

# **NEW MARKET UMC NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRAURY 2010**

Fear. We all know what it is. We all have experienced it to a greater or lesser extent sometime in our lives. A little bit of fear is a good thing. When we find ourselves in situations where fear is a factor, because of some perceived or unperceived danger, certain physiological changes take place in our bodies that prepare us to be able to meet whatever the danger is. The flight or fight response is initiated. This kind of fear is necessary for our survival. But sometimes fear can be too much of a good thing and paralyze us and even cause us harm. Our fear can even imprison us and prevent us from living fully or effectively.

I remember when I was very young and just learning to swim. My dad had his arms under me and was trying to let me feel how the water would support me. While his arms were under me my panic lessened but when he lowered them so I could start floating I would panic. I would thrash and kick and swallow a lot of water. My fear prevented me from discovering how water could support me. It prevented me from discovering that I could float. I had to trust dad. I had to trust the water. I had to overcome my fear. Otherwise I would have never discovered the joy of swimming, or body surfing at the beach, or even the joy of floating down a river in a kayak. I would have been too scared.

Many of you have been complementing me on my preaching. If you have been in church over the past six months you will know that I no longer preach from behind the pulpit but instead wander around down on the main floor in front of the first pews. The idea of preaching without the safety of a written text of the sermon sitting right in front of me was a very frightening one. I was afraid I would forget what it was that I wanted to say, or that I would get confused, or forget to say something that needed to be said. Having that written text was a comfort. I didn't realize it at the time but it was also a crutch. My fear of preaching from only minimal notes on a card instead of the complete, carefully prepared, carefully weighed text in front of me, was keeping me from expanding and improving my preaching. That fear was an impediment to my ministry. Thanks to the encouragement of some of the church members I overcame that fear, climbed out of the

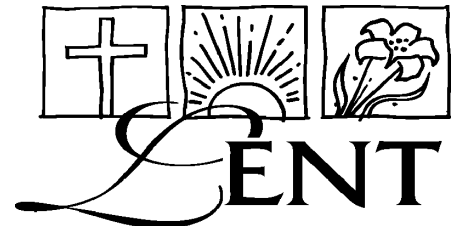
little prison behind the pulpit and found a new freedom and ability.

I share that last example to make a point. Our fears can impede or even prevent the ministry that God intends us to be engaged in. We've all been asked to do scary things on behalf of Jesus by others in the church. "Teach elementary Sunday School? I couldn't do that!" "Stand in front of people and read the lessons? I'm too scared to do that!" Ministry is not always comfortable. Often ministry involves facing and doing some scary things. Ministry always requires us to leave our comfort zones. Ministry asks us to make decisions concerning our fears. It's a question of fear of faith. Will we allow ourselves to be paralyzed or imprisoned by our fears? Or will we trust in our God who calls us to face all things that are fearful with trust in Him. Will we cower in fear or stand on faith?

Life itself is an invitation to live in fear or trust in God. We need to remember that our fears have the power to destroy. Humanity has always tended toward the destruction of those things it fears. Fear does often lead to anger, and anger leads to hate, and hate to destruction. Trust in God, on the other hand, frees us to love and care for others, it allows us to live life fully and build relationships. Trusting in God expands our horizons, fear causes us to withdraw.

When I was learning to swim I learned by trusting in my dad who I knew would not let me drown. When I entered the ministry I did so trusting in God who I knew had my back. My prayer is that all of you reading this may also set aside whatever fear is holding you back from serving God and replace your fears with trust in him. Because he will not let you fall or drown. He has your back too.

Grace and Peace, Mike



**MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW LAY LEADER**

## IT'S BACK!

Not sure how many of you know but the Second Annual New Market United Methodist Church Book Sale is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. The Outreach Committee thought it would be wise to wrap the Book Sale around the New Market Days spring event.

So what does that mean to you---well. It means I am going to start bugging you about donating books, boxes and bags again this year, but at a much faster pace than I did last year because the sale is only three months away!

