



# 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.

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

## A Word from Our Pastor:



The Bible has always been at the center of

faith, teaching, preaching, and of living for Wesleyans and Methodists of all kinds. Teaching and preaching it from the pulpits, teaching it in Sunday School classes, Bible studies, youth groups, children's ministries such as VBS and confirmation classes, teaching us to read, study, memorize and recite the Bible have all been considered essential means of grace by the people called Methodists. All of these things shape our thoughts, feelings, beliefs, actions and how we live out our faith in Jesus Christ. A good example of Scripture about this is 2Timothy 3:16-17.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction." That the man of God may furnished or equipped for good works. "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy

Ghost." OT Thus Scripture is inspired by God. It is from God. All Scripture is profitable or useful for:

a. Teaching. Here teaching is a noun used in place of the word doctrine or belief. The Bible gives us everything we need for salvation. It gives us the teachings of Jesus Christ and shows us how He lived and died for us to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. It also tells us how we should live out our faith and share our faith with others.

b. Reproof. Reproof is a strong disapproval, reprimand, or admonition. Jesus healed a man at the pool of Bethesda and later found him in the temple and said to him, "You have been made whole, sin no more unless a worse thing come upon you!" This was an admonition. There are many such admonitions

in the Bible.

c. Correction. Jesus corrected the disciples many times and these corrections may be good for us as well. The Bible corrects our thoughts, actions, and beliefs. All of our thoughts, actions, and beliefs must be Bible based and confirmed.

d. Training. Some translations has it instruction. We all need to be instructed in righteousness and holy living. Wesley preached and taught a lot about holiness of heart and life. If we prefer the translation that says training we all need training as well and mentoring is a great example of training.

The purpose of all of this is that the people of God will be proficient, equipped for every good work so that we may bear fruit.

- Pastor Dan Fortney

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

Back to School prayer paraphrased from Isaiah 54:17 and Eph. 6:13-18

*"I pray that you cover my children. Give them the helmet of salvation to protect their minds against messages competing for their attention. Guard their hearts, Lord from anger, depression, anxiety, loneliness or anything that would make them feel unworthy of love. No weapon formed against them shall prosper. In Jesus's name."*

I do not know who wrote this prayer, but it seems to fit this season of time.

Church events for September include:

September 5, Labor Day and Annual Collection for Epworth Children's Home

Holy Communion shared.

September 12, Grandparent's Day, *"Even to your old age I am he; even when you turn gray, I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and I will save."* – Isaiah 46:4

As the popularity of Grandparents Day continues on, Forget-me-nots were

designated the official flower of Grandparents Day. Today, Grandparents Day remains a great excuse for family get-togethers -- marked with greeting cards, flower bouquets, special Grandparent's Day gifts, or for treating grandparents to a dinner out or homemade feast in their honor. Happy Grandparents Day!!!!

September 14, Church Council meeting. Further decisions and plans for our Sunday School and Fellowship events will be discussed. If you have any concerns or comments regarding our church safety protocols or other issues, please let Pastor Dan know or bring them to the council. We want to hear from you.

"Today value the beauty of the changing season. No matter the time of year there is evidence that God is near."  
Helen Stiener Rice

- Sandy Sorrow

**From the Outreach Team:**

The Lord Jesus himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Do you ever ask yourself, "How can I serve today?"

You, the people of Latimer, really stepped up and along with other churches and groups in Belton served our children and youth on August 6<sup>th</sup>. You helped by donating a great amount of school supplies and money to help provide school supplies so that no child should have to start school without the supplies they needed. All the supplies were taken to First Baptist Church's gym. Parents and students came on the 6<sup>th</sup> with their lists and left with filled backpacks.

Jesus' love was shown through your prayers and donations for our neighbors. I pray that each student will have a blessed year at school, get a good education, and know that someone cares about them.

We are reminded in Philippians 4:19 that God can meet any need.

August 8<sup>th</sup> was Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday. We could take a special offering that Sunday or we could choose another Sunday. We decided to choose another Sunday in September or October because we were focused on the School GiveAway and felt like we would get a better response by not having two important events in the same month.

