

A Word of Encouragement

Standing Firm When Everyone Else Bows

Have you ever known a Pastor so anointed that you find it difficult to take notes while he is preaching? You're just so enthralled by what he is saying that you can't be bothered with note taking. Yet, you retain the sermon in your head and heart for years to come and implement parts of it in your life! Dr. Maurice Henson is that Pastor for me. The Lord is always so present when he preaches. His messages are God ordained and always exactly what I need to hear. Before retiring, Pastor Maurice was one of the Associate Pastors at my church for many years. Now, I am blessed to hear him once or twice a year when he fills the pulpit occasionally. A few weeks ago was one of those occurrences. As always, the Lord spoke straight to me through Maurice. Please indulge me, as I share with you what the Lord revealed to me through him.

The sermon was out of Daniel 3:8-30. Of course, we all know the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the fiery furnace. But do you realize just how appropriate those verses are for us today? Those men were men of high standards and character. Their values were set! Values are the principles that guide our behaviors. It is in essence how we live when no one else is looking! In this situation, how we live when everyone is indeed looking! These three men didn't have to stop and think about what they would do when confronted, they had long before made their decision. Listen to their words to king Nebuchadnezzar, *"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand O king. But EVEN IF He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."* ~Daniel 3:17-18

Friends, may I encourage you? We, as present day Christ-followers, need to have this same resolve! Our values need to be etched in us! Oh friends, a day is coming and, truthfully, is already here, when we are going to have to take a STAND as well. Idols and false gods are all around us. People are BOWING everywhere we look! Right now the bowing is voluntary. I believe with all my heart, if the Lord carries, we will see a time when we too will be required to bow before idols. No, they won't be graven images. But they are and will be idols just the same. You know the things and people of which I speak. I don't care what denomination you are, or what your political affiliation. BUT each of us needs to be ready to STAND for Christ when everyone else is bowing down! Are you ready? Can you give an answer for the HOPE that is within you? Do you have that same conviction these three men had? Are your values set? When everyone else is bowing, will you be standing tall?

Be comforted by these men's words, "God can deliver". Oh, but EVEN IF He doesn't, He is still King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Our Hope is still HIM and HIM alone! God's plan is so much bigger than our finite minds can grasp. To the right I have posted the lyrics to the Mercy Me song *Even If*. Pastor Maurice ended his sermon with this song. Once again, God shook me. This song was played at my cousin Ashley's funeral...probably the hardest, most painful event thus far in my life. Even through that horrific pain, God was still faithful and good! And my hope is still in HIM alone! I challenge each of you to read the words of this song and/or listen to the attached song in this email. May this be the prayer of your heart too! Make that determination in your heart and soul NOW that whatever may come (even if He doesn't heal or answer in the way you had hoped) YOU WILL STAND FIRM and never bow to idols!

Standing Firm Together!

Julie Simpson

Administrative Assistant, Stallings UMC

Even If

by Mercy Me

They say sometimes you win some
Sometimes you lose some
And right now, right now I'm losing bad
I've stood on this stage night after night
Reminding the broken it'll be alright
But right now, oh right now I just can't

It's easy to sing
When there's nothing to bring me down
But what will I say
When I'm held to the flame
Like I am right now

I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone

They say it only takes a little faith
To move a mountain
Well good thing
A little faith is all I have, right now
But God, when You choose
To leave mountains unmovable
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing
It is well with my soul

I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone

I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone

You've been faithful, You've been good
All of my days
Jesus, I will cling to You
Come what may
'Cause I know You're able
I know You can

