



## *The Methodist Messenger*

JULY 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.



### CHURCHES WITHOUT DOCTRINE

Are the following words an angry outburst or a truthful evaluation?

"There is no longer required any unity of doctrine among the members of the Protestant Church; in fact, doctrine is rather considered the badge of narrowness and illiberalism. Pulpit and pew are without any positive doctrine or the need of it. Modern Protestantism has lost all appreciation of doctrine and the sweet tyranny of truth.... The teachings of the ministers within the same [denomination] differ widely. Each has his own doctrine-plant. Each preaches his own opinions, ventilates his own views. Sensationalism, and not doctrine, dominates the Protestant pulpit...." (Lutheran Herald 3, No. 6 [6 February 1908], p. 128. This apparently quotes an article in the Lutheran, and it is passed along, under the title "The Sweet Tyranny of Truth," by Forum Letter 46, No. 6 [June 2017], p. 1. It is not surprising that these words were written by a Catholic Christian. It is surprising that they were written in 1908!)

"I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that." --C.S. Lewis

### JUST THINKING A LITTLE ABOUT PUBLIC LIFE

#### On Good Journalism

Back on May 20, a Saturday, a demonstration occurred in Whiteville. It protested against alleged, local police brutality. (By the way, every brutality allegation against a police officer should be immediately filed with the authorities; no exceptions, ever. After all, all police officers and all citizens live under the rule of law.) The Whiteville Police Department blocked streets around the Columbus County Courthouse so that the demonstrators could have a relatively traffic-free rally and march.

On that Saturday, walking west on Nance Street, I caught a glimpse of a marching, chanting crowd. I sensed that many of the marchers were not from Columbus County. At the time, I hoped -- but wondered if -- the local newspaper would cover it.

As a matter of fact, The News Reporter did indeed cover it. "Protesters Decry Police Brutality," a report by Mr. Jefferson Weaver, ran in the May 25, 2017 edition of the newspaper. In his article, Mr. Weaver displayed the very best in journalism by fairly representing the protest and the protesters. In his article, Mr. Weaver neither "angelized" the protesters nor demonized the police. Comments, some of which supported the protest and others of which were critical, were received from a variety of sources and scattered throughout the article.

The above-mentioned article ran on page two of the first section of the newspaper. That seems like a good editorial decision. Placing the article on the second page, The News Reporter editors refused to hype the protest. They also refused to play like it did not happen.

Mr. Jefferson Weaver and The News Reporter editors are to be commended for practicing good journalism and good sense.

#### On Good Community Relations

On June 2, a Friday, the Wilmington District Church-School Convention of the AME Zion Church took place at St. Mark AME Zion Church here in Whiteville. Asked to offer greetings from the Whiteville Ministerial Association to the convention, I gladly accepted and attended. It was a memorable event.

During the convention, something caught my eye. Two or three members of the Whiteville Police Department (WPD) were present. A couple of them sat near the front of the sanctuary for the entire evening.

As the evening news often reminds us, this is difficult time in American life for African-American communities and their

local police departments. Tension, distrust, and violence are all too common. By having representatives attend the June 2nd convention at St. Mark Church, the Whiteville Police Department displayed thoughtful outreach.

Driving home from the convention that Friday night, I pulled up beside a squad car with two policemen who had attended. I was glad to commend them for the outstanding community relations they had demonstrated that evening. Their good will and extended hand go a long way in keeping our community bound together and seeking the common good.

### On Good Politics

While visiting during an afternoon in June, I enjoyed two conversations with two families. In both cases, the conversations turned to political matters. That is not surprising, given the large role politics seems to be playing in American public life these days. One family generally opposed the Trump Administration, and the other generally supported the Trump Administration. Both conversations were civil and constructive. It was, and is, a reminder that some Christians are on one side of the political aisle, and other Christians are on the aisle's other side.

Whether we are Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives, on the religious left or the religious right, we are Christians first. Because of the love of God the Father, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, we have been baptized into Christ and His Church. Therefore, our first loyalty is to Christ and His Church.

Then, after faithful love to our family and patriotic allegiance to our nation, comes commitment to a political party and/or ideology.

With the help of the loves and loyalties that come before our political commitments, we Christians should be capable of seeing every political party, ideology, administration, and official as less than perfect, and therefore open to criticism. Whether siding with -- or siding against -- the Trump Administration, we should not fall into the traps of "Always Trumpism" and "Never Trumpism." Why? Because Christians can see clearly that the Trump Administration makes mistakes, and because Christians can admit that the Trump Administration can accomplish some things that are good for the American people.

As Christians, we need not be afraid to talk about politics. Indeed, talking about politics -- in a civil and constructive way, even if there is strong disagreement -- is a way to break through the political correctness that suffocates and attempts to spread silence, fear, and division.

### On Good Leadership

This pastor does not use social media. Ever. If you have chosen to use it, that is fine. Your choice.

Observing American public life in these most recent days, I have decided that social media (especially when covered by the conventional media) can occasionally create a stampede -- or the illusion of a stampede. Such a stampede

often causes those in leadership to panic, to make hurried decisions, and to try to please those who are stampeding.

Leaders in American public life -- in government, business, education, and religion -- would be wise to push back against stampedes that are perceived to be large and that seem to be headed toward leaders to take them out. With well developed spines and the courage of their convictions, leaders should resist social-media stampedes, let them blow over, and make decisions after much prayer and thought and consultation -- not in the fear that a stampede can generate.

### 2018 CAROLYN T. HIGH PREACHING MISSION

Next year's Preaching Mission will take place on February 25 (Sunday) and February 26 (Monday). Rev. Bob Bauman, who is now the senior pastor of Edenton Street United Methodist Church, will be the mission's preacher. Please make a note of the 2018 Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission on your family calendar, and look forward to the excellent preaching by Rev. Bauman.

### NURTURE COMMITTEE

The Nurture Committee presented the men of the church with a poem about being a Christian father on Father's Day, June 18. It was entitled "A Father's Role." It is such an important aspect in a child's life to have a father that exemplifies a strong faith in God. We hope that the young men of the church who are future fathers will keep their copy and read it in years to come. We appreciate all our fathers!

- Debbie Conway, Chair

#### A FATHER'S ROLE

The essence of the FATHER'S role  
Is to mirror God's own heart  
And to value instruction in God's ways  
With the grace that God imparts.  
Every father needs God's wisdom  
To carry out his role  
As the tower of strength and support,  
For each fragile heart he holds  
And there's no greater reward in life  
For a father to take his place  
And uphold the values of the Lord  
With integrity and grace.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is just around the corner! The collection week for our church is November 13 - 20. This is a wonderful time to get shoe box items! Summer time is a great time to buy shoe box items ahead of the busyness of the fall and the holidays. Many stores will soon have school supplies on clearance. Have fun shopping as we will soon be sending these gifts of love and the message of Jesus Christ around the world. For more information, please contact Wendy Hood, 840-1527.

### SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR SHOE BOXES:

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), slinkies, jump ropes, jacks, puzzles, toy jewelry, sunglasses, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, small picture books, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, hairbrush, deodorant, hair clips, plastic drinking cup, etc.

Clothes: shirt, hat, visor, socks, underwear, gloves, scarves, caps, shoes, flip flops, etc.

Candy/Gum: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, etc.

Stuffed Animal/Something to Love: Beanie babies, teddy bear, soft baby doll, etc.

(EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!)

\*\*\*Letter (with picture if possible) to personalize your shoe boxes. With our shoe boxes, we are representatives of Jesus Christ. The children want to know who cares enough to send them these gift-filled shoe boxes!

### DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- \* Used items.
- \* War-related items (toy guns, knives, etc.).
- \* Perishable items (chocolate, canned food, crackers, etc.).
- \* Liquids (glue, shampoo, lotion, bubbles, etc.).
- \* Medicine (vitamins, cough drops, ointments, etc.).
- \* Breakable items (mirrors, china dolls, snow globes, etc.).

Again, for more information, please contact Wendy Hood at 840-1527.

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to everyone who helped us worship together on Youth Sunday! We appreciate all the support the church gives us throughout the year and were glad to celebrate Trinity Sunday with the congregation. We are planning a summer white-water rafting trip in the mountains and will start back with regular meetings after school resumes in the fall.

- Heather LaMora

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We have scheduled a Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now) for September 30, 2017 here in our Fellowship Hall. We want to package between 20 and 25 thousand meals. To do this we need two things - volunteers and money. This project will benefit thousands of hungry people throughout the world! It will cost around \$6,000 to \$7,000 to complete this task. If each person who comes to church on Sunday would contribute \$10.00 each Sunday for the next 8 weeks, we can reach that goal. We are also asking other churches throughout the county to assist in meeting this goal. Please consider making a contribution toward this wonderful ministry. Also, we need you there! Make plans now for that last Saturday in September!

Please remember to keep the missionaries that we support in your prayers daily. They are Drs. Fogelman in South Sudan, Mozart Avedu in Africa and Vickie Sigmon in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

- Vickie Pait, Chair

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As June comes to an end, I can't help but recall the wide variety of worshipful experiences our church has celebrated this month. To our graduates, we congratulate and extend our best wishes as you continue to grow and use the gifts and talents God has given you. We are most grateful to Heather LaMora and our Youth for leading the worship service on June 11th. To the Instrumental Ensemble—thank you for sharing your musical talents with us! We also appreciate Wanda and Darryl Diefes, Rev. Bob Hankins, Marty Sellers, and Thomas McLam for their contribution to the worship service on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Dedication, such as this, helps make our church healthy and strong.

Rev. Paul Stallworth will continue a sermon series, on The Confession of Faith, during July, August, and September. One article will be examined each Sunday through the summer months. We urge you faithfully to come and be a part of our worship services this summer.

- Betty Gray, Chair

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Joe's Barbecue on July 6<sup>th</sup>. We have no scheduled program at this time, so please plan to attend for good food and fellowship.

- Brad Crowell, President UMM

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  
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 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](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.

Mrs. Kathy Graham, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Layton Dowless, Custodian

July and August Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

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

Office (910) 642-3376

[wumc@whitevilleumc.org](mailto:wumc@whitevilleumc.org)

[www.whitevilleumc.org](http://www.whitevilleumc.org)

Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth, Pastor