

THE WESLEYAN

Fall 2018

Honey Brook United Methodist Church

4510 Horseshoe Pike, Honey Brook PA 19344

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Pastor Ray Voran revoran@gmail.com 717-333-6939



Sundays
11 AM



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SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45 AM

Nursery Care is available for infants
and children Pre-K and younger.

Junior Church
K-Jr. High

Following Kids Korner



Pastor Ray has something to say...

“Committees, Committees, Committees”

We have a number of different committees in place to accomplish various tasks our church is supposed to accomplish. This is not unusual for churches. However, it may seem like The United Methodist Church goes overboard with all the committees. This leads to confusion about the committee’s purpose, responsibility, ministry and members.

In this and upcoming newsletters I will attempt to clear up any confusion you may have and let you know each committee’s mission and purpose.

There is a “nominations report” or “roster” listing all the church committees and their members. This was included in the last edition of The Wesleyan and a printed copy may be found on the table under the large calendar in the fellowship area.

This issue will address the **Nurture, Outreach and Witness Committees**. I think it is easy to become confused with these...what exactly do they do?

In an effort to make things clearer, our Book of Discipline has the following things to say...

“**The nurturing ministries** of the congregation shall give attention to but not be limited to education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups and stewardship. Attention must be given to the needs of individuals and families of all ages.”

“**The outreach ministries** of the church shall give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice and advocacy. These ministries include church and

society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race and the status and role of women.”

“**The witness ministries** of the church shall give attention to developing and strengthening evangelistic efforts of sharing of personal and congregational stories of Christian experience, faith, and service; communications, Lay Servant Ministries and other means that give expressions of witness for Jesus Christ.”

Chaired by Jean Refford the **Committee on Nurture** has done things like visit and provide gifts for shut-ins and provide The Daily Bread and Upper Room devotional materials.

The Outreach Committee is led by Cathy Heagy and has been collecting funds for the Society of St Andrews, collecting and distributing the scarves and mittens, etc. placed on the Christmas tree for the Claire House, sponsoring the Crop Walk, taking care of Operation Shoe Box during the Christmas season, and youth center dinners.

The Witness Committee is led by Karen Fellenbaum. This committee has organized community and church concerts as well as other activities.

As a general rule of thumb:

The **Nurture ministry** is responsible for those who attend our church. Their mission is to provide care and assistance in helping us all grow as Disciples.

The **Witness and Outreach ministries** are responsible for those **outside our congregation**.

The **Outreach ministry** is more of “**good works**.”

The **Witness ministry** is more “**sharing the Gospel**.”

Naturally the dividing lines remain blurry. For example, we may have a concert or special program that is attended by members of the church and also those from the community. Or we collect items for the food bank as a way to meet physical needs but we also hope and pray that God will use these gifts to have a spiritual impact.

Of course nurturing one another, doing good works for others and being a witness for our Lord are simply aspects of being a true Disciple. As Christians it is our responsibility to be engaged in these activities on a regular basis, but I am glad we have church committees that intentionally participate in these efforts.

I hope you found this helpful. We will be discussing other church committees in upcoming editions of The Wesleyan.



9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

Answers Bible Curriculum is a chronological Sunday school curriculum that covers the entire Bible every four years. It answers key questions that confront the adults and children in our church, and it provides a powerful overview of God's Word.

Sunday School Christmas Play
Sunday, December 9, 2018
11 AM

You're invited to

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE



Study

2nd and 4th
Thursdays
 of the month
2PM
Fellowship
Hall

We are currently studying **"The Way of a Disciple" Walking With Jesus** by Don Cousins and Judson Poling.

Community Outreach



Honey Brook Youth Center Meals

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me."

-Mark 9:36a

Be a part of sharing the love of Christ as we serve dinner to the kids at the Honey Brook Youth Center. Please contact [Pastor Ray](#) if you would like to contribute your time or financial support. We ask that you pray for the children of Honey Brook. See church bulletin for dates and additional details.

PLEASE PRAY for our denomination and all the delegates that will meet at the Special General Conference February 23-26, 2019. Pray that everyone will honor God and that His will is accomplished.

My Testimony: The day I became a Christian.

