



## Jesus is Our Equilibrium in a Topsy Turvy World

I inherited my Dad's poor equilibrium. When he suffered from head congestion, Dad had to place his hands on the walls as he walked to stay upright. When our daughter was growing up, I was the one to endure the rides at amusement parks and fairs with her. The last mechanical roustabout for me was the Tennessee Tornado Rollercoaster at Dollywood a few years ago. I stumbled and swayed when I got off that thing to a bench where I sat for about ten minutes until the world ceased spinning around me.

With the COVID-19 pandemic we all feel that we have been slung around emotionally, physically, and spiritually. There is an old phrase that dates all the way back to the year 1530: "topsy turvy." It was a saying from Old Middle English that described a situation of disorder or confusion, everything was overturned or upside down. I think its meaning is still understood in the present Generation Z.

I even get car sick. When my daughter and I would get in those giant tea cups that spin as you turn the middle wheel, I discovered how to survive. The metal post at the center of the wheel did not move, yet everything around it did. If I locked on my eyes on the stationary post then I was saved from sickness and dizziness caused by all the fast-changing scenery around me.

Friends, Christ is your equilibrium in this topsy turvy world. If you set your unwavering sight on the Savior then you can make it through the frenzy of fluctuations around you to stay fine and unscathed.

Second Thessalonians 3:5 "May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."

So, if you feel disheveled and just plain dizzy from the dilemma of all that is going on around you, just place your entire focus on your steadfast Savior Jesus. You can refuse to allow the circumstances of the world to knock you off balance. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never end; they are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness O God My Father." (Lamentations 3:22-23) Fuel up with faith through prayer for that Gospel trip with Jesus every day.

**Think Eternal and Tend to Your Soul.....Rev Ed**

## **We Are Breaking Pastoral Stay Records**

This July marks the beginning of my eighth year to serve Brundidge United Methodist Church. The longest that I ever served a church before was five years at Camden UMC. I often joke that I have to leave after two years because I only have two years worth of sermons in my file cabinet. Well, if that were true this would be the fourth time around for this cycle of sermons.

And this is the longest pastorate to serve in Brundidge UMC's history since 1861. The record of seven years previously held by Reverend Jimmie Spikes. Of course, Freida and Jimmie retired to Brundidge and are valuable cherished members of our church.

My wife Sharon, daughter Amber and house cat Mercy are very pleased to continue serving Christ and you in Brundidge. Amber is now pursuing her medical work to become a doctor at DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee.

## **Our Church Looks Great!**



During the virus lockdown, we took the time to do major projects around the church property. We thank Trustee Chairperson Mike Richards for securing skilled laborers and overseeing all these improvements. A lot of pressure cleaning, refinished flooring and painting made the church look really good.

We are ready for the centennial celebration of its construction on October 18, 2020. The formula is Homecoming is always the 3rd Sunday in October.

## **Walter Wilson in Concert Sunday July 26th, 11 a.m.**

We are looking forward to a refreshing wonderful time in the midst of all that has been happening lately with the virus precautions by enjoying Walter's music. We are not having a First Responders' Appreciation Sunday like usual because of the pandemic. No meal on the grounds. But we hope to plan something after this current situation has passed and most definitely include hospital, EMT's, and nursing home workers.

