



The John Wesley Journal

*John Wesley United Methodist Church, directed by prayer and the Holy Spirit,
shall be a worshipping, caring group of believers who make
and equip disciples for serving Jesus in the community and beyond.*

1689 Old St. Augustine Road • Tallahassee, FL, 32301 • (850) 877-1738 • www.johnwesleyumc.com

February 2012

The Greek Ekklesia and Our Church Today

"Church" is the word that we use in English in reference to the community of believers (the "body of Christ") or to the building where we regularly get together for worship. In the New Testament (written in Greek approximately during the second half of the First Century AD), "church" was the equivalent to the word "ekklesia." As John Wesley UMC continues a process of growth and transformation, I want to look at the original meaning of "ekklesia" and the way it was utilized by the earliest Christian writers. I hope that this reflection will enlighten us as to the way we "do church" today. But, let me first offer a word of caution: this article is not intended to exhaust the full meaning of "ekklesia" but just a few aspects that are relevant for us.

In classical Greek, the word "ekklesia" meant an assembly of the full citizens of a given city ("polis") who were summoned by the legislative assembly in order to discuss changes in the law, appointments to official positions, or other matters of internal and external policy (finance, war threats, treaties). Our neighborhood associations today which discuss issues pertaining to a given residential area (traffic, allowed ornamentation, districting, community life, etc.) somehow resemble the Greek ekklesias of old. The ekklesias were an integral part of Greco-Roman democracies in antiquity, and predecessors of our current implementation of democracy as the rule of the people.

Another important aspect is the root meaning of "ekklesia." It is derived from ek-kaleo, "ek" for "out," and "kaleo," "to call." "Ek-kaleo" was the verb used to summon or "call out" those who would assemble into the army for a given military maneuver. New Testament writers adopted the term to signify that Christians are called out, chosen out of the world, to be members of a new body, the body of Christ. The church is the community of "the called out ones."

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I want to propose three implications of the original meaning of "ekklesia" for our church today. I submit that for us to be "the church," we must show transparency, participation, and unity. Let me explain these three.

The citizens of a Greek "polis" were informed of matters concerning their future during the assembly or "ekklesia." In the same way, a church needs honesty and transparency in all its dealings and decisions. Legitimate issues that affect the future of the whole community should not be dealt with in secrecy. As a Biblical example, in Acts 6:1-7, we learn of a grudge that Greek widows in Jerusalem had against widows of Hebrew origin. The twelve disciples gathered all the believers and brought the matter before them (transparency). Together, they looked for a solution (participation), and the whole community was pleased with its implementation (unity). In our church, we need transparency in all matters. Our constituents have a right to know our financial records. All our meetings are open to observers with the exception of SPRC meetings; because, in those, we deal with private matters of staff personnel.

Those gathered into an assembly or "ekklesia" are there not only to be informed of what is going on, but also to participate in the search for solutions. The apostle Paul emphasized that, while members of the body of Christ have different functions, we all have a given role to play according to our spiritual gifts

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Getting to Know Our Newest Members

It was a genuine pleasure to welcome the family of Sungkyu Jang and Taehyun Kim into JWUMC membership in December 2010. Here are some tips to help you call them by name: His name is pronounced "sung-you" with the accent on the first syllable. Traditionally, in Korea, the wife keeps her original last name after marriage. Since "Kim" is so easy to say, Taehyun answers to Kim as though it was her first name (just to help us with pronunciation).

They were both born in Seoul, the capital city and the largest metropolis of South Korea. Their daughter, eight year-old Jin, was born in Seoul but their son, three year-old Joon, was born right here in Tallahassee. Jin is a third grader at Sealey Elementary School and Joon has attended Little Lambs since 2010. In fact, the Jangs decided to become members at John Wesley partially because of Little Lambs Preschool. Kim describes the teachers there as "kind and warm".

Sungkyu and Kim were both undergraduate students studying Public Administration at the University of Incheon in South Korea. Since their freshman year, they gradually got to know each other as they were in many of the same classes, studied together, and ate together at the cafeteria. The rest is history!

While in graduate school, Sungkyu decided he would like to be a professor or researcher in public administration. He has a particular interest in public finance. In order to pursue graduate studies, Sungkyu and his family moved to the United States in 2004. They lived in Indiana and California before coming to Florida State University for further study. Sungkyu is in the doctoral program in Public Administration. Kim, who worked in the counseling field in Korea, became interested in cultural issues in counseling and education while in the United States. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in school psychology. Kim is complimentary about the graduate studies in which they have participated, calling them both practical and innovative.

When asked what has been the hardest thing in which to adjust, she answers that she has had the greatest challenge in moving to a new country, particularly due to the lack of English skills. Kim says it is often difficult for them to communicate and interact - to the extent it sometimes makes them feel isolated.

Some "firsts" for them are eating roasted marshmallows and turkey.

I, for one, look forward to more communication with the Jangs. We have much to share with each other!

- Carolyn Glynn

Alternative Christmas Market Top Ten in Donations

went to the following:

Heifer Project International

TREATS, Inc.

Habitat for Humanity

Homeless Coalition

Elder Care Services

UMCOR

The Shelter

St. Frances Wildlife Association

ECHO

Second Harvest

Financial Peace Classes

Sundays

from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(No class on Easter Sunday)

For more information contact

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The Greek Ekklesia and Our Church Today

(Continued from page 1)

(Romans 12:4-8). Each member should participate and contribute to the future of the church. Another example of transparency, participation and unity comes from Acts 15:1-23, the so-called "Jerusalem Council." Here the apostles and disciples discussed how Gentile Christians, who did not follow the Jewish law, could be incorporated into the church. The decision was made by an assembly of the apostles and elders along with the whole church or "ekklesia" (Acts 15:22).

Finally, it is essential for the church to maintain its unity. In the previous example of the Jerusalem Council, many members of the "ekklesia" came with divergent opinions. I wish I could say that the entire church accepted the agreed-upon solution. However, from the letter to the Galatians, we learn that some continued to place unwarranted burdens on the Gentile Christians. This disunity caused much pain and afflictions. Paul wrote Galatians to remind believers of the decisions of the Jerusalem Council (Galatians 2:9-10), and to plead for unity around the apostolic belief that salvation is by faith and not by the legal works of the Jewish law (Galatians 3:10-14). Once again, Paul brought this matter before the church in order to resolve it with transparency, participation, and unity.

As we celebrate February with an emphasis on love, let us remember that the church is a community, an assembly, of all those called out by God, where all are important and none are indispensable. Let us continue to build our future with transparency, participation and unity.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Armando

Children's Ministry



We welcome Julie Childers as our new lead teacher for the children during Sunday School and Children's Church. Julie has a wealth of experience teaching children, and brings a wonderful enthusiasm to the job. Our child/youth protection policy requires two adults present with the children, and we thank our volunteers who have agreed to continue serving by helping with our children. Below are the volunteers who will partner with Julie on Sunday mornings:

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Sunday School: Alicia Wilson ☞ Children's Church: Angelyn Hirai

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Sunday School: Debbie Rivenburg ☞ Children's Church: Jann Pettway

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Sunday School: Jan Peters ☞ Children's Church: Stanley Melek

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Sunday School: Cindy Cospers ☞ Children's Church: Shirley Weston

Testimonials to Answered Prayers

JESUS MET ME AT MASHES SAND BEACH...recently, I took some time on a gorgeous, blue-skied, sunny day to drive out to Mashers Sand Beach near Panacea. I had never been to the small public beach. I walked along the water's edge down one side of the point and back to the parking area where a sun-tanned older man began speaking to me. After exchanging friendly pleasantries, he told me if I walked down the other side of the point I would be able to see tons of horseshoe crabs because it was their mating season. I had never seen that many horseshoe crabs in one place! Later, as I drove away from the beach, I thanked God for sending Jesus to meet me at Mashers Sand Beach. I like to look for Jesus in other people because I believe He interacts with us that way. I am so grateful that He is a personal, faithfully-present God! How wonderful it is that He has given us amazing, natural wonders to enjoy that are slices of paradise!

- Susan Marvin

I've become a fan of prayer meetings at JWUMC! Who would not? We have witnessed the power of God at work in our midst and beyond as a response to fervent prayers. Months ago, our covenant group started praying for a Methodist couple from Cuba, Leonardo and Cleivy Garcia, who had been asked to serve as missionaries in Angola, Africa. They are supported by Florida United Methodist churches. Over several months and at different stages of their journey, we have prayed for visas, expired Cuban permits, safe travels, grace for them at the sight of the Angolan leadership, and better living conditions. Through all, God has responded with miracles and wonders. Recently, Cleivy emailed Carolyn Glynn and said, "It was a surprise to receive a message from you! It's, indeed, encouraging to know that we are not alone and that God has moved tender-hearted people to support us in prayer." Leonardo and Cleivy Garcia are in Quesua, where Armando, Amanda and I were serving before coming to JWUMC. They serve as professors for the Seminary and parents for the boys of the Orphanage/Boarding House. They will also be hosting volunteer teams from Florida starting this summer. I invite you to pray for the Garcias and follow their ministry in Angola. Visit the Angola blog at the bottom of the Florida Conference's homepage: www.flumc.org

- Icel Rodriguez

We look forward to having each of you submit your praises in response to answered prayers so we can publish them, and encourage others as we are blessed by witnessing God's hand at work in our midst!

Ladies for Jesus Tuesday Bible Study

Do you need support in your study of God's Word?

The Ladies for Jesus Tuesday Bible Study meets at 12:00 noon on Tuesdays in Aldersgate. We are reading through the Bible together in 2012. Join us each week as we discuss our daily readings and encourage each other to deepen our walk with Christ and His Word!!

For more information,
please contact Kelly Dixon in the church office (877-1738).

February Birthdays

Lawrence Heitmeyer, 2/4
Clyde Wiggins, 2/12
Leslie Kitterman, 2/14
Lynn Picolo, 2/14
Charles John, 2/16
Jann Pettway, 2/26

Council Notes

- The Yard/Garage Sale for missions will be March 17, 2012. Boxed donations may be placed on the stage in Hawkins Hall.
- The Trustees are working to implement improvements suggested in the energy audit performed in 2011.
- The 2012 Budget has been adopted in the amount of \$288,482.12. Since pledges are not sufficient to meet our 2012 Budget, we will need generous offerings on Sundays.
- Terry Denham will be visiting our sister church in Cuba February 2, 2012. It is requested that each church ministry write a letter to their counterparts in Aguada noting 2011 ministry highlights. Donations of children's vitamins and other medicines are requested (container is in narthex).
- Julie Childers has been hired to help with Sunday School and Children's Church, but we still need volunteers each Sunday.
- The Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the hall and needs sign ups, Gifts of flowers cost \$40.00 and they may be taken home after worship.
- We will be creating a professional photo directory this fall. We need volunteer coordinators to help make this happen.
- There will be a soup and bread dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012, prior to a 6:30 p.m. Worship Service. Pastor is making split pea soup.
- There will be a Valentines' "engagement party" dinner and dance in honor of Justin and Deanna on February 11, 2012. Peggy Woodham is the hostess.
- For our church calendar of events, go online www.johnwesleyumc.com

Florida Advocacy for Children's Week

Florida lawmakers can help stem the tide of Florida's poverty epidemic. The Florida Conference asks them to make it a top priority in 2012. This includes:

- Stopping the proposed budget cuts impacting the homeless programs funding.
- Protecting Florida's health and economy through Medicaid.
- Ensuring continued funding for Florida Kid Care as a valuable resource for families who need affordable health insurance for children under 18.
- Preventing a raid of trust funds intended for affordable housing.
- Ensuring SNAP bonus money from the federal government is re-invested in the SNAP program and not put into general revenue.

If you support the position of the Florida United Methodist Church, please write your state legislator in support and pray for them.

