



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
635 North Main Street
Belton SC 29627
susiehowell@bellsouth.net

Pastor's Ponderings:



A Time to Celebrate

We have just come through the Christmas season in

which we welcomed the Christ child and celebrated the message of Christmas. God has come into the world through Jesus, and Christ the suffering servant will provide release for the captors, will set the prisoners free. What this means for all of us is that we are set free from guilt, sin and death. We do not earn our freedom; it comes from the grace shown us by God in forgiving us. We just need to accept that forgiveness.

From Isaiah we learned about the Year of Jubilee. In the Mosaic law, every fiftieth year the Year of Jubilee is declared. Those who are in debt and have lost their property are given a fresh start and allowed to move forward in their lives. Their debts are forgiven and their property is returned. For all persons, Jesus Christ dying for us provided a Year of Jubilee for us in our spiritual lives. We now have a fresh start in our relationship with God and with other people.

What Jesus did for us is important as we reflect on the seasons of life. As Hebrew Bible scholar Walter Brueggeman writes, we all go through the seasons, from orientation, to disorientation, to new orientation. I have discussed these seasons in my sermons and in the Bible study on Moses. They affect persons who suffer the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or go through a divorce. They also affect institutions and churches. When life is in orientation, one is secure in God's control. Things are going well, sometimes so well that we or the church take for granted that we always need to rely on God. Sometimes we take our eyes off God.

But then something bad happens which sends us into disorientation. For a person, that can be the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or the end of a relationship. Disorientation creates emotions like guilt, anger, fear and depression. These emotions can go on for a

while. They are part of the grief process.

Church families can also go into disorientation. We have seen this happen with Latimer. Latimer has a rich history. At one time things were going along without too many bumps in the road. But, then the culture changed. The textile industry so important to Belton's economy went away. It has become harder and harder to attract young adults and children to the congregation. As a result, the active congregation has become smaller.

During disorientation, one remembers to ask for God's help. We are reminded that it is God who provides for us. Latimer is now asking for God's guidance as it looks towards its future. Latimer has been going through the study *Forward Focus*. It is now at a point when the congregation must decide what direction it will take. Please be in prayer for our church as it moves forward to develop a vision for its future.

The good news is that Latimer will reach a time of new orientation. Jesus has provided us with a new

start, and as Latimer continues to remind itself to rely on God, Latimer will know its direction and will be filled with joy and gladness. Such as the feelings we celebrate at this wonderful time of the year!

- Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

"Go tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountains that Jesus Christ is born."



2018 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we anticipate the year ahead, the projects and goals for our church family let us remember we all have a part in the future of Latimer Memorial and this community of sharing and caring. Even as we take down the Christmas decoration on January 9, God is not put in a box, "God is still with us."

Our calendar this year for the Food and Fellowship meals may look a little different. The meals may or

may not be on the last Sunday of each month. We will try to continue to have a monthly fellowship meal. A sign-up sheet for hosting the meals is on the desk in the Library. If your group wants to host a particular month, please choose the date. If we already have a meal scheduled during a particular month, then I hope your group can choose another month.

January 28 the Chili Cook-Off will be hosted by Kent Millwood for the Annual Cancer Relay for Life fundraiser. Let Kent know you make the best chili.

February 14 will be an Ash Wednesday Service with Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13. (this will be our February meal).

We continue to have a faithful team of Nursery workers. We would love to have another adult volunteer to serve. Please let Pastor or me know if you would be "On Call" Sunday mornings to assist in nursery care.

Another way to serve one another, is volunteering service during the Sunday worship time. We have a sign-up sheet for Ushers

for each month. See the desk in library.

Nurture Team welcomes new members Ann Gaston and Dot Peck. Rest of the Team members: Angela Pinson, Sarah Blackwell, Glenda Conley, Pastor Wally and Sandy Sorrow (Chair). We are still part of the N.O.W. teams and each team continues to help each other in the church programs and activities.

Please keep Latimer Memorial in your prayers and the many activities to witness to others throughout the year. Thanks to all who help prepare the Church for Christmas, visiting the shut-ins and the caroling activities. We all have gifts to share.

