



The Methodist Messenger
MAY 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.

PASTOR'S PAGE

RANDOM HOOP MEMORIES

Brother Bruce, sister Sue, and I grew up in a household that took Methodism more seriously than Kansas State University's men's basketball. But not by much. (That's a confession.)

After World War II, Dad, from Norton, KS, and Mom, from the western suburbs of Chicago, married. They lived in Manhattan (what we now call "Manhappiness") and attended Kansas State College (now University). In 1948, K-State made it to the Final Four of college basketball -- the dream of every college, its students and faculty and its graduates and friends. That probably started my parents on their road to being super-dedicated, K-State basketball fans. Three years later the K-State Wildcats again played on the national scene, this time in the championship game, and lost to the Kentucky Wildcats.

In 1961, Dad and Mom took Bruce and I to the regional semifinals at Allen Fieldhouse at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. There we saw Kansas State defeat Houston and then fall to Cincinnati. As a sixth grader overwhelmed by my surroundings in "The Plog", I stood at courtside, gawked in amazement at the gigantic players as they warmed up, and commented, "Hey, Mom and Dad, why did they lower the basketball goals?" This boy could not believe how tall the players were. But he did thoroughly enjoy securing autographs, which would be treasured for years to come, from the various top players from the participating teams.

Creighton University was also in that 1961 Midwest Regional. To this day, this picture remains vivid in my mind: a young Roman Catholic priest, presumably there to cheer on his Blue Jays and Paul Silas, the top rebounder in college basketball that year, was standing during half-time and smoking a cigarette in the most sophisticated way. In that moment, I had discovered the larger world outside the Methodist bubble.

In March of 1963, late one night, there was Dad in our kitchen. He hovered over a radio that was barely pulling in Loyola of Chicago's upset of mighty Cincinnati. Dad's excitement was passed, without diminishment, to all of us in the family.

In 1964, K-State returned to the Midwest Regional at Wichita State University in Wichita, KS. There the Wildcats defeated Texas Western and then Wichita State, which featured All-American Dave Stallworth (without the second "s"), on its home court. In the Final Four, K-State lost to UCLA, the eventual National Champion. That year, UCLA had first beaten Duke, which probably brought some disappointment to our Methodist congregation's pastor, who had graduated from Duke Divinity School.

Years passed. As students at Kansas State, Marsha and I married. It was on to Duke Divinity School. One morning during March of 1974, I walked into The Divinity School's library. Around noon people pulled out their transistor radios. I had no idea what was going on. In a flash I was informed: The ACC Basketball Tournament had started. The annual ritual had begun.

Parish ministry in the North Carolina Conference followed. And then came the "special appointment," as it was then called, in New York City. Living in suburban New Jersey's Edison, I agreed to coach a parks-and-recreation basketball team of little guys. Upon learning of my coaching commitment, one of our friends at Centenary United Methodist Church in Metuchen, NJ blurted out, "I cannot believe you are doing that. I thought basketball was a game for Catholic boys." Though a Protestant, I thoroughly enjoyed coaching many "rec ball" teams that included our sons, Ryan, Matthew, and Peter.

That off-handed comment about basketball and Catholics, which seemed ridiculous at the time, returned to me a month or two ago. There were lots of Catholic schools that had been selected for the 2018 Big Dance: Creighton (defeated by Kansas State, which we were glad to witness in Charlotte, thanks to Marsha's persistent planning), Gonzaga, Iona, Loyola of Chicago, Providence, St. Bonaventure, and Villanova. Of course, both Loyola of Chicago and Villanova made it to the Final Four (two out of four!), with Villanova winning it all. Maybe that comment, from years ago, contains more than a little truth.

Back in 1891, Dr. James Naismith (1861-1939) -- a Canadian physical educator, physician, chaplain, and coach --

had invented the game of basketball. His objective was to improve the physical condition of young men in a less injury-prone sport than football. Later, he established the basketball program at the University of Kansas, where he was the only coach to have a losing record.

Even basketball, even college basketball, can be a gift of God's good providence. It is a gift given for our enjoyment. You must have many hoop memories as well. Enjoy them again.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

GORE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the 2018 Sam T. and Thelma G. Gore Memorial Scholarship are now being accepted. This scholarship is given annually to a student who is a member of Whiteville United Methodist Church. The criteria consists of the recipient's academic achievement (having earned a 2.0 GPA in previous educational work), life goals, church involvement, character, and financial situation. Funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and other educational expenses at the college of his/her choice. Applications are available in the Church Office. The deadline for submitting applications is May 15.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met on April 19. Many, many thanks to those of you who share your talents and abilities so willingly week after week in order to make our worship services at WUMC meaningful and spiritually uplifting. After reflecting briefly on our services from Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, it was noted that Youth Sunday, as well as Graduation Sunday with the presentation of the Gore Scholarship will be held in June. Plans and preparations are underway! More information will also follow concerning the sermon series for this summer.

In addition to the visitor cards that are located in our pew racks, newly designed cards will be placed in the narthex to share with those who visit us or who show an interest in the ministries and programs of our church. Please encourage our visitors to speak to an usher or greeter for further information. These cards will be available beginning in May.

Homecoming will be October 14, 2018, with Rev. Bill Boykin being our guest speaker. Plans are being made for this day in the fall and will be finalized at our next meeting, August 30.

– Betty Gray, Chair

2018 NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference this year will take place in Greenville. It will begin on June 14 (Thursday) and conclude on June 16 (Saturday).

Mrs. Caroline Hankins will be the regular Lay Member of Annual Conference from the Whiteville United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Marty Sellers will also be attending Annual Conference this year. Because of a stated need for more Lay Members of Annual Conference, the pastor entered Lynn and Marty (who are standing Alternate Lay Members of Annual Conference) in the Harbor District competition. In the end, they were selected to be a part of this year's Annual Conference.

The pastor will also be attending.

BOOK AVAILABLE

Rev. Wilbur I. Jackson served as pastor of the Whiteville United Methodist Church from 1988 until 1990. His fifth book has just been published. Titled Thinking of God Every Day: Running the Gamut of Life's Issues, this book is composed of devotionals. It contains 145 of them. Each one resembles a Bible study and takes 12-18 minutes to read.

Rev. Bob Bauman of Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh has this to say about Rev. Jackson's book: "'Teach (me) to number (my) days, that (I) might have a heart of wisdom' (Psalm 90:12). My friend, Wil Jackson is one of the wisest souls I know; and his new book, *Thinking of God Every Day*, is the perfect companion to this psalm. By starting your day, your week or your meeting with one of these devotional offerings, you will find yourself being drawn closer to the heart of God – and becoming a wiser practitioner of the time with which God has gifted us."

You can order your copy from Xulon Press -- please google it! -- for \$17.99.

PARISH NURSING NOTES

The next Lunch and Learn is scheduled for May 15th, Tuesday, at 11:00 a.m. Please note that the program will take place in the Parlor with lunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

Rosemary McLean Dorsey will speak on *Birds without Borders*. Rosemary grew up at Lake Waccamaw and recently returned with her husband to make the Lake home base once more. She recently started the Lake Waccamaw Bird Watcher's Club. Patricia Ray, Volunteer Parish Nurse

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. – Hebrews 4:16

UMYF

We have been busy doing great things through God! Donations and supplies were delivered to the Families First shelter last month. We spent two separate Wednesday evenings helping Mr. C organize the music library.

Our group will be taking a trip May 5 and 6. Please pray for the youth as we prepare for Youth Sunday on June 3. – Heather LaMora

PIANOS ON THE MOVE

The Trustees of Whiteville United Methodist Church have approved the long-term loan of a beautiful baby grand piano. This piano has been placed in the Parlor while the spinet piano that was originally there has been moved to the Worthington Classroom. The upright piano from that classroom has been moved to the Youth House. Thank you, Betty and Dial.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Whiteville United Methodist Women will meet on May 5th, Saturday, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast. All women of the church are invited and encouraged to bring friends. Food and drinks will be provided. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Sellars at 910.840.5941.

– Debbie Sellars, President

NURTURE COMMITTEE

We are looking ahead to Mother's Day and Father's Day with special gifts for both. Being a good Christian mother or father is one (if not the) most important responsibility one has in life. Children learn a great deal by the example set by their parents, whether good or bad. Children don't come with an instruction manual, but we have the perfect guidelines for parenting in the Bible. We must all be mindful of that example we are presenting to our children and grandchildren! Have a Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day!

– Debbie Conway, Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2018 Homecoming Sunday will take place, as usual, on the second Sunday of October – which is October 14. Rev. Bill Boykin, who served as pastor of the Whiteville Church (2009-2012), will be the Homecoming preacher. (Unfortunately, the Stallworth's will be unable to attend due to their Class of 1968's Reunion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of graduating from Garden City [KS] High School.)

There will be a special event, sponsored by the Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission Endowment, on November 4th (All Saints Sunday). It will feature Dr. Grant Wacker, the Gilbert T. Towe Professor Emeritus of Christian History at Duke Divinity School, speaking on "Billy Graham's Life and Ministry." The first presentation will begin at 4:30 p.m. (45-minute speech plus 15-minute Q&A); a light dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m.; and the second presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. (again, 45-minute speech plus 15-minute Q&A).

The 2019 Carolyn T. High Preaching Mission is scheduled for March 10-11. (This is a bit later than usual because of the special, called 2019 General Conference in St. Louis, MO, February 23-26.) The Preaching Mission preacher will be Dr. Roger Elliott, who served Edenton Street United Methodist Church (1995-2008).

