



The Methodist Messenger
APRIL 2020
Whiteville United Methodist Church



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

"HE IS RISEN!"

THE EDITORIAL BELOW AND
MUCH OF WHAT APPEARS
IN THIS NEWSLETTER
SHOW THE POWER OF
JESUS CHRIST'S RESURRECTION --
EVEN DURING CORONAVIRUS TIME!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

ABOUT THE PICTURE OF MR. BRENT HOOD,
WITH A CONFEDERATE FLAG IN THE BACKGROUND,
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mr. Brent Hood was a faithful and very active member of Whiteville United Methodist Church. Much of his activity in and around the church related to Boy Scout Troop 513, which is sponsored by the United Methodist Men and meets at Whiteville United Methodist Church. It made sense that, after Brent crossed the Jordan on February 1, 2013, a picture of him was later dedicated and hung on Troop 513's bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. In the picture, Brent, in his Scoutmaster uniform, stood next to a Civil War-era cannon, and an unfurled Confederate Battle Flag filled the entire background. The cannon and flag appeared to remind, or inform, the viewer that Brent was a serious student, and teacher, of the Civil War.

Nearly six years passed.

In January of 2019, a large reception was held in the Fellowship Hall. During and after this lively gathering, a few people voiced concern that they were offended -- and/or knew others who would be offended -- by the Confederate Battle Flag in the picture of Brent Hood. What should be done? That became the subject of a few, post-reception telephone calls.

In fairly short order, the matter was brought to the pastor's attention. After a couple of calls and a vote of approval by the Trustees, it was decided that the issue would be placed on the conference table in the Pastor's Study for discussion and resolution. So, Mr. Bill Brooks, Mrs. Wendy Hood, and the pastor began to meet. (Confession: In this plan for resolution, the pastor erred by not including a current Scout leader in the meetings to come.)

The meetings were based on the reality that those of us at the table are, first and last, baptized Christians and members of Christ's Church. In the Church, we treat each other respectfully, as sisters and brothers in Christ -- all of us under Christ our Lord. Our first allegiance is not to what we happen to believe about American history. Furthermore, our first allegiance is not to any ideology or institution. In addition, our first allegiance is not to our own interests and our own opinions. Our first allegiance is to Jesus Christ, His Church, and His Kingdom. Because the three of us who were at the table are a part of Christ's community, nobody and nobody's standing and nobody's feelings would be allowed to run over the others at the table.

Also, the three of us acknowledged that working together, toward a compromise, was our shared goal. So, we expected that after the resolution was reached, no one would be able to declare total satisfaction, and no one would have to admit absolute disapproval. So we proceeded to meet.

We met. And we met. And we met some more. During the earliest meetings we rejected a proposed Addendum (drafted by the pastor), which would have been posted on the bulletin board near the original picture. Later, we decided that smaller National Confederate and National Union flags would replace the large Confederate Battle Flag in the original picture. Finally, we agreed on the size of the national flags, and we had them placed on flag poles. Along the way, Mr. Grant Merritt joined the effort as our computer expert -- or Digital Whiz Kid.

On November 14, a Thursday afternoon, the agreement was finally reached. Exhausted by the effort, Bill and Wendy breathed a sigh of relief, sat back, reflected on the process, and encouraged and thanked one another. The order for the picture was placed with Grant. Grant produced, and had printed, the new picture. And the new picture has been hung on the Boy Scout bulletin board in the

Fellowship Hall.

In a time when there is much division -- in American society and also in The United Methodist Church -- the negotiating labor of Mr. Bill Brooks and Mrs. Wendy Hood should be acknowledged and commended. Most of all, thanks should be given to God, whose Holy Spirit accompanied them, sustained them, and gave them self-control and hope through thick and thin.

In Christ,
Pastor Paul

MOST HUMOROUS LINE OF THE MONTH

It was a Wednesday late in Lent. One of the Community Lenten Worship Services was about to begin. A guy in a pew volunteered: "So the politicians and public-health officials now want us to practice social distancing. Heck, without needing to be told to do so, I did that with certain people...."

JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL

"I have been with you in this parish for less than two months. You and I do not know each other very well, though we have made a lot of progress toward that goal. There are many things about each other that we have yet to discover. There is something about me that I want you to know now. My faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has survived almost fifty-nine years of sometimes severe testing. I am not ordained to preach the gospel because I believe that all religions teach the same truth. I do not give up my weekends in order to stand here and tell you that all roads lead to the same place. I have not come out of private life to return to the demands of ministry to preach that Jesus Christ is one religious option among many, one slice out of the pie among many other slices (emphasis added)....

"Yesterday was the first funeral since I came to this community. There is no greater test of Christian ministry. What do we offer a congregation when we are standing on the brink of the grave? Do we back away from the news about the Lord Jesus Christ? Do we offer vague religious consolation based on wishful thinking about life after death? Do we detach the apostle Paul from his own Christ-centered message so that he says 'nothing can separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:38-39) only in a generic sense, meaning you have your God and I have mine? If we are going to back away from the unique claims of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us be sure we understand what we are giving up....

"Here in the Epistle to the Romans we have the distillation of the most truly radical message that the world has ever known, beside which the calls we hear to 'be more religious' or 'be more spiritual' [or 'be more moral'] pale into insignificance. There is nothing else, anywhere in the world's religious traditions, like the Incarnation, the Cross, and the Resurrection." --Rev. Fleming Rutledge [priest in The Episcopal Church], Not Ashamed of the Gospel: Sermons from Paul's Letter to the Romans (Eerdmans, 2007), pp. 291-293 [from Forum Letter, April 2020, p. 1]

THE 2020 SAM T. AND THELMA G. GORE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Are Now Available
in the Church Office.

Completed Applications Are Due
by May 25 to the Pastor.

The Scholarship Will Be Awarded
during the June 28 Worship Service.

"A Hidden Life" (2019)

This movie is the stirring story of an Austrian farmer who refuses to sign a loyalty oath to Hitler. Its picture of marriage and family life is elevating and joyful.

Whiteville United Methodist Church
The Parlor
May 31 (Sunday)
5:00 p.m.

BREAKPOINT DAILY WISDOM (02/27/20)

"If words aren't worth fighting for, what on earth would be?"
(Chesterton)

"When words lose their meaning, people lose their lives."
(Confucius)

"Ideas have consequences. Bad ideas have victims."
(Charles Colson)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please remember your financial support of the Whiteville United Methodist Church. Your gifts can be left at the Church Office/Pastor's Study or mailed to Whiteville UMC/902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472. They will be most appreciated.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

4 th	Phyllis Merritt
11 th	Sue Wells Sarah Meares
17 th	Sue Gore
23 rd	Robin Gilmore James Oakley
26 th	Eric Power Ryleigh Owens

WORSHIP SERVICES

Please remember that on Sunday mornings, the Worship Services will be not only restricted to worship leaders but also available to all on the radio and on the internet. On the radio, listen to 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.Kool1039radio.com. There is also a link on our church homepage at www.whiteville.org.

Wednesday evening Holy Communion Services will be open to all who wash up, distance appropriately. We will keep it to 10 and under people in the sanctuary.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Due to the threat of the Coronavirus, our April 6th meeting is being cancelled. Our executive board is looking into ways to connect with our members while keeping our social distance.

Our May meeting is scheduled for May 2nd (Saturday) and is a Breakfast Gathering in the Fellowship Hall. The program consists of a “shower” to benefit the Pregnancy Center at the Health Department. If those plans change, notifications will be sent out.

We pray that everyone will be safe and well during this time of uncertainty.

Debbie Conway, Vice President

OUTREACH

The Outreach team envisioned using expertise within the team and church to ally with the individual seeking to open a homeless shelter in Columbus County. After diligent searching, that person could not be located.

To raise awareness of those who are homeless in Columbus County, Les High said The News Reporter would interview Randy Evans and run a three-part article. Randy is working with the homeless in Wilmington in a creative and highly dedicated way. (The series has been delayed in the present crisis.) The Rise Against Hunger (RAH) event scheduled for April 25 will be postponed. We have indicated to RAH that we will hold it as soon as it is feasible.

We are looking for ways to provide assistance locally. If the school system is making food available, we might be a pick-up site. If the Health Department needs supplies for babies, pregnant women or new mothers, we can use funds from the Pridgen Fund to order in bulk from Good 360.

Brainstorming will continue. Any suggestions will be welcome. Shalom, Carolyn Hankins

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.

– Unknown Author



Whiteville United
Methodist Church
902 Pinckney Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

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

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
mail: 902 Pinckney Street/Whiteville, NC 28472
telephone: (910) 642-3376
website: www.whitevilleumc.org

Our 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.Kool1039radio.com. Click on the “Web Audio Player” applet. To listen to the entire service, go to: <https://lynx.prostreaming.net:2199/start/unitedmethodist/> and click on the Web Audio Player applet. For either choice, you may need to enable Adobe Flash. There is now a link to the radio station on our church webpage www.whitevilleumc.org. Click on “Stream Live Service Sundays at 10:00 a.m.”

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.