



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:



“Holy Creativity”

I have written before about how I have had to be creative in this time of pandemic. This month, I want to write about “Holy Creativity.” I use reflections in an article in the April 7, 2021 *Christian Century* magazine by Kirk Byron Jones. “In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth”(Gen.1:1). The very first picture of God we see catches God in the act of creating.

What we need to appreciate is that God did not stop creating in Genesis 1 and 2. God continues to create. We are made in the image of God. Each of us is not just a precious creation of God; we are powerful creators with God. We have holy authorization to use our sacred power to create in every area of our lives, sculpting new ideas, framing new attitudes, and building new relationships.

The good news is that being in Christ makes us not only new creations but also new creators. The closer people get to Jesus, the more imaginative and daring they seem to become. Peter did not try walking on water until he saw Jesus doing it. There is no following Jesus without taking on the wild and wonderful possibilities he inspired day in and day out.

Let us embrace our divine creative power. Here are some ways to begin. First, expect to be creative. Creativity is much broader than making art. Befriend your creative spirit and learn to be at home with the astonishing.

Second, connect with your inner child. We tend to be far more imaginative and creative as children than we are as adults. Fortunately, this child is never vanquished altogether. Allow your abiding child to call forth your creative

powers. Daydream, doodle, wonder, and wander. Keep a picture of yourself as a child nearby to help you tap into the springs of limitless imagining inside. I have one in my bedroom from when I was four years old.

Third, practice patient attention. We miss so much when we stop noticing. Paying attention just a half second longer may yield an insight or inspiration more than worth the extended look. Fourth, keep a creativity journal. Doodles, pictures and other images are wonderful ways to intentionally and regularly evoke your creative juices. Fifth, rest your mind. One of the best things you can do for any creative undertaking is to temporarily take your mind off it. Finally, sleep, nap and rest your body. Physical rest is a must to sustaining creative strength.

As Rev. Jones points out, unleashing our creative potential isn't always easy. When Dizzy Gillespie came into the musical scene in the early 1940s with a

new rhythmic style of jazz called bebop, it was denounced by many critics and fellow musicians. One of the criticisms was that it was not as easy to dance as the big band swing that was then popular. Gillespie and others persisted. Eventually bebop became a new musical expression (It's not that hard to dance to bebop. You just have to be open to dancing in a different way!).

We are called by God to create in life and ministry. Are we willing to open ourselves up to that creativity? Are we willing to dance in new way?

In Christ,

Rev. Wally Culp

From the Nurture Team:

*"In everything Great and small
We see the hand of God in all."
From Helen Steiner Rice*

June is here. Welcome Summer. As travel restrictions are relaxing and more people getting vaccines and getting out side more, seems like

the world is trying to get back to some type of "Normal". The latest rounds of Protocols for reopening church, was sent late March. Newer ones are coming soon. Maybe the update will be today. We will keep you informed. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Wally.

With the Witness team, we are planning a Spring Social for May 25. All are invited to this outdoors event, Tuesday, May 25, 12-2pm at the Belton's Farmer's Market on Main St. Bring a bag lunch and a chair. Cold drinks and cupcakes are provided. Wearing Face coverings is Optional.

June 20, we celebrate Father's Day. Through God's great love for us and through Jesus Christ His Son, we are placed in families, families of God, and by the examples of Jesus, He taught us to find fulfillment in giving ourselves, and love in serving others. Blessed are those called Fathers, who lead us in service and caring.

As we prepare for a change in the Pastorate this summer, I know you will continue to keep our church and country in your prayers.

“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.”

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

The pandemic has changed the way Kairos has been able to minister to the prisoners. They have not been able to minister in person, but they have tried to show that there are people that care by delivering cookies (80 dozen in November), supplying hygiene products, purchasing cleaning products, supporting Kairos Outside (a program for families), and supporting Kairos Touch (programs for juvenile offenders). We usually participate in this prison ministry by donating cookies and money. This time we

just donated money. As Wally shared in Sunday’s sermon Jesus is present when we do things for people.

