



# 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:

### Report on 2019 General Conference

Over the last several General Conferences of the United Methodist Church, there have been attempts to change the language in the Book of Discipline (essentially the laws which govern the United Methodist Church) in regard to human sexuality matters. The main two issues have been whether those who are openly LGBTQ can be ordained as either elders or deacons and whether same-sex marriages can be performed by United Methodist ministers. At the 2016 General Conference an impasse developed, with threats

of a church split over this issue. The Council of Bishops was asked to lead the church in overcoming the impasse.

In October 2016 The Council of Bishops established a group to examine every paragraph in the Book of Discipline related to human sexuality. The group, known as the Commission on a Way Forward, initially convened in January 2017 and in November 2017 presented its preliminary report to the Council of Bishops.

The Commission presented three separate models of the church to the Council of Bishops. In early May the Council of Bishops decided to forward a report on all three of the models to the special General Conference which will be held in St. Louis, MO, in February 2019. The Council of Bishops recommends what is called the One Church Plan. That

conference will decide what changes, if any, are made to the Book of Discipline.

One model is to affirm the current Book of Discipline language. It places a high value on accountability and enforcement. Under this model there would be no ordination of openly practicing homosexuals. Same-sex weddings could not be performed by United Methodist clergy.

The two other models would result in changes to the Book of Discipline and would basically give local conferences, churches and pastors more control over how to approach human sexuality issues. I am not going into detail on these models because they are complicated and I believe it would be more confusing than helpful.

There have been no changes to the Book of Discipline. We do know that the denomination can be impacted by the General Conference in 2019, but right now we do not know what that impact will be. There is

the possibility that no changes will be made to the Book of Discipline. Please be aware that all three models offer a gracious path of exit for those churches that desire to leave the denomination.

Hopefully whatever happens will not result in churches leaving the denomination. At this time, please be in prayer for Latimer Memorial, our South Carolina Annual Conference, and the United Methodist Church as a whole. Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit for our church leaders. Although human sexuality is an important issue, let us remember that our church is bigger than one issue. We at Latimer need to focus on what it has meant in its history to be a community of faith. Think about what are the most important things in your congregation about being United Methodist.

Understand that our South Carolina Annual Conference cannot change the Book of Discipline. I point this out because you may hear or read about human sexuality matters being

presented for debate at the upcoming Conference from June 3-6. Whatever resolutions, if any, which come out of our Annual Conference are only the position of our conference and do not change the rules under the Book of Discipline. Right now it is not even known if the special General Conference will have before it resolutions from the Annual Conferences. That still has to be ruled on by the Judicial Council.

Please let me know what questions you may have about this important matter. I will do my best to answer what I can. Please be in prayer for me for the Holy Spirit to give me the guidance I need.

- Rev. Wallace Culp

**From the Nurture Team:**

*HAPPY FATHER'S DAY*

Five Priorities God gives to Christian Men: God, Family, Church, Country, and Work.

June 1 will be the Kick-off Party for Vacation

Bible School (VBS). Everyone is invited to the Block Party 6:00 pm in the church yard, We will have Chili dogs, and fixins'. See additional information in this Newsletter from the VBS Team.

June 17, we celebrate Father's Day. – thankful for their love and support, we will remember and honor the men of the church.

June 24, we will have a Pot Luck luncheon after worship for our Food and Fellowship. Bring a Dish to share. Our next Fellowship meal will be in August, hosted by the Latimer Lovelies.

Remember our sick and homebound. The visitation teams have been trying to see all our Shut-ins, bringing them prayers, news, hope and cheer. Several have requested Communion served in their homes and we are prepared to do that.

You should be seeing some new faces in our Sunday Worship service. Misty Walfield is our new Pianist and Choir director as of April

22. Alan Walfield is singing in the choir, and their two children Max and Alana attend Sunday School at 10 and worship at 11. Max is serving now as Acolyte. Thank you Max.

Tony and Nancy Ellett both have been helping the Nursery. We are glad to have you.

Serving God by service in the church is a way to give your gifts and talents. We are looking for choir members, Ushers and Greeters, and Nursery workers. Talk to Pastor Wally or me if you feel so called.

- Sandy Sorrow

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

The Grief Support Group did not meet in May.

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

The team had a short meeting and agreed to help with Salkehatchie again this year. We will help by serving lunch to

the group on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June.

