



The 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 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:



"A New Beginning"

One of the places we visited on our trip to Spain was the Alhambra, a

palace and fortress complex in Granada, Spain. It was famous for being the royal court of King Ferdinand of Aragon and Queen Isabella of Castile, who lead the Reconquista of Spain and unified Spain in 1492. After many years of war, the King and Queen, after their victory, could now focus their resources on other things. They received a visitor by the name of Christopher Columbus, an Italian from Genoa who was looking for financing of a voyage to find a new trade route to India. Ferdinand didn't think too much of Columbus but Isabella was willing to take a risk on him. He received the royal endorsement and made the discovery of the new world in 1492. His discoveries led to many financial gains for Spain and had much to do with it being the world's greatest power in the sixteenth century.

As we head into the New Year, what risks are we

willing to take to be disciples of Jesus Christ? How can God use us even more in ministry? Will we be like Queen Isabella, who was willing to put her resources on a relative unknown who seemed to have potential, or will we just sit back and be conservative with what we already have? We don't want to be haphazard in what we do, but there is always some risk in stepping into the unknown to do something new. Even Columbus wasn't a perfect risk. He never made it to India, and the route was a lot further than he anticipated. But his actions changed the world. Are you willing to take those risks for Jesus that will change those around you and change the world for the better?

- 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.” 2020 – 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 4, God is not put in a box, “God is still with us.”

Thank you everyone who participated and helped celebrate the 2019 Christmas season. The Advent Readers, the Greening of the church, the Poinsettias, Hanging the Chrismons, the beautiful Christmas music and the extraordinary Choir cantata “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem” with the Children’s pageant, the Christmas Eve service with candles and Holy Communion, and the Christmas fellowship meal with gifts from Santa.

Our calendar this year for the Food and Fellowship meals is again on the desk

in the library. Please sign up for a month as host. 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. Remember the church will be responsible for the meat dishes. Everyone else brings the side dishes. January 26 Chili Cookoff will be hosted by Kent Millwood for the Cancer Center of Anderson as a fundraiser. Let Kent know you make the best chili.

February 26 will be an Ash Wednesday Service with Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 25. (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 Regina know if you would be “On Call” Sunday mornings to assist in nursery care.

Please keep Latimer Memorial in your prayers and the many activities to witness to others throughout the year. We all have gifts to share.

Next meeting January 21, 2020 4pm.

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

“Thank you so much”, “We appreciate your church doing this for us”, “Please tell your church how much we enjoy this delicious food”. These are just a few of the remarks we heard at Richard Campbell on the 18th of December when we helped the Latimer Men’s Group prepare and serve breakfast to our Veterans. We had eggs, bacon, grits, and pancakes. YUM! We also gave each Veteran a Christmas Card from the church. They really appreciated the thoughts, food, fellowship, and cards. (Thank you, Witness Team, for providing the cards.)

We will not go to Richard Campbell in January. They are getting their kitchen remodeled. That is a good thing! We will miss not getting to go.

A great big THANK-YOU to all of you for giving hope to the children and youth at Epworth. As you are enjoying opening gifts with your family, imagine one of

the children or youth having a special gift to unwrap thanks to your caring and generosity. This year we were blessed to send six hundred plus dollars. Oh, and please continue to pray for Epworth and these children and Youth.

Sending prayers that this will indeed be "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" for you and your family.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The Witness team had a meeting in November and came up with a few ideas. The NOW Teams are going to host another activity for the SBS children in the fellowship hall January 18th 11:00 - 3:00. Lunch will be provided and the activities will be working on drawings for the cookbook, bake cookies etc for coffee hour along with other fun things. Going to meet with the NOW teams beginning of January to finalize plans.

Susie will contact people about submitting recipes for cookbook. We have 130 recipes so far. We appreciate all of your recipes you can never

have enough recipes in a cookbook the more the better.

We decided to have church hats made next instead of long sleeve shirts. Susie will contact MVP Screen Printing and find out the price and how many hats needed to make an order. We will announce in church the price and put order sheets out on the Library table.

