

NEW MARKET UMC

NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

Six years ago this month our nation was attacked by terrorists and our world was changed. It was changed not only by the act of the terrorists but also by our response to their attack. We are still responding. Today as I consider the rising death toll of soldiers and civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, our nations stature in world events, and the other costs of our response I'm reminded of the message I preached on the evening of September 11, 2001. You may think the sentiment naïve but I still believe its worth considering.

Tonight we are standing in the face of evil. We are wounded by that evil. We are cut to the heart by what has taken place today. How do we respond to this kind of assault? How do we answer an evil attack like this? I'm not just talking about the terrorist attack on the innocent people on board the airliners, or the innocent people in the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Though horrific they are not the only attacks that took place today. There has also been an attack on the hearts and spirits of the American people.

There is more going on here than the innocent deaths of thousands of people - something terrifying and horrible beyond imagining. This is also a spiritual attack. It's an attack on our faith, an attack on our values. How can we respond to an evil attack like this and remain in Christ. That's where our battle tonight lies - in our response to the events of today.

One thing we need to remember or keep in mind is that our Lord Jesus Christ refused to answer evil with evil. In the gospel of Luke chapter 4 vs. 28 - 30 the chief priests and the Pharisees tried to kill Jesus, tried to provoke Jesus. They tried to throw Him off a cliff. If it had been me, I would have attacked back in self defense. Not Jesus. He handled that confrontation by not giving in to anger and violence but by simply treating them with disdain.

In Luke 22:50, and following, in the Garden of Gethsemane, one of Jesus disciples responded to Jesus' arrest by cutting off the ear of a servant of the High Priest. Jesus responded by healing the man. Then of course we know, as he hung on a cross, scourged, beaten and dying, He asked God to forgive those who were crucifying him.

And this is perhaps our greatest battle tonight. I know it's my battle tonight. It's the battle between anger, hate, and vengeance on the one side and the need to glorify Christ on the other. It is the battle to resist the temptation to respond to evil with evil. I'll have to confess that this morning I was not feeling very Christian. I am ashamed to say a part of me wanted retribution and vengeance of the highest order. I wanted to quench my anger. That is a human response but it is a response that in no way glorifies our Lord Jesus Christ.

How will we respond? By venting our anger, returning evil for evil, or by in some way glorifying Christ in the face of evil and death? When we give in to hate, anger, the desire for vengeance we lose the spiritual battle and end up with something quite similar to what we witnessed this morning, an angry act of death and destruction... We loose the spiritual battle and play the devils game. We do exactly what those who have committed this act want us to do. But there is another way to respond in a way that glorifies our Lord and that's what we are here to do this evening. We are here to stand in the face of evil and glorify our Savior Jesus Christ.

We glorify Jesus, not with angry words, but with prayer to God. We offer prayer which testifies to our faith in the one who really is in control. We testify to our belief in Christ's victory over death and the things of death. We pray tonight for the victims, the dead and the injured. We pray tonight for the families and the friends of those whose lives have been cut short. We pray for the wounded and for Jesus healing spirit to be upon them. We pray for ourselves and the balm of Jesus healing spirit in our hearts and minds, renewing our spirits and guarding us from descending into bitterness, hatred and vengeance - emotions that are poisonous to us. We pray for our nation and for the wisdom of our leaders, that they may be thorough in the measures they take in protecting us. We pray that they be given the wisdom of Solomon in their response to those who have committed this horrible act we pray to God to release our spirits from the pain of this time and that, by His Spirit, we may be focused on the hope of His kingdom. And, as difficult as it might seem, we pray for those who would and have committed this act of terrorism.

Remember that in prayer we point to God and give our attention to God and not to the terrorists who crave our attention. We glorify God and not the act of those overcome by evil. In prayer we glorify God by praising His name and holding His name above all other names. We praise the Lord of Creation in the midst of destruction. We praise the Lord of Life in the midst of death. We praise the Author of Salvation in the midst of human loss. We praise the Lord of Love in the midst of an act of hatred. We give God His due and we give nothing to the evil seen in these events.

Tonight we are at war. Not so much with a people as much as we are at war within ourselves. We are at war with anger that could consume us. We are at war with a desire for vengeance that could destroy us. We are here tonight to win a battle with evil. It's a battle being waged in our souls. We will win this battle as we bow our heads in prayer and raise our hands in praise. May God's blessing and comforting hand be upon all those who have suffered loss in this act. May God's comforting and healing hand be upon us all.

Six years have now passed. Many more people have been killed and maimed in our response than were killed or injured in the initial attack and our response continues on and I wonder who is winning the battle in our souls.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike*

MESSAGE FROM THE LAY LEADER (RET)

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

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Shelby and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes, Shelby returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished it so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where he belonged, then our country just came together."

In the Book of Joshua, Chapter 24, and in Verse 15, Joshua tells the Israelites, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Our country is falling apart because Jesus is not back where he belongs. Just like the Israelites we're worshipping other gods. We are losing our identity and spirituality.

Michael Downey says, "Spirituality is a slippery term, but the phenomenon itself is not new. Christian spirituality is nothing other than life in Christ by the presence and power of the Spirit: being conformed to the person of Christ, and being united in communion with God and with others. Spirituality is not an aspect of Christian life, it is the Christian life."

Jane Stanford writes. My husband admired our six-year-old daughter while she was dancing around the kitchen. Finally, he stopped her with a hug. "You know," he said, looking Amy in the eyes, you're cute just like your father." Amy was silent for a moment. "You mean my heavenly Father or you?"

One of the false gods we seem to worship today is the Constitution, however, the Constitution was formed around God and not exclusive of God. We

seem to be going down the same road as the Pharisees and Priests of old, condemning the teachings and word of Jesus for the sake of the law. In Colossians 3:17 Paul says, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

I believe that our country is making too many irrational decisions by not putting Jesus where he belongs, we're going out of our way to shove him out the back door, which is the biggest mistake we can make as Christians.

A large company, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning on a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He walked up to the guy leaning against the wall and asked, "How much money do you make a week?" A little surprised, the young man looked at him and replied, "I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO then handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and screamed, "Here's four weeks pay, now GET OUT and don't come back!" Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?" From across the room came a voice, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

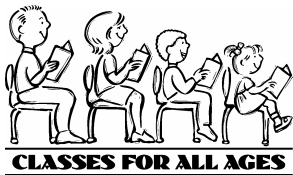
Many mistakes are embarrassing, but not putting Jesus where he belongs will be the biggest embarrassment this country will ever witness.

Blessings, and peace to all,
Ron Hunter



Charge Conference will be held on **Sunday, October 28th, at 3:00 p.m.** This meeting will be here at New Market United Methodist Church in the School House. Charge conference reports need to be submitted by **October 14th.**

On **September 8th and October 12th**, from **8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** there will be two sessions of strategic planning to which everyone is invited. Members of the Church council are asked to make an extra effort to attend. During these sessions we will be taking a look at our mission statement, identifying priorities for our church, setting goals, and making plans toward meeting those goals.



CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Sunday School
Begins September
9th with
refreshments after
the service.**

Also on Sunday, September 9th Ron Hunter will be honored, part of which will be a card shower for him. If you cannot be present you can send a card to church, e-mail a message. Or drop one off at the office

**NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER
FOR RON HUNTER
AS OF SEPTEMBER 29TH**

**1105 Doris Drive
Owings, MD 20736
410-257-6324**

NEEDED: We need someone to take over the job of Financial Secretary. Ron would like to get together with his replacement to go over the responsibilities before he leaves. If you can do this please let Ron know @ 301-865-1245 or call the church office @ 301-865-3530.

September Mission Giving

As the brilliant summer sunshine of vacation plans and back yard barbeques is fading and autumn is approaching we move into Fall schedules and the routine that ensues.

Our mission giving for September will go to Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc.

Too many people in too little space make for unsafe and unhealthy living conditions. A shortage of affordable housing in Frederick made headlines again in August. The causes and effects were analyzed, but few immediate solutions appeared to be available.

Yet, Interfaith Housing Alliance, a local nonprofit, has an affordable housing project underway to help alleviate part of this problem. Ten townhouses and one single family home are underway on land adjacent to an apartment complex for low wage earners that IHA owns in Frederick. A place to sleep is a basic necessity of life.

Interfaith Housing, founded in 1989 and located in Frederick, moves its mission of working toward social justice in housing forward with the help of many faith and community partners. The organization has built since 1992 or has in the development pipeline more than 1200 units of housing that serves low income families and seniors. For more information about the full range of housing programs offered by IHA, call 301-662-4225.

If you are away on the first Sunday in September, as it is Labor Day weekend, remember you may place your mission offering in the collection plate any Sunday in the month. Please mark it for mission giving or use the small envelopes provided for you in the pews.

