



The Methodist Messenger

FEBRUARY 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.



HAVE YOU RECENTLY LOOKED UP?

After the sun has set? While walking along or biking on or driving up/down Pinckney Street around its 900 block? Have you recently looked up?

Well, if you have indeed looked up, then and there, you probably discovered that Whiteville United Methodist Church now has lights on the steeple. (Thanks to the Trustees and their chair, Jerry Hall.) At night, the steeple's white shines gloriously. And even at night, the steeple's cross is revealed to stand sturdy and tall, and to point toward heaven.

There is something intriguing about Whiteville United Methodist Church being located a short block north of the old Columbus County Courthouse. Our church's main building stands as a sign of Christ's Church through the ages and around the world. Remember that Jesus declares: "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." (Matthew 16:18, NRSV)

On the other hand, our county's historic courthouse -- which was built with its back purposefully facing north, according to one local historian -- stands as a sign of the God-given State. Remember that St. Paul states: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1, NRSV)

So, right here, in our neighborhood, are buildings that represent the Church and the State. They are large institutions that have stood the test of millennia and generations, and that exist for the sake of salvation and the service of justice.

It is interesting that, here in Whiteville, the Church is represented more beautifully and gloriously than the State. The cross atop the steeple never hides in darkness, and it towers above the nearby courthouse. The white on the steeple is a radiant white, even at night. In a more humble presentation, the shorter courthouse is covered by shadows after the sun sets each day.

Should this be the case? In this Whiteville neighborhood, should the Church dwarf the State in beauty and height? Probably. (You see the same phenomenon in Raleigh with the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral or Edenton Street United Methodist Church compared to most, if not all, government buildings in our state's capital. Even the National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, both in Washington, DC, tend to outshine most of the federal buildings in the District of Columbia.) It is a reminder that Jesus Christ is Lord -- not a politician who will be gone from elected office, and perhaps from public life, in a year or two or three. Furthermore, it is a reminder that the American experiment in ordered liberty functions best when its governmental institutions do not yearn for, let alone require, the ultimate loyalty of citizens. Indeed, oddly, American democracy functions best -- even thrives most -- when the State is humble enough to encourage the free exercise of religion and the public expression of beauty, goodness, and truth that often comes from religion.

Our steeple, bathed in light at night, reminds us of some important matters related to Church and State. The same reminder occurs when our church publicly rings each hour, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and chimes the Church's hymns of the season at noon -- Monday through Saturday. Public reminders of the universal Church and the democratic State. For both, we can, and should, give thanks to God.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

AGAINST THE STREAM

Bardaisan was born in 154 AD and died in 222 AD. He was a Christian, of sorts, and an intellectual with wide-ranging interests. In Book of the Laws of the Countries, he notes how Christians are never totally at home -- in today's lingo, never totally "comfortable" -- where we live. We are always -- always! -- swimming against the stream. Bardaisan: "And what shall we say of us Christians, whom Christ at His advent planted in every country and in every region? The [Christian] brothers who are in Gaul do not take males for wives, nor those who are in Parthia take two wives; nor do those who are in Judea circumcise themselves; nor do our sisters who are among the Geli [people in Sicily?] consort [intimately] with strangers; nor do those brothers who are in Persia take their daughters for wives; nor do those who are in Media abandon their dead, or bury them alive, or give them as food to the dogs; nor do those who are in Odessa [Turkey] kill their wives or their sisters when they commit impurity, but they withdraw from them and give them over to the judgment of God; nor do those who are in Hatra [Iraq] stone thieves to death; but, wherever they are, and in whatever place they are found, the laws of the several countries do not hinder [Christians] from obeying the law of their Sovereign, Christ; nor does the Fate of the celestial Governors compel them to make use of things which they regard as impure." (emphasis added)

BLOOD DRIVE

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, February 1 in the Fellowship Hall from 2:00-6:30 p.m. Please contact Peggy Huffman at 646-3546 to make an appointment. Please remember to be hydrated and present a picture ID on donation day.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee will meet Thursday, February 1, in the Pastor's Study at 5:00 p.m. At this time, we will finalize our responsibilities for the Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission, which is scheduled for February 25-26. Other services to be discussed and planned are as follows: the Ash Wednesday Service (February 14) and the Lenten Community Services which have been outlined in this issue of the newsletter. Services associated with Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday) and Easter Sunday will also be on the agenda.

This year the month of February offers us many opportunities to come together to worship. On Ash Wednesday, we begin celebrating Lent, a season of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. By observing these 40 days, Christians acknowledge Jesus Christ's completion of His earthly journey through life, death, and resurrection. This year, as always, let us be true worshippers of God and worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). This means we worship from the heart and the way God has designed. Worship can include praying, reading God's Word with an open heart, participating in Communion, and serving others. When our hearts and attitudes are in the right place, true worship is God-centered worship.

Many thanks to each member of the Worship Committee who so faithfully serves in order to make our worship services at WUMC God-centered experiences. Shirley Kennedy has so faithfully scheduled our greeters for the past several years, and to you, we say thank you and we will miss you! Carol Worrell has graciously accepted this role, so I am certain you will be hearing from her soon. We also welcome Peggy Huffman and Tom Leggett as members of the Worship Committee.

Betty Gray, Chair

STEWARDSHIP

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2018 resulted in twenty-eight pledge cards turned in with a commitment of \$134,090.00 (41%) toward our 2018 Church Budget of \$325,905.00.