By Pastor Ray Voran

Several years ago we took a group of young people to the Creation Festival. One afternoon, we listened to a gentleman (I am afraid I cannot remember his name) share his testimony. Prior to becoming a Christian, he had been a hit man for the mob. Now he did not share any real gory details but he did have a wonderful testimony...just a great example of a life that was turned around by the good news of the love of Jesus Christ. It was clear that everyone listening was inspired and I found myself thinking, "Aw, I wish I had been a hit man for the mob."

I did not really wish for a life of crime, but sometimes we do think we must have a super dramatic conversion story in order to have anything to share. The truth is that a person's testimony is simply the account of how they became a follower of Jesus and the difference that He has made.

From the outside, maybe that difference was not extremely evident. Having grown up with Christian parents that were always active in church, I was simply used to the idea that the Bible is the word of God and that we are loved by Him. I can't even say that I faced some great crisis of faith. But our family moved to a new state right before my 12th birthday which of course meant that I was leaving everyone that I knew. I realize that many people of all ages face this same situation and it does not have to be a bad experience but it was for me. I was not exactly good at making friends and I simply felt like people did not accept me. I realize now that the real problem was my own attitude but the amazing thing is that God was at work even in the midst of my own self pity.

My parents gave me a new Bible for Easter the year after our move. It was The Living Bible which was a popular modern language version during the 1970's. One afternoon, as I was paging through this Bible I came upon John 6:37 which contains these words of Jesus in The Living Bible, "But some will come to me—those the Father has given me—and I will never, never reject them." Those words were exactly what I needed to hear and touched my heart and soul in whole new way. That was when I understood that God loves Me. At a time in my life when I felt kind of rejected, He let me know that I was accepted by Him.

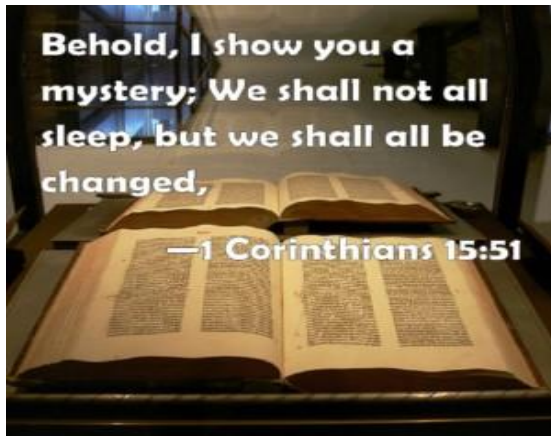
Certainly, I had a lot more to learn and I continue to be reminded to live in the power of the Holy Spirit instead of trying to have my own way, but **that was the day I truly became a follower of Jesus Christ. Intellectually I knew what the Bible said, but this was when it became personal...when I realized that He loves and accepts ME and that was truly the beginning of my walk with Him.** And while this testimony is perhaps not as exciting as our brother at Creation who shared about he how he was once employed to lay hands on kneecaps, it does remind us that God calls all of us to be the jars of clay that carry the great treasure of His light and life. And as we read in Luke 15:10, there is joy in heaven whenever one sinner repents, turns to God and is saved, regardless of how spectacular or mundane that repentance may appear to us.

I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ." **Philemon 1:6**

**Please share your
Testimony with us.**

churchnsew4me@gmail.com
or drop it off in the church office

Eastern PA Annual Conference
June 14-16, 2018



“We Will All Be Changed”

I am including the official report of our Annual Conference which provides information about the various resolutions that were voted upon during these meetings. I think this will be easier and probably more accurate than relying on my memory. I do want to make a few thoughts and observations:

* You may have already heard me say this, but the daily worship services were very well done and uplifting. It is always great to worship as representatives of the entire **Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church**

And we do remain the United Methodist Church.

*Remember that the divisive issues regarding human sexuality and the LGBTQIA+ community are to be discussed and resolved in some fashion at the special General Conference being held in February 2019. (I will say a bit more on that in the coming months)

*Eric Law provided training on “Holy Currencies” on Friday morning. These currencies include money, time and space but also Gracious Leadership, relationships, truth and Wellness. We will be discussing at Church Council and other meetings how we can best use these currencies to share the presence of God and shine His light in the Honey Brook area.

*It was noted that while Sunday morning attendance has been in decline across the conference for almost a decade, the number of people reached by our churches has been on the increase during the past

several years. Our Missions activity and spending have also increased.