Candy Goebel, Mission Chair



**Lord, please surround
Danny Baugher and
Scott & Sara Hale, &
with your love and
protection and their
families.**

THANK YOU ♪

Many thanks to Dottie Kurhman who loaned me her dehumidifier for the office. I was having trouble with the paper going through the copier because it was damp and now the air is much drier and it works good. Thanks Dottie! Marilyn

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls and prayers during my recent hospitalization. I'm home now and coming along well. Chris Matthews

Food Bank in Need !!!

Recently you may have read about the severe need for food to fill the shelves of local charitable organizations. Frederick Community Action Agency's Food Bank is one of those. Each week recently when I've gone in to help hand out food to families in need, I've been impressed with the empty bins and shelves. Each family is given a bag or bags of standard foods; lately those bags have been lacking. The family then may choose from a variety of other miscellaneous items that their specific family can use; those choices were nearly nonexistent last week.

We have a box in front of our church where we regularly collect contributions of food. We usually have three to five bags donated per month. **But we could do a lot better.** Would you please consider cleaning off your pantry shelf of some extra items you can spare or buying some extra items when you go shopping.

I try to pick up our donations regularly and take them in with me. Thanks for your on-going support. Mary Lou Bernota



& Anniversaries

Janet King	9/6
Glenn Free	9/6
Candy & Paul Goebel	9/6
R. Herbert Oden	9/10
Steve & June Oden	9/12
Steve Oden	9/14
Polly Petersen	9/15
Paul Faconnet	9/16
Julie Wood	9/18
Julie Grenier	9/19
Chase Davis	9/24
Katherine Lake	9/28

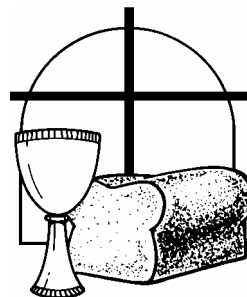
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Addresses for our kids in college:

Timothy Summers
GO33
710 South 42nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4442

Laura Gaver
9300 L. Hunters Mill Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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MISSING –Our silver chalice for communion has been missing for some time. If you have any idea where it could be please call the office @ 301-865-3530.



**Begins Sept. 6th @ 7:30PM
In the Sanctuary**



HELP WANTED:

Bakers and Volunteers!! Our annual New Market Days Bake Sale is coming up quick! **September 22 & 23, 2007**. We are in need of lot's of baked goods and help. If you are able to assist in any way please contact Melinda McCollum 301 695 6229. There are plenty of things to be done beforehand as well as on that week end. We will have a booth at 12 East Main Street and possibly a second bake sale at the Church. Please join together and help to make this another successful bake sale.

Parking Lot Attendant's):

When: Saturday Sept 22, 9AM- 3:00PM and Sunday Sept 23, 12:00 - 4:00PM

Where: Church Parking Lot

Collect donations in exchange for using parking spaces during New Market Days

Contact: Melinda McCollum at 301 695 6229

**Sept. 30 Birthday Lunch after
Church @ the Schoolhouse**

**Nov.16-18 "Alive Youth Conference"
@ Ocean City for Middle Schoolers.** It is a weekend packed with interesting workshops, spirit-filled speakers, amazing Christian bands, worship and fun at the beach.

If you are interested please speak to Melinda or Leslie. You can read about it on line @ www.mmyfc.org. This event is sponsored by Youth For Christ.



**GOLF
OUTING**

A very important date is coming up: **September 25**. That is the day of the Youth for Christ golf-a-thon. Golfers will play thirty six holes of golf and the

pledges they raise will be used to further the great work of this organization!

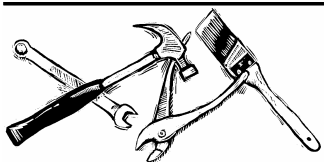
Sue will again be playing to support our daughter, Barbara Hanna, who works with YFC to organize and mentor student led Bible Clubs in Frederick County middle and high schools. Barb has a long association with YFC - from attending in high school, volunteering while in college, and now working to further the reading, understanding, and application of God's Word through the student clubs. If you have read her newsletters, you know that she is truly dedicated to this ministry.

If you would like to help, we are suggesting pledges of a dollar a hole (\$36.00), although pledges of any amount are welcome. Pledges are tax deductible and checks can be made out to Youth for Christ. Pledges can be given or sent to Sue or Nick.

We are blessed and proud to have Barbara involved in this organization and we thank you for your support of her through this event.