## Brundidge United Methodist Church List of Pastors

1861-1863	Anthony Seale Dickinson	1928-1929	James Felix Feagin
1863-1864	John Phillips Dickinson	1929-1932	Huey Pleasant Childs
1864-1866	Anthony Seale Dickinson	1932-1933	Thomas Glenn Jones
1866-1867	John Phillips Dickinson	1933-1935	Charles Andrew Rush
1867-1868	William Green Perry	1935-1939	Samuel Robert Jones
1868-1871	Anthony Seale Dickinson	1939-1941	Thomas Summerfield Harris
1871-1872	James Washington Glenn	1941-1943	James Osgood Grogan
1872-1873	David C. Crook	1943-1946	Ellis Lafayette Andrews
1873-1874	George Waverly Griggs	1946-1949	John Fletcher McLeod, Sr.
1874-1875	John Albert Peterson	1949-1951	William M. Pickard, Jr.
1875-1876	Phillip H. Moss	1951-1952	Fred L. Davis
1876-1877	Josiah Barker	1952-1953	Thomas Leslie Hill
1877-1880	Orion Sanford Perry	1953-1955	John Clinton Vickers
1880-1881	Benjamin Lafayette Selman	1955-1956	Gordon Atkeison
1881-1883	Edward Eugene Cowan	1956-1957	Comer Woodall
1883-1887	Edward Marmaduke Turner	1957-1958	Joseph M. McKinney
1887-1891	Jeremiah Shrewsbury Williams	1958-1962	Daniel Keener Christenberry
1891-1895	James Lewin Mathison	1962-1964	Ovie W. Mathison
1895-1897	Neil Gillis	1964-1966	Mark W. Anthony
1897-1901	Leslie Pritchett Lathram	1966-1968	T. Leo Brannon
1901-1903	Charles Bilbro Pilley	1968-1973	James T. Ross
1903-1907	John Roberts Peavy	1973-1976	James E. Savage
1907-1909	Harvey Cook Threadgill	1976-1980	E. Zedoc Baxter
1909-1911	John B. Tate	1980-1981	Dean A. Bolan
1911-1914	William Henry McNeal	1981-1985	E. Bruce Fitzgerald
1914-1915	Samuel Monroe Hosmer	1985-1989	Luther A. Gandy
1915-1920	William Thomas Ellisor	1989-1991	Bobby S. Holladay
1920-1921	Henry Samuel Ellison	1991-1994	Cecil L. Coleman
1921-1923	George Kittrell Williams	1994-2001	Jimmie Spikes
1923-1927	Laban Henry Scott Chappelle	2001-2006	J. Richard Holmes
1927-1928	David Francis Ellisor	2006-2013	Michael Lawler
		2013–present	Rev Ed Shirley



**Missions Moments:** Jennifer Moore is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as a Christian educator with The United Methodist Church in the Republic of Macedonia. She was commissioned in May 2016.

“I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” ~ Romans 1:11-12

Spring is my favorite season in North Macedonia. Fall is really nice too, but the gentle rains; the abundance of strawberries in the markets; the chirping of baby birds; and the beauty and fragrance of the flowering trees all make spring here intoxicating! Except for this year. This year was a bit melancholy as I mostly experienced spring from my balcony, and I reminisced on the plans I had to revisit the Sunday school teachers in Albania.

Last fall, I visited Pogradec, a quaint town in the southern part of Albania, to lead an all-day workshop for Sunday school teachers serving in our four Methodist churches in Albania. They were a vibrant group, mostly in their 20s, and very eager to learn how they could become better teachers for the children entrusted in their care. Quite early in our time together, I realized that none of them had ever experienced Sunday school as a child because they all came to know Christ as young adults. There were no Methodist churches in their towns when they were young children. I was suddenly struck with gratitude for the Sunday school experiences I received as a child and humbled by the importance of the task God had given me to assist in the development of Christian education in Albania. We had three sessions of ninety minutes each. In the first session, I asked the teachers what they wanted their children to gain out of twelve years of Sunday school classes. We brainstormed for a bit and then listed our ideas under the categories of what we wanted the children to know (knowledge), be (character), and be able to do (skills). Next, we looked up some verses to see what the Bible instructs us to teach and then added to our lists. I closed by thanking all of them for being willing to take on this huge responsibility of being Sunday school teachers. In the second session, we talked about how to teach the things on our lists. We discussed using Bible stories, games, interviews of church workers, role plays, and various other activities in our classrooms. We also talked about the importance of modeling Christ like behavior and creating a predictable classroom culture for the children. I shared how being consistent with a schedule and rules helps children feel safe and open to learning even if they have a different teacher each week. In the final session, we moved to the ever-present concern of classroom management. We talked about the things we can do to prepare well and then I gave them some concrete strategies for dealing with problem behaviors. I put them in small groups to practice teaching a lesson while the other members pretended to be “problem children.” The teachers practiced employing the techniques I gave them and then switched roles. It was definitely the most active and engaging portion of all the sessions! I think the teachers were not sure what to expect when they were asked to come to this training, but by the end they were already asking me to come back and do another one. “Sure,” I responded, “Why not? I’ll come back in the spring.” Sigh. I miss them. Perhaps this is similar to the way Paul felt when he longed to revisit the churches in Asia minor. I am hopeful the borders will reopen soon, and I can return. But for now, I wait. I do not know what plans the coronavirus has delayed or thwarted for you, but I grieve with you. The fact that you had it planned means it must have been important to you. I pray you are comforted and are still able to find joy in this season. I pray you are comforted and are still able to find joy in this season. In Him, Jennifer Moore

## **All Church Programs Approved for Restart**

At both in-person worship services on June 28, 2020, a majority voted to resume Sunday school classes and the nursery program. All COVID-19 guidelines need to be followed, especially social distancing. The guidelines are displayed in the fellowship hall at the piano.

