A Note from Aaron

Hot Buttons

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any...Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus...“Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists...”

Mark 14 (selected verses)

For most of us, what Jesus tells the Sanhedrin here is not very exciting. We all know that he is the Messiah. As a matter of fact, we know he is God incarnate who has taken away the sins of the world. However, for those there that night, the topic of the Messiah was a very touchy issue. The Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots, Essenes, and most common Jews expected a Messiah. Even King Herod and the Roman Empire expected a Messiah to try to rise up and challenge their authority. For Herod and Rome, any potential Messiah needed to be crushed, so Herod killed an entire village’s population of baby boys and Rome just killed everybody in Jerusalem 70 years later. All the other groups wanted a Messiah, but each wanted a different type of Messiah, one that would meet their own interests. Jesus didn’t fit any of their molds. So in the religious and politically charged world that he came to, Jesus’ simple claim to be Messiah and “I Am” (the name God gave to Moses...so Jesus was not just telling them that he was the Messiah, but that he was also God!) set the Sanhedrin in to a fury.

The Messiah was a hot button issue in first century Jerusalem. One push and everything blew up. We have issues like that today. A simple question about the recent Martin-Zimmerman trial turns into a heated debate if everyone isn’t on the same page. Both sides of the abortion debate shout at the top of their lungs that the other side is “a bunch of baby murderers,” or “a backwards people who hate women and women’s rights.” The gay marriage debate immediately brings cries of “bigot” or “destroyer of traditional marriage.” There seems to be little middle ground and even less compassion around these issues that ignites frustration and hatred between the various sides.

Here is the problem with how the Church normally handles hot button issues; we just ignore them. When was the last time you heard a sermon on gossip? When was the last time you heard a sermon on abortion? When was the last time you heard a sermon about sex? Here and there we hear preachers touch on these issues, but it is usually on television. It is safer that way. There is no one to offend in the studio audience because they are always on the same side of the issue as the preacher. It’s harder in real life. Our congregation has people on both sides of most hot button issues. It is not easy to proclaim the truth when half the room is divided on opposite sides. The other problem with the Church when it does jump into these contentious debates is that it accepts societies framing of the issues and it accepts society’s arguments as the right arguments.

The truth about these hot button issues is, like with Jesus claiming to be the Messiah, God’s position on the issue doesn’t fit any societal position. From abortion, to sex, to the Martin-Zimmerman trial, God’s view cuts through all sides of most issues. God pushes us beyond our normal stances to ask how He is calling us to live and respond as the Family of God. For the next few weeks we will be exploring some of these hot button issues. After spending these last few months in the Minor Prophets, it is time for us to look prophetically at some of the issues that plague us today. This is not a time to be timid. It is time to boldly wade into the midst of a divided and volatile world, proclaiming the Good News that it desperately needs to hear.

See you in church,
IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Worship/Altar Guild</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
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<td>8-03</td>
<td>Adopt-a-Block</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
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<td>8-04</td>
<td>NYH at Aldersgate UMC</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
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<td>8-06</td>
<td>Men’s Prayer Breakfast</td>
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<td>8-08</td>
<td>Wesley Foundation</td>
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<td>8-10</td>
<td>NYH Pancake breakfast</td>
<td>8-10-AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-11</td>
<td>NYH at Aldersgate UMC</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
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<td>8-12</td>
<td>Asbury Class</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-18</td>
<td>NYH at Aldersgate UMC</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-20</td>
<td>Men’s Prayer Breakfast</td>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-21</td>
<td>UMW Mission Closet</td>
<td>9-11AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-22</td>
<td>Stitch &amp; Pray</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-25</td>
<td>NYH at Aldersgate UMC</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-27</td>
<td>UMW</td>
<td>7:00PM</td>
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Serving our Church in August

Ushers: Frank Albach & Dan Gross
Greeters: Cynthia Jankauskas & Julie Peacock
Communion Steward: Linda Gasperson
Shut-in Communion Server: Pam Marek
Readers: 8-11 Dan Gross
          8-18 Tayler Rock
          8-25 Carol Poole
Prayers & Cares: Pam Marek
Nursery Volunteers: 8-4 Becca Barry
          8-11 Jason Hairfield
          8-18 Lesa Buttrum
          8-25 Jamie Hairfield

Nurture

We continue to be nurturing by taking communion to shut-ins. If you would like to receive communion at home, please let me know. Let us continue to Nurture each of our members as they go through trials and tribulations. As far as our congregation goes, “We are our brother’s keeper” keeping them in our prayers each day, as well as our minister and family.