Sue & Nick Wood

**WELCOME TO LUC MAXIME LUGEZ
Born July 26, 2007
Proud parents are Brandie and Catherine**



Kitchen Project

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

We hope that you've been over to the Educational Building to admire the finished results of the kitchen project. As with any project, it takes volunteers and donations to make it possible and here at New Market U.M. Church we were and are blessed with both. To better understand all that has gone into this project, I'm staging it in scenes.

Scene I – The cleaning crew and the prepping of the cabinets thanks to Ann Winters, Ruth Meyers, Mary Lou Bernota and Thelma Gesling.

Scene II – Financial donations were needed for the Flooring and the repair of the floor at a cost of \$1983.50; Refrigerator- \$358.20; 24" Stove- \$323.09; 32 cabinet knobs- \$53.70; and a donated white fan/light fixture, for a total of \$2,718.57. To the rescue were these donors: Mabel Heider, Steve and June Oden, Dave and Evelyn Gaver, Sharon and Richard Riley, Margaret Tollefson, Dorothy Kuhrmann, Rita Crandall, Ruth and Gene Meyers, Mary Lee and Chris Matthews, Ann Winters and Julie and Mike Grenier, and Matt and Katherine Plaskett, to a total of \$2,813.09.

The Afternoon UMW Circle that spearheaded this project had voted to buy the paint and supplies which included 5 gallons of paint- \$134.90, 1 gallon of primer- \$17.98, and painting supplies- \$38.65 for a total of \$191.53. As you note, our costs were less than the donations, so we plan to buy a white 8' table for \$69.74.

Scene III – Now we had the supplies/donations and here came the painting volunteers. I hear Ruth Meyers, Joan Price and Mary Lou Bernota may start their own painting company. They were joined by Ron Hunter and David Price. Through all the hot days of painting they maintained their great spirits.

Scene IV – Gene Meyers, Coy Price and David Gaver ripped out the old table storage cabinet, met with the Kehne's flooring estimator, patched walls, redid some baseboard and took off old quarter round and replaced with new. Gene took off cabinet doors and set up a painting area for them and then replaced the doors and added the knobs. Gene also repaired the outside kitchen door and painted it. They remounted the electric outlet for the stove. Along with Mike and Greg Gaver, they took the old stove and refrigerator to Peace and Plenty. Mike and Greg also picked up the new refrigerator and put it into place. Tim Summers installed the new fan/light fixture and reinstalled the old kitchen fan in the classroom area.

I would be remiss if I didn't also add a big thanks to Susan and Luke Summers whom went with me on many outings to check for the best prices, make the purchases, get tax exempt status for our church at Home Depot and Lowe's. I even did a credit card at Home Depot to get 10% more off on the stove and talked the Lowe's manager into 10% more off for the refrigerator.

It was a real adventure, but you all made it possible through your generous donations and volunteer work. Thanks so much and may we all enjoy the new kitchen/classroom.

Work is progressing on the bathrooms. The vanities were donated and delivered by Dennis Kitchen and Bath in Mt. Airy. Hopefully by the next newsletter we will have a Bathroom Project report

Thelma Gesling.

Shoe Rally

The Frederick District Board of Child Care Auxiliary is collecting money to purchase meat for Thanksgiving Baskets. These are given to families of the children supported by the BOCC through a "Shoe Rally" with this verse: "This little shoe we give to you, It's not for you to wear. Please multiply your size by 50 cents. And place therein with care. Just 50 times the size you wear, And that's so easy to fill. Cause if you wear a number 10, you owe us a five dollar bill!"

On either Sunday, September 2nd or 9th, please place your contribution in the Special Offering envelope in the pew holders and mark it "Shoe Rally." Put your name and amount on the envelope. Thank you!

United Methodist Women

It's that time of year – time to get back into our regular meeting times of United Methodist Women. All women of the church are welcome to be a part of UMW. We have two circles – an Afternoon and Evening Circle.

The Afternoon Circle will meet at Joann Russell's on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 12:30 p.m. We will meet at the church parking lot at 12:15 p.m. to carpool. Watch for the date and time of the Evening Circle in the bulletin.

UMW is a great way to become acquainted with ladies of the church, do mission study, special projects and we always seem to find time for fun outings and lunch out.

Please call Thelma Gesling (301) 865-5514, Mary Lou Bernota (301) 831-3339 or Melinda McCollum (301) 695-6229 if you'd like more info or need a ride.