

WHEATLAND'S WIT & WISDOM
DECEMBER 2016

WELCOME TO WHEATLAND
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



MUSINGS

By Pastor Sandi
December 2016



It is Advent Season – a time when we prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus, the Christ. As I was putting together my Christmas playlist, I listened to different genres of Christmas music. One song was called “What a Strange Way to Save the World”. As the songwriter penned the words to this song, he pondered God’s way of announcing His love to the world by sending His only begotten Son.

Mary, the mother of Jesus pondered the coming of the child, Jesus, as shepherds gathered around the baby boy that laid in a manger in Bethlehem. Luke’s gospel reports in chapter 2, verses 8-18 that “the shepherds when they had seen him rushed to spread the Word concerning what had been told them about this child.” Amid all their excitement, Mary pondered these things in her heart (verse 19).

In the sermon on the first day of Advent (November 27), I shared one central idea that caused me to mediate and reflect on its meaning. It was obvious that attention was given to the One who would come, but what was our part in His coming? When we expect company, we prepare. We clean our houses. We prepare food. We literally put our best foot forward. I wondered how I should present this to the congregation since we relive the birth of Christ in the church every year in some shape, form, or fashion.

As a group of us began decorating the church for the holidays, it was very plain to me that we were preparing the house for the coming of the Christ child; much as we prepare the nursery for a new child born into our families.

We prepare for Christmas by reliving the bringing of gifts, sharing with the family, decorating. When presents are all opened and shared, gift wrapping is thrown into the trash, and the last piece of pie is eaten, I challenge you to look back over the days after Christmas and ask yourself “For whom did we prepare the house?”

May the blessings of God be given in abundance to you and yours to enjoy, to share and to tell the continuing story of the One who came and is coming again, Jesus The Christ.

Submitted by Kathy Priester

Newsletter Available on Church Website

The December newsletter will be the last newsletter to be mailed. It will be printed and distributed the first Sunday of each month before worship and available on the church website for everyone else.

Online Advent Class

An online Advent Class has begun. If you would like to join, contact Pastor Sandi. Cost is \$19. This is sponsored through the North Texas Conference.

Keeping the Sanctuary Clean

A trash container is available in the sanctuary foyers for you to dispose of your bulletins, candy and gum wrappers, etc.

Remember To Shut The Sanctuary Doors Securely

A very large critter was found in the sanctuary during the week, because the door was not shut all the way. Be sure to pull the doors securely shut when leaving.

Need to Borrow Chairs or Tables?

If you are borrowing anything from the church for personal use, or if you move things from one building or closet to another, please get approval from the Property Management Team (PMT) Chair Jan Cavender.

Cleaning Crew

We have a cleaning crew for the church but let's help them along the way. We eat a lot around here. Take the trash out so we don't attract critters. Don't eat in the Sanctuary. Pick up trash and food off the floor in Fellowship Hall.

E-mail Communication

If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe from the Pastor's weekly email blast, please send an email to Pastor Sandi: pastorminor@wheatlandumc.org.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE



You can make donations to Wheatland's Capital Campaign online. It's simple. Just go to our website at www.wheatlandumc.org and click on the "Donate" button. You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations. Take advantage of this simple way to donate and support our Capital Campaign.

Submitted by Kathy Priester



This past Sunday, I worshipped at Asbury UMC where Dr. Ianther M. Mills is the distinguished pastor and a moral voice in the United States capital. Articulating the fears and anxieties aroused by those who touted hate and bigotry, she gave expression for so many who are now living with questions - Who can I trust? How am I to be on guard for where and when acts of terror and racism emerge? Who really are my friends? Offering Christ's love and solidarity to God's people, Dr. Mills encouraged the congregation not to hide Christ's light under a bushel but let it shine.

Reports of incidents of violence and abuse were received directly and indirectly to Church and Society this past week. Violence

towards young women at gas stations, acts of hate against churches, schoolchildren terrorized and bullied in school cafeterias and bathrooms, Muslim brothers and sisters terrified for their own safety, anxiety of deportation, and the well-being of young people working here on Capitol Hill. The rhetoric that produced and allowed fear, racism, sexism, regionalism and classism to fester must be addressed. The fears are real and the wounds are deep.

Repentance must come for the sins of hate sowed in our country and the world.

There are many good and faithful public servants at all levels of government. The power bestowed is the power of the people, for the people, by the people. It is for the people of every race, religion, national origin, class, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation.

For United Methodists, we are called to not only hear the fears and see the wounds, but to take action against fear and hate. Acts of hatred and violence that are being perpetrated are unacceptable and must be rejected in any and every form.

“The United Methodist Church must be proactive in resisting hate and teaching how to live in our diverse social world without passively accepting the rise of hate and bigotry. When we do nothing about hate language or horrifying atrocities, we participate in the social support of hate.” (Resolution 3421, “Grieving and Repenting from Acts of Hate and Violence.”)

As Christians we must be true to the promises made at baptism. To follow in the way that leads to love and freedom. We support active engagement in promoting diversity, support those who speak up when experiencing acts of hate, encourage the reporting of crimes of hate to officials and justice-minded advocacy groups, and support witnessing to those individuals who commit acts of hate to show them compassion and the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

May our prayer be “where there is hatred let me sow love.”

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan T. Henry-Crowe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Henry-Crowe

WHEATLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Charge Conference
October 16, 2016
REPORT OF PASTOR
CORRECTED
State of the Church
November 10, 2015 to October 16, 2016**

The members of Wheatland United Methodist church have endured their share of concerns and challenges these last few months, but the Lord has been present in new and different ways among us. Even with the ups and downs the church has stood steadfast, continued to do mission, and nurtured each other. Because of structural damage to the church, we had to move worship services to the Fellowship Hall. It was hard on the congregation and I felt like I had received a "Moses" anointing. This is to say that I felt called to lead the people through this valley experience while God restored, rebuilt, and recreated.

A Capital Campaign was launched to secure funding for the renovation. Texas Methodist Foundation provided a loan for the initial work and the congregation is committed to giving to meet the total amount needed to complete the work. A GoFundMe Page has been created and most of the givers have been people that were associated with Wheatland in the past. Friends and families have received special letters asking them to join us in our campaign. Their responses have indicated that they are happy to share this part of our journey.

Attendance has fallen because so many of our members are no longer able to come to worship or serve because of age and illness. Many of the caretakers are family members who are also members of Wheatland, so for every one person who is confined to their homes, two people are missing from worship. It is noteworthy to mention that Wheatland has 9 "affiliate" members 3 of which came in 2016. There are 5 "associate" members who are connected to Wheatland through friendships but have not changed their membership at other non-Methodist churches. Several members' names are on the rolls but they are inactive and no longer attend. This is an area of concern for me as I look at the future of Wheatland.

Bible Study classes are being maintained. A small group is meeting to pray weekly. The off-campus class is still being held in the home of one of our members who is no longer able to attend on a regular basis. I held a small Bible study in my home for 14 weeks to get more personal time with members and know them better.

We are sharing our campus with two non-denominational faith communities. One is an African-American start up and the other is a Hispanic church with a membership of approximately 125. We continue to nurture these friendships and realize that this is part of the Wheatland DNA. Our history shows that this is how Wheatland was formed.

There were several people of different denominations who wanted a facility in which they could worship. They built one facility and everyone worshipped there. We continue to serve the community in various ways. We hold bi-annual garage sales that the community looks forward to and actually returns each year for newfound treasures. Proceeds from the garage sales fund our mission efforts. We continue to support global ministries financially as well the Oak Cliff Churches Emergency Assistance Organization where members volunteer their time. The prayer garden continues to welcome individuals from nearby businesses as well as the police department. The 5th Sunday Old Fashioned Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social is one of our great fellowship times with the community. Offerings will be used to fund the capital campaign.

Wheatland continues to pay 100% of their apportionments. Our budget remains at \$100,000 and with the work of our Finance Committee, we will continue to position ourselves financially for the future.

Our congregation is mostly senior citizens and ministry for us is not the same as it is for other churches, but I hope to work with the congregation to introduce innovative leadership and build a team that will carry the Wheatland legacy and its' commitment to sharing the love of Jesus Christ into the future.

Rev. Sandi Minor
October 16, 2016



**WUMW AND HEALTH EVENT
CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH LATIN TWIST
SAT. DEC. 10 AT 10:30
AT WHEATLAND FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Things to Do:

- 1) bring small gift limited to \$5
- 2) bring food dish - Latin style or your favorite
- 3)RSVP by Monday Dec. 5 final date

To Karen Burnett 214 356-0694 or keepkindteacher@yahoo.com. This is for everybody.

Merry Time , Music, Movement

Wheatland United
Methodist Church

*Wheatland United
Methodist Church – the
country church in the city
– strives to be a
welcoming congregation
worshipping God
together; increasing in
faith and discipleship
through prayer, Bible
study and fellowship;
caring for one another;
and reaching out to the
community and the
world.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wheatlandumc.org

**WHEATLAND UNITED METHODIST
8000 S HAMPTON RD
DALLAS, TX 75232**

DECEMBER, 2016



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Fellowship Hall Worship 10:30 Patsy Stephens Birthday	5	6	7 Sunshine Fellowship 10:00 Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm Prayer meeting 6:00 PM	8 Debbie Watts' Birthday	9	10 Women's Christmas Party 10:30
11 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Fellowship Hall Worship 10:30 Fellowship Dinner and Gift Exchange 12:00	12 Damian Martinez Birthday	13 Mark Berry's Birthday	14 Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm Prayer meeting 6:00 PM	15	16	17
18 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Fellowship Hall Worship 10:30	19 Eddie and LaTrelle Power's Wedding Annv.	20	21 Wheatlandettes 6:45 PM Route 66 7:00 pm Prayer meeting 6:00 PM	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
25 <i>JESUS' BIRTHDAY</i>	26 Newsletter Deadline	27	28 Wheatlandettes 6:45 pm Route 66 7:00 pm Prayer meeting 6:00 PM Deanna Graddy's Birthday	29	30	31 <i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i>