



The Latimer's Voice

The Newsletter of Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church

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.

Susie Howell
Witness Team
susiehowell635@gmail.com
(864) 221-2710 (Cell)

Welcome Rev. Dan and Dorene Fortney:



We welcome the Rev. Dan Fortney and his wife Dorene as our parsonage couple. Dan was appointed by Bishop Holston to be the pastor of Latimer Memorial UMC charge effective July 1 at Annual Conference. His first Sunday to lead us in worship is July 4.

Most of us know Dan and his wife Dorene as they were part of the Latimer congregation for several years. During that time Dan taught our young adult Sunday School class and was Vacation Bible School director.

Dan is a native of Newburg, West Virginia, a graduate of Kentucky Mountain Bible College, and completed the studies necessary for ordination at Southern Wesleyan University. He was ordained in 1989 by the Wesleyan Church and was a Wesleyan pastor for 28 years.

In 2016 he was appointed by the South Carolina Conference of the UMC to pastor the Sharon and Smyrna Charge in the Anderson District from whence he comes.

I ask that each member of Latimer remember Dan and Dorene in prayer thanking God for their coming to be with us. May Dan be blessed with faith, patience, courage, and wisdom as he led us as a congregation so that together we may follow Jesus Christ, grow in numbers, faith, and love, and offer our gifts and talents in service to God's kingdom.

Andy Bullions
Chair Latimer Memorial
SPRC

From the Nurture Team:

Latimer Memorial Church welcomes Rev. Dan Fortney and his wife Dorene. Not strangers to us but in their new role here we take the next steps of ministry together.

A Celebration of Life in memory of our beloved Sarah Blackwell, was held in June who passed away June 13, 2021. She was a long-time member here, and choir director and organist for over 50 years. She was recently President of UMW. Many, many people knew her as she was involved in several activities in the community and church. She will be missed.

As usual, the Covid-19 Safety protocols are changing almost every week. The latest changes include:

- Men's Club breakfast will begin June 27, 2021 at 9:30 am. Everyone is invited

The reopen team will be working with Pastor Dan to bring another update as soon as we can. We will still remain cautious but optimistic since Covid -19

is still around and a new variant also is contagious.

Our Spring Social at the Belton Farmer's Market was a lot of fun. Good to see some folks we hadn't seen for a while. Other get-togethers are being planned.

A nice celebration for Father's Day was held June 20. The usual Kit-Kat candy bar is always well received.

From the desk of Helen Steiner Rice – "Let the stars and stripes forever remain a symbol of a free and mighty nation built on Faith and Truth and Love!"

"God Bless America" -
Wishing all a safe and Happy 4th of July celebration.!!!

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

I knew a person whose family was migrant workers. Along the way he had encouragement, love, and people that showed they cared about him. He grew up to be a college professor teaching math and he also taught real estate classes. In Belton School District Two we have children and young

people that need encouragement, love, and people that care about them. We will have an opportunity in August to support the children in our community by collecting school supplies for those in need. In 2020 we helped supply school supplies for about 400 students. What a great mission. Some of the items we ran out of last year include: colored pencils, dry erase markers, tissues, composition notebooks (without spiral wire), graph paper, pencils, 1.5- and 2-inch binders, highlighters, and earbuds. When you are

out and about pick up a few items and help a child. We will have more details later as to the date of the Give Away and the location. If you do not want to go shopping, you can donate money and a member of the Out Reach will do the shopping for you.

We received an invitation to join this year's Anderson School District Two Back to School Prayer Walk. It will be on Sunday, August 8th at 6pm at the BHP flag pole. All will gather for a couple of worship songs and prayer before going to

pray at all the other schools.

We will surely miss Rev. Wally and Ellisa. We send with them our best wishes. We welcome Pastor Dan and Dorene.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

The Witness Team is still working on some updates for the Church Directory. Also, with Dan as our new pastor, there are other publications that need to be updated.

We have decided to not try to do Saturday Bible School this year and will wait until after the first of the year to make any other decisions about this. We plan to have a fun outing with the kids after school starts maybe around the holidays.

