

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 18, No. 10

October 2022

Large “C” Church

“... on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

(Matthew 16:18)

I don’t remember the year; it was probably 2006 or 2007. However, I remember the day very well for one particular reason. I was participating in a gathering of annual conference leaders: the bishop, superintendents, conference staff, team leaders, etc. We were gathered for a day of visioning for the direction of the annual conference. The crowd was gathered in a large conference room, seated at tables of seven to eight people each. The facilitator asked us to have conversation on the question, “What do you think God may be saying to the United Methodist Church right now?” After several minutes of table discussion, the facilitator gathered our attention and invited someone from each table to share their responses. I’ll never forget the first response. A man spoke up and said, “God may be saying to the United Methodist Church, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.’” It felt like someone had sucked all the air out of the room. Interestingly, it also felt like someone had just been bold enough to say what others may have been thinking. If you don’t understand why that statement was so stunning, remember these words were spoken by Jesus, who proclaimed this as his own statement of approval to those who have served him well and now stand before him in judgment (Matthew 25:21). The implication was obvious: *your work is done.*

To be clear, I am not suggesting that the work of the UMC is finished. My point is that in the minds of many people, particularly those who have been deeply invested in its ministries, the very idea of a denomination having an end to its life cycle can be practically inconceivable. The response from people in the conference room that day made this abundantly clear. While such a response may be understandable, I think we might also admit that it is a bit curious. Why? Because as Christians, we know that the foundation of our identity is in the person of Jesus Christ through the Church he established roughly 2,000 years ago, the Church we confess in our creeds to be the “one catholic and apostolic” church. As it is sometimes said, there is a difference between the large “C” Church and small “c” churches. When Jesus proclaimed the unfailing work and growth of his collective body, he was talking about big “C” Church. Denominations are not bad by nature. They provide for distinctive expressions of faith among diverse people. They allow for nuances in secondary doctrines to be held without hindering the ministry of Christ. They facilitate networking of missions and support to local congregations. Denominations just cannot become our primary

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source of Christian identity; we find that solely in Jesus Christ. Russell Memorial (or any local congregation) is small “c” church. The United Methodist Church (or any Christian denomination) is small “c” church. Small “c” churches are born along the course of history. They rise and fall through the decades and, at times, come to the end of their life cycle within our own observable lifetime. Seeing the decline or death of small “c” churches always brings sadness, but it should not cause confusion or despair. The Kingdom of our Lord is one large “C” Church that will never fail.

At a church conference held on Sunday, September 25 professing members of Russell Memorial voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist denomination effective December 31. I take no joy in sharing that news, nor do I share it apologetically. I grieve with those of you who hold deep ties to the UMC. Believe me when I say I am one such person. United Methodists are largely the people who nurtured me, disciplined, taught, and loved me, and ultimately affirmed my calling to pastoral ministry. I owe a great debt of gratitude to many faithful United Methodists. At the same time I realize that every now and then a season comes within small “c” churches when visions for denominational ministry diverge. Recognizing the reality of that divergence, the people of Russell Memorial have chosen to not pursue the vision that is becoming increasingly apparent within the United Methodist Church. Was the decision unanimous? No, and that is one reason why a time like this is painful. Years of work and worship together have a way of solidifying our sense of identity with people who share a common mission and heritage. Not all hearts are rejoicing right now. According to the teaching of the apostle Paul, let us “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15). Pray for one another, especially for those whose vision for our congregation may be different than yours. Let us be respectful when faced with disagreement. Let us bless each other at all times, even at times when we find that we cannot walk together.

Now back up with me for a moment. If you heard my words as prophesying the death of the United Methodist Church, allow me to correct you. I have no such prediction, nor such desire. My prayer is that God will do great things through the UMC, as well as all small “c” churches. United Methodists have done amazing things for the Kingdom. Undeniably there are problems that need to be addressed, but that is true in any denomination. I celebrate the work of the UMC. My prayer is that they will grow and be blessed in pursuing their vision for the large “C” Church of Jesus. That is my prayer also for the Russell Memorial congregation as we move forward into the future. Exactly what that looks like is not yet certain. The church administrative council has had conversation about our next steps. A recommendation will likely come soon. Whatever direction we discern to be best for our small “c” church, we can be sure of one thing: our labor in the Lord’s ministry will never be in vain (1 Cor. 15:58) because Jesus will make good on his promise to build the large “C” Church. That is the Church that cannot fail. Praise be to God!

Pastor Dave



Human Sized Board Game

RMUMC youth and Cheatham youth enjoyed a board game activity. This was no regular board game, it was a human size board game. We played a game of chutes and ladders where each person was a pawn on the human size board. It looked like they would be a clear winner when all of a sudden with one roll of the dice they slide down the board game. In the end, Andrew Hammons was the winner of the game. Those in attendance were Maggie McDonald, Marguerite Groover, Andrew Hammons, Frances Groover, Robby Groover, Joseph Hammons, and AJ Galope.

GaGa Ball

Our youth had a combined activity with Cheatham's youth. They enjoyed several games of gaga ball. 40 minutes into playing it was discovered that two baby bunnies made their home in the gaga pit. So, play with suspended and we continue our activities in the youth room playing pool, foosball, and ping-pong. AJ Galope was in attendance.