After we met along with the United Methodist Women and discussed what the Circle of Parenting Program needed in order to be a success, we decided not to try to participate at this time. We all think it is a good program, it is just that we do not have enough people that could make a commitment at this time for us do a good job.

We continue to reach out to each other by telephone, cards, notes of encouragement, and most importantly praying for each other. My Church Family is very important to me as I know they are to all of you. We miss each other. Just because we might not see each other doesn’t mean that we are not in each other’s thoughts. Let keep praying for each other.

In the future you will be hearing more about a special ministry (Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry). This is

a SC Conference ministry. The Anderson District has been selected as a pilot for this project. Our DS, Steve Patterson, is on the Aldersgate Board.

- Pat Wilson

From the Witness Team:

Susie is doing an amazing job as editor of the monthly church newsletter along with emailing Sunday's sermon and keeping our church members informed.

We are in the process of updating phone numbers, email and mailing addresses. There will be a printed list of this information on the table where the Upper Room and May's newsletter are found. We have asked members to take time to see if the information we have is correct and if there haven't been any changes put a check mark next to your name if there are any changes please correct.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Lay Speaker or Lay Servant, please

let us know so we can get information to you.

I rather be safe than sorry so we are still on the holding pattern and will re-evaluate future activities such as Saturday Bible School (SBS) and scheduling quarterly activities with them in the fall.

David and I are going to spend time with our family up in NH. (gas permitting)

Susie will be the chairperson of our team until we return early September. It seems that we just got back home, coming back to church again and now we are heading back north. When in reality this is the longest we have stayed.

I want to share the hymn
God Be With You

God be with you till we meet again,

By His counsel's guide,
uphold you,

With His sheep securely
fold you,

God be with you till we meet again....

Respectfully submitted
Witness Team Co-Chair

- Jane Barton



The next Church Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13th at 4:30 PM.

Treasurer's Report:

As of May 27, 2021, the balance of the General account was \$28,967.46, of which \$4,447.88 is escrow. The housing allowance balance is \$1,971.85; deposits continue to be made to this account from the Martha Manry endowment.

Apportionments paid so far have totaled \$4,466.00 of a budgeted \$4,466.00 which completes our apportionment payments for 2021.

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

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

Our Homebound:

Jackie Manning
Frank Clark
Bessie Clark



Our Prayer Concerns:

Sarah Blackwell, Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Juanita Butler, Scott Campbell, Kendall Chandler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Jocelyn Collins, Katie Coward, Carl DuBose, Kate DuBose, Gloria Eaves, Rev. Tommy Edwards, Tony Ellett, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim

Lane, Susan Long, Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell, Nancy Nagel, Brenda Parfitt, Colleen Pinson, Irene Revis, Keith Ridgeway, Melissa Scott, Kandice Shirley, Norma Timms, Frank Woods, Marvin Woodson, Carl and Ellen Yates



Bold Steps in Defiance of Injustice was the title of Pat Wilson's program at the May meeting of the Elisabeth Smith/Sue Coward Circles. This was based on Exodus 1:8 - 2:10, the story of the baby Moses. Its objective was to help us learn how a multitude of women acted to provide for the thriving of children and to understand how our actions today can provide for the thriving of mothers and children.

Gloria Eaves attended the Spiritual Growth Event in April and incidentally it followed the same scripture and dealt with the influence of the midwives who were part of that multitude of

women. Wendy Hudson-Jacoby was the speaker for this meeting and is also the author of the book "Defiant-What the Women of Exodus Tell Us". Gloria also attended the Day Apart which focused on Helping Hands group home in Clemson. Group homes now house only children from 12 to 18 years. Younger children are placed in foster care. Therefore, needs are now different for these homes. Helping Hands has built an activity building so there is also a need for sports equipment. However whenever supporting any group home it is best to check web sites for current needs.

There is no special mission emphasis for May. The Tracy Jackson fund will be supported in June. The UMW will not meet in June nor July. The next meeting will be in August with the hope that it will include something special.

