



**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...

### The True Scandal of the Senate and the Supreme Court

Like many of you, I watched with anguish the tele-vised testimony on September 27<sup>th</sup> when Dr. Christine Blasey Ford stated she was sexually assaulted by Judge Brett Kavanaugh when they were teenagers, and Kavanaugh gave his impassioned defense of his innocence. There are many scandals to behold here.

One thinks of the terrible toll this tragic situation has brought both Ford and Kavanaugh—and their families.

One remembers the admission of Ford that she was **"terrified" to appear before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee**, as well as before the entire nation on live television, to give testimony to a horrific incident made public without her consent. Also, her endearing request for caffeine, and the look of sadness and trauma on her face as she shared her memory of a sexual assault from 36 years ago. **And one recalls Kavanaugh's fury over the frequent portrayal of him in the media as guilty until proven innocent**, as well as his claim of the bungling of the whole situation by Democrats on the committee—from premature conclusions of his guilt, **labeling him as "evil", and abandoning their duty of "advise and consent" to "seek and destroy" him personally**. One cannot forget his voice quivering in emotion as he proclaimed his innocence and shared of his **ten-year-old daughter's request to pray for Dr. Ford**. Add to this tragic scene the fact that both Ford and Kavanaugh have received death threats, and one has all the makings of a scandalous Greek tragedy.

Another scandal is that this Ford-Kavanaugh situation, regardless of whether Kavanaugh is innocent, points **to the reality of many women's experience of sexual harassment**. According to a *New York Times* article online from December 14, 2011, one in five women in the U.S. have experienced sexual assault. It should be noted that the same article states that one in seven men have **experienced sexual violence**. The **"#Me Too" movement** has been re-energized throughout this Senate hearing and is advancing its influence in the culture, and this is a good thing in many ways. The scandal is the pain and shame many women—and men-- have felt through the abuse of someone in power. This pain and shame has at times been relived and expressed at increased decibels. There

is video footage from during the week of the Senate hearing showing a Republican Senator on the Judiciary Committee in an elevator where the doors are held open by two women with cameras behind them as they yelled continuously at the Senator to take their pain of sexual assault seriously.

These are serious scandals, indeed. Yet there is one that I believe trumps them all-- and that is the scandal of the polarization of America, for I see the two scandals mentioned above as consequences of this polarization. The gap between the left and the right in our country seems to be widening to a mystifying degree. Just watch the discussion between the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on how they speak of



their views on the possible recommendation of Kavanaugh for the U.S. Supreme Court. The mistrust, outrage, and disconnect is obvious by both their words and body language. And this is in many ways a microcosm of our fractured nation. Two worldviews are espoused which are separating Americans like oil and water, often because we misunderstand one another or make too much of issues where we need to compromise. At other times, tragically, these worldviews are simply incompatible, such as the social issues of abortion and homosexuality. What are we to do?

The apostle Paul offers great advice. First, we need to pray, as he states in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, **"... I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity"**. **Do we pray for our political leaders weekly?** Second, lest we as followers of **Jesus forget, "our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20)**. **Our Savior is Jesus, not a politician, judge, or political party**. And finally, when we do interact with others with whom we disagree, we need to remember to listen—then listen some more! And when we speak, we speak biblical truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), without a hint of self-righteousness, judgment, or manipulation. Regardless of whether Kavanaugh makes the U.S. Supreme Court, we do know Who is the Chief Justice for all humanity, and it is before His throne we are called to kneel in worship and service.

Yours in Christ,

*Woody*

# Youth Corner

## Bowling

Our outing last month to City Putt was fun and challenging! We played 18 strenuous holes on the Louisiana Course. Congratulations goes to our winner, Kaylor Grimm, who posted a score of 50. Just behind her was her Mother, Debby, with a 51. Even though Pastor Woody came in third with a 54, he takes heart in the fact that he can still beat Kaylor in bingo! We had a great time with the other youth who joined us—Joey, Pressley, Sasha, and Val.

Our next event will be to go bowling at the AMF All Star Lanes on Williams Blvd. in Kenner on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>—when the Saints have a bye week! We will meet at the church by 3:00 PM and arrive back by 5:30 PM. Please be sure to invite friends!

## Saints Sunday Is Coming Again!

The New Orleans Saints will play the Minnesota Vikings in Minnesota—the location where last season ended for the Saints tragically!—on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:20 PM. This will be a great time to get revved up for the game, so we are calling all fans to wear their Saints gear to church that Sunday!

