



The Methodist Messenger
AUGUST 2017



Whiteville United Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472
910.642.3376
wumc@whitevilleumc.org

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Communion Service - 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY EVENING FILM SERIES

Whiteville United Methodist Church

The Parlor

August 6/6:00 p.m.

"Watchers of the Sky"

The word genocide is developed and adopted, and
Samantha Power attempts to oppose this political horror.

August 13/6:00 p.m.

"God Is Not Dead"

A popular movie covers
God's unpopularity on campus.

August 20/6:00 p.m.

"An American Conscience: The Story of Reinhold Niebuhr"
A public Christian who once helped shape American culture.

August 27/6:00 p.m.

"The Miracle in Manhattan"

Kansas State football rises from the ashes.
[The pastor apologizes for including this one and
hopes it arrives before August 27th.]

BABY CHARLIE GARD

Charlie Gard was less than one year old. He had a rare, fatal disease. He required artificial ventilation, nutrition, and hydration. Against his parents' wishes, a British court recently decided that the boy's life-sustaining care could be stopped. The European Court of Human Rights then supported the British court's decision. The boy drew the attention of, and invitations from, Pope Francis and President Trump. At the end of the July, little Charlie Gard crossed the Jordan. May God's perpetual light shine on him.

Why rehearse these facts, which have been repeated endlessly by the news? Because Baby Charlie and his tragic predicament cause the Church and Christians to remember that (because of the love, loyalty, and law of God) we are different, in our thinking about many matters and in our living, than society at large.

Without attempting to be comprehensive or exhaustive, I will list a few theological and moral claims that United Methodist Christians can recall when faced with the Charlie Gard tragedy and others that may be closer to home.

*We Christians pray for God's continuing grace upon this little one and his parents, and others in similar situations.

*All people are created by God -- in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1). That includes Charlie and his parents, and the weakest people of all and each of us.

*"You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13, NRSV) is a part of The Ten Commandments. Therefore, because of the word of God,

we never intend to take the life of a weak, suffering, and/or dying person.

*Christians do not seek to limit suffering in the world by taking the lives, as soon as possible, of those who suffer. That is, Christians do not practice utilitarianism (the aim of life is to create the greatest happiness for the largest number of people).

*Christians find it morally acceptable to allow dying people to die.

*Christians support palliative -- or pain-reducing -- care for those with great pain, especially those at the end of their lives.

*The Church opposes euthanasia, which is also called "mercy killing," of the ill, suffering, and dying. Indeed, Pope Francis has noted that it is not merciful to kill the sufferers; rather, it is merciful to accompany them through their suffering. Also, The United Methodist Church's "Social Principles" declare: "We reject euthanasia and any pressure upon the dying to end their lives." (Paragraph 161N, The Book of Discipline [2016])

*Food and water, even if administered through tubes, are not to be considered extraordinary care. They are ordinary (or customary) care.

*Extraordinary care -- such as treatment provided by a respirator -- can be removed from a dying person, and that is usually considered morally permissible.

*The United Nations and its institutions, courts, and hospitals are not the best institutions to make end-of-life decisions. It is better to let family members make such determinations -- especially when the fragile or dying one is an infant. (Dr. R.R. Reno's article "Je Suis Charlie, Once More" [07.11.17, www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2017/07/je-suis-charlie-once-more, accessed on 07/12/17] was consulted for this article.)

*"Always to care, never to kill" (from the Ramsey Colloquium) is a helpful summary of the above. It is a good principle for Christians to recall and consider when faced with life-or-death decisions.

Many of the above claims and challenges go against contemporary society's get-rid-of-all-suffering-in-a-hurry philosophy. Even so, Baby Charlie Gard helps us to remember who we are, what we believe, and how we are to live in a way that witnesses to our faith in Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of all. And that means He is the Lord of life and the Lord of death.

Again, may Charlie Gard rest in peace, and may God bless his parents.

MATTHEW FARMER WINS GORE SCHOLARSHIP

Matthew Farmer received the 2017 Thelma G. and Sam T. Gore Memorial Scholarship on July 9th during the Service of Worship. Congratulations, Matthew!

THANKS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Whiteville Church and her pastor express many, many thanks to this year's Audit Committee, which has completed its work. Dick Simms served as the committee

chair, and he was well assisted by Dixie Batten, Ann Pait, and Olive Shuping. Again, a great big Thank You to all four of you!

REV. MORRIS RETIRES

Rev. Homer E. Morris, who pastored the Whiteville Church from 1990 until 1995, announced his retirement during the 2017 Session of the North Carolina Annual Conference. [Sorry that this was not included in last month's report on Annual Conference. And yes, I know that Rev. Morris has an earned doctoral degree. Therefore, he could be referred to as "Dr. Morris." However, I, for one, firmly believe that "Rev." refers directly to a higher calling than "Dr."]

