



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:

Gifts of the Spirit

I wanted to use my ponderings in this

newsletter to follow up on my sermon on gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each of us needs to figure out our gifts and use them in the church. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12, all gifts are important and one is not greater than the other. There are a variety of gifts in the church; not all are the same. Finally, just because someone has a gift in one area does not mean that person is good at everything. In fact, it is highly unlikely that one person is gifted in everything. This is why it is important for a church congregation to benefit from an assortment of people with an assortment of gifts.

I have thought about gifts and talents while I have been reading the book *Grant* by Ron Chernow. Ulysses S. Grant is a prime example of how one can have great gifts in one area but not be

good at other things. Before the Civil War, Grant was a business failure and could barely support his family. But, in war, Grant began to realize his remarkable potential, soaring through the ranks of the military to become one of the greatest field Generals in US history. President Abraham Lincoln was finally able to find in Grant the man who could lead the Union army and Grant was ultimately able to defeat the legendary Confederate general Robert E. Lee. Grant's military fame translated into a two-term presidency, where he had his ups and downs. He used his talents to promote freedom and justice for black Americans who had been freed from slavery. At the same time, his failure to be able to recognize character flaws in others plagued his administration with corruption scandals by

some of his closest staff members.

Grant's lack of business talent once again cost him and his family in his post-presidency years. He was swindled by a dashing young broker on Wall Street in what was a Ponzi scheme, bringing Grant and his family into poverty. Fortunately for Grant, his image and his family's fortune were rescued in the end with the help of Mark Twain with the publishing of his memoirs, which provided income for his family after he died and are considered a masterpiece of the genre.

Most of you know your gifts and talents. If not, talk to those in your church who have known you. They can often identify your abilities even when you do not realize what you do well. You may also want to consider taking a spiritual inventory test, which helps you identify your spiritual gifts. You want to be using the gifts and talents God has given you through the Holy Spirit. As the church works together,

we want to rely on all the gifts and talents that are in our congregation. The diversity of gifts and backgrounds will provide us with the best way to take the saving message of Jesus Christ into the community and the world.

- Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

A good thought as we enter into February – Leaning on Jesus. “What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.”

We appreciate all who share their talents and abilities and enjoy the opportunity to serve one another.

Our meal and fellowship is usually the last Sunday in each month. We thank the Millwoods for hosting and promoting the annual Chili Cook-Off January 27th. Funds were raised for the Cancer Association of Anderson. We look

forward to the annual Italian meal in April, also hosted by the Millwoods. The Choir will host the Meal in May. There is a sign-up sheet in the Library for the remaining months of the year.

February Fellowship meal will be combined with “Fat Tuesday” Pancake Supper on March 5. A sign-up sheet is in the Library to help and to bring food items to share in this traditional feast before the Lenten season Ash Wednesday.

We will hold a Prayer Vigil on February 21 in the Sanctuary. Our Bishop Holston encourages all United Methodists to be in prayer for the United Methodist Church and the Special Session of the General Conference held in St. Louis. Attached is a prayer guide to use daily. On February 21 our church will be opened all day 9 am to 6 pm for prayers. We would like to have members sign up to staff the sanctuary for one (1) hour increments during this period. Pastor Wally will

announce more information. There is an hourly sign-up sheet on the desk in the library.

This time of year we especially want to remember our shut-ins and those friends and families listed in the bulletin each Sunday. They sure can get a lift when they hear your voice or get a visit or card.

Pastor Wally will be starting a new Bible Study "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Devine. Watch for more information in the bulletins.

Looking ahead in March: "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Meal, March 5 at 5:30pm

Ash Wednesday service, March 6, will be at noon, with devotions, prayers and imposition of Ashes.

Keep Latimer Memorial in your prayers and the many activities to witness to others through-out the year. Wishing everyone "Happy Valentine's Day". Remember God

calls us to love one another – everyday. Our next team meeting is March 20, 11am.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

We are blessed to live in a wonderful community. Many citizens are making an effort to give support and service that will make our community even better. On January 15th, fifteen members of Latimer joined such an effort at Belton Elementary School. Along with others from the community, our fifteen members helped with the class concerning parenting that is held at Belton Elementary School the third Tuesday each month. Rev. Culp shared a very meaningful devotional. Our part was serving a supper of pizza, salad, cookies, and beverages to all in attendance. We also took the children to the gym while their parents were in their session on parenting. We had a good time with the children sharing

crafts, art, music, stories, and games. This was a very good opportunity for Latimer to be in service for God in our community.

