



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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A Word from Our Pastor:



Today we look at Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present

help in trouble."

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines refuge as 1. shelter or protection from danger or distress 2. A place that provides shelter or protection.

Refuge is defined as a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble. It is like finding a safe place during a storm, or getting comfort in time of trouble.

We have many storms in our lives. Such things as loss of health, death of loved ones, loss of jobs, hurricanes, tornadoes, political and social upheavals and failures are just a few of the storms we face in our world.

How do we face these storms and keep our sanity? The first thing we need to do is turn to God for help. The Psalmist said, "God is our refuge...". He is our shelter and protection when evil, the storms of life, and danger approach us. When I was a boy, I always

felt safe when I was with my dad. In the dark, possibly facing a panther or any other scary thing for a boy I knew my dad would protect me. That is the way it is with us and God. We feel safe regardless of what we are facing when He is with us.

The Psalmist also said that God is our strength. We get our strength from Him. We can't face the storms of life in our own strength. We need someone bigger than we are. God is there with us to fight our battles. We must trust Him. David didn't fight Goliath alone, he had faith that God was with him and that God would win the battle and He did! David had to trust and obey but God fought for Him. We get our strength from God to fight our battles as well.

The psalmist also said that God is a very present help in trouble. He is there when we need Him. He is present with us and thus never leaves us alone to face trouble. He is there to comfort, to cheer, to

encourage, to instruct, to guide, to give strength wisdom. What a blessing is the Presence of God to us. John Wesley said, "the best of all is God with us!"

So whatever you may be facing today remember that God is there with you as a refuge, strength and a present help in trouble!

- Rev. Dan Fortney

From the Nurture Team:

"In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success."

Proverbs 3:6

Many school items have been collected from the church members for the Area Schools. They will be free to the parents and teachers, distributed on August 6 at First Baptist Church. See Pat's article in this Newsletter.

Blessing of the Back packs will be August 15, just before school starts. Everyone bring your backpack, brief case, Tool box to church for a special blessing as we give thanks for the new school year and a renewed appreciation for our work and labor.

Please see the new Covid-19 Safety Protocols that the church Council has approved July 13, 2021. They are listed in this newsletter. We will be working on the details for the fall activities and announce them in church, and in the bulletin.

Remember our homebound folks and if you know someone who would like a visit, or Communion served to them please let me know. They all appreciate your cards, calls and prayers.

From the heart of Helen Steiner Rice:

"Never dread tomorrow, or what the future brings, just pray for strength and courage and trust God in all things."

- Sandy Sorrow

From the Outreach Team:

Just a reminder about the **SchoolGiveAway** that will reach out to the children and youth in our community. The date is **August 6, 2021 at Belton First Baptist Church. The time is 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM.** There is a list of items for you to make a choice from on the table outside the sanctuary and also attached to this newsletter. Please have

your donations at Latimer by August 5th.

Remember if you do not want to shop, you can donate money and someone on the Outreach Team will shop for you. You can make a check out to Latimer and mark it for SchoolGiveAway.

Remember we can hand out information about our church at the GiveAway. We will be joining other Belton churches and associations in this mission to support our schools and education. The date and time for the **Anderson School District Two Back to School Walk is August 8th at 6:00 PM.** The place to gather is at the BHP flag pole.

I found the following information when I was going through some of my papers for the library. I thought it might interest some of you.

Latimer's Pastors:

1977-1982 Roger Gramling
1982-1984 John Holler
1984-1988 Sam Poston
1988-1994 Bo Padgett
1994-2000 Alex Stevenson
2000-2004 Grady Corder
2004-2009 Susan Culler
2009-2016 Jeff Roper
2016-2021 Wally Culp

2021- Dan Fortney
- Pat Wilson



From the Witness Team:

The Witness Team continues to work on the update of the Church Directory. We look forward to getting back to normal in September and hopefully will be able to plan a fun outing for the church children and youth.

David and Jane are still in New Hampshire and are planning to be home by the middle of September.

- Susie Howell

Church Council:

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 7th at 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Attached to this Newsletter you will find the Summary of Safety Protocols from the July 13th Church Council meeting.

Our Homebound:

Bessie Clark
Frank Clark
Jackie Manning
Jerry Manning

Our Prayer Concerns:

If you see anyone on our Prayer Concerns list that should be removed or know of anyone that needs to be added, please let Susie Howell know. Contact information is on the first page of this Newsletter.

Ben Brogden, Hilda Bruce, Juanita Butler, Scott Campbell, Kendall Chandler, Bessie and Frank Clark, Katie Coward, Theresa Coward, Rev. Tommy Edwards, Eric Emhof, Linda Emhof, Dick Finney, Cory Foubert, Jim Grubbs, Betty Hill, Jane Jackson, Amy and Jim Lane, Susan Long, Jackie and Jerry Manning, Sara McDowell, Nancy Nagel, Outz Family, Brenda Parfitt, Colleen Pinson, Bobby Poore, Irene Revis, Melissa Scott, Norma Timms, Frank Williams, Frank Woods, Marvin Woodson, Carl and Ellen Yates

United Methodist Women:

The United Methodist Women did not meet during the months of June and July. The executive committee will meet in the

next few weeks to make plans for the rest of the year. Hopefully, near the end of August or September the United Methodist Women will hold a luncheon for all of the women of the church and have a guest speaker. The September meeting of the UMW will be on Monday September 13th at 3:00 pm. The United Methodist Women provided a meal for the family of Sarah Blackwell. The food was packed up and the family took the food to Edwina's house to be enjoyed after the service.

- Gloria Eaves



United Methodist Men's Club:

The UMMC will meet on Sunday, August 15th at 9:30 AM for their breakfast and lesson.

Latimer Lovelies:

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at O'Charley's for lunch at noon on Wednesday, August 11th. Please let Gloria Eaves know if you plan to attend

by Monday, August 9th so she can give the restaurant a head count.

Trustee's Report:

The black vinyl fence to mark the property line of the church has been installed by Pro-Line Fence (Leon Brown) at a cost of \$2,640.00. Other expenses from the Trustee account include \$325.00 for Janitorial Services, \$100.00 for BIMA donation, \$90.95 for a new name plate on the church sign and \$1,466.33 for Guide One insurance on the Church. The balance of the Trustee Account is \$68,682.38. The Trustees will be doing a walk-through of the church in the near future to determine what repairs are needed and to prioritize these repairs.

- Gloria Eaves

Ushers:

Frank Sorrow
Max Walfield



Acolyte:

August - Max Walfield

Treasurer's Report:

As of July 21, 2021, the balance of the General account was \$28,423.06, of which \$4,467.88 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 August.

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

Bishop's Corner: Our Journey Together Continues

By Bishop L. Jonathan
Holston

"Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me,

and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"—Acts 11:11-17

When Simon Peter chose to listen to the Holy Spirit and go to Joppa, he didn't know what he would encounter when he got there. Much to his surprise, what he found reassured him that not only was the Holy Spirit with him but God had even gone ahead of him to prepare the way.

As we take our next faithful steps, let's choose to follow where God is leading. Even though so much has changed in the world, our goal, our purpose, hasn't changed. We may have to approach the work of making disciples differently

than we have before, but we know now that we can do that. We can choose to make disciples and transform our communities wherever we are. We can, and we will.

I have a friend who is one of those people who is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone asks him how he is doing, he will reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

My friend is a natural motivator. When he was asked about how he could actually stay positive all the time, he replied, "Each morning, I wake up and say to myself, 'You have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood, or you can choose to be in a bad mood.' I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim, or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaints, or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive. Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the stuff, every situation is a choice. You choose how to react. You choose how people affect your mood.

"The bottom line is that it is your choice how you live your life."

One day this positive, effervescent guy was involved in a serious accident that required 18 hours of surgery, time in intensive care and the placement of rods in his back. The next time I saw him, he was still the positive friend I'd always known. He told me that even in the midst of the pain and trauma he experienced, he still remembered he had choices. He could choose to live or to die. When the paramedics were wheeling him to the operating room, he told them he wanted to be treated as someone who was going to live, not someone who was dead.

Every day, we have the choice to live fully.

Simon Peter did not give up, step aside and move out of God's way. Instead, he chose to get on board. He followed God's leading, even into something new and previously unknown. Peter made a choice to trust God and commit to the work of spreading the Good News. Peter remembered what the Lord had said and realized that God was doing a new work, but it was not a work God had not already promised to do. God

aligned Peter's memory with God's word for the purpose of making more disciples and transforming the world.

During the 2021 South Carolina Annual Conference session, lay and clergy delegates approved the adoption of four unique priorities as our next faithful steps into God's preferred future. We have prayed, pivoted and persisted in taking the next faithful step. We desire for our focus to align with God's purpose for us. The Four Priorities represent our choice to live fully.

These Four Priorities are 1) developing leaders, 2) engaging our communities, 3) connecting with and growing disciples and 4) measuring and evaluating current realities and missional possibilities. The Four Priorities are our plan to seek the mission of the church to make disciples and transform our communities.

Just as God gave the Gentiles the gift of the Holy Spirit, so too, God has given us the gift of God's power and presence, equipping us for the ministry to which we are called.

The Four Priorities equip us for our next faithful steps in

ministry as God's people called United Methodist here in South Carolina. They give us clear areas of focus as we seek ways to make disciples and transform our communities.

In times of change, such as this year of pandemic that we have experienced, what if we were to offer new questions rather than searching for a new "right" answer. Changing the conversation can move us toward a different way of thinking about our future possibilities.

I believe that the people of South Carolina will rise to this challenge.

And remember, just as God was with Peter, we have faith that God will be with us as we take our next faithful steps into the future.

Summary of Safety Protocols on July 13, 2021

On July 13, 2021, Latimer Memorial Administrative Council at the regular bi-monthly meeting voted to make the following changes in the Safety Protocols from June 9, 2021. There were 8 voting members and 2 non-voting members present. Each protocol was discussed and voted on separately by a show of hands.

1. **Communion** – The Council voted that no changes be made in the June 9, 2021 protocols for Communion. The congregation can say their part of the liturgy and if the weather does not cooperate, the communion elements may be consumed in the sanctuary in one's seat.

2. **Special Music** – The Council voted to leave all decisions about special music, full choir, practice and any other things about the choir be left up to the members of the choir and choir director.

3. **Hymns in worship service** – The Council voted that as many hymns as decided by the choir director and Pastor could be sung by the congregation with the number of verses decided by the Pastor.

4. **Men's Club Breakfast** – No changes

5. **Fellowship Meals** – There were no changes to the Fellowship Meals. Church Fellowship meals will not be held until the fall of 2021.

6. **Children's Sunday School** - The Council voted to start Children's Sunday School back the first of September unless conditions change.

7. **Adult Sunday School** – The Council voted to start Adult Sunday School back the first of September unless conditions change.

8. **Saturday Bible School** - There were no changes in Saturday Bible School. Saturday Bible School will be held in 2022.

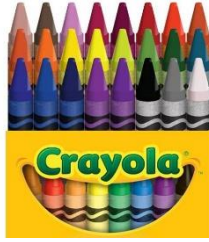
9. **Latimer Lovelies** – There were no changes to Latimer Lovelies meetings.

There was one Worship Protocol that had not been previously addressed, Fellowship Time. Many members expressed concerns about moving around the church and shaking hands and hugging. By consensus the Council decided that Fellowship Time should stay with standing and waving.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE 2021 – 2022 SCOOOL YEAR

Glue

- sticks
- liquid in bottles



Crayons

- any
- 24 count
- Twistables



#2 Pencils

Erasers

- small pencil caps
- big pink erasers

Plastic Folders

- with pockets & prongs
- without prongs
- blue/green/red/orange/yellow

3 Ring Binders

- 1 inch
- 1 ½ inch
- 2 inch
- 3 inch



Notebooks

- spiral 3 subject
- composition (marbled no wires)
- wide & college ruled

Dividers for Binders

Sheet Protectors

Earbuds

Markers

- any size
- pip-squeaks for PreK - K5
- dry erase

Highlighters



Colored Pencils

Bags

- gallon size
- quart size
- sandwich size

Pencil Sharpener (mini)

Pencil Case

- hard case
- zippered pouch

Scissors



Paper

- loose leaf notebook paper (wide ruled & college ruled)
- construction
- graph

Index Cards

Sticky Notes

Box of Tissues

Hand Sanitizer

Disinfectant Wipes