* As you read through this report, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Each annual conference is a reminder that we are a connectional church with a wide variety of congregations and members but we accomplish things together for the Lord that would not be possible if we all stood alone.

Blessings,
Pastor Ray

Annual Conference report
by John W. Coleman

Members of the 2018 Eastern PA Annual Conference met June 14-16, 2018 in Oaks PA to historic steps in the cause for justice by passing several key resolutions. But they stopped just short of advocating for the denomination to allow congregations that want to leave over proposed changes to church law regarding LGBTQ rights to do so with their properties.

Among 27 diverse resolutions submitted, the lay and clergy local church leaders voted almost unanimously for a Council on Finance & Administration (CFA) resolution (#24) to cancel all churches' unpaid "prior-years' balances" of apportionments and certain other billings, as of the end of 2017. Apportionments are amounts churches pay into three main connectional expense funds: the Connectional Ministries Fund to support conference-wide operations; and the World Service and General Church funds, which undergird denominational administration and programs.

But members went a step further for predominantly black churches' by approving CFAs proposed cancellation of most of their additional balances-including unpaid property and liability insurance-"as an act of justice" (#25). Many of the 29 predominantly black churches belonged to the former, racially segregated Delaware Annual Conference, while several belonged to the former predominantly white Philadelphia Conference or were formed in the current Eastern PA Conference.

While many of the churches have large outstanding balances that would be daunting, if not impossible, to pay off, some attribute part of those balances to the costs that came with occupying large, deteriorating inner city church buildings left by declining white

congregations decades ago. All the black churches would be relieved of responsibility for prior-years' balances accumulated prior to December 31, 2017, except where the UMC's *Book of Discipline* "disallows such action...in paragraph 639.4, concerning Pension Benefits and Health Insurance Benefits arrearages."

'Attempt at acknowledgement and atonement'

The measure was taken as "one attempt at acknowledgement and atonement" for a racist history of segregation of the all-black and mostly white area Methodist conferences that ended with merger in 1965. That merger preceded the formation of the larger United Methodist Church from merger and desegregation in 1968.

"Resolution 2018-25 seeks to eliminate the historical balances of African American churches who have carried these debts for years, after inheriting deteriorating church structures that have handicapped their ability to do effective ministry," said the Rev. David W. Brown, a Deacon on staff at Wharton-Wesley UMC in Philadelphia, a product of black and white urban congregations forced to merge for financial and property reasons. "We saw the passage of this resolution as a tangible act of justice that represents a step toward the ongoing racial reconciliation we hope to achieve as a diverse community of Methodists." Brown and the Rev. William Lentz, CFA member, helped explain the resolution's rationale to the conference body.

"What a good opportunity to express Jubilee to our brothers and sisters in African American churches through this resolution," said the Rev. Alan Smith, pastor of Good Shepherd UMC Lebanon.

More justice-related resolutions

An emergency resolution, presented in English and Spanish and unanimously approved in the conference's final hour Saturday, called on the U.S. government to end its new policy and practice of separating parents and children immigrating here to apply for asylum as refugees from extreme violence in their Latin American countries. Calling it a "violation of international law," the resolution cites the "traumatic" separation and incarceration of children in secretive detention centers that are operating outside the purview of elected officials. It requests that "the U.S. Department of Justice and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a United Methodist lay

person, immediately discontinue separating children from their families through the 'zero tolerance' policy." It further urges bipartisan legislation to end this "child separation policy and calls for the resolution to be mailed to Sessions and Pennsylvania members of Congress.

Two other approved resolutions call on the conference to advocate against the offensive use of Native American team names and mascots in sports (#20) and for protection of sacred Indian sites and reversal of recent White House decisions to reduce the size of national monuments on public lands (#23). And two more approved resolutions address rampant violence in U.S. society. One affirms the action of the 2016 General Conference calling for a reduction of guns, including assault weapons, and gun violence in America (#18). Another creates a new conference Committee on Domestic Violence (#13) from the current task force to help churches address that concern with more substantive programming and resources.

Yet another approved resolution (#27) urges greater awareness of and support for conference efforts to confront sexual harassment, sexual abuse, misconduct and misogyny in church and society, as "we stand in solidarity with the #metoo movement."