However, I think we need to take a slightly closer look at what the Book Sale means to you. Last year we all joined together to make the book sale a big success (by the way -this time I want to make it a huge success)---- Anyway, what I saw when we began organizing the Book Sale was enthusiasm, cooperation, and a congregation with a very generous heart. It felt like everyone joined in with some type of contribution, whether it was time, muscles or money.

I had a great time working with all of you and got to know some of you much better as a result of the project. I know I thanked all of you, but now I am putting it in writing. The money we raised helped send the youth group to Ocean City last month and from all I have heard it was a great experience for all of them. So one more time-THANK YOU!

However, I have to be honest, when the Book Sale was over I was glad. It has been a ton of work and I had developed tendonitis in both of my elbows from lugging boxes of books around. However, now that I am firing the entire process up again, I am starting to feel the buzz of excitement to get going and make the sale better this time. There is just so much we can do with the monies raised; whether for the youth group, our missions or even our long awaited kitchen renovation at the Schoolhouse that I am hoping you are all ready to dive back into making the sale a bigger and better event this year too.

I believe that is how life is. You move through a stage, with all of it's associated hard work and then you just want to rest awhile, but then the cycle starts up again and you find yourself responding to whatever the current challenge may be. The response and willingness to start over, again and again, is the heart and soul of New Market United Methodist Church and is only made possible because God has us wrapped in his arms. God is the true flame that has kept the fires burning in this church for over 200 years.

So put on your work clothes and roll up your sleeves. Start digging around in nooks and crannies you missed last year for more books to donate to the cause. Get ready for me to tag (or nag) you for some type of task associated with the Book Sale. Because when all is said and done you are the true sparks that will feed God's flame and keep the fire burning in our little church for another 200 years.

God's blessings on you all-  
Patty Robinson  
Lay Leader

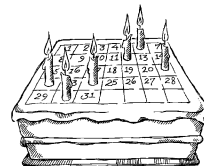
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS @ NMUMC

- 2 Trustee's meeting 7 pm Schoolhouse
- 7 Scout Sunday Worship service/reception after in the Schoolhouse
- 9 SPRC meeting 7 pm Schoolhouse
- 12 Scout troop#628 electronics overnight at the Schoolhouse
- 14 Valentine's Day Luncheon-reservations needed (catered by CarterQue BBQ)
- 16 Council meeting 7pm Schoolhouse
- 17 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm
- 21 Mentor/Confirmand potluck luncheon
- 23 Outreach meeting 7 pm Schoolhouse
- 24 Lenten Bible Study 7 pm Ed Bldg



-WINTER-

Early worship- 8:30 AM  
Fellowship time- 9:15-9:45 AM  
Confirmation Class-9:30-10:30 AM  
Sunday School- 9:45-10:45 AM  
Worship- 11:00 AM (Nursery Available)



Birthdays  
This Month

Philip Selby	2/6
Alicia Young	2/10
Lisa Burroughs(Miller)	2/12
Greg Gaver	2/14
Scot Morrow	2/28
Edward & William Plasket	2/28

## MESSAGE FROM THE LAY LEADER (RET)

Grace and peace to you from God the Father,  
and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ivan Downing wrote: I had decided to retire from the ministry, and one Sunday I explained my decision to the congregation: "I wear two hearing aids and tri-focal glasses; I have a partial plate and I sometimes walk with a cane. It seems to me, that the Lord is telling me it's time to retire." After the service, a white haired lady told me, "Reverend, you have misinterpreted what the Lord has been saying to you. He's not telling you it's time to retire; he's telling you that if you keep going, he'll keep you patched up." Well, now that you have a new Lay Leader, with a wonderful message I believe it's time for me to pass the baton on, but I do want to leave you with one more message.

My wife and I received a GPS (Global Positioning System) for Christmas this year and had the opportunity to put it to good use while delivering gifts from incarcerated people to their kids on the Angel Tree Program. In past years we have found it very difficult to find some of these homes, but with this GPS, it was very easy. While we were on route to one of the homes, I got to thinking that GPS should stand for God Positioning System. David wrote in Psalm 25: 4-5, "Show me your ways O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." And in Isaiah 58: 11, "The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." Our GPS is the Bible, it gives us all the correct route numbers, and places to turn, so that we will not get lost. In John 16: 33 Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Hannah Whitall Smith writes: I lay it down as a foundation principal, that God's voice will always be in harmony with itself, no matter in how many different ways he may speak. The voices may be many, the message can be but one. If God tells me in one voice to do or leave undone anything, he cannot possibly tell me the opposite in another voice. Therefore, my rule for distinguishing the voice of God would be to bring it to the test of this harmony.

I've used this story before, but it's one of my favorites to illustrate how God guides us to do his will. There were once three very tired and hungry soldiers returning from battle, and they spotted a small village up ahead. They

said, "Let's stop there and see if we can get some food and rest." At the same time, the villagers spotted the soldiers and said, "Quick, hide all the food and lock your doors or these soldiers will steal all we have." When the soldiers got to town, they found the shutters closed and no one around. They knocked on the doors and asked if anyone could spare some food and lodging. All the people answered, "We're poor, we have no food to spare, go away!" The soldiers said, "If you're hungry we'll make some soup, stone soup, if you'll just give us a large kettle to cook it in. The mayor had a large kettle brought out to the town square, filled it with water, and helped the soldiers build a fire. The soldiers found a couple of large stones and they put them in the water and started stirring. When the water began to boil they tasted it and said, "If it just had one carrot it would taste much better." By now people were gathering around the kettle, and one woman said, "I think I can spare a carrot or two." The soldiers tasted the soup and said, "This is good, but it would be even tastier if we had a little salt, some pepper, and maybe one potato." Several people indicated that they could probably spare a potato and some salt and pepper. One of the soldiers tasted the soup and said, "It would be perfect if we had some celery, maybe a tomato, and maybe just a scrap of meat." The town's people became very excited and they all said, "I'm sure I can find some of these items in my pantry," and they hurried to get them. They placed all of these items in the soup, and they stirred the pot. Alas, the soldiers tasted the soup and said, "Now, it's just right, everybody get a bowl and let's eat."

God's Positioning System is always accurate, and will always put us where we need to be. It is impossible to get lost if we follow God's guidance. There have been times out on the road where I didn't have a GPS, or a map, and I was lost. I prayed to God for guidance and he got me to my destination.

Blessings and Peace to all,  
Ron Hunter



In the case of bad weather, we will be sending church cancellations through your email. If you do not have email, we will start the phone chain to get the word out.

## United Methodist Women

The Afternoon UMW Circle is sponsoring an outing to Hickory Bridge Farm in Ortanna, Pa on Saturday, April 24 at noon. Since we won't be having a Friendship Luncheon this year; this is an opportunity for members of our church to invite their friends and spouses for an outing. The menu includes: appetizer, salad, roast pork tenderloin and oven fried chicken, a vegetable, dessert and beverage for \$15(incl. tax and grat.). Reservations are due by March 28 and are nonrefundable. For this price, we have to guarantee 35 persons. Checks should be written to New Market UMW and can be given along with your reservations to Carolyn McMahan or Thelma Gesling.

### Schoolhouse Kitchen Report

Some of you have been asking about the progress of the schoolhouse kitchen; so this is a bit of an update. The costs we have are from Lowe's and these figures they gave us 3/17/09---cabinets \$3,771.10, laminate tops and installed \$825.38 and an estimate of \$2500 for installation. A double sink and faucets were not included. At council meeting the trustees thought they could get volunteer help to install the cabinets and thus save the \$2500, do the electrical work, and some other things that would be required to complete the kitchen.

