



The Methodist Messenger

MARCH 2017

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Communion Service - 6:30 p.m.



MICHAEL NOVAK, 1933-2017, REST IN GOD'S PEACE

Late on Friday afternoon, February 17, an email with sad news arrived. Michael Novak had died.

Michael Novak was an interesting man. Once headed for the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, he studied at the preparatory seminary at Notre Dame, and he graduated from Stonehill College in MA and Gregorian University in Rome. Later, he was a student at The Catholic University of America and then at Harvard. While in Cambridge, he married Karen Laub, an artist. During their long life together, they were blessed with three children. After leaving Harvard, he taught at Stanford, the State University of New York/Old Westbury, and other colleges and universities. He wrote for the political campaigns of Eugene McCarthy, Robert F. Kennedy, and George McGovern. But during the 1970s, his mind was a-changing. Two of his book titles reveal the transformation: in 1969 he published A Theology for Radical Politics, and in 1982 The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism.

While the associate pastor serving First United Methodist Church in Elizabeth City in the late 1970s, I subscribed to Worldview magazine. There I was introduced to the mind-bending thought of Michael Novak. He was an expert in seeing through contemporary conventional wisdom in theology, politics, and economics -- something I have always respected.

During a graduate-study year at Duke's Institute for Policy Sciences and Public Affairs, I was fortunate that Novak came to town. He lectured on religion and society in Page Auditorium across the quad from the Divinity School. During the lecture, the Divinity School's admissions director disagreed with Novak's presentation and behaved, shall we say, rather impolitely. After the lecture, a personal conversation with Novak revealed a man of great theological and philosophical depth, keen insight on the issues of the day, and immense vision.

At the end of that year of study -- which included a course on politics taught by Dr. David Price, who had earlier studied theology and was later elected the US Representative from North Carolina's Fourth District -- I applied for and received a summer internship with Novak at American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. During the summer of 1980, Marsha was carrying our first child and working at Belk in Durham, and her husband was a research assistant in DC. (There were many, many trips between Durham and DC.) At that time, Novak was working on The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism, whose aim was to make a moral and theological case for the American experiment in ordered liberty, for our nation's political economy. Just before Father's Day of 1980, during friendly conversation, Novak asked about my Dad. After listening to my description of Dad, Novak took a copy of his book the Joy of Sports, wrote a note to Dad on its title page, and mailed it to Garden City, KS. Dad was grateful and impressed. The summer ended, and fall arrived. So did Ryan -- as did an appointment to the Cumberland United Methodist Church outside Fayetteville. In 1982, Novak's most important book was finally published, and it received much attention.

Michael Novak's greatest contribution is his understanding of "democratic capitalism." According to Novak, democratic capitalism is composed of three dimensions -- politics, economics, and morality and culture. Its politics is democratic. Its economics is capitalistic. And its moral culture is basically Judeo-Christian, though not exclusively. These three dimensions are dynamic and interact with each other: sometimes they reinforce each other; sometimes they hold each other accountable; sometimes they conflict with each other. The moral-cultural dimension, in Novak's estimation, is most important. The morals of a society, shaped by its religious communities and its general culture, create institutions and people that are virtuous -- or not. Without widespread virtue, political and economic freedoms will turn selfish and therefore sicken. With widespread virtue, democratic capitalism can flourish and lift especially the needy.

Michael Novak stayed at it for decades. He wrote over thirty books and countless articles. He founded Crisis magazine. He traveled the world. He influenced the thinking of the Vatican -- especially during the papacy of John Paul II -- on matters related to religion, politics, and economics. He challenged the liberation theology coming out of Latin America and North America, and encouraged Lech Walesa in Poland, Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia, and Margaret Thatcher in Great Britain. He served as an American diplomat, as the US Representative to the Helsinki Commission. He convened the Working Seminar on the Family and American Welfare Policy, which helped make possible federal welfare reform during the Clinton years. He gratefully received 26 honorary degrees from colleges and universities. And he won the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

While in high school, we humorously threw around the phrase "intellectual giant." Well, Michael Novak was truly an intellectual giant. He was a good man of deep insight. He was thoughtful beyond measure, creative in breaking new ground,

engaging in speech, and provocative in the written word. Because of Michael Novak, many people learned that God's graceful providence and perfect judgment are often encountered in this world -- even on the job, in the responsibilities of a citizen, in marriage and family life, in the grit of politics, in the horror of war, and in the rise and fall of nations and ideologies. Because of Michael Novak, the promise, the peril, and the responsibility -- of being a member of Christ's Church, a citizen of the United States, and a worker who contributes to American society -- can be more fully embraced.

Joining so many others around the world, we can thank God for Michael Novak. As we United Methodists pray during some Services of Death and Resurrection, O God, "[l]et perpetual light shine upon [him]."

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

THE BLESSINGS AND THE CHALLENGES OF STEWARDSHIP

Over the years the Whiteville United Methodist Church has been blessed with many special gifts. As a grateful recipient, our church has the stewardship responsibility to use the gifts for their stated purposes. That is no small task. This is one of the reasons for our church employing Tammie Anderson as our Church Treasurer: she will keep up with our special funds and use them properly. And by the way, Tammie is doing a very good job.

It will be of some interest to you -- members and friends of the Whiteville Church -- to know the many special funds that the church has and through which the church ministers at home and around the world.

*The BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND supports maintenance projects on our property.

*The CARILLON FUND supports the chimes ringing the hours, and playing the hymns of the Church, for the neighborhood.

*The CHRISTIAN ACTION FUND assists members of the congregation in special need.