Swim Party at the Turner's

The youth were able to enjoy one last swim party of the summer. Larry and Theresa Turner graciously offered their pool for the youth to enjoy. They used the diving board to play pool horse, lounge and relax in the water, and played corn hole. A good time was had by all. Those in attendance were AJ Galope, Sophia Nychka, Frances Groover, Johanna Cartwright, Andrew Hammons, Joseph Hammons, and Natalie Hullum.

Pictures on page 6

Calendar of Events for October

Dates to Remember for October



Monday, October 3, 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. United Women of Faith Meeting
 10:00 a.m. Safety Team Meeting
 Sunday, October 9, 8:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast
 11:15 a.m. SPRC Meeting
 Tuesday, October 11, UMM Work Day
 Wednesday, October 12, NO Bells or Choir Practice
 Saturday, October 15, 7a.m.-1p.m. Rummage Sale for Angel Tree
 Ladies Club Pancake Breakfast in George Hall
 Monday, October 17, 5:00 p.m., Day School Board Meeting
 6:00 p.m., Finance Meeting
 Thurs. Oct 20—Sat. Oct. 22, Angel Tree Interviews
 Saturday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. WPHS Fall Ball in George Hall

Happy Birthday!

		Mark Brown	10/27
		Jeff Roberts	10/29
		Sherri Rowe	10/30
Inez Wade	10/3		
Ben Curtis	10/5		
Darlene Kelley	10/6		
Weldon George	10/10		
Billie Cade	10/13		
Rob Nychka	10/16		
Wanda Williams	10/16		
Joyce Harris	10/20		
Kyle Rowland	10/24		



Right Now Media



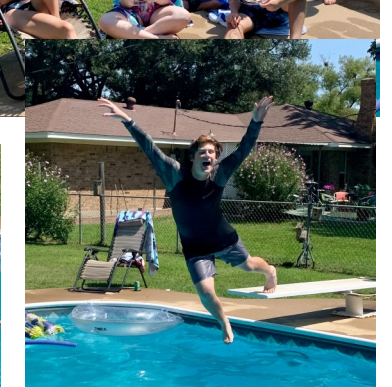
Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.

Our Presence and Our Gifts

	<u>Sept 4</u>	<u>Sept 11</u>	<u>Sept 18</u>	<u>Sept 25</u>
Worship	71	89	86	95
Giving	\$5,661.00	\$8,391.00	\$3,820.00	\$3,528.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	3 6:00 pm Trustees	4 6:00 pm Nominations Committee Meeting	5 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	6	7	8 9:00 am UWF Meeting, Deen Building 10:00 am Safety Team
9 8:00 am UMM Meeting 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am SPRC meeting	10	11 United Methodist Men Work Day	12	13	14	15 9:00 am Crafting with Christ (in George Hall) 7am-1pm Rummage Sale for Angel Tree Ladies Club Pancake Breakfast in George Hall
16 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	17 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance Meeting	18	19 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	20 6pm—8pm Angel Tree Interviews	21 8am-11am Angel Tree Interviews	22 8am-11am Angel Tree Interviews WPHS Fall Ball in George Hall
23 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	24	25	26 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15am Admin Council Meeting	31					

If you have items for the Rummage Sale, please bring them to the church ASAP!!



Remember in Prayer:

Rudolph Family
Patricia Howard's Family
Family of Hunter Haney
Family of Terry McDermott
Family of "Tank" Williams, Jr
Family of Josh Loveless
Family of Bob Nicklassin
Family of Anson Jamison
Art Galope, Jr
Alice Kolb
Andy Anderson
Angie Smith
Barbara Grimes Petty
Betty Manning
Billie Cade
Bobbi Smith
Carl Fulton
Carol Groves
Chad Ash
Cheryl Bradley

Cheryl Shaw
College Students
Crestwood Nursing &
Assisted Living
Darin Richardson
David Cartwright (not Pastor
Dave)
Dianna Perry
Eric Johns
Evan Mayone
Harrison Mayone
Isaac Bullard
Jared McDonald
Jeff D'Amico
Jim Freeman
Jim & Sandra Smith
Joe Madden
John Buffington
Judith Hollister
Judy Powers
Katie McDonald
Kay & Benny Mitchell

Karl & Keeta Lybrand
Laura Bates
Linda Greenwald
Lucy Hill
Lyn Haney
Marigrace & Mike Lang
Margie Evers
Mark Brown
Marty Mitchell
Mary Bullard
Maxine Page
Mike Tolin
Prater Monning
Richard Anderson
Richard Briley
RMUMC Staff
Robert Butts
Students, Teachers, & Admin
Sunday School & Church
Travis Deen
Virginia Cockerham



Memorials

In memory of
Terry McDermott
Given by

Fritz Gilbreth, Gloria McDermott Jackson,
Carol McDermott, Marilyn & Jeffery Murry,
And Myrna & William Rustad.

A memorial leaf has been given in memory of
Terry McDermott
by the Seekers Sunday School Class.

Roberts Receives Unsung Hero Award

Dave Campbell's Texas Football has partnered with Texas Farm Bureau Insurance to shine the spotlight on some of the most deserving young people in Texas Football with the Unsung Hero Award (including a \$500 scholarship). Students honored are presented with an award at their school's Friday night football game. Wills Point ISD (and Russell Memorial) is proud to be home of this year's one of five recipients in the State of Texas, Mr. Cole Roberts!



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Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
John Ross, Minister of Music
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Kelli Huff, K6 Kids Coordinator

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED