



Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist

Publisher: Witness Team

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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 or text 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:



“Show Mercy”

Ash Wednesday is March 6, the day we begin the season of Lent in the Christian church. Lent is a forty day period in which we are called upon to reflect, pray, and get closer to God. People often give up something during Lent so they can show their dedication to God. With some people this may include certain types of food such as chocolate or pizza. With others it may be abstaining from things they normally do.

As I reflected on what to write this month, it came to me that we ought to give up doing something so that we show we are like God. Our lectionary lesson for February 24 was from Luke 6:37-38 in which Jesus told us “Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn and you won’t be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.” I do not interpret this statement as an option. It is a commandment from Jesus on how to live with others. It is a part of how we love our neighbor as ourselves.

We need to give up judging.

To give up judging won’t be easy. We live in our culture in which we are taught to judge as soon as we can talk. The competition in American culture causes us to make judgments all the time. Some people really frustrate us. And Christians are great at judging; many want to point out the sins of others, often forgetting that they also sin.

But Easter and the 40 days leading up to it are all about God’s mercy. God gave his son for us and chose to forgive us even while we were still sinners. All He asked is for us to accept his gift of mercy. The standard of our relationship with others needs to be the standard which God uses in relationship to us. God has shown us mercy and we need to show mercy to others, not condemn them.

It is important to remember that only God and Christ, at

the final judgment described in Matthew 25, will judge. We really have no power to determine someone else's eternal fate. But we can determine our own. In Luke 6:38, we read, "The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return." Be merciful because God is merciful; be generous because God will use the measure of our generosity towards others (or lack thereof) when God judges us. During this season of Lent, remember that God's love is shown through your love towards others and by the mercy you show.

In Christ,

Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

"In like a lion – out like a lamb". Are you cleaning out the things that bother you? How's your New Year Resolution coming?

Our Pre-Lenten Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper is March 5 at 5:30pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the desk to help prepare and serve our annual feast. All invited for this festive event.

The very next day, as the season of Lent begins we focus on the activities of

Jesus, drawing us closer to God and dedicating ourselves to follow Him.

A Lenten service begins with Ash Wednesday March 6 with time to come to church, pray and meditate, to be with Pastor Wally and each other, to receive ashes as a remembrance of sacrifice and repentance. This service begins at 12 noon.

Continue to keep the Pinson family in your prayers as they grieve the death of JoAnn Pinson on February 11. The family is preparing a Celebration of Life.

Other activities for March:

The Pastor will have a 6-week Bible Study, "Entering The Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Devine. First lesson is March 19. Let Wally know if you plan to attend as he will order you a book.

Our next food and fellowship meal will be March 31, hosted by UMW as we celebrate this month, the 150th Birthday of the United Methodist Women (as now named). The main meat will be provided by the church and your side dishes will round out the meal. All welcomed.

Also, March 31 is UMCOR Sunday

Our faithful team of Nursery workers still need more helpers. Please let Regina know if you can serve in the Sunday morning rotation or "As needed basis".

Nurture meeting will meet March 20, at 11am.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

The Grief Support Group met the last Wednesday of January. The speaker was very interesting. He talked about different music that can be a help when you are in different stages of grief. We ate lunch together, listened, and had a sharing time.

The Outreach team continues to join the United Methodist Men in serving our Veterans at Richard Campbell. The Veterans really enjoy the "Brinner" that we prepare and serve. Sometimes family members join them for the meal. It is so good to observe the family sitting together, enjoying a meal, and talking together. I pray that it gives them a real sense of family to share a meal together.

The Grief Support Group will meet the fourth Wednesday of February. Lunch will be served. Come and join us.

God bless.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

We're not sure if there will be a Chili Cook Off in Belton this year, but if so we decided to participate. In the past when a non-profit organization made at least 3 gallons of chili, there was no charge for the space. You have to provide your own tents, tables, and heating elements. Tommy Howell graciously volunteered to make the chili and has access to a propane stove and a huge pot to cook the chili. We will serve a small cup of oyster crackers along with a small bottle of water (If allowed). We all agreed not to sell crafts or be in the brochure this time. We will put out sign-up sheets to help set up, man the booth, and tear down along with items we need which are oyster crackers, small bottles of water, and select-a-size paper towels.

As a witness to others we will have at our booth

invitations to come join us Sunday to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Susie and Jane will make these. Rev. Wally has our support in a music Sunday.

We are working on getting quotes to have shirts and vests made for us. Susie made several designs and we all agreed to have the flame and the cross on the back on a red shirt. (the flame and the cross is a trade mark of UMC) The cross and name of our church will also be on the back. We will ask for a quick Church Council meeting after church for approval when we get quotes. Then order sheets will be posted at the Library table for people interested in purchasing a shirt can do so.

We are also planning on putting together a church cookbook. We need recipes for the cook book. Anyone wanting to contribute recipes please submit these to Susie or Jane. You can submit as many as you like. The more the better.

Also be thinking about how we as a church can reach out to young families.

- Jane Barton

What is SBS???????

VBS School has a new name Saturday Bible School! (SBS)

Why the name change?

While thinking outside of the box at our first VBS meeting we decided to change the format from several days during the week to one day held on a Saturday.

We are going back in time to a city where Jesus had visited.

Save the date and join us in this amazing journey!

Young and old we all are children of God!

Date: May 18th

Time: 10:00 - 3:00

Theme: A Holy Land Adventure

Keep a lookout in the monthly newsletters for more details.

- Jane Barton
SBS Co-Ordinator

The Treasurer's Report:

For the month of February, receipts for Latimer have totaled \$6,928.00.

Expenses so far has been as follows: Salaries: \$1,864.12; Utilities: \$412.72; Sunday School and Worship supplies: \$364.16 Apportionments: \$1,339.00; and Direct Billing: \$2,871.33, with additional expected expenditures for retirement and utilities of approximately \$3,250.00. A more complete report will be posted on the board in the counting room at the end of the month.

Celebration of Life:

JoAnn Pinson passed away on February 11th after an eight month battle with cancer. JoAnn was a loving daughter, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, and friend. She didn't want a funeral service.....she wanted a party. In honor of her wishes, a drop-in celebration will be held on Saturday, March 2nd from 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM at the Belton Depot. Everyone is invited. Come join her family and friends and help celebrate her life.

The Liturgist's Schedule:

Mar. 3rd - Ron Walfield
Mar. 10th - Kent Millwood
Mar. 17th - Linda Millwood
Mar. 24th - Sandy Sorrow
Mar. 31st - Songfest

Church Council:

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, March 12th at 5:00 PM.

Offering Counters:

Mar. 3rd - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
Mar. 10th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood
Mar. 17th - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
Mar. 24th - Ron Walfield
Roy Mac Haggard
Mar. 31st - Ron Walfield
Frank Sorrow

Choir Practice:

Choir practice will be held every Wednesday at 10:00 AM.



Musical Notes:

First of all, I would like to thank all choir members for their dedication. It is truly a blessing to work with each of you. I appreciate how dedicated all of you are to come and practice every Wednesday.

I would also like to encourage anyone that is interested in singing, to come and join us each Wednesday at 10 am. We practice for about an hour and would love for you to join us. Our goal is to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

During the past month of February, the choir shared a selection of various love songs, from *If That Isn't Love* to *How Deep a Father's Love For Us*. As I close, I would like to leave you with these words from *The Love of God* by F.M. Lehman

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry.

- Misty Walfield

Ushers:

March - Frank Sorrow
 April - Frank Sorrow

Grief Support Group:

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

The Anderson Covenant Group:

Anderson Covenant Group will meet on Thursday, March 21st, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

Trustees:

The Trustees will meet March 5th at 6:30 PM.

Ash Wednesday:

The Ash Wednesday Lenten Service will be March 6th at Noon.

Our Homebound:

Charles Campbell
 Ernie Emhof
 Jane Woodson
 Phillip Brannon
 Jackie Manning

The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet for lunch at

Longhorn's on Wednesday, March 13th. Please let Jane Barton know by Monday the 10th if you plan to be there.

Our Prayer Concerns:

Lane Bourne, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, 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, Emily McAlister, Sara McDowell, Randy Morrison, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Dot Peck, Family of JoAnn Pinson, Keith Ridgeway, Sybil Sellers, Norma Timms, Trevor Willis, Frank Woods, 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, March 17th at 9:00 AM.

United Methodist Women:

Shalom - Hebrew work for "Peace". This was the subject of the February meeting of the Elizabeth Smith/Sue Coward Circles meeting early in February. Shalom is taken from the root word shalom, which means, "to be safe in mind, body or estate". It speaks of completeness, fullness, or a type of wholeness that encourages you to give back - to generously re-pay something in some way. True biblical shalom refers to an inward sense of completeness or wholeness. The objective of the program was to show how God has nudged ordinary women to respond and evolve in Christ's ministry of shalom through mission at home and abroad and then invest themselves and also ourselves in Jesus' mission through giving and action. Pat Wilson presented this study based on Luke 8:1-3.

March 23 marks the 150th birthday of what is now called the United Methodist Women. As part of this birthday milestone the United Methodist Women are asking local units to raise funds for the Legacy Fund. This fund is the permanent endowment fund of the United Methodist Women. Latimer's local circles will not have a separate fund raiser. Using a birthday theme the circles will host the March fellowship meal on the 31st of March. This will be a "side dish" pot luck with meat, dessert and beverages provided. Mark your calendar now to attend with a favorite side dish and help celebrate this 150th birthday. In conjunction with this if anyone wishes to make a contribution to the Legacy Fund they may do so. Any donation will be much appreciated. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Monday, March 4th at 3:00 at the church the women will observe A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. All women are invited to this special event.

