



Waverly Hall United Methodist Church

January 22, 2012

Talk about meddling!...

In Francis Chan's book *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a relentless God*, Chan says: "The priests of Malachi's day thought their sacrifices were sufficient. They had spotless animals but chose to keep those for themselves and give their less desirable animals to God. They assumed God was pleased because they had sacrificed something. God described this practice as evil. Leftovers are not merely inadequate; from God's point of view...they're evil. Let's stop calling it a "busy schedule" or "bills" or "forgetfulness." It's called evil."

Chan takes a viewpoint few of us would dare to speak about except in the privacy of our own homes. Some would say he has overstepped the boundaries of preaching, and got to *meddlin!*

I admit, it can be troublesome teaching and preaching God's Word without reservation and without flavoring it to our audience. After all, we want to draw people in, not repel them! I wonder sometimes if perhaps we do a disservice to people when we draw them in with a particular message, only for them eventually to explore the Bible and find out that God draws lines more clearly than speakers might? Today we encounter the gospel of prosperity and the gospel of making everything "inclusive", and in that effort we may be tempted to pass over the crucial matter of addressing sin. To me, prosperity without an awareness of our sin is nothing but a license for self-absorption and an opportunity to change our physical environment without making a change in our being: something Jesus particularly came to accomplish.

For us to be truly free and prosperous, we must start with addressing the sin we carry. It is only then we are free to enjoy the enormous blessings of God, and the prosperity of His joy no matter what our economic status! It is only then we will begin to work within the framework of His calling, rather than out of our need to reach a human perspective of "success". Give Him your sin, and He will give you rest.

Worship: 11:00am **Sunday School: 10:00 am**
Pastor Devin Schultz: 706-582-2524 (office) 706-325-7422 (cell)
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Order of Worship

January 22, 2012

WELCOME to Waverly Hall UMC!

We're excited you chose to worship here today. It is our deepest prayer that you will encounter the Living God through song, prayer, and Word in your experience. Please let us know if there is any way we can be of service to you!

Gathering Music and Lighting of the Candles

Announcements and Invocation

***Hymn of Praise and Adoration** #369
"Blessed Assurance"

Children's moment

Prayer

*Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the Glory forever.
Amen*

***Hymn of Preparation** #98
"To God be the Glory"

Music Special Choir

***Welcome your neighbor** (Choir joins the congregation)

Offering and Doxology #95
"Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Written Word

The Spoken Word

"Covered by God's Authority – Part 3"

***Hymn of Commitment** #467
"Trust and Obey"

*** If you would like to join this church or need to speak to the pastor about baptism, please come forward during the final hymn or see him after the service concludes.*

*Sending Forth to Serve

*Please stand as you are able.

Our Servants in Ministry for Today

Ushers/Acolytes:

Nancy Moore / John Moore

Flowers

Today's flowers are furnished by the Schultz family to the Glory of God and in honor and celebration of Devin and Susie's 20th Anniversary!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Sunday Morning Ministry

Children's Church is for ages 4 - 12. We also offer a nursery downstairs in our Children's Center for 6-week olds up to 4-year olds.

Wednesday Night Supper

Please remember to make a reservation. There are reservation forms in the pew or you may make them online at www.waverlyhallumc.org

Menu: Roast Beef, vegetables, salad, bread, dessert

Preparing for a new chapter

At the end of January, our Worship Leader, Jessica McRae will be leaving us to turn her attention to a new chapter in her life: her new family. The charge will miss her dearly and we want to show her the love and appreciate she deserves.

#1. If you would like to give a love gift to the McRae's, please designate your offering as January 29 (next week) will be her final week with us.

#2. Though we could never replace her, we can honor her by volunteering to rotate in for a Children's message before they are dismissed for Children's Church. Please let Dana or Devin know if you are willing to help continue this ministry.

Our financial stewardship

In 2011 our income fell \$2381 under budget and our expenses were \$13,357 over budget, leaving us \$15,738 short for the year. After cutting our budget and reducing staff, we are still slated for a \$13K loss in 2012.

We have no reserves and our income continues to be less than our expenses. Our Council is taking measures to reduce expenses and get our budget more balanced. Please continue to pray for the church!

The grave has no victory, and death has no sting!

These immortal words that come from the Book of Hosea ring within our hearts as we remember our friend and neighbor, Carson Stringfellow who has now passed into eternity.