

# The Russell Report

Russell Memorial Methodist Church

*A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love*

Vol. 19, No. 9

September 2023



## ***Travail and Treasure***

It's been a long time, more than seventeen years to be precise. That is how long it has been since I observed closely the travail of a mother through the birth-giving process. Watching my daughter bring her son into the world reminded me of what a holy time it is. When I say it is a holy time, I don't mean to suggest it is an easy time. Far from it. It is a time that brings anxiety, uncertainty, frustration—and a great deal of pain.

This is what makes the whole thing so interesting. Almost ironically it is all of the anxiety, the frustration—and the pain—that makes the end result so beautiful. For nine months I observed (from afar) as my daughter endured some pretty tough effects of pregnancy. For a day and a night I waited and prayed as the labor ran its course. Then on the 18th of August I received word of a gift that will forever change our lives. The travail had ended; the treasure had arrived.

With the arrival of the treasure, the mother's demeanor takes a predictable direction. I have already noticed it several times when speaking with my daughter. Whenever we talk about that new baby, she says in the most sweet, gentle voice, "He's perfect." No surprise. I wouldn't expect her to say anything else. The treasure that she holds came through great travail. It would be a great oddity for her to not regard that child with the greatest endearment. In her eyes, he is indeed perfect.

Have you considered that Jesus thinks the same about you? Consider the travail of our Lord. Hebrews 12:2 says that "for the joy set before Him (he) endured the cross, despising the shame..." The travail was unmistakable. The cruelty of the Roman cross was intensely feared, and for good reason. This is what Jesus was willing to endure. But why? For the joy set before him. The joy of what? The joy of giving birth to the Church. And if the joy of giving birth to the Church drove Jesus through such great travail, how do you think the Church looks through Jesus' eyes? Ephesians 5:27 describes the Church as being "in spender, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing... holy and without blemish." Somehow I think if we were to ask Jesus what he thinks about the Church, he might say in the most sweet, gentle voice, "She's perfect."

*(continued on page 2)*

*(continued from page 1)*

You don't feel perfect, do you? Neither do I. We are keenly aware of our sins and shortcomings, or at least we should be if we are allowing the Holy Spirit to speak into our lives. Still, think about the attitude of the one who gave spiritual birth to you. If you are not yet a Christian, consider the attitude of the one who offers spiritual birth to you. He can't regard you more highly than he already does. He can't love you more deeply than he already does. You cannot be more precious to him than you already are. He has endured the greatest travail in order to make you his treasure. Embrace it and claim it.

He would want you to.

Pastor Dave

ADOPT  
SCHOOL



### **Campus Adopted!**

Our congregation is "adopting" the Wills Point Junior High campus for the school year. We will be looking for ways to encourage and support the staff and students at the school. Opportunities will vary, and your participation is welcome. Please email Pastor Dave ([pastor.rmmc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.rmmc@gmail.com)) if you would like to help pour out some of God's loving kindness upon our junior high.



### **Wade Memorial Service**

We will be celebrating the life of Mattie Inez Wade on Saturday, September 9, at 12:00 p.m. Inez has been a long-time member of Russell Memorial church and a friend to many. Her obituary can be found online at [www.hlfhs.com](http://www.hlfhs.com). The family will be receiving friends in the sanctuary one hour before the service.



### **Sound Booth Upgrade**

We are in the process of giving our audio and video equipment a complete upgrade. The project will be quite comprehensive, enhancing the worship experience for people in the sanctuary and those watching remotely. The bid for the largest part of the work comes to around \$34,000. Some additional components will need to be purchased as well. If you would be so moved, we would encourage you give directly to the project. Donations should be marked "sound booth fund".



### ETX Area Meeting

You are invited to attend a gathering of clergy and laity of other GMC churches in our area on Tuesday, September 12th. The gathering will be at ChristPoint Methodist Church in Lindale and go from 1:30 until 5:00. Leadership of the Eastern Texas Conference will be with us. We will spend time in worship, prayer, and conversation about our vision for ministry together. You are welcome to let Pastor Dave know if you plan to attend.

### Summer Camp 2024



NexGen Ministries of the Eastern Texas Conference is excited to lead summer camp June 10-14, 2024 at Lakeview Methodist Camp!

The theme is "Rise Up!" Like Lazarus, we are raised to new life by the power of God in Jesus. Like Paul and so many others, we are called to stand up for Him as witnesses.

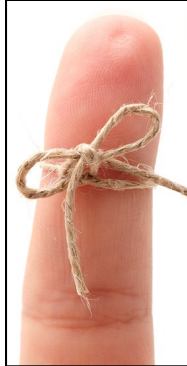
We'll be presenting the Gospel to our students and inviting them to respond, calling and equipping them for deeper discipleship and holiness, and helping them discover God's purpose for their lives. And we'll be having a ton of fun doing it!

We are holding our camp at a place many of us love dearly--Lakeview, but our conference team is designing and directing this camp and it will be fully aligned with the theology and mission of the Global Methodist Church. It will be for students entering 3rd grade through graduated high school seniors.

ETX Camp 2024 is an awesome opportunity for us to come together to see God move in our students and in our churches as the Gospel of Jesus takes hold and bears fruit in the next generation.