- Regina Bullions

Annual Conference:

Annual Conference will be held on June 6-7 by virtual feed. Please be in prayer for Rev. Culp and your lay delegate Kent Millwood.

Wally and Dan's Schedule:

Rev. Culp's last Sunday will be June 20, 2021.

Andy Bullions will preach on June 27, 2021.

Moving day is June 30.

Dan Fortney's first Sunday will be July 4th;

Rev. Culp will be on vacation from June 21-27. If you have any emergencies during that time, please contact Andy Bullions or Ron Walfield. Rev. Culp will be available for any matters on June 28-29.

Sarah Blackwell:

Sarah has moved to Summit Place off of Highway 81. Her address is Summit Place, Room 15A, 107 Perpetual Square Drive, Anderson SC 29621. She said she would love visitors but you have to

make an appointment. The number there is (864) 222-9880.

Jane and David:

Jane and David are on their way to New Hampshire for the summer. Their address is P. O. Box 129, Grantham NH 03753. They are coming back home the second week in September.



Updated Safety Protocols:

In consideration of new safety protocols issued by the CDC on May 13, 2021, and the South Carolina United Methodist Conference on May 21, 2021, we update Latimer's protocols on the wearing of facemasks or face coverings for inside worship as follows:

1. Those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are no longer required to

wear facemasks or face coverings while attending inside worship services at Latimer Memorial United Methodist Church. Those who are fully vaccinated who believe it is necessary to continue wearing facemasks or face coverings during worship services or inside the building may continue to do so.

2. We highly recommend that those who have not been fully vaccinated continue to wear face masks or face coverings while attending worship services or while inside the building;

3. Based on advice from the South Carolina United Methodist Conference, we recommend that those fully vaccinated who are elderly and/or have compromised immune systems due to health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, and immune-suppressing medications continue to wear facemasks or face coverings during worship or in the building because they

might not be fully protected. Because the term "elderly" is relative and each person best knows their own medical condition, each person will determine whether they need to wear facemasks or face coverings.

4. We will still require social distancing. Persons will continue to be seated in accordance with social distancing during the worship service. Use of hand sanitizer or hand washing is still highly encouraged.
5. Sunday school, church meals, congregational singing, and choir singing are still not being held at Latimer. Those matters will be taken up at a special church council meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
6. Thank you for your continued patience and continue to pray for our guidance during these considerations.

- Rev. Wally Culp

Bishop's Corner:

The Question Is

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.”—1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)

Walking with Bishop Knox into the town of Alajuela, I asked him his expectations of clergy. He responded, “To be on the cutting edge of ministry, making a difference for the sake of Christ.”

As we continued, I asked him his expectations of laity. He replied, “To be on the cutting edge of ministry, making a

difference for the sake of Christ.”

Knowing that Bishop Knox was a former missionary through the General Board of Global Ministries, I asked him, “Do you expect everyone to be missionaries?”

He said to me, “No, I don’t expect everyone to be missionaries, but everyone should have a missional spirit.”

For the past year, in the midst of pandemic, civil unrest and political divisiveness, at a time when our lives have changed and everything has been different, we’ve all been on the cutting edge of ministry. We’ve had to pivot. We’ve been difference-makers. Who hasn’t wanted to remain in the familiar because that is more comfortable? We want normalcy.

Why? Because we want to be around things that we know. We want to walk down that same, familiar path. It is comfortable. It is easy. It is known. It is rote. Who doesn’t want to go back to the familiar? It would be more comfortable to

do so. We wouldn’t have to be challenged.

But we know that God has called us into the unknown—into that place of discomfort where we must fully rely on our faith in God. To follow where God is leading, we have had to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. For we know that the church was not created for our pleasure, it was created for God’s purpose.

And, oh, how we have been uncomfortable this year! Our rhythms have been disrupted. Our routines have disappeared.