Evelyn Albach
554-1955

Due to VBS, we will be having choir on Thursday, August 1st at 7PM instead of Wednesday, July 31st! After, we will resume our normal schedule for Wednesday evenings.
**Mission of the Month: Killingsworth**

Killingsworth is a care-giving community residence for women who are emerging from crisis situations. Within the eight bedroom home women recovering from alcohol and/or drug abuse, incarceration, mental and emotional problems, violence and assault, or family crisis situations can find shelter and support.

Killingsworth is staffed 24 hours a day with trained personnel who provide support and supervision. Individual guidance, group counseling, assistance with job or educational placement, spiritual development, life-skills training, relapse prevention and community re-orientation are presented in a supportive atmosphere.

The residence provides daily meals and lodging at a nominal fee per week. Financial assistance to the residents is often available from other agencies in the community.

Residents are expected to live within the structure of the house rules, pay rent on time and work towards their goals. Weekly staff meetings assess problems and progress. Each resident is required to be employed during her stay. Training or educational programs which lead to employment are equally acceptable. This requirement is basic to each woman’s steps toward self-sufficiency and return to community life.

Killingsworth is related to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

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**Stitch & Pray**

Stitch and pray will meet on August 8th and 22nd from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Come and join us. We have a great time fellowshipping together and then praying for those in our church, our immediate families and those in the community and nation. Notes are sent to those we pray for locally to show that God’s love is with them.

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**UMW Rummage Sale**

The UMW will sponsor a fall rummage sale on Saturday, October 5, 2013. Hours will be 7am to 12 noon. A light breakfast will be served. Craft tables will also be available for you to sell your items. The cost is $5.00 each.

So, clean out those closets and junk drawers of your unwanted and unneeded clutter and help us in our 1 big fundraiser this year.

Remember that all of our proceeds will go to help support Missions near and far away.

Items may be left in the Mission Closet or the Wesley-Brabham classroom, or you can bring them to church on Sunday, September 29th. We will be working in the Social Hall all week prior to the sale and could use your help if you have a couple of hours to spare.

For questions, please call Carol Poole or Jean Doscher.

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**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN’S MEETINGS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-05</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>Lou Bates subgroup, out to eat at Carrabba’s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-12</td>
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<td>Josephine Abrams subgroup, out to eat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Joan Overstreet subgroup, out to eat.</td>
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<td>8-14</td>
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<td>Vroome-Williams subgroup</td>
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<td><strong>No Meeting this month</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8-15</td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Tillie Salvo subgroup meet at church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-24</td>
<td>7:00PM</td>
<td>UMW General Meeting</td>
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Hostess: Lou Bates  
Program: Report from Mission “U”  
Mission Project: Killingsworth
Attention Men:
The United Methodist Men will meet on August 12th at 5:30PM. Bring your choice of meat to grill. Salad, baked potatoes, tea and dessert will be provided.

Don’t forget that we still save used eye glasses, cell phones, stamps, used computer cartridges, and drink can tabs for mission projects. Soup labels and Box tops for Education. Also, save those pennies for our United Methodist Camps and Retreats.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast
The Prayer Breakfast meetings for August will be the 6th at Denny’s Diner on Ashley Phosphate at 7:00 AM and 20th at McDonalds on Rivers at 7:00 AM. Come join us in food and prayer.

Cameron David Quamme
July 7, 2013
Proud parents Clayton and Ashley Quamme. His great grandparents are Arlen & Juanita Driggers.

Robin and Huey Speights
July 28, 2013

Charleston “Wesley Foundation
The Charleston Wesley Foundation is excited to try something different for our College of Charleston students. **On August 20th,** the first day of classes, a group from CWF will stand outside of Bethel UMC to give out free cookies as a gift to students as they go to their first classes of the semester. You are invited to come down and join us in welcoming the students of C of C back. But more importantly, **WE NEED COOKIES.** If you would like to make some homemade cookies and to put them three to a sandwich bag, that would be a huge help. **Just bring them to church on the 18th,** we will make sure they are enjoyed by the students. Aaron and I thank you in advance for your ongoing support of the Charleston Wesley Foundation.

Aaron Meadows, chair and Pam Marek, Treasurer, CWF
We continue to remember in prayer our members and loved ones who are ill or otherwise unable to join us in worship.

