

May 20, 2020  
Volume 21, Number 20

# The Wesley Witness

**To Believe. To Belong.  
To Become Christ-Like  
Through Discipleship.**

Collins where I served Collins and Eminence UMC's for five years. In 2014 we moved to Tupelo to serve here at Wesley UMC. Last year I began serving St. Mark UMC as well.

While all of these transitions were different, they had many similarities. In each case we were leaving what was familiar and cherished and moving into the unknown. There was a sense of grief as we left loved ones, people we had loved and cared for, and places we had learned to call home. There were always memories we would take with us and cherish forever. But at the same time there was also a sense of excitement as we looked ahead at the prospect of new relationships, new communities to live in, and new possibilities in ministry. There was always a confusing mix of emotions that at times left me conflicted.

But this time it is different. We are not moving into a new community, or into a totally new ministry setting. We are retiring from full-time ministry. We will not be packing up our possessions and loading a moving van. We are staying in the community we have come to call home. We are stepping away from a group of people we have grown to love and care for deeply, people we have laughed and cried with, people we have celebrated and grieved with. We will certainly take with us many wonderful memories, many special moments shared with some very special people. We are simply moving into a new phase in life, and the mix of emotions is not so balanced as it has been in the past. Don't get me wrong, we are certainly looking forward to doing new things, traveling more, catching up on projects at home, connecting more closely with family and friends. But this time it is different, the transition has shifted slightly, and the emotions for me have more to do with separation than the future.

Grace and Peace,

Roger.....



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### This Is Different

It was in 1993 that I heard God calling me into ministry. It was in 1993 that I prayerfully accepted that call. Since that time we have moved six times. That is six transitions experienced by my family and I. The first was in June of 1994, as we sold our home and moved to Emerson, Georgia, into a student appointment, serving Emerson and Oak Grove UMC's. We remained there for three years as I completed my Masters degree. In 1997 we moved back to Mississippi and started serving Winborn Chapel and Shipman UMC's in the Seashore District. In 2000, we moved to Starkville where I served for six years as Associate Pastor at Starkville First UMC. In 2006 we moved back to the Seashore District where I served Caswell Springs UMC. In 2009, we moved to

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### Sunday Morning's Message

*You Will Be My Witnesses*  
*Acts 1:1-11 NRSV*



### HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Thank you to those that have contacted us about your graduates!!! A list will be printed in next week's newsletter. If you have not contacted the Church Office yet, please do so by Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, so all of our graduates can be included.



## Wesley United Methodist Church

PO Box 2434 ~ Tupelo, MS 38803-2434

Located at 2010 West Main Street

Telephone: 662-842-2377

Fax: 662-841-5632

Church Email: [wumchurch@comcast.net](mailto:wumchurch@comcast.net)

Church Website: [www.wesleytupelo.com](http://www.wesleytupelo.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wesleytupelo](http://www.facebook.com/wesleytupelo)

Pastor's Cell #: 662-871-5511

Pastor's Email: [roger.puhr@gmail.com](mailto:roger.puhr@gmail.com)

Roger Puhr ~ Pastor

Linda Austin ~ Worship Leader

Vicky Burleson ~ Church Secretary

Martha Webb ~ Pianist

Sandi & Doug Haire ~ Custodians

Frances Heavens ~ Nursery

## Wesley United Methodist Church

PO Box 2434

Tupelo, MS 38803-2434

To Believe. To Belong.  
To Become Christ-Like Through Discipleship.



Praying for others is an important part of our ministry as the body of Christ. Please incorporate this list as a part of your personal prayer life.

Blake Austin Joan McCain

Ray Alexander (Madie Morton's Brother)

Birdie Burleson

(Vicky Burleson's Mother-in-law)

Claudia Ellison (Randy Davis' Mother)

Mary Pat Hancock

(Requested by Martha Langley)

Mariana Thetford

(Requested by Phyllis Hunter)

Tina Wilburn

(Requested by Mary Ruth Wilburn)

In praying for one another, please pray for these families: Karen Barclay; Noble Baskin; Dennis, Grace, & Matthew Bazzy; Lottye Beasley; and Jo Benson.



Thanks to all of you for your continued support of Wesley UMC financially even though you have not been able to attend church services. Because you have, we are still able to cover our everyday operating expenses at this time. You may bring your contributions to the church office Monday - Thursday from 8:00 til 1:00 or mail to Wesley UMC, PO Box 2434, Tupelo, MS 38803. Thanks again!!!



Would you help our Food Pantry stock their shelves? Each month we feature a specific item to collect. May's item for the Food Pantry will be Canned Fruit (any brand - any kind). You may drop off your donation in the blue tub located in the sanctuary foyer. Thanks for helping those in need by supporting this ministry of Wesley UMC. Without your donations, it would not be possible.



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## For the Record

May 17, 2020

### Stewardship

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2020 Operating Budget  | \$296,122 |
| Needed Weekly          | \$5,695   |
| Needed to Date         | \$113,893 |
| Weekly Budget Receipts | \$2,430   |
| YTD Budget Receipts    | \$83,255  |



|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| May 24 <sup>th</sup> | Drake Turner  |
| May 25 <sup>th</sup> | Lindsey Sims  |
| May 27 <sup>th</sup> | Drew Langford |
| May 28 <sup>th</sup> | Marge Cason   |



Memorial Day . . . This day is set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who served our country and died for our country and our freedom. May your day especially during this unusual time be filled with memories and peace. God Bless America! **Note:** The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of this day.

**We NEED you.**  
**Can you HELP?**

The Food Pantry needs some additional help in packing the bags on Tuesdays. Would you be willing to help????? You would only have to help once every couple of months or so. Contact the Church Office to add your name to the list. Thanks!!!!