## Church Family Night

Church Family Night will meet on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> with a lasagna supper from 6:00-7:00 PM. Wayne Smith, a professional musician and member of Lake Vista UMC, will share some music with us 7:00-7:30. Please make plans to come, and bring friends!

## Second Harvest Mission Opportunity!

We have an opportunity on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> to volunteer at Second Harvest in Elmwood (700 Edwards Ave.). **This event is being organized by the S.P.A. Ladies'** Bible study, but everyone is invited to take part. Volunteers plan on meeting at Second Harvest, but please let Pastor Woody know if you need a ride.

## 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 Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 PM and Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-7:30 PM. This will be a nine-session class, and this month will mark its third and fourth meeting. Free childcare will be provided. The two books can be purchased through the church for \$22, or you can purchase them yourselves at Amazon.com. Please feel free to attend any of the classes.



## Advent Devotional Books

We are now putting out an official call for Advent devotionals, as the Advent season is right around the corner! Devotionals may be brief—a few sentences even— or a few paragraphs and follow the format in *The Upper Room*—Bible verse(s), reflection on the verse(s), prayer, and thought for the day. The deadline to get devotionals to the Church Office—preferably by email—is Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Stewardship and 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

On Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> our church will celebrate not just Saints Sunday (please see article on p. 2) and Stewardship, our time for financial commitments for 2019. We will also celebrate the blessing and privilege that the Lord has allowed us to be “in operation” shining the light of His Good News for 70 years! Rick Gilmore will be our Stewardship Chair, and our Stewardship theme is “**Cheerfully Sowing for a Bountiful Harvest**” from 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. Please make plans to attend that special Sunday’s worship service and the celebration luncheon afterwards.

### Meetings this Month

Sunday, October 7th is Pastor-Parish Relations Committee 9:30 AM.

Tuesday, October 9th Finance Committee 6:45 and Church Council 7:30 to 8:30 PM



**Food for Thought**



## Prayer Focus

- ✝ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✝ The UMC, unity and faithfulness to the Bible and its doctrines
- ✝ Beryl Lynn Jones, surgery on October 3rd
- ✝ Susan Doyle, surgery on October 5<sup>th</sup>
- ✝ **Jim and Cheryl Strauss on Jim’s health**
- ✝ Randy Roberts, health
- ✝ Congratulations to Dr. Buzzy and Katie Leithead, whose family expanded last month with two beautiful granddaughters, Eloise Esther and Anna Claire
- ✝ Happy Birthday to Marge Frey who turned 95 on September 29th

### The Gospel of John Sermon Series:

Pastor Hingle will commence this month a sermon series on the Gospel of John called “Good News for Life”. You are encouraged to read this gospel in your quiet times to get better familiar with it. This beautiful gospel reveals important parts of Jesus and His ministry, such as His deity, His teaching on eternal life, raising Lazarus from the dead, and His appearance to doubting Thomas.

### Finally, a Time 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. All men are invited and encouraged to bring friends!

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

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## Voice of the Martyrs Conference

On Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the **Voice of the Martyrs' Advance Conference** will be held at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. You will hear from Christians around the world where it is difficult to live for Christ, such as Iran, India and Syria. This is a must see event! Admission to this conference is free. Please contact the Church Office if you need a ride.

**October's Bible Memory Verse: "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. . ." John 1:12 NRSV**

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## Skeptic's Class

This event will return on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at Susan Doyle's house. We will continue our discussion of Paul Copan's *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. We will discuss chapter 13 and Thom Stark's rejoinder to Copan in his online book *Is God a Moral Compromiser?*, pages 180-205.

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## Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

Prayer Walk—Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30 AM. Please join us for this wonderful ministry.

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## Small Group Offerings

**Wednesday SONrise and Wonderful Wednesday** We will start a Bible study on the Gospel of John which will be led by Pastor Woody, where there will be a discussion on the previous Sunday's sermon text. The study meets in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome! **The S(tudy), P(ray), A(ct) Ladies'** This Fall SPA Ladies will be delving into Kelly Minter's study on 2 Corinthians, *All Things New*. The study began at Debby Grimm's house on September 11<sup>th</sup> and alternates with meetings at Cheryl Richard's house from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. On October 9<sup>th</sup> the SPA Ladies will lead a mission trip to Second Harvest Food Bank from 8:30 to 11:30 AM (please see article on p. 2). 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. *Please call Susan in the office (504-288-2242) if you have any questions about any of the above activities.*

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## Charge Conference 2018

On Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> our Charge Conference will meet at **St. Timothy's on the North Shore UMC** at 10:30 AM sharp. All are invited to attend, but only Church Council members may vote on our new slate of officers for 2019.

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

# Lake Vista

## United Methodist Church

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