

Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

March 15, 2019

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Ministry to God through prayer and worship.

Ministry to one another through caring discipleship.

Ministry to others by meeting needs and winning them to Christ.

I have been receiving Lenten devotionals from the Holston Conference since Ash Wednesday. They are by our pastors. I want to share the one from today by Rev. David Graybeal, the pastor at Keith Memorial. Please read the Scripture 2 Peter 2:4-21 first though, please.

Steve

I need to confess something right here at the start of this devotional: I don't like this passage of scripture. I didn't like it as soon as I received and read the assigned scriptures for this day. It has a harsh, condescending, condemning tone. It points fingers. It calls names. It casts judgment. It seems to divide the world up into "us" and "them" and speaks of "they" and "these people." It compares people to animals. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of such judgmental and divisive talk, in our nation and in our denomination. That's why I don't like this text.

But it is scripture. And because I believe that scripture is one of the ways God's Spirit most regularly and reliably speaks to us, I decided to try to stick with this text a little longer, to wrestle with it to see if it might yield a blessing of some sort for me. I decided to practice a little lectio divina - holy reading - with this passage. I read it slowly, out loud, prayerfully, repetitively, listening for a word or phrase to rise up and grab my attention. On about my fourth reading, I paused when I came to the end of verse 19: "...for people are slaves to whatever masters them." Hmmm. I read it again. "People are slaves to whatever masters them."

I looked this verse up in some other translations. One said whatever "overpowers"

them, another said "overcomes," another "controls," another "conquers." But they all seemed to be saying essentially the same thing. We are slaves to whatever enslaves us. Then I brought it home to myself and read it as speaking directly to me, as being about me: I am a slave to whatever masters me, to whatever overpowers me, controls and conquers and enslaves me. So what is that? What is it that still has power over me, even though I am meant for freedom in Christ and promised freedom in him? What is it that still tries to master and enslave me? I've been pondering that question as I continue to reread and to reflect on this passage.

Remember my initial dislike for this passage had to do with its judgmental tone. But I discovered something as I continued to ponder this passage, which is that I can be just as judgmental myself. I can be just as judgmental of those in the church as well as in the world who "slander what they do not understand" (v. 12), who have "hearts trained for greed" (v. 14), who "speak bombastic nonsense" (v. 18). Furthermore, I would have to admit, if I am being completely honest with myself and with you, that I do some of these very same things myself. What is that about? What does that suggest is still mastering me, overcoming me, enslaving me that is not the spirit of my master Jesus?

This scripture has ended up giving me a worthwhile question to ponder during this season of Lent. "We are slaves to whatever masters us." What is it that masters us? What is it that masters me? What is it that masters you? Maybe one of the important steps in the Christian journey toward claiming the freedom

Christ promises us is naming the masters that would still enslave us that Christ at the cross has already overcome.

Choir rehearsal, Sunday, 4:30 p.m.

No Wednesday evening activities for children, youth and adults – Spring Break for Knox County Schools.

Remember the “Blue Barrel” is out in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring candy, individually wrapped, for the children’s Easter Egg Hunt.

Help Requested! The Children’s Department needs help after church on March 31st with setting up for the Children’s Consignment sale. Then help on Saturday, April 6th, to take down. If you can help, please let Cheryl Mills know. Thank you.

Mark Your Calendar:

United Methodist Women, March 21st, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Team Meeting, March 21st, 7:00 p.m.

Outreach Meeting, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

Holston Home for Children Sunday, March 31st.

Children’s Consignment Sale, April 4th-6th.

Lock-in and glow in the dark Easter Egg Hunt, Friday, 6:00 p.m. April 12th, to 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 13th. We will have dinner and the egg hunt at twilight.

Easter Sunday Breakfast, April 21st. Donation Basis for Camp in The Community.

Rummage Sale sponsored by United Methodist Women, May 23rd-25th, for the benefit of sponsored missions.

Camp in The Community, June 17th-21st

Children’s March Mission Project - During March the Children’s Department will be collecting canning jars (quarts, pints and jelly jars that seal) , lids and rings for Morgan Scott Project. This will help those who are preserving food from the home garden project.

Our Service

March 17, 2019
Second Sunday in Lent

Acolytes	Ellis Banks, Emily Laws
Nursery	Doris Dennison
Ushers	A.J. Allen, Howard Darnell, Mary Mahoney, Carolyn Peters

Come join us for worship this Sunday. Scripture will be Ephesians 2:14-18, and the sermon is **“CHANCING YOUR ARM.”**

Our Presence and Our Gifts

March 10, 2019

Morning Worship	71
Sunday School	40
Budget Offering	\$3,866.00
Roof	\$170.00
Memorial Fund	\$150.00
Youth Fund	\$10.00

Prayer List:

Betty Bays
Eddie Cox
Leroy Cox – cancer
Gay Lee DeShazor, Cheryl Mills’ Aunt
Jo Ann Learn
Sharon Morris-Dagangon, friend of Pat Newman
Stephanie Melton
Bill Ogle, comfort and healing from cancer
Marilyn Faith Plemons (requested by Carolyn & Sue Wilson)
Patricia Sutton
Billy and Wesley, Sharon Wilson’s sons

Continuing Care:

Shirrell Baker, Joe Broom, Kermit & Betty Campbell, Samantha Collier, Bill Ferguson, Sarah Hawkins, Joe Hurst, Jama Newman, Jean Painter, Ann Turner, Betty Uhlman, Carolyn & Sue Wilson, Joanne Wilson.

Note: Please let the pastor or the office know if we need to add someone to the prayer list. Also, let us know if someone is doing better and needs to be removed.