



# 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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:



### "The Season of Lent"

We are now in the season of Lent, a 40 day season of

preparation, self-reflection and repentance leading up to Easter in which we seek to literally "turn around" and realign our lives and focus towards God. We often hear how people give up something for Lent. Some give up chocolate; some give up red meat. I have heard of some giving up Facebook. The idea is to give up something you like so you are closer to God.

But, in reality, does just giving up such things really bring one closer to God? They might, but none of the things mentioned above are really necessary for life (some might disagree with me, claiming Facebook or an occasional grilled steak is an essential part of life!). Others might go further during Lent, giving up buying consumption goods like new clothing or football tickets in order to redirect their resources to help out others. These "sacrifices" are noble, but do they really cause one to focus their lives more on God.

What we must ask is what can we do, or not do, which leads us towards putting our complete trust in God. In general, those of us at Latimer have adequate resources to provide for our needs. We really do not have to worry about where the next meal will come from. Most of us keep enough provisions on hand to last us for months, if not years.

Can we imagine ourselves like Jesus in the wilderness? What if we went forty days and forty nights without food or water? Would we have enough trust in God to resist the temptations to turn to another source other than God to supply us with our needs?

We aren't really required to fast forty days to test our faith in God. What shows our focus on God is how we live our daily lives. Our example is how the Israelites trusted God when they were in the wilderness for forty years. Each day they had to rely on God to provide them with food.

The manna came from heaven but could not be stored or saved. The quail came on a daily basis.

Have you ever considered why the Lord's Prayer is "Give us this day our daily bread?" In this prayer which Jesus taught us to pray, we pray for our daily needs to be met. We have to get to the point in our faith lives where we depend on God each day. What you need to ask yourself is if you had nothing in reserve, do you have enough faith to trust God for your daily needs?

In this time of self-reflection, ask not if you can give up French fries or that new pair of shoes or that new golf club for Lent. Ask if you can give up everything you have, and trust God for all. This is what Jesus told the rich young ruler he would need to do if he was going to follow him. If the answer is yes, you have put your trust in God.

- Rev. Wally Culp

### **From the Nurture Team:**

The 40 days of Lent. Tell me the story of Jesus, vs 2:

*"Fasting alone in the desert, tell of the days that are past.*

*How for our sins He was tempted, yet was triumphant at last.*

*Tell of the years of His labor, tell of the sorrow He bore.*

*He was despised and afflicted, homeless, dejected and poor."*

During this season, we focus on the activities of Jesus, drawing closer to God and dedicating ourselves to follow Him.

Palm Sunday – March 25, we will have the procession of Palms. This begins Holy Week. We will observe Maundy Thursday, March 29 worship service at 7pm. The week culminates Easter Sunday April 1 when we beautify the cross with flowers and resurrected life, during the worship service. The Easter season will last 49 days until Pentecost.

March 18 the choir will present a mini-musical "Behold the Empty Tomb" by Joe E. Parks during 11am Worship.

March 25, our Food and Fellowship meal after church. Hosted by the Choir and the Huffman Sunday School Class.

Thanks to all who participated in the Fat Tuesday (Maundy Tuesday) meal and celebration on February 13. We had 22 attending. Pastor Wally and Jane Barton did a swell job cooking the pancakes. There was plenty to eat, some to take home and everyone really had a good time.

Other times for our Fellowship meal are: April 29– Italian Meal fundraiser for Relay for Life, hosted by Kent and Linda Millwood, May – Hosted by the Acolytes and Ushers, October – Hosted by UMW, and November – Hosted by the UMM.

Plenty of months available for your team or group to host. See sign-up sheet on table in Library area. Continue to keep our church and members in your prayers. We remember in love the deaths of two members- Al Keen, died January 12 and Ann Gaston, died February 25. If you know someone who would like a visit, or

Communion serve to them at home, please let Pastor Wally or Sandy know. Our visitation team can arrange for this.

Just in today, the birth of Kent and Linda Millwood's grandbaby – Millie Kate Koelzer, February 18, 2018. Congratulations!!!

Next meeting will be April 8 after worship

-Sandy Sorrow

### **From the Outreach Team:**

We did not get to serve "Brinner" to the Veterans at Richard Campbell in January due to illness at Richard Campbell. We did serve "Brinner" in February.

The Grief Support Group met in February. We shared lunch together and fellowship.

In March the 49<sup>th</sup> Kairos Weekend will be held. We can be part of this ministry by providing cookies, money, notes, and prayers. Watch the bulletin for the dates.

- Pat Wilson

### **From the Witness Team:**

The new Church Directory is now complete and ready for distribution. Please pick up your copy on the table in the church library.

- Bob Emhof

### **The Treasurer's Report:**

For the period of January 9 to February 18, offerings have been made in the total amount of \$15,010.00. For the same time period, expenditures have been as follows: Administrative costs: \$8,097.00; Office Expense: \$100.00; Sunday School and Worship supplies: \$389.00; Utilities: \$841.00; and Apportionments: \$1,229.00. In addition, there have been expenditures outside the budget for organ repair in the amount of \$250.00, costs for the Anderson Ministerial meeting of \$77.00, and directory costs in the amount of \$138.00.

### **The Liturgist's Schedule:**

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> - Kent Millwood  
Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> - Linda Millwood  
Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> - Bob Emhof

### **Church Council:**

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.