Next meeting January 7, 2018 after worship.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

Again this year we helped with the Community Thanksgiving Meal for the community of Belton. We prepared green beans for 150 servings. These dinners were delivered on Thanksgiving Day to anyone in the Belton area

that asked for a dinner. Much thanks to Frank and Sandy Sorrow and Josh Wilson for their help in preparing and delivering the beans to First Baptist Church. Also, thanks to the United Methodist Women who donated the beans.

The Grief Support Group did not meet in December.

The Outreach Team assisted the United Methodist Men in preparing "Brinner" and serving our veterans at Richard Campbell Veterans' Home.

A single act of kindness
Throws out roots
In all directions,
And the roots
Spring up to make
new trees.

Lawrence G. Lovasik

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The Witness Team continues to work on the Church Directory. We hope to have it finished and ready to distribute in January.

- Bob Emhof

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.

The Liturgist's Schedule:

Jan. 7th - Ron Walfield
Jan. 14th - Kent Millwood
Jan. 21st - Linda Millwood
Jan. 28th - Bob Emhof

Church Council:

Church Council will meet on Tuesday, January 9th, at 5:30 PM.

Offering Counters:

Jan. 7th - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
Jan. 14th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood
Jan. 21st - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
Jan. 28th - Ron Walfield
Bob Emhof



Choir Practice:

Choir practice will be January 3rd, 10th, 24th, and 31st. No choir practice on the 17th.

Ushers:

We need volunteers to be ushers in the coming year. Please sign up to help Frank with this. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the church library.

January - Frank Sorrow

February - Frank Sorrow

Our Shut-Ins:

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

Our Prayer Concerns:

Phillip Brannon, Jackie Manning, Stephen and Dot Peck, Sarah Raditz, Nancy Nagel, Jane Woodson, Jim Grubbs, Frank Woods, Chip Wynne, Bonnie Moore, Randy

Morrison, Georgia Keen, Brenda Parfitt, Emily McAlister, Nancy Cothran, Family of George Lesh, Linda Squyers, Joan Sears, Ben and Nancy, Peggie Bromeling, Millie Brackett, Bessie Clark, Racine Owings, Kallie Hinkle, Danielle Clavier, Katie Coward, James Holloway, Kim Bradbury, Jean Bullions, Barbara Emhof, the family of Brittany Fowler, Ed Wolf, Fred and Linda Emhof, Ellisa Culp, Jane Burnett, Carolyn Miller, Gloria Eaves, Shirley Cook, Glenda Conley, Betty Jean Morgan, Michael L. Moore, Will Womack, Jim and Amy Lane, Family of Blake Holliday, Jennifer Payne, Trevor Willis, the family of Helen Nance, Al Keen, Jackie Manning, Ernie Emhof, Charles Campbell, Sara Blackwell, Billie Jo Campbell



The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Noon on January 10th at the Olive Garden.



Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club:

The UMC Men's Club will meet on January 21st at 9:00 AM.

Prayer Breakfast:

The Prayer Breakfast is held on Tuesdays at 8:00 AM. There will be no Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, January 16th.

Grief Support Group:

The Grief Support Group will meet on Wednesday, January 24th at noon. Lunch will be served.



United Methodist Women:

Because all the women will still be hung over on Mon., Jan. 1, the UMW will meet Mon. Jan. 8, at 3:00. Following is some timely info since we won't meet until the 8th:

The women of Killingsworth will present a Circle of Care event here in the upstate on Saturday, January 13, at St. John's UMC in Anderson from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.. This is a free program to hear stories from residents of Killingsworth. No registration is necessary. However, immediately following a lunch will be offered for \$5.00. This will be a chance to socially interact with the residents themselves. **Registration is required for lunch and the deadline is January 8.** To register for lunch, please send your name and money to Donna Hopkins at 405 St. Paul Road, Easley, SC 29642 by January 8.

Nursery Workers:

The Nursery schedule is posted in the Nursery.

Richard Campbell Nursing Home:

“Brinner” at Richard Campbell Veteran’s Nursing Home will be Wednesday, January 17th.

The Fellowship Meal and Chili Cook-Off:

The Fellowship Meal on January 28th will be the Chili Cook-Off for Relay for Life. It will be a fundraiser and hosted by Kent Millwood. Sign-up sheets for entrants, condiments, desserts, etc. will be on the table in the library. Please give any prizes you would like to donate to Kent or Linda. This would be a perfect way to re-gift some of your duplicate Christmas gifts or some that were just too interesting to keep.

