



# 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 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:



### “Enjoy the Moment”

About twenty-five years ago Ellisa and I hired a landscape architect to design our backyard. Various trees were planted as part of the plan. One of our goals was to be able to enjoy watching the birds that are native to our state. We put up two separate bird houses as part of the plan. A deck was built on the back of our house and during the pandemic we have spent much time sitting on the deck enjoying the outside. For years we have seen and enjoyed the singing of various birds such as robins, redbirds, blue-jays, sparrows, and finches.

I have always found the raptor birds to be interesting and elegant. These are hawks, falcons, eagles and owls. However, rarely does one see one of these raptors. I have occasionally seen a

hawk in my backyard and pondered whether it was powerful enough to haul off one of my cats. This past Saturday I had a sighting of a beautiful bird. As I was looking out the large picture window in my breakfast area, I saw something large fly in and land on a branch of a tree in my backyard. At first, I thought it was a hawk but after it had settled, I realized it was a large owl. This was amazing! I had never seen an owl except in a zoo.

The owl was gray with a cream-colored chest. It was about 5:15 in the afternoon with dusk settling in. With the colors of the yard, I probably would not have seen the owl had I not been paying attention. It blended right in with the background. Once it landed, it barely moved. I watched it for about 45 minutes until it flew off. It would only occasionally move its

head in a circular motion. I appreciated how it could be virtually unnoticed while it waited to see if it could find any prey such as a chipmunk, rabbit or squirrel. I was just glad my new little kitten was not out in the yard!

I share this story to emphasize that we need to enjoy the moment. God has given us many things to enjoy, so let's pay attention and get the most out of what He has given us. This is especially true in this time when we have had to deal with much change and often are not able to get out and do the things we like to do. We need to focus on the positive and not get bogged down in feeling sad about what it is happening.

Let us remember that life is about change. The issue is not whether change will happen. It will. The question is how will you deal with that change. In writing Ecclesiastes, King Solomon reminded us that not everything remains the same. In Ecclesiastes 3:1, we read, "There is a

season for everything, and a season for every activity under the heaven." Let us get the most out of this season we are in.

In Christ,  
Rev. Wally Culp

### **From the Nurture Team:**

*"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run; His kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more."* Isaac Watts, 1719.

February is known as the "Love Month".

Love makes us patient, understanding, and kind. And we judge with our heart, not with our mind. For as soon as love enters the heart's opened door, the faults we once saw are not there anymore.

"Love one another as I have loved you" may seem impossible to do.

But if you will try to trust and believe, Great are the joys that you will receive.

Proverbs 10:8 - The wise of heart will heed commandments.

Today ask that love color your vision. Consequently, all faultfinding will be eliminated.

Our Sunday worship services will continue using the established safety protocols we currently have – Wear your face mask, use hand sanitizer and distancing 6 feet apart. In house services, limited church use and continuing radio broadcast Sunday worship over 89.5 FM.

**February 14 we will have worship begin at 10am for this Sunday only.**

February 17 is Ash Wednesday. We will celebrate and remember at 12 noon in the sanctuary.

Please keep the Latimer Memorial church family in your prayers and the many activities to witness to others through-out the year.

- Sandy Sorrow

**From the Outreach Team:**

January has been an unusual month, to say the least. Some members have had the Covid vaccine. Others, are still trying to get an appointment for the vaccine.

I am thankful that we can stay in touch with each other. Words, cards, and notes of encouragement are appreciated by all. I was told a heartwarming story about a lady that sent a Christmas card to another person that we don't see or hear from often. As soon as the card arrived in the mail, the one who received it called to thank the sender. She was so excited.

This morning I read the eleventh chapter. It was very encouraging. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1

- Pat Wilson

**Phillip Brannon Memorial:**

Nancy Brannon's husband, Phillip, died early Wednesday morning after a long illness. They are not going to have a funeral at this time but plan on having a memorial service for him later this year. She doesn't want a meal/food taken to her but hopes that anyone who would like to make a memorial donation could donate to their favorite charity.

Please remember the Brannon family in your prayers.

**From the Witness Team:**

We had a phone call Witness Team Meeting and the only item on our agenda is to update members addresses, email's and phone numbers along with adding new comers information that was not listed in the church directory. Not sure about anyone else but my information has changed. Please contact Susie Howell if any of your information has

changed or you are not listed in the directory.

