

**From the Pastor**



Recently I swam in a beautiful, Olympic-sized pool. There were lots of designated lanes and people were enjoying themselves with various swimming techniques. I entered one of the lanes and began to swim as best I could. While having a good time, swimming laps at my own pace, the guy in the lane next to mine was moving at an extraordinary speed. By the time I made it from one end of the pool to the other, he had done it twice!

This situation caused my emotions to rise. First, envy had me thinking, "I wish I could swim that fast." Then intimidation came along and made me think, "This guy is making me look so bad. I am embarrassed and do not belong here. Finally, irritation showed up and made me think, "I do not like him because he is not swimming like me. He should not be here."

After the negative voices had their say, the Spirit of the Lord took over. The young man had stopped swimming and was now sitting at the edge of the pool. I swam over to him, pushed aside the jealousy, intimidation and irritation, and said to him, "Wow, you're a fast swimmer. How do you move so fast in the water?" He looked at me, smiled and said, "I use flippers." Then, he really blew my mind, handed them to me and said, "Here, do you want to try them?" Shocked, I said, "Sure!" I put on the flippers and sped across the pool like the young man. As I made numerous laps in the pool, I reflected on the encounter and my range of emotions. It was very easy for me to be envious, intimidated, and irritated by something new. I did not understand it. It made me feel uncomfortable and it pushed me out of my comfort zone. But, thanks to the Holy Spirit, I put on humility and in return received the invitation to learn something new.

That is how life is: We must press through the negative emotions that come from our flesh and let the Lord lead us into new and unknown areas. God is able!!!

**CENTRALIZED COMMUNICATIONS**

Communication at The Park must be focused and deliberate. As we move toward ecclesial excellence our interior messages and messaging must be uniform and follow protocol and procedure. This means all church-wide emails, Facebook posts, letters and worship announcements and bulletin inserts will flow through the Church Office first. This centralization will get us where we want to be.

Dear HPUMC Staff, Pastors and Church Family,

Your kind words, prayers, the lovely plant, and kindness during the extended illness of our mother, Vivian Tillman, will always be remembered. The plant and prayers during the Celebration of Life we truly treasured. Your love and thoughtfulness will be in our hearts always.

Sincere thanks,

*Clyde & Dianne Pratt and Family*

**HPUMC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Benefiting the ministries of HPUMC  
**FRI - OCT. 6, 2017**  
**The Club at Los Rios**  
1700 Country Club Drive - Plano, TX  
**EARLY REGISTRATION:**  
\$100/PERSON \$400/TEAM (BY 9/29/17)

**37<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES**  
**Rock the #NVWG**  
Cincinnati, Ohio • July 17-22, 2017

Karla Clay you have our prayers and support!!! See her amazing story at <http://bit.ly/2tCaR4>.

**"The Evolution of an Athlete"**

**HPUMC ANNUAL PICNIC**  
Celebrating "60" GROOVY Years!!!  
Join us in your tie-die shirts, headbands & halos  
**SUN - AUG 6, 2017 • 4:00 - 8:00**  
Lake Highlands Recreation Center  
9940 White Rock Tr. Dallas, 75238  
Registration & Volunteer Sign-up in the CLC Sundays  
7/16 - 7/30 immediately following 10AM service.

**North Texas Conference BMCR Unity Worship**  
Camp Wisdom United Methodist Church  
1300 W Camp Wisdom Rd, Dallas, TX 75232  
Rev. James Minor, Host Pastor  
July 30, 2017  
3:00 PM

**Youth Guest**  
Ciara Edwards & Gabrielle Edwards  
The Village United Methodist Church

**Unity Worship Speaker**  
Rev. Dr. Michael Greene, Sr. Pastor  
Highland Hills United Methodist Church

Thank you Special Days Committee for your preparation, arrangement of the CLC, and serving for the receptions. Outstanding job Nancy Williams and lovely committee! Also a huge thanks to The Park congregation for expressing so much LOVE!!!

Blessings,  
SPPRC

**Fellow Hamilton Park Bobcats & Loyal Supporters** - Tickets are now available for the HP Schoolwide Reunion • AUG. 11 & 12, 2017 @ Hilton Lincoln Center, 5410 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, 75240 • \$65/person for a 2 night affair • For more information or to purchase tickets contact Jo Ann Clayton @ 972-240-7245, inbox us on Facebook @ Hamilton Park Schoolwide Reunion, or visit [www.hpschoolwidereunion.com](http://www.hpschoolwidereunion.com).

**7/16/17 Sermon Series Answers:** 1. Inevitable 2. Persecution 3. Blessings 4. Bring on ourselves 5. A blessing in disguise 6. Irritation