



EUREKA UMC NEWS

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PASTOR MICHAEL MILLER'S MINUTE

GROWTH. This is the time of year when United Methodist Pastors begin preparing to evaluate their ministry for the past year and set goals for the upcoming year.



Growth is the adjective that describes Eureka UMC for this year. When growth is mentioned, it is often assumed that a pastor is discussing either an increase in membership or in money given to the church.

However, at Eureka UMC, I look at growth differently. Yes, membership and money are important, but growing relationships is far more important.

We live in a world that is dark and hurting, and what are we doing for those people who have been marginalized within society? In Matthew 25, we are told that when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit those imprisoned, we are meeting Christ in those people.

Building relationships within the congregation and with the marginalized outside the church, regardless of their status in society, is where we meet and build our relationship with Him.

Eureka UMC is building relationships as we minister to those outside the church, and in doing this, we grow together in the church. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, famously said that as Methodists, **we should do all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, to all the people we can, for as long as ever we can.**

This is the spirit within Eureka UMC. Join us and see us in action.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURES</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>SERMON SUBJECT</u>
October 4	Genesis 12: 1-9	Pam Thomas	Blessed to Bless The Nations
October 11	Genesis 49: 8-12	Sherry Miller	The Lion of Judah
October 18	2 Samuel 7: 1-17	Toni Sultana	An Everlasting Promise
October 25	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Rosellen Richards	A Sign Called Emmanuel



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Monday—Amos Bible Study at noon

Every Tuesday—Alcoholic Anonymous Meeting at 6:00pm

Oct 5—Monthly Dessert & Devotional at The Osiecki's Home (221 Tonkawa Trl) from 5:30 to 7:00

Oct 19—Planning Meeting Follow Up at 5:30

Oct 24—District UMW Meeting in Waco at 10:00

Oct 26—Conference Meeting with Stacey Piyakhun, Director of Multiplication at 6:00

Oct 31—Trunk or Treat—Church Parking Lot at 5:30-7:30pm (K-5th grades)

Nov 3—Voting at EUMC

Nov 15—District Charge Conference at Hillside UMC at 4:00pm. <https://www.htcumc.org/event/mid-south-district-charge-conference/>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Becky Burns

The Curtis Family

Jo Hinshaw

Jim Jackson

Pat Kelly's

Family Member

Randy Miller

Bowen Pennington

Myrtle Pritchett

Ann Ricker

Leo Telavera

PRAYING FOR MISD TEACHERS

Jennifer Boone

Brinly Burke

Sandra Cuellar

Stephanie Greer

Rain Hall

Rhonda Jock

Brittni Kittrell

Macy Kochman

Bonni McCarter

Rick Rash

Brian Smetzer

Natalie Tackett

Haley Tyner

Eddie Whitener

CHURCH UPDATES

- **9/14 Planning Meeting:** We had a well attended brainstorming meeting to get ideas where we want to be in the coming several years. We started off by discussing a Church Mission Statement in which we developed a solid couple of options to be discussed at our next meeting in mid October. We then discussed what the Church was doing well, what needed improvements and what opportunities we would like to focus on. It was a healthy discussion with more to come. Our follow up meeting will be on **October 19 at 5:30** at the church.
- **10/24 Mid-South District United Women in Faith:** Meeting at Revelation Church, 125 Turner Street, Waco from 10:00-1:00. For more information go to <https://www.uwfaithhtc.org/>
- **10/26 Conference Visit with Stacey Piyakhun:** Stacey is the Director of Multiplication for the conference in which she supports new and strengthens smaller Churches throughout the conference. She will be visiting our church at 6:00 to discuss how the conference can assist EUMC.
- **New Electronic Sign Update:** This project was officially approved at the Annual Charge Conference on 9/25. A plan is in place for State and Local approvals, raising money, selecting an option and construction. Please keep an eye on this space for updates.
- **10/31 Trunk or Treat:** Remember the fun time we had with all the local children stopping by our "Trunks" at this event? Please arrive a little early to set up your "trunk" with your Halloween decorations and candy. Remember to bring The Lord's Acre money from quilt tickets to Sunday Service on the 25th. The winner of the quilt will be announced on 10/31. Following this event, everyone will gather indoors for a great hotdog on a bun dinner, desserts and fellowship.
- **Annual Church Charge Conference Results**—Please see on the last page.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Becky Burns—October 5

Rosellan Richards—October 6

Kaylee McGehee—October 13

Richard Kelly—October 14

Paul Osiecki—October 16

Edna Davis—October 21

Natalie Thomas—October 26

Paul & Toni Sultana Anniversary—October 7



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METHODISM 101: THE COLLEGE YEARS

by Toni Gatlin

Welcome back to England! The year 1720 finds John Wesley leaving his home base in Epworth to go up to Oxford to college at Christ Church, following in his father Samuel's footsteps toward the priesthood of the Church of England. To that end, John was ordained in 1725, received his Master of Arts in 1727, and then returned to Epworth to become curate (assistant pastor) in his father's parish.