The Latimer Lovelies will resume their regular luncheons on the second Wednesday of each month. They are going to Sullivan's in July.

- Susie Howell

Trustees Report:

The Trustees have entered into a contract with Pro Line Fence (Leon Brown) for the installation of a 4-foot black vinyl chain link fence to mark the property line between the church and the former rental houses. The total cost is \$2,640. Materials are hard to get right now. Installation will be whenever the materials come in.

The Bunn coffee pot in the Fellowship Hall sat plugged in for many months during the Pandemic with heated water in it and then dry after the water evaporated. It was determined that the coffee pot was no longer useable. Andy Bullions has been given permission to buy a suitable coffee pot which the Trustees will pay for.

- Gloria Eaves

Church Council:

The next regular meeting of the Church Council will be on Tuesday, July 13th at 4:30 PM in the sanctuary.

United Methodist Women:

The UMW will not be meeting in June or July. Hopefully, they will have a luncheon in August with a guest speaker.



Our Homebound:

Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning
Jerry Manning

Our Prayer Concerns:

The Family of Sarah Blackwell, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Juanita Butler, Scott Campbell, Kendall Chandler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Jocelyn Collins, Katie Coward, Gloria Eaves, Rev. Tommy Edwards, Tony Ellett, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Betty Hill, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell, Nancy Nagel, Brenda Parfitt, Colleen Pinson, Bobby Poore, Irene Revis, Family of Keith

Ridgeway, Melissa Scott,
Norma Timms, Frank
Woods, Marvin Woodson,
Carl and Ellen Yates

A Celebration of the Life of Sarah Blackwell:

Today we come to celebrate the life of Sarah Blackwell. Sarah was a person who loved life. She loved her family. She cared deeply for her church. She had her own sense of humor. She was always interested in what was going on in your life. As noted by some of the former pastors of the church, she kept up with people and knew what was going on in the community. She added so much to our lives. She was an 'institution' at Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church.

When I first started in the ministry I pastored three churches in Manning, South Carolina. The building for the Jordan church is very beautiful. People regularly requested to use it for weddings. In the first fall I was in Manning, the view of Jordan church was especially beautiful during September and October because of the cotton field located in front of the

church building. At that time the cotton plants were in full bloom and the full white blooms made the scene so panoramic and lovely.

As I drove to the church for the Sunday morning service that following November, the view was not as beautiful. The cotton was harvested in late October and the blooms are gone. Just a few pieces of white cotton hung from the plants. Although the church building was as pretty as ever, there was something missing. The view was not as full as it was when the cotton plants were full of cotton.

What I saw at Jordan church that November in 2014 made me think of the emotions we now have because of the passing of Sarah Blackwell. We already miss Sarah. We are saddened by her death. It's understandable why we are saddened. She, like the beautiful cotton fields at Jordan church, added so much to our lives. We should not deny our feelings that we have lost someone who was very special. Today I have read from Ecclesiastes 3. We learn from that passage that

there is a time for everything. It tells us there is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time for planting and a time for uprooting. Sarah lived a long and wonderful life of ninety-two years. She did many things and made many friends and affected many people.

In 1 Corinthians 12 St. Paul writes that we have all been given certain gifts. We do not all have the same gifts but we are each given abilities which contribute to all. These gifts make the body of Christ function. Sarah's gifts made us work as a community and a church. She contributed to us as a family.

Sarah had a number of gifts, but the two that stand out were her teaching and her musical ability. She got a degree from Columbia College and taught school for thirty-one years. She influenced many students in her life. She taught them to do their best. At the celebration of her retirement from choir director and organist at Latimer several years ago, we heard of her great influence on many people. Sarah used her musical talents as organist and

choir director at Latimer for over fifty years. Many people have sung in the choir at Latimer and been taught and mentored by Sarah. Even after she retired, she remained in the choir and was active. As was Sarah, she was always willing to offer her opinion, to make sure we were singing in the right octave, in the right harmony. She was a "fireball," could be outspoken, but she wanted to make sure we did our best.

We know that her death does not separate you from your wonderful memories of Sarah. God has given you a memory which allows you to remember the wonderful times you had with her. I have cherished memories of Sarah because of the five years I served Latimer Memorial. I also had a special bond with Sarah because we were both Methodist minister's children. We talked about that experience and moving around and meeting all type of people. Sarah shared with me how when she was young the ministerial appointments were not done until Annual Conference in June of each year. A minister and

his family would not find out they were moving until a few weeks before they would move. That gives somebody the ability to deal with change!

I know from my own experience as a minister's child what that meant to the development of her personality. It gave her a certain durability in life situations. It gave her the ability to meet and know people, regardless of that person's station in life. It also made Sarah to want to do her best and for her to teach that to others.

Sarah had great love and dedication for her family. She cared about her role as a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother and a great-great grandmother. It should be no surprise that she cared about her family so much. She was such a people person. She remained active in their lives as long she could, following them in their sports, going to graduations and doing as much with her family as possible. Finally, we have memories of Sarah's love for her church family. She was an active member of Latimer Memorial UMC. She

served on committees and on the church council. She was the lay delegate to the South Carolina Annual Conference for a number of years. Until very recently, she was president of the church's United Methodist Women and actively attended district meetings throughout her time at Latimer. Her contribution to the church was invaluable.

As Christian believers, we know that we will once again see Sarah when Jesus comes again. Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 that when Jesus comes down from heaven the dead in Christ shall rise first and then with the believers who are still alive shall meet the Lord. We shall worship together with Sarah in a celebration of Jesus' kingdom on earth.

You will go through grief and other emotions in the coming months now that Sarah is no longer physically with us. There is no magical set time of how long you should grieve. Each person has their own timetable. Just remember that God will comfort you through the Holy Spirit. Please remember to support each other during this process. The scripture

from Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time to weep and a time to laugh. It's okay to cry. It's okay to laugh. As Ecclesiastes also tells us, there is a time to plant. Those cotton plants will be planted again and will bloom again. When they bloom again at Jordan church, they will once again add so much to the beauty of the place. When you keep your memories of Sarah alive, your life will once again bloom and be full again. This is how you will continually celebrate the life of Sarah Blackwell.

- Rev. Wally Culp

Safety Protocols:

Updated Latimer Safety Protocols June 9, 2021:

Pursuant to a special called Church Council meeting on June 9, 2021, with 11 council members present and 3 additional church members attending, the following decisions were made by consensus:

- Worship service protocols adopted on May 23, 2021, will remain in place except as modified below:
- Communion will continue to be served

in the same manner, with two changes.

First, the congregation can now say their part of the liturgy. Second, if the weather does not cooperate, the communion elements may be consumed in the sanctuary in one's seat;

- Special music will continue to be sung by either a soloist or a duet behind the plexiglass in the choir loft. Decisions on a full choir or choir practice will be made in the future;
- One hymn will be sung by the congregation during the worship service. This hymn will be sung at the end of the service to lessen the spread of aerosols during the service. Two verses will be sung;
- Men's club breakfast will begin again on Sunday, June 27, 2021. It will start at 9:30 am because there will not be any Sunday School until at least the early fall of 2021. In future months, the breakfast will be on third Sunday of the month;

- Church fellowship meals will not be held until at least the fall of 2021. At that time, a discussion will be held on when and under what conditions the meals will resume.
- After much discussion, it was decided that children's Sunday school will not be held until at least the early fall of 2021. At that time discussion will be held on when and under what conditions to start it;
- Adult Sunday school will not be held until at least the early fall of 2021. At that time discussion will be held on when and under what conditions to start it.
- Susie Howell reported that Jane Barton and her had decided that Saturday Bible school will be held in 2022;
- Susie Howell also reported that the Latimer Lovelies will be meeting again under conditions agreed to by those who attend.

- Pat Wilson, as chairperson of the Outreach team, will consult with Rev. Dan Fortney about when and under what conditions the Grief Support group will resume.

Summary of Annual Conference 2021:

- The budget for 2022 is \$15, 940, 903. This is down 3.2% from 2021. Many groups had reserves they could draw on, which allowed for an overall reduction in expenses.
- Despite the reduction in the overall budget, all conference employees (including the District Superintendents) were given a 1.5% pay raise for the first time in 3 years.
- For direct billing, each charge's responsibility for pension amounts will remain the same.
- For direct billing, each charge's responsibility for health insurance premiums will be

\$1025 per month, which is the same as 2021.

- The health insurance plans for clergy will remain the same and at the same cost as for 2021.
- Overall, churches in 2021 paid 87% of apportionments. Latimer paid 85%.
- Seven people were ordained as elders.
- Eleven people were commissioned as provisional elders.
- Dr. John Holler will retire this year as the head of Epworth's children home.
- Bishop Jonathan Holston will remain as Bishop of South Carolina through at least the end of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. W. Wallace Culp, III

From Wally:

If you need to mail anything to Rev. Culp in the future, his mailing address is 39 Parliament Road, Greenville, SC 29615;

I have donated my collection of "Christian

Century" magazines to the church library. Pat Wilson will be organizing them. I pray for you will find them of use.



Treasurer's Report:

As of June 24, 2021, the balance of the General account was \$28,855.53, of which \$4,447.88 is escrow. The housing allowance balance is \$1,971.87. Deposits continue to be made to this account from the Martha Manry endowment.

A detailed report of both the General account and apportionments will be posted in the Team room around the first of July.

Although, we are closer, have not yet returned to "normal". Our members have continued to support the church not only spiritually and emotionally but also financially without interruption. A big thank you is due them.

- Tommy Howell



Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will be meeting for their monthly luncheon on Wednesday, July 14th at Sullivan's at noon. We will have the large table in the back of the restaurant near the stairs away from other tables. Please contact Susie Howell at (864) 221-2710 by Monday, July 12th to let me know if you are coming so I can confirm the number with them.



The United Methodist Men's Club:

The UMM Men's Club will meet on Sunday, July 18th at 9:30 AM for breakfast and their meeting. The entire congregation is always invited.

Bishop's Corner:

The Gathering of God's People

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways."—Proverbs 4:23-26 (NIV)

As this edition of the Advocate arrives, the 2021 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference will be starting. On June 6 and 7, we will gather virtually for a time of giving thanks to almighty God and celebrating the ways in which we have been seeking and fulfilling God's purpose for the church.

This year's theme - "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Taking the Next Faithful Step"—calls us to courageously go where God is leading us, entrusting God with each step that we take. Miraculous things can

happen when we leave our place of comfort and allow God to stretch us in new and different ways. We will convene filled with hope, remembering who God has called us to be and what God wants for us.

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Annual Conference will again be held virtually. We have made this decision to ensure the safety and good health of all involved, and we look forward to engaging with you virtually as we live into the broadened definition of what it means for God's people to gather.

We are deeply grateful for the perseverance, innovation and faithfulness exhibited by all clergy and lay members as we have navigated the pandemic-driven challenges over this last year. We look forward to celebrating the mission and ministry of devoted South Carolina United Methodists who are answering God's call and taking the next faithful step.

We are delighted to have Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett join us as the guest preacher for The Service of Commissioning, Ordination and Retirement Recognition, and our very

own Rev. Joe Long will join us as the preacher for the Memorial Service.

The hard work of so many people make this gathering possible. A profound word of gratitude is expressed to the Rev. Terry Fleming and the people and churches of the Florence District, our host district, and to the Rev. Frederick Yebuah and members of Cumberland UMC, our host church. For many months, this team has worked closely with our conference secretary, the Rev. Ken Nelson, assistant conference secretary, the Rev. Mel Arant, and the Committee on the Annual Conference to consider every detail. I am certain that you will join me in saluting the proactive leadership of all of these people who have worked so diligently on our behalf.

As we prepare for the 2021 Annual Conference, I ask for your prayers that great and marvelous things will happen through the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us. Pray that our presence online will be a living witness to the grace, mercy and love of Jesus Christ for all whom we meet.

