



Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

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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 you know, I will be going to a new pastorate in July of this year. Every year the

pastor has to decide whether to stay at the current charge or request a move. This past fall I spend about a month and a half praying and reflecting on what to do. It became clear to me that God was calling me to a new challenge.

I will use a later newsletter to reflect on my time at Latimer. The purpose of this pondering is to tell you a little about where I am going. As most of you know, it is important that I receive an appointment that is close to Greenville, SC. Ellisa and I have our permanent home there and do not want to move away. Also, Ellisa is an only child and looks after her mother who is 94 years old. In talking with our District Superintendent, I requested that I remain close to Greenville.

Fortunately, things have worked out well. I will be going to the Bogansville Charge in the Spartanburg District. It is located in the northern part of Union County in Jonesville. It is in a traditional farming

community. It is located about the same distance from our home in Greenville as is Latimer. They have a nice parsonage. I will live there some during the week and will probably come back to Greenville Thursday to Saturday each week. There is plenty of room in the parsonage for Ellisa when she visits. When I am in Greenville, I will not be far from Spartanburg, where most of the church members will probably go if they have to go to the hospital.

The church profile shows 87 people for worship and 55 for Sunday School. Their Facebook page shows an active Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) group. I look forward to my ministry at Bogansville.

God knew that a pastor with my background would be needed at Bogansville. This past January 28, they lost their pastor to COVID -19. They are now dealing with much grief. As you know, I have focused on helping church members deal with

grief and have done much research and study on dealing with the death of loved ones and close friends. God knows how to use our gifts and talents.

Union County also holds much history for my family. My father grew up in Union and graduated from high school there in 1953. My great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Dudley Culp, was a prominent businessman in Union and gave the stone for the church building for Grace United Methodist Church. He was given the right to name the church. My great-grandmother, Belle Powell Culp, taught a Sunday School at Grace and has a class named after her. My grandfather, Wallace Culp, Sr. (known as "Doc Culp") operated a pharmacy in Buffalo, SC, which is five miles from Bogansville.

- Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

"Jesus gave us the Lord's prayer as a model for prayer. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." We are called Easter people for a

reason. We believe in God's perfect will for His people. We put aside our fears and have faith Jesus Lives.

The season of Lent consummates 40 days of preparation, fasting, self-denial, repentance and confession, and putting our house in order so we can be prepared for Easter. We can claim the Living Christ, God's promise fulfilled.

Holy week began March 28 with Palm Sunday. Continuing the week with Maundy Thursday April 1, with Reflections of the cross, prayers and readings at 5pm.

Easter morning Service at 11am, We celebrate Holy Communion. Bring a live flower to adorn the Living Cross if you like. We will have extras.

Please continue to keep one another in prayers. Your telephone calls, notes and visits are such blessings to our shut-ins. We are hopeful that we can have an outside event in May.

From the poetry of Helen Steiner Rice: *"After the clouds, the sunshine, After the winter, the spring. After the shower, the rainbow –*

For life is a changeable thing."

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

Welcome, Spring. As the Bible tells us, there is a time for different things and happenings. I think most of us are ready for Spring.

Not much is happening with Outreach right now. We did join in the Zoom meeting with the NOW teams and Wally and the Zoom meeting with the Church Council.

As things improve with the Covid-19 situation, we will be able to resume some of our mission work. We look forward to this. In the meantime, we can offer a word of kindness to each other and our neighbors. We can write a note or card to encourage someone. All of us need friends.

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10

From the Witness Team:

Susie is continuing her ministry in creating the monthly church newsletter and keeping us informed

thru emails some of the church's communications. She is also working on updating the church directory by making sure we have members correct contact information. (Address, phone numbers and email address). We hope to have this completed during the summer. She also has updated the prayer chain information which will be handed out. Glenda is taking a break from her mailing sermons etc. Rev Wally is doing that until June. If Glenda decides she doesn't want to continue Gay Walfield has volunteered to take over this ministry.

The NOW teams chairpersons had a Zoom Meeting to touch base to see how the teams were working. All teams reported all was going well and to keep teams thy way it is structured now. During this time, we discussed what each team was planning for 2021. The Witness Team will share our ideas at a future date when there are more details available and it is safe to be out and about.

I love so many hymns that it is hard to pick to pick my favorite. The one I truly love and we only sing it once a year is "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" written by

Charles Wesley in 1739. There are 6 verses to this song.

Christ The Lord has risen today, Alleluia!

Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, he heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where's thy victory, boasting grave? alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!

Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!

