



MEADVILLE MESSENGER

From the Pastor's Desk:

Exodus 28:2-5... ³ Tell all who are skilled, to whom I have given special abilities, to make clothing for Aaron for his dedication to serve me as a priest. ⁴ These are the articles of clothing that they should make: a chest pendant, a vest, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. When they make this holy clothing for your brother Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests, ⁵ they should use gold, blue, purple, and deep red yarns and fine linen....” (CEB)

Matt turned to his Mom, Diane, and asked, “Mama, where is God?” Diane was an astute and faithful Christian who lived out her faith and was well versed in God. But how do you explain on short notice where God is to a three-year-old? Well, Diane gave it her best try and thought she had done till Matt interrupted and said, “Naw, Mama! I mean God that stands up there and wears the dress.”

God bless little Matt. I had never been confused with God before. It was humbling and scary. Matt is not the only one who is confused about the preacher's “dress”. I bring this up because I have had to make a decision that may or not be necessary. For 17 years, from fall to the late spring season, I have worn a robe. I have worn a robe on the Day of Holy Communion for about twenty-five years. But why is the robe even an issue? Aren't just plain old Sunday preacher clothes enough? What was once (at least) meant a suit and tie for the preacher is now maybe a tie and slacks and maybe a polo and khakis. But does it really matter what the preacher wears?

The truth is that the dress of the preacher shouldn't matter. I happened to marry someone who believes that the preacher should wear at minimum wear a tie. On some occasions she has given begrudgingly her blessing on a polo and khakis. She approves of the robe for a few reasons. Mostly, it hides my shirt tail that may come out at some point during the activity of worship. It also hides my potential for stains from the Men's breakfast that some Sundays directly preceded the first service with no time to make it home for a change of shirts and/or tie.

So, what is the protocol for a United Methodist preacher? Well, it depends on where you are and the church(es) you serve. At Bruce UMC, the first time I wore the robe and stole on a regular basis, it was a part of their tradition. For a few years, I wore the robe year-round. It was for practical reasons not liturgical (related to public worship). If the people were hot, I was hotter. We had a battle over the thermostats. The thermostats ran three to five degrees higher than they showed. A setting of 68 would mean it would be 71 to 73 degrees. 71 to 73 degrees became 76-78 in the blistering dog days of summer. I tried to keep the thermostats at their most economic level while keeping us as comfortable as possible. It was hotter in the raised chancel than in the nave (the seating area) of the

sanctuary. It took the sting out of folks argument that the setting was for my own comfort. Other places have other reasons for the preacher's Sunday morning attire. Many of these have more to do with local traditions and functionality than spiritual necessity.

I hope that little Matt didn't actually think I was pretending to be God. The vestments for the priest were based on what God described in the text from Exodus 28 above. The robe and a sash (stole) for the modern preacher has been patterned after the yoke that Jesus describes in the Gospels. Leviticus 8 and Exodus 39 also describe the priestly robe and vestments. The robes of the Jews existed in Jesus day and it is likely it was the tassel attached to the hem at the bottom of Jesus' garment that the woman with the issue of blood touched. It does not mean anything about the spiritual nature of the preacher to wear the robe and stole. It is merely a garment and vestment. It is a functional garment that can be a distraction or eliminate distractions. The preacher is no better spiritually or otherwise because they don these garments. It merely is a symbol of the priestly office that is tied to the ancient beginnings of faith in the Old Testament.

The colors of the stole walk us through the seasons of the Christian year which is a reason for a break in summer. From Trinity Sunday in early June to World Communion Sunday in early October or (for some traditions) All Saints Day in early November, the same green color is present. There is nothing wrong with projecting growth and renewal which the green stole and paraments on the pulpit and altar indicate. Like other aspects of our life, though, we get bored seeing the same color week after week.

The guy in the dress is not God, is really nothing special, and has no spiritual advantage. He just wears a different garment in hopes that others may see Christ and not his flaws. The hope is that the yoke of Christ is received and that the word of Christ is preached and lived. If this is done, the garment will not matter. Christ will be glorified, and His kingdom will abound.

Peace and Joy and Love
Rex Wilburn, pastor

Bro. Rex will be an assistant spiritual director on a men's Emmaus walk in Grenada, MS October 4-7, 2018. Grady Fleming will bring the message at Meadville UMC on October 7, 2018.

COLEMANISM:

"You can't take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead."

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." Matthew 6:19-20

Worship Matters!

