

# WESTOVER REFLECTIONS

WESTOVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2023

## Letter from the Pastor

Greetings Westover Family,

Welcome to February! This year is off to a quick start. I'd like to take a moment and talk with you about change. Westover has gone through a lot of transformation in the last several years and this year we are experiencing even more. We are still living in the aftermath of a pandemic. There is a new pastor. Most of the officers of the church have changed. We are building new committees. It can feel overwhelming. But God has not forgotten us. Though it may all feel overwhelming at times, it may be an opportunity for us.

This month, my prayer for Westover is that we might take this opportunity to reimagine everything. We can reimagine ministry, reimagine fellowship, and reimagine worship. I'm looking for ideas to rebuild Westover in new creative ways and I'd like to hear from you. If you have an idea or a thought, email me [westoverumcpastore@gmail.com] or call me [301-661-5258], or write me a letter so I can include your voice.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" However, the fact that change has come does not mean we are all comfortable with it. The best way to become comfortable, is to be involved. I pray you will find ways to work with me to revitalize and reimagine Westover UMC.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Show Up - We need to see you in meetings, worship, and bible study. Your attendance means you're involved and we want to do this together.

- Speak Up - I'd love to hear your ideas for events and activities.
- Lift Up - Your new leaders would love some encouragement as they do things that they have not previously done or change the way they have been doing things. It's hard for them as well.

### RECOGNITION

This month, I'd like to recognize Laura Brooks who has taken on the responsibility to lead Administrative council for the new year. In addition to that great responsibility, she is working with finance and has proven to her willingness to work hard for this church family. If you see her, offer a word of thanks, she is a big part of how we hope to move forward at Westover.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

This is Black history month and it includes St. Valentine's day. There are lessons we might learn from each of those celebrations. Black history month is often a celebration of community and St. Valentine's day, a celebration of love. As we grow together here at Westover, we must do so with our minds set on both community and love. We serve God best when we see the value of community and prioritize love. Let us work together to build on those concepts. Let us find ways to work on activities for the church community, the local community, and the global community. Whatever we choose to do we should know that God's desire for us is to find joy in serving him and serving each other. Are you joyful this month? Serve God and your neighbors and let's see if we might put a smile on God's face, and perhaps put one on our own along the way.

Blessings

Your Pastor,

**Damion Quaye**

# FIRST FRUITS OF WORSHIP

By Bruce Smith  
Director of Music Ministries

## *The Arch of Worship*

### 2. "The Engagement"

There is a shape to worship. It moves and flows to reflect that shape, and we are privileged to engage in this ancient ritual and experience daily as individuals and weekly as the collective body of Christ. Last month we discussed "The Arrival" – delving into how we should enter the worship space, beginning our "arch". This arch has its origins in the design of the ancient Hebrew tabernacle (seen to the right here). The three significant places in that tabernacle reflect 3 of the 4 portions of the arch we will discuss. (The Outer Courtyard, The Holy Place (or inner courtyard), and the Holy of Holies). So, let's continue our journey through the arch of worship.

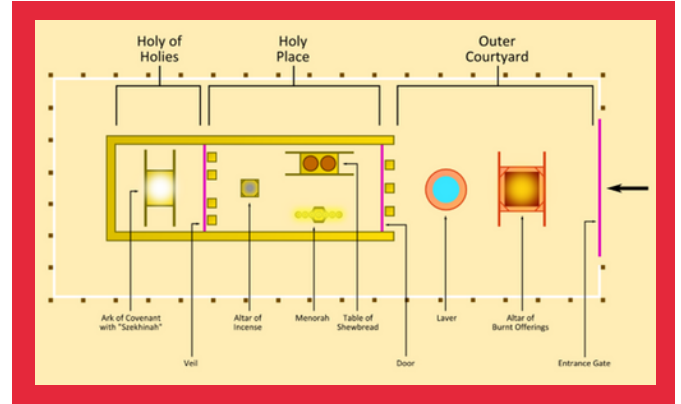
God designed the tabernacle and thus our worship experience for one singular purpose—engagement. He wants His children to engage Him in this time, experience Him, and be present with Him in those times of worship. So how do we engage? King David wrote in the 100th Psalm...

***"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."***  
Psalm 100:4

So, we enter his courts with **praise**. The ancient Hebrew outer courtyard is where the worshipper would encounter their first elements of worship, the Brazen Altar, the place where the animal sacrifices were made and then further on, the Bronze Laver (basin), the place where the Priests washed their heads and feet before entering the Holy Place or inner courts. So what do those two significant elements represent to us, the modern worshipper in the engagement for our arch of worship?

1. **Humility** – In order to properly engage in worship, we need some self examination and the appropriate condition of humility. The Brazen Altar is our focal point there. We are gathering to worship **because** Jesus was tortured and bruised for our sins in order to draw us closer to Him.

***"He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world."***  
John 2:2



That sacrifice should place us in the mode of a humble servant come to honor the God who has blessed us and showered us with His mercy and grace. When we adopt humility into our character, we do not look to gain false glory for ourselves, or brag about our accomplishments. We rejoice over the successes of others and look to this higher, loftier God to guide and teach us. Humility grants us a "teachable spirit" as we enter the outer courts. As a result, praise comes easily to us, for we are grateful and recognize all He has done for us throughout the week.

2. **Focus** – As we pass the Brazen Altar on to the Bronze Laver (basin) in the outer courtyard of worship, we are reminded that though the sacrifice was paid for us by Jesus, we can focus on His cleansing that comes from that act. We walk into church with so much baggage weighing us down, it's easy to forget why we are there—to engage in worship to almighty God!

In order to engage in worship, we have to set down those distractions the world places around us. We are littered with the refuse of people who hurt us, disappoint us, distract us, and challenge us. Therefore our focused worship cleanses us from all of that debris.

***"Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."*** Psalm 51:7

Focusing on the reason we are there reminds us of His cleansing act—restoring us for the new week ahead of us. Engaging in worship offers to us the opportunity to focus on Christ, the sacrificial lamb and cleansing Savior that we need every single day.

So, let's engage when we come to church—coming into His courts with humility and focus. Worship will be blessed when we do!

Next time, we'll discuss the 3rd portion of that arch—"Letting Go".

# Happy Anniversary!

The Flower Ministry is celebrating one year of spreading joy through the gift of flowers. They meet on Mondays at 9:30am in the Wesley Hall. Join them for some fun and fellowship!



# HYMN STORY: STANDING ON THE PROMISES

By Bruce Smith  
Director of Music Ministries

*"Glory in the highest I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God!"*

There are but a few hymns of the church that are considered "beloved" hymns and everyone has a different list. The hymn "Standing On The Promises" seems to be one of those hymns that makes the list of many a believer. Perhaps because of the upbeat nature of the music and melody, but I think it is because of the celebratory lyrics that stand on top of that great uplifting melody.

"Standing on the Promises" is a song that celebrates the choice of relying on the promises of God's word and the Savior who uttered those promises. It recognizes the challenges of life and then declares the commitment of depending on a promise fulfilling God. The song is a statement of faith from the author and his faith is supremely confident!

Russell Kelso Carter (1849-1928) was an outstanding athlete at a military academy, and excelled academically and thus went on to teach and coach. He then became a successful Methodist Pastor and then went on to get his medical degree and finished his career as a medical doctor. He also was a musician who wrote hymns in his spare time. He teamed up with John Sweeney (the composer of such classic hymns as "Beulah Land" and "Fill Me Now") and published a collection of great hymns called "Songs Of Perfect Love" which contained the completed hymn "Standing On The Promises"

But from where did the lyrics for this great hymn come? Carter, at a relatively young age, developed a critical heart condition that became life threatening. His physicians had given up on him recovering and continuing to live. It was at that time that Carter turned to God for healing and recovery. He made a decision to stand on God's promises for his life and his family's life (whether he was healed of his heart condition or not). Perhaps this is where this portion of the lyric comes from...

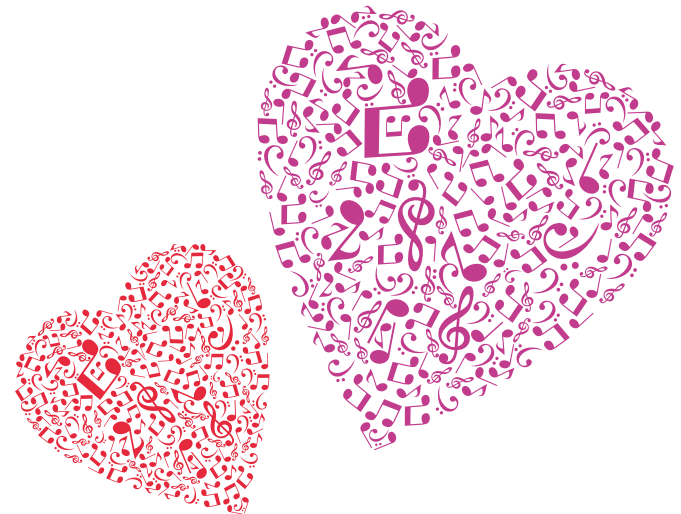
*"Standing on the promises I cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail. By the living word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God"*

After making this declaration to God, within a matter of months, his strength began to return to him and soon after his heart was completely healed. He lived another 49 years after that! To Russell Carter, his life was the embodiment of the faithfulness of God as these lyrics declare...

*"Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, Overcoming daily with the spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God"*

So, as we sing this great beloved hymn of the church, we should reflect on the many promises God has fulfilled in our lives - promises of protection, healing, comfort, encouragement, and provision in our lives. When we remember His faithfulness in our lives throughout the years, how can we not stand on those amazing promises!

*"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised."* **Hebrews 10:23**





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|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 BEV CAPPADONIA       | 16 EDMOND PROFFITT   |
| 2 ARYA DANICA PHILLIPS | NANCY CASHION        |
| 3 DIS KSOR             | 21 JUDY TUDOR        |
| NOAH BATTS             | 27 FRANK CALDWELL    |
| 7 TED WEYBREW          | 28 JENNIFER PROFFITT |
| 10 BILL PITZER         | DORIS PRICE          |
| 11 BRANDON SARGENT     | SHERRIE WATKINS      |
| VICTOR MOY             |                      |

## WESTOVER UMC CALENDAR REGULARS

**Sunday: Arise & Shine Worship 9-10am**

Gateway Christian Fellowship 10am-3pm

Sunday School: 10-11am

Worship Service 11am-12pm

Montagnard Service 1:30-4:30pm

AA 6-9:30pm

Emmanuel United Church 5:30-8:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary

Wesley Hall

**Monday: Flower Ministry 9:30am-3pm**

NA 6:30-9:30pm

Zoom Mtg

**Wednesday: Zoom Prayer Group 11-11:30am**

NA 6-9:30pm

Builders

**Thursday: AA 6-9:30pm**

## IN MEMORIAM

### FREDRICK "FRED" ALLEN BURKE, SR. JANUARY 18, 1926 - JANUARY 5, 2023



Fred A. Burke, Sr., widower of Janet Dickerson Burke, died Thursday, January 5, 2023, at Covenant Place Skilled Care, Sumter, SC. Born on January 18, 1926, in Chatham County, NC, he was the son of Henry and Etta Burke. He was a member of Westover United Methodist in Raleigh, NC. Fred moved to Raleigh as a young child. He joined the United States Army at the age of nineteen. After arriving in Germany, he helped with the occupation for approximately 2 years serving in the 3rd Army. After the war, he came home and married Janet, a marriage of 72 years. He worked at Burke Lumber Company

and Burke Brothers Hardware Store. He retired from Burke Brothers Hardware. He was a volunteer firefighter for many years. Janet and Fred moved to Covenant Place in Sumter, SC to be near their son in 2015. They both dearly loved Covenant Place and Sumter. He is survived by a son, Fred Burke, Jr., (Lib) of Stateburg, SC, daughter, Lou Anne Strickland of FL; Four grandsons, Rick Burke (Lisa), Charles Burke, both of Sumter, Burke Strickland (Valerie) of Trophy Club, TX, and Brandon Strickland (Sara) of Conroe, TX; Five great-grandchildren, Harper Burke, Baylor Strickland, Preston Strickland, Jordan Strickland and Mia Strickland and numerous nieces and nephews; and two sister in-laws, Ellen Dale Burke and Marjorie Burke-Honeycutt. He was preceded in death by siblings, Nannie Mae Singletary (Howard), Edwin Burke, Mildred Atkinson (Roy), Paul Burke, William Burke (Marjorie), John Burke (Peggy).