Forward Focus Group:

What Does the Future Hold for 2018?

Some of you experienced Bishop Holston’s presentation of Forward Focus at Clemson UMC almost a year ago. Following that event the leadership of Latimer UMC decided to embark on the Forward Focus Journey. This journey officially started on March 6, 2017 with Pastor Wally and myself (Joe Allinder, a district Forward Focus leader) meeting and discussing the selection of a small group of leaders to

gather and present the information gathered from five different areas of Latimer’s life and ministry. Your Forward Focus team gathered information from these five areas: Spiritual Mapping, Ministry and Identity of the Church, Areas of Influence and Potential for Ministry, Evaluation of Finances and Facilities, and Evaluation of Ministry Study. After the data was gathered about the life and ministry of Latimer UMC it was reviewed by your Forward Focus team and during the last year, you, the congregation was invited to hear and respond during four congregational meetings.

There were several areas of concern that came to light as we looked at your church’s past and her present reality. Your feedback at each of the three congregational meetings helped in clarifying the needs that will impact the future of your church. The areas of concern I heard were that we have (1) more ongoing ministries than can feasibly be accomplished without burn out, (2) there are a limited number of people willing or able to sustain everything

presently being done, (3) there is at present no God given vision for the future of Latimer, and, (4) at the present rate of giving, sustaining Latimer's present financial obligations for years is unrealistic without significant changes.

At Latimer's next congregational meeting that everyone is invited to participate in, the Anderson District Superintendent, the District Congregational Specialist, Rev. Wally, and I, along with each of you, will consider the next step for Latimer UMC. There are several potential steps your church may choose: 1. An Intentional Visioning process, 2. Relocation, 3. Redevelopment, 4. Revitalization, 5. Become a part of a charge, 6. Become part of a multi-sight ministry, 7. Nothing, or 8. Other.

We know what the past has been. What the future will be like depends on you. Seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance, staying focused, and following the Holy Spirit's guidance is our challenge as disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

- Joe Allinder

Bishop's Corner:

Promises, Promises

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed. ... You can count on it." —Jeremiah 29:11-14 (The Message)

It was in 1970 that George Zimmer graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, with a degree in economics.

Some three years later, George and two of his college classmates opened their first clothing store in Houston, Texas. They named the store "Men's Wearhouse."

It was in 1986 that George Zimmer made his first TV commercial. Staring into the camera, George made a promise that has become familiar to all of us. He

said, "You're going to like how you look, I guarantee it."

It was a promise that resonated with people and made them want to come to one of his stores. What most people don't know is that George goofed; he made a mistake. He messed up! He wasn't supposed to say, "I guarantee it." He was supposed to say, "That's a fact, Jack," which is a takeoff of the catchphrase made popular by actor Bill Murray in the movie "Stripes."

It turned out to be an excellent mistake. His simple promise produced a billion-dollar business.

Promises, promises! Many of us have heard the adage, "Promise less and deliver more." The premise is simply that who wants to make a guarantee and fail? Yet a promise is our way of sending a message.

In our communities, there are many ways we make promises. Scouts make promises to do their best, do their duty and obey the scout law. Politicians make plenty of promises that they hope to keep. In our faith choices, we make promises to believe and

practice. As members of The United Methodist Church, we promise to support the church with our time, talent, gifts, service and witness.

We make promises all the time! At work, at school or in our neighborhoods. The proverbial “fly in the ointment” to making promises is fear. Can we deliver on our promise?

Physicians suggest we are born with only two fears: the fear of loud noises and the fear of falling. Everything else is of our own making. As adults, our fears are so great, we rename them phobias. Arachnophobia, claustrophobia, xenophobia to name a few. These fears of ours, whether real or make-believe, tear at our confidence and wreck the promise within us. In many ways, it is the difference between breaking promises and keeping them.

So once again it's a new year, a time when we make resolutions. All of us desire a clean slate to bring change to our circumstances and improve our quality of life. The task at hand for each of us is to make a list of those promises we will resolve to do in the following months.

Maybe this Scripture will be an inspiration: “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.”

This is a promise to count on.