I again want to thank Susie and Glenda for their faithful service.

When I think about the month of February Valentine's Day is front and center. Flowers, heart shaped candy, stuffed animals and cards fill the stores. We all have that special somebody's, spouses, children, grandchildren even great grandchildren that remember us at Valentine's Day, but the greatest love of all is John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in HIM should not perish but have everlasting life.

The hymn "If That Isn't Love" by Dottie Rambo is a beautiful love song about God's love for us.

**"If That Isn't Love"**

He left the splendor of heaven,

Knowing His destiny

Was the lonely hill of Golgotha

There he lay down His  
life for me

Even in death He  
remembered

The thief hanging by His  
side

He spoke with love and  
compassion

Then He took him to  
paradise

If that isn't Love the  
ocean is dry

There's no stars in the  
sky

And the sparrow can't  
fly!

If that isn't Love then  
heaven's a myth,

There's no feeling like  
this,

If that isn't Love.

- Jane Barton

### **United Methodist Women:**

Wisdom and knowledge  
are close cousins, but  
while knowledge can be  
gained educationally  
wisdom is gained from  
experience. The  
January meeting was the  
last on the series of The  
Serenity Prayer in which

we ask for the wisdom to  
know the difference  
between what we can  
and cannot change. We  
want an understanding  
of the work God gives us  
and of what we can and  
cannot do. We need to  
accept that wisdom of  
our limitations as a gift  
from God and leave it up  
to God to help us  
accomplish what he  
wants us to do. We  
often hear the quote  
"God doesn't give us  
more than we can  
handle" He expects us

to work with his help.  
Gloria gave us a new  
quote which she recently  
read - "If God gives you  
a shovel he doesn't  
expect you to lean on it  
and pray for a hole!" \*

This study is not limited  
to UMW but is available  
for anyone to read  
themselves. Gloria has  
the materials. You may  
ask her for them.

Following this program  
the pledge meeting was  
held with the title "Where  
Does My Pledge Money  
Go? Our money goes to  
do mission work around  
the world, in the US and  
also in South  
Carolina. Again, Gloria,  
our treasurer developed

an informative handout  
explaining where and  
how the pledge to  
mission and the pledge  
to local unit money  
goes. If you would like a  
copy Gloria will give you  
one.

Monday, February 1 at  
3:00pm the women will  
meet again at the  
church.

- Regina Bullions

### **Treasurer's Report:**

As of December 31,  
2020, the balance of the  
general account was  
\$54,688.85, of which  
\$34,129.05 is escrow,  
the majority of which is  
in the Trustees' account.  
The operating balance is  
\$20,439.80. The  
housing allowance  
balance is \$3,171.77;  
deposits continue to be  
made to this account  
from the Martha Manry  
endowment. All usual  
expenditures are in the  
normal range.

In comparison, these  
figures compare with  
those at the end of 2019  
as follows: operating  
balance - \$16,630.78,  
and escrow balance -  
\$28,736.49.

The rental account has a balance of \$43,447.10. This amount includes the rollover of a CD for the payment of insurance and custodial expenses. Payments continue on a regular basis for House 6; the tenant for House 4 normally pays two months at a time and is up-to-date. Insurance, custodial payments, taxes, and the monthly amount to BIMA are made from the rental account.

Apportionments for the year 2020 were paid in the total amount of 85% or \$12,238.00, following the direction of the called administration meeting held on December 13. The total amount paid in 2019 was 69.4%, \$10,302.00.

On December 16, the closing was held in the sale of the three rental properties located immediately adjacent to the church property. The amount realized from the sale totaled \$45,142.00 which included the sales price of \$45,000.00 plus \$142.00 credit for county and city taxes previously paid. The entirety of those funds has been

invested into an account with Edward Jones for future use as payment of insurance and custodial payments once the remaining CD set aside for those purposes has been fully expended.

Our old normal has not yet returned, and it is not clear when we will be able to meet again in the old ways. As before, many thanks go to the congregation for their continued financial, emotional, and spiritual support of the church during all the difficult times.

- Linda Millwood

### **Special Charge Conference:**

There will be a special called Charge Conference on Sunday, February 7, 2021 immediately following worship service. The purpose of this Charge Conference is to discuss and vote on the Trustees' sale of the three rental houses adjacent to the church. Discussed will be the reasons for the sale as well as the terms thereof.

