

The Methodist Messenger

JUNE 2018

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Communion Service - 6:30 p.m.

PASTOR'S PAGE

THE BARMEN DECLARATION

WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

WHY A SERMON SERIES ON IT?

For your information and future reference, a copy of The Barmen Declaration is enclosed in this church newsletter. Please read through it (once or twice or three times!), keep it, and refer back to it in the weeks to come.

"The Barmen Declaration. What exactly is it?" you ask.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed and inaugurated as Chancellor of Germany. In 1934, he became Fuhrer (or Leader) of the German nation. From those years onward, Hitler displayed totalitarian aims -- that is, he methodically guided his National Socialist party to take over, and remake, every sphere of German life -- government, politics, economics and business, culture (high, middle, and low), family life, education, religious life. All of German life fell totally under the totalitarian hand of Hitler. (Hitler's counterpart in Italy, Benito Mussolini, best described totalitarianism this way: "All within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.")

In 1941, Hitler commented, "I am not concerned about [the Church's] dogmas, but I don't tolerate a cleric [minister, pastor, or priest] who gets involved in earthly matters." (Eberhard Busch, The Barmen Theses Then and Now: The 2004 Warfield Lectures at Princeton Theological Seminary, Eerdmans, 2010, p. 1) Hitler's comment, we would have guessed, was false. He was most definitely "concerned about dogmas" and particular "cleric[s]!" Why else would he have attempted to Nazify the churches -- or remake the churches' message, mission, and ministry to be consistent with National Socialist beliefs, practices, and goals?

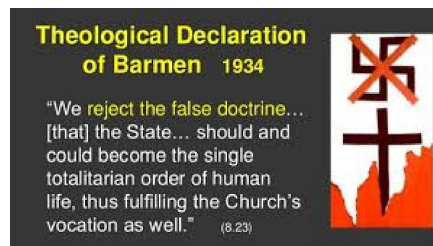
How in the world could clergy and laity of the German churches be brought to drink the Nazi brew? Through higher education. The colleges and universities, often the cutting edge of society, prepared the churches and their leadership to sip the toxic drink. Again, German higher education succumbed to the Nazi concoction, so professors -- even theology professors! -- passed it on to the pastors, and pastors to their congregations. The colleges and universities, with their many high-powered and persuasive rationalizations activated, tempted the churches' clergy and laity to drink, until drunk, from the Nazi keg. Those who imbibed were called "German Christians."

Were there any German Protestants who objected, who said No!, to what was happening to, and within, their churches? Yes. Some laity, some clergy, and a few seminary professors. Karl Barth [1886-1968, the twentieth century's greatest Protestant theologian], teaching at the University of Bonn, was one of the professors faithful to Jesus Christ and His Church even during the Third Reich.

In 1934, while his Lutheran collaborators took a three-hour siesta, Professor Barth (the "happy Calvinist") reported that he "revised the text of the six statements [of The Barmen Declaration], fortified by strong coffee and one or two Brazilian cigars." Barth continued, "I don't want to boast, but it was really my text." (Eberhard Busch, Karl Barth: His Life from Letters and Autobiographical Texts, Fortress Press, 1976, p. 245) Barth wrote The Barmen Declaration -- with a little help from his friends and for an affirmative vote of faithful laity and clergy gathered at a church synod (that is, a meeting of church leaders from a geographical area) in Barmen (an industrial city of approximately 200,000 in Germany) on May 31, 1934 -- to confess in the boldest possible way the Church's faith in Jesus Christ. During that time, as noted above, Nazi ideas and ideals were changing and distorting the Church's faith into a then-attractive -- but false, counterfeit, political -- faith. Through its six articles, The Barmen Declaration, thanks to Karl Barth and the synod in Barmen, proclaimed true faith in Jesus Christ that was freed from political corruption.

As the churches in Germany, during the 1930s and 1940s, were challenged and overwhelmed by a political culture that distorted the Church's faith and life, the churches in the United States, today, are challenged by ideologies that would distort the ecumenical Church's faith and life. Our challenge is not National Socialism. Ours is ideology with political purpose. This ideology can capture and politicize the Church's faith. That is why The Barmen Declaration is as relevant -- sorry about the use of that word! -- today as it was 84 years ago.

