

NEW MARKET UMC NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2010

Almost everyone is familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan. A man is attacked by robbers who leave him for dead along the side of the road. And we, along with countless generations of readers, are amazed at how anyone could do such a horrible thing. As we read on the story takes an uglier turn. The critically injured man is passed and ignored by two individuals who had it in their power to help but lacked the will. They barely give the man a thought as they go about their business. And we, along with generations of readers are utterly dismayed by the callous indifference of these men. Their actions are inexcusable.

I expect that as we encounter this parable we comfort ourselves with the knowledge that we would do the right thing in such a situation. We like to think that we would have the willingness within ourselves to do the right thing. Most of us believe that we would act in an appropriate way on someone's behalf if we encountered a similar situation. But what we hope we would do and what we actually would do may be two completely different things. There is a big difference between willing that something be done and actually doing it, especially if sacrifice is involved.

With this parable Jesus is teaching us about responsibility. The point is that we have a responsibility for our fellow human beings, no matter who they are. It is a responsibility that crosses the lines of nationality, religion, gender, and whatever other boundary you can think of. It is a lesson that I know we understand with our hearts but may have a slightly more difficult time accepting intellectually and acting on. Going out of our way, sacrificing ourselves in some way for another, putting ourselves on the line for someone less fortunate sounds great! But it is often impractical and inconvenient and a wfully expensive.

This parable has a great deal of bearing on what's happening in our world today. There are a lot of people in our world lying at the side of the road. They have been beaten down by situations beyond their control. They have been assailed by joblessness, illness, predatory people and practices of all sorts, war, poverty, injustice, and the list goes on. And the Gospel imperative is that we are our brothers and sisters keeper. They are our responsibility.

There are a lot of examples that I could use to illustrate how this applies to our world today but I'll just relate one. I was listening to a debate on a radio talk show. The debate was about whether or not mandatory health insurance would really work. This is the idea that everyone would be required to participate and contribute to a health care plan. If someone didn't participate they would have to pay a fine. One of the panelists insisted that such a plan would not work because it would simply be cheaper for young and healthy people to pay the fine and forego the insurance which would be much more costly. This of course would drive the insurance rates up for the people in our society who are usually older and sicker. The end result would be the younger healthier

population being uninsured, and the older and often sicker population burdened with insurance they could not afford. The man had a point.

The other panelist responded with a comment that went something like this; "When did we stop being our brother's keeper?" His point was that we should feel some level of responsibility for others in our society and be willing to shoulder the burden for those less able. In this case the man wounded and on the side of the road represents the folks who are ill, sick, and often old who need insurance. And the people who are in a position to help them, the passers by, are the younger, healthy folks who really don't need insurance, but are in a position to help by participating in a plan. Participating in a plan, even if you don't need to, makes health care for those who need it more affordable. It's a way of standing beside, being in solidarity with, supporting those who are in need.

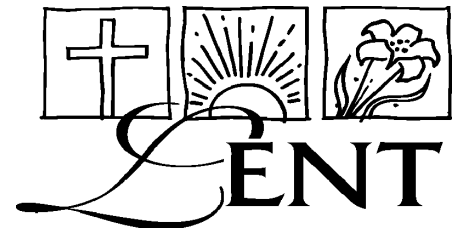
Such a plan would work if everyone understood and lived up to the imperative of the lesson of the Good Samaritan. The Good Samaritan, however, wasn't being practical, and he didn't mind the inconvenience or the cost. He didn't let the head stuff get in the way of acting according to his heart.

Unfortunately the lesson of the Good Samaritan is lost on most folks. For many it's just a charming bible story and that's all it is. I'd like to think mandatory health insurance would work; such an idea resonates with my sense of fairness and justice. But I don't think it will fly simply because many, perhaps too many, people in our society simply don't feel they are responsible for anyone other than themselves and those close to them.

I said early on in this letter that when we read the story of the Good Samaritan we are shocked, dismayed and outraged by the behavior of those who passed the victim. We wonder who could do such a thing. I'm afraid that all we need to do is look in the mirror to find our answer.

I offer this as something to think about during the Lenten season of confession and penitence.

Grace and Peace, Mike



MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW LAY LEADER

I was having a really hard time coming up with an idea for this month's news article, when lo and behold, last night at the Outreach Committee, Nick Wood suggested we begin planning for the church's 210th anniversary which is occurring in 2011.

Evidently, there used to be a "Homecoming" Sunday when previous pastors were invited back to participate in a service. Nick was thinking this would be a nice way to celebrate the anniversary. Well, I wholeheartedly agree, but you all know me enough to know I think I can take it just a bit further.

One of the ideas that was brought up was to plan a totally 1821 service, including a potluck luncheon with foods prepared from recipes from the 1820's. We could wear costumes from the period and even try to only sing hymns and an anthem written in 1821 or earlier.

It would be a lovely Sunday service, but I am not sure 210 years of existence can be captured in only one Sunday service. I would love to see the church's 210th anniversary celebrated throughout 2011 with the "Homecoming" service being the culmination event.

Therefore, all of you put on your thinking caps and come up with ideas for how we can celebrate the life of our grand old church. I was thinking we could have a special program once a month, or even every other month, planned by different groups in the church, like the Choir, Youth group, the Women's groups of the Bible study group. It would be great to see the entire congregation become involved in one of the programs throughout the year(that includes all of you very experienced members in the "back row(s)"club).