I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone

I know the sorrow, I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone

It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Overview continued...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Carol Frazier	09-01	Stephanie Cook	09-10	Steve Duncan	09-18	Bonnie Playko	09-25
Jeffrey Smith	09-01	Celina Hazelton	09-10	Jason Edwards	09-18	Andrew Vigil	09-26
Matthew Wilson	09-02	Bill Bramhall	09-11	Madeline Forwerck	09-18	Blake Upchurch	09-27
John Nuss	09-03	Janet Graham	09-11	Scott Farrell	09-19	Steve Frye	09-29
Jami Stanziale	09-03	Amy Paysour	09-11	Ralph Faulk	09-19	Mike McKinney	09-29
Reid Inman	09-04	Pam Litman	09-12	Karen Preslar	09-19	Taryn Little	09-29
Courtland Williams	09-04	Steve Parker	09-13	Mattie Chandler	09-19	Rick Cothorn	09-30
Grace Miller	09-06	Jen Shore	09-14	Steven Czagas	09-20		
Johnny Miller	09-07	Gregg Forwerck	09-16	Maria Williamson	09-21		
David Barnes	09-08	Jonathan Parker	09-16	Rosemary Kretchmer	09-24		
Clay Miller	09-09	Sue Briley	09-18	Kerstin Thompson	09-24		

Happy Labor Day!



Church Office closed on Monday, September 5th

Giving

Date	Budget	Building Fund
Aug 07	\$ 4,770.67	\$ 339.00
Aug 14	\$ 3,503.14	\$ 50.00
Aug 21	\$ 7,158.00	\$ 150.00
Aug 28	\$ 5,547.96	\$ 510.00

***Please do not forget your church when you go out of town, on vacation or watching online due to health reasons.**

***"...God loves a cheerful giver."
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7b***

United Methodist Men's Meeting

The Men's Group will resume their monthly meetings on Saturday, September 10th at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. Whether you've participated for years or this is your very first meeting, please join us for a hearty breakfast and great fellowship. Immediately after the meeting, we will clean the BBQ pits in preparation for the Annual Barbeque. Please plan to stay a little longer for this task.



Nursery/Childcare Volunteers

We are asking for volunteers to help out in our church nursery. Members from our Church Council took on this assignment for what was supposed to be a "temporary" solution until we could get enough volunteers to fill the time slots, and be able to have a functioning rotation that doesn't fall on any one group of people. Almost two years later, as an oversight, we haven't asked for help in this area.

We've all heard the saying 'It takes a village to raise a child', and that can't be more true. The three time slots we have on Sundays are 9:00am, 10:00am, and 11:00am. You can volunteer for as little as one or up to all three on a Sunday if you feel led. The more volunteers we have, the fewer rotations we will need. If you feel led to volunteer for this worthwhile opportunity, please see (or call) Katie Lefler 704-606-4512. I can guarantee your church will never grow beyond its willingness to volunteer! Will you be that first to serve these little ones?

Annual Stallings BBQ

Keep your calendars marked...the Annual SUMC BBQ is slated for Friday, October 21st. That means, Thursday, October 20th will be an all-day prep day. We need LOTS of volunteers for both!



To say that God is working at Stallings UMC Preschool would be a massive understatement. We literally went from questioning if we were going to be able to open the doors with even one class the middle of July to having enough children for two good sized classrooms and hiring two overly qualified amazing new teachers as of mid August. This is truly a GOD sized answer to prayer!
HE is ever faithful!

We would like to introduce you to our two new teachers. First, Mrs. Becky Stout comes to us with over 30 yrs. experience as a Children's Minister, Preschool Director and classroom teacher. Her most recent position was director of Covenant Presbyterian Preschool. Becky is an active member of Providence Baptist Church and volunteers her time at places such as Ronald McDonald House & Matthews Help Center.

Next, Christine Connelly comes to us with an extensive background in Montessori education. Christine's education and experience is primarily in early childhood education, and presently she is tutoring children in reading. Christine is a member of St. Luke's Catholic Church, where she is in the church chorus and teaches Faith Formation to first graders.

We are elated at the biblical, faith-based background that both Becky and Christine bring with them to our Preschool. These two ladies, along with our precious, godly leader Mrs. Barbara Stegall will truly come alongside parents to "train up these little ones in the way they should go". The children that the Lord has entrusted to us this year will be blessed like never before!

Please pray over these children, their families, and our teachers as we see what the Lord has in store for each of us this Preschool year!