- Cindy Cosper



Meeting Reminders

SPR Committee

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
5:30 PM in Parlor

Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
6:30 PM in Aldersgate

Trustee Committee

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
5:30 PM in Parlor

Church Council

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
6 PM in Aldersgate

Current FEAST

FEAST resumed on January 11, 2012; however, it's not too late to join us for dinner and classes! Youth classes are led by Angelyn Hirai and children's classes are led by Debi Brigman and Ann Todd. The following adult classes will continue through February 29, 2012, with another series beginning the following week:

Resolving Everyday Conflict led by Susan Marvin

Men's Group led by Dave Arthmann

S.I.S. - "James: Mercy Triumphs" led by Lucy Baer

Spanish led by Icel Rodriguez

Church Staff Support for JWUMC Ministries

As part of the church-wide planning retreat on January 7, 2012, Kelly Dixon, Office Manager, outlined some of the "business" tasks that provide support for the ministries of the church. The staff keeps a primary focus on serving our Lord; and, they pray weekly for the ministries of the church.

Kelly praised the weekly volunteers who help accomplish the management of the church office: Kathy Connell, Nellie Perez, and Judy Landers. These volunteers help with communications, attendance records, answering the phones, folding bulletins and other preparation for worship services - greeters, flowers, etc. Thank you, volunteers!

The church office is a hub where church members, volunteers, leaders, staff and others connect with one another to get various tasks done. The In-Box beside the back desk plays a crucial role in getting things you have to the people who need them. Please put items for church staff or volunteers in one of the three trays in that area:

1. "Kelly's In-Box" → Put anything for Office Manager, Finance/Treasurer, Facilities, etc., located on the side table beside the back desk.
2. Volunteers (Top) → Put attendance folders for Sunday School and FEAST located on the filing cabinet behind the back desk.
3. Volunteers (Bottom) → Put Sunday morning church attendance information, etc., also located on the filing cabinet behind the back desk.

The church website (www.johnwesleyumc.com) is the place to go to keep current with the church schedule and activities. Here are some of things you'll see on the website:

- Church calendar: This has all the week's activities, and all activities scheduled ahead. Kelly uses this as the main church calendar. Anyone planning a meeting or activity should check this first to see what dates/locations are available. Then contact Kelly with details of what you are planning so your activity can be added to the church calendar. (It is also helpful to let her know if you cancel a meeting or activity so she can open that space on the calendar for others.)
- Upcoming Events: The following month's events are posted here. This helps you look ahead to see what's coming up.
- Ministries: Some of these areas have information and some are in progress. Leaders of the various ministries are working on getting information for this part of the website updated very soon.
- Resources: This section includes a printable Journal, weekly bulletins and our church brochure. Printed copies of the Journal are in the church narthex. If you see a visitor, feel free to give them a copy of the Journal, a brochure, and a pen (these are all in the narthex).
- Administrative website: * This section of the website is not open to the public, and requires a secure login. Church leaders should contact Kelly for details about how to log in to this section of the website to find meeting minutes and schedules, forms, policies and contact information for officers and leaders for 2012.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:16-19

- Debbie Rivenburg



Visit our website often for up-to-date calendar information along with the current week's bulletin and the current month's *Journal* located under resources. Would you like to see more on the website? If so, contact the church office to let us know your ideas.

"Salty Service"

The above is one of the five missional goals of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. The following paragraph is from their website and it gives us the biblical rationale.

Jesus was clear that his followers are to be servants: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:26-28). Service flows naturally and inescapably from the teachings and example of Jesus. "Let me tell you why you are here," says Jesus. "You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?" (Matthew 5:13 - The Message)."

I like the way The Message translation of the Bible phrases the Matthew 5:13 command--it makes it clear and plain-particularly the last sentence--"If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?" How compelling and thought provoking. How will they?

There are four elements of "salty service" as defined by the Florida Conference of UMC. "Hands-on mercy ministry alleviating the suffering of others" is one that can be illustrated by some examples in our own church family.

Gene Kelley, Sylvia White and John Govans through their Rotary Club have participated in building ramps for people in wheel chairs to be able to exit their homes with ease. These projects take ten to twelve people all day to complete. Gene describes one ramp building project where the doorway was about four feet from the ground and consequently the woman in her wheel chair rarely left her home. His "salty service" that day was operating a nail gun underneath the ramp.

Debbie Rivenburg, Eleese Ray and Frances Godfrey deliver "Meals of Wheels" through Elder Care Services so that elderly and/or disabled individuals without other assistance will have nourishing, inexpensive or free meals delivered to their door with some friendly conversation if they desire. Debbie Rivenburg began her "salty service" last year and has about fourteen on her route. She alternates with others at the Department of Revenue where she works and ends up serving once a month. This is Eleese Ray's 26th year of delivering meals weekly! As you might imagine, she often forms bonds of friendship...and has been known to visit some in the hospital. Frances Godfrey has been Eleese's partner for four years and, after a break, is now partnering with her again. Eleese says Frances' sense of humor is a bonus in addition to the meal deliveries.

There are three other elements of "salty service" and more examples in our church family - stay tuned.

- Carolyn Glynn

Tie Your Horse to the Hitching Post

Come join us at the Crews/Szabo Okeydokey Corral on Saturday, February 11, 2012, in the Hawkins Fellowship Hall. In addition to an engagement party for Justin Crews and Deanna Szabo, this will also be our adults-only Valentines' celebration for singles and couples. The party begins at 6:00 p.m. A barbeque dinner will be catered by Jim and Milts including two meats, baked beans, fried corn on the cob, potato salad, cole slaw and desserts for a cost of \$7.00 per person. We will learn line-dancing; so, be sure to wear your favorite country-style outfit, boots and jeans. There will be prizes for best dressed couples and singles, best dancer(s) plus our own version of the "Almost Newly Older than Dirt Wedding Contest," plus lots of other fun surprises. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for the next few weeks. Please indicate by your name if you will need sitting services and the age(s) of your children. Justin and Deanna are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond under Registry #12569436.

Missions' Event for March

There will be a District Mission Study on Haita March 10, 2012, at Deer Lake United Methodist Church. Registration forms can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex. Forms are due no later than March 2, 2012. Study books authored by Rev. Dr. Jacques E. Pierre may be purchased for \$10.00 at the event or from www.unitedmethodistwomen.org#M3107-2011-01. If you have any questions, you may call 800-305-9857.

Driving directions are as follows: From I-10 and Thomasville Road/US-319 in North-East Tallahassee, 1. Proceed North on Thomasville Road approximately 4-miles. 2. Turn left (West) into the main entrance of Killlearn Lakes Plantation. This is Kinhega Drive, and it is directly opposite the Publix Shopping Center. 3. Proceed on Kinhega Drive to where it dead-ends into Deerlake Road. 4. You will see the church buildings directly in front of you. 5. Turn left, then immediately right into parking lot.

- Cindy Cosper

JWUMC Yard/Garage Sale

Our church-wide yard/garage sale will be held on **Saturday, March 17, 2012**, between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.**

All proceeds go to missions and justice work. Donations are needed. Boxed donations may be placed in Hawkins Fellowship Hall on the stage.

SAM's for February

SAM's will meet on February 7, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. in the parlor. All seniors are invited to join us!!!

February Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 1

6:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast (Panera Bread)
 9:00 a.m. Staff Prayer Time (Parlor)
 5:30 p.m. FEAST
 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, February 2

6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting (Aldersgate)

Friday, February 3

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)

Saturday, February 4

No JWUMC Activities

Sunday, February 5

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:30 p.m. Youth (Youth Room)
 5:00 p.m. Financial Peace University (Aldersgate/Tweeners)

Monday, February 6

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)
 6:45 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, February 7

11:00 a.m. SAMs (Parlor)
 12:00 noon Ladies for Jesus Bible Study (Aldersgate)
 5:30 p.m. SPR Meeting (Parlor)
 6:30 p.m. Finance Meeting (Aldersgate)

Wednesday, February 8

6:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast (Panera Bread)
 9:00 a.m. Staff Prayer Time (Parlor)
 5:30 p.m. FEAST
 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, February 9

No JWUMC Activities

Friday, February 10

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)

