

I have most likely told you all before that I did not really like my name when I was young. I mean Polly was not a name you heard very much, if ever. My Grandmother's nickname was Polly, and I did love my Grandma. I *really* didn't like my middle name. In fact, it has only been in the last few years that I have even started sharing it when someone asks. Doreen is not one of those common place names. As I have been looking to the future and thinking about designing wedding dresses in my retirement (which is still a few years in the future) I think that *Doreen Design* sounds really good. And then just this morning as I was researching the importance of names in the Bible I came across a commentary that said the name Doreen along with Dorothy, Mattea, Thea and Theodora all mean "gift of God." What an awesome thought that brides might be wearing a wedding gown carrying that name: "Gift of God Design", after all every bride is a gift of God made perfectly in His design.

In the Bible names are rich in symbolism. Some signify origin, some denote purpose. Adam is most likely a form of the Hebrew word for "ground." Eve means "living" and according to Genesis 3:20 her role was to be "the mother of all the living." You might remember that Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter which has the meaning rock. Matthew 16:18 tells us that Jesus declared that he would build his church on the one named Peter. But did you know that Simon means "that hears or obeys." Christ would not have been able to build the church upon the one he named the rock if he had not first heard the call of Christ and obeyed. Jesus' own name means Savior and Deliverer."

The truth is that a name matters. That is why we are spending some time to pick out the name of our church as we begin a new season of life for our family of faith within the Global Methodist Church. Here are some of the names we have received as suggestions.

1. John Wesley Heritage; a Global Methodist Church
2. Wesley Christian; a Global Methodist Church
3. Wesley Covenant; a Global Methodist Church
4. Wesley Heritage; a Global Methodist Church
5. Christ Covenant; a Global Methodist Church
6. Franklin Community Church; a Global Methodist Church
7. Franklin Methodist Church
8. Franklin Global Methodist Church
9. Wesley Fellowship; a Global Methodist Church

We have about a week more to add names to the list. At the next Administrative Council meeting the committee members will be narrowing down the list and submitting three or four options to the church to vote on the first Sunday in October.

Be in prayer as we seek a name that will speak to our heritage, our purpose, and will serve to represent the church family that seeks to follow, serve, and share Jesus Christ.