But we have pivoted, and we have made a difference in significant ways. It is that missional spirit that has been evident in our willingness to work together as a team—in our local churches, in our conference and in our communities. That missional spirit has allowed us to be courageous people. As Maya Angelou said, “Courage is the greatest of all virtues, because without courage you can’t practice any other virtues consistently.”

As we prepare for Annual Conference, once again this year we will be in a virtual setting. But we will be celebrating the courageous and creative ways in which we have worshiped and grown for the sake of Christ. We've learned so much over this past year, and God has blessed us. We are not only a team who works together. We have become a team who trusts each other.

For many of us, vital lessons about teamwork were first learned in the band, sports and mission teams. There is great pride in wearing the uniform, as well as being part of the group that forms the team. We learn to trust one another as we work together with a shared purpose. We recognize that we are people with different gifts, but we are all part of one body. We take great pride in "wearing the uniform" of our team in the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

As we celebrate this year during Annual Conference, "Seeking a

More Excellent Way: Taking the Next Faithful Step," we live into our mission of making disciples. We will come together in celebration as we grow in clarity about our purpose, and we will focus on being on the cutting edge of ministry together. Across the United Methodist Church, our goal, our mission and our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This mission is shared among every United Methodist congregation around the world. Each church approaches the mission in a unique way, but the purpose is the same for all of us.

In times of change, such as this year of pandemic that we have experienced, instead of searching for a right answer that did not exist, we have instead asked new questions. We have changed the conversation. We've learned from each other. We've prayed for each other. We've responded to each other in ways that have been helpful to having the difficult conversations that we often would have

avoided. We've each sought to take the next faithful steps of ministry together.

There is much wisdom that we can take with us into our spheres of influence, be that our churches, the office or anywhere in our communities as we work together to make a difference for the sake of Christ.

We may not wear matching uniforms that are easily recognizable on game day, but in so many ways, we have a shared purpose that focuses on having missional spirits.

So, the question is this: What is the difference that you believe God has called you to make as you take your next faithful step?

We celebrated the beginning of the end of Covid-19 with a church wide picnic at the Belton Senior Citizen's Pavilion on Tuesday, May 25th. No masks were required or worn. **Hallelujah!!!** Here are some pictures that were taken at that event. Thank you, Sandy and Frank.



A Farewell from Wally and Ellisa

I want to thank you for the kindness and friendship you have shown to Ellisa and me over the past five years. It has been wonderful getting to know you. We will take many cherished moments with us. There have been a number of events and a number of stories. Good food and good company have been shared at church lunches. Did you ever think you would have a chance to throw a ball and dunk your pastor in a dunking booth? I appreciate all the effort and interest in the model train display my first Christmas with you.

I have been greatly impressed by your outreach and ministry to the community. I always enjoyed helping cook and serve “brinner” to the veterans at Richard Campbell nursing home. I admire your ministry to Patrick Harris hospital and recall the church being named by the hospital as its organization of the year in 2018. I appreciate those of you who work with BIMA and support its ministry.

Thank you for the support of the grief support group I set up in January 2017. It has been a great help to those in the church and in the community. It was especially helpful during 2019 when we lost seven church members to death. I pray that you will continue this ministry.

Thanks to all who have served and continue to serve in various leadership positions and chairpersons of our NOW teams. I appreciate all the work you have done and all the time you have put in.

Thank you for your efforts in planning and facing your future through “Forward Focus.” I believe this process has and will continue to help you realistically face what you have to do to continue your ministry and Christian formation. Special thanks to the members of the Forward Focus team, Bill and Gloria Eaves, Bob Emhoff, Ron Walfield, and Pat Wilson.

Finally, Ellisa and I express our appreciation for your flexibility and understanding in giving us time off to refresh and travel. We have been able to learn and bring back stories of Ireland, Scotland, Portugal, Spain and Martin Luther. You have learned about my fascination with roller coasters!

We wish you well in the future and know that you will continue to do Christ’s work in the community and the world.

Thank you for everything.

Rev. Wally and Ellisa Culp