A sermon series on The Barmen Declaration will take place at Whiteville United Methodist Church this summer. It will begin on June 17 (Pentecost IV/Father's Day) and conclude on July 29 (Pentecost X). Each week we will take one of



The Declaration's six articles, in order; the only exception will be July 1 (Pentecost VI), when Marsha and I will be traveling to Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Thank you, in advance, for praying for this effort. We hope that, through this sermon series, Christ will continue to build His Church.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

AS THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURNS

Recently, a lot has been going on in The United Methodist Church. This brief update will focus on the Council of Bishops' proposal to the 2019 General Conference. Therefore, it will neglect the Constitutional-Amendment votes and the matter before Judicial Council.

Below, please note that there are now three (3) plans, for The United Methodist Church to move forward, in play. The Traditional Plan (or what had been called Model I) maintains The United Methodist Church's present teaching on human sexuality, aims to increase accountability in the church, and creates a "gracious exit" for those who cannot abide by this way forward. The One Church Plan (or Model II) deletes the church's current teaching on human sexuality, allows for same-sex ceremonies and for the ordination of those who practice a homosexual lifestyle, and makes room for annual conferences and congregations/clergy to make choices about ordination and marriage issues. The Connectional Conference Plan (or Model III) allows annual conferences, congregations, and clergy to associate with a progressive, moderate, or traditional branch of the church, while participating in as much institutional unity as possible.

May 4, 2018: The Council of Bishops Adopted a Proposal.

Meeting in Chicago, the Council of Bishops passed the following motion:

"Having received and considered the extensive work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Council of Bishops will submit a report to the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019 that includes:

*All three plans (The Traditionalist Plan, The One Church Plan, and The Connectional Conference Plan) for a way forward considered by the Commission and the Council.

*The Council's recommendation of The One Church Plan.

*An historical narrative of the Council's discernment process regarding all three plans.

"Rationale: In order to invite the church to go deeper into the journey the Council and Commission have been on, the Council will make all the information considered by the Commission and the Council of Bishops available to the delegates of the General

Conference and acknowledges there is support for each of the three plans within the Council. The values of our global church are reflected within all three plans. The majority of the Council recommends The One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church."

The May 4 press release, from which the above motion was taken, also included these sentences: "While the bishops recommended The One Church Plan, they affirmed that The Connectional Conference Plan and The Traditionalist Plan held values that are important to the life and work of the church and will be included in the final report to the Special Session of General Conference that the bishops have called for Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri, USA....

"Full details of the plans and accompanying legislative proposals will be released as soon as final editing of the entire report is completed and translated into the official languages of the General Conference. It is estimated this will be no later than July 8."

Confusion Arose and Increased as Different Bishops Described the Council of Bishops' Proposal in Different Ways.

May 18, 2018: The Council of Bishops Clarified Its Proposal.

The Council offered this press release to the church: "The Council of Bishops [COB] is issuing the following statement, written by the bishops who served on the Commission on a Way Forward, and approved by the Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops this week.

"The Council of Bishops has voted by an overwhelming majority to share the work done by the Commission on a Way Forward on the three plans and to recommend The One Church Plan.

"The One Church Plan will be placed before the 2019 General Conference for legislative action.

"To honor the work of the Commission, and in service to the delegates to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference, the Council of Bishops will also provide supplemental materials that include a historical narrative with disciplinary implications related to The Connectional Conference Plan and The Traditionalist Plan. The recommendation adopted by the COB reflects the wide diversity of theological perspectives and the global nature of the UMC [United Methodist Church] as the best way forward for our future as a denomination."

Concluding Commentary

Lost in all the media buzz surrounding the Council of Bishops' adoption of a somewhat confusing report to offer to General Conference 2019 is this: at the eleventh hour of its week-long meeting, the Council surprisingly decided to resurrect The Traditionalist Plan and report (though not recommend) it to the called General Conference this February. That opens the door

to the possibility of the General Conference voting down The One Church Plan, and then turning to The Traditionalist Plan. If that indeed happens, the African delegates will play a major role.

