



Rev. Norwood N. "Woody" Hingle III, Ph. D; Sunday School: 9:15 AM; Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
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A Word from Woody. . . Lenten Lessons on Life

As we ease into Lent, I am soberly aware that life isn't always easy. My wife Elena's diagnosis of a ruptured brain aneurysm on January 28th - ironically, my son Norwood's 26th birthday—jolted me into lessons of gratitude I will be carrying into Lent. I hope you don't mind my sharing a few here.

I would like to think I have always known I am a blessed man to be married to Elena for 30 years. When we first married I was strongly aware that **Elena was God's gift to me. A major priority** during our marriage has been not to see our marriage as something I dragged along with me while I chased a career. I have been committed to living a life *with* her, to having one-on-one dates at least once a week, to regularly each year having vacation time with her and the children. Nevertheless, I have been shocked back into realizing how good I have had it with her. Her love for Jesus, her godly wisdom, her being there for me as my closest confidant, her unique and truly funny sense of humor, her being my best friend—all of these I cherish. And I admit that in the busyness of life I have at times taken all this and her for granted. At this time of Lent as I reflect on the salvation Jesus won for us, I am especially thankful for the gift of her.

I would like to think I have always known I am a blessed man to be the pastor of Lake Vista UMC for 20 years. Through the ups and downs of life and ministry, you have always been a steady support to me. I recall when my Dad died 18 years ago, this church ministered and loved me and my family in a special way. The same **was true five years ago when Elena's Dad died. You have** blessed me and my family far more than I could bless you. **During this time of Elena's illness you have done it again—your love and kindness in Christ's name have** helped to carry me and my family through this time. **The day of Elena's surgery you were there in large numbers** physically or spiritually through prayer: you made the waiting room on Ochsner's second floor seem like a pleasant party with food and fellowship. A large number of you were there that whole day and witnessed the late afternoon testimony of the neurosurgeon that Elena's



brain surgery went very well—**by God's grace!** You allowed me to miss a Sunday of preaching and come **back into the church's ministry when I was able to do** so; you provided meals for my family to sustain us; you sat with Elena in the ICU at the hospital when I had to be gone; you prayed for us continually, regularly **texting me for updates on Elena's condition. And you** rejoiced with me and my family when Elena was **allowed to return home from the hospital on Valentine's** Day. In other words, you have been for me and my family a wonderful gift from the Lord-- what the Lord has called the church to be for one another—and He is well-pleased. I admit in the busyness of life I have at times taken all this and you for granted. At this time of Lent as I reflect on the salvation Jesus won for us, I am especially thankful for the gift of you.

I would like to think I have always as a Christian appreciated the hope we have in Jesus. He is the Great God who has taken the penalty for my sins on a horrific cross. He has forgiven me for my own selfish rebellion and careless apathy toward Him. He has won for me and His followers a hope that is eternal, and begins today. Without this comfort of His forgiveness and promise of resurrection I am nothing, and life is nothing. And yet I admit, again, that at times in the busyness of life I have taken such gifts and Him for granted. These gifts from the Lord put in perspective **what my wife experienced. Elena's neurosurgeon** recently told us that 40% of people with ruptured brain **aneurysms don't survive. The brush with her mortality** has been a jolting reminder that our bodies have an expiration date. At this time of Lent as I reflect on the salvation Jesus won for us, I am especially thankful for the gift of Jesus.

With these Lenten lessons in mind, I say to you **the apostle Paul's words: "I thank my God every time I** remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in **the gospel from the first day until now"** (Philippians 1:3-5).

Yours in the Savior's Love,

Woody

Youth Corner

Last January we enjoyed a fun and competitive outing at Laser Tag of Metairie. On March 27 we will hold our Valentine's Café as we wait tables for desserts and hot drinks and show a movie as a fund raiser for our youth mission trip this summer. This event is from 6:30-9:30 PM, but we need to be there by 5:30 for set-up and at least until 10:00 PM for clean-up. Please invite friends to this fun event!

Winter Retreat Moved to March!

Our Winter Retreat has been re-scheduled for Friday-Saturday, March 13-14 at Country Inn & Suites in Covington (130 Holiday Blvd.). The retreat begins at 6:00 PM Friday with a catered supper at the hotel, and ends at 12:00 Noon on Saturday. Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Robert Stewart, Professor of Philosophy and Theology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Stewart holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will be giving five talks in our time together, and his topic is, "How Can God Be So Great and the World So Bad?" The cost for the room, meals, and retreat is \$115 for one person in a room, and \$130 for double occupancy. Reservations can be made on the church attendance sheet or calling the Church Office. Please feel free to invite friends!