A week after Annual Conference, on June 25, a Sunday, a retirement gathering for Rev. Morris was hosted by Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Durham. Representatives from the various churches he had served over the years -- to be specific, in order, Harlowe-Oak Grove Charge (the Harlowe United Methodist Church in Newport/Carteret County and the Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Havelock/Craven County), Fifth Avenue UMC (Wilmington), Burgaw UMC (Burgaw), Whiteville UMC (Whiteville), First UMC (Clinton), First UMC (Morehead City), St. Paul UMC (Goldsboro), Jarvis Memorial UMC (Greenville), and Aldersgate UMC (Durham) -- were invited to the event. At this retirement event, Phil Stoll, along with David Stoll and John Stoll, represented Whiteville United Methodist Church and the Whiteville community.

Early last month, Rev. Morris began pastoring the Tuttle's Grove United Methodist Church in Beaufort, NC.

The Whiteville Church and pastor wish Rev. and Mrs. Morris the very best in "retirement." Maybe it would be better to call their new life a blend of "part-time ministry" and "part-time retirement!"

SOME MORE NOTES ON FORMER PASTORS

Rev. Berry O. Barbour pastored the Whiteville United Methodist Church from 1995 until 1999. He retired in 1999. Currently he is serving as the pastor of Vass United Methodist Church near Southern Pines. He began at the Vass Church in 2014.

Rev. Charles B. Owens was the pastor of the Whiteville Church between 1999 and 2004. He retired in 2012. Since 2016, he has pastored the Hallsboro United Methodist Church.

Rev. David C. Benson, the pastor of the Whiteville Church between 2004 and 2007, retired in 2012. He now lives in Ocala, FL.

Rev. Hope A. Vickers, between 2007 and 2009, was the pastor of the Whiteville Church. She retired in 2015. She is currently serving as the pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Tabor City.

Rev. William A. Boykin pastored the Whiteville Church from 2009 until 2012. In June of 2012, Rev. Boykin became the pastor of First United Methodist Church in Havelock, where he serves to this day.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Whiteville United Methodist Men will meet on August 3rd at 6:30 p.m. We are having our meeting at a special venue -- Bower's Mill Pond at the "Main Clubhouse" (1032 Mill Pond Road, Whiteville). Carlton Williamson will provide our program relating to the Civil War. We will have pizza, salad, etc. delivered to us depending on our headcount for the meeting. For those who would like to get there a little early: fishermen, feel free to bring your rod and reel for a little fishing too! Please come out and enjoy good fellowship, food, and fishing, and please feel free to invite a guest.

- Brad Crowell, President

NURTURE COMMITTEE

We hope that everyone is having a safe and restful summer! The Nurture Committee will meet soon to help plan the 2018 Budget and also to begin planning for the Homecoming meal in October.

If you have any personal concerns or problems, please keep in mind my favorite scripture: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13.* He will give you the strength you need to weather any storm that occurs in your life! - Debbie Conway, Chair

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry received a donation from Western Prong's VBS in the amount of \$408.25. I would like to thank everyone who makes donations, brings food items and fresh vegetables, volunteers, and lifts this ministry in prayer. The importance of every effort makes this ministry successful!! We are helping an average of 100 households per month.

Love to all!!! Beth Bullard

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

In spite of the hot, sultry days and rain showers we have had lately, we, at WUMC, have definitely been blessed, Sunday after Sunday, with beautiful, meaningful music, lovely flowers, and dedicated greeters, ushers, and acolytes. Thank you to all who have made this possible!

Rev. Paul Stallworth continues with The Confession of Faith Sermon series. Each week one article is examined so that we might understand Methodist doctrine more fully.

The Worship Committee will meet Thursday, August 31st, at 5:00 p.m. in the Pastor's Study for the purpose of organizing Homecoming and requesting or changing our budget needs for 2018. - Betty Gray, Chair

STEWARDSHIP REPORT - Mid-Year 2017

Good news on Worship Service attendance! For the first half of the year we averaged 94, six more than last year. Good news also on offerings. At mid-year we were \$9,074 ahead of budget. Actual expenditures were approximately \$5,000 below budget.

Dick Simms and the internal audit team have completed their work and report no significant negative findings. Many thanks to Dick Simms, Ann Pait, Dixie Batten and Olive Shuping.

It is already time to prepare the 2018 Budget. The 2018 Budget will be presented at the September Council meeting. All leaders responsible for budget line items are asked to submit 2018 Budget requests to the Church Office by September 6.

We thank you for your strong stewardship in response to God's bountiful blessings.

- Tom Leggett, Finance Committee

DEEP PEACE from your Lay Leaders

So many people have commented on the beauty of the musical benediction that Darryl and Wanda Diefes offered at the end of the July 9 and 16 services. The words of "A Gaelic Blessing" were adapted from an ancient Gaelic tune, and, like many other Irish/Gaelic blessings, connect God's gifts to His children with elements of the natural world. Here the deep peace of Christ is present to us in water, air, earth and sky. John Rutter composed the music; here are the words:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, of Christ, the light of the world to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.

SAVE THE DATE!
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, August 10, 2017
2:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
WUMC Fellowship Hall



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
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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 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 "Click to Listen Live" under "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

July and August Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Rev. Paul T. Stallworth, Pastor