UMC Way Forward-related measures don't pass

Only two resolutions related to The United Methodist Church's "Way Forward," as it considers, during a Special General Conference in 2019, whether or not to change church laws prohibiting LGBTQ members' participation in Pastoral ministry and marriage within the church.

Resolution #2018-14 asked the Annual Conference to "strongly urge the 2019 General Conference to include in any plan it passes provisions for a fair and gracious exit path for congregations who cannot in good conscience abide by the stance of the church regarding LGBTQ+ ministry.... Such an exit path should allow congregations to leave the denomination with their buildings and assets, assuming their own liabilities, but without demanding burdensome payments to the conference."

That "Gracious Exit" resolution, submitted by the Rev. Joseph DiPaolo, pastor of First UMC Lancaster,

generated lengthy, emotional debate; but it eventually failed by a close 285 to 241 vote.

The other resolution asked the Annual Conference to advocate to the Council of Bishops that "any restructuring of the Church in response to the Commission on the Way Forward must actively seek to redress the legacy of racism, heterosexism, ableism, classism, sexism, and all other systems of oppression." Titled Agape Love for All and submitted by a group of 15 churches, it further called for General Conference to "remove all language that diminishes the humanity and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people-and thus, enhance the dignity of us all."

That resolution (#22) was "postponed indefinitely" after some debate, in view of the imminent decisions to be made by General Conference in 2019.

Saturday's debate over both resolutions followed presentations Thursday night on the Way Forward Commission's [three alternative proposals](#) for the denomination's future polity and structure. Bishop Peggy Johnson's overview and argument for the Council of Bishops' preferred One Church Model was followed by representatives of two opposing caucuses-the conservative Evangelical Connection and Reconciling Ministries-who presented their arguments for and against that model. A lively half-hour of dialogue by small groups of conference members and guests across the vast meeting hall ensued.

New offering to aid Puerto Rico Methodist Church

In other conference action, members approved unanimously a resolution (#26) calling for a special offering to aid the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico in its long, painstaking recovery from 2017's devastating Hurricane Maria. The Rev. Nicholas Camacho, who heads the conference's Helping Puerto Rico Rise Again campaign, proposed with support from the conference Cabinet, that churches receive a special love offering on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, the first Sunday of the annual National Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15).

Offerings will be sent to the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico to support its churches' recovery efforts

that will likely last for many years. Only 10 percent of what the UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR) raises for Puerto Rico can go to repair or rebuild damaged churches, Camacho announced.

Bishop Johnson commended the conference body for its approval and announced that Bishop Hector Ortiz of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico will visit Eastern PA to speak at its Clergy Lenten Day Apart in 2019.

Nine Advance Special projects are proposed for endorsement to solicit second-mile funding from churches. And one church, Avon: Zion UMC, was officially discontinued by the conference.

"The EPA 2018 AC was truly a time of holy conferencing with the name of Jesus lifted high in worship, preaching and conversation," said Bishop Johnson. "Some personal highlights for me were: the opening worship with the Rev. Justin Hancock, Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koi Koi's sermon, the New Life (UMC) Dancers, the "altar call" for persons called into ministry, the table talk around the Way Forward, and Dr Eric Law's teaching (on Holy Currencies).

"The crafters of worship: Revs Candy LaBar and Monica Guepett brought much outstanding worship and Rev.Eric Carr's music team lead us to high moments of praise. Many thanks to the many hard workers, too many to mention. The team work is outstanding! We need each other! Unity of diverse gifts is the best expression of God's Word and work in the world."

Further reporting on worship, resolutions and other aspects of Annual Conference 2018 appear on the conference website along with a [full video recording](#) of the live-streamed event.

Word Search



Solution to last edition's Word Search...

(There are 15 books of the Bible listed in the paragraph below... Will you be able to find them?)

Once I made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu. Kept some people looking so hard for the facts, and searching for a revelation that they got themselves in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. The truth finally occurred to numbers of the readers but to others it was a slow job. We wanted it to be a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes, there are some that are easy to spot, but others require judges to determine. We must admit it usually takes at least a minute to find one, and there will be loud laminations when a person fails to find more than a few of them. One lady says each day while she brews her coffee she searches for the missing books.

Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelation, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos, Esther, Judges, Titus, Laminations, Hebrews.