



Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

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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:

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." These words

open one of the most famous novels of all time. Charles Dickens,' *The Tale of Two Cities*, set during the French Revolution in the late 1700s. Economic and political unrest led to a revolution which resulted in the toppling of the monarchy and the eventual execution of King Louis XVI. The reform was needed to address centuries of injustice to the people of France. Ultimately France would be better off because of what happened when its people revolted.

But during the 1790s France struggled through what was known as "The Reign of Terror." Many people were executed if they happened to be on the wrong side of the political issue that day. One day you might be part of the ruling government and the next day you literally lost your

life at the guillotine. This was why it was the worst of times for some.

In the midst of this unrest and change, Dickens brings us the story of Charles Darnay and a story of love as Darnay falls in love, marries and has a daughter. But Darnay gets on the wrong side of the revolution and is to be executed. In the ultimate sacrifice, the character Sydney Carton, who looks just like Darnay, substitutes himself for Darnay and is executed in his place. Carton's story is one of resurrection and redemption. An English lawyer, he has lived most of his life battling depression and alcoholism. In the end he is redeemed and serves a greater purpose.

In the year 2020 we may have been thinking "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." We have been living

through a medical pandemic which has changed our lives and created great uncertainty. Political divisions during a Presidential election year have caused even more stress. Protests for racial justice reforms have also added another element of stress to our lives.

We can look at the positive in what is happening to us. We have had to be creative in how we meaningfully live our lives. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul writes of how the Holy Spirit distributes gifts among us to make sure the Christian body, like the human body, works. Not all have the same gifts and each gift is important. We have had to use different gifts to adapt to the current situation. Different people have shown different talents. We have come up with different types of ways to worship, from sermon videos to drive-up church to a modified inside worship. We have checked on each other through phone

conversations regular mail, and e-mail. We have learned how to use Zoom to conduct our church business. We have taken extra steps to make sure our fellow church members are okay.

We will need to continue to use these gifts to do God's work. We will need the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek how to safely have communion and in what manner. We will need the gifts of wisdom and knowledge to guide us on how we will once again have Sunday school and other activities inside the church building.

We also know we need to have the Spirit working within us and others to make sure that justice is brought to our society and that we are living in harmony with all our brothers and sisters. It is good that we realize that certain reforms are needed in our government and in our country. We just need to remember to be in constant prayer and make sure we follow the guidance of the Holy

Spirit on what actions to take.

This is a time of great change and it is up to each of us as to how we handle it. We can see this as a time of stress and the worst of times. Or, we can view it as the best of times, a time of great opportunity to be creative, to be faithful to God, and to be disciples of Jesus Christ to our community, our country, and to the world.

- Rev. Wallace Culp

From the Nurture

Team:

A post from Christian author Elisabeth Elliot ~" If you dwell on your own feelings about things rather than dwelling on the faithfulness, the love, and the mercy of God, then you're likely to have a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Our feelings are very fleeting and ephemeral, aren't they? We can't depend on them for five minutes at a time. But dwelling on the love, faithfulness, and mercy of God is always safe."

In October, Latimer continues to depend on God's mercy and love. Let us together, remember that Christ is the Light of the World. His Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (paraphrased 1John).

A Bible verse shared is Jeremiah 17:14. If you would like to share a Bible verse, please let me know.

October we continue to have in-house Sunday worship services at 11am or tune into FM 89.5 on your radio to listen to the Sunday worship service in your car in the parking lot. Pastor Wally will still broadcast his sermon on You Tube and the Webpage. Let Glenda Conley know if you would like a printed copy of his sermon mailed to you.

We will continue to have copies of "The Upper Room" available for you. If you want one mailed to you, please let Glenda know.

The church council met in September. We have decided to continue with

the safety protocols and limited use of the building.

Pastor Wally has been working on leading a new Bible Study this fall. Announcements will be made for time and date.

The October church calendar special Sundays include World Communion Sunday, Laity Sunday and Children's Sabbath Sunday.

May the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, May He lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

BE THE LIGHT!!

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

We have received a thank you note from Teresa Phillips for our participation in the Back to School GiveAway.