On January 16th we, along with the United Methodist Men, served our veterans. We cooked pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, and grits. After everyone was served there were just a few morsels left. It lifts heart and spirit to see those who gave so much have such a good appetite and such enjoyment in a good meal.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

Santa and his helper were well received at Richard Campbell December 19th. Every veteran who attended "Brinner" was given a Christmas message from our church.

We helped out at the parenting class January 15th at Belton Elementary School. Susie made fun kids book marks with our church's name on the back. Each child picked

their favorite and added them to their treasure boxes. The food and fellowship was great. The group of children were small but we all had a good time. What an awesome way to Outreach, Nurture and Witness to our community. Hopefully we will get invited back to help out at the next class held in Belton and will have more parents and children come.

We are planning on participating in the Annual SC State Chili Cookoff April 13th. We will have more information available in future newsletters.

It is time to make another cookbook!! The food is always so good at our fellowship meals and we would like your recipes. Ranging from meat, casseroles, veggies, salads, dips and of course desserts. Please start gathering your recipes together and give them to Susie or Jane.

The Witness Team needs ideas on how to reach out to young families. You can contact Gay, Glenda, David, Hannah, Susie or Jane

with your ideas which will be greatly appreciated.

Still working on a design for our "I Love My Church" T shirts. Would like them ready for the chili cook off.

Going to schedule a Witness team and VBS meeting in the beginning of February. Dates to be announced.

- Jane Barton

The Liturgist's Schedule:

Feb. 3rd - Ron Walfield
Feb. 10th - Kent Millwood
Feb. 17th - Linda Millwood
Feb. 24th - Sandy Sorrow

Safe Sanctuary Training:

Safe Sanctuary training will be held at Robinson Chapel UMC in Liberty SC on February 2nd from 9:00 AM until Noon.

Church Council:

The next Church Council meeting will be March 12th at 5:00 PM.

Prayer Breakfast:

Our Prayer Breakfast is every Tuesday at 8:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

New Email Address:

Please note that I have a new email address. It's susiehowell635@gmail.com.

Offering Counters:

Feb. 3rd - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
Feb. 10th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood
Feb. 17th - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
Feb. 24th - Ron Walfield
Frank Sorrow



Barb Emhof:

Barb is now at Greenville Memorial Hospital and had her bone marrow transplant on Friday. She can receive cards but no plants, flowers, or food. Please remember her and Bob in your prayers.

Barb's address is:

Barbara Emhof
Greenville Memorial
Hospital
701 Grove Road
Room 5409
Greenville SC 29605

New Bible Study:

Rev. Culp will have a seven week Bible Study, "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Devine which begins on March 5. The study will be held on Tuesdays from 10:00 AM to noon . Books are \$12 and large print editions are available. Please let Rev. Culp know if you are interested.

FCA Event:

If you would like to attend the FCA event at BHP on February 19, please let Rev. Culp or Roy Mac Haggard know. There is no charge for this event and dinner will be served.

Ushers:

February - Frank Sorrow
March - Frank Sorrow

Our Prayer Concerns:

Lane Bourne, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Family of Peggie Bromeling, David Burleson, Juanita Butler, Charles Campbell, Frank Clark, Danielle Clavier, Rene Clavier, Nancy Cothran, Katie Coward, Tim Culp, Judith DuBose, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Tony Ellett, Barb Emhof, Ernie Emhof, Linda Emhof, Elsie Gilbert, Jim Grubbs, Judi Harris, Georgia Keen, Amy and Jim Lane, Jackie Manning, Jerry Manning, Emily McAlister, Sara McDowell, Randy Morrison, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Dot Peck, Jo Ann Pinson, Keith Ridgeway, Sybil Sellers, Norma Timms, Trevor Willis, Frank Woods, Jane Woodson

Our Homebound:

Charles Campbell
Ernie Emhof
Jane Woodson
Phillip Brannon
Jackie Manning



Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet on February 13th at Noon at O'Charley's. Please let Pat Wilson know by Monday, February 11th, if you plan to attend.

