honea Path, SC. Please plan to attend and enjoy worship and fellowship with other United Methodists from the area.

All committee and team chairpersons who plan to submit written reports to Rev. Culp for Charge Conference should have those reports to him by no later than 12 pm on Wednesday, September 13th.



Church Council:

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, September 14th at 5:30 PM.

Liturgists Schedule:

September 3 - Linda Millwood

September 10 - Kent Millwood

September 17 - Ron Walfield

September 24 - Bob Emhof

Offering Counters:

September 3rd - Ron Walfield
John Pinson

September 10th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood

September 17th - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose

September 24th - Ron Walfield
Bob Emhof

Ushers:

We still need people to volunteer to help Frank on Sunday mornings from

now until the end of the year.

September - Frank Sorrow
October - Frank Sorrow

Nursery Workers:

Nursery workers are on an as needed basis. There is a list in the Nursery.

The History of Labor Day:

Labor Day in the United States of America is a public holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September. It honors the American labor movement and the contributions that workers have made to the strength, prosperity, laws, and well-being of the country.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade unions and labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. "Labor Day" was promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade in New York City. This first Labor Day, which was held on September 5, 1882, included a concert, speeches, and picnics.

In 1887, Oregon was the first state of the United States to make it an official public holiday.

On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed the bill making Labor Day an official federal holiday.

Bits of History:

1876 - Belton was served by ministers from the Sandy Spring Circuit, the Fork Shoals Circuit, the Anderson Circuit, the Williaston Circuit, or the Belton Circuit at different times.

In 1881-82, the Williamston Circuit was formed. Belton was a part to that circuit.

In 1925, the Belton Circuit was formed. Belton and Ebenezer were a part of that circuit. At different times Hebron, Bethesda, and Oak Hill were a part of that circuit.

Latimer was made a station appointment in 1956-57.

In 1881-82, A. C. Latimer joined the church by transfer. The name of the church at this time was Belton Methodist.

1893-95 - A tower, steeple, and chancel were added to the frame building. The roof was remodeled.

- Pat Wilson



Belton Standpipe Festival:

Latimer will have a booth at the Standpipe festival on October 7. Please let Bob Emhof know if you are willing to volunteer to help. We are also in need of donations of money and food items. Let us use this opportunity as a way to witness for the message of Jesus Christ.

Forward Focus Team:

The Forward Focus Group will not meet in September.

The next congregational meeting of the Forward Focus team will be on October 8 at 3 pm in the fellowship hall. Please plan to attend and learn more from the Forward Focus team.

Grief Support Group:

The next meeting of the Grief Support group will be

held on Wednesday, September 27, at 12 noon. Lunch will be served. Please come and bring friend who will benefit.

Shut-Ins:

Charles Campbell
Ernie Emhof
Jane Woodson
Phillip Brannon



Our Prayer Concerns:

Phillip Brannon, Jackie Manning, Stephen and Dot Peck, Sarah Raditz, Thomas Burriss, 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, Kim Bradbury, Jean Bullions, Mary

Knight, Barbara Emhof, Brittany Fowler, Ed Wolf, the family of Charles Meeks, the family of Sheila Okamoto

United Methodist Women:

The UMW will meet on Monday, September 11th at 3:00 PM.

The Jolly Mixers:

The Jolly Mixers will not meet in September.

The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet Wednesday, September 13th at Noon at O'Charleys.



The Fellowship Meal:

The September 24th Fellowship Meal will be a Potluck hosted by the Nurture Team.

Bishop's Corner:

Trusting God for the Next Steps -

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

“God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us.”— Ephesians 3:20-21

I am truly excited to be a part of a team that has God-sized dreams and who trusts the work we do together. It is a recognition that the church was not built for our pleasure but for God's purpose.

In a reflection of the previous quadrennium, it is evident that we have worked intentionally to foster organizational health at every level of the annual conference from the extended cabinet to the district to the local church. Annual district visits were initiated with the goal of creating a climate of trust, challenge and support. In the first year, the extended cabinet, staff and key leaders visited every

district for listening sessions.

In the second year, this conference team held “road shows” and traveled to every district to engage local church lay leaders as well as lay servants around Patrick Lencioni's book, “Five Dysfunctions of a Team.”

Year three district meetings were referred to as “barbeque bashes.” During this time, local church leadership teams (laity and clergy) were invited to consider “The Leadership Contract,” by Vince Molinaro.

This year we are engaged in a time of district visits in which local church teams have been invited to participate in a Para. 213 (*The Book of Discipline*) process that we have named Forward Focus. Truly, this is a process of invitation for congregations to assess their current situation in light of potential ministry opportunities. It concludes with an identification of next steps going forward and the possible resourcing of ministry.

This level of engagement and investment at the local church level has proven to

be both exciting and overwhelming as more than a third of our congregations are embarking on the Forward Focus process. As local congregations complete their Forward Focus work, their outcomes will shape the resources that the annual conference can offer to help churches move toward greater vitality.

As the Ephesians passage reminds us, God does not push us around but is always at work within us. My prayer is that as we work together to make a difference at the local level, God will continue to surprise us with opportunities to share the love of Christ in ways that are beyond our wildest dreams. I am excited about how God is at work in South Carolina.

