

WESLEY FLAME

WATCHING A SHOW IN THE DARKNESS. . . .WHEN NOT ALL OF IT WAS IN THE THEATER

By Cheryl Smith

Recently, I went with some friends to see the new release, “The Help.” Many of you have read the book and several have gone to the movie. It is a powerful story—made more powerful by the fact that we know the story to be true, even if the names, dates and characters are fictional.

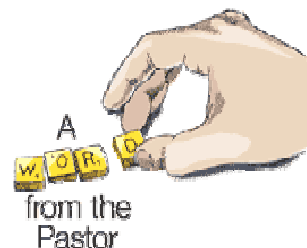
The Help, written by Kathryn Stockett, tells a story from the vantage point of domestic help—more commonly called maids or mammys—as they lived and worked in the segregated South in the 1950’s and 1960’s. The level of oppression and discrimination was palpable as I experienced it on the screen through the eyes of Minny and Aibileen. It was painful to watch. There were times when I wanted to cry. There were times when I was embarrassed. . . .ashamed. . . .sick at heart.

Now, I, personally, did not participate in any of the hateful and oppressive practices depicted in the movie. As far as I know, I have never treated anyone as “less than” because of their color or race. I have never refused to sit by, eat with or be in relationship with anyone of color. But I, as a white person, have definitely benefited unfairly because of the segregation and discrimination of the past. I have had opportunities for education and socialization that others have been denied. I have known the benefits of good nutrition and sufficient warmth and shelter. I have never feared for my safety just because of my race. I have never had to walk with my eyes down or say “Yes,” when I meant “No,” when to speak the truth would have meant I would have been beaten or fired or humiliated. Yes, I have benefited from the racist system in which I grew up, and so I felt sorry and embarrassed for all the sins of my fathers and mothers

But I felt another, troubling, emotion sitting in the dark theater. I felt fear. You see, the theater was packed—few if any empty seats. I was sitting beside a young black man with whom I had exchanged some polite words before the movie. I didn’t know that I would be so embarrassed just a few moments later. I didn’t realize I would be looking at the world through different eyes—African American eyes—just a few minutes into the movie. I didn’t realize how very much anger and hatred might be coming my way from some of the people with whom I shared that dark theater. I wondered—“How would this feel if it had been my mother, my aunt, my grandmother who had been oppressed in these ways? Would I be able to look at the daughters and sons of the oppressors with equanimity and trust? Forgiveness? Probably not. . . .probably not. . . .and so I was aware of feeling a tinge of fear. How angry might this young man be sitting beside me, sharing this experience.

Well, all ended well. There was no unpleasantness. There were no sharp looks from anyone coming out of the theater. No violence or screaming matches broke out. Everyone behaved. But I left with a new awareness. There is a rightful angry memory in the hearts of granddaughters and grandsons of “the help.” May the Lord forgive all of us who benefitted from that oppression, and may the Lord give the gift of a forgiving heart to those who were on the other end of the racism.

Lord, Jesus, teach us to love like you love and to go to bat for the things for which you went to bat. Give us courage. . . and humility. . . and a desire to be made whole. Amen.





Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 8th – I have selected another “Mystery Lunch Destination” to inaugurate the fall season! It’s difficult to think “fall,” I know, considering that the temperature will probably still be topping 100 degrees on September 8th, but let’s think positive anyway.

As with our last Mystery Lunch Destination, we will play “follow the leader,” meeting in the church parking lot this time, and carpooling from there. You’ll receive further information in a flyer soon, but anyone in the church 55 or

older is welcome to join us. I will need to make a reservation, so let me know ASAP if you plan to participate. I promise good food and fun!

Beth Miles, 291-2536

The traditional service choir is back in rehearsals after our August break, and WE NEED YOU! Soprano, alto, tenor or bass, your voice and your presence are welcome. We are working closely with our new pastor to bring a more cohesive and responsive flow of music for worship, and we would love to see some new choir members have the opportunity to be a part of that. Very soon, we will begin rehearsing our Christmas Cantata, which is a great time for you to become one of the Spirit Singers. We practice from 5:30 to 6:30 on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary. Join us!



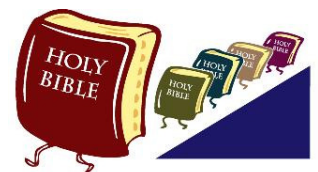
"Why?"

Making Sense
of God's Will

Paulette O'Sullivan

Two short-term Bible studies will start in September and I hope you are signed up for one of them. "Why? Making Sense of God's Will" is being facilitated by Paulette O'Sullivan and "Great Figures of the New Testament" is being facilitated by Wanda Hassman. That study will start on Sept. 15th. at 5:30 and is a 12 week study. There is no cost as the materials have been provided by the Farriers. Paulette is contacting the ones who

signed up for the four week course by Adam Hamilton to determine the time and day it will start at the writing of this article. Stay tuned! If you are a last minute participant we will welcome you into either study. These are a great way to come together as a diverse group and really get to know one another and help our church in the healing process.



Great Figures of the Bible

Wanda Hassman,
Christian Education Chair

Wanda Hassman

At the Worship Committee meeting recently, various individual took charge of certain duties for the traditional service. I have volunteered to find collection ushers (which I call "collectioneers") for the services. I already have the Kooken family lined up for the month of September. My plan is to have two couples or a family commit to a month; I thought that two couples could alternate weeks and in case there was an emergency when one could not the other could be notified. No one I have asked has said no, so I will undoubtedly be asking everyone at some time or another. In October the Certas will share the offering plates with a yet-to-be-named couple, and in November the Yosts will share responsibilities with another couple. If there are any of you who would like to participate in this activity in the traditional service, please let me know. It is very easy to walk up and down the middle aisle and your participation is greatly appreciated.

WORSHIP NOTES



Bill Fleming



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The women of the Wesley UMW would like to invite all the ladies of Wesley UMC to join us on Wednesdays at 4:00pm to work on stuff for our 2011 Bazaar in October. You do not have to be crafty. There is something for everyone to do. Contact the church office @ 295-7459 if you would like to help and enjoy the fellowship of the

women of Wesley. Our Monthly meetings are now on the 1st Sunday of the month, @ 12:00pm after the Traditional service, hope to see you all there. Our tickets for our BBQ pit fund raiser are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Mattilou Kooken,
Pres. of WMUMW



The UMW will have a bake sale
on September 11.

Thank you for your support.



SANTA'S HELPERS



We are excited about Santa's Helpers this year and we would like to invite YOU to be a part of this exciting and rewarding mission opportunity!

Santa's Helpers has been a Wesley tradition for over 20 years providing toys, hope, and joy to about 400 children annually in need within our community. We have been able to do this by collecting and distributing new and used toys for Christmas, but none of that is possible without our amazing volunteers! We are currently organizing Santa's Helpers 2011 and we need your help! If you are as excited as we are then please come and join us! We ask that you will prayerfully consider helping out in one or more, of the following areas:

- Volunteering to bring snack suppers for the week before the big day
- Snack Supper Coordinator
- Providing breakfast for the Youth Group
- Donating cookies and cocoa
 - Kitchen Coordinator
- Check-Out Coordinator
- Bike Repair
- Clean Up Coordinator

- Set Up Coordinator
- Decorations Coordinator
- MASH Toy Drive
- Spanish Translator
- Santa Claus
- Photographer
- Fundraiser Committee
- Donation Committee

These are just a few of the many areas that you can serve in! Please sign up on the volunteer board located in the Narthex!

Also, we will be trying something new for the month of August. In the Narthex there will be a wrapped collection box and we would love to collect as many new/gently used toys specifically for teenagers and babies. These two groups are the ones that we receive the least for so we want to strive to make them better and have a wider variety. We will be taking a different monthly collection each month so watch your newsletter for those updates!

Thank you for your support and we look forward to serving our community with you!

Shannon Atnip & Hope Parker
Santa's Helpers Co-Chairs

NEEDS YOU!!!





The Wesley youth group just finished an amazing summer of ministry, and we want you to know that you should be extremely proud of the way your youth handled themselves this summer. They certainly made their Wesley family proud.

YOUTH NEWS

And we have continued positive momentum into the fall, with 16 youth at the Back to School Party and an exciting group of 6th graders joining the program.

We will be meeting in early September with youth and parents to get their input on the Fall schedule, so keep an eye out for those dates. Most information now is going out through either Facebook or text messaging, so if you are not receiving those updates, please contact Shannon or Scott.

We look forward to a great Fall semester, and encourage everyone at Wesley to invite any 6-12th graders you know to join us as we engage in worship, study, service and fun!

Thanks for your continued support,
Shannon and Scott

A WORD FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

I know it does not feel like it, but Fall is fast approaching. That means two things; our Stewardship Campaign begins, and Wesley's Garage Sale.

Yes, I said Garage Sale. Clean out your closets, go to that storeroom and get that stuff cleaned out. Your church will sell it. We are looking forward to everyone bringing all articles, clothes, furniture, dishes, and any other thing that can be sold at a garage sale. In addition, a bake sale is also planned. Bake up your favorite brownies, bread, cakes or cookies and bring them up to the church.

This sale is planned for September 3rd, 2011 from 8am to 3pm. All unsold items will be donated to the Good Shepherd Mission for their resale shop. We need volunteers. The sign up sheet is in the narthex. What can you do to help?

All proceeds will go directly to our Apportionments.

Lastly, our Stewardship Campaign will begin after we tackle the garage sale. This is a good time to consider where you would like to serve. Stewardship is all about taking care of the gifts God has given us. That means our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. We have so much potential here at Wesley if we all join together to make a difference in each and every life here at Wesley, a difference in our community, and a difference in our hearts. Think about it, what can you do for your fellow brother, sister here at Wesley?