# Calendar of Events for September

## Dates to Remember for September



Friday, September 1st, 9:00 a.m. Have food for football boys to Deen Building  
 Monday, September 4, Labor Day, Church Office Closed  
 Tuesday, September 5, 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting  
 Saturday, September 9, 12:00 p.m. Service for Inez Wade  
 Sunday, September 10, 8:00 a.m. Methodist Men Meeting  
 Monday, September 11, 5:00 p.m. Day School Board Meeting  
 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting  
 Thursday, September 14, 11:00 a.m. Methodist Women Meeting  
 Saturday, September 16, 9:00 a.m. Crafting with Christ  
 Sunday, September 17, 11:15 a.m. Admin Council Meeting  
 Thursday, September 21, 9:00 a.m. Games in Deen Building  
 Saturday, September 30, Deen Building in Use

## Happy Birthday!

|                   |      |                    |      |
|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Sandra Smith      | 9/1  | Mike Lang          | 9/19 |
| Robert Greenwald  | 9/3  | Danny Brown        | 9/23 |
| Don Hollister     | 9/6  | Karl Lybrand       | 9/23 |
| Damon Davis       | 9/14 | Natalie Sue Hullum | 9/23 |
| Bret Wortham      | 9/14 | Tim Goodson        | 9/24 |
| Kerin Wortham     | 9/14 | Johnny Bates       | 9/24 |
| Shane McBride     | 9/15 | Eliot Nychka       | 9/26 |
| Mackenzie Roberts | 9/16 | Luke Rowland       | 9/27 |
| Will Dennis       | 9/17 | Patsy Aulich       | 9/27 |

## Right Now Media

Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.

## Our Presence and Our Gifts

|         | Aug 6      | Aug 13     | Aug 20     | Aug 27     |
|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Worship | 98         | 105        | 87         | 92         |
| Giving  | \$8,930.00 | \$4,310.00 | \$3,930.00 | \$4,000.00 |

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                       | Wednesday   | Thursday                                 | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|   |   |                               |   |  | 1<br>Breakfast for the Boys (feeding the WPHS football team) | 2   |
| 3<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service                                    | 4<br>Happy Labor Day!<br>Church Office Closed     | 5<br>6:00 pm Trustees Meeting | 6<br>6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells<br>7:00 pm Choir Practice  | 7  | 8  | 9<br>10:00 am Safety Team<br>12:00 pm Service for Inez Wade |
| 10<br>8:00 am Methodist Men<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service          | 11<br>5:00 pm Day School Board<br>6:00 pm Finance | 12                            | 13<br>6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells<br>7:00 pm Choir Practice | 14<br>11:00 am Methodist Women Meeting   | 15   | 16<br>9:00 am Crafting with Christ                          |
| 17<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service<br>11:15 am Admin Council Meeting | 18  | 19                            | 20<br>6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells<br>7:00 pm Choir Practice | 21<br>9:00 am Games in the Deen Building | 22   | 23  |
| 24<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:00 am Worship Service                                   | 25  | 26                            | 27<br>6:00 pm Ladies Hand Bells<br>7:00 pm Choir Practice | 28                                       | 29   | 30<br>Deen Building in use                                  |



### Youth Mission Project

The youth want to help members of our community by providing hygiene health kits for the blessing box. If you have sample sizes of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothpaste, or other hygiene items with the exception of toothbrushes (we have plenty) we would love for you to donate them to us. We plan on grouping items into ziplock bags for those in need to take from the blessing box. You can drop off any donated items in the boxes for the Angel Tree. One is located in the Deen building and the other is located in the narthex of the church.



### Game Time

Have you heard about our game gathering? Join us on the 3rd Thursday of the month, in the Deen building for games and light snacks. We have dominos, cards, bridge, etc. We will gather at 9:00 a.m. and get the games started at 9:30 a.m. We hope to see you there! (as you can see by the picture, we have a good time!)

## COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



We have a small church library started in the Choir Room of the church building. We have a limited selection of books at this time, but are looking to grow our catalog. If you are interested in checking out a book, please come in and take a look!

## Remember in Prayer:

Family of Inez Wade  
Family of Andy Anderson  
Family of Travis Deen  
Family of Dwayne Brock  
Family of Naomi Caldwell  
Family of Rosa Davis  
Family of Edward Looney  
Family of Sammy Savage  
Family of Scott McKay  
Family of Bill Hedges  
Alice Kolb  
Arthur Galope, Jr.  
Betty (Cochran) Howe  
Betty Manning  
Billie Cade  
Bobbi Smith  
Bruce Eyers  
Cartwright Family  
Charles & Wynona James  
Cheryl Bradley

Cheryl & David Shaw  
College Students  
Crestwood Nursing &  
Assisted Living  
Darian Richardson  
Denny McCormick  
Eric Johns  
Fausto Sanchez & Family  
FG Hardy  
Jack & Margaret Fleming  
Grace  
Harrison Mayone  
Helen Liston  
Hollie LyBrand  
Isaac Bullard  
Revival at Asbury College  
Jared McDonald  
Jeff D'Amico  
Jill  
Jim & Sandra Smith  
Kelly Teel

Kristin Jackson  
Marie Shastid  
Marigrace & Mike Lang  
Margie Arehart  
Margie Eyers  
Mark Brown  
Marty & Barb Mitchell  
Mary Bullard  
Phillip Young  
Randy Scott  
RMMC Staff  
Robert Butts  
Robin & Lorelai  
Ron Turner  
Scrub  
Shari Smith  
Students, Teachers,  
Administrators & Staff  
Sunday School & Church  
William Moore

## Memorials

In memory of  
Naomi Caldwell  
Given by  
William & Linda Dennis and  
Fritz Gilbreth.

In memory of  
Rosa Davis  
Given by  
Tommy & Linda Malone.

In memory of  
Andy Anderson  
Given by  
Fritz Gilbreth.



# Russell Memorial Methodist Church

Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor  
John Ross, Minister of Music  
Vanna Duda, Pianist  
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator  
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist  
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director  
Shane McBride, Youth Director

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

## The Russell Report

*Russell Memorial Methodist Church*  
*A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love*  
201 S. Fourth Street  
P. O. Box 335  
Wills Point, TX 75169  
903-873-2569

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED