



The Lake Gaston Charge

Calvary UMC - Corinth UMC - Littleton UMC - Weaver's Chapel UMC

September / October 2019

The Pastor's Portion - Stan Lewis

Pastor: Stan Lewis
email: salewis@nccumc.org

Associate Pastor: Jason DuVall
jason.duvall@nccumc.org

Calvary UMC
136 Calvary Church Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 11 am

Corinth UMC
21847 Justice Branch Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
(2nd & 4th Sundays)

Littleton UMC
105 East South Main St.
PO Box 26
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-5385
www.littleton-umc.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Weaver's Chapel UMC
2209 Weaver's Chapel Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-7058
Sunday Worship: 11 am

As United Methodists, we use the word "grace" a whole lot. Those outside of the United Methodist Church also talk much about grace. We interview ministry candidates very specifically around grace. In fact the ministry candidates are expected to speak thoughtfully and deeply around grace. Sadly, many candidates cannot clearly, succinctly, or thoughtfully speak on the Wesleyan understanding of grace. It is almost always used as a jumping off point to speak of the differences between United Methodists, specifically Wesleyans, and other traditions. Further, it is sad when those doing the interviews sometimes say "I could not pass it." I understand that means those that are supposed to understand the idea of grace, the clergy, are weak while our United Methodist Seminaries are weak in helping candidates understand grace. This leads to our own church speaking of grace when we have a weak understanding of what we are saying.

Grace is very complex! Billy Graham states the dictionary definition of grace as "God's unmerited favor towards humanity." So trying to give a short lesson in grace in a page is a tremendous challenge. But here we go!

Biblically speaking Grace is nearly on every page of the Bible. Beginning in Genesis, even the formation of Creation is an aspect of Grace. While there is much more to the Creations, it is God's expression of Love not because He has to, but because He wants to. Grace is not a must to by God, but a want to. So properly speaking, God's grace was active before our birth! Wesley used a lot of big words to describe grace (if you want to know the big words see me), but simply speaking this aspect of grace is the aspect of God working around us and even before us, sometimes without our knowledge of His action. Biblically speaking, God makes the rain fall on the just and the unjust.

God creates the air, water, and earth without our asking! But this aspect of grace is insufficient for salvation. In short, this aspect of God's grace "goes **before us**" or grace that works "**around us**."

While this "grace that goes before us" is always at work and yet insufficient for salvation, there are other aspects of grace at work as well. If we are thinking in a linear fashion, the next aspect of grace is where God declares our sin to be forgiven. Simply speaking God's grace leads us to ask forgiveness, then God's grace through Jesus is granted to us. We can think of this aspect of God's grace as "God's grace at work **for us**." While we are further along in the growth aspect of grace, there is still more aspects of God's grace at work. At this point, we are forgiven but nothing internally has changed. This is the first half of salvation. This is "saving from guilt." There is no change of the systems around us, because there is no change in us.

Which brings us to the next aspect of God's grace! This is the aspect of God's grace that actually brings change to humans, humanity, and the many structures around us! It is at this point that most United Methodist falter including most candidates and many clergy. This grace is God at work "**in us**"! Ezekiel makes comment of removing hearts of stone and replace with hearts of flesh (Ez. 36:26) and David writes "create in me a clean heart" (Psalm 51). This is the other half of salvation, the "turning towards God."

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For me this is the heart of the Wesleyan doctrines and its greatest gift to help the world. God really wants to change, change everything back to way He designed it! This means changing you, me, and everyone around us, creation, world governments, health care, and judicial systems. But His change starts inside the human heart and works its way outward (see Phil 2:12). The very change that we seek is right before us! This is where we drop the ball! This is where many ministry candidates fail and many seasoned United Methodist clergy fail as well.

We do not expect God to change us, we expect God to change everything (and others as well)! We expect God to swoop in and fix the problems around when God works to fix us. The problem lies in the human heart. This aspect of God's grace goes to places that frankly scare us. It goes to the core of the human and starts to clean house!