Thee we great triumphant now, Alleluia!

Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!

Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!

Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!

Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

- Jane Barton

If anyone would like to share their pictures or articles with the rest of our congregation, please send them to Susie.



New Minister:

As was announced Sunday Rev. Dan Fortney has been appointed by Bishop Holston to serve as Latimer Memorial's pastor effective July 1, 2021. His first Sunday as our pastor will be July 4. Dan and his wife Doreen were part of the Latimer congregation from 2011 to 2016. During that time Dan taught our young adult Sunday School class and directed Vacation Bible School.

Dan was born in Newburg, West Virginia which is about twenty miles east of Morgantown and is a graduate of Kentucky Mountain Bible College. He continued his education with studies at Glenville State College and Morehead State University and completed the studies necessary for ordination at Southern Wesleyan University. He was ordained in 1989 by the Wesleyan Church and was a Wesleyan pastor for 28 years. Currently Rev

Fortney is pastoring the Sharon and Smyrna Charge in the Anderson District which he has served for five years.

- Andy Bullions

Church Council:

At its March 9, 2021 meeting, church council decided that all safety protocols currently in place will remain the same. When in the church building one must wear a face mask or face covering and maintain a social distance of at least six -feet from non-family members. The use of hand-sanitizer is strongly encouraged. There is no congregational singing.

The only modification approved at the March 9 meeting is that if someone cannot physically wear a facemask or face-covering, they may wear a face-shield. The church will purchase face shields and have them available for those who need to use one.

The meetings inside the church building remain the same. The only meetings held are the 11am Sunday worship service, the monthly United Methodist Women meeting, and the monthly Lions Club meeting.

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 11th at 4:30 PM by Zoom.

Our Homebound:

Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning



Our Prayer Concerns:

If you see anyone on our Prayer Concerns list that should be removed or know of anyone that needs to be added, please let Susie Howell know. Contact information is on the first page of this Newsletter.

Dr. Tom Barnett, Sarah Blackwell, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Dr. Thomas Burris, Juanita Butler, Scott Campbell, Kendall Chandler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Jocelyn Collins, Glenda Conley, Katie Coward, Tim Culp, Carl DuBose, Kate DuBose, Gloria Eaves, Rev. Tommy Edwards, Tony Ellett, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Carolyn Haggard's family, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell,

Nancy Nagel, Eric Ni, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Colleen Pinson, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

Millwood Grandbabies:



Maundy Thursday:

The Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 1st at 5:00 PM at the church.

United Methodist Women:

This year's offering taken during the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial promotes leadership development through a program entitled Training for Transformation. United Methodist Women identified three countries to pilot this women's leadership development program: The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Sierra Leone. Regina Bullions presented the program titled "She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference" by Grace Musuka. The Scripture Reference was Numbers 27:1-8 in which the 5 daughters of the late Zelophehad stood before the whole congregation of the tent of meeting to ask Moses for the inheritance of their father. This was just prior to the Israelites going into the promised land. The laws for the division of the new land had just been established and was given to each family through the male heads of households. The women asked why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son. Moses brought

their case before the Lord and the Lord said the daughters are right and should be allowed to possess an inheritance.

The culture at that time did not include women possessing land nor their rights to show such leadership. Therefore, this scripture closely ties into the well-being of underserved women, children and families and calls us to transform communities so that often overlooked women can be developed into leaders.

Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is the Special Emphasis Mission for March. The Anderson District UMW Day Apart will be held on April 17, at 10:00 by Zoom. Latimer Women will meet again on Monday, April 5, at 3:00.

Special speaker on Epworth Children's home outreach to Foster parents. All women of the church are invited.

- Regina Bullions

Trustee's Report:

Linda Millwood was elected Vice Chair of the Trustees at the March 4, 2021 Zoom meeting. The rental houses at 223 Boyce Circle, 221 Boyce Circle and 307 Green Street have been

sold to SC Home, Offer, LLC for \$10,000 each. The rental houses at 206 River Street, 203 Saluda Street and 205 Saluda Street were sold earlier to Kahl Properties, LLC for a total price of \$45,000. The Trustees have started a conversation about the need for a fence between the church property and the former rental houses. This would be a fence simply to mark the property line. It will not be a privacy fence. It will not be a fence to keep people out. It will be open ended, low maintenance and attractive. The Trustees feel that the fence will help us be good neighbors. As new tenants come and go we will not have to keep having the conversation about the property. The purpose of the fence is to mark clearly the property line. The Trustees welcome input from the congregation about the fence.

