



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. . .
An Interview with Tom Lambrecht

United Methodist minister Tom Lambrecht is the Vice President at the unofficial renewal movement in The United Methodist Church, Good News, which is headquartered in Houston. And he was a member of the 32-member Commission on a Way Forward, which has made the recommendations to be considered at the special session of General Conference (GC) this month in St. Louis on February 23-26 on the church's position on homosexuality. I had a chance to speak to him recently.

Woody: I understand you are from Wisconsin. How do you like living in southeast Texas?

Tom: I enjoy living in Texas—people are very friendly, a lot of interactions and activities to be a part of. And I enjoy the warm winters! The culture is much more amenable to Christianity as opposed to Wisconsin.

Woody: You have been part of the renewal of The UMC for a long time. Why?

Tom: I believe it is a calling from God. One of my reasons for staying within The UMC was the historical tradition of Wesleyanism and Wesleyan theology, and I think if we were to recover that it would re-energize our church for spiritual growth and vitality. I felt this calling since getting in the ministry to try to recover our theological vitality that is our heritage.

Woody: You have advocated against the One Church Plan which allows annual conferences to ordain practicing homosexuals and churches to conduct same-sex marriages, should they see that as their ministerial context. Why do you see it as wrong for The UMC?

Tom: Several reasons. One reason is that it puts the church in the position of adopting a viewpoint that is in conflict with Scripture, and I don't believe God can bless a church that violates His Word. Secondly, I think that the standards for ordination ought to be a universal requirement across the church, and making it a different requirement in different areas undermines our connectional arrangement as United Methodists and moves us in a direction of being more congregational, which is not in keeping with our Wesleyan tradition. Thirdly, it will make it difficult for brothers and sisters outside of the U.S. who are operating in a much more traditional environment and force them to defend a position that they don't agree with.

Woody: Why do you see the Traditional Plan (TP), which maintains our current position not to ordain practicing homosexuals and not to conduct same-sex marriages, as right for The

UMC?

Tom: The TP keeps the church in alignment with the teachings of Scripture and the understanding of the Christian church for 2000 years, and the vast majority of global Christianity. It fosters a unity based on common understanding and common practices, rather than a least common denominator unity that will result in fracturing the church.

Woody: Large sections of the TP have been rejected by the The UMC's "Supreme Court", the Judicial Council. Nevertheless, you believe the TP can still work. How can it be salvaged?

Tom: We are in the process of developing amendments to bring the provisions of the TP into compliance with the **Judicial Council's decision. We don't have to change the TP plan at all, but simply adjust the language to be sure it is in compliance. I don't think this will be a big problem.**

Woody: As we approach the special session of GC this month, how do we need to be praying as a local church?

Tom: We need to pray that the GC delegates will be led by God to accomplish His will and purpose, that the process of GC will be open and transparent, that people will listen and interact in a loving and respectful way, and that the way we address the conflict in our church will glorify God.

Woody: What outcome do you expect from GC?

Tom: It is hard to predict the outcome of this special session of GC. Based on previous GCs, the TP seems to be more likely outcome, but the other plans might be viable as well. But I do expect that no matter which plan passes there will be some unable to live with it, and we need to find a way graciously to allow those who cannot live with the direction of our church to exit and pursue ministry according to their conscious.

Woody: How can we pray for you as you prepare for GC?

Tom: Please pray for wisdom, how to communicate the beliefs that we have in a way that is respectful and winsome. Please pray for all the organizational details that need to be put together to enable our team to be advocates at GC. Pray for physical health and stamina for all the delegates and all the people involved, as well as safety in travel.

Let us be sure to keep these areas in our prayers for God's glory and His church's faithful proclamation of the gospel!

Yours in Christ,

Woody



Youth Corner

Valentine's Café

We had a great time last month exercising our ability to jump on trampolines at Sector6 Extreme Air Sports! This month we'll act as waiters and waitresses at the Valentine's Café on Friday, February 15th from 6:30-9:30 PM. This student-run fundraiser for our youth mission trip will feature delicious desserts as well as various coffees and teas, followed by a movie! Our feature film begins showing at 7:30 PM, and is *I Can Only Imagine*—a engaging true story of Bart Millard, the lead singer of the Christian music group "Mercy Me". Desserts and the movie are free—donations are accepted to support our MFuge youth mission trip this summer.



Church Family Night

Church Family Night will meet on Wednesday, February 6th with lasagna for supper from 6:00-7:00 PM. Pastor Woody will give a brief devotional entitled, "What's Love Got to Do with It?", and he will review what to expect at the special session of General Conference, which meets from February 23rd-26th. Please make plans to come, and bring friends!



Last month's speaker, Rev. Walter Hackney with Norwood and friend

Have a Strong-willed Child?

If you have a strong-willed child, help is here! Pastor Woody is leading this class based on psychologist Dr. James Dobson's book and workbook *The New Strong-willed Child* this month on Tuesday, February 19th 5:30-6:30 PM. This is the second part of the last class focusing on chapter 10, "The Strong-willed Adolescent (Is There Any Other Kind?)". Free childcare will be provided. Please help get the word out on this important class, and feel free to attend even if you have not been to the other classes.

Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee will meet this month on Monday, February 18th at 6:45. If you are on this committee please make plans to attend. The list of church officers is on the bulletin board in the Education Building.



Terrific Teens Trampolining

Sermons for February

Pastor Hingle will continue the sermon series on the Gospel of John called "Good News for Life", focusing on John 2 and 3. On Sunday, February 10th Pastor Hingle will break from the series to give the message, "State of the Union: Church of the First Love" from Revelation 2:1-7.

Church New Year Retreat!

Our New Year Retreat will be held this year on the weekend of February 8th-9th at Country Inn & Suites in Covington, LA. The cost will be \$115 per person for a single room, and \$135 for a double room. The cost includes all fees for room, speaker, and two meals (supper and breakfast).

The retreat will kick off on Friday, February 8th at 6:00 PM with a catered supper from Zea's at the hotel and end at 12:00 Noon on Saturday.

Our speakers will be Susan Doyle, Debby Grimm, Norwood Hingle, Randy Roberts, and Pastor Woody, who will present two chapters each of the Beau Crosetto's book *Beyond Awkward: When Talking About Jesus Is Outside Your Comfort Zone*. Crosetto is a college campus minister in the southeast Louisiana area with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

You are encouraged to purchase this book (available at church and Amazon.com) and read it before the retreat. Scholarships are available. To register, please contact the Church Office, and/or see Pastor Woody or Susan Doyle.



Prayer Focus

- ✚ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✚ The special session of General Conference (GC), February 23-26, where The UMC will decide its stance on homosexuality; for the clergy and lay delegates to GC: that we stay firm on biblical truth that marriage is between one man and one woman
- ✚ Beryl Lynn Jones, back surgery on February 11th, and in the death of her cousin and beloved friend of the Hingle family, Melvin Lewis
- ✚ Cheryl Strauss, in the death of Jim
- ✚ Herbert and Brenda Marks, in the death of his son Robert
- ✚ Laura Smith's parents' health, Dr. and Mrs. Gaut
- ✚ For Lake Vista UMC's ministry as we embark on 2019!
- ✚ Jay Goudeau surgery on the 20th

A Time for Fellowship for Guys!

We have a new adult Sunday School class which is geared for men! Pastor Woody Hingle is leading this group that meets in the Library at 9:30 AM, and we are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. Also, the men will enjoy their monthly supper together on Tuesday, February 12th from 6:30-8:00 PM at New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood, 817 Veterans Memorial Blvd. in Metairie—and please bring your Bibles. All men are invited and encouraged to bring friends!



Varnado Memories

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

Skeptic's Class

This event will return on Friday, February 15th at 12:00 Noon in the Parlor at church. We will continue our discussion of Paul Copan's *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God*, chapter 18, "The Root of All Evil? Does Religion Cause Violence?".

Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

Prayer Walk—Saturday, February 23rd from 10:30-11:30 AM.

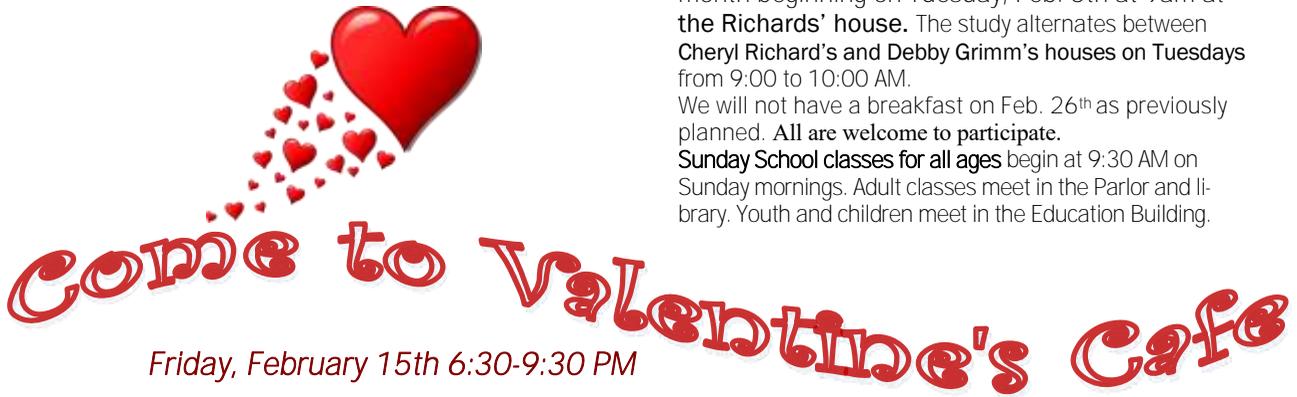
Small Group Offerings

Wednesday SONrise and Wonderful Wednesday Bible—The SONrise service will meet from 6:30-7:30 AM each Wednesday this month. Later in the day Pastor Woody teaches a Bible study which is an in-depth review of the previous Sunday's sermon, and this group will meet on the 13th, 20th, and 27th in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome!

The S(tudy), P(ray), A(ct) Ladies' The SPA Ladies will complete the "All Things New" Bible study this month beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 5th at 9am at the Richards' house. The study alternates between Cheryl Richard's and Debby Grimm's houses on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 AM.

We will not have a breakfast on Feb. 26th as previously planned. **All are welcome to participate.**

Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. Adult classes meet in the Parlor and library. Youth and children meet in the Education Building.



A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.

Lake Vista

United Methodist Church

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