**Nursing Home Residents:** Don Emerson, Jerry Holdridge, Sybil Jones, Nita Mitchum, and Bill Pross.

**Homebound:** Betty Black, Rita Fultz, Lesa Greenawalt, Irene Messer, Isabelle Ordog, Lily Ward and Mary Mellor Woods.

**Memorials**


Given in loving memory of **Justin Parrott**, stepson of Mike Larkin by Marshall and Martha Smith.
**Flashlight Tag**

Sometimes we resist the light of Christ. But when his light touches us, we can then share it with others. Play this fun game on a summer night to remember how Christ’s light shines in the world.

**What you need:**
- Friends
- Safe open space outdoors
- A flashlight for each player

**How to Play:**
1. Choose one person to be the Tagger, known as the Light. Only that person can have his or her flashlight on.
2. The Light tries to shine his or her flashlight on other players, who run around and try to hide in the darkness.
3. Once players have been touched by the Light, they turn on their flashlights and join in, trying to shine on others.
4. Play until everyone has been tagged by the Light. Repeat, giving everyone a turn to be the Light.

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**GOD’S LIGHT**

Summer’s long days can remind us of our Creator, who made the sun and wants us to live in his light.

**Directions:** First, write the opposite of each word in parentheses. Then use the Word Bank words, in order, to complete 1 John 1:5-7, NIV.

**WORD BANK:**
- is
- in
- at
- if
- in
- as
- is
- in
- with

- God __________; ________
  (dark) (her)

- there __________ ________ness ________ ________ __...
  (yes) (light) (none)

- But _____ we ________ ____ the ________,
  (run) (dark)

- _______ ________ ________ the ________,
  (she) (dark)

- we have fellowship _________ one another...

1 John 1:5-7, NIV

Answer: God is light in him there is no darkness at all...
**Mission Closet:**
“For those who would like to donate to the Mission Closet which helps provide food for the hungry people in our area, a more convenient plan is now in operation. Please feel free to make a donation and earmark it: Mission Closet” and the committee will purchase needed food supplies in time to provide them to the hungry on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. In this way you can receive credit on your giving statement for the donation. The committee will purchase necessary items in time for the “give away” each month. Of course, if you wish to continue to bring items of non-perishable foods and paper products, please do so and leave them in the Brabham Class across from the kitchen. Your heart would be warmed if you could see the faces of people who receive the food they need so badly. God bless you for your generosity and support. Since January, we have provided 91 bags of food—enough to feed a family for 3-5 days.

**Adopt-a-Block:**
We continue our Adopt-a-Block ministry on the 1st Saturday of every month at 9:30AM. Everyone is welcome to participate, just come when you can. Come join us on July 6th.

Maureen McCrorie

*Pancake Fundraiser *
The North Hope Youth will hold a pancake Fundraiser at Applebee’s on Rivers Avenue on August 10th from 8 – 10AM. Tickets are $7.00.

North Hope Youth will meet at Aldersgate UMC every Sunday from 5 to 6:30PM. Each night we will have a Bible Lesson, meal and free time to play.

August Schedule:

8-04, 8-11, 8-18 beach trip or back to school blessing, 8-25

Open Game Room Time

**Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30PM starting June 10th**
North Charleston UMC Youth Room

Drop in for games and fun. Bring your friends!
Mary and Brailyn are very smart, disciplined young ladies who just graduated from Dreher High School. They are both headed off to college in the fall, and both chose to remain in Epworth’s care after their 18th birthdays. They want more from life and at Epworth they feel safe and loved. Each summer, Epworth works with Urban League and local businesses to secure part-time employment for residents 14 and older. Many of them enjoy the extra income and experience and ask to work two jobs each summer. Both Mary and Brailyn had summer jobs last year, and looked forward to the bonus income again this summer. They were given permission to work two part-time jobs, but they had different plans. “Ms. Gee, we want to open the Rec Center for the younger kids. May we work one job and work with the younger children the rest of the time?” they asked. Ms. Gee is the Case Manager for Anderson Cottage where the girls live. Ms. Gee thought it was a great idea and encouraged the girls to present their plan to Rev. John Holler, President of Epworth Children’s Home. Rev. Holler was very pleased and agreed to grant the girls permission. Every week this summer, Mary and Brailyn have opened the gym and planned and led games for the younger cottages. The children are having a wonderful time. They are staying active and they are witness to the great potential they themselves have inside. “Why did you decide to give up some extra income to open the Rec Center,” Rev. Holler asked the girls. “Epworth has given us so much and we just want to give back,” they responded. It is wonderful to see the cycle of abuse, neglect and shame being broken for Epworth’s children. It is even more wonderful to see how as the community of Epworth, everyone feels connected and responsible for the whole.