

# OCTOBER 2008

## NEW MARKET UMC

### NEWSLETTER

Today, as I was trying to think about the subject of this newsletter article, I was substitute teaching at the Thurmont Middle School. It's not easy thinking theologically while at the same time maintaining order in an eighth grade classroom. Normally I wouldn't even try other than to utter a few desperate prayers here and there. But today I had a little help. The classes were all watching a video of a presentation by the motivational speaker Willie Jolly. Mr. Jolly was saying some things I believe we all need to think about.

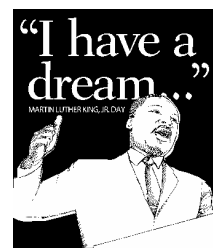
One thing that he said which really spoke to me went something like this: "The key ingredient to being a successful person is to have a dream." Having a dream is what determines success. When I heard this I started wondering and thinking about the dream that motivates me. What is my dream, the dream that directs my footsteps. I didn't have to think too hard. I dream of the Kingdom of God experienced in this world here and now. I dream of the peace of Gods Kingdom, I dream of the Justice and Mercy of God's Kingdom. As Christians this dream of God's kingdom is one I think we all in some way share. We dream of a world at peace, a world where there is justice for all people, we dream of a world filled with mercy and compassion.

According to Mr. Jolly, and I believe he is right, as long as we hold on to this dream keeping it fixed in our hearts we will be successful servants of God living and serving toward the realization of this dream in our world.

We have dreams as a church as well. In speaking with a lot of you I think I understand what that dream is. We dream of New Market United Methodist Church which is growing, both in number and in service to the community and world around us. We dream of serving the community and world with vital ministries making hope, peace, and justice a reality in our world and in our time.

I believe the dreams we have as individuals and as a church are powerful things. They have been planted in our hearts by the Spirit of the Living God for whom nothing is impossible. This goes for our dreams for ourselves as individuals, and our dreams as a church. So today I simply invite you to dream. Dream of what God would have you be. Dream of what God would have our church be. And hold on to that dream which is the key to our success as individual servants of Christ Jesus and our key to success as the Church. And when we meet together share your dream, and I'll share mine, and with Gods help we will make them real together.

Grace and Peace - Mike



## MESSAGE FROM THE LAY LEADER (RET)

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

So often you hear people complaining about God's injustice, lack of caring, and showing no mercy. They can't believe that if God were so good he wouldn't allow pain, suffering, and evil to prevail in this world. Yet, Jesus tells us the truth in Matthew 6: 19-21, when he says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Think about it for a moment. If life on earth were perfect where no pain, suffering or evil existed, what would life in heaven, in eternity with God be like? God wants all of his children to be safe and sound, enjoying this life. But, lets examine the facts. This earth has been around for a long time, and the catastrophic effects of nature have also been going on for millions of years. What have we learned? Do we still build our homes on the banks of rivers that flood, in earthquake zones, or hurricane paths? YES! However, God can save us from these events if we come to him in prayer asking for his help and protection.

Davy Troxel tells this story. My 8-year-old son came home from school with a stuffed animal he had won at the class Valentine party. "How did that happen?" I asked. "Well," he explained, "the teacher put all our names together, and then picked one out." "I cheated though," he said looking guilty. "I prayed!"

God wants us to lean on him, to trust him, and to ask for his guidance and protection. I can only vaguely imagine what life with God in eternity will be like. The perfect existence that we so fervently seek in this world is a life with God, yet we do nothing to try and obtain it. Accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior and obeying God's laws is the path to heaven. When you think about comparing this life to the next, think about this thought by J.I. Packer. "A moment of conscious triumph makes one feel that after this nothing will really matter; a moment of realized disaster makes one feel that this is the end of everything. But neither feeling is realistic, for neither event is really what it is felt to be."

