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The Flame

of Burns Memorial United Methodist Church

August 2023

On Fire for Christ

Issue Number 211

From The Pastor

“Now what happens, John,” *George* asked.

We had just finished the Called Church Conference on July 11, in which Burns Memorial voted 49-0 to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. It was a tremendous show of church unity.

“Burns will be added to the list of churches to be voted on for disaffiliation at the November 18, 2023 Called Annual Conference. This vote is called ‘ratifying the agreement.’ And this vote only requires a simple majority of those delegates present voting.”

“OK, John, well then what happens next for Burns?”

“Once ratified, we are no longer United Methodist. We will have until the end of December to finalize the process. We will need to give the conference a check for around \$ 45,000. This finishes paying the two years of apportionments and our portion of the unfunded pension liabilities. We will also need to change our signage around the church and remove items that say, “United Methodist.”

“So, what comes after this for Burns?”

“The largest decision we now have is whether we want Burns to exist as an independent congregation, or do we want to join with a new community of Methodists. We will be discussing this, but taking no official vote, at our next Administrative Council meeting, August 21. We have a team looking into the options, and they will be making a report at the Council meeting. I expect we will make a firm decision sometime this fall.”

“How you feel, personally, about all of this, John?”

“Well, there is a scene at the end of the 1971 movie, *Fiddler on the Roof*, in which the Jews are being forced to leave their home in Anatevka. It has been a hard place to live, but they had been there for generations, it had been their home. They have mixed emotions. But as Tevye, Golde and their two youngest daughters leave the village for America, the fiddler begins to play. Tevye beckons with a nod, and the fiddler follows them out of the village.

George, I think change is hard, but we too have a hopeful, bright, and wonderful future awaiting us. And the fiddler goes with us – our traditions, our heritage, our legacy – these all go with us. We may not be a “United” Methodist Church, but we will continue to be Burns



Our final outing with the United Methodist Men this summer will be Old McDonald Fish Camp on August 24. We will meet at the restaurant at 6:30 PM. If you need transportation please call Carl Adams at 706-798-5254. Mark your calendar and make plans to have dinner out with everyone in August!

The Flame Deadline: August 21st

Memorial METHODIST Church – a welcoming, loving community of Christians, on Lumpkin Road, in south Augusta, GA. And, *George*, I am pleased and excited to be on the journey with you all.”

Grace & Peace

Pastor John

P.S.: This conversation is a work of fiction, but the original name for our church is George Doster Burns Memorial Methodist Church.

THE BIBLE STUDY

Disciples of Jesus, after a brief July break, let’s go back to work! Our Bible Studies start back in the first week of August. Our primary focus this year will be on **The Book of Isaiah**. This book has been called a “Fifth Gospel” because of his emphasis on the Messiah. But this is just one part of Isaiah. The book covers a wide array of issues and theology. Some scholars have said that all of Biblical Theology is addressed in Isaiah. If the phrase "swords into ploughshares" or "voice in the wilderness" are familiar to you, then you already know some of what Isaiah is about.

As we did last year with the Mark Study, we will be using short video clips from a Biblical professor and noted scholar on the subject. This year the clips will be from **Dr. John N. Oswalt**, (PhD, Brandeis University), an ordained United Methodist Minister and a visiting distinguished professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY. He is the author of a two-volume commentary on Isaiah, and translated Isaiah for the New International Version of the Bible. We include watching short clips from his “Isaiah, a Video Study” in the Bible Study.



The ZOOM class starts again at 6 PM, Tuesday night, August 1, and the in-person class is starting back at 10 AM, Wednesday, August 2. I think it will be an enjoyable and valuable study. Everyone is welcome. 😊



LET’S MEET AT THE LAKE

Our annual Summer Picnic and Worship Service at the St. John UMC property at Clark Hill Lake (12553 Hwy 28 South, Clarks Hill, SC 29821) will be on **Sunday, August 20**. Once again we will have supper at 5 PM and the service around 6 PM. Come over early if you would like to take a dip! Please let us know at the office if you will be able to attend. Grilled hotdogs and hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring picnic like side dishes! We will still be having our regular worship service at 11 AM at the church.



Summer Word Search

B	F	G	P	W	W	S	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	S	P	X
A	A	N	R	V	D	L	X	T	C	B	N	B	B	F	O	Q
A	I	R	C	I	W	V	O	X	W	Q	Y	E	B	G	O	H
T	E	R	B	W	L	H	G	I	C	S	A	B	T	J	L	U
G	U	N	C	E	S	L	N	V	N	C	L	Z	E	E	L	N
Z	O	B	Q	O	C	Z	I	O	H	O	Y	C	F	K	I	N
J	Q	I	K	B	N	U	W	N	I	W	I	M	K	W	A	W
E	E	S	J	T	E	D	E	K	G	T	Y	T	Q	H	T	L
N	H	N	T	W	R	B	I	K	R	W	A	R	A	I	N	R
S	T	G	X	A	E	A	G	T	M	A	E	X	U	C	E	M
A	A	K	H	N	O	N	V	A	I	N	P	S	A	L	A	F
P	B	F	G	Z	I	B	E	E	I	O	M	R	C	L	H	V
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V	U	V	M	X	C	P	S	E	W	I	S	I	A	T	Y	R
R	S	I	F	E	W	N	J	S	E	P	N	E	N	Y	A	J
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S	C	I	Z	S	I	M	B	P	J	O	S	J	A	S	Y	V

RELAXATION
TRAVELING
HOT
SUNSHINE
POPSICLE

BARBECUE
OCEAN
BEACH
SUNBATHE
GRILLING

VACATION
SWIMSUIT
AIR CONDITIONING
SWIMMING
ICE CREAM

WATER PARK
LAKE
POOL
CAMPING
SPEEDBOAT