Monies that have thus far been designated for the kitchen are---Candy Goebel memorial \$1145, Dottie Kuhrmann memorial \$245, kitchen fund \$1200, and recently another \$300 donation. The afternoon circle has already purchased a stove and paint for the kitchen and bathroom. A drawing of the proposed kitchen cabinet layout is included attached to this newsletter. If you wish to contribute to this project; make your check to the church and designate it for the kitchen fund.



## This and That

**HOLY-** "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV

Wow, I don't know about you but this scripture has always bothered me. There are days (and I'm thinking everyday) that I wouldn't consider myself holy. Especially in the earlier days when I was raising my kids. I did, said and thought things that were far from what I would consider holy and I know anyone who is or has raised children knows what I'm talking about. You love them dearly but they can really push your buttons! You crawl into bed at night and say, "Lord, why did I say that or do that or think that, please forgive me."

We are a work in progress. Have you ever prayed about something in yourself you wanted changed? Most of the time it doesn't happen instantly but one day you realize you've been changed-talk about freedom! I remember asking God to take away resentment I had towards 2 people I know and I prayed for a long time. I really think what took so long is that I was really not ready to give it up but one day I realized it was gone. I also discovered that I was resentful because I didn't speak up and state my views.

Recently I was reading a devotional page from a book by Jon Walker ("Growing with Purpose") and he wrote, "The thing to remember today, and forever, is that God initiates your cleansing and it is God, not your own efforts, who makes you holy." Thank You Father!!!

Happy Valentine's Day  
Marilyn Brooks

### MAKE A NOTE!!!!

There will not be communion at the worship service on February 7<sup>th</sup> due to Scout Sunday.



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

This month's mission offering will go to Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing by building simple, livable homes for low-income, hard working families in our community. HFH partners with families who cannot qualify for a conventional mortgage and have no other way to own a home of their own. Approved families work side-by-side with volunteers from the community to build their house.

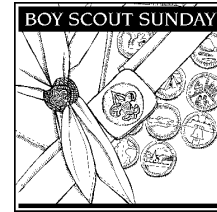
Since it's start in 1993, Habitat of Frederick has built or renovated more than 27 homes throughout the county and Frederick city. Habitat opened a ReStore in Frederick where you can donate or purchase discounted building and household materials and supplies. Habitat depends on volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors and three standing committees, help staff the office, and assist in building the homes. The full-time staff consists of the Executive Director, Construction Manager and three Restore employees.

Habitat relies on it's community partners; individuals, churches and businesses for financial support. You may give any Sunday during the month of February. Please make your checks out to Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County and drop them in the collection plate.



### VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

This event is for all church members and invited guests. The food will be catered by CarterQue BBQ of Mt. Airy. Entertainment will follow the meal. Reservations are \$5.00 for children 8 and under and \$8.00 for children 9 and up and adults. Please see the sign up sheet in the back of the church and give your check made out to NMUMC to Phil or Cathy Gamble prior to the date.



We will be celebrating Scout Sunday on February 7, 2010. So far we have members of Packs 628 and 1628 taking part in the service. Please make sure your scouts are wearing their full uniforms to take part in the service. There will be a reception following the service down at the Schoolhouse. All scouts are welcome to attend and take part in this.



**Attention all members:** We are planning VBS and are in need of volunteers. It takes a lot of people to make VBS a success! If you are able to donate your time or talents please let us know. VBS is scheduled for the week of June 14-18. It takes months of preparation and we can use all the help we can get. Please consider helping us as we reach out to our community through VBS!

### *THANK YOU* **CHRISTMAS THANKS**

I want to thank everyone who helped decorate- and "undecorate" - the Church at Christmas: Carolyn McMahon, Patty Robinson, Ed Stephen, Mike and Julie Grenier, the members of Boy Scout Troop 628, Bret and Trudy Gribenow (Scout parents), Peggy and Gary Korzeniowski ( Scout parents). We could not have managed the heavy work without you Scouts! I also want to say how much I appreciate all of you coming together to take everything down when I had to leave because of my uncle's death. Thank you all so much. God bless.  
Barbara Stephen  
Altar Guild