You know, the treasures we have and the pleasures we enjoy are God's gifts to us for use in this lifetime. Accept them with humility and thanks. My greatest treasures as a young boy cannot even come close to the treasures of today, and the treasures of today will pale in comparison to the treasures of eternity.

Just imagine what Moses gave up to follow God. In Hebrews 11: 24-26 it says, "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."

I went to a funeral home for a viewing the other day and saw this printed poem, author unknown.

### GARDEN OF PROMISE

There is a place, I have been told, beyond an open gate  
All have been invited, where friends and love ones wait.  
It holds eternal promise of everlasting peace.  
No pain or sorrow ever comes and teardrops there have  
ceased.

Abundant life is evident constant, fresh and new,  
A garden of provision with eternity in view.  
The promise is awaiting, a place we can abide  
Fulfilled for all who answer the call to come inside.

The greatest treasures still await us in heaven, and I, like  
Moses would prefer those.

Blessings, and peace to all,  
Ron Hunter



"Store up for yourselves treasures  
in heaven, where moth & rust do  
not destroy, & where thieves do not  
break in and steal."

Matthew 6:20



Originally a Presbyterian observance, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America established World-wide Communion Sunday in 1940 as a global, interdenominational event. Prompted by the impact of WW11, the Methodist Church received an offering on this Sunday for the Fellowship of Suffering and Service. It aided the work of the Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (now UMCOR.)

In 1971 the United Methodist Church changed the name of the observance to World Communion Sunday and redistributed the offering to support the Crusade Scholarship Program and the Division of Chaplains and Related Ministries.

In 1980 Chaplains and Related Ministries was moved to World Service funding, but the World Communion Sunday offering continued to assist racial and ethnic minority persons pursuing various avenues of ministry.

World communion Sunday is October 5<sup>th</sup> but you can give any Sunday in October.



*NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>*

## **AFTERNOON UMW**

Eight of our United Methodist Women members had lunch at Country Meadows on September 15<sup>th</sup> with Polly Petersen. As this was her birthday, we arrived with a balloon, birthday napkins, cake, cards and candy as a gift. After our delicious lunch and much great fellowship, Polly took us to her room and showed us jewelry, cards and dolls that she had made for their upcoming craft show and sale.

We've received notes and calls from Catherine McLaughlin. She is doing well and is happy that cooler weather has finally come to Arizona. She's attending a Methodist church and "trying out" their three UMW circles to see which one she is most comfortable in.

Our church, and of course our UMW, will become a part of the Central Maryland District as of January 2009. So, we will be making new friends at district meetings as well as being hosted in churches we've not been in before.

We voted to have a table at our church yard sale. We will be bringing and pricing the items on October 17<sup>th</sup> in the Educational Building. The proceeds will go to our treasury and be earmarked for the Schoolhouse kitchen project.

A sheet for hosting meetings, lesson leader and sending cards to our "Friends to Care For" will be passed around at our October meeting so we will be ready for 2009.

The October meeting will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at Barbara Zimmerman's with Margaret Tollefson giving the program. All ladies are invited to attend. We'll meet at the church parking lot at 12:10 p.m. to carpool.

Please call Thelma Gesling at 301-865-5514 if you need more information or have questions.

## Thank you 🎵

Candy and Paul Goebel would like to thank all of you for the beautiful 50th anniversary cards you sent for our Sept 6th anniversary. We appreciated each and every one of them! Candy says thanks too for the cards of concern you have been sending to her. They really brighten her day. It is gratifying to be a part of such a caring congregation!



## IN OCTOBER

Ruth Meyers	10/5
Mary Cole	10/8
Lisa Gaver	10/15
Zach Grenier	10/16
Mike Gaver	10/24
Delaine Hobbs	10/24
Edna Poole	10/27
Josh Young	10/27
Brice Jones	10/29
Ann Winters	10/31
Alex Beard	10/31

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### Keeping in Touch with our college students!

