



**Rev. Norwood N. "Woody" Hingle III, Ph. D; Sunday School: 9:15 AM; Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM**  
(504) 288-2242; email: [office@LakeVistaUMC.org](mailto:office@LakeVistaUMC.org) website: <http://www.LakeVistaUMC.org>; Vol. 18:11 November 2017

*A Word from Woody...*

## An Exit Interview with Moses

I first met Moses Martin in January, 2006. Hurricane Katrina clean-up was going in earnest, and many Christian groups were arriving to help. I received a call from the local disaster coordinator with The UMC who said a Mennonite group was looking for a place to stay and help long-term with the relief effort. Shortly after that call representatives from the Weaverland Disaster Service (WDS) and I met at the church, and Moses and his wife Anna Mary were among the group who inspected our facility to see if it would meet what they needed. Fortunately it did! Little did I know at the time that we were their last resort before deciding to give up on the idea of helping New Orleans. It would not be fanciful to say that, for us at Lake Vista UMC, this was a match made in heaven! WDS has been at the church for November and left before Thanksgiving. I had the chance to speak to Moses before they left.

Woody Hingle: How many times have you and Anna Mary been to New Orleans to serve with WDS?

Moses Martin: About 30 times—I've kind of lost track!

WH: What do you like about New Orleans?

MM: The warm climate in the winter time. And of course oysters! We've made a lot of friends, and we've met a lot of people who were destitute for help. Quite a few people whom we've assisted had contractors take their money and left without doing the work, and we've tried to help these people as best we could. Unfortunately, some people were out of money and could not buy the materials, so we could not help them as we would have liked.

WH: Please tell us a little about yourself. How did you become a Christian?

MM: When I was 16 I was baptized. As a Mennonite you have to be able to express your Christian beliefs before you are baptized. For me it was a growing experience from childhood onwards, and I always anticipated I would be a church member. I'm still trying to do what is right, I'm still growing in the faith. My parents and older siblings were big influences on me growing up.

WH: How long have you and Anna Mary being married?

MM: 44 years



WH: How did y'all meet?

MM: My older brother is married to her aunt, and through that relationship we met each other. We'd have family get-togethers. And at that time we went to the same church for a while, and we'd have youth events together.

WH: What is the hardest thing for you about being away from home so long?

MM: Being away from family—my children and grandchildren. It's a different routine and lifestyle here than back home. It is more relaxing when you are at home.

WH: Please tell me about your family.

MM: We have a son and a daughter. The son and his wife have nine children, and my daughter and her husband have three girls. Our grandchildren are ages basically one through 17.

WH: Y'all have been in New Orleans for three weeks in November. What has been your work project this time?

MM: We've been framing up a church that is called The Holy Anointed House of Prayer on

Senate and Duplessis Streets. The pastor is Lionel Roberts. The total structure measures about 81' by 65'. We plan on finishing the shingles and putting the outside doors on so they could lock the church up. When we arrived here there was only the flooring that was built.

WH: Where do you go from here for WDS?

MM: We're going to Summerville, South Carolina, and we'll be at Miles Road Baptist Church. We're working with the Southern Baptist Disaster Service Program and they'll supply the money for the materials for people who cannot afford to repair roofs and other things, to help people who two years ago experienced what has been called "the thousand year flood".

WH: What are some special Mennonite traditions for celebrating Christmas?

MM: We have church service on Christmas morning 9:30-11:30 where we sing Christmas hymns and have a message, and then we have family get-togethers, Christmas dinners. Some families exchange gifts, but not everyone.

WH: How can we be praying for you and Anna Mary?

MM: That we keep our faith in God.

Thank you Moses and Anna Mary—and all of WDS—for your example to us at Lake Vista UMC of your faith in God. May the Lord continue to allow our paths to cross!

Yours in Christ,

*woody*

# Youth Corner

## Christmas Breakfast

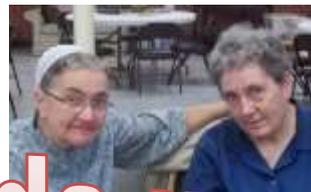
By God's grace, we helped raise over \$500 at the bake sale during the vote on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds will go to help with disaster relief from the hurricanes this year.

This month we will have our Student Christmas Breakfast at the Goudeau's home on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon. This gathering is for our high school and college students. Each person is asked to bring a "white elephant" gift costing no more than \$5 to share with others. As always, please feel free to invite friends!



### Meetings This Month

Monday, December 11 Finance Committee, 6:45 PM;  
Church Council, 7:30-8:30 PM  
Tuesday, December 12 Charge Conference, 7:00 PM



November reminds us...

### Church Family Night

On Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> we'll enjoy our Church Family Night where we eat from 6:00-7:00 PM. Our program will be to go into the sanctuary and enjoy the Christmas lights and sing Christmas carols. The church will supply a Christmas ham, and would appreciate attenders bringing a side dishes, salad, or dessert. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, no more than \$15 per family.



