



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:



As we move forward and set our goals for 2018, I thought it was important to

go over what Latimer did in 2017. I want to highlight what was accomplished in addition to Latimer's usual ministries. Although we had to deal with the loss of five church members and the accompanying decrease in about ten percent of the giving to the church, much was accomplished in 2017. A grief support group was started in January and has provided education and support for about ten people per month, including several from outside the Latimer church community. The playground was refurbished and made ready for Vacation Bible School in August. The Bible School was a great ministry for the ten children and youth who attended. Our goal for 2018 is to once again have a Vacation Bible School which attracts young people from the community and provides witness and education to them.

You responded to the request to increase your giving so that Latimer could

meet its obligations. In addition, the people of Latimer responded to calls for help those who had suffered through the devastating hurricanes of 2017. Enough was collected in special offerings for Frank Sorrow to be able to put together 20 flood buckets.

Latimer was able to transition from Sarah Blackwell as its longtime music director to having Glenda Conley direct the choir and provide music for worship each week. Although Glenda is doing a wonderful job, the understanding when she took the position was that a permanent music director would be hired. Staff/Parish Committee has been working on filling this position and the goal is to fill the position by no later than the end of 2018.

We also showed an increase in worship attendance. From October 2016 to December 2016, the average attendance was 36.5. For the same period in 2017, the average

attendance was 43.5, an increase of about 20 percent. I have told church council that a goal for 2018 is to increase worship attendance by at least another 10 percent, to at least 48 in worship each Sunday. This can be done through prayer and reaching out to those who have not been attending. One resource that can be used is the new church directory which was put together in 2017, chiefly through the dedicated and hard work of Susie Howell and Dave and Jane Barton. The directory can be used to reach and be in touch with those you want to invite to worship with us as well as to find out those who are in need of our prayers.

2018 promises to be a great year of Latimer moving forward. Last year church leaders begin the process of Forward Focus, in which a team has looked at the history of Latimer, the demographics of Latimer's community, and the state of Latimer's ministry and resources available to do that ministry. In 2018 the team and the congregation will decide on what recommendations will be made to church council

about Latimer's goals in the future.

Thank you for continuing to be part of Latimer's ministry.

In Christ,
Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

"Jesus shall reign wher-e'er the sun does its successive journeys run; His kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more."

Isaac Watts, 1719.

A little more winter, but Spring is not far behind.

Thank you Linda and Kent Millwood for sponsoring the annual Chili Cook-off and the Relay for Life charity January 28. Several members brought their best Chili and all were tasty. We look forward to the annual Italian meal in April and the Relay for Life Walk.

This month our Fellowship Meal will be the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, February 13 at 6 PM. There is a sign-up sheet in the library for your help in providing this meal for all to share.

Speaking of sign-up sheets, there are other months available for your group to host a Food and Fellowship meal. You can choose the last Sunday of the month, or another day. Sign up with another group, or host a "Pot-Luck" meal.

A sign-up sheet is also in library for Usher volunteers.

Another volunteer opportunity is in the nursery on Sundays during worship. Please let me know if you feel called to serve this way.

Please keep Latimer Memorial in your prayers and the many activities to witness to others throughout the year. If you know of someone who would like a visit or Communion served at home or hospital, please let Wally know.

February 14 is Ash Wednesday. We will have a worship service at 12 Noon, for prayers and imposition of ashes.

We would like to remember and keep the family of Al Keen in our prayers. Al died January 12. He was a big man with a big heart. Rest in Peace my friend.

The next meeting for the Nurture Team is February 25 at noon.

From the Outreach Team:

The Outreach Team made the congregation aware of the need for donations of money to help Epworth Children's Home see that each child at the home had a special gift or gifts under the tree on Christmas. We are so thankful to each person that helped make this happen. The amount collected was \$390.00.

The Grief Support Team met on January 24th at the church. Lunch and a time of fellowship were enjoyed by all in attendance. The speaker was Rev. Lee Cole. He shared timely and appreciated information.

We assisted Kent Millwood with the Chili Cook-Off fellowship meal. As always it was a time of good food and fellowship.

