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A Word from Woody...

"My Summer Book Reading List"

My new school threw me for a loop. I was finishing the fifth grade at Ecole Classique, and my teacher gave me on the last day of class something I never had at Bienville Elementary, my previous school: a summer reading list. My heart sank into deep despair!

This feeling was for many reasons. First, I hated reading. Second, all I wanted to do all summer was play! For third, you should re-read the second reason but imagine it in bold, italics, and underlined. And there was no getting around this reading list, I was told. When I came back to school in the fall we would be tested on it. Ugh! But the irony is that I really enjoyed reading many of these books over the eight years I was at Ecole—like *Treasure Island*, *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, *Oliver Twist*, and especially *Crescent Carnival*— which was over 800 pages!

So this summer I have given myself another reading list, and some of these books you may be reading as well. The first is Rob Renfroe and Walter Fenton's *Are We Really Better Together? An Evangelical Perspective on the Division in The UMC* (2018). The authors are both United Methodist ministers and have been heavily involved with renewal in our denomination for several years. I am reading this book along with others in our 7:00 PM Wednesday study group at the church, and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting the authors' perspectives on the LGBTQ+ issue currently threatening the unity of The UMC. They take a helpful biblical defense of traditional marriage and give keen insight to help us prepare for the special session of General Conference in February, 2019. Another book I will be reading this summer along with a group in the church—the Skeptics' Class—is Paul Copan's *Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God* (2011). This is an important book for defending parts of the Bible that skeptics, especially the new atheists, raise as legitimate reasons for jettisoning the God of the Bible.

There are also a few books I will be reading for personal interest. I recently came across a creative book that captured my attention on its first line—"C.S. Lewis

died in 1963, but I met him last week". The book is Robert Velarde's *Conversations with C.S. Lewis: Imaginative Discussions About Life, Christianity and God* (2008). The pages provide a fictional account of an atheist who, while in a hospital bed being treated for cancer, awakes to find Lewis at his bedside. Lewis takes the patient on a tour of Lewis' life and along the way they discuss many of the arguments that led Lewis to discard atheism for Christianity. This book is a little-known treasure! Another treasure is Theo Tschuy's *Dangerous Diplomacy: The Story of Carl Lutz, Rescuer of 62,000 Hungarian Jews* (2000). This is the true story of an unheralded hero, at least in the United States, who was the Swiss diplomat in Hungary during World War II. He was guided by his Christian faith to save 62,000 Jews, despite the perils this brought to his own life. It is worth noting that, in comparison, the well-known Oscar Schindler of the movie *Schindler's List* is credited with saving 1,200 Jews. Finally, to balance out my reading a bit, I have begun the critical discourse to Christians by a leading atheist, Sam Harris, called *Letter to a Christian Nation*. Having just finished his *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values*, I am interested to hear him out on a more direct critique of Christianity. There are times skeptics challenge believers to think through and live out their faith more deeply, and am hoping I find Harris does this.



One of the perks of not being in school is that if I don't finish these books by Labor Day, that's ok! While not all we read need be directly Christian, all we read-- and do-- should be to honor the Lord and be used for His purposes in some way. An important question for us is, what are we reading this summer to deepen our Christian discipleship? As the apostle Paul wrote, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17).

Yours in Christ,

Woody

Youth Corner

mFuge here we come

This month we head out for our youth mission trip, MFuge! We will return to Belmont University to serve in the Nashville, TN area. We'll meet at the church on Monday, June 18th at 6:00 AM, and return between 7:00-8:00 PM on Saturday, June 23rd. The ministry opportunities available at this MFuge include games and recreation, caring for those with special needs, helping out in food pantries, and visiting those in nursing homes. Those going are Kaylor Grimm, Elena Hingle, and Pastor Woody Hingle. Please keep this trip in your prayers!

Meetings This Month

- ◆ VBS Planning Meeting, Monday, June 4 Fellowship Hall



Church Family Night

Church Family Night will break for the summer, and will meet back on Wednesday, September 5th. Last month's speaker Maris Lee is pictured below.



July 4th Celebration at Church

You are encouraged to put on your calendars our July 4th potluck/game day celebration in our Fellowship Hall from 12:00 Noon-6:30 PM. Please plan to bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share, your favorite soft drink, and your favorite game (scrabble, cards, group games, etc). Feel free to also invite your friends, neighbors, or family members.

Happy Mothers' Day Breakfast!



NOBTS Professor to Speak

Sunday, June 10th we are blessed to have as our guest minister Dr. Lloyd Harsch. He is the Professor of Church History and Baptist Studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and in the fall he will be the Chair of the Theological Historical Division.

Come Sing in the Choir

Choir practice continues to meet at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings with our Music Director Leonardo Santos and Worship Leader Randy Roberts. For more information please contact the Church Office.

VBS Planning Meeting

Vacation Bible School will be on July 23-27 from 6:00-8:30 PM. We will hold a Vacation Bible School planning meeting on Monday, June 4th from 7:00-8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our VBS program is called "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus" (published by Group), which focuses on Jesus' delivering power in our lives. Please keep VBS in your prayers—and please be involved with VBS as much as you can!

Prayer Focus

- ✚ Barbara Velasquez, health
- ✚ The UMC, unity and faithfulness to the Bible and its doctrines
- ✚ Matthew Cull, eye surgery on June 13th
- ✚ Jay Goudeau, recovery from eye surgery on May 30th
- ✚ Emily Hingle on mission trip to Thailand
- ✚ **Kelsey Poole working in a Christian children's summer camp**

Present Sermon Series

Pastor Hingle will continue the sermon series on **Ephesians** called "Ancient Instructions for the Modern Church" for the month of June. This is a wonderful part of Scripture which addresses such issues as the church, spiritual gifts, and marriage and family roles. Please note that there will be a break in the series on Sundays June 10th (when Dr. Lloyd Harsch will speak) and June 17th when Pastor Hingle will give a Fathers' Day message.

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>

Fathers' Day Breakfast Celebration!



On Sunday, June 17th the women will make breakfast! The occasion is to celebrate the men in the church in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 AM. There will be no Sunday School that morning, but we will have a brief devotional at 10:00 AM.

Skeptic's Corner:

Skeptic's Corner: We have a tentatively scheduled meeting on Friday, June 15th at 12:00 noon and continue our discussion of Paul Copan's *Is God a Moral Monster: Making Sense of the Old Testament God*. We will discuss chapters 1-5. You are invited to join us, regardless of whether you have read the chapter, and bring your lunch-- the church will provide the drinks.

Prayer Walk Around the Neighborhood

Prayer Walk—Saturday, June 2nd from 10:30-11:30 AM.. Please join us for this wonderful ministry!

Small Group Offerings

Wednesday SONrise and Wonderful Wednesday Bible and book study on Rob Renfroe and Walter Fenton's *Are We Really Better Together? An Evangelical Response on the Division in The UMC* (2018), which addresses the issues that has forced The UMC to have a special General Conference in February, 2019. Some of these issues are the final authority of the Bible and homosexuality. This book is especially helpful in explaining what is at stake as The UMC seeks to preserve its unity and in understanding the radically different worldview both sides have. The study meets in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome!

The S(tudy), P(ray), A(ct) Ladies have finished their spring study. The summer reading book is *Wherever the River Runs* by Kelly Minter. **Kelly's honest and engaging** narrative pulls back the curtain on one of the most captivating places on earth as well as on parts of the gospel we may be able to recite but have never fully believed. Watch this space for info on 3-4 meeting times this summer. Books are \$3.00 each.

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*

A lighthouse for Christ in the heart of the lakefront.

Lake Vista

United Methodist Church

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