- Regina Bullions



Food and Fellowship Meal:

Latimer United Methodist Women will be hosting a Birthday Celebration for the 150th Anniversary of the United Methodist Women. The celebration will be held on March 31st after worship service. The meal will be a pot luck dinner with Latimer United Methodist Women furnishing the meat and yes, birthday cake and ice cream. To complete the meal, everyone please bring a side dish.

On March 23, 2019 the United Methodist Women will be 150 years young! Imagine 150 years of tireless, selfless giving of time, talents and resources to make a difference globally in the lives of women, infants and children who depend on what the United Methodist Women do to give them hope for a brighter tomorrow. We honor and give thanks to our ancestral mothers, sisters, aunts, cousins and friends whose legacy shines the light of God's bond and

mercy worldwide. The Legacy Fund is the permanent endowment fund of the United Methodist Women. We honor our foremothers who for 150 years have been putting faith, hope and love into action.

Come Eat Cake With Latimer United Methodist Women On March 31, 2019

Let's ensure another 150 years of the United Methodist Women to come by giving a donation to the Legacy Fund at the Birthday Celebration on March 31, 2019.

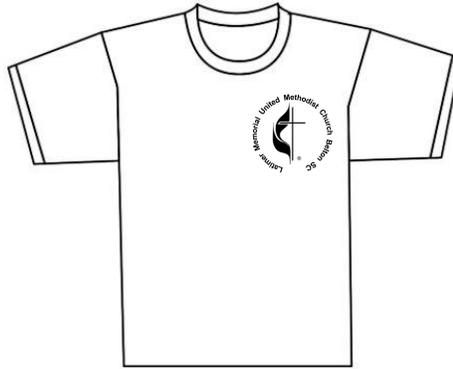
- Gloria Eaves

New Bible Study:

Rev. Culp will have a six week Bible Study, "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Devine which begins on March 12th. 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.

Nursery Schedule:

Mar. 3rd - Gloria Eaves
Judith DuBose
Mar. 10th - Andy Bullions
Hannah Brooks
Mar. 17th - Regina Bullions
Nancy Ellett
Mar. 24th - Gloria Eaves
Judith DuBose
Mar. 31st - Andy Bullions
Hannah Brooks



Church T-Shirts:

The Witness Team has been working on having some church t-shirts made. They will be **RED** short sleeved shirts with the flame and the cross on the back and the left side of the front along with the name of our church. A sample is at the end of this article. Our best quote was from MVP Screen Printing. Each shirt will cost \$10 and won't be due until the shirts are in. You may go ahead and pay if you wish. There is an order form on the table in the church library. We need to have our order completed by March 24th so he can get them printed in time for the Chili Cookoff.

Bishop's Corner:

Taking a Step Beyond Caution

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

“Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ‘It’s a ghost,’ they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’ ‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to you on the water.’ ‘Come,’ he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw

*the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’ And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.”—
Matthew 14:25-32 (NIV)*

Several years ago, the United Methodist Men in South Carolina embarked upon a new direction in ministry. I want to invite you to consider the proactive leadership collaboration of clergy and laity that we have for our men in ministry emphasis in South Carolina. Indeed, God has blessed this ministry to men and their families in tremendous ways.

Truthfully, our prayers for God's direction and plan for growing our church through the efforts of men in South Carolina is continuing to come into focus!

Attendance at our Men's Spiritual Weekend has grown over the last several years from 150 to more than 1,100 men and women. In fact, this is a God-sized vision of the South Carolina Conference United Methodist Men.

What the South Carolina United Methodist Men movement is doing to attract men in ministry is simple. We meet men where they are, connecting strong faith and discipleship with family, community and vocational responsibilities. I feel that it is not only about the opportunity we have to disciple men and their families in their faith journey, but it is also about empowering men and women to return to their communities ready to continue the witness of faith locally and beyond. While men in other areas are staying away from the church, we are seeking a more excellent way by making disciples of Jesus Christ that will transform the world.

Later this month, we will gather for a one-day spiritual retreat experience that will empower men and their families to "Get Out of the Boat," facing the inevitable waves of life with faith rather than fear. You are invited to join me and many other men of all ages on Saturday, Feb. 16, for this day of dynamic preaching, personal testimonies, stand-up comedy, practical workshops, fellowship, music and food.

To find out more information or to register, visit www.mennministrysc.org. This new one-day format for the spiritual retreat provides the opportunity for even more men to participate.

We recognize the need for men to serve in their local church, district and on the conference level and seek to be a witness for men's ministry in every way. I am grateful for the United Methodist Men of South Carolina and their ministry to men in South Carolina.

Thank you for your consideration of what we call a "mighty move of God" in our midst.