*The FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY FUND sustains the giving of food to the needy of Columbus County.

*The GENERAL FUND, which depends upon our weekly offerings, pays for the operations, ministry, and mission of our church.

*The LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE FUND makes possible the completion of larger maintenance projects.

*The PARSONAGE FUND helps to cover the pastor's housing expenses.

*The PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND offers a volunteer-work program to needy residents of Columbus County.

*The PREACHING MISSION FUND sustains the Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission events.

*The PRIDGEN FUND makes it possible for our church to support additional, local missions.

*The RADIO MINISTRY FUND keeps our worship services on WTXY; and it supports the Food Pantry Ministry, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund ministry, and other possible local needs.

*The SCHULKEN HANDBELL FUND provides for the needs of the Handbell Choir.

*In addition, the SAM T. AND THELMA G. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP is annually available, from an independent fund, to a graduating senior from our church.

Again, thanks be to God for these many financial resources! And by God's guiding providence, may they continue to be employed in ways that advance the truth and love of the Gospel of Christ. – In Christ, Pastor Paul

COMMUNITY SERVICES OF WORSHIP ON THE WEDNESDAYS OF LENT 2017

Whiteville United Methodist Church
Worship at 12:00 Noon
Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

March 8/Wednesday of Lent I
Rev. Justin DuBose, Pastor
Missionary Alliance Church
Whiteville, NC

March 15/Wednesday of Lent II
Dr. Darrin K. Moore, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church
Whiteville, NC

March 22/Wednesday of Lent III
Rev. Andy Anderson, Pastor
Overflow Fellowship Church
Little River, SC

March 29/Wednesday of Lent IV
Rev. Jeremy Simmons, Chaplain
Columbus Regional Healthcare System
Whiteville, NC

April 5/Wednesday of Lent V
Rev. Charlean B. Mapson, Pastor
St. Mark AME Zion Church
Whiteville, NC

April 12/Wednesday of
Palm Sunday/Holy Week
Rev. Bob Hankins (ret.)
Whiteville United Methodist Church
Whiteville, NC

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM will meet at Joe's Barbecue on Thursday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. Our program will be by Jonathan Simmons, who is the new Chaplain at Columbus Regional Medical Center. Please make plans to join us for the good program, fellowship, and food. – In Christ, Brad Crowell

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

March is going to be a busy month for Whiteville United Methodist Women. On March 4, six of our ladies will be attending mission studies at Wesley's Chapel UMC in Elizabethtown. Then on March 18, three of our ladies will be attending more mission studies at Oceanview UMC in Oak Island.

Our monthly meeting will be held on March 6, at 6:30 p.m., in the Parlor. Shirley Kennedy has the devotion, and the hostesses will be Debbie Conway and Shirley Kennedy. Our program for this meeting will be on "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" led by Carolyn Hankins.

The big event for March will be held on Sunday, March 12, which will be United Methodist Women Sunday. The morning worship service will be led by Whiteville United Methodist Women. We have invited another Harbor District United Methodist Woman, Joyce Herring, to be our guest speaker. We invite each of you to join us in this special service. (Please note that this is the week-end of the time change.)

Due to a Harbor District "Spiritual Enrichment Day" scheduled for May 6, it will be necessary to change our May meeting to Saturday, April 29. Please note this change in your handbook and on your calendar.

Shalom to each of you! Dixie Batten, UMW President

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Souper-Bowl-Of-Caring! We collected \$213.66, and the money will be used for the Nothing-But-Nets program that provides mosquito nets to combat malaria in 10 sub-Saharan African countries and also locally to help Hurricane Matthew victims.

We had a great time in the mountains of North Carolina, February 10-1,2 on our snow-skiing trip and look forward to another trip in the summer, which will involve camping and white-water rafting!

We are planning on another yard sale Saturday, April 8, at the church in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that you send donations in as soon as possible.

As we look ahead to the end of this school year, we will be planning and practicing for Youth Sunday in June. Thank you for all your continued prayers, and please invite a young person to our group Wednesdays from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. – Heather LaMora

SUNSHINE CIRCLE

The Sunshine Circle will meet on Monday, March 20, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Florence Marlowe will give the devotion, Carolyn Hankins will have the program, and Dixie Batten will be the hostess. All women are invited to join us. Please bring your lunch; a beverage and dessert will be provided.

REACHING OUT

Reaching Out will have their March meeting on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. at Dale's Seafood in Whiteville. Reaching Out was organized for the purpose of widowers and widows to join together for an evening of fellowship. In addition, the purpose is for these persons to enjoy a meal, have an opportunity to learn more about the community, and grow spiritually. It is an ecumenical group, so if you know a widower or widow who would enjoy such a group, please invite them to join us for this occasion.

– Dixie Batten

NURTURE COMMITTEE

The Nurture Committee enjoyed decorating for the Methodist Men Valentine dinner – what a special night of fellowship and Christian love! Thanks to the Methodist Men!

The Lenten Season is fast approaching, and we are so blessed to have six groups of church members that are willing to prepare the lunches for each Wednesday between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The first Lenten service and lunch will be March 8. These services provide food for the spirit and delicious food for the body too! Come and join us!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." -- John 3:16, NIV

– Debbie Conway, Nurture Committee Chair

The 2017 Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission

has been canceled (or postponed). Within the last two or three weeks a family matter has arisen for Rev. Bob Bauman, who was scheduled to be our preacher.



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

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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

wumc@whitevilleumc.org

www.whitevilleumc.org

Rev. Paul T. Stallworth, Pastor