



Roger's Ramblings

by Rev. Dr. Roger Clayton, Jr.

There are many times in my own, short life that I have gone to my quiet place, knelt down, and screamed (either out loud or in my mind) 'Why God!?!'. Whether it is something that has personally happened to me or if it's something that is on a much bigger scale.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen terrible news coming out of our beloved central Texas with all of the flooding that has transpired. As I'm writing this article, the news has just come out confirming that all the campers from Camp Mystic are now accounted for; without a single life gained.

When these types of things happen, our minds tend to wander as we think about the God who rules over and created this whole thing. We worship and praise a God who spoke the cosmos into being, sent His son to die on the cross, desires relationship and reconciliation, and is more powerful than anything this world can throw at us... yet hurricanes, floods, wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters still claim thousands of victims every year.

This always brings us to one of two responses, either God is perfectly good but not all-powerful because there is evil in the world that He can't get rid of, OR God is all-powerful but not perfectly good because He allows for evil to be done. This is where my mind travels when things like Camp Mystic, Harvey, COVID, or any of a number of horrible travesties happen.

Yet, I am still a Pastor. Yet, I still have faith. Yet, I still love and seek God out. Why? Because after my initial anger, hurt, and bewilderment at what has transpired, God opens my eyes to amazing moment found within those disasters that couldn't have happened had the disaster not occurred. While I wish that the disaster never occurred, I also recognize that people wouldn't have been spurred on to grace and generosity in those radical ways without those travesties. Certainly, God grieves with us and with the victims of these devastating events; but God also uses them to bring more people to Himself. Humans have great capacities for compassion and grace, but sometimes we need the realness of a travesty for us to showcase it.

What Does It Mean to Pray

by Carolyn Henry, Congregational Care Coordinator

My earliest recollection of prayer was when, as a child, I would occasionally get to sleep with my Mother when my father was out of town. Before we said goodnight, she would pray. She would ask for God's protection for our father, for each of my sisters and for my brother, and anything else that was might be thinking of. I was amazed that God, who I thought of as "somewhere out there" could actually hear her, and it gave me great comfort as I drifted off to sleep. My mother taught me that you can have a conversation with God anywhere – anytime. You don't have to use certain words, or sit and place your hands in a certain way. It's just about connecting with God, who hears and responds.

What does it mean to pray? We may all have a slightly different answer to that question, but most of us agree that to pray is to "talk with God". Just as we want to talk to a good friend often, it's good to talk with God often. God wants to have a relationship with each of us, and talking to Him often helps build that relationship.

As a member of St. John's prayer team, I have spent a lot of time in prayer. I have prayed for healing, and sometimes that happened. Other times it did not, or at least not in our understanding of healing. I have argued with God, I have been mad at God, I have not understood. Sometimes I thought of the disciples in the storm in the middle of the Sea of Galilee who asked God "Don't you care?" And I've asked Him the same question.

But God does care, and He does answer prayer. It's not always the answer we want, but it's the answer we need. And He's always there with us.

The events concerning the devastating flooding in Central Texas had me and others I know questioning God and finding it hard to pray. Why did this happen? God, why did you let this happen? Where was your protection?

I found a video from Max Lucado that has been helpful. If you would like to see it, go to YouTube and look up Max Lucado "praying for Texas" It is about 10 minutes long.

Max states that in times of disaster, challenge and difficulty it is our "assignment" to pray.

Here are his three main points.

1) We need to acknowledge our pain, our doubts and questions. Psalm 130 says "Out of the depths, I cry to you. Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy." Jesus knew sorrow and He understands our pain and cries for help. Isaiah 53:3 says that Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; he had a deep understanding of human suffering.