### **Offering Counters:**

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
John Pinson  
Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
Kent Millwood  
Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
Jim DuBose  
Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
Bob Emhof



### **Choir Practice:**

Choir practice will be held every Wednesday at 4:30 PM except on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be no practice on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Choir will present a Special Service of Easter music on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ushers:**

March - Frank Sorrow  
Bill Eaves  
April - Frank Sorrow

## **Forward Focus Group:**

On February 18, 2018, a Congregational meeting was held at Latimer, well attended by members of the church. Rev. Joe Allinder, leader of the Forward Focus team, presented the following recommendations from the Forward Focus team (which consists of Rev. Wally Culp, Bill and Gloria Eaves, Bob Emhoff, and Ron Walfield):

- That Latimer engage in a visioning Process.
- That Latimer explore being part of a multi church charge or another way of reducing ministerial costs.
- That Latimer stream-line committees and teams to reduce meetings and reduce having people serve in multiple leadership roles.

After a period of discussion and consensus building lead by the District Superintendent Susan Leonard-Ray, the congregation agreed that Latimer move forward with these three recommendations and that they be submitted to Church council for approval

at its March 13, 2018, meeting.

Many thanks to the members of the Forward Focus team for their time, talents, hard work and insight during this process.

## **Grief Support Group:**

The Grief Support Group will meet on Thursday, March 28th at noon. Lunch will be served.

## **Our Shut-Ins:**

Charles Campbell  
Ernie Emhof  
Jane Woodson  
Phillip Brannon  
Jackie Manning  
Peggie Bromeling



## **The Latimer Lovelies:**

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at noon on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Tuckers. Please let Betty King know if you will be attending by Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.



## **Our Prayer Concerns:**

Ben and Nancy, Dean Bannister, 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, Family of Ann Gaston, Jim Grubbs, Randy Grubbs, Betty Hill, Kallie Hinkle, Family of Al Keen, Georgia Keen, Jim and Amy Lane, Jackie Manning, Emily McAlister, Rebecca McGowan, Carolyn Miller, Bonnie Moore, Betty Jean Morgan, Randy Morrison, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Jennifer Payne, Dot Peck, Sarah Raditz, Joan Sears, David Smith, Linda Squyers, Trevor Willis, Frank Woods, and Jane Woodson

### **Prayer Breakfast:**

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

### **Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:**

The UMC Men's Club breakfast and meeting will be Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

### **United Methodist Women:**

On Monday, March 5, The United Methodist women will observe A Call to Prayer and Self Denial. This is a yearly program held during Lent. All women are invited to attend. You do not need to be a member of a circle.

Rural Missions will be monetary gift emphasis for March. The women will also support Kairos Ministry for men during this month.

- Regina Bullions

### **Nursery Worker:**

The Nursery Volunteer schedule is posted on the board in the nursery.

### **Richard Campbell Nursing Home:**

"Brinner" at the Richard Campbell Veterans Nursing Home will be Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **The Fellowship Meal:**

The March Fellowship meal will be Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Choir and the Huffman Sunday School Class.

### **New Baby/Grandbaby:**



Welcome to Millie Kate Koelzer who arrived on February 18<sup>th</sup> and weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces. Millie is the daughter of Dani and Korey Koelzer and the granddaughter of Kent and Linda Millwood and David and Jana Koelzer. The whole family is excited and welcomed her with open arms and hearts.

### **Bishop's Corner:**

### **Making the You-Turn:**

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*"But there's also this, it's not too late—God's personal message! 'Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!' Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to God, your God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, this most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe. Who knows? Maybe he'll do it now, maybe he'll turn around and show pity. Maybe, when all's said and done, there'll be blessings full and robust for your God!"— Joel 2:12-14 (The Message)*

As we prepare to embark this month upon our Lenten journey, we do so in the midst of a world that is in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our world is constantly changing as the next new technology bursts on the scene. The 24-hour news cycle means that we either hear about one crisis after another or, on a "slow news day," we hear about

the same crisis over and over and over again.

The nature of our public discourse has changed, as well. It seems the uses of hate speech and words that hurt and divide is becoming commonplace. As hateful words escalate, one wonders what will happen next.

In the midst of trying times, we are called during Lent to a time of self-examination and reflection. Lent is a time for us to focus on our relationship with God and to take stock of our own spiritual condition.

Many have heard me tell the story of being appointed to pastor a predominantly white congregation in the affluent Buckhead community in Atlanta. The morning after my introductory visit, I received the “phone call.” A member of the church called to ask me the question, “What do we call you?” I answered, “You can call me pastor, reverend, Jonathan....” He stopped me. “No,” he said. “I mean what do we call you? Are you black? African American? Negro? What do we call you?”

As understanding dawned on me, I asked him, “Well, what do you call me?” His response came quickly.

“I’m from South Georgia, and I call you colored.”

At this point, I shared with him that the copy of my birth certificate that I carried in my wallet growing up had the letter “C” in the section entitled “race.” That “C” stands for colored.

“My father,” I said, “told me my life would not be defined by one letter but by the content of my character.” Then I asked him, “What should I call you? White? Caucasian? Or something else?”

“Touché,” he said.

“My name is Jonathan. Why don’t we start there, and as we get to know one another we can meet in the middle.”

And thus began a beautiful friendship. We were able to learn to trust one another because the subject of our racial differences was put on the table where we could talk about it rather than kept under the table and hidden away.

In this Lenten season, the question of self-examination and reflection resounds for us, as well. Are we living lives that shine God’s light into the world? How are we

practicing the means of grace through works of piety and works of mercy that point to the saving grace of Jesus Christ in our lives? Are we doing our part, in our own circles of influence, to speak words of hope and to act in ways that build up rather than tear down?

Noted novelist and social critic James Baldwin said it this way: “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

Lent is often a time when Christians give something up. We choose to do without a favorite food in order to demonstrate our devotion to Jesus Christ and to remember his sacrifice. Others choose to add something during this season, such as volunteering in a ministry or offering the gift of time to make a difference.

Indeed, it is a time to focus on our relationship with God, as well as to take stock of our spiritual condition—and “maybe, when it’s all said and done, there’ll be blessings full and robust for your God.”

May it be so.

