



# *The Methodist Messenger*

MARCH 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.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Sanctuary

March 6

6:00 p.m.

Please invite family and friends to attend.

## 2019 CAROLYN T. HIGH PREACHING MISSION

Whiteville United Methodist Church

Whiteville, NC

The Reverend Dr. Roger V. Elliott

Cary, NC

Preacher

### MARCH 10/SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Morning Service of Worship

and

7:00 p.m. Evening Service of Worship

### MARCH 11/MONDAY

7:00 p.m. Evening Service of Worship

Each Service of Worship will include very special music.

The Reverend Dr. Roger V. Elliott

is the preacher for the 2019 Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission.

Dr. Elliott has served as:

\*the Pastor of Ellis Chapel United Methodist Church  
in Bahama (1968);

\*the Pastor of Smith United Methodist Church  
in Roanoke Rapids (1970);

\*the Pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church  
in Durham (1974);

\*the Pastor of Campground United Methodist Church  
in Fayetteville (1980);

\*the Senior Pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church  
in New Bern (1983);

\*the District Superintendent of the Sanford District (1989);

\*the Senior Pastor of Edenton Street United Methodist Church  
in Raleigh (1995);

\*a "retired" pastor (2008); and

\*the Pastor of Apex United Methodist Church/Main Campus  
in Apex (2012).

Please invite family members and friends to attend.

## WHAT MADE THE 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE INEVITABLE

By the time you read this editorial, the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis will be history being written. The delegates will have come to a decision (or not!) on the way forward for The United Methodist Church.

For years, United Methodists have agreed that matters related to human sexuality are only the "presenting issues" in the Church today. To be sure, those presenting issues are important. After all, they are now dividing this denomination (and the denominations).

When we United Methodists speak and write about "presenting issues," we are suggesting there are also "underlying issues." That is, we are suggesting that beneath the obvious disagreements about sexuality are deeper, more foundational disagreements that are rocking and roiling the Church. In what follows, this pastor will briefly describe six (6) claims that are not only a part of historic, ecumenical Christianity but also now disputed by some within the Church (and many outside the Church). Again, challenges of the following foundational matters are shaking The United Methodist Church to its core. But those challenges also offer The United Methodist Church an invitation to grow more fully into the "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" (The Nicene Creed).

Here are the six foundational matters.

1. Truth exists. For the Church, Jesus Christ is the truth. He most fully reveals God to the Church and to the world. All truths in this world relate, in one way or another, to the truth who is Jesus Christ.
2. In the Church, Biblical truth, doctrinal truth, and moral truth (all which aim to keep the Church focused on Jesus Christ, the center of the Church's faith and life) exist. In the Church's unfolding history, due to the leading of the Holy Spirit, Biblical truth and doctrinal truth and moral truth that have already been received by the Church can deepen and mature. Such deepening and maturing of truth involve developing -- never breaking with or reversing -- what has been received in earlier ages, seasons, and days.
3. For the Church's faith and life, and the Christian's faith and life, truth is most fully revealed through Scripture well understood. The truth of the Biblical witness depends upon its "plain meaning" (John Wesley) that is clarified, and strengthened, by the Church's authoritative Tradition (starting with Rev. John Wesley's Notes on the New Testaments and sermons, "The Articles of Religion" and "The Confession of Faith"), reason (including logic, science, and philosophy), and experience (actually, Christian experience).
4. Truth is to be served -- not possessed, not manipulated, never weaponized. Furthermore, the Church proposes truth to people for their good -- never

imposes it upon people for their harm.

5. An essential part of the Christian community's mission -- especially for its bishops and clergy -- is to propose, as winsomely and persuasively as possible, the truth of the Church's faith. Bishops and clergy promise to propose the Church's faith, not their own personal opinions; and they never expect their proposal of the Church's faith to be accepted by all in the Church. Dissent, within the boundaries set by The Book of Discipline, is to be expected, welcomed, engaged, and defended against. But dissent and dissenters should never be allowed to silence the truthful, loving proposal of the Church's faith.

6. The Church and the Christian flourish when they receive, trust, and obey Christian truth (or the Word of God). Often, that truth will appear to be irrelevant, out-of-step with contemporary fashions, against the Church's best interest, and/or too difficult to abide by. But with God's help, all good things -- even those that seem to be most difficult -- are possible.

Whatever the 2019 General Conference decided in February, the recovery of these foundations will require the most thoughtful attention and faithful ministry of The United Methodist Church -- and particularly its bishops and clergy -- for years to come. With God's help, that can and will occur.

In Christ,  
Pastor Paul

### COMMUNITY SERVICES OF WORSHIP ON THE

#### WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT 2019

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

March 13/Wednesday of Lent I  
Rev. Justin DuBose, Pastor  
Missionary Alliance Church  
Whiteville, NC

March 20/Wednesday of Lent II  
Rev. Andy Anderson, Pastor  
Father's Cup Overflow Ministries  
Little River, SC

March 27/Wednesday of Lent III  
Dr. Darrin K. Moore, Pastor  
New Hope Baptist Church  
Whiteville, NC

April 3/Wednesday of Lent IV  
Rev. Joseph J. Yaeger, Pastor  
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church  
Whiteville, NC

April 10/Wednesday of Lent V  
Dr. Joseph D. Washburn, Pastor  
First Presbyterian Church  
Whiteville, NC

April 17/Wednesday of Palm Sunday/Holy  
Rev. Bob Hankins, Pastor  
Hallsboro United Methodist Church  
Hallsboro, NC

## ALTAR COMMITTEE

The Altar Committee would like to thank those who have placed flower arrangements on the altar from year to year. Altar flowers are a loving, living offering to the glory of God and add beauty to the Worship Service. Please check the flower chart in the Narthex or in the Church Office for openings.

### SERVING IN MARCH

Acolytes: 3<sup>rd</sup> - Andrew and Jake Bullard;  
10<sup>th</sup> - Anna and Sophie Bivens; 17<sup>th</sup> - Grace and Maggie High; 24<sup>th</sup> - Andrew and Emily Sauls; 31<sup>st</sup> - Emily McLam.

Greeters: 3<sup>rd</sup> - Beth and Kevin Bullard;  
10<sup>th</sup> - Amber Archie; 17<sup>th</sup> - Alan and Elizabeth High; 31<sup>st</sup> - Katie McLam.

Soundboard Workers: 3<sup>rd</sup> - Darryl Diefes;  
10<sup>th</sup> - Suzanne Hall; 17<sup>th</sup> - Lynne Inman;  
24<sup>th</sup> - Beverly Justice; 31<sup>st</sup> TBA.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hunter Diefes	21 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret High
5 <sup>th</sup>	Leanne Lancaster		Bill Brooks, Jr.
	Matthew Farmer	24 <sup>th</sup>	Sydney High
7 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Gibson	25 <sup>th</sup>	Crystal Gore
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ethan Barnhill	29 <sup>th</sup>	Carolyn Hanksins
16 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Williamson	30 <sup>th</sup>	Nan Leggett
20 <sup>th</sup>	Katie McLam		Paul Stallsworth

### NEED CHURCH NEWS BY TELEPHONE?

If you do not receive email and if you would like to receive late-breaking church news, please call Mrs. Sylvia Walters (234-4774) and give her your telephone number(s). Then church news will be telephoned to you. Thank you.

### BEADING CLASS

The Beading Class on March 18, Monday, will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, following the Sunshine Circle. Please register with Dale Cichero, 910-234-4644, by March 12. Payment will be due at the class. Please pass this on!

## METHODIST GIFT TO CITY SCHOOLS

Just wanted to let you know that I had the pleasure of delivering a check for \$3,000 to Mr. Garland, the Whiteville City Schools Superintendent at their Central Office. This was part of the Hurricane Florence school recovery offering that was collected during 2018 Charge Conferences.

Mr. Garland was very thankful for the support of your churches and the support of the rest of the churches in our conference who contributed to this donation.

We had a great meeting. He said that he will ensure that the money is put to good use and explained that they are still addressing several major challenges associated with the impact of Florence.

We encourage you and your congregations to keep reaching out to your local schools as we continue to address the issue of poverty through C4C and other school-related ministry efforts. Edie and I have been hearing so many stories of hope involving church/school partnerships.

Thank you for serving as the hands and feet of Christ in your community in the wake of Hurricane Florence! – Blessings, Pat Litzinger

### PRESCHOOL

The Preschool celebrated the 100th Day of School on February 20th with special activities. As a combination of STEM, the children were given the educational opportunity to participate in the 22nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the National Garden Club, Inc. The children were asked to identify and count birds they had seen. It was so much fun! On Friday March 1st during Read Across America Week, the children will have a Guest Reader during story time to read famously loved Dr. Seuss books!

– Karen Dawsey, Preschool Director

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The OCC Committee met and decided to do year-round donations for shoebox items. We thought this would help everyone from feeling so pressured to put their shoeboxes together in a short period of time. There are designated donation boxes that are wrapped in red Christmas-wrapping paper. One is in the Narthex. The other box is located near the Church Office. For the month of March, Operation Christmas Child will be collecting clothing items. Suggestions would be winter gloves, scarves, toboggans, socks, underwear, shirts, and caps. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

Love, Wendy



Whiteville United  
Methodist Church  
902 Pinckney Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472

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ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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WHITEVILLE, NC

Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant  
Monday-Thursday/8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
12 noon-12:30 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. Stallsworth, Pastor

Whiteville United Methodist Church  
email: [wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org)  
mail: 902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472  
telephone: (910) 642-3376  
website: [www.whitevilleumc.org](http://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](http://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.