The sanctuary is available during the Sunday School hour and you are encouraged to meet under the breezeway and other outdoor locations as well to practice social distancing. The Sunday School classes, and their leaders are free to decide whether to resume meetings or not.

We certainly anticipate fewer in attendance because some are not comfortable assembling currently during the Corona Virus Pandemic. We will continue to provide a worship service on the church Facebook, my personal Facebook, and on YouTube (search "Brundidge Church").

### **"The Star-Spangled Banner"**

The national anthem of the United States. The lyrics come from the Defense of Fort M'Henry, a poem written on September 14, 1814, by 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Baltimore Harbor during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Key was inspired by the large U.S. flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, known as the Star-Spangled Banner, flying triumphantly above the fort during the U.S. victory.



#### **The Star-Spangled Banner**



Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there

Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave

### ***July Birthdays***

Lucas Fraley-1st, Rebecca Hagan-1st, Rylee Copeland-3rd, Jason Dorrill-7<sup>th</sup>, Abigail Garrett- 9<sup>th</sup>  
Shannon Robinson-10th, Hollis Treadwell-11th, Frank Fryer-11th, Henry Howard, Jr.-  
15th, Johnnie Ramage-15th, Chase Foster-16th, Lawrence Bowden-16th, Morgan Bundy-18th,  
Sue Richards-19th, Nellie Sue Helms-20th, Shelby Strother-26th, Marie Thompson-26th,  
Sheila Johnston-26th, Melanie Baker-28th, Chip Wallace-29th, Melissa S. Mockros-30th,  
Lynn Bundy-31st

## *Memorials and Honorariums*

### In Honor of our Children/Grandchildren

Frank & Wynnette Fryer– Building Fund

### In Memory of Jean Barr

Sherroll & Tinye Tatom– Prayer Cushion Fund

Jessie & Edna Dorrill– We Care Fund

Mike & Sue Richards– Building Fund

Mike & Debbie Wilson-BUMC

Jimmy Hollis– UMW/Local Missions

### In Memory of Mason McLendon

Rev. Jim & Dr. Laura Carpenter– Mason's Fund

### In Memory of Elva Strother

Beth Collier– BUMC

### In Memory of Bill Jackson

Beth Collier– BUMC

### In Memory of Betsy Bowden

Beth Collier– BUMC

Sherroll & Tinye Tatom– Prayer Cushion Fund

Jimmy Hollis– UMW/Local Missions

### In Memory of John Fryer & James Caldwell

Frank & Wynnette Fryer– Building Fund

### In Memory of Hilton Carter

Jimmy Hollis– UMW/Local Missions

Jimmy & Johnnie Ramage– Prayer Cushions

Frank & Wynnette Fryer– Building Fund

### In Memory of Nellyene Weston

Jimmy Hollis– UMW/Local Missions

### In Memory of Bill & Betty Hixon

Frank & Wynnette Fryer– Building Fund

Shelia Folmer-BUMC

### In Memory of Bill Hixon

Mike & Sue Richards– Building Fund

Frank & Nedetria Talbot– BUMC

Rev. Jim & Dr. Laura Carpenter– BUMC

Lamar & Shirley Steed-BUMC

Troy Bank & Trust– BUMC

Stuart Patton– BUMC

Cot & Jean Wallace– BUMC

Rhonda & Michael Dease– BUMC

George & Gloria Jeffcoat– BUMC

Jessie & Edna Dorrill– BUMC

Jim Grant– BUMC

Betty Coppage– BUMC

Sherroll & Tinye Tatom– BUMC

Craig & Elizabeth Vann Dollar– BUMC

Jimmy & Johnnie Ramage– Prayer Cushions

Jimmy Hollis– UMW/Local Missions

Charlotte Wallace– BUMC

Wendell & Donna Stephens– BUMC

### In Memory of Robert & Alice Hudley

Jimmy Hollis– UMW/Local Missions

Beth Stubblefield– BUMC

Jimmy & Johnnie Ramage– Prayer Cushions

### In Memory of Dean Cannon

Jimmy Hollis– UMW/Local Missions

**Brundidge United Methodist Church**  
**140 North Main St.**  
**Brundidge, AL 36010**

**Address Service Requested**

**NON-PROFIT ORG**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**

**TROY, ALABAMA**  
**PERMIT#30**

### Smiles From Mrs. Sara

1. Why did the man have to fix the horn on his car?
2. What animal makes the most of it's food?
- 3.) What do you get when you cross an insect with a rabbit?
- 4.) What trees come in twos?



**Genesis 21:6**

**Answers:** 1.) Because it didn't give a hoot. 2.) The giraffe... it makes a little go a long way!  
3.) BUGS Bunny 4.) Pear Trees :)