This sale is being conducted pursuant to section 2541 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. You have the right to be present and to vote in person at the Charge Conference. You may attend in person in the sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. on February 7. All safety protocols will be in place. You may also attend by Zoom. If you wish to attend by Zoom, please respond to an email which will be sent to you several days before the meeting which asks if you want to participate by Zoom. If so, you will be sent a link for the meeting.

In addition, you may also attend by coming to the parking lot and listening to the meeting on your radio. Someone will come to your car to get your vote on the matter.

Should you have any questions prior to the meeting, you may contact Rev. Culp or Linda Millwood.

We look forward to seeing you there.

- Linda Millwood

## **Our Home Bound:**

Frank Clark  
Bessie Clark  
Jackie Manning

## **Our Prayer Concerns:**

Dr. Tom Barnett, Sarah Blackwell, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Dr. Thomas Burris, Juanita Butler, Scott Campbell, Kendall Chandler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Jocelyn Collins, Glenda Conley, Katie Coward, Tim Culp, Carl DuBose, Kate DuBose, Gloria Eaves, Rev. Tommy Edwards, Tony Ellett, Bob Emhof, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell, Nancy Nagel, Eric Ni, Racine Owings, Brenda Parfitt, Joe Frank Pinson, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Joda Snipes, Frank Sorrow, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Carl and Ellen Yates

## **Church Council Meeting:**

At the church council meeting on January 12, 2021, the council decided that the same safety protocols for meetings inside the church will stay in place. At this time, the only meetings inside the church will be the morning worship service and the United Methodist Women's meeting.

The next Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. This will be a Zoom meeting.

## **Bishop's Corner:**

### **Go For It:**

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*"...Then Jesus said to Simon, Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people. So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him." Luke 5:10-11*

It's that time of year again.

We're going to lose weight, exercise more, get out of debt, stick to a budget, save for the

future, and spend more time with family. We all make these kind of resolutions at the beginning of the year because we want to bring change to our circumstances. We want to improve ourselves and our quality of life.

And after the year we've had in 2020, who doesn't want a change? For nearly a year, we have lived in the midst of a global pandemic, civil unrest and political divisiveness that has wreaked havoc on our lives and communities. Even as a vaccine is becoming available to us, we continue to wear our masks, wash our hands and practice six feet of social distancing.

So, as we continue to seek a more excellent way, taking faithful steps into a new year, I share with you words from a good friend and colleague indicating the best devotion to God and community. May this opportunity for self-examination be timely as we enter a new year filled with possibilities and opportunities, available to all who choose to look for them.

“A young man stood before a group of leaders and indicated that history will not judge our endeavors merely on the basis of color and creed, or even party affiliation. Neither will competence, loyalty and stature, while essential to the utmost, suffice in times such as these.

Our success or failure in any role in which we serve will instead be measured by the answers to these four questions.

First, are we truly people of courage ... with the courage to resist public pressure as well as private greed?

Second, are we truly people of perceptive judgement ... with the perceptive judgement of our own mistakes, as well as the mistakes of others—with enough wisdom to know what we do not know and enough candor to admit it?

Third, are we truly people who will not abandon the principles in which we believe or the people who believe in them?

Finally, are we people of dedication—with an

honor mortgaged to no single individual or group and compromised by no private obligation or aim, but devoted only to serving?”

Reflecting on the passage Luke 5:1-11, it is important to look at the usual places. Jesus is assembling among a crowd and sees fishermen cleaning their nets. Jesus uses a boat to preach a Word of God. Afterwards, he asks Simon Peter to go fishing, hears the questions and excuses and finally the infamous phrase: “Nevertheless, at thy word, I will let down the nets for a catch.”

But I believe the true understanding came when Simon Peter was bowed in the boat confessing and making a decision. It’s the same decision that we have the opportunity to make each day.

Following God is simply to go for it! Sometimes we are afraid to commit to a task God has placed before us, because we fear we can’t do it, or we think of all the things that could go wrong.

As people of courage, let us use our perceptive judgment to remain true to our principles as we devote ourselves to serving.

It is my hope that we can all be as decisive as Simon Peter. My prayer for the new year is succinctly, I trust you, Jesus. That fear loses its grip on me. That adversity becomes an opportunity for growth and that grace is gratefully received.

If we truly trust God, we can take a deep breath, go for it, take the next faithful step and then be amazed at what God has empowered us to do.