Let's make 2012 a year of making our dreams come true. A year of all things positive. No negative here at Wesley. We shall overcome!



In Our Prayers This Week

Bob (Margaret Burnett's nephew) cancer

Warren Weatherson (Friend of Nancy Mowry and Byron Warren) cancer

Mary Ellen Ray (friend of Suzie Crews) Cancer

Janice Rhinehart (friend of Suzie Crews) Cancer contained, more radiation maybe, in remission

Tommy Jeffcoat (Jennifer Jeffcoat's husband) continuing chemo

Jessie Grant (Glen Grant's Mom) Lymphoma

Dianne Miller (Bob& Flo Bailey's daughter) breast cancer

Cheryl Mazingo (friend of Susan Martin) diagnosed with lymphoma

Judy Wood - lung cancer

Lou Lorton (friend of Joe & Ella Machac in Seattle) pancreatic cancer

Tom Miller (Debby Miller's husband) cancer has returned

Ann Christian (friend of Jack Townley) started cancer treatment

Peggy Kroesche— Tests

Mary Roe (Carol Byrd's sister) Stomach surgery and pneumonia

Please continue to be in prayer for:

All Religious leaders

All State and National leaders

All Military Personnel

Jordan Dugas (Brittanie King's Husband) Air Force, Saudi Arabia

SPC Patrick Bickel (son of Ivan & Jacque Bickel) Afghanistan

Jon Redman (Paulette O'Sullivan's cousin) Iraq

Josh Ritter (Dorothy Hunter's friend) US Army, Germany

Shane Graf (Jean Burton's gr. Son) 82nd Airborne, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina

Ryan Jordan (Velma Coleman's nephew) Iraq

Kyle Puckett (son of Kevin Puckett, grandson of Nade & Barbara Puckett) US Army Afghanistan

TJ Martin (Son of Tim & LeWanda Martin) U.S. Marines, Okinawa, Japan

Trevor Hennings (Tom Martin's Son-in-law) Iraq

Adam Utley (great-nephew of Dorothy Hunter) Afghanistan

Michael Tripp (grandson of Betty & George Martin) Warrant Officer, U.S. Army



Help Keep our Prayer List Current

It is a privilege to pray with and for our church and extended church family. Requests will remain on our prayer list and printed in weekly worship bulletins for a period of 4 weeks before removal. Please help us keep our prayer list current by contacting the church office to provide necessary updates.

• • • • •
• The secret of my success •
• is that at an early age I •
• discovered I was not God. •
• --Oliver Wendell Holmes, •
• • • • •

◆ Prayer is not a "spare wheel" ◆
◆ that you pull out when in trou- ◆
◆ ble, but it is a "steering wheel" ◆
◆ that directs the right path ◆
◆ throughout life ◆

**Wesley Memorial
United Methodist Church**

700 Hwy. 30 East
Huntsville, TX 77320

(936)295-7459

FAX (936)291-9131

www.wesleyhuntsville.org

wesley_secretary@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thur. 8:30am-4:00pm

Fri. 8:30am-12:30pm

Sunday

Worship Services:

8:45am Horizon's Service

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Service.

5:00pm Youth

Wednesday

5:30pm Choir Practice

6:00pm Youth Bible Study

7:00pm Horizons Practice

Monthly Meetings

1st Mon.

6:30pm Finance

1st Tue.

5:30pm Witness Committee

2nd Wed.

6:30pm Council Meeting

2nd Wed.

5:30pm Children's Committee

2nd Thur.

11:00am SOAR

3rd Thur.

5:30pm Trustees

2nd Sat.

8:00am UMM Breakfast

1st Sun.

12:00pm UMW

2nd Sun.

12:00pm Worship Comm.



Hailey Reddoch	09/07
Ryan Skains	09/08
Cliff Davis	09/10
Jimmie Rhodes	09/13
Ella Machac	09/14
Katie Marek	09/14
Barbara Sala	09/14
Pat Swanson	09/15
Jessica Graham	09/16
Kari Zella	09/17
Carol Byrd	09/18
Brian Parker	09/19
Byron Warren	09/19
Emily Atnip	09/20
William Tutor, Jr.	09/23

HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?



700 Hwy. 30 East
Huntsville, TX 77320

Sent with prayers to:

SEPTEMBER

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church—what will you do between now and the time we next gather:
"We will show the love of Jesus by loving God and all of God's creation with our whole being through active service and prayer."



October 08, 2011

**COME ONE, COME ALL!!!
To the UMW annual bazaar.
Cakes, Pies, Cookies, Seasonal things
and all kinds of other things
and of course the BBQ**

***ARTICLES FOR THE
OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER ARE DUE
NO LATER THAN
SEPTEMBER 15th***

Office Hours:

M-Th.8:30a-4:00p/Fri. 8:30a-12:30p

E-mail: wesley_secretary@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (936) 295-7459

Fax: (936) 291-9131

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