



Lakewood Leader

Lakewood United Methodist Church - 2443 Abrams Road - Dallas, TX 75214

YOUR STAFF

Gayle Landis
Pastor

John Gill
Music Director
and Organist

Penny Mitchell
Children's Minister

Sheila Richards
Church Secretary

Joan O'Brien
Nursery

Elouise Murphy
Bookkeeper

YOUR CLASSES

Wesley Beacons
Harmony
Youth
Children
Nursery

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Visit our website:
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Office Hours
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Monday – Thursday
8 a.m. – 12 noon - Friday

(Below is an article written by Cindy Estee who recently went to Haiti as a member of a Methodist mission team.)

I came back from Haiti with the prayer that He will lead me back there again, and that He will lead some of you to go back with me. I came back with the prayer that He will lead all of us to work from here, for Haiti.

This my story. This is your story, and it is the story of people living in tent cities in Port au Prince, Haiti. We share the story because we are alike in the only way that really matters. We are all the people He came for.

It begins with the Gospel of Luke, with a day early in Jesus' ministry when He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to read from the scripture. Luke says that Jesus stood to read, and that He opened the scroll to what we now know as Isaiah 61. . .

Now I know that in the literal reality of things, outside the synagogue that day, dogs were barking, birds were singing and fish were swimming. But I also know that in a reality more true than literal, at that moment, at the moment when He stood . . . the earth stopped twirling on its axis, and bees suspended flight mid air. The lions ceased their roaring, and the dog in the marketplace. He dropped his juicy bone.

Because He was here. Emanuel. God with us. He was here. And he was announcing himself. And this, this of all things. . . this is what He said:

The spirit of the Lord is upon me. Because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, and He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, and to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

And we read the gospels, and we know that Jesus did that. Exactly that. He healed the leper, and fed the people. He put his finger in the deaf man's ear and caused him to hear. He restored sight to the blind, and washed his disciple's feet. The God who created the universe, with a towel and a basin. He allowed the fallen woman to anoint his head with oil. And he found Zachaeus in that tree.

(Continuation of Cindy Estee's story)

And we read those things and we say, Jesus came for the people. And we know that when we say He came for the people, we mean the people we read about in the gospels. We also know, when we say He came for the people, we mean the people we met yesterday and the people we will meet tomorrow, and it means you, each of you. And all of us, each of us know, that when we say He came for the people, it means me. To each of us, it means me. He came for me. Because we know that just in the way that He touched the inside of the deaf man's ear, He touches us in that precise place where we are broken. He heals us in the way that only God can, and gives us new life. And because of that, and as part of that process He dwells within us, and we know his voice, and we hear his voice. And He calls to us. He calls us by name and calls us in community, and we hear him say, So send I you. He calls us to where He also is, to places where the needs are great and the wounds are deep. He calls us there, because that is where He is.

I had the opportunity to go to Haiti, a place where the needs are indeed staggering and wounds are very deep . I had that opportunity because of the prayers and encouragement and support of Charlie, and my parents and Gayle, and of you, this community. This church. I went as a part of you, a member of this body.

I went to Haiti as part of a Methodist program called Volunteers in Mission, a program which trains and sends out mission teams all over the world. Our eight team members were from Washington, Wisconsin, Texas, Colorado and South Dakota. I didn't know any of them when the trip started, but we were a community by the time the trip was over. One of the members had a dry, right-on sense of humor that reminded me of John Gill, so you can imagine, in addition to everything else, we had a lot of fun.

Before we went to Haiti we had read about the January 2010 earthquake. I knew that even before the earthquake Haiti was considered one of the most impoverished countries in the world and that after the earthquake the situation became even more dire. I knew that after the earthquake 80 percent of the adult population did not have jobs. After the earthquake the water and sewage systems were in shambles, and that in Port au Prince alone, more than a million people were living in tents and temporary shelters. I had read about all of that. But nothing prepared me for what I actually saw when we got off of the plane in Port au Prince. The biggest and most immediate shock to me was the congestion and the crowds.