We are sad to be losing Alice Bryant as part of our team, but we are happy for her that she will be living near her son and his family. We are thankful that Gloria Eaves is joining our team.

Please remember that we have an Outreach Team, but we expect and want all church members to help as we reach out to those in our community.

- Pat Wilson

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

The Witness Team members have been meeting with other NOW Team members to finalize the VBS Block Party on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM and VBS Tuesday - Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:45 PM until 8:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the church library for people to volunteer and to make donations for our 2018 Vacation Bible School.

The Prayer Phone Chain has now been updated.

Judith DuBose will replace Betty King as one of our callers.

The Witness Team is also working on an Emergency Contact Information form for our members. This has not been finalized but will be in the near future.

- Bob Emhof

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

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ron Walfield  
June 10<sup>th</sup> - Sandy Sorrow  
June 17<sup>th</sup> - Linda Millwood  
June 24<sup>th</sup> - Kent Millwood

### **Church Council:**

The Church Council met on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

### **Offering Counters:**

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ron Walfield  
John Pinson  
June 10<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
Kent Millwood  
June 17<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
Jim DuBose  
June 24<sup>th</sup> - Ron Walfield  
Bob Emhof

### **Ushers:**

June - Frank Sorrow  
July - Frank Sorrow

### **Our Homebound:**

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

### **Our Prayer Concerns:**

Sarah Blackwell, Kim Bradbury, Phillip Brannon, Peggie Bromeling, Jean Bullions, David Burnett, Jane Burnett, Billie Jo Campbell, Lib Carter, Danielle Clavier, Rene Clavier, Shirley Cook, Nancy Cothran, Katie Coward, Bill Eaves, Gloria Eaves, Barbara Emhof, Bob Emhof, Fred and Linda Emhof, Jim Grubbs, Randy Grubbs, Betty Hill, Kallie Hinkle, Georgia Keen, Jim and Amy Lane, Jackie Manning, Emily McAlister, Pam McAlister, Linda Millwood, Bonnie Moore, Betty Jean Morgan, Randy Morrison, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Jennifer Payne, Dot Peck, Stephen Peck, Sarah Raditz, Keith Ridgeway, Joan Sears, Sybill Sellers, David Smith, Joanna Speegle, Linda Squyers, Norma

Timms, Trevor Willis, Frank Woods, Jane Woodson, and Ben and Nancy

### **Latimer Lovelies:**

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Longhorn Steakhouse at Noon on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Please let Alice Bryant know by Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> if you plan to be there.

### **Change of Address:**

Glenda Conley will be visiting her daughter in Iowa/Iva for the next few weeks. She was not able to get her mail forwarded so her temporary address is Post Office Box 4, Belton SC 29627.

### **Addition to Church Directory:**

Please add Alan and Misty Walfield and their children, Max and Alana, to the Church Directory. Their address is 126 Troy Murdock Road, Belton SC 29627. Home phone is 296-0296 and Cell is 940-3709. Email is amwalfield.@yahoo.com.

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

The Latimer Memorial UMC Men's Club will meet at 9:00 AM on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Prayer Breakfast:**

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

## **Grief Support Group:**

The Grief Support Group will meet on Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Lunch will be served.

## **United Methodist Women:**

The Elizabeth Smith/Sue Coward Circles met May 5. Sarah Blackwell, Glenda Conley, Gloria Eaves, Sandy Sorrow and Pat Wilson attended the Anderson District "A Day Apart" in April. They took with them a carload of donations for the Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. Thank you to everyone who contributed these supplies.

To correlate with Mother's Day, Pat Wilson prepared the lesson from the program book entitled "The Sacred Space of Nurturing". This does not refer necessarily to a physical space but to an emotional and timely space for love and support to care for, inspire, protect, and to teach others.

There was no May mission emphasis, but the circles chose to give a monetary gift to the Vacation Bible School funds to use as a love offering for the band or where it may be needed.

The next meeting will be held Mon., June 4 at 3:00 at the church.

