

April 26, 2020

Important Announcement from your Staff Parish Relations Committee

During our worship service this Sunday, pastoral appointments for 2020/2021 were communicated, and it was announced that our current associate pastor, Paul Coats, has been appointed to serve as pastor of Richland United Methodist Church. In his place, the bishop and cabinet have appointed Rev. Greg Harrison to serve at Wynnton as our new associate pastor. Rev. J Grantham has been reappointed as our senior pastor for another year.

We are certainly thankful to Paul for his service over the last year and we wish him all the best in his new appointment. Please be in prayer for him and Ellen during this time of transition.

We are also glad to have J returning for another year, and we are excited to welcome Greg as our new associate pastor. Greg is moving to Columbus from Macon where he served as the pastor at Wesley UMC for the last three years. Greg is married to the former Alaina Avera and they have three children: Owen (4½), Addison (3), and Sawyer (1).

The first Sunday for these pastoral transitions will be by June 28th.

Pastor Paul's Ponderings

Mark Twain was once accused of having a faulty memory, to which he responded, "I have an excellent memory. In fact, my memory is so remarkable that I can recall things that never happened."

I thought about this quote while listening to a podcast on the Passover. The rabbi drew a correlation between the trials of the Exodus and what we are experiencing in the present pandemic. "Remember," he said, "that the Exodus, the defining event of our community, took place in the midst of an epidemic."

I knew that, but strangely had forgotten it. Ten plagues, ones I have preached on numerous times, and my mind had skipped over them to the traps in the desert. That, too, is certainly part of the story of God's people, but the plagues are as well.

What lessons are we learning from the one plague we face today? For the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, the plagues were a powerful demonstration of God's persistence in caring for his people. Through these ten plagues Pharaoh learned to fear and the people learned to trust in the God of Israel. Lesson learned, right? Not so fast.

No sooner had the Hebrews escaped their enslavement than they faced the desert in front of them and wanted to return, "where at least we have food to eat." They failed to recognize that the sea was parted not only to protect them from the Egyptians, but to protect them from themselves.

I live in the certainty that God will see us through our present difficulties. The entirety of Scripture gives testimony to that. What I fear is the mindset that sees this trial as one to get through in order to get back to normal. In other words, I fear we will forget.

If you remember anything, recall the countless times that God has walked with his people through unprecedented and unimaginably difficult times. It is not the getting through it and back to normal that is important. Rather, it is holding hands with God, no matter what challenges in life we may face, and never letting go.

Soon the shelter in place orders will be lifted and we will be back together again. When that happens, a great and fearful desert will lay ahead of us. This is no time to turn around and return to from whence we came. We cannot go back, but we can step forward, holding firmly the hand of God who will lead us in paths of righteousness for his namesake.

Pastor Paul





READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

April 26 Acts 11:1-18, Joshua 11-12, Job 26
April 27 Acts 11:19-30, Joshua 13-14, Job 27
April 28: Acts 12, Joshua 15-17, Job 28
April 29: Acts 13:1-25, Joshua 18-19, Job 29
April 30: Acts 13:26-52, Joshua 20-21, Job 30
May 1: Acts 14, Joshua 22, Job 31
May 2: Acts 15:1-21, Joshua 23-24, Job 32

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

26 Steven Goyne, Noah Miley
 27 Maddie Fields, Bobby Gatewood
 28 Carol Balderson
 29 Kenny Evans
 30 Mary Nell Blasingame
 1 Mitzi Crew, Joyce Hawkins, Lynda Kannady, Judy Ottman, Steve Tincher

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Unified Budget.....	24,121.00
Endowment Fund.....	85.00
Easter Offering.....	1,880.00
Backpacks.....	1,300.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Housing.....	3,000.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Network.....	4,000.00
Other Income.....	110.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

Something Fishy Going On
 John 21:1-7
 Rev. J Grantham

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

To Debby and Eric Hubbard on the death of her mother, Mary Leighty, of Columbus, GA on April 14, 2020.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Bob Draughon** by Jennie & Ken Payne; Betty Woodruff; Pam & Bob Gilstrap; Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Max McGlamry** by Pam & Bob Gilstrap; Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Bruce Berreth** by Pam & Bob Gilstrap; Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Dr. John Horton** by Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Joe Pope** by Cindy & Randy Autry; Beth & Larry Hendrickson

In memory of **Jack Watkins** by Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Jonathan Young** by Lynda & Bennett Massey

LOVE OFFERING

Ian Allen will be leaving as our Student Ministries Director at the end of May. He has served in this position since June of 2016. During that time, he also served as Worship Leader in our Link worship service for 2 years. We hope you will help us show our appreciation to Ian by supporting a love offering in his honor. You can contribute to this love offering by mailing a check to the church post office box and designating it as Ian Allen love offering.

TITHING

You may still support the church by giving online or through mail. The church staff will be going to the Post Office and depositing checks on a regular basis. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 5469, Columbus, GA 31906.



Wynnton UMC College Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2020 College Scholarship. All applications must be received in the church office no later than **May 1, 2020**. For any further information, please call the church office at 706-324-2424.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

Psalm 91:1 "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty."

As we continue to "Shelter in Place" or remain "Healthy at Home", I invite you to take the opportunity to read through your favorite Psalms. Sacred songs or poems, psalms are a rich resource for song lyrics and prayer. Psalms are a witness to prayer, despair, peace in the Lord's strength, and praise to our Almighty God. Psalms cover a range of human emotion and human experience. They have prayer and praise in common.

We look forward to a near future, when our choir will resume and make a joyful noise to the "Rock of our salvation!" As in the Psalms, we will share the Word in song, and embrace our new 2020 experiences as we reach to God.

Psalm 95:1 "O come let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!"

Yours in Christ,
Diana B.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 26

- 10-10:30 a.m. Virtual Sunday School
Rev. Paul Coats - Facebook Live
- 11:00 a.m. Live Streaming Sunday Worship
Rev. J Grantham - Facebook Live
- 5:00 p.m. Basement Message
Ian Allen - Facebook & Instagram Live

Wednesday, April 29

- 6:00 p.m. Midweek Check-In
Rev. Kim Evans - Facebook Live

Friday, May 1

- 11:00 a.m. Phone Conference
Phone number – 669-900-6833
Code – 4745976652#

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies April 24-26,
Rev. Paul Coats 706-573-1141