The Outreach Team will be meeting soon to make plans for 2018. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please share them with us.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The Witness Team is finally finished with the new Church Directory. It will be available sometime in February.

- Bob Emhof

The Treasurer's Report:

The 2017 accounting has been completed and is ready for auditing. Total giving for 2017 was \$104,214.00 while spending totaled \$96,739.00, leaving an operating balance of \$7,475.00. The amount needed to meet the budget in 2017 per month was \$10,215.00, and the actual average received per month was \$8,684.50.

The Liturgist's Schedule:

Feb. 4th - Ron Walfield
Feb. 11th - Kent Millwood
Feb. 18th - Linda Millwood
Feb. 25th - Bob Emhof

Church Council:

The Church Council will not meet in February. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13th at 5:30 PM.

The Covenant Group:

The Covenant Group of the Anderson District will meet

in the Fellowship Hall on February 15th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Offering Counters:

Feb. 4th - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
Feb. 11th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood
Feb. 18th - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
Feb. 25th - Ron Walfield
Bob Emhof

Choir Practice:

Choir practice will be held every Wednesday at 4:30 PM except on Wednesday, February 21st. There will be no practice on the 21st.

Ushers:

February - Frank Sorrow
March - Frank Sorrow

Forward Focus Team:

The Forward Focus Team will meet on February 1st at 10:00 AM.

The next Congregational meeting of Forward Focus will be held on Sunday, February 18th, at 3:00 PM.

Our Shut-Ins:

Charles Campbell
Ernie Emhof
Jane Woodson
Phillip Brannon

Jackie Manning
Peggie Bromeling

Our Prayer Concerns:

Ben and Nancy, Sarah Blackwell, Kim Bradbury, Phillip Brannon, Peggie Bromeling, Jean Bullions, Jane Burnett, Billie Jo Campbell, Bessie Clark, Shirley Cook, Nancy Cothran, Katie Coward, Danielle Clavier, Rene Clavier, Gloria Eaves, Barbara Emhof, Fred and Linda Emhof, Jim Grubbs, Kallie Hinkle, Family of Al Keen, Georgia Keen, Jim and Amy Lane, Jackie Manning, Emily McAlister, Carolyn Miller, Bonnie Moore, Betty Jean Morgan, Randy Morrison, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Jennifer Payne, Dot Peck, Steven Peck, Sarah Raditz, Joan Sears, David Smith, Linda Squyers, Trevor Willis, Frank Woods, and Jane Woodson

The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet on Wednesday, February 14th at Noon at the church for the Ash Wednesday worship service. After the service we will go to the Asian Kitchen in Belton for lunch.

Please let Jane Burnett know, by Monday, February 12th, if you will be there.

Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:

The Men's Club breakfast and meeting will be Sunday, February 18th at 9:00 AM.

Prayer Breakfast:

The Prayer Breakfast will be every Tuesday at 8:00 AM.

Grief Support Group:

The Grief Support Group will meet on February 28th at Noon. Lunch will be served.

United Methodist Women:

The Sue Coward/Elizabeth Smith Circles prepared the bereavement meal for the family of Al Keen following the memorial service on Jan 20.

Wallace Family Life Center is the special emphasis mission for February and the women will participate in the Kairos for Men Prison Ministry in March.

The annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program will be held on Monday,

March 5. All women of the church are invited to attend this special program.

The UMW will meet again on Monday, February 5, at 3:00 pm at the church.

Latimer's United Methodist Women are amazing. Just a few phone calls early in the week and on Saturday morning a bereavement meal of 16 containers were waiting at the church to be delivered to All Keen's family! Thank you all for the great help. Also, a special thank you to the Barton's for their initial contact with the family and their help in loading all the food at 8:30 AM Saturday.

- Regina Bullions

Nursery Workers:

The Nursery schedule is posted in the Nursery.

Richard Campbell Nursing Home:

"Brinner" at the Richard Campbell Veterans Nursing Home will be Wednesday, February 21st.

The Fellowship Meal:

The Food and Fellowship Meal this month will be the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 13th at 6:00 PM.