Church Family Night

Church Family Night will meet on Wednesday, March 4th. Our program will be an interview by Pastor Hingle of our new pianist for worship services, Yungsil Chun. This will be a wonderful chance to get to know her and her beautiful family! Our church will provide chicken pot pie as the main course for our meal from 6:00-7:00 PM and a speaker from 7:00-7:30 PM. Everyone is encouraged to bring a food item. The cost is \$5 per person, no more than \$15 per family.

Randy Roberts next to our guest speaker for Family Night, Rev. Jerret Fontenet



Thank You from the Hingles!

The Hingle family would like to thank our brothers and sisters at Lake Vista UMC for the love, prayers, gifts, and delicious meals during this difficult time for us. We are overwhelmed by your kindness and thoughtfulness. Everything you have done for us has helped significantly, and the memory of you during this time warms our hearts and reminds us of the Lord's gracious provision for us in you!



WEDDING CELEBRATION



Sermons for March

Pastor Hingle will begin a Lenten sermon Series called, “Lenten Lessons from the Decalogue” as we will examine the importance of the 10 Commandments and its relationship to Lent as we approach Good Friday and Easter. The message on Sunday, March 1st will be “The Only One Worthy of Our Worship” based on Exodus 20:1-6. The messages on the following Sundays will be as follows: March 8th, “Holy in Name and Day” from Exodus 20:7-11; March 15th, “The Importance of Parents” from Exodus 20:12; March 22nd, “The Many Facets of Murder” from Exodus 20:13; and March 29th, “The Way of Love Gone Astray” from Exodus 20:14.

Voting Outreach!

On Saturday, March 7th Lake Vista will have a wonderful opportunity to serve our immediate neighbors. Our church is the location for two voting precincts which comprise the Lake Vista neighborhood, and we will have many friends and neighbors walking our church campus. So from 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon we will hold a refreshment table with baked goodies and also offer some Christian literature to nourish the soul! Your participation in this event will help all go smoothly—either by volunteering at the table for an hour or so, or by providing baked goods. Let’s keep this ministry outreach in our prayers.



CHEERFUL CHILDREN



Prayer Focus

- ✝ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✝ For The United Methodist Church as it approaches General Conference, May 5-15
- ✝ Karen Robicheaux and Jim Sample, who will exchange wedding vows on Saturday, March 21st!
- ✝ Randy Roberts and Jenny Rueb who recently got engaged!
- ✝ Thanks for Elena Hingle’s strong recovery from January 30th surgery for a ruptured brain aneurysm and prayers for a complete recovery
- ✝ Susan Doyle healing of eyes
- ✝ Roger Cull, thanks for full recovery from a possible stroke

A Time for Guys’ Fellowship!

Pastor Woody Hingle is leading a Men’s Sunday School Class that meets in the Library at 9:30 AM, and we are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. The men will have their supper gathering on Monday, March 16 at New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood (817 Veterans Blvd.) from 6:30-8:00 PM. Please invite friends!

Read your newsletter online at <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>

Addressing the Skeptic's: New Book!

Our next meeting will be Friday, March 20th at 12:00 Noon on biblical scholar Dr. William Craig's *The Son Rises: The Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus*. We will discuss chapter 5, "The Origin of the Christian Faith". All are invited!

Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

This month's Prayer Walk is Saturday, March 21st, 10:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this important ministry.

Small Group Offerings

January, 2020

Wednesday SONset and Wonderful Wednesday Bible—The SONrise Prayer and Communion service will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 AM this month. The Wonderful Wednesday Bible studies will go over the previous Sunday's sermon meets at 7:00 PM, but will not meet on March 4th due to Church Family Night.

The S(tudy), P(ray), A(ct) Ladies' On March 10th the S. P. A. Ladies will review Session 6 HW and watch Session 7 Video at church. March 17 at 9:00 AM will be **breakfast at Messina's Runway Café**. **March 24th will be stuffing Easter eggs with small candy at church.**

Sunday School classes for women begin at 9:30 AM on in the Fellowship Hall. Men's classes meet in the library at 9:45 AM. Youth meet in the Education Building, and children on the playground for Storytime Corner also at 9:45 AM.

A nursery sitter is available for children during worship services.

A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.

Lake Vista

United Methodist Church

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