

July, 2009

# The Wesley Journal

## Special points of interest:

Do you know the duties of an Elder? See Cathy's Chat Box

Giving to others brings many blessings! See page 2

Summer Bible Study—each Sunday evening @ 4:30 p.m. starting July 12.



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Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church

Volume 7, Issue 1

## Cathy's Chat Box

A special thing has just happened to me and some wonder why such a big deal has been made of it. I was recently ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church, something I have worked toward for 9 years but that isn't what makes it so special to me. Let me tell you...

In Exodus 29, you can read the service for the ordination of priests. It followed a complex ritual that demonstrated to the people that those being ordained for priestly duty were appointed authoritatively to certain functions for God. To go through ordination then is to have holy orders conferred on you, to be set apart for Christian ministry.

It is much the same with our ordination ritual today. We continue

to follow the practice of the early church of the "laying on of hands" and of prayer to send the ordinand forward for ministry. I'm quite glad that we don't pour oil on the head like described in Exodus or sacrifice bulls and rams. But the things that we do in our ceremonies DO make a difference in the lives of those being ordained. I know that I will always remember my ordination.

Do you know the duties of an Elder?

An elder in the Church, in covenant with other elders in the Annual Conference, is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole Church: by preaching and teaching the Word of God and faithfully administering the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Com-

munion; by leading the people of God in worship and prayer; by leading persons to faith in Jesus Christ; by exercising pastoral supervision of the people committed to their care, ordering the life of the congregation, counseling the troubled in spirit, and declaring the forgiveness of sin; by leading the people of God in obedience to mission in the world, to seek justice, peace, and freedom for all people; and by taking a responsible place in the government of the Church and in service to the community.

Wow! What a job God has called me to! I feel so humbled by all that has happened and I know that with God's help I will do my best to fulfill those duties. Please pray for me as I serve you as your pastor.

## *Congratulations, Sherry Barringer!*

Sherry Barringer recently completed the District Lay Speaking courses becoming a Local Church Lay Speaker. Way to go Sherry! What this means is that Sherry is now trained to lead worship; lead meetings for prayer,

study, and discussion; to give leadership to the total work of the church; and serve her congregation when called upon by the pastor. We already knew that Sherry had these gifts and are so proud that she was willing

to take the initiative for more study. We know that she will continue to study and improve her skills and grow in wisdom and ability as she serves God each day. Thanks Sherry for all that you do!

*Congratulations!*

## WESLEY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW met on May 11 in the Rose Room with 16 present. The program was on the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. The Call of Prayer and Self-Denial Fund is an annual special offering of the UMW. The 2009 theme for this offering is "Creating Communities through Information Technology." This offering will fund programs related to marginalized communities, such as the poor, the physically challenged and others, especially women, children and youth, that don't have access to information technology such as computers and cell phones.

A skit was presented explaining this program and an offering of \$95.00 was taken to assist this mission.

The UMW takes two special offerings each year in addition to the dues we pledge. Each woman present was given a small bank to collect coins for the World Thank Offering which will be taken in October, 2009.

In this time of financial uncertainty, we are grateful that we are able to reach out to women and children we may never meet, to let them know there is love and hope in the world. Our next meeting will be in September. If you have not been able to be an active member of UMW, please think and pray about it this summer and join us if you are able in the fall. If you need transportation, child care or other assistance in order to be active, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Hope to see you in September at our annual Salad Supper!



## STANLY COUNTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

We, here at Wesley Chapel, take donated foods and other supplies to the SCCM as they are collected each month. As more people are feeling the brunt of the present economy, the need to step up this ministry is urgent. Children who receive free meals at school may not be getting needed nourishment through the summer months. More people are out of work and whole families may be in need more than ever. Also, some of us here at Wesley Chapel may be finding it hard to even provide for our own families.

So, what can we do? It is suggested that, if you are able, bring one item of non-perishable food to our collection box for each visit you make to the grocery store each week. Or you could bring one item for each member of your family once a month—**or bring whatever you feel you can afford to share.** A can of soup, a box of rice or cereal, a canned vegetable or a jar of baby food—whatever you can spare. It will be of great value to someone in need.

Let's try to step up our efforts in this direction and see what blessings we receive.

*The food will be delivered to the Ministry each week by church volunteers. We will contact the SCCM for items that they need most each month and place this information in our Newsletter.*

## GRACE IS A GIFT

When we work an eight-hour day and receive eight hour's pay for our efforts, that is a WAGE.

When we compete with an opponent and receive a trophy for our superior performance, that is a PRIZE.

When we receive something in recognition for our service or achievement, that is an AWARD.

**BUT** when we can earn no wage, can win no prize and deserve no award—yet we receive such a gift—that is unmerited favor. That is undeserved kindness. That is **GRACE!**

## FIVE STEPS TO A FRIENDLER CHURCH

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.



## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



Let it be declared, announced and hereby celebrated.....

- That all people everywhere are dependent upon one another.
- That everyone needs everyone else for freedom, life, love & happiness.
- That all things in the natural order are dependent upon everything else.
- That our little planet and all the planets and stars in the solar systems are in a state of mutual dependence upon one another.
- That this universally shared dependence comes from God and is of God.
- And that each individual part of this relationship has its own part to play—its own destiny to fulfill in God's plan.

## "AMERICA"

Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist pastor, wrote the hymn "America" in 1831. Smith described what happened as he contemplated the tune: "I instantly felt the impulse to write a patriotic hymn of my own. Picking up a scrap of waste paper which lay near me, I wrote at once, probably within half an hour, the hymn 'America', as it is now known everywhere."

Smith's friend and classmate Oliver Wendell Holmes once told him, "Your name and fame will live when I and my works are forgotten."

## Please Help Contact these Members



The Membership Committee needs your help. We have a few members that we have been unable to reach:

The members are:

J. F. and Tsu Ming Yao

Mindy Harvill

Shelly Frick Sides

Russ DeSantes

Danny Gaston

Dr. Lana Riemann

Rusty Kiddo

Matthew Austin

Sonja Dial Sienerth

Torin Dial

Chris Dial

Pearl Van Ardsall

We will continue to run this in the newsletter for the next few months. If we are unable to contact them, or they do not contact us, they will be removed from the rolls upon Charge Conference action in 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Cleo Shaver, Membership Secretary.

Thank you for your help!

### TEMPTATION

"When we are troubled with temptation and evil thoughts, then we see clearly the great need we have of God, since without him we can do nothing good. No one is so good that he is immune to temptation; we will never be entirely free of it." *Thomas A. Kempis*

### THE BRIDGE

"To confess your sins to God is not to tell him anything he doesn't already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the Golden Gate Bridge." *Frederick Buechner*

### IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIMPORTANT

The greatest forces in the universe are never spectacular. Summer showers are more effective than hurricanes, but they get no publicity.

The world would soon die without the fidelity, loyalty and consecration of those whose names are unsung.

Any life, however humble, may take its place in the building of a better world and a more beautiful tomorrow.

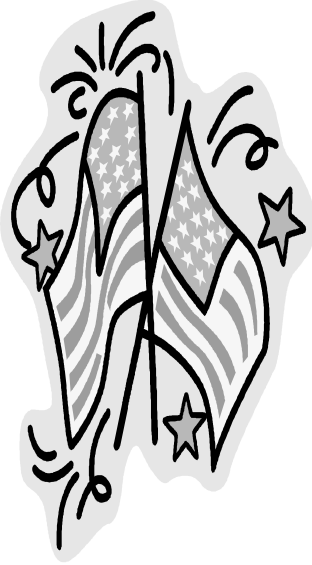
It is so easy to exaggerate the importance of the seemingly important and to underestimate the importance of the seemingly unimportant.

# The Wesley Journal

## ACTIVITIES FOR July

## SPECIAL DATES

## BIRTHDAYS



**Wednesday July 8—The Friendly Neighbors**

**Lunch 11:30 am**

**July 12—4:30 p.m. Bible Study begins: Confronting the Controversies! Bring your bible for good study and lively discussion! Each Sunday night.**

**No other activities this month!**

**July 4 - Independence Day**

### **\*\*ANNOUNCEMENT**

During the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, the WC office will only be opened on Wednesday's from 8:00am - 1:00pm. This will be from June thru Aug. If you need Pastor Cathy, please call her on her cell at 704-438-3472 any day! Thanks & have a blessed summer.

July 4 Joel Rogers  
July 8 Marsha Safrit  
Caitlyn Ferebee  
July 9 Eddie Barringer  
July 10 Brittani Forte  
July 14 Edith Gaither  
July 16 Bill Barrier  
Ahren Burrage  
Scott Barringer  
July 17 Laura Stivers  
July 18 Anne London  
Tillman Culp  
July 19 Todd Rummage  
July 24 Trent Culp  
Dot Faggart  
July 27 Peggy Culp  
Lee Shaver  
July 29 Madeline Wagoner  
Virginia Wagoner  
July 31 Holly Wagoner

## Our Wonderful Volunteers!

### Lay Reader

July 5 Kay Barringer  
July 12 Grey London  
July 19 Joey Ferebee  
July 26 July Kluttz

### Children's Time

July 5 Debbie Barringer  
July 12 Ahren Burrage  
July 19 Preacher Cathy  
July 26 Holly Wagoner

### Greeters

July 5 Lee & Cleo Shaver  
July 12 Scottie & Rhonda Culp  
July 19 James Hugh & Peggy Culp  
July 26 Mike & Sandee Lambert

Ushers for July:  
Todd Rummage and  
Kevin Barringer

## Offertory, Nursery and Acolyte Schedule

### Offertory

July 5 Caitlyn Ferebee  
July 12 Erika Medlin  
July 19  
July 26 Karlen Lambert

### Nursery

The Nursery is always covered during Sunday school by Alice Bolton if needed. During worship:  
July 5  
July 12  
July 19  
July 26

### Acolyte

July 5 Kara Medlin  
July 12 Spencer Burkett  
July 19 Emery Culp  
July 26 Jack Rummage

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Romans 12: 11



## OUR CHURCH IS TO BE SOLD!

Our church is to be sold! Yes, our church is to be sold! No, we are not about to lose our building through foreclosure or repudiated debt. However, our church must be sold to the city and county. It has been planted to wield an influence beyond its membership and walls. Thus, we are presented with an enormous challenge.

Our church must be sold to the **un-churched**! There are scores of people in our community who would attend our church and join us in the Lord's service if we would bother to sell not only our church to them, but more importantly our relationship with Jesus Christ!

How much is our church worth to you? How much do you value its ministry? How much do you value the Christ it proclaims? As a member of this church, you are selling your church to others every day. Are you selling it short? Has it helped you to the extent that you're willing to sell it to others? Will you be enthusiastic in talking about your church? Will you share your church with others who have no idea what they're missing?

Take our church seriously and talk to people about what our church has to offer them and tell them about your relationship with your Lord and Savior, Jesus!

### A PARENT'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my child to lie or steal. And guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that honesty produces happiness. Reduce, I pray, the meanness in me. And when I'm out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue.

May I ever be mindful that my children are children, and I should not expect of them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves and to make decisions. Bless me with the bigness to grant them all their reasonable requests and the courage to deny them privileges I know will do them harm. Make me fair and just and kind. And fit me, Lord, to be loved respected and imitated by my children. Amen.

### A Personal Note:

*I thank you very much for the beautiful cross necklace that you gave me for my Ordination. I will never forget your kindness and will remember you all each time that I wear it.*

*I wore it during my activities on stage at Annual Conference this year, including the night I was Ordained! In a way, you all were with me. What a powerful and holy night that was.*

*I love each and everyone of you and thank you all from the bottom of my heart. This cross will be something I treasure always.*

*Love in Christ,*

*Your Pastor*

*Cathy*



### HOW TO PRAY

- Pray where you are. God is present everywhere and ready to listen.
- Pray when possible, in a quiet place where you can be alone. It is good to fix your mind deliberately on God apart from confusing distractions.
- Pray to God simply and naturally, as to a friend. Tell him what is on your mind. Get help from the prayers of others.
- Pray, remembering the good things God has done for you. Give thanks for all your blessings.
- Pray for God's forgiveness for the unworthy things you may have done. He is near to a humble and contrite heart.
- Pray especially for those things that will make your life more Christ like.
- Pray for others, remembering the help they need for the situations they confront.
- Pray for the world in its need, and for God to guide you toward ways you can help.
- Pray that God's will be done in you. His purposes are deeper and wiser than our own.
- Pray, and then allow God to answer your prayer.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

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***Watch for us on  
the web! Soon!***