Pat Jones

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1

We have all had those spiritual giants who have challenged us, inspired us, and led us into a deeper relationship with Christ. As a child, I just knew him as “Cousin Tom” and I knew he was among my mama’s favorite family members. As a young adult and newlywed, I knew him as the pastor of Meadville UMC. Larry and I were trying to settle on a church and a denomination in the early ’70’s. We were instantly drawn to the teaching/preaching of Tom and the people like Lynn and DJ Hollinger and the Salyers. And here we have been since 1973.

Rev. Tom Cupit, at the age of 95, recently went to live with the God he had faithfully served. When he was 92, he wrote a book that he called, “Wobbling Down Memory Lane.” Since Wright’s homecoming is coming up on October 21, I wanted to share an excerpt from this book.

“Bethesda ‘Wright’s’ Church is in the northeast section of Franklin County. It was always small with no more than thirty people there at its strongest point.

The church was organized in 1823 and filled the spiritual needs for a dedicated group of people. My parents, grandparents and great grandparents are interred there.

I, Tom Cupit, grew up there along with my whole family. So, it is always a joy to go back there for homecoming. My first school, named Pine Ridge, was located two hundred feet south of that church. My brother and I walked to this one-room school.

The church was divided with ladies on one side and men on the other side. Children were on the side with the mothers. The church changed pastors often. In fact, in the period of one hundred forty years, there were one hundred pastors. I joined that church in 1934 and was baptized. Our father and mother and four kids were members there. There was Sunday school every Sunday, but preaching was held one Sunday per month.

Most years, I was asked to preach the Homecoming sermon. Edna and I drove from Tupelo and spent the night in Brookhaven. Sunday morning we drove to the church. It was a pleasant day and we enjoyed visiting with lots of old friends.”

Many will remember Tom for his sense of humor, as well as his love for the word of God. He always said that sermons longer than 20 minutes should be divided, and some of it used for the next sermon.

MUMC FALL BIZZARRE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018



FOOD EXTRAVAGANZA!!

Freeze dinners for Thanksgiving or a quick supper! More details and a menu will follow.

You'll be able to pre-order by contacting
Barbie Fleming.

Some home-made
craft items will
also be available
for purchase!





Sunday

9:45 - Sunday School
 11:00 - Morning Worship
 4:00 - Intercessors
 5:00 - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

4:00 - Prison Ministry

Friday

6:00 - Sewing Ministry



OCTOBER

Twenty eight

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1 5:30 P.M. PPR Committee Meeting | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 10:00 A.M. Jolly Elders | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 6:00 P.M. Emmaus | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 COM Luncheon | 22 | 23 6:30 P.M. Charge Conference | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

He counts the stars, and calls them by name.

PSALM 147 : 4

October Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| October 01 | Ed Herring | October 17 | Ollie Mae Youngblood |
| October 01 | Sandy Hester | October 18 | Andrew Smith |
| October 06 | Emma Claire Stebbins | October 18 | Howard Herring |
| October 07 | Isaac Sivils | October 19 | Sharyn Davis |
| October 07 | Elliot Stebbins | October 19 | Ashley Priest |
| October 08 | Elizabeth Rushing | October 20 | Libby Shelton |
| October 09 | George Rushing | October 25 | Jacob Bradford |
| October 10 | Ed Youngblood | October 26 | John Smith |
| October 13 | Victoria Herring | October 31 | Austin McCormick |
| October 15 | Ryan Cowart | | |

October Anniversaries

| | |
|------------|------------------------------|
| October 7 | Matt & Mary Kay Holt |
| October 9 | Gary & Vana Hurst |
| October 11 | Brett & Vista Herring |
| October 19 | Josh & Victoria Herring |
| October 20 | Nathan & Anna Grace Shideler |



MUMC Staff

Pastor,
Rev. Rex Wilburn



Director of Music,
Pat Jones



Office Manager,
Samantha Sivils

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*Dear Church family,
Your love shown to us
during the loss of my
mom in August and
Tripp's surgery in
September has shown me
that God's grace is*

*abundant in the hearts of each of you. The food,
cards, memorials, calls, texts and especially the
prayers were greatly appreciated! Gary and I love
each of you so much. Thank you for being the
hands and feet of Christ during these difficult
times in our life.*

Cindy Jones



Draw near
to God and
He will
draw near
to you.

JAMES 4:8

Chosen by God to Proclaim Christ through Worship, Study, and Service

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