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 nd	Margie Rabon
5 th	Mary Williamson
12	Leah Pait
13 th	Paul Georgis
15 th	Leigh Cook
18 th	Pat Ray
20 th	Keith Sellars Beth Walters
26 th	Hugh Daniel
28 th	Laura Beth Owens

WORK NEEDED

Lucinda Turner
Private Duty Certified Nursing
Assistant (CNA)
910.918.5322

*Professional Home Care for Your
Loved Ones
*Light Housekeeping
*Appointments



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

email: wumc@whitevilleumc.org

website: www.whitevilleumc.org

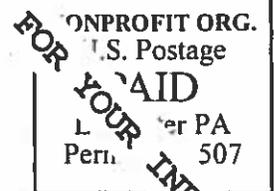
Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth, Pastor



Lifewatch
Taskforce of
United Methodists on
Abortion and Sexuality

P.O. Box 306, Cottleville MO 63338

03/15/18
SPECIAL REPORT:
Human Sexuality Proposal



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A PROPOSAL TO REPLACE PARAGRAPH 161G) HUMAN SEXUALITY IN THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE (2016)

The Lifewatch community offers, to The United Methodist Church and especially to the 2019 General Conference, the following proposal as a possible replacement for Paragraph 161G) Human Sexuality found in the 2016 Book of Discipline.

Our stubborn hope is that you will read the following proposed teaching on human sexuality, and that it might sufficiently engage you to fully support it, totally reject it, be prompted to compose your own replacement proposal, or be emboldened to write an article, blog, or letter that supports reconsidering Paragraph 161G as it currently reads. In other words, under God's providence and guidance, you can use the following proposal to help more fully prepare The United Methodist Church for the 2019 General Conference.

Thank you, in advance, for reading, considering, and responding to the following proposal.

A PROPOSAL TO REPLACE PARAGRAPH 161G) HUMAN SEXUALITY IN THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE (2016)

161G) Human Sexuality—Because the Sexual Revolution is now undermining Christian teaching on human sexuality and harming countless unsuspecting people, the Church is compelled to propose its teaching with Biblical clarity.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus speaks about marriage: “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” (Mark 10:6-9, also see Matthew 19:4-6, and NRSV here and below)

In His statement on marriage, Jesus is guided by “the beginning of creation.” (Mark 10:6) He draws twice from Genesis. First, from Genesis 1:27: “male and female he created them.” And second, from Genesis 2:24: “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.” To teach on marriage, Jesus reaches back to God’s creation of humanity as male and female, and to what God intends for humanity (which is “fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness”). Furthermore, Genesis asserts: “God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply....’” (Genesis 1:28) And, “God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31a)

In His statement, Jesus indicates (among other things) the covenantal context—the marriage of a man and a woman—for sexual relations. In marriage, two people are united by God to become one. The gift of unity God gives is embodied in the marital act; that is, the union of souls is reflected in the union of bodies. This one-flesh union is so powerful and creative that it can beget a child (or children), whom the mother and father can welcome, protect, and raise.

In his Letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul claims the union of husband and wife is a reflection of the union of Christ and His Church. Paul writes: “‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.” (5:31-32)

Therefore, the Christian understanding of marriage and sexuality is established at creation. It is revealed in Genesis, reinforced by Jesus Christ, and depicted in Gospel terms by St. Paul. This Biblical witness to marriage, which runs throughout the canon, grounds the Church’s understanding of human sexuality.

Because of this Scriptural witness, the Church through the ages preached, taught, and practiced that sexual expression is reserved for husband and wife within the covenant of marriage. For 2,000 years, this teaching, proposed and observed with God’s grace, has been essential in helping sustain Christians in discipleship, holiness, and true freedom. This teaching has assisted Christians in rightly loving God and neighbor. The Church through the ages has also preached, taught, and practiced that sexual activities outside the marital covenant—for example, adultery, pre-marital sex, pornography-related sex, homosexual practice, and others—are indeed sins (and “incompatible with Christian teaching”); they are sins (among all other sins) for which Christ died, and for which forgiveness and freedom are available through the Gospel.

The Church’s sexual morality is considered too rigorous and even mean-spirited by many in some contemporary societies. This is not new. This has been the case since the apostolic era of the Church. However, often in spite of great cultural opposition, the Church has lovingly proposed its sexual morality to its members as a witness to the world. The Church through the ages has persisted in this difficult task because she considers this teaching to be not only faithful to the word of God, but also good for the people challenged by it and transformed by it. When this teaching is observed, marriages are strengthened; children are welcomed and nurtured; the weak are protected; the strong restrained; and all tend to flourish. When not observed, marriages are threatened and destroyed; marriage as an institution suffers; children are neglected; and the powerful generally have their way with the less powerful.

God’s faithfulness is known by God’s people through the ages and throughout the world. Because of God’s faithfulness, our faithfulness to the covenants we make—baptismal and, for many, marital—is possible.

*You are invited to respond to Rev. Paul T. Stallsworth, Lifewatch Editor
902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472/910.642.3376/ paulstallsworth@nccumc.org.*