The cleaning of our hearts is an ongoing process, which is the next aspect of God's grace in this life. God is at work "within us." This is where because our hearts are changed to the point we want God to work with us that we participate with God in the change of our lives and the systems around us. Again, we falter here because we may be willing to let God change us inwardly, but how often do we let God work "through us" into the world around us?

So putting it all together, albeit in a very linear way, God begins expressing grace first "around us", "before us," then "for us," then "in us," onto "within us," and lastly in this life "through us." While, I structured this in the linear fashion, God's grace is moving in all these areas all the time. For Wesley, all of this encompasses God's grace. It is a total package. We cannot pick and choose which aspects of grace, we want. That leaves us with a weak understanding of grace.

Wesley's understanding of God's grace has been misunderstood over the years. We have been accused of being "universalists" because we believe that God works before our conversion. We are Universalists, if we do not see the whole scope of grace. We become Universalists if we say that the grace that works "around us" is sufficient for salvation. We must ask for grace and be transformed. We have been accused of being "works righteous believers," as we believe that our actions are very important in salvation. But, we understand that our actions are directly tied to God's grace.

So we can insert our weak understanding of God's grace or we can let the fullness of Wesley's understanding of God's grace empower us to be fully mature in Christ.



Martha Sherman, LUMC's sweet acolyte for many years, passed away on August 24th. Her kind, gentle spirit will forever be missed by all that had the good fortune of knowing her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her parents, Richard and Susannah Sherman.



LUMC Worship Committee Susan Powell, Chairperson

There will be a Worship Committee meeting to be held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2019 @ 2 p.m. in the Adult Sunday school room**, directly behind the church Sanctuary. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

The following people are members that I have listed on the Worship Committee:

Kaye Herman
Jean Houston
Bill Kuhns
Gloria Kuhns
Rev. Stanley Lewis
Carol Lindley
Susan Merchant
Anne Odom
Dick O'Sullivan
Irene O'Sullivan
Susannah Sherman
Loretta Woodburn

If you cannot or do not wish to serve on this committee, please notify me ASAP at 252-586-5340 (home phone), or 757-620-9144 (mobile). If you cannot attend this meeting, but are willing and able to serve on this committee, please let me know this as well, ASAP.

I have added a new member to this committee, Mary Davis. She and her husband, Neal, are fairly new members to LUMC. If you do not know her as yet, please introduce yourself to her.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on the 11th.

Susan P. Powell

LUMC Mission Zone Jodie Dowhan

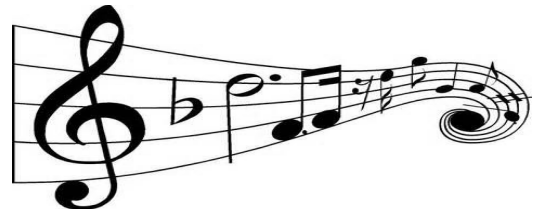
Thanks to everyone for the generous school supply donations. Vaughan Elementary School and The John 3:16 Center both stated their appreciation for our ongoing support of their school supply drives. The supplies we donated will reach children in Warren, Halifax, and Northampton Counties. During the months of September and October, the Mission Zone will continue to collect food for the ACTS Food Pantry and books for Vaughan Elementary School.

LUMC Sunday School Resumes September 15th

Sunday School for Littleton UMC resumes on September 15th at 11 a.m. in the conference room. We will be in Florida the first two weekends in September, so you get a little longer summer break. Our lessons will take up with the Book of Jeremiah and continue through the Old Testament. Our faithful teacher for more than 40 years, Don Beazley, has officially retired, so I'll keep at it as long as the Lord permits. I hope its as much fun for you as it is for me.

Marti Theune

LUMC Choir Gloria Kuhns



We are in dire need of choir members so that we can continue this music ministry in our church.

We would appreciate anyone who has a love for music to join us. There are no auditions and no attendance requirements. We understand that at times other obligations will not permit attending rehearsals and services.

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, September 4, 2019. We ask that you come when you can and work together to make a "joyful noise" for our Lord.

Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Sept 27th - Staff by Littleton Baptist
Oct 25th - Staff by Calvary UMC

Report from LUMC Church Council Dick O'Sullivan, Chairperson

We are happy to report our Lay Leader, Tim Townsend, has shown good progress in movement of his right leg and foot. Don Beazley has been to visit also reports that Tim is using a walker. This is great news and we hope and pray that his progress continues. Tim is now in a brand new facility called The Lodge in Rocky Mount for continued rehab.

Regarding our Vaughan school reading/book program, Carol Townsend has asked for assistance in keeping-up with the gathering of books for the next term. The school runs from K thru 5th grade, so these are the kind of books needed.

It's great to see Kaye Herman back at church and she was seen at Food Lion this week. Kaye hopes to get the boot off the first week of September.

This fall the Trustees plan to do some maintenance work around the Church, Fellowship hall and the Parsonage grounds. Some of the plants and bushes grow so fast it's hard to keep up with them. The tower bell is also on the list.

Thanks to Charlotte Wright and Ann Herbert for stepping up to help sort and categorize the books.... Please keep them coming! The school supplies are also flowing in. Mary & Neal Davis and Susan & Les Powell are helping to sort the material and take it to Vaughan school when needed. Carol certainly appreciates it.

The Finance and the Church Council committee have both agreed to a salary increase for both of our Pastors. Now the SPRC (of the four churches) can work on their budgets for next year. The budget has to be approved at the Charge Conference on November 4th. Some good news is our apportionments will be decreasing for next year.

May the Lord Bless & keep You Safe,
Dick O'Sullivan, Chair.

Thank you

Many thanks to all who have called, sent cards and prayed for me during my recent surgery and recovery. I am truly grateful for your support and good wishes. I am back home at the lake now and hope to see you in church. Many thanks again for your concerns.

Don Beazley

Just wanted to thank everyone for your prayers, calls, cards, food and visits while I have been recuperating. My mother sent me a card and said she and Daddy were not able to come help me but would be praying that God would send people who could. I have certainly had lots of people helping me. I am certainly blessed with family and friends.

**Thanks again,
Kaye Herman**

I would like to thank all my church members for the cards, texts, phone calls and friendship shown to me at this time of sorrow. Losing my daughter, Karen Inscoc Shearin, has been heartbreaking but because of my faith, I truly believe she is rejoicing in heaven without any pain or suffering. Thank you so much, my church family means a great deal to me.

A big thank you to our minister Stan Lewis.....his support has been a real comfort.

Dorothy Eisenson

Fortieth Anniversary of Mystery Ramble to England and France By Marti Theune

Note: This is a story about something I was involved in 40 years ago when life was much simpler. Since we're all United Methodists, I thought you might enjoy reading about it.

It was sunny and hot as we pulled out of the parking lot at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Waldorf, Maryland, on Friday, August 10, 1979. Yes, forty years have passed since that monumental trip billed as the "International Mystery Ramble," which took our youth fellowship on a nine-day excursion to England and France in 1979! Several parents of participating youth still attend Good Shepherd, and I hear from quite a few of those who now have teens and beyond of their own. I hope you will all enjoy this little recap of a memorable by-gone era.

The planning team consisted of the late Judy Brosky, Youth Advisor, Marti Mumford (now Theune), Youth Coordinator, and Charlie Lightner, former Pastor of Good Shepherd. *On a Mystery Ramble, no one but the three planners knew the destination.* Parents were given sealed envelopes containing a detailed itinerary upon departure, with strict instructions not to reveal destinations should their offspring figure out a way to communicate with them. This, of course, was way before cell phones and laptops. And, this time, everyone needed a passport!

Thirty-eight people signed up to go. Each person was asked to pay only \$200. Almost all of the rest of the money necessary for such a large undertaking was raised in more than 23 work projects. The tour was generously supported by members and friends of Good Shepherd. Also contributing were the Waldorf Jay Cees who gave a gift of money that paid for a side trip to France, in addition to our week-long stay in London.

We toured Buckingham Palace for the changing of the Guard, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Parliament, Trafalgar Square, Soho, Piccadilly Circus, Carnaby Street, Hyde Park (where we saw and photographed actor Charlton Heston hanging out), Greenwich, and St. Paul's Cathedral. We also toured the Tower of London, and had a day-trip to France. Of special interest to us as Methodists was the recently renovated historical chapel where John Wesley founded our denomination. Two very significant events occurred for us there. Pastor Lightner was invited to participate in the christening of a baby and we were permitted to watch. Right after that, we visited the cemetery behind the chapel where John and Charles Wesley are buried. It was quite overgrown with weeds. Thinking of the many times we had done gardening work as a group to raise money for this trip, we volunteered to come back to this historical place and clean it up. Permission was granted. We rented equipment and worked until dark, feeling honored to do it. The tombstone of John Wesley was covered with moss, so one of our girls climbed to the top of it and scraped until it was clean. We had several other similar opportunities to be of service while on our journey, knowing we were being led by God.

I saw a recent picture of Wesley's tombstone, and now it is in a well-kept cemetery within a glass enclosure. The little inner-city church we visited is now a respected historic museum visited by people from all over the world. Little did we know at the time that we were making a significant contribution to the upkeep of our founding father's home church that was in that very year being refurbished in celebration of the 200th anniversary of its founding. (Many of you may remember. We were all asked to contribute.) The pastor there was anxious because the dedication was to take place at the end of the week we were there, and he had no idea how he was going to get the cemetery cleaned up to accommodate a crowd. *God dropped a little group of teenagers in his midst at just the right time and with just the right hearts. Such is His amazing grace!*



September Birthdays	Date
Gabrielle Pamer	1
Mark Isles	3
Karen Powers	5
Irene O'Sullivan	6
Justin Inscoe	7
Mark Mitchell	8
Wayne "Dude" Dickens	8
Kay Myrick	9
Winford Dickens	12
Stacie Rightmyer	16
Frances Shearin	17
George Alston	20
Elizabeth Inscoe	21
Macon White	21
Virginia Johnston	21
Anne Odom	22
Chase Webb	23
Steve West	23
Stephen Bishop	25
Christina Serafin	27
Harvey Dickens	27
Ann Ellis	28

September Anniversaries	Date
Jean & Glenwood Rose	1
Thomas & JoAnn Gediek	9
George & Sylvia Alston	13
Hugh & Peg Fowler	22

October Anniversaries	Date
Terry & Jill Priestino	12
Dick & Irene O'Sullivan	18

October Birthdays	Date
Joseph Gediek	2
Bob Hayes	3
Wanda Osberg	4
Martha Hayes	6
Bessie Mae Morris	6
Connie Gibson	7
Kaye Crum	8
Carmen Lyles	11
Dean Riggan	12
Mandy Mathews	13
Hugh Fowler	14
Landen Morris	14
Michael Morris	17
Diane Carter	18
Judy Woodburn	18
Danny Inscoe	19
Lewis Fields	19
Carlton Cooley	21
Donald Robertson	21
Phil Taylor	21
Robbie Morris	22
Faith Walters	24
Pat Serafin	24
Sylvia Alston	25
Sheree Pilgreen	25
Donald Robertson	26
Dorothy Eisenson	28
Ashley West	29
Jeff Inscoe	29
Shondrea Gediek	30

LUMC Greeters & Ushers Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Coffee time Host	Communion Stewards
Sept 1	Loretta Woodburn	George Alston Jeff Dowhan	Carol Lindley	Dick & Irene O'Sullivan
Sept 8	Jean Houston	George Alston Jeff Dowhan	Jean Houston	
Sept 15	Charlotte Wright	George Alston Jeff Dowhan	Charlotte Wright	
Sept 22	Pat Chance	George Alston Jeff Dowhan	Pat Chance	
Sept 29	Jean Houston	George Alston Jeff Dowhan	Marti Theune	
Oct 6	Peg Fowler	George Houston Matt Johnston	Peg Fowler	Kaye Herman
Oct 13	Ann & Gary Herbert	George Houston Matt Johnston	Ann Herbert	
Oct 20	Loretta Woodburn	George Houston Matt Johnston	Carol Lindley	
Oct 27	Jean Houston	George Houston Matt Johnston	Jodie Dowhan	

LUMC Scripture Reading & Counter Schedule

DATE	COUNTERS	READER	SCRIPTURE
Sept 1, 2019	Peg Fowler George Houston	Jason Duvall	Jeremiah 2: 4-13 Psalm 81: 1, 10-16 Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16
Sept 8, 2019	Susan Merchant Jeff Dowhan	Marie Fields	Jeremiah 18, 1-11 Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1 - 21 Luke 13, 25-33
Sept 15, 2019	Kaye Herman Susan Doughtie	Jason Duvall	Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 Luke 15: 1-10
Sept 22, 2019	Jimmy King Richard Sherman	Jodie Dowhan	Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1 Psalm 79: 1-9 1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Luke 16: 1-13
Sept 29, 2019	Kaye Herman Susan Merchant	Kaye Herman	Jeremiah 32: 1-3, 6-15 Psalm 91; 1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6: 6-19
Oct 6, 2019	Peg Fowler Don Theune	Jason Duvall	Lamentations 1: 1-6 Psalm 137 2 Timothy 1: 1-14 Luke 17: 5-10
Oct 13, 2019	Nancy Wehrman Mike Doughtie	Nancy Beazley Wehrman	Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 Psalm 66: 1-12 2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Luke 17: 11-19
Oct 20, 2019	George Houston Don Theune	Jason Duvall	Jeremiah 31: 27-34 Psalm 119: 97-104 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5 Luke 18: 1-8
Oct 27, 2019	Richard Sherman Jeff Dowhan	Matt Johnston	Joel 2: 23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14



September

Tuesday, September 3

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, September 4

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, September 5

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, September 8

8 am Men's Breakfast at Calvary UMC

Monday, September 9

11:30 am UMW Lunch & meeting

Tuesday, September 10

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's
4-6:30 pm Game Night & Supper at LUMC Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 11

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice
2 pm LUMC Worship Committee

Thursday, September 12

12 pm LUMC Trustees at Casa Mia's
7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, September 15

9 am Corinth Homecoming
3 pm SPRC meeting

Tuesday, September 17

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, September 18

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, September 19

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, September 22

9 am Fellowship Breakfast Weaver's Chapel
11 am Corinth Church Council

Tuesday, September 24

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, September 25

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, September 26

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Friday, September 27

10 am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry



Tuesday, October 1

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, October 2

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, October 3

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, October 6

World Communion Sunday
12 pm Calvary Church Council

Tuesday, October 8

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's
4-6:30 pm Game Night & Supper at LUMC Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 9

12 pm Women in Christian Fellowship
1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, October 10

12 pm LUMC Trustees at Casa Mia's
7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, October 13

8 am Men's Breakfast at Calvary UMC

Monday, October 14

11:30 am UMW Lunch & meeting

Tuesday, October 15

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, October 16

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, October 17

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Sunday, October 20

3 pm SPRC meeting

Tuesday, October 22

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's
5:30 pm Weaver's Church Council

Wednesday, October 23

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, October 24

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

Friday, October 25

10 am Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Saturday, October 26

Newsletter deadline

Sunday, October 27

9 am Fellowship Breakfast Weaver's Chapel

Tuesday, October 29

6:30 am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's

Wednesday, October 30

1 pm LUMC Choir Practice

Thursday, October 31

7 pm Calvary Choir Practice

*Littleton United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 26
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