Anderson District Covenant Group:

The Anderson District Covenant Group will meet on February 21st from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:

The Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club will meet at 9:00 AM on Sunday, February 17th. There will a special guest speaker from the Gideons, Al Gudinas.

Grief Support Group:

The Grief Support Group will meet on Wednesday, February 27th at Noon. Lunch will be served.

United Methodist Women:

January and the New Year began with the sad news of Peggie Bromeling's death. She had been a long, long time member of Latimer's Sue Coward Circle. Traditionally the women provide a meal for the family when a death occurs. This was upheld following the memorial service when approximately 35 family members were served lunch.

The first meeting of the year was held on Mon. Jan., 7. Pat Wilson presented the program "Conspiring Sisterhood". This was based on scripture from the first two chapters of Exodus concerning the threat of the Israelites to Pharaoh, the order to kill male Israelite babies and the birth and saving of Moses. The latter was made possible by a "conspired sisterhood" of women which crossed the lines of race, religion, etc.

Belton Elementary School held a parenting meeting during which the UMW helped by serving dinner and providing

activities for children while their parents attended the meeting. The cost of this is covered by a grant won by the school. One of the priorities of the United Methodist Women worldwide is to aid women and children. This provided a local means to meet this goal. The children took part in games, tying knots, braiding, and stories. Each child went home with a treasure box containing some things they created along with colored pencils and stickers.

The next UMW meeting made up of the Elizabeth Smith and Sue Coward Circles will be Monday, February 4, at 3:00 at the church. All women are invited to attend and/or join.

- Regina Bullions

Nursery Workers:

- Feb. 3rd - Regina Bullions
Nancy Ellett
- Feb. 10th - Gloria Eaves
Judith DuBose
- Feb. 17th - Andy Bullions
Hannah Brooks
- Feb. 24th - Regina Bullions
Nancy Ellett

Richard Campbell Nursing Home:

"Brinner" at Richard C. Campbell Veteran's Nursing Home will be Wednesday, February 20th.



Prayer Vigil:

A prayer vigil will be held on Feb. 21 from 9:00 am until 6:00 p.m. to pray for the Special General Conference in St. Louis, MO, from Feb.23-26. Rev. Culp is asking that two persons per hour sign up to be in prayer at the church. All are welcome to come at any time. At 2 p.m. Rev. Culp will lead in prayers and readings. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby.



Choir Practice:

Choir Practice will be every Tuesday at 10:00 AM.

Treasurer's Report:

As of December 31, 2018, the balance of the general account was \$39,368.67, of which \$22,106.30 is escrow, leaving an operating balance of \$17,262.37. The housing allowance balance is \$10,371.09 which will take care of the pastor's housing allowance through August. We have a CD containing monies remaining from the sale of the van in the amount of \$7,901.02. Monthly expenses for the year were in the normal range. Telephone and internet service for the church was changed in September from AT&T to Spectrum for a monthly savings of approximately \$50.00. There was an additional charge drafted by AT&T, but after a call to the service department, that charge is to be refunded in check form within the month. Only two budget items went over budget: \$4.00 in Music for increased costs for copyright and \$.04 for travel due to a clerical error.

The rental account has a balance of \$38,495.33.

Expenditures from this account have included repairs and supplies in the total amount of \$5,347.91 which includes new gas furnaces in two of the houses. Taxes were paid to Anderson County in the amount of \$5,173.76, while the amount of \$1,200.00 was paid to BIMA. There are also three CD's totaling \$26,500.00 earmarked for the payment of insurance and janitorial services; this amount is from the insurance proceeds of the house which burned in February. There is an additional CD for the rental account in the amount of \$23,346.52 which was established several years ago and which has a current renewal date of December 2021.

Four of six of our remaining rental houses are occupied at the present time. However, we are receiving rent from only two; one pays regularly every month, while the other pays either every month or, sometimes, two months each.