- Gloria Eaves



RuPaw Culp

NOW Teams Meeting:

Summary of NOW meeting of March 3, 2021

Nurture Team

Wally will check with Rev. Cathy Joens about whether face shields will meet the requirements of face coverings for in-person worship. If so, the church will purchase some for members who want to use them.

Church members will be encouraged to contact those members who are not able to worship inside and visit with them at their homes. Visits will take place per agreement of all involved. Consider meeting outside with chairs set up outside. Wally will talk about from pulpit and this will also be put in newsletter.

We will organize an outside event at the Belton Senior center for members to gather at the picnic tables. Wally will check with Rev. Cathy Joens about whether some singing can be done. May also serve communion. Yvonne Shirley is a source to check with the Belton Senior center.

Wally continues to monitor advice from Bishop and DHEC on when it will be safe to hold other in-person

gatherings such as Sunday School, prayer groups.

Outreach Team

Pat Wilson reported that large print Bibles have been ordered and will be given to Patrick B. Harris.

In regard to serving dinner at Richard Campbell nursing home, Pat commented that the Outreach team had always followed the lead of the United Methodist Men on that ministry.

The United Methodist Women and the Outreach team are working on an event on April 5, 2021 during which someone from Epworth children's home will speak about services and outreach to Foster Parents and grandparents raising grandchildren in the Belton area.

Witness Team

The prayer chain is being updated. Pastor Wally will be called first. He will then contact either Jane Barton or Susie Howell. Glenda Conley has agreed to serve as the alternate to Jane and Susie.

Susie is working on an updated church directory. The goal is to have the

update completed in Summer 2021.

Susie will contact Gay Walfield to see if she will take over the mailings of the weekly sermons and the newsletter. Once she agrees, Susie will contact Pastor Wally and he will confirm with Glenda Conley she is not able to do this anymore.

Jane asked about the development of lay speakers and lay servants. Pastor Wally will work on providing her information on how to promote this in the church.

Jane also asked about information on outside activities for children and church members. She will check with the South Carolina United Methodist Conference and Pastor Wally will check on resources she can use. We discussed the activities at Asbury Hills and Lake Junaluska.

All team leaders are pleased with the current NOW structure. No one suggested any changes at this time.

- Rev. Wally Culp

Bishop's Corner:

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.”—
Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG)*

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.

Several years ago, my car taught me a lesson in self-examination when the maintenance light began to flash. I kept telling myself that I had plenty of time to get my car serviced. Yet I became increasingly overwhelmed and distracted by my responsibilities, and all the while, the maintenance light in the dash continued to flash. I kept going—filling my hours with the stuff of everyday life—until one day the

flashing in the dash stopped. It was at that point that I learned my car had come to a breaking point, and a new light in the dash now glared at me—“overdue for maintenance.”

It was in a busy intersection, at the height of rush hour, that my car quit. It stopped running. I could not accelerate. Because of the street’s incline, I had enough momentum to slowly creep through the intersection with a tremendous chorus of honking horns from irritated drivers serenading me.

I can tell you that my levels of anxiety, embarrassment, frustration and impatience were off the charts to say the least. All the while, in my dash the words glared brightly—“overdue for maintenance.”

At times, we speed through life, keeping busy, losing track of time, barely ever getting a second to rest, and we miss out on critical opportunities to check in with ourselves.

As important as it is to remember who we are, it is equally important to remember “whose” we are. When we join together in prayer, we have an opportunity to reconnect

with who and whose we are as disciples of Jesus Christ.

One year ago, we began praying together at 7 every morning. None of us knew in March 2020 that we would still be living through a global pandemic coupled with racial unrest and political divisiveness an entire year later. These circumstances have taken a toll on us both literally and emotionally. Our routines have been disrupted over and over again, and we still have legitimate concern for our health and the well-being of those whom we love.

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 no magic that erases our anxiety and overwhelm, 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 for our lives.

Even now—especially now—we have the opportunity to be for someone the Gospel that they may never otherwise hear. As United Methodist sisters and brothers, we

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. We know that in order to offer our gifts in service to others, we must make self-examination and self-care priorities.

Throughout this Lenten season, may our focus turn away from fear and turn toward trusting God—our rock, our hope and our refuge. As followers of Christ, let us be committed in our study and prayer to the essential work of self-examination and reflection.

Pay attention to that “maintenance light,” and don't ignore yourself until you are “overdue.” Take the time to dig into who you are and whose you are so that you can live on purpose for the sake of Christ in this world.