We made Christmas postcards for Richard Campbell to be placed on the tables at the December Brinner. Thank you Pat Wilson and others that took over while David and I were away.

We would like to host a Blessing Of The Animals Service that will take place on a Saturday in March or April. We will invite the community and other churches to join us. God cares for us along with our beloved pets we are all created by God our Father.

We discussed SBS and decided on a date of May 30th, time 10:00 - 3:00 serving lunch. We will have meetings with the NOW Teams to finalize the theme etc. in the months ahead. It was such a huge success last year. The

children were so happy to see their teachers during the Christmas Pageant. They may not remember the lessons but they will remember the acts of kindness and love that each child received while attending SBS.

We would like to add the bulletin to the church website. Rev Culp will contact Kent about this.

Will see y'all next year.

- Jane Barton

The Liturgist's Schedule:

Jan. 5th - Sandy Sorrow
Jan. 12th - Kent Millwood
Jan. 19th - Linda Millwood
Jan. 26th - Ron Walfield

Rev. Culp's Schedule:

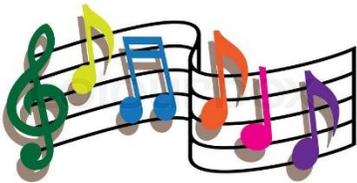
Rev. Culp will be taking some time off for the first two weeks of the year for some rest and independent study and will return for the Songfest on January 19. Please contact Andy Bullions if you have any emergencies during that time.

Church Council:

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 21st at 5:00 PM.

Offering Counters:

Jan. 5th - Ron Walfield
John Pinson
Jan. 12th - Ron Walfield
Kent Millwood
Jan. 19th - Ron Walfield
Jim DuBose
Jan. 26th - Ron Walfield
Roy Mac
Haggard



Musical Notes:

I would like to start out by giving a huge "**THANK YOU**" from the oldest to the youngest participant in the production of our cantata, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, on Sunday, Dec. 15th. It was **WONDERFUL!!!** Everyone was so dedicated to practice and participate. Everything went so smoothly from the practices to the set up. It is truly a blessing to work with such willing and talented individuals. The choir has already discussed their willingness to work on another presentation to present at a later date. Thank You again to all who had a hand in the production from singing to setting up.

On another note,  as we roll into another year, I'd like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who loves to sing to come and join us for choir practice. We meet on Wednesdays at 10 am. We normally meet for about an hour and have a good time making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Please feel free to join us.

As I close, I'd like to leave you with this prayer that I found. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.

Help me live the way I should

As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage

So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things

Each new day filled with joy

And happiness it brings.

AMEN

- Misty Walfield

Choir Practice:

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

Ushers:

Jan. - Frank Sorrow
Max Walfield
Feb. - Frank Sorrow
Max Walfield

Grief Support Group:

The Grief Support Group will meet at Noon on Wednesday, January 22nd. Lunch will be served.



Food and Fellowship Time:

Our Food and Fellowship Meal will be our Chili Cookoff, Sunday, January 26th and hosted by Kent and Linda Millwood.

Our Homebound:

Phillip Brannon
Jackie Manning

The Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Cracker Barrel on Wednesday, January 8th, at Noon.

Our Prayer Concerns:

Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Juanita Butler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Katie Coward, Tim Culp, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Tony Ellett, Linda Emhof, Dick and Nancy Finney, Jim Grubbs, Belle and Eugene Hembree, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Jackie Manning, Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell, Mike Mock, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Lucretia and Joda Snipes, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

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, January 19th at 9:00 AM.

United Methodist Women:

Mary did you know...? was the theme of Pat Wilsons" program for the Latimer United Methodist Women's Christmas Social. After reading the Christmas story from the Bible beginning with the Angel's announcement to Mary. Pat read the book Mary Did You Know by Mark Lowry. This book contains illustrations to go along with the song lyrics. The women then sang some carols accompanied by Sarah Blackwell on the piano. Food and fellowship followed with pot luck finger food snacks.