Many thanks to all who responded to this financial component of stewardship. Also, thanks for the many ways our members serve Christ in supporting the ministries of Whiteville United Methodist Church.

Darryl Diefes, Stewardship Chair

LENT APPROACHES

February 14 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season in the Church. The goals of Christians during Lent are self-examination leading to

repentance and identification with the sacrificial suffering and death of Christ. Many Christians renew, intensify or add the practice of spiritual disciplines to their daily routines during Lent. Some of these focus on sacrifice or giving up. Fasting is one; some choose to change their eating habits, giving up a meal each day, or not eating after a particular time of the day. Some who give up a meal (or a cappuccino or whatever) also give the cost of those things to the church or to a charity. Other disciplines focus on adding: more time in the Word, more time in prayer and meditation, more acts of kindness and service, etc. I invite you to join me in beginning to think about the ways we might live a little differently during Lent. Pray and earnestly seek God's will and His help in discerning what this looks like for you. Obedience to God's leading in this can be truly transformational. The result will be spiritual growth, maturing in your faith and a deepening desire to become the person God created you to be.

Wanda Diefes, Co-Lay Leader

COMMUNITY SERVICES OF WORSHIP ON THE WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

2018

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

February 21/Wednesday of Lent I

Rev. Joseph J. Yaeger, Pastor
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
Whiteville, NC

February 28/Wednesday of Lent II

Dr. Darrin K. Moore, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church
Whiteville, NC

March 7/Wednesday of Lent III

Dr. Joseph D. Washburn, Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Whiteville, NC

March 14/Wednesday of Lent IV

Rev. Andy Anderson, Pastor
Father's Cup Overflow Ministries
Little River, SC

March 21/Wednesday of Lent V

Rev. Justin DuBose, Pastor
Missionary Alliance Church
Whiteville, NC

March 28/Wednesday of

Palm Sunday/Holy Week

Rev. Bob Hankins (interim)
Hallsboro United Methodist Church
Hallsboro, NC

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

WUMW will meet on Monday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. The program will be "Heart Health and Exercise." Dr. Micah Merritt, owner of Renew Health and Physical Therapy, is the speaker. All the women in the church are encouraged to come learn more about this important topic. Light refreshments will be served following the program.

In March there will be two opportunities to participate in a Harbor District United Methodist Women (HDUMW) Mission Study. Two studies are being offered on both dates are: "Climate Justice" and "Living in Covenant Communities." On March 3, the studies will be at Harbor UMC in Wilmington, and on March 10th at Mt. Moriah UMC in Clinton.

Debbie Sellars, President

WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL VALENTINE DINNER
sponsored by
Whiteville United Methodist Men

Don't miss this special opportunity!
Join us for a delicious steak dinner,
GREAT MUSIC, and terrific fellowship!

DATE: Sunday, February 11

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: WUMC Fellowship Hall

TICKET COST: \$12.00 each

Space is limited. To reserve your seats, please contact Kathy Graham at the Church Office (no later than) Monday, February 5.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to everyone who has purchased a calendar or cards from the youth. There are some still available in the Church Office. We will be taking a collection during the worship service on Sunday, February 4, for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Funds will be distributed to a food bank, and cash or checks will be accepted. Our ski trip plans fell through because of all the missed days of school with the bad weather, and we are in the planning stages of another trip. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m. for food and fellowship. We have lots of exciting events in store for the remainder of the school year!

Heather LaMora, Youth Director

SUNSHINE CIRCLE/LUNCH AND LEARN

Sunshine Circle, in conjunction with Lunch and Learn, will meet on Monday, February 19, in the Fellowship Hall. Pat Ray will share on "Poetry in General and the National Poet Laureate" in her program. Come at 11:00 a.m.; lunch will be provided. The centering devotion will be led by Shirley Kennedy.

2018 CAROLYN T. HIGH PREACHING MISSION

Whiteville United Methodist Church
Whiteville, NC

Rev. Robert J. Bauman, Pastor
Edenton Street United Methodist Church
Raleigh, NC
Preacher

FEBRUARY 25/SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Morning Service of Worship
and

6:30 p.m. Evening Service of Worship
and Reception

FEBRUARY 26/MONDAY

6:30 p.m. Evening Service of Worship

Each Service of Worship will include very special music.

Rev. Robert J. Bauman
is the preacher for the 2018 Carolyn T. High
Preaching Mission.

Rev. Bauman has served as:

- *the Associate Pastor of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Wilmington (1987);
- *the Associate Pastor of Swansboro United Methodist Church in Swansboro (1992);
- *the Pastor of Sunset Park United Methodist Church in Wilmington (1994);
- *the Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington (1998);
- *the Senior Pastor of Wrightsville United Methodist Church in Wrightsville (2007);
- *the District Superintendent of the Harbor District (2015); and
- *the Senior Pastor of Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh (2016).

Please invite family members and friends to attend.

BRUNCH AND RECEPTION

Following the 10:00 a.m. C. T. High Worship Service on February 25, the congregation is invited to a "dutch" brunch at The Frog and the Chef (607 S. Madison Street). Please call the Church Office to reserve a seat by February 18.

Also that evening there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by Stuart High Rogers, following the 6:30 p.m. worship service. All are invited.



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

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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