



## Highlands United Methodist Church

Volume 3 Issue 10

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### From the Pastor's Desk...

This morning during devotions I came across words that really jumped out at me. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: *"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day."* (2 Corinthians 4:16) Don't those words speak to us today?

Yes, our outer nature is wasting away! Who can deny it? We all have our stories, some more than others, of how we are 'wasting away.' So far my eyes need glasses to see anything up close; my ears ring continually; and the soles of my feet have little feeling. I'm sure that's just the beginning of other changes yet to come.

St. Paul was particularly bothered by his own failing eye sight, which must have caused him consternation as he travelled around in his missionary journeys and wrote to so many faith communities. Paul used a scribe to write his epistles, for the most part, but he does add in his letter to the Galatians: *"See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand!"* (6:11)

It is a bit discouraging to consider how our bodies decline as we progress in age. It is what happens. But Paul does not end there. No! He has good news for us who are in Christ.

Even though our bodies are less strong than they were in our youth, *'our inner nature is being renewed day by day.'* That is good news, and I believe it is a wonderful truth. We are being renewed day by day in our 'inner nature'.

Is not our 'inner nature' our 'spiritual self'? Is it not the part within us that tells us who we are and what we believe? Is it not the part of us that began to learn of Jesus years ago, and is it not at the heart of our being? Our *'inner nature'* has been growing and maturing over many years, and the fun part about it, is that it can't suffer the insults of aging that we see in our 'outer nature.'

Although some of us forget and experience 'senior moments' or worse, I believe that our 'inner nature' is intact as long as we have stayed faithful to seeking Christ.

When we continue in both personal and corporate worship, searching scriptures, praying, giving, and serving one another and this world, how can we help but continue to grow in our 'inner nature'?

St. Paul wrote about the fruits of the Holy Spirit, 'Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' Those are the fruits of our 'inner nature'. They are the ways we can grow in our walk with Christ. And Paul said that against those fruits there is no law. Imagine someone voting on law against Love, or Joy or Peace, or any of the fruits of the Spirit? How funny! NO! Not only is there no 'law against those fruits', but they cannot be taken from us. They are attributes of our 'inner nature', and no matter how decrepit our 'outer nature' comes to be.

This is reason to rejoice. I haven't met a mature person yet who would exchange their 'outer nature' for the body of a, say, 30 year old. That's because our more mature 'inner nature' would be lost in the exchange. Nobody wants to lose that!

*Grace and Peace, Pastor Marjorie*



#### God Speed!

**We are about to say good-bye to our dear friends the Grants, Jerry, Bruce, and Danny! We will certainly miss them. They will be moving to Birmingham to live closer to daughter/sister Chris McMahon. Their new address is: 174 Village Drive Calera, AL 35040. We will be celebrating them one last time at the lunch on the 27th of May at Grill 29 in Providence. 11:30**

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**We are praying for:**

Virginia & Charles Piner  
Fayetta Notestine  
Pat Cottrell & Family  
Tim Hardin & family  
Jim Patton (cancer)  
John, Joe, & Mollie McColpin  
Faye & Bosie Harris  
Pastor Elisha Kabungaidze. (in Zimbabwe)  
Our country's leaders  
co-worker w/ cancer  
Chantella Owens  
Sandra Byrd  
Dr. Robert Black



Millie Whalen (in Florida)  
Ken Kavanaugh (cancer)  
George Weldon  
Kathy Palmer  
Sara Jones—for remission  
Unspoken (from Newman's)  
Eddie Thomas  
Our troops in the middle east  
Lindsay Philips, Pete's granddaughter  
Marion Moore Family  
Magdaline Payne  
Barbara Brady  
Unspoken (from Bahr's)  
Mag Poyno  
Greg, Jan and Kirk Kratovhil

**UPDATE ON OUR DOMINICAN FRIENDS:** Many of you remember the five Dominicans who attended worship at Highlands for several weeks and took English classes with Pastor Marjorie. They were the subject of a newspaper article April 19, telling how badly they had been treated by the company that brought them to the U.S. They left Huntsville and traveled to Pensacola and then on to Mississippi. They are now in MS working at a hotel. They are very thankful for having found work and somewhere to live during their adventure in our country.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**MAY 27TH '09**  
**NOON**

**Grill 29 in Providence**

**GOOD-BYE PARTY**  
**FOR PASTOR**  
**MARJORIE**

**FOR RESERVATIONS,**  
**CALL BETTY 721-1691**



**Meetings, Meetings, Meetings!**

This week  
Finance is meeting Monday evening 6 p.m  
PPRC is meeting Tues evening at 6 p.m.  
Church Council is meeting Wednesday at 7  
Choir is meeting Thursday at 6 p.m.



**Dear Highlanders!**

It has been great fun being your pastor (associate and senior) these past four years. You have enriched my life so wonderfully, and I feel that I have so many more family members now who share with me our walk with the LORD. Saying 'Thank You' is never enough! I will continue to pray for you daily, and look forward to our future times together.

Love, *Pastor Marjorie*

**Highlands United Methodist Church**  
3921 Broadmor Road, NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810  
**Pastor Marjorie E. Palmer**

cell: 256 426 1567

Office Phone: 256 859 0160

[www.humchurch.org](http://www.humchurch.org)

email: PastMidge613@knology.net



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