



Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist

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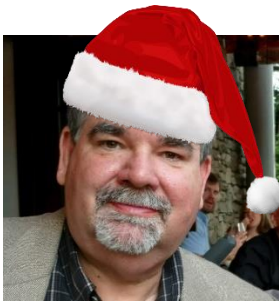
December 2018

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:



"The Gift of Love"

The season of Christmas is a time of gift-giving. Some

of us feel burdened down by having to get gifts for people. We see it as a struggle. We need to stay focused on the intent of the gift, not whether it is perfect or not. I know when I receive a gift I like the fact that someone has thought about me. I don't put a rating on the gift or rush to take it back. It's just nice to receive something.

What is important is the loving, sacrificial nature of the gift. Remember that a gift does not have to be physical to be meaningful. I saw a recent discussion on the *Today* show about how people are giving travel packages as gifts for Christmas. Travel gifts don't come in a box but they mean a lot to those who receive them.

Many appreciate gifts of time and just being there for them. Acts of kindness are appreciated. Changing a tire, running an errand, can be just as wonderful to the recipient as receiving clothing or a book.

At Christmas we remember God's great gift to us. In John 3:16, we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." What a wondrous thing God has done for all of us! Let us focus on God's great love as we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Merry Christmas

- Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

"While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around."

"Get Ready". John the Baptist Shouts!!!!
Events planned for December

December 1 – The Greening of the Church. 10am, All welcomed as we put up the Chrismon Tree, hang the wreathes and banners, place the lights in the windows, prepare the

Advent wreath. Wipe and wax the pews, Don't miss it! The King is coming! Food and drink provided.

December 2 – First Sunday in Advent – light the Advent Candle Wreath.

December 9 – Our Poinsettia Tribute to grace our sanctuary

December 9 – Family Food and Fellowship Christmas program immediately following worship service. Something for all ages! Bring your favorite covered dish food to share. Everyone is invited. We will have a Christmas video, sing carols and..... "Shhhhh, surprise!"

December 14 – Christmas Caroling on Belton Square at 4:00pm Everyone welcomed!

December 20 – Visit our Homebound, begin 11am. Meet at church to carpool.

December 23 – Worship service 11am to 12:00pm. The choir will perform the Cantata "While Shepherds Watched" with the children's pageant.

December 24 - Christmas Eve, 6 pm, We

will have carols, candles, readings, Communion and prayers.

A list for 2019 Fellowship meals will be on desk in Library in January.

Angela Pinson has accepted to chair the Food and Fellowship activities this year.

A new Sign-up List for Ushers for the year will be on desk as well.

Glenda Conley is now heading the Visitation Team. It's so very important to keep in touch with our home-bound. If you know of someone at home or hospital, who would like a visit, the church bulletin, Wally's Sunday Sermons, or a phone call. Please let Glenda know.

Regina Bullions has accepted to head the Education/Nursery Team. We are still looking for more men and women to help in the nursery. Please consider this opportunity to serve and contact Regina. We will be participating in training and reviewing our policies for "Safe Sanctuary".

Wishing all a Very Merry Christmas And a blessed 2019.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

We helped with the Grief Support and the Richard Campbell ministry. We enjoyed good food, good fellowship, and helpful information. All member of the church are invited to take part in these ministries and invite a friend.

We encouraged members of the church to join in supporting Cookies for Kairos. This time the cookies, notes, money, and prayers were for the Women's Prison in Greenwood. We received and shared thirty-two dozen cookies, seventeen notes of encouragement, money to help with expenses, and prayers. A special thank-you to all who took a part in this ministry.

On Thanksgiving Day we will furnish green beans for 150 people as our church's part of the Belton Area Thanksgiving meal for anyone who wants a meal delivered to their home on that day.

Again this year we will be taking donations for Christmas gifts for the Children of Epworth. We will not be placing angels on our Christmas tree. If you wish to help with this ministry and help make a child's Christmas wish come true, place your donation in an envelope and mark it "Epworth Children's Christmas". Linda will mail a check to Epworth and they will purchase the gifts. Thank You.

We will be helping with a special program at Belton Elementary School on January 15, 2019. This is an opportunity for us to let parents and children in Belton know we are supportive of them. Jennifer Wilson will be at our church on November 20, 2018 to meet with our church members and give us details of the program and details of how we can help. I hope we have a good response and turn-out to this.

Merry Christmas

- Pat Wilson

Christmas Cards:

Christmas Greetings. You may have noticed the

mailbox on the desk in the library. If you would like to send a Christmas card to fellow church members, place your cards in the mailbox and the youth class will deliver the cards.

From the Witness Team:

The Emergency Contact forms are now ready and are on the table in the church library. If you would like, fill out the form and put it in the tray on Wally's office door.

Everyone is excited that Jane and David will be back home after Thanksgiving.

- Susie Howell

The Treasurer's Report:

For the month of October 14 through November 19, Latimer has had the following receipts and expenditures: Total deposits (this includes specified donations not in the budget): \$9,991.90; Expenditures: Staff salaries and benefits - \$6,621.22; Office Expenses - \$89.80; Upper Room - \$39.00; Pulpit Replacement - \$50.00; Utilities - \$454.60; Apportionments - \$300.00. As always, an itemized report is posted in the

counting room. Merry Christmas!

- Linda Millwood

The Liturgist's Schedule:

Dec. 2nd - Ron Walfield
Dec. 9th - Sandy Sorrow
Dec. 16th - Linda Millwood
Dec. 23rd - Kent Millwood
Dec. 30th - Songfest

Church Council:

The next Church Council meeting will be January 8th at 5:00 PM.



Offering Counters:

Dec. 2nd - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
Dec. 9th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood
Dec. 16th - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
Dec. 23rd - Ron Walfield
Roy Mac Haggard
Dec. 30th - Ron Walfield
Frank Sorrow

Choir Practice:

Choir practice will be held every Wednesday in December at 10:00 AM except for the 26th. There will be no choir practice this day.



Musical Notes:

Friday, December 14th-
Christmas Caroling on the
Square 4:00 pm

Thursday, December 20th-
Christmas Caroling at shut-
ins 11:00 am

Christmas Cantata-
Sunday, December 23rd
during morning service

The Christmas Cantata is a Musical for Christmas called While Shepherds Watched and was created by Greg and Gail Skipper. It is a beautiful medley of various familiar and loved Christmas Carols. The choir has been practicing for the cantata since the beginning of fall. Children will be involved in the presentation of the cantata on Dec. 23rd.

A special Thank You from me to all those who have

participated in the choir rehearsals for the cantata. Everyone has been wonderful and very dedicated to practice. Thank You for all your hard work. I know that the cantata will be very special for everyone.

- Misty Walfield

Ushers:

December - Frank Sorrow
January - Frank Sorrow

Grief Support Group:

The Grief Support Group will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 23rd with Rev. George Donigan as the guest speaker.

The Anderson Covenant Group:

Anderson Covenant Group will meet on Thursday, December 20th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

Our Homebound:

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



The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will be going to the Gray House in Starr on Wednesday, December 12th at Noon. Those who want to carpool or follow someone, please meet at the church at 11:00 AM. Those that will be attending need to let Susie Howell know by Monday, December 10th.

Our Prayer Concerns:

Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Peggy Bromeling, David Burluson, Juanita Butler, Charles Campbell, Frank Clark, Danielle Clavier, Rene Clavier, Nancy Cothran, Katie Coward, Judith DuBose, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Margaret Ellett, Tony Ellet, 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, Family of Josh McKinney, Randy

Morrison, Nancy Nagel, Brenda Parfitt, Dot Peck, Jo Ann Pinson, Keith Ridgeway, Sybill Sellers, Norma Timms, 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, December 16th at 9:00 AM.

United Methodist Women:

This year celebrates the 150th anniversary of the United Methodist Women. It had other names in the early years, but the purpose to provide a community that supports women and youth has essentially remained the same through one and one half centuries! To help achieve this purpose the Sue Coward/Elizabeth Smith Circles observed a World Thank Offering program. Each year donations from these programs held by UMW

groups all over the world fund various projects both nationally and internationally. For example, The Redbird Mission in Kentucky received a school bus in 2017.

In October the women helped the Outreach Team with the Kairos Women's Prison Ministry. A total of 32 dozen cookies, 17 notes and some cash donations were given to this project. Many churches in Belton work together to prepare and deliver turkey dinners on Thanksgiving day. Latimer prepared enough green beans to serve 150 people. Looking into the future the circles are expecting to volunteer help at a special evening parenting meeting to be held at Belton Elementary School in January. This fits right into the purpose stated in the 2nd sentence above of this article. More information will be coming next month.

Keeping with tradition the next meeting will include a Christmas program presented by Pat Wilson and finger food prepared and brought by

everyone. This will be held Monday, December 3rd at 3:00 p.m.. All women are welcome to come and celebrate the beginning of the Advent season.

- Regina Bullions

Nursery Schedule:

Dec. 2nd - Regina Bullions
Nancy Ellett
Dec. 9th - Gloria Eaves
Judith DuBose
Dec. 16th - Andy Bullions
Hannah Brooks
Dec. 23rd - Regina Bullions
Nancy Ellett
Dec. 30th - Gloria Eaves
Judith DuBose



Veterans Day:

Our Veterans were recognized and thanked for their service on Sunday, November 11th. Those in attendance were Frank Sorrow, Josh Wilson, Andy Bullions, and Roy Mac Haggard. We also recognize and thank Charles Campbell who was not able to attend.

Richard Campbell Nursing Home:

“Brinner” at the Richard Campbell Veterans Nursing Home will be Wednesday, December 19th.



October Fellowship Meal:

Latimer’s four members who are 90 years or older were honored at our October Food and Fellowship Meal. Those in attendance were Sarah Blackwell, Peggie Bromeling, and Colleen Pinson. Ernie Emhof was unable to attend but he’s our other 90+ member.



The Fellowship Meal:

The Fellowship Meal for December will be a covered dish following the Worship Service and Christmas Program on December 9th.

Bishop’s Corner:

Keep Your Eye on the Prize

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

“Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!”—Hebrews 12:1-3 (MSG)

Professional athletes often find success through their keen ability to remain focused in moments of high pressure. Certainly they practice and train to

continually improve their skills, but the difference between a novice and a champion can come down to the ability to focus when it matters most.

Staying focused on what matters most can be a challenge. We live in a world where information is accessible with the simple swipe of a fingertip, and communication can be sent anywhere around the world in an instant. So much good has come from these technological advancements, but the information overload can also interfere with one’s ability to remain focused.

Perhaps it has always been the case that people of faith can find many things to distract from the mission of the church. Certainly we know it is true today. As United Methodists, we proclaim that our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Proclaiming God’s grace and mercy in our own lives and ministering in our communities in transformative ways can provide opportunities for us to help others grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. This mission requires us to serve with the discipline of athletes as

we follow the example of Jesus who has gone before us.

In recent weeks, South Carolina and nearby states have been significantly impacted by natural disasters. Helping our neighbors recover from these devastating storms is one way we grow as disciples and transform the world. We live in a time of constant chatter about important and unimportant things.

In the midst of all that would draw our attention away from loving our neighbor, let us remember the 14,000-plus persons in South Carolina who are determining how they will repair their homes and where they will live. Let us remember the nearly 2,000 households who have already been on this journey after a previous storm and now must ask hard questions about whether to repair their homes again or to relocate.

Zig Ziglar said, "Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude." We can focus on the many things over which we have little control and remain distracted, flying low to the ground. Or we can focus on the difference

we can make in the life of God's people in our community, and whether that difference is great or small, we will soar as we run the race that God has put before us.

And at all times, we hold onto the promise that God's love will triumph in the midst of loss and destruction.