Moses speaking at last month's Family Night

### Angel Tree Returns!

On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> we'll have our Angel Tree out with 11 paper angel ornaments, each representing a child in New Orleans who has a parent in prison. We are purchasing Christmas gifts on behalf of the incarcerated parent. The Angel Tree program was started by Prison Fellowship. A Christmas party for the children and their families will be on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during our Christmas Tea, when we'll have activities and distribute the gifts. Angel Tree gifts involve spending no more than \$40 per child—a clothing article and toy—and bringing the wrapped gifts with the paper angel ornament attached to the church by Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like, you can also support children at the Methodist Children's Home with \$10 gift cards to such places as Walmart or a fast-food restaurant and bring them to the church by December 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Come Sing in the Choir

Choir practice continues to meet at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings with our Music Director Leonardo Santos and Worship Leader Randy Roberts. For more information please contact the Church Office.

### Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Services

On Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> we will have two services—our normal 10:30-11:30 AM service, and an evening Candlelight and Communion service from 5:00-6:00 PM. **This year we will only have one New Year's Eve service on Sunday, December 31st, that being from 10:30-11:30 AM, which will be a prayer service with a devotional and communion. There will be no Sunday School for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Please invite friends to these special services!**

### Small Group Christmas Parties

The S.P.A. Ladies Bible Study will have a Christmas Brunch on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at the **Herbert's home. The Wonderful Wednesday small group** will have its Christmas party on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 PM at **Susan Doyle's home.**



## Prayer Focus

- ✝ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✝ Matthew Cull, recovery from his accident, and Roger and Nancy Cull
- ✝ The UMC, unity and faithfulness to the Bible and its doctrines
- ✝ Thankfulness on our joining the Wesleyan Covenant Association and
- ✝ Peter Gabb, recovering from surgery
- ✝ All the victims from Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria
- ✝ Ann and Karl Tornyo, Karla and Travis Crabtree, and Veronica whose homes were flooded in Houston

## Advent Devotional Book!

Many thanks to Jenny Rueb, Laura Smith, and Susan Doyle for their help organizing our Advent Devotional Book, which is a great way to nourish our spiritual hearts during this season. These books will be distributed one per family at church on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information on receiving your book, please contact the Church Office.

## Pledge Update

We praise God for the results of our Stewardship Sunday on November 12<sup>th</sup>. **By God's grace, our pledges so far have come to \$106,000!** It would be a great blessing for our 2018 budget supporting the church's ministry if we could reach (or exceed!) our total from last year, just over **\$119,000.** Let's keep this in prayer.

# it's time to give thanks!

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

---

### Christmas Pancake Breakfast

---

Sunday, December 3rd we will celebrate the beginning of Advent with our annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The meal is from 9:00-10:00 AM, with a brief devotional to follow. This breakfast and devotional replaces Sunday School that day.

---

### Addressing the Skeptics

---

Our only meeting month will be Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 Noon in the Parlor. We will continue discussing **Sam Harris' *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values***, which is a *New York Times* Bestseller. Harris is a neuroscientist and author of other *New York Times* Bestsellers *The End of Faith* and *Letter to a Christian Nation*. Harris is considered one of the leading New Atheists along with **Richard Dawkins**. We will address his chapter two, "**Good and Evil**", pages 65-85. Please feel free to join us for this friendly and informative discussion, regardless of whether you have read the material beforehand. Our next gathering will be to discuss the second half of this chapter, pages 85-112, on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

---

### Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

---

**This month's prayer walk will be** Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this wonderful ministry!

---

### Small Group Offerings

---

*Newcomers are welcome at all the gatherings below!*

**Wednesday SONrise Continues!** We will continue to offer a mid-week time of worship and fellowship from 6:30-7:30 AM called Wednesday SONrise in the church parlor. Please note that we will only meet this month on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. This service is hoped to make a time of congregational prayer for individuals, our church, and The UMC. During this service we will have not only a time of discussion of prayer needs and prayer, but also a devotional and communion. What a wonderful way to be refreshed in the middle of the week!

**The Wonderful Wednesday book and Bible study** is studying Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount. We will not meet this month at our regular times. We will enjoy Church Family Night on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and a **Christmas Party at Susan's house December 13.**

**S.P.A. Ladies Fall Study Ends** *The Study, Pray, Act Ladies* will finish studying *Laura Story's When God Doesn't Fix It.*, with a **brief study after the Christmas Brunch at the Herberts' home** on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday School classes for all ages** begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. The adult class meets in the Parlor. Youth and children meet in the Education Building. No Sunday School December 3, 24, and 31.

*Please call Susan in the office (504-288-2242) if you have any questions.*

---

*A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.*

# Lake Vista

## United Methodist Church

6645 Spanish Fort Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70124