This is an opportunity to honor all the hard work of past members to keep the church going. Who knows, if the word gets around about the anniversary we might even be able to bring in a new member or two, and they will be able to create memories for the next generation to celebrate a milestone anniversary of the church.

Now I am not sure we can do all of the things I reeled off and tend to get all excited about (although I think it would be a year of services we would never forget), but even if we only do a couple of the ideas mentioned above it would be a great way to honor the longevity of the New Market United Methodist Church.

So as the verse from John 3:13 says "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God", let us accept this gift from God in the form of the New Market United Methodist Church and CELEBRATE!

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS @ NMUMC

- 2 **Trustee's meeting 7pm Schoolhouse**
- 7 **Mentor/confirmand potluck lunch**
- 9 **SPRC meeting 7pm Schoolhouse**
- 14 **Daylight savings time begins**
- 16 **Council meeting 7pm Schoolhouse**
- 19 **Confirmation movie night**
- 23 **Outreach Committee meeting 7pm Schoolhouse**
- 27 **Easter egg Hunt-10:00AM**
- 28 **Palm Sunday**



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)



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.



As in the past, our mission offering for March is designated for One Great Hour of Sharing. Lent is the season of repentance, self-examination and awareness of the hurts of the peoples of the world. One Great Hour of Sharing calls the Church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. Gifts provide refuge and relief to some of the world's most vulnerable people during times of distress.

In 1946 One Great Hour of Sharing began; in 1949 the observance became ecumenical. Originally one special worship hour during the year was reserved for people of faith to contribute over and above their regular offerings. Today different denominations celebrate One Great Hour on various dates, but the cooperative spirit remains.

Your generous contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation of all the United Methodist Committee on Relief's work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.

Jesus promised to be with us always and Jesus extends this call to us to "be there" as well, whenever people are suffering. Your gifts enable the church to answer that call.



Our Second Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be Sat. March 27th at 10:00am (registration begins at 9:45am). We are in need of donations: bags of candy, small toys/ stickers (for the eggs) and any Easter/spring related items for baskets to be raffled off. Also we are looking for help with stuffing eggs, hiding eggs, registration, snacks, and getting the word out about our Community Easter Egg Hunt. If you can donate or help out with the Egg Hunt please contact the Church office at 301-865-3530 or email at nmumc21@verizon.net.

United Methodist Women

Perhaps during all the snow days, you did some "clean out" projects and now wonder what you should do with all the items. Our Church is having a Yard/ Book Sale on May 1st and we would welcome any items you have for the yard sale. You may bring them to the Ed. Bldg. If you are able to help price items or work the day of the yard sale, please let Thelma Gesling, Joan Price or Mary Lou Bernota know. A reservation form will be in the March bulletins for the April 24(Saturday) lunch/outing and are non-refundable. The menu includes: appetizer, salad, roast pork tenderloin and oven fried chicken, a vegetable, dessert and beverage for \$15(incl. tax and grat.) This is an opportunity for members of our church to invite their friends and spouses for a time of fellowship, good food and fun. We plan to meet at the church parking lot at 10:30 am and carpool.



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|-------------------------|-------------|
| Tim Summers | 3/2 |
| Edith Hunter | 3/6 |
| Luke Summers | 3/6 |
| Eugene Meyers | 3/7 |
| Walt Russell | 3/9 |
| Rita Crandall | 3/20 |
| Dawn Zimmerman | 3/20 |
| Michael Crandall | 3/22 |
| Laura Gaver | 3/23 |
| Susan Summers | 3/28 |
| Linda Siglin | 3/29 |

BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED!!!

Our Second Annual Book and Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 1st from 8-3(yard sale is from 8-1). We are accepting books of all kinds- paperback, hardback or audio as well as cds and dvds. Please contact Patty Robinson at 301-865-9418 or email pattyrob16@msn.com to arrange for drop off or pick up of your book donations.

HOSPICE

The Hospice Liaison team will be putting together gift bags again for the caregivers. In 2008

we made up 70 baskets and they were so appreciated. If you would like to contribute you can bring items to me and I will see that they get there. We need:

- Prayer shawls (knitted or crocheted-the patterns are online)
- Journals
- Puzzle books
- Pens for the Journals and Puzzle books
- Lotions
- Teas

Please have all items to me no later than April 20th so we have time to assemble the bags.

Thanks for your help, Marilyn Brooks



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

To Julie Grenier who coordinated the Scout Sunday service and reception. It was a huge success! We hosted 21 scouts (and 2 daisy girl scouts) and their families for a special service in honor of scouting and a reception afterwards. The schoolhouse was packed with people and we went through all the refreshments! What a great Outreach event for our Church and community. Thank you Julie for all your hard work!

HAITI UPDATE

Many of you have inquired about what our church is doing to help the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. The

United Methodist Church was in Haiti when this terrible tragedy occurred. We lost members who were there when the earthquake hit and they died while in mission to the Haitian People.

Immediately after, the United Methodist Church was raising money to help them. First, they designated the Worship offering collected at the ROCK 2010 youth retreat to go to help the people in Haiti. The Bishop presented them with a check totaling almost \$29,000.00 from that offering! They also set up an online donation center through UMCOR to donate 100% of the money to Haiti Relief efforts. They have also designated the money from the One Great Hour of Sharing mission (we are doing for the month of March) to go to help the hurting people of Haiti.

Our church has been on the forefront of helping the people of Haiti and will continue to do so long after the recovery from this disaster.