John was deeply concerned at this time with the state of his soul, and he began a detailed diary (with many entries written in code or shorthand) to track his spiritual health over time. His younger brother Charles also went up to Oxford where he followed John's example by keeping his own spiritual logbook.

Learning in 1729 that his college student brother had sought out companions for spiritual study and meaningful discussion, John returned to Oxford to fellowship with Charles and this small band. Prepared by his Master of Arts degree, he soon took up a teaching post as a fellow of the college.

These spiritual meetings quickly became more regular and organized, and about a year later the group began putting significant energy into charitable work in the community. The brothers and their friends began a weekly rotation of activities: public preaching, visiting the county prison and city jail, and ministering to the elderly and needy in the town. When the need became more than they could meet themselves, the group pooled their funds and hired a woman to care for the children of poor families.

Because of their studious nature and charitable actions, the group shortly became known derisively as "Sacramentarians," "The Holy Club," and "The Bible Moths." Eventually, because of the group's *methodical* pursuit of holiness, they became "the people called Methodists," a tongue-in-cheek nickname that stuck and is what we continue to call ourselves centuries later.

Though deeply involved in this student movement, John Wesley was not yet the leader. The organization of the small group into a club and its outreach into the community were actions largely driven by others in the circle; it was not until 1732 when all of the others departed Oxford or left the group, leaving John and Charles as the only remaining original members, that they began to take on strong leadership roles. New members joined and subsidiary groups began to form; by the end of 1734, over 40 people, mostly college students, were associated with the Oxford Methodist movement.

These students adopted many of the Wesleyan practices such as maintaining a diary, developing a set of resolutions and questions for self-examination, and meeting for accountability and service. The desire of these early Methodists was to develop a practical focus on Christlike living rather than an intellect-only understanding of doctrine, and emphasizing a holy inward soul state that was evidenced by outward love and service.

By 1734, Samuel Wesley's health was failing, and he expected that his son John would return to Epworth to take over the parish. John resisted, sensing the importance of his growing teaching career and ministry in Oxford, and was encouraged by his bishop to keep serving there. However, his father's deathbed appeal pulled at John's heart, and he resigned himself to returning to Epworth and serving as an Anglican priest. Nevertheless, those in positions of authority declined to reassign John to the small-town parish, and he remained in Epworth only long enough to help his family and the congregation through the transition of welcoming a new parish priest.

John arrived back in Oxford in 1735 with every expectation that he would stay there indefinitely, but this season of upheaval and prayerful openness to new opportunities had prepared him to loosen his grip on Oxford as his home base. Within a week of returning, he was called away to London, where he was presented with an invitation to travel with his Methodist friends as a missionary band to the new colony of Georgia. Our third installment in this series will follow the Wesleys to the New World!

Reflection questions:

Who was spiritually influential during your young adult years? How did the habits formed in that phase of life stay with you, for good or for ill?

What "methods" help nurture your soul? What acts of love and service are outward evidence of your inward growth?

When have you resisted something only to find that the experience had prepared you for something else?



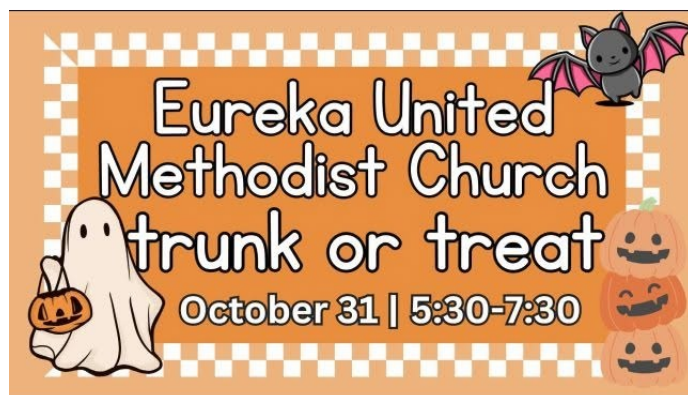
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The Lord's Acre Quilt to be raffled off during Trunk or Treat!



1st gathering of Dessert & Devotional—a great crowd!



ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE SUMMARY

- 2027 Budget was discussed and voted on: Income = \$60,400; Expenses = \$51,600
- Providing Pastor Michael with a vote of confidence and a raise.
- Trustees Key Projects: Clean the Steeple and Install a New Electronic Sign
- Electronic Sign Project Presented and Approved. Create a committee, get State and Local approvals, raise funds and begin construction.
- Nomination Committee Results:
 - Finance Chairperson—Elaine Newton & Laura Osiecki
 - Conference Lay Member Delegate—Toni Gatlin
 - Communications Chairperson—Paul Osiecki
 - Ministry Coordinator—Toni Gatlin
- Next Planning Meeting Date is October 19 at 5:30pm at the Church.
- Approved the new Sunday Worship Time to 10:30am starting January 3, 2027, Sunday School starting at 9:30am
- Approved having more frequent Simplified Board Meetings every other month starting in January 2027. The following are the dates: 1/31/2027, 3/21/2027 (Palm Sunday), 5/30/2027, 7/25/2027, 9/26/2027, 11/21/2027