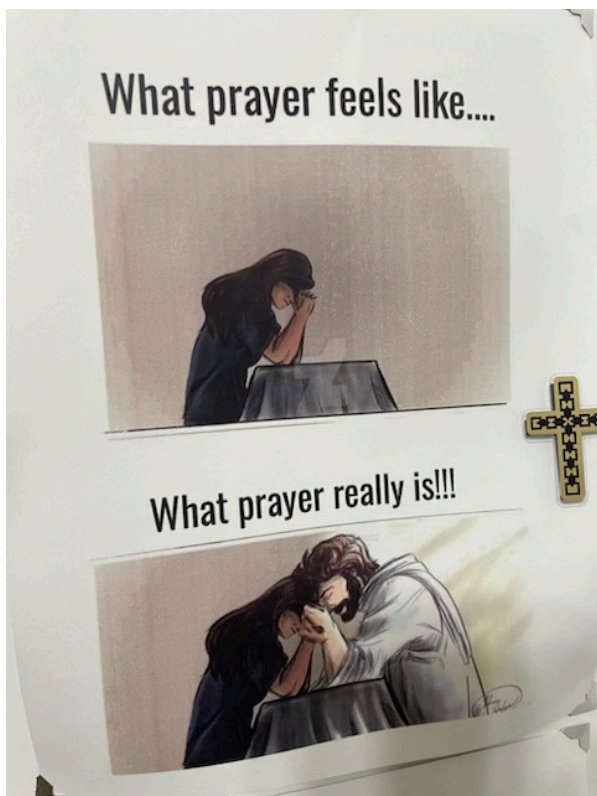
2) Display our convictions and articulate our faith. He quotes 2 Chronicles, chapter 20: 12 "Our eyes are on you – we still believe" And we must acknowledge God's sovereignty. No matter what happens or will happen, God is the author and creator of the universe and He is in control. And He is with us in our pain and sorrow – just as He promised He would be. In John 16:20 Jesus told his disciples "They will weep and lament and grieve but their sorrow will turn into joy."

3) Offer our intercessory prayers.

Some times it's hard to find the words to pray. That's when the Holy Spirit takes over, and "groans" for us. Romans 8:26 "We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

A picture from the recent ministry fair comes to mind. In it, there are two pictures. In the first picture, a person is praying, with head bowed and alone. The caption reads "What prayer feels like". In the second picture, the person is still praying in the same position, but this time Jesus is there with them, holding their hands and with heads touching. The caption reads "What prayer really is". And I know, when I pray, Jesus is right there with me. When I can't even find words, He supplies them for me.

And to quote Max Lucado again, "Prayer is only as good as God is. Since he is good, so is prayer. Prayer works because He does. Prayer changes things because God changes things. Prayer makes a difference because God has determined to make a difference. Prayer matters because you matter to God"



Testimony of Disciple

Have you ever read verses or stories in the Bible and even though you had read or heard them many times before, you unexpectedly see or hear it in a different light? Have you ever studied the Bible a little more and say to yourself, "I didn't know that!" This is exactly what the Disciple studies can be like. Wonder, insight, growth, sharing, background, explanation, meaning, personal challenge just might transpire when you delve a little deeper, a little more personally, a little more enlightened. Perhaps a Disciple study may be just what you need.

~Barbara Baughman



St. John's Methodist Church History

St. John's has been a part of the Georgetown Community for over 140 years.

We started as a group of Swedish immigrants who joined together in their homes to study, worship and pray and built our first church building in 1882. At that time, we were known as the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Brushy Church (Svenska Metodistkyrkan at Brushy). The original church stood at the intersection of Westinghouse Road and FM 1460. Our church cemetery is still at this location.


In 1906 we moved to town, to our present home at 311 E. University Avenue, and in 1938 we changed our name to St. John's Methodist Church. In 1968, when the Methodist Church joined with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, St. John's became St. John's United Methodist Church.


In 2023, St. John's disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church, changing our name to St. John's Methodist Church and joined the Global Methodist Church.

Come join us and share in our rich history and heritage of celebrating God's love.

August Wesley Value Meals

- Aug 06 - Chicken-n-Rice
- Aug 13 - Sausage
- Aug 20 - Chopped Beef
- Aug 27 - Taco Salad

 ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH		
JUNE 2025 DATA Table of income, expenses, and net total		
	Church Activity YTD	Church Annual Budget
Income	\$309,112	\$541,848
Expenses	\$286,566	\$610,183
NET	\$22,546	(\$68,335)

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