We spent our first night at the Methodist Guest House in Port au Prince, where we met Tom and Deana and Beth, the United Methodist team on the ground full time. Those people are saints. They do the nitty gritty work of love. Literally. The way it works is that the Methodist Church in Haiti identifies priorities and

projects. Then Tom and Deana and Beth match and coordinate those projects with the teams that come in from the United States. Two to three teams from the United States come in on an average week. We talked to Tom quite a bit that evening. He said two things that I want to pass on. He said, "When you go home, tell your people that they are doing good work here, that because of the church in the United States, the church in Haiti is out in the world with the people where it should be." He also said, "We have learned that if it is something important, and you really need to be sure it gets done, you get the United Methodist Women on it. And they will make it happen."

We learned that our assignment was to go to Arcahaie, a little village about an hour and a half up the coast from Port au Prince. The next morning we got in a van and headed off for Archayah. The country side outside Port au Prince is about 95 percent deforested, and very desolate, and was dotted with tent cities. We spent most of the week in Arcahaie, painting the church and teaching children in Bible School. There is very little public education in Haiti, and even though the private schools are often relatively inexpensive, the cost is too much for many families. Many, if not most of the children we taught in Bible School were not enrolled in school.

When we returned to Port au Prince, we had a full day to see more of the city. We saw thousands and thousands of tents pushed together, in crowded spaces. Collapsed buildings. Rubble. People living without adequate water or sewage or shelter.

We had expressed a particular desire to go to Grace Children's Hospital to make contacts with people in the medical community there. Lorna, our team leader, made that happen. The earthquake totally wiped out the hospital for the most part. Yet even among the shambles of the buildings, Grace Children's Hospital was providing clinics and people were sitting and waiting patiently to see doctors and nurses. The hospital also runs medical vans out to the tent cities to provide medical care.

We asked Paul our guide whether or not there were any hospital beds remaining. He proudly told us that there were sixteen beds. He took us across the street to a small compound of shipping containers that have been converted into medical units. There were several container clinic buildings, and a 16-bed hospital room. Four of the beds were for older children. The rest of the sixteen beds were really cribs for babies.

As we were standing in that converted container, the only in-patient room at the hospital, one of the little girls started crying. She was an HIV/TB baby, tied with cotton strips to the slats in her crib, probably because of the IV in her arm. She was trying to lift her head up, but she couldn't. She was crying and crying. And I didn't know what to do. She was crying and crying. and I thought, I'm only me. She was crying and crying. and I thought, I'm afraid. She was crying and, for me,

His voice was in her cries. And suddenly, I had to get across the room to her. As much as I needed to breathe, I needed to get across the room to her. I think maybe Lorna, our team leader, heard the same call because she had already gone. But even when I got there, I didn't know what to do, and couldn't really comfort her. Finally I just put my hand over her heart and prayed. Since I returned, I have thought about that moment a lot. And this is what I think. I think that the reason that I had to get across the room to that baby—is because I am one of the people He came for. And so is she. And when I put my hand over her heart and looked at her and she looked at me, we shared the only thing that really matters, The Body of Christ in the world.

Now that moment is teaching me something. It is teaching me that we don't have to be afraid when He calls. We don't have to be afraid that it is too little or too late. Because the One who calls us, can use us. The other thing is that we don't have to be afraid of what He calls us to do. He may call us to enter the space of suffering with another person. He is likely to do that. He may call us to a place or a task where the days are long and the nights are cold and the water is deep. He is likely to do that too. But none of that matters. Because He calls us to where He is. And as long as we are with Him, as long as we are with Him, even if it is messy, or awkward or even painful, and *even if it was always so*. . . it would not matter. Because when we are with Him, as long as we are with Him, as long as we are with Him we are breathing the air of the resurrection.

A WORD FROM THE TRUSTEES...

During the hard freeze earlier this year, the church's heating and cooling system for the sanctuary was severely damaged. Because the cost to repair the existing system was equal to the cost to install a new system, the decision was made to install a new system. It is expected that insurance will cover approximately half of the cost. The work is ongoing and a significant portion of the old system has already been demolished and removed. If there are no surprises or delays, the new system should be operational before the end of June. We thank you for your patience.

LAKWOOD UMW CIRCLE NEWS

The Lakewood UMW Circle met on Tuesday, May 17, at the home of Robbie Moore with eight members present. They also took in two new members at this meeting – Elaine MacKay and Mary Shivers. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21 at 10:30 a.m. All women are invited!