Looking to the future, we United Methodists must remember that General Conference and only General Conference -- certainly not the Council of Bishops! -- speaks and decides for The United Methodist Church. And it is fair to say that, based on recent denominational history, General Conference has a mind of its own and is not necessarily led by the bishop. (Paul T. Stallsworth)

UNITED METHODIST INSIGHT

As I prepare to represent our congregation at the NCC Annual Conference in June, I am reading a variety of materials. I am also interested in your thoughts and questions. United Methodist Insight is a site with a variety of perspectives on current happenings in our world, country and The United Methodist Church. Articles and opinions stretch my thinking and give an opportunity to reflect on what may be a different point of view. One article in particular interested me as part of the discussion on homosexuality and the current church's doctrine. It is written by a rabbi from his Jewish understanding and his faith. The site is um-insight.net and the specific article can be accessed with the following link: <http://um-insight.net/perspectives/reading-the-bible>.

- Carolyn Hankins

COLUMBUS COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

May 14, 2018

Dear Whiteville UMC:

The Columbus County Literacy Council gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the philanthropic contribution in the amount of \$250.00 from Whiteville United Methodist Church. Your support will yield essential funding that will immensely sustain the Literacy Council and "give the Gift of Knowledge" to individuals served by the organization.

The mission of the Columbus County Literacy Council is to combat illiteracy in Columbus County. Literacy services have been provided by dedicated volunteers and staff since 1979 and are available without costs to individuals who aspire to

obtain or improve essential life and work skills such as reading, writing, speaking, mathematical computing, and using technology. The ability to read and write is often taken for granted by those who are literate, yet literacy forms the basis for all education and without it, there are limited opportunities for success in our modern society.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3), the strength of our financial base depends upon donations from individuals and community faith-based congregations who believe that literacy should be available to all citizens. Thank you very much for your ongoing support of the Columbus County Literacy Council.

With kind regards,
Barbara S. Barbour, Chairperson
Board of Directors

EYEGASSES FOR LIBERIA

The NC Annual Conference has a mission outreach called *Love for Liberia*. This year a goal is to support the hospital and nursing school, located at Ganta United Methodist Mission Station in Nimba County. In August, our Conference Missions Team will be sending a container filled with items that are needed at the Hospital and the Nursing School, and are locally unavailable.

On the container we would like as many pairs of eyeglasses as possible. There is an eye clinic at Ganta Mission Station that will be staffed by optometrists from India this Fall. The clinic would like to issue eyeglasses to the hundreds of patients who will come for treatment. Please collect your eyeglasses, then box and label them with the number of glasses in each box.

We will provide a collection bowl/basket outside the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex to receive your surplus eyeglasses. Since there is no longer a local collection site in Whiteville, please ask others outside our church family to donate as well. Thank you!

- Carolyn Hankins for the Outreach Team

SAVING SONS

Mr. Colton Reaves, executive director of Saving Sons, will speak at Mishop Springs UMC on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. The ministry of Saving Sons deals with addiction directly with a Christ-centered approach and provides a Christian environment for those dealing with this sickness in Columbus County.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

WUMM will meet on Thursday evening, June 7th, at 6:30 for dinner, devotional and fellowship at Joe's Barbecue. All men of the church are invited to join us and hope to see you there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Jessica Marie Farmer graduates from University of North Carolina/Wilmington with a Bachelor of Arts in French.



Hope Shuping High graduates from East Carolina University with a Master of Science in Nursing.



Mary Elizabeth (Molly) High graduates from University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Marketing Communications with a focus in Sport Promotion and Communication and a minor in Business Administration.



Ellen Ferguson McLam graduates from Whiteville City High School and will attend University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill in the fall.

ELLEN MCLAM: 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Ellen McLam is the recipient of the 2018 Sam T. and Thelma G. Gore Memorial Scholarship. Soon to graduate from Whiteville High School, Ellen will enroll at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill late this summer. During the Service of Worship on Graduation Sunday (June 10), Ellen will be recognized as the scholarship recipient and will be awarded the \$1,000 gift.

REACHING OUT

Reaching Out will meet Tuesday, June 26, at Dale's Seafood in Whiteville at 6:00 p.m. The Director of Boys and Girls Home of Lake Waccamaw, Mr. Gary Faircloth, will be the guest speaker. All widows and widowers are encouraged to attend for an evening of fellowship, food, and perhaps a little education.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

Lunch and Learn joined the Sunshine Circle for an interesting program on *Birds without Borders* held in the parlor on Tuesday, May 15th. Lake Waccamaw resident Rosemary McLean Dorsey gave a delightful presentation followed by an interesting discussion with participants. The group enjoyed lunch afterwards, especially Dixie Batten's delicious blueberry/pineapple desert, in the Fellowship Hall.

The Wilmington Chapter of the American Red Cross has requested that Whiteville United Methodist Church (WUMC) host another Blood Drive on Thursday, August 2, in the Fellowship Hall. Peggy Huffman agreed to chair the event again. More details will follow as plans progress.

50 Plus Exercise classes continue to be well attended on Monday and Thursday at 10 to 11 a.m. Participants include folks not only from WUMC, but also from several other community churches.

I have requested and received approval from the Church Council for a summer leave of absence from most of my duties as Volunteer Parish Nurse. However, I shall continue to be involved with the exercise classes and Duke Mental Health initiative throughout the summer. Working as Volunteer Parish Nurse for 10 plus years has been a wonderful, life-changing experience for me. I thank God and our church family for affording me many valuable opportunities to learn, grow and serve at WUMC.

Blessings and peace,
Patricia Ray
Volunteer Parish Nurse

An Art Class by Debbie Conway will begin on June 5 in the Parlor. The class will meet from 2:00-4:00 p.m. each Tuesday in June. Cost is \$20. Please call Debbie (640-1395) to sign up.

APPORTIONMENT GIFTS

April 30, 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Bishop, Cabinet, Council on Finance and Administration, and all of the ministries supported through your apportionment gifts, I would like to express our appreciation to you for your hard work and commitment to our shared ministry. We are excited to report that 614 churches paid 100% of their assigned apportionments in 2017 - that is 79% of the churches receiving apportionments! Overall, our conference paid 91.49% of apportioned amounts.

We are blessed in North Carolina in many ways – including the way we work together in ministry within the connection of The United Methodist Church. Working together to support God's mission in the world allows us to do so much more than we could alone. Your support of our shared connectional ministries allows us to train and deploy clergy to churches all over the conference, provide fair and sustainable health care benefits to our clergy, provide mission seed grants for new ministry at local churches, support campus ministry groups to keep and encourage students in their love of Christ while they are in college, provide a system so that 100% of your advance giving goes directly to the projects you choose to support and so much more! Your support of connectional ministry has placed you and your church in ministry around the world, and we are thankful! Your commitment and loyalty demonstrate your perseverance and dedication to our shared ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This certificate is being sent to you as a token of our appreciation. Your local church generously supported our connectional ministries by paying 100% of your 2017 apportionments. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, in service to our Lord through our shared ministries.

Please convey our deep appreciation. Thank you for your support of our shared ministry.

Sincerely,
Christine Dodson
NC Conference Treasurer

P.S. (The certificate is posted on the board outside of the Church Office.)

PLEASE REMEMBER to lock all doors of the Church/Fellowship Hall when finished with meetings or events.

Thank you,
Trustees

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the love offering presented to us at the end of the May 6th Service of Worship (and during the week that followed). Your very generous gift will help us to travel the easy way -- that is, by air! -- to visit with Ryan and his family in Omaha, NE in late June and early July, to attend our 50th high-school class reunion in Garden City, KS in October, and perhaps to observe the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis, MO in February. Again, thank you for your extreme kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity. We are deeply grateful for this gift, but more than that, we are thankful to God for you.

- Marsha/Paul Stallsworth

LEARN TO USE A COMPUTER!

A Basic Computers Class began on May 29, Tuesday, in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon each Tuesday, the class is free and open to all. It continues on all Tuesday mornings, and the last class meets on August 14. The Basic Computers Class is offered by Southeastern Community College.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 rd	Kelly Pait
4 th	Clara Hunsucker
5 th	Carlton Williamson
9 th	Jerry Hall
	Bob Hankins
	Lynn Sellers
10 th	Heather Daniel Engroff
	Amanda Hall Jenkins
11 th	Becky High
14 th	Kristie Georgis
17 th	Kathy Graham
20 th	Wendy Hood
21 st	Geneva Ashley
22 nd	Jay Lancaster
24 th	Ellen McLam
27 th	Tom Leggett

Please check the table, across from the Church Office, for good reading material. For example, copies of "Our Leadership Crisis" (Good News, May/June 2018) are available.



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

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

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.

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

Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Layton Dowless, Custodian

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Office (910) 642-3376

email: wumc@whitevilleumc.org

website: www.whitevilleumc.org

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth, Pastor