## **Nursery Workers:**

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Gloria Eaves  
Judith DuBose  
June 10<sup>th</sup> - Andy Bullions  
Hannah Brooks  
June 17<sup>th</sup> - Regina Bullions  
Nancy Ellett  
June 24<sup>th</sup> - Gloria Eaves  
Judith DuBose

## **Richard Campbell Nursing Home:**

"Brinner" at Richard C. Campbell Veteran's

Nursing Home will be Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Choir Practice:**

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

## **Special Blessing:**

There will be a special blessing of the sweaters knitted by Peggie Bromeling during worship service on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

For the period of April 1 to May 18, Latimer has had the following receipts and expenditures. The amount received for budget purposes was \$14,810.00. For the same time period our expenditures have been as follows: Salaries, benefits, and FICA - \$6,112.00; Direct Billing - \$2,795.00; Grief Support - \$67.37; Utilities - \$727.21; Office Expense - \$91.35; Upper Room, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School - \$552.17; and Apportionments - \$2,436.00. In addition, funds were collected for a love offering for Susan Leonard-Ray, Relay for

Life, and Epworth Children's Home; those funds have been or will be forwarded to the appropriate agencies.

- Linda Millwood

### **Fellowship Meal:**

The June Fellowship Meal will be Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and will be Pot Luck. Please bring your dish to share.

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

#### **A Time to Remember**

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*“On the Sabbath, we left the city and went down along the river where we had heard there was to be a prayer meeting. We took our place with the women who had gathered there and talked with them. One woman, Lydia, was from Thyatira and a dealer in expensive textiles, known to be a God-fearing woman. As she listened with intensity to what was being said, the Master gave her a trusting heart—and she believed!” Acts 16:13-14 (The Message)*

In the movie “The Lion King,” Simba, heir to the throne of his father, King Mufasa, flees from his homeland when his father is murdered by his uncle, Scar.

In the safety of the jungle, Simba meets and joins up with two characters, Timon and Pumba. Their philosophy of life was described in the phrase “Hakuna Matata,” which means “no worries.” Simba adopts this laidback, play-it-safe attitude and enjoys the life of no worries—but also of no responsibilities.

Meanwhile, under the dictatorship of Simba's wicked uncle, his homeland falls to ruin, famine and despair. Then one day, the baboon Rafiki, the “holy man,” tracks Simba down and offers to take him to a place where he will meet his dead father. Intrigued, the young lion follows Rafiki through the twisted roots of ancient trails until he reaches a clearing. There, in the clear night sky, Simba remembers his roots. He has a moving vision of his father, who laments, “You have forgotten who

you are, and therefore, you have forgotten me.”

It is in this place that Simba remembers who he is. He is Mufasa's boy, the son of the king, and he returns to his homeland to liberate his people and take his rightful place as their king. He remembers, and all are thankful.

Recently, I was privileged to travel with a delegation of 18 persons from South Carolina to Greece. We shared together a pilgrimage following the journeys of Paul. While on our visit, I can say without a doubt that it was an awesome, inspirational and uplifting time. Every day brought new insights to our appreciation of Scripture. Each site we visited was filled with its own understanding and application for my faith.

Yet no site was more inspiring and motivating than our visit to Philippi, where Lydia was baptized by the Apostle Paul and recognized as the first Christian convert on European soil. It was there at this site that our South Carolina group reaffirmed our baptism. It was an opportunity to

remember our baptism and be thankful, a time to remember that having been born through water and the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will help us live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. To more deeply discover our baptismal vow together as a community.

With one voice, as a community surrendered to Jesus Christ, we reaffirmed our rejection of sin and promised to nurture one another in faith.

I've discovered over the years that we have developed a bad habit. Often we look but do not see, and hear but seldom listen. In these days when life is lived at such a fast pace and our days are spent clock-watching and schedule-keeping, I believe we seldom have time to think and ponder.

One of my favorite hymns is "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," which was written by Robert Robinson. In the hymn lyrics, there is a line that always captures my attention and forces me into a time of remembrance and introspection. The line says, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love." Preoccupied and busy with other things, we find ourselves distracted and drifting instead of having a heart and mind focused on the Savior who loves us and gave Himself for us. I have found that to know what really matters in life is to eliminate all the things that distract you from what really matters. Even though our minds are filled with other thoughts, preoccupied with

schedules and not always thinking about heavenly things, the Easter message reminds us that what we do with our lives matters to Jesus.

This was the message shared with Lydia. She believed and was baptized.

We have heard the message before. May we, too, remember our baptism and be thankful.

**REMEMBER OUR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY/FELLOWSHIP MEAL ON FRIDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> FROM 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM AND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FROM JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH THE 7<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM.**