The next meeting will be Mon. January 6th at 3:00 at the church.

- Regina Bullions

Treasurer's Report:

For the period of November 20 - December 20, the income and expenses for Latimer are as follows:

Tithes and offerings for budget purposes: \$8184.00. From that, budget spending was pastor and staff salaries and benefits: \$6,464.71; utilities: \$244.76; supplies for office, fellowship hall,

and janitorial: \$498.56; fellowship meals, children, and Upper Room: \$167.00.

In addition, special amounts were collected and paid for Epworth in the amount of \$630.00, poinsettias in the amount of \$161.48, apportionments in the amount of \$800.00, and UMCOR in the amount of \$50.00. Not yet paid pending further collection, is an additional amount of \$820.00 for apportionments.

As always, a more detailed accounting is posted in the counting room, and a yearly report will be made in the next newsletter.

- Linda Millwood

Mentor Meeting:

Rev. Culp's Mentor Meeting will be Tuesday, January 28th, from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM.

Anderson District Covenant Group:

The Anderson District Covenant Group will meet on Thursday, January 16th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Nursery Workers:

Jan. 5th - Regina Bullions
Nancy Ellett
Jan. 12th - Gloria Eaves
Judith DuBose
Jan. 19th - Andy Bullions
Susie Howell
Jan. 26th - Regina Bullions
Nancy Ellett

Richard Campbell Nursing Home:

We will not be serving “brinner” at Richard Campbell Nursing Home in January. They are having their kitchen remodeled.

Children’s Moment:



Bishop’s Corner: A Habit of Hope

By Bishop L. Jonathan
Holston

“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This

was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

In tightrope walking, the wire must be pulled securely between two points. It must have tension. A performer learns to maintain their balance by centering their weight above the wire. Focused, balanced as they step precariously across the air, knowing that they cannot let anything peripheral distract them from reaching their destination. This is why tightropes work. You need tension in order to stay level.

Shalom. The Hebrew word for “peace.” Shalom is not the absence of tension, but rather this peace exists in the midst of tension. We sometimes fall into thinking that if we have God’s peace then there will be no tension, no conflict, no issues to face. However, the truth is that God’s peace is present in the midst of all this, despite the circumstances around us.

Individually, it is overwhelming to consider how to bring this peace into a broken world. We so easily become distracted by all that we cannot do. Our minds are distracted and preoccupied with schedules and not always thinking about heavenly things. For many of us, this Advent season will be an endurance marathon of way too much to do, way too much to eat and way too much stress. We live in the tension of such a highly competitive society, yet we have the opportunity to focus on the message of hope that God is with us.

The Advent season is filled with the spirit of generosity and hospitality—shalom. The true blessing of the season can be discovered when we focus on preparing our hearts to receive again the greatest

gift given to humankind: the hope, joy and peace brought to earth in the birth of the Christ child.

With the belief that life in Christ provides an abundance, more than enough of all that we need, in the midst of all the tension of the world, we should focus our mindset on choosing peace, generosity and hospitality.

As we wait in this season of Advent, we actively listen for how God is calling us. This requires patience and a posture of peace. In the words of Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, "Above all, trust in the slow work of God." Allow yourself to be formed in the waiting, prepared to offer what you have when you are called.

So, at the heart of the Christmas message there is a baby born who could change everything. Christmas is all about Jesus coming to be with us. It is about Immanuel, God with us, looking on. Despite all the distractions around us, we focus on the hope that exists because of the birth of the Christ child. We anticipate the joy of experiencing God's promise fulfilled, and in so doing, our hearts are

prepared both to receive the greatest gift and to share it freely with others.

As Christians living in the tension between the present reality and the hope of the future, we live our lives balancing on the tightrope, centered in peace, moving steadily toward the destination of God's kingdom to come. Shalom.

Because in Advent, we give thanks for the child that brought the hope that never fades; the hope that is that anticipation of what is to come. This Advent season is our opportunity to wait for that which matters most—which never fades—and which is always with us.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES



“BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM”