Apportionments for 2018 were paid in the amount of \$12,670.00, representing 85.9% of the amount required. This was almost \$6,000.00 more than the amount budgeted and was possible because of the extra amount approved by Council and individual donations.

An itemized monthly report will be posted in the counting room.

- Linda Millwood

Fellowship Meal:

The Food and Fellowship Meal for February will be the "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Supper on March 5th.



Chili Cookoff:

The Latimer Memorial UMC Chili Cookoff was held on Sunday, January 27th. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Cancer Association of Anderson. Contestants were

Gloria Eaves, Alan Walfield, Jane Barton, Judith DuBose, Linda Millwood, and Tommy Howell. Gloria was runner-up and Alan and Linda tied for first place. A total of \$375.75 was collected.



Bishop's Corner:

Hope, a difference a witness makes

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.’”—Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

Excitement and anticipation abound as we start a new year. Goals are set and plans

are made for what is yet to come.

And in the midst of all that we plan, God is at work among us in marvelous and magnificent ways. However, to remain focused on following God’s plan for our lives—rather than simply our own plans—requires discipline, dedication and a commitment to prayer. This shift in focus requires a deep well of faith.

Laura Story, a Grammy-award-winning singer-songwriter and South Carolina native, shares how her perspective about prayer has been shaped as she has learned to truly trust God’s plan: “We pray for wisdom, your voice to hear; we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near. We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love; as if every promise from Your Word is not enough. All the while, You hear each desperate plea, and long that we’d have faith to believe.”

And so we move forward in faith, believing God’s promises of grace, hope, mercy and love.

Next month, delegates and church leaders from around the world will convene in St. Louis for the special called session of General Conference. Much has gone into the preparations for this global gathering, and significant work is before this body when they meet Feb. 23-26. As we begin this new year in prayer, let us remember those who serve in leadership throughout The United Methodist Church.

I invite you to join me in a season of focused prayer between now and the called General Conference. When we join together in prayer each day, we remember who we are and whose we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each day we have the opportunity to be for someone the Gospel that they may never otherwise hear. As United Methodist sisters and brothers, we will continue our kingdom work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, sustained by hope and our faith in God’s promises.

Together each day, let us join one another in prayer, believing that God hears every word:

- Monday: Merciful God, help us to see the many opportunities before us to serve you by serving our neighbors. Open our hearts and our hands to both receive your grace and to offer it to everyone we meet. Amen.
- Tuesday: Almighty God, we confess to you that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have often failed to be an obedient church when we have not heard the cry of the needy. Free us for joyful obedience that where there are corridors of shame, despair and want, we might create corridors of faith, hope and love that glorify you. Amen.
- Wednesday: Gracious God, I know that you are the potter and I am the clay. Mold me and make me into a disciple of Jesus Christ. Show me how to offer your grace and mercy in ways

that transform the world. Amen.

- Thursday: Lord, we know that when we make space in our hearts for you, Jesus redeems the broken pieces of our lives. We ask, O God, that you will be at work in us and through us to make a difference in the lives of the hurting and the hungry in our midst. Amen.
- Friday: God, we thank you for the gift of faith that carries us through those times where we cannot yet see what you are doing in our midst. Help us to walk in your light and to be a light for others. Amen.
- Saturday: God of Heaven and Earth, As your humble servants, we know that the needs around the world and around the corner are great. Open our eyes so that we can see how to use the gifts you have given us to serve our neighbors and be in mission in the community and beyond. And give us the strength and perseverance to get started in this holy work. Amen.

- Sunday: Gracious and loving God, we give thanks for your presence in our lives and the promise that you have plans for us to prosper and not be harmed. Continue your good work in our families and our lives. Help us to understand how we can make a difference in our church, in our community, and in our world as your instrument of hope. Amen.

Friends, prayer is powerful. When our hearts and minds are engaged in a prayerful focus we begin to see situations from the perspective of hope. There is not magic that erases our trials or suffering, but in the midst of it all, a life of prayer shifts our perspective from a spirit of despair toward a spirit of hope. We truly trust in God's promises. Laura Story names this shift when she asks God, "What if the trials of this life are your blessings in disguise?"

My prayer for you is that this season of focused prayer will instill in your hearts a spirit of hope.