Alex Morrow  
1431L Seneca Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Angela Ashbaugh  
SCAD-Savannah, Barnard Village  
231 W. Boundary St.  
Savannah, GA 31401

## THIS & THAT!

🎵 Music - what would the world be like without it! Now I have to admit I could do without some types of music but on the whole it's a wonderful part of life. It can conjure up so many emotions; love, joy, sadness, pride, peace, hope, etc. How many times have you heard a song and it stirs something inside you. I can't hear the Taps being played without remembering when I was growing up in Washington, DC and living not too far from Walter Reed, we would often hear the Taps being played at night and that was soulful and, in some way, comforting. I can't hear the wedding march without tears coming to my eyes. I know it's a happy time but when I get emotional I usually have tears.

Then there are the funny, crazy songs. When I was a kid I learned one called "Catalena, Madalena, Whotensteina, Wallinheimer, Hogan, Logan, Bogan, was Her Name (not sure of the spelling **at all** but I can sing it for you) It was fun to sing, which I did for my kids, grandkids and any kids that would listen, especially if you wanted to get their attention.

How about the VBS songs that give a child a message they can learn and play back in their head. Many seeds are planted for the Lord through music. The absolute joy coming from the kids while they sang and moved was awesome!

Although I like some of the new praise songs, I also like the older hymns because they tell a wonderful story of God's love and grace. Next time you sing a hymn pay attention to the words and message and it will have so much more meaning to you. Nick Wood, our organist/choir director, gave the choir two books for Christmas years ago that tell the background of the people who wrote some of the hymns and those stories alone are a sermon in itself.

Sometimes God will bring a song to my mind and it's like an answer to prayer or a comfort to my soul and I say, "WOW Lord - thank you!"  
Blessings & Notes of Joy, Marilyn Brooks

## DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

I have Good News! Yes the pastors, church leaders and congregations continue to strive to be like Christ through generous and cheerful hearts. Through August we are more than \$200,000 ahead in apportionment giving over last year, and \$100,000 ahead of how much we projected to collect. We are experiencing this \ during challenging economic times. This is a testament to the faithfulness of the people in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. These are signs of what the church was experiencing in Acts 2, All who believed held all things in common and shared with those who had need (Act 2:44-45).

Your giving has made it possible to train eight churches to be communities of Shalom in Baltimore, to support a new church development project in Belair ,and support a children's ministry in the Western Region of our conference. Your giving is also enabling disaster relief at home and around the world as well as starting new congregations in Africa and Eastern Europe. These are but a few of the ministries your apportionment dollars are supporting. The United Methodist Church is an Acts 2 denomination.

In a couple of days, some of your church leaders will receive the latest edition of the UMConnection, our conference newspaper. In this edition we list all of our churches and the percentage of apportionment payments to date. Those who have paid 66% or more are setting the pace for all of us. I hope each of you will offer a prayer of thanksgiving for these churches and all of the congregations who share there gifts in common for a faithful United Methodist witness around the world.

I also invite you to pray for those congregations that are struggling to pay their apportionments. Maybe they have ministry challenges, or disciples that are still developing in their giving. We are called to support and work with each other to fulfill God's calling through the

Church. I invite you to pray for the pastor, church leaders and members of these

congregations. If your congregation has put into practice ideas to help the congregation to be faithful in their giving, I invite you to share your ideas with congregations near you that are experiencing stewardship challenges.

Together we are making a difference. Together we can encourage one another to be our best for God. I give thanks to God for each one of you and look forward to a great year of giving.

In Christ's love.

John R. Schol, Bishop  
The United Methodist Church  
Washington, DC Area  
Baltimore-Washington Conference

### **Food for Thought**

**“Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip” Will Rogers**

### **BOARD OF CHILD CARE**

Please look over the next two pages about clipping labels for the Board of Child Care. Bring your clipped labels in to church and put in the plastic container at the back of the church. Joan Price will see that they are sent to the Board of Child Care Auxiliary. Thank you!