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It is hard for me to believe that it has been a whole year since I came to Lakewood UMC as the children's minister. As Pastor Gayle articulated to you before I was hired, growing the children's ministry of the church would not automatically happen just by hiring a children's minister. In looking at the accomplishments of the last year in children's ministry, I organized and led vacation Bible school last summer, had Marvelous Mondays for most of the summer, implemented a multi-age Sunday School curriculum and acquired dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers to teach on Sunday mornings. I have tried to articulate through these monthly articles the importance of a child's spiritual growth and faith.

As I have stated to the Church Council, in order to grow the children's ministry at this church, I believe the church must grow its ministry to young adults (ages 20 – 35) as well as focus on the needs of children. I hope that going forward the Church Council will utilize the demographic data that Pastor Gayle and I provided to assess what the young adults in this area are looking for in a church home. I hope that more young adults (ages 20 – 35) become involved in the leadership of this church so that Lakewood can become a place where both young single adults and young families want to worship, participate in ministry to others and grow in their relationship with God.

Lakewood UMC is a wonderful church community and I am so appreciative of the love and support I have been given here. I will miss you all and I will continue to be in prayer for the future ministries of this faithful church.

Blessings!

Penny Mitchell
Children's Minister

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many kindnesses you have shown me during my "down times." I especially want to thank the Wesley Beacon Class for the beautiful flowers you sent on my birthday.

I love you all,

Laura Mae Railey

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Mamantov joined the Lakewood Family of Faith on Sunday, May 1.



Chris, Ginny and Andrew Venable joined Lakewood on Sunday, May 15. The family transferred from St. Stephen UMC in Mesquite. They also have a daughter, Becca, and an older son, Zachary.



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO...

- Julie Stauble – 6/3
- Becky Heflin – 6/4
- Brian Bennett – 6/5
- Carol Ann Ravert – 6/5
- Melissa Stauble – 6/5
- Avis Markussen – 6/6
- Aidan McLaughlin – 6/6
- Jeanne Davis – 6/8
- Megan Landis – 6/17
- Blake Fomby – 6/21
- Jo Dillard – 6/23

DINNER & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

**Benefiting
Not Home Alone
An After School Program at
Agape Memorial UMC**

will take place in Lakewood's Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 18, from 6-8 p.m. Tickets for the taco dinner is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under age 12.

RSVP for dinner place count to Juan at 972-252-7828 or tjtrillo@verizon.net.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Tuesday, June 14

Wesleyan Guild
Potluck dinner @ 6:30 p.m.
with the meeting at 7 pm.

Tuesday, June 21

UMW Circle – 10:30 a.m.
@ the home of Robbie Moore

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The following meetings have been placed on the Church Calendar:

Prayer Group – every Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Library

Game Night – Friday, June 10, from 7-10 p.m. – Family Life Center

Finance Committee – Monday, June 13, at 7:15 p.m.

Trustees – Monday, June 20, at 6 p.m.

Church Council – Monday, June 20, at 7 p.m.

IN OUR PRAYERS

**Bill DeLee
Helen Saulsman
Carolyn Miracle
Jackson Taylor
Katie Neuroth's mother
Cremmen Peters
Jean Bennett
Shane Scott
Mary McKnight Escobar
Montye Grubbs
Mary Haba
Kent Tyler (Neuroth Family Friend)
Mike Ray
Shirley Yandell
Darlene Rogers
Christina Carty
Caron New (Charolette Noel's mother)
Jordan May (Afganistan)
Michael Miranda (Marie Miranda's son)
Janece Bueché
George Laminack
Laura Mae Railey
Sid McClain, Sr. (Laura Rothe's father)
Chad Hambrick
Geraldine Chambless**



Mike Sheaner, a 1975 graduate of Dallas Jesuit College Prep, was honored at the Annual Jesuit Sports Hall of Fame Banquet on May 14 where he received the prestigious “Gold Ranger Award”. This award is presented each year to a former student for leadership and service. Mike currently serves as the President of the Texas Track and Field Coaches Association, a published Dallas Morning News sports contributor, a Jesuit Sports Hall of Fame selection committee member, a member of the Game Committee for the Jesuit-Sheaner Relays and an active official in track and field for DISD, the University Interscholastic League and Texas Private and Parochial League Schools.

Congratulations, Mike!!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.