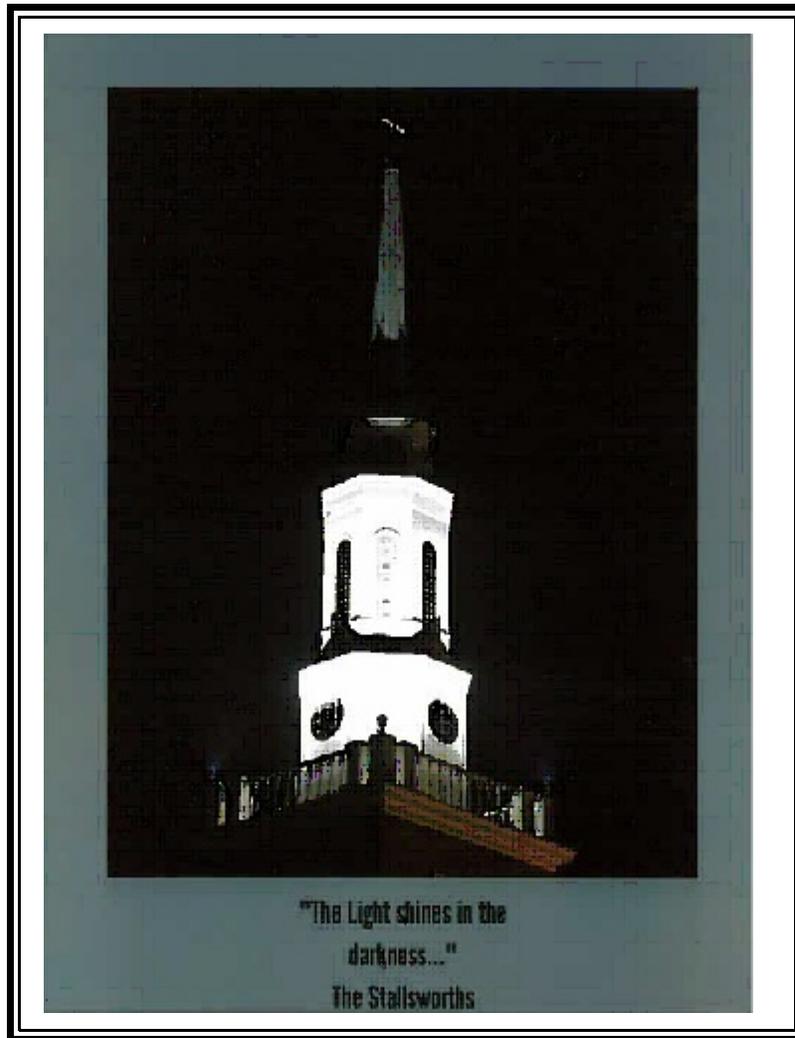




The Methodist Messenger
JANUARY 2019
Whiteville United Methodist Church



Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Communion Service - 6:00 p.m.



Christmas Season 2018-9

Dear Friends, and Brothers/Sisters in Christ:

Christmas Season grace and peace to you and yours.

Every night on Pinckney Street, the steeple of Whiteville United Methodist Church can be seen. This nighttime scene proclaims to a sleepy, North Carolina town: "The light shines in the darkness." It also reminds us that "the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5, NRSV)

That light has helped our entire family through the November loss of Marsha's mother, Julie, at the age of 98. Just a few months ago this vivacious woman was dressing like Dorothy and wearing red shoes for a church sing-a-long of "The Wizard of Oz." May Julie rest in God's great peace.

Peter is still recovering from Hurricane Florence in Wilmington. Matthew and Jackie are buying a house in Charlotte. Ryan, Brandie, and their sons are living, working, and learning in Abilene, TX. For Marsha and Paul, attending the 50th reunion of Garden City (KS) High School's Class of 1968 was memorable and enjoyable.

We wish for you and yours a celebration of Christmas that lasts twelve days, not one!

In Christ,

Marsha and Paul Stallsworth

MARY, PETER, AND THE CHURCH

by Paul T. Stallsworth

The question to be responded to, if not directly answered, is "What are the roles of women and men in the life of the Church, and are they equal?"

This question brings to mind a couple of pages in Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II (HarperCollins, 1999) by George Weigel. In his great and grand volume, Weigel recalls that Pope John Paul II (1920-2005), following Pope Paul VI (1897-1978), speaks of Mary as the "Mother of the Church." The Polish pope declares that this Marian title should direct how the Church thinks about itself.

Weigel summarizes John Paul II's thinking on Mary and the Church: "Mary...was the first disciple, for her assent to the angel's message made possible the incarnation of the Son of God. The incarnation had been 'extended' in history through the Church, the mystical Body of Christ. Mary's assumption into heaven prefigured the glorification of all who will be saved. Thus Mary provides a 'profile' of what the Church is, of how the people of the Church should live, and of what the destiny of disciples will be." (p. 577)

According to John Paul II, the Church of Mary is the Church of discipleship, of disciples, of those who follow Jesus Christ and His teaching. The Church of discipleship often recalls Mary and her self-giving reply to the angel: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38, NRSV, here and following)

Contrasting with the Church of Mary is the Church of Peter. Peter's dimension of the Church is about authority, what United Methodists call "doctrine and discipline."

In Matthew's gospel, the Church of Peter is highlighted. Only in Matthew's gospel does the word "church" appear, and it appears in two passages. The first concerns the Church's doctrine, and the second its discipline.

Regarding doctrine, Peter declares to Jesus, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 18:16) Jesus replies: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (16:17-18) The Church of Peter is about revealed doctrine.

Regarding discipline, in Matthew 18, Jesus speaks to the Twelve, including Peter, about church discipline. Failure to resolve a personal dispute leads to this last resort: then "tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you

loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (18:17-18) The Church of Peter also involves discipline.

Pope John Paul II, according to Weigel, did not assign an equality or equivalence to these two dimensions of the Church -- the Marian Church of discipleship and the Petrine Church of doctrine and discipline. While recognizing the essential nature of both dimensions, the former pope always placed the Church of Mary ahead of the Church of Peter. That is, discipleship goes before doctrine and discipline. Weigel notes: "The Marian Church preceding and making possible the Petrine Church -- this was not the way many [Roman Catholic] officials, not to mention millions of Catholic laity and clergy, were accustomed to thinking about Catholicism. But it was how John Paul proposed that they should." (p. 577)

The Marian and Petrine dimensions of the Church can often be spotted throughout The United Methodist Church's faith and life. For example, telephoning eastern North Carolina pastors before Hurricane Florence hit, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward encouraged her sisters and brothers toward faithful, exemplary discipleship -- that was first seen in Mary. When Bishop Marion Edwards summoned his clergy to Raleigh and proposed to them the truth of the Church's doctrine (as that doctrine was then undergoing a challenge led by Bishop Sprague), he displayed the Church of Peter.

The Church of Mary and the Church of Peter require each other. At their best, they work together -- in the service of the Body of Christ.

Many women, but not all, are called to a Marian role in the Church. Some serve well in the realm of doctrine and discipline. Likewise, many men, but not all, are called to a Petrine role in the Church. Some are first dedicated to advancing discipleship.

Because of the power of the Holy Spirit, all work together -- women and men; the Church of Mary and the Church of Peter; discipleship prior to, and within, the structures provided by doctrine and discipline -- so that the Church can continue as a pilgrim people on its long journey through history toward the Kingdom Come.

This article was requested, edited, and posted by the United Methodist News Service (UMNS). It now appears in the "Many Voices, One Faith" forum (<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/commentary-mary-peter-and-the-church>).

Many thanks, from the Stallsworth family, to the Whiteville United Methodist Church for the many signs of Christmas you have given. The Christmas cards, foods, and other gifts are very much appreciated. Again, thank you.
– Marsha and Paul Stallsworth

RECOGNITION/DEDICATION OF
CHURCH OFFICERS AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

During the Worship Service on January 6, Epiphany of the Lord Sunday (when the visitation of the Wise Men to the Christ Child is celebrated), Whiteville United Methodist Church will recognize those who served as 2018 church officers and committee members. We will also dedicate, and pray for, those assuming such responsibilities in 2019. Please make a special effort to attend, and participate in, the January 6 Worship Service.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

We had two wonderful crews working to put up the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary. One crew put up the tree and the other decorated it. It went well and is beautiful as always! Thanks to those who helped with it!

We participated in preparing a bereavement meal for the the family of Minnie Weaver following the service on Saturday, December 22. Thanks to all those who cooked the good food which was enjoyed by all.

Here's wishing you and your families a Happy New Year! - Debbie Conway, Chair

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Community Service of Worship

January 21/Monday

12:00 noon

Columbus Regional Hospital
500 Jefferson Street
Whiteville, NC

Please bring family and friends!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

WUMW will meet on January 7, 2019 in the Parlor at 6:30 p.m. All members and friends of the church are invited to participate in the Installation of the Officers for 2019 and a short business meeting. Light refreshments will be provided.

- Debbie Sellars, President

FOOD PANTRY

As we begin another year of blessing those in need with our Food Pantry Ministry, I would like to update you on a few things. We begin 2019 with a budget of approximately \$12,000. We purchase food twice a month to replenish what we give out on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

In the fall, we received a substantial donation from The Campbell's Soup Company to supplement our bags, as well as donations from The Whiteville Junioresettes. We also have added peanut butter to our bags, and we gave out turkey breasts at Thanksgiving. The Ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Study Class made 100 beautiful angel ornaments for us to give out. There is even a generous person who gives 200 pounds of rice at a time!!

Thank you for your continued support of this very important ministry. We reach anywhere between 80-110+ people in need each month. May we feed them Spiritually as well as physically.

- Beth Bullard

CONFERENCE FOR MEN:

"A Message for You According to
The Word"

Men: Ages 10 and Up

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
239 West Columbus Street
Whiteville, NC

Saturday, January 12

9:00 a.m. until 12 noon

Breakfast and Lunch Included

Please attend with a son or a friend!

It is with heartfelt appreciation that I thank the members and pastor of Whiteville UMC for their loving support and faithful prayers through Joe's illness. It was a tough year and a half, but God is merciful and Joe passed from this world into God's presence very peacefully on Christmas Eve.

Through the many years of working at WUMC, I have come to feel part of this wonderful church family. Thank you for embracing Joe and me and for your continued prayers.

Together we are the Church!

Love, Kathy Graham



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 38
WHITEVILLE, NC

Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant
Monday-Thursday/9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
12 noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch

Mr. Layton Dowless, Custodian
Monday-Friday/7:30-11:30 a.m.

Ms. Tammie Anderson, Treasurer
Friday/4:00-6:00 p.m. (or later)

Rev. Paul T. Stallworth, Pastor
Whiteville United Methodist Church
email: wumc@whitevilleumc.org
mail: 902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472
telephone: (910) 642-3376
website: www.whitevilleumc.org

The Whiteville United Methodist Church Service of Worship is broadcast on WTXY 1540 AM and 103.9 FM from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Also it is available online at www.wtxy1540.com: click on "Click to Listen Live" under "United Methodist Church of Whiteville" at 10:00 a.m. to hear the complete audio of the service.

Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church
As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.