Saturday, February 11

6:00 p.m. Engagement Party for Deanna and Justin

Sunday, February 12

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:30 p.m. Youth (Youth Room)
 5:00 p.m. Financial Peace University (Aldersgate/Tweeners)

Monday, February 13

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)
 6:45 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, February 14

12:00 noon Ladies for Jesus Bible Study (Aldersgate)
 5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, February 15

6:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast (Panera Bread)
 9:00 a.m. Staff Prayer Time (Parlor)
 5:30 p.m. FEAST
 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, February 16

6:30 p.m. Financial Peace Program (Aldersgate)
 7:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, February 17

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)

Saturday, February 18

No JWUMC Activities

Sunday, February 19

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:30 p.m. Youth (Youth Room)
 5:00 p.m. Financial Peace University (Aldersgate/Tweeners)

Monday, February 20

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)
 6:45 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, February 21

12 noon Ladies for Jesus Bible Study (Aldersgate)
 6:30 p.m. Church Council (Aldersgate)

Wednesday, February 22

6:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast (Panera Bread)
 9:00 a.m. Staff Prayer Time (Parlor)
 5:30 p.m. Soup and Bread Dinner (Hawkins Fellowship Hall)
 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)
 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, February 23

No JWUMC Activities

Friday, February 24

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)

Saturday, February 25

No JWUMC Activities

Sunday, February 26

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:30 p.m. Youth (Youth Room)
 5:00 p.m. Financial Peace University (Aldersgate/Tweeners)

Monday, February 27

12:00 p.m. Yoga Class (Tweeners)
 6:45 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, February 28

12:00 noon Ladies for Jesus Bible Study (Aldersgate)

Wednesday, February 29

6:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast (Panera Bread)
 9:00 a.m. Staff Prayer Time (Parlor)
 5:30 p.m. FEAST
 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice (Choir Room)





JOHN WESLEY
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*"Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things."
Philippians 4:8*

Journal Email List

The primary distribution method for The Journal is via email. If an email address of a member, friend or neighbor is not on our list and they would like to be, please email the church office (jwumc@johnwesleyumc.com) or call (850)877-1738.

The purpose of The Journal is to present an exciting, positive, attractive and inviting image of John Wesley United Methodist Church in order to keep our active members involved and to stimulate participation by potential members. Any article for The Journal may be submitted to the church office (marked "for The Journal") or by going online to www.johnwesleyumc.com and filling out the "Journal Submission" form. Editors reserve the right to edit all material submitted. Please have a contact name on all articles submitted.

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Accepted in the Beloved

Thanks be to the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, who loves us and has accepted us into the beloved. Indeed, we are abundantly blessed, and the following scriptures teach us God's heart towards His beloved children:

In Christ, we are adopted by God as sons. Romans 8:15 - *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Ephesians 1:5 - Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.*

We overcome the world. I John 4:4 - *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. I John 5:4 - For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

We are seated in heavenly places in Christ. Ephesians 2:6 - *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: Colossians 2:12 - Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

We are greatly loved. I John 4:16 - *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. I John 4:9 - In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

We are given spiritual power. John 1:12 - *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Acts 1:8 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

We are part of the Priesthood. Revelation 20:6 - *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. Revelation 1:6 - And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

We receive spiritual gifts. Matthew 7:11 - *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? I Corinthians 12:28 - And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

Our sins are forgiven. I John 2:12 - *I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. Ephesians 4:32 - And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

We have fellowship with the Father and the Son. I John 1:3 - *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 1:9 - God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

We become a ministers of God. I Peter 4:10 - *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Hebrews 6:10 - For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

We are protected by God's angels. Hebrews 1:14 - *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? Psalms 91:11 - For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.*

Our prayers are answered. John 14:14 - *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. Proverbs 15:29 - The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.*

We hear God's voice. John 10:27 - *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 8:47 - He that is of God heareth God's words:...*

Indeed, it is a great privilege to be loved of God and the above are just some of the blessings we have inherited as Christians.

Malachi 3:16 - Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Jesus bless you, Patti White