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry provides Christian homes with the highest quality of life and greatest level of independence for adults with special needs.

Stay safe and pray for your neighbors.

- Pat Wilson

**From the Witness Team:**

The Witness Team is still busy updating the Church Directory. Gay and Glenda continue to mail out the Newsletter and other items to those who

don't have email addresses. Jane and David should be back the second weekend in September.

We plan to organize a fun activity for the youth sometime around the holidays.

- Susie Howell

**United Methodist Women:**



Labor Day is the first Monday in September so the UMW will meet the second Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at the church at 3:00 PM. All women are invited.

- Regina Bullions

**Latimer Lovelies:**

The Latimer Lovelies will meet at Dolittle's for lunch at noon on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please let Susie Howell know if you plan to attend by Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> so she can give the restaurant a head count.

## United Methodist Men's Club:

The UMMC will meet on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM for their breakfast and lesson.

### Ushers:

Frank Sorrow  
Max Walfield

### Acolyte:

Max Walfield

### Blessing of the Bookbags:



Max and Alana received the Blessing of the Bookbags before starting a new school year on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Our Home Bound:

Frank Pat Clark  
Bessie Clark  
Jackie Manning  
Jerry Manning



### Our Prayer Concerns:

Ben Brogden, Marty Brooks' mother and brother, 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 and Jackie Manning, Sara McDowell, Nancy Nagel, Outz Family, Brenda Parfitt, Colleen Pinson, Bobby Poore, Irene Revis, Cy Roberts, Melissa Scott, Norma Timms, Alan Walfield, Frank Williams, Frank Woods, Marvin Woodson, Carl and Ellen Yates

### Church Council Meeting:

The next Church Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary

### Treasurer's Report:

As of August 24, 2021, the balance of the General account was \$31,682.69, 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 September.

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:

#### Making It Plain

By Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

*"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow*

*down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”—Micah 6:6-8 (NIV)*

We’ve been here before. Wondering what God’s plans for us are. Trying to figure out who we are called to be in the community and in the world. Taking our next faithful steps as the future looms ahead.

It is suggested that the prophets of Israel were either criticizing or energizing God’s people. The prophet’s role was one of accountability. Micah has pointed out the selfish and sinful habits the Israelites had developed, and they, in turn, sarcastically question what they should do instead. In a

hyperbolic fashion, they offer exaggerated options for sacrifices they could make to restore right relationship with God—thousands of rams, 10,000 rivers of oil and even their firstborn child.

What I have come to know is that confession and repentance is hard and painful work. No one ever feels that they have wronged anyone or done anything that needs an apology until it is brought to their attention. Yet repentance goes beyond confession. To truly repent demands a life changed from the inside out. It asks us to make a 180-degree turn with a resolve to choose God’s way rather than our own. This change takes hard work.

There is much to be learned from butterflies about the importance of challenge and hard work. Author and researcher Susan Laing tells the story in this way:

“A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day he saw a small opening in the cocoon. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to

force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no further. So, the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body, and small shriveled wings. He continued to watch the butterfly, because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would emerge and expand to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly. The man felt a great sadness.

“What he had not understood was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required to get through the tiny opening were nature’s way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its

freedom from the cocoon. It had needed to struggle.”

It is in the struggle, after all, that the butterfly gains its strength.

What does strength look like in the life of faith? It’s not about how we restore who we are or who we were, but, instead, how do we become who God needs us to be.

Micah points the Israelites in the right direction to begin this journey of transformation—to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God—but it is up to the people to choose to follow.

As we take our next faithful steps, let’s choose to follow where God is leading. There will be moments of struggle and uncertainty, but if we persevere, we will be ready for the opportunities that are ahead to make disciples and transform our communities.

In the South Carolina Conference, we have developed and approved from the grass roots the Four Priorities that will be our road map for

becoming who God needs us to be. Through the work of 1) developing leaders, 2) engaging our communities, 3) connecting with and growing disciples and 4) measuring and evaluating current realities and missional possibilities, we will gain the strength we need for this kingdom-building goal.

When we make space for God to work in our lives to transform us from the inside, there will surely be moments of struggle, but when we emerge, we will be ready to fly.