I am sharing her note:

Latimer Memorial,

Thank you for seeing a need and providing for it. It is such a blessing to work alongside you to serve those in our community. With the help of our local churches we supplied, packed, and handed out approximately 275 backpacks. These students are ready for their first day of school because you gave your time, money, and talents.

Thank You!

Elder Basket Ministry:

Usually we take donations of items to fill baskets for the elder Native Americans. Because of circumstances we are facing and shopping opportunities might be limited, we are asking for money donations. We will send the money to the conference person that is head of Native American Ministries. You can make your check out to Latimer and note that it is for the Elder Basket Ministry. The deadline for this is October 31st.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

We were thankful for the time we had to be with our family but It is so good to be back home. We are going to self-quarantine for a while longer and cannot wait to see everyone. I would like to thank Susie for being co-chairperson and acknowledge all she does for our church it is greatly appreciated.

The only item to report on is that we completed our Charge Conference report and handed it to Rev Wally. Susie and I will attend the conference on Zoom where I will read our report.

No one is sure what the new normal will look like but we will be ready. For now be safe and take care of yourselves. Enjoy the little blessing that surround you. If you feel any negative emotions read the Bible, pray for God's guidance, go for a walk you will feel His presence, call on a friend, send cards, letters, work in your garden, pick a hobby just keep positive. When I feel down I look for inspirational readings. I

would like to share one of my favorites:

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belong to him the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about this.

Lord you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand that when I needed you the most you would leave me.

The Lord replied " My son, My precious child I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trails and suffering when you only see one set of footprints it was then that I carried you." Author unknown.

- Jane Barton

Council Statement:

“Do the Right Thing”

The year 2020 has been a challenging one for us. We are constantly being faced with decisions which are outside of our comfort zone. How much of our personal freedoms do we give up for safety? How far do we go to protect ourselves and others? How far do we stick our necks out for racial justice? We know from scripture that we are to love our neighbor as thyself. From what the Apostle Paul writes in Corinthians, we know we are part of a community, so we cannot just make decisions as an individual. What is the morally right thing to do?

I share with you some comments from Rev.

Peter W. Marty, who is the editor of *Christian Century* magazine. In the August 12, 2020, issue he talks about how Christians are to make decisions. What is good conscience? He writes that reflecting on conscience provides us with an opportunity to reexamine what we mean when we refer to that whispering voice within us. Is our conscience some built in capacity designed by God to help us know the difference between moral right and wrong, or is it a socially developed facet of our lives that begins forming as early as our parents' influence on our character?

Marty concludes that there's reason from both scripture and human experience to be confident that it is both. The word *conscience* comes from the Latin *conscientia*, which means "knowing together with." Conscience is not just my or your own little voice. It's joint knowledge.

There's something about conscience; in the New

Testament, the apostle Paul uses the Greek word *syneidesis* about 20 times to describe conscience as both as guide and a witness to our moral understanding of life. It takes effort to renew this conscience, in part because it is not always a reliable guide. "I strive always to keep a clear conscience toward God and all people." says Paul in Caesarea (Acts 24:16).

The business of continually refreshing one's conscience is something that Harry Truman got right, according to biographer David McCullough. Truman memorized and frequently recited a prayer that included these words: "Help me to be, to think, and to act what is right because it is right." The discipline of that prayer helped keep Truman's conscience from falling into disrepair.

Truman needed to know what was morally right. He had to make one of the most significant decisions in human history. I recently read a book, *Countdown 1945*,

which looks at Truman's decision to use the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Truman did not make a rash decision. In the 116 days from the time he became president to the dropping of the bomb on August 6, 1945, he was constantly seeking advice on whether to use the bomb. Generals McArthur and Eisenhower advised him not to use it, stating that Japan was already defeated and the United States should not be the first nation to use such a terrible weapon. Other advisers told him it would be immoral if he did not use the weapon and ultimately save the lives of countless American soldiers and Japanese who would die in an invasion of the Japanese mainland.

What a burdensome decision. Truman ultimately decided to drop the bomb on Hiroshima and a second one on Nagasaki. The Japanese surrendered and World War II ended. Thousands of people died in the bombings and a new age of warfare began. There has been and will

be opinions over the morality of the bombings. But Truman always remained comfortable with his decision. Throughout his presidency he was faced with major decisions on how to deal with the Soviet threat, including the Berlin airlift and the Marshall Plan to save Western Europe from Soviet takeover. He also had to deal with the Korean War.

Truman was not fancy but he got the job done. Historians now look favorably on his time in the White House. They view Truman as a straight shooter from middle America. He is now ranked as the fifth best president of all time. Think of the prayer he recited.

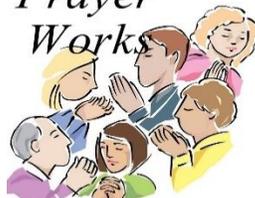
We may not completely know how much of our conscience is due to what God gave us and to what we have been taught over the years. What we do know is to keep in constant prayer and reflection about God's will. The turmoil of the present situation reminds us that conscience is never

formed in the heat of the moment. It acquires the shape of goodness over time and through disciplined attention to right and wrong.

Our Prayer Concerns:

Dr. Tom Barnett, Sarah Blackwell, Phillip Brannon, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Dr. Thomas Burriss, Juanita Butler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Jocelyn Collins, Katie Coward, Stephen Culp, Tim Culp, Gloria Eaves, Richard and Margaret Edwards, Tony Ellett, Bob Emhof, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick and Nancy Finney, Jim Grubbs, Eugene Hembree, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Sara McDowell, Mike Mock, Nancy Nagel, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Steven Peck, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Family of Lucretia Snipes, Joda Snipes, Frank Sorrow, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

Prayer Works



Our Homebound:

Phillip Brannon
Jackie Manning
Frank Clark
Bessie Clark

United Methodist Women:

The United Methodist Women will meet Monday, October 5, 2020 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Masks and 6 feet social distancing are required as well as the use of hand sanitizer. A Bible Study, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World", will be held on the first Monday of October, November, December and January. The Bible study will last approximately 30 to 40 minutes meeting followed by a short business meeting of the UMW. "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" uses the book of Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry and fear and move toward God's peace that surpasses all understanding.

All materials will be

provided for members of the UMW. Our sisters who cannot be at the church right now with us will be provided the materials to work through the study at home.

- Gloria Eaves

Treasurer's Report:

For the month of September, you, our members, have again remained faithful in continuing your donations in this crazy time. For the purposes of budget, you have given this month so far the amount of \$6,250.00. Of that amount the following amounts have been paid out: Salaries and benefits - \$3,912; Office expenses - \$56, including some extra expenses for Covid-related costs; Apportionments - \$1,977; and Utilities - \$818, which amount also includes expenses for Covid-related internet expenses. As you can see, disbursements have exceeded income by a little over \$500, and direct billing has not yet been paid. However, we have one more Sunday

in the month as well as enough cushion to take care of the additional expense due.

In addition, the amount of \$235 was collected and disbursed for the Epworth back-to-school offering.

Again, let me express my thanks, as Treasurer, for your continued support of our church. While we continue to social distance, it is wonderful to know that we remain part of the same family.

- Linda Millwood

Trustees Meeting:

There will be a Trustees meeting on Tuesday, October 6th at 4:30 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting. You should receive a link no later than Monday, October 5th. Write down the password and ID number to use to get into this meeting.

Charge Conference:

Latimer's Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 7th at 7:30 PM. The live

meeting will be held in the church sanctuary. All are welcome to attend and participate. Wally will be arranging to set this up on Zoom. If you would rather do Zoom please let Wally know by 10:00 PM on Sunday, October 4th. Also, let Wally know if you will be giving an oral report when you join the meeting on Zoom.

Latimer's Historical Marker:

Perhaps the most public funeral to ever take place in Belton was that of US Senator Ashbury C. Latimer on 21 February 1908. Only 56 years old, the senator had died in Washington following emergency surgery for an intestinal obstruction. An energetic and robust man, his death came as a shock to everyone. He died in Washington on a Thursday morning and by that afternoon a train left there for Belton with his body, his family, and a congressional delegation. Extra Pullman sleepers and dining cars were added for the overnight trip. The train arrived at the old Belton depot at noon

the next day. The delegation included 17 U.S. House members and 9 U.S. Senators, from both northern and southern states. Other state dignitaries came in by train from Columbia, with extra trams coming over from Anderson. According to the Anderson Daily Mail, the coffin was taken from the depot to the Methodist Church on River Street for public viewing until the 2 PM service, followed by burial at the Belton Cemetery. The train left at 4 PM for the return trip to Washington.

Asbury Latimer was born near Lowndesville in Abbeville County in 1851, growing up on a farm and attending the Methodist church there. His education was cut short by the Civil War, but by 1877 he met and married Alice Brown, daughter of Dr. William Carroll Brown of Belton. By farming and pursuing other business interests, Latimer was eventually elected to the state legislature, then to the U.S. Congress during the 1890's. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1903. Not

known as a public speaker, his main interests were to support farmers, improving farm roads, rural mail delivery, and agricultural techniques.

The Latimers were early and devoted members of the Belton Methodist Church. Their large two-story house was some three blocks down on South Main Street, where they raised a son and four daughters. Mrs. Latimer continued to live there many years after her husband's death. The Latimer home was later replaced by a shopping center. (Hardee's, etc.)

The church was renamed Latimer Memorial Methodist Church in 1911 by its members. The beautiful stained glass windows are dedicated to the early families who organized the church over 140 years ago. A South Carolina Historical Marker has been approved by the S. C. Department of Archives and History and will soon be installed at the church. It is being co-sponsored by the congregation and the

Belton Area Museum Association.

World Communion Sunday:

A special offering will be taken up on Sunday, October 4th for World Communion Sunday.

Church Council Meeting:

The next Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at 4:30 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting.

Bible Study:

Rev. Culp will lead a Bible Study in November and December on Amy Levine's new study on the Sermon on the Mount. Please let Rev. Culp know if you are interested and if you would be comfortable doing this by Zoom or if you would rather do it in person with safety protocols.

Bishop's Corner:

Beyond the Bounds of Expectation



By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

The 2020 South Carolina Annual Conference Session is quickly approaching, and it will indeed be a blessed time to virtually gather.

Based on the smooth and successful virtual execution of both the clergy session and the ordination and commissioning service, we are confident we can accomplish the necessary and important

business of Annual Conference in a virtual space.

There are many people working behind the scenes who are caring for important details, and we are grateful for the efforts of GNTV as they have diligently prepared to be our hosts for this virtual experience.

We are incredibly grateful for everyone's efforts and hospitality as we move in this new direction in consideration of the safety and wellbeing of all clergy and laity.

This year's theme, "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Beyond the Bounds of Expectations," encourages us to trust God with each step that we take.

It is a continuation of our faith journey as we seek a more excellent way to make disciples of Jesus Christ while transforming our world. Miraculous things can happen when we leave our place of comfort and allow God to stretch us in new and different ways.

We will come together with hope, remembering

who God has called us to be and what God wants for us.

Because this virtual session will be abbreviated from our traditional multiday Annual Conference, I encourage you to prepare ahead of time by visiting

<http://www.umcsc.org/ac2020> so you can review the conference presentation videos and reports available online.

There will be opportunities to participate in training so you are acclimated to the online platform when the session begins. All of the details can be found on the conference webpage.

As we prepare for the 2020 Annual Conference, we also recognize that there is tremendous anxiety, grief and uncertainty being experienced by persons throughout South Carolina and the entire world. The COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the realities of racial injustice, have disrupted our rhythms and impacted us all in a variety of ways.

We continue to pray for all those affected by the coronavirus, for those experiencing stress, anxiety and financial uncertainty, for medical professionals treating and caring for patients and for those working to ensure a healthier and more just future for all of us.

faithfully with our time, talent, gifts, service and witness.

While we are disappointed that we won't be able to come together in the same physical space at this time, we look forward to celebrating a remarkable year of vital ministry.

South Carolina United Methodists have indeed gone beyond the bounds of expectations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I fully expect the 2020 Annual Conference to be a glorious time of celebration where the graciousness of God and the generosity of God's people called United Methodist will be experienced in excellent ways.

Let us unite our hearts in prayer that we will be open to the presence of God's Spirit and respond