

Over the past several years there has been a show on T.V. entitled “Survivor”. I’ve had the opportunity to watch several times. I remember as I was watching it thinking that this was probably the most dehumanizing show on T.V. It is built upon the premise that people are dispensable. If the group decides that someone is no longer useful, regardless of how they may have contributed in the past, they are kicked off the island. As I remember it this “uplifting” show was followed by another called “Big Brother,” where the participants aren’t isolated on an island but instead shut up in a house and the T.V. viewer gets to spy on them as though they are exhibits in a zoo. Once again the show each week ends when someone, considered to be of least value is kicked out.

I’m not really surprised that these shows were popular. After all they reflect a message that seems to be taught in our society. People are dispensable, some people are worth more, are of more value than others. And, the group is more important than the individual. I refuse to believe this and neither should you! In this world created by God each individual is immeasurably important and was created for a special purpose. No one is unimportant or dispensable to God.

Sometimes we make the mistake of thinking we are not important or that our lives don’t rally make a difference. Sometimes we feel like just another cog in a huge machine – dispensable and replaceable. Society as a whole doesn’t really do much to promote the importance of individuals. For instance the companies we work for downsize, reorganize, and then

dismiss faithful employees as though they no longer have any value to the company.

The church has an alternative message. You are so important to God – God sent his Son to die on a cross for you! We are all tremendously important to God. We are each an indispensable and important part of God’s plan. Our existence as individuals is an important part of God’s plan. It is through our study of God’s word, our participation in the life of the church, our service to Christ, and acts of love and mercy that we discover, explore, and fulfill the purpose for which God created us. You have an important part to play in God’s plan – this truth is affirmed over and over again in scriptures. You have an important place here at New Market UMC. God has endowed each with unique and essential gifts, which we can use and share here at NMUMC as together we do our part to carry out God’s plan.

Don’t ever underestimate how important you are. And don’t let the dehumanizing elements of the world convince you that you are not essential. Know that you are important to God and that God has a plan for you.

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Mike



## MESSAGE FROM THE LAY LEADER (RET)

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

Oswald Chambers says, "Every time we pray, our horizon is altered, our attitude to things is altered, not sometimes but every time, and the amazing thing is that we don't pray more." In 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 it says, "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Praying continually and giving thanks is something we all need to do every day. Talking to God should be simple and straightforward, and you don't have to be a professional at praying, he understands your language. In fact, he would much rather hear from you in your own words, right from your heart. In Matthew 6: 5-6 Jesus says, "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Helen Poole writes: My 4-year-old daughter and I always pray before she goes to sleep. One night she volunteered to pray. She prayed and prayed and prayed, her voice getting softer and softer and softer, until only her lips were moving. Then she said, "Amen." "Honey," I said, "I didn't hear a word you said." She answered, "Mama, I wasn't talking to you."

Don Verkow tells this story. It was Easter Sunday, 1990. Even though I was nervous, I was ready. I enjoyed being a part of the Son Shine Singers. I enjoyed ministering to the sick, the old, the abandoned and the hopeless through singing, worshiping, talking and praying with these precious people. As I pulled into the parking lot I saw the familiar faces I had grown to love gathered together in a circle of prayer. This had been our custom since the group was formed. After the prayer had ended, Tim, the lead guitarist said, "We weren't supposed to come here till next Sunday. The charge nurse is pretty upset because we're here. She wasn't ready for us, but she said to go ahead."

I went back to the car to check my book of engagements, and sure enough I had penciled in the next Sunday. I apologized and told Tim, "I just blew it!" The residents were being escorted into the Activities Room and some of our gang was helping to seat patients and roll in wheelchairs. The charge nurse was glowering at us. Looking out at the faces as I prepared to open the

program, I saw the cruel results of age and disease: Alzheimer's, crippling arthritis, and strokes. The list seemed endless. I started by introducing our group and encouraging people to sing along if they knew the words. When we started to sing Amazing Grace, one dear old soul sitting in the front shouted, "I hate that song! Please don't sing that song." Of course the music and the singing stopped, and I told her, "If you rather we didn't sing that song, we won't." "Can't you see I'm blind?" she asked. "He never gave me back my sight. How come? The song says, was blind but now I see. Well, I don't see! So, please don't sing that song." I glanced at the charge nurse. She was smiling at me, but it was a smile of disdain.

At the end of the performance I said, "How many of you know the song, Jesus Loves Me, would you please sing it with us?" The group quickly joined in. I thanked everyone for the opportunity to be there and began to walk around and talk to people. The charge nurse said, "Are you just about finished, we have other things we have to do?" I nodded my head and walked back to the stage. I was feeling defeated, foolish and unwanted. "Excuse me, sir?" I turned to face the little woman who was smiling at me. I could see she had tears in her eyes. "I just wanted to tell you something. You see that man over there, that's my husband. He's a retired minister. He had a stroke five years ago and I had to bring him here, I came here to live a year ago. He hasn't spoken for almost two years. About three weeks ago, I began praying that God would send someone here today, Easter, so we could worship together, like we did for almost 45 years. I just wanted you to know that when you started to sing Jesus Loves Me! Can you imagine? He started to sing! God bless you. You came, just like I asked for." She took a step and wrapped her frail arms around me in a hug. I looked up and saw the charge nurse crying. She had overheard our conversation. Her face was somehow different now. And then I knew why the schedule book had been wrong. We had been on God's schedule, not ours.

If you had a neighbor that could answer prayers like that, wouldn't you want to share your life with them, talk with them, and have them as a friend? Didn't Jesus ask that question when he was here? So why is it, we don't pray more?

Blessings, and peace to all,  
Ron Hunter



**MISSION FOR SEPTEMBER.**

Interfaith Housing Alliance’s newest venture in Frederick County is located in Frederick City, where affordable housing is so crucial to families who have limited resources and need to access public transportation. This was especially true for one family who was able to purchase the single-family home designed to be completely accessible. Wheelchair ramps and lower cabinets were all a part of the project and the family can now get to work more easily and be self-supporting.

In addition to the accessible house, Interfaith Housing Alliance is offering 10 new town homes at the same location off Motter Avenue. These are for purchase by families with lower incomes, but with responsible financial histories. And, these families must attend a series of classes where they learn how to continue that financial commitment through responsible homeownership.

The course teaches mortgage evaluation, financial literacy and how to recognize predatory lenders. These classes are an on-going part of IHA programs and are offered to others in the community, not just in-house participants. IHA homeownership participants have had negligible exposure in the current mortgage meltdown due to these lessons taught.

Several of the ten families have already settled on their homes, while others are still in the review process. These new homes were built on a piece of land adjacent to an Interfaith owned apartment complex for low-income families and serves as a transition to the nearby single-family neighborhood. A tot lot play area and family picnic gazebo were added for some amenities to be shared by the homeowners and apartment dwellers.

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 1100 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 or visit the website at [www.interfaithhousing.org](http://www.interfaithhousing.org).

Candy Goebel, Mission chr.

I have notified the chairman of the Nominating committee that I will be unable to continue as Mission chairman . I have enjoyed doing this but health concerns preclude my continuation. Because of your generous and prayerful giving this has become an important goal of this church's ministry. I hope when asked you will agree to become chairman. I have a file of materials that I will pass on to make the transition easier.

With love and faith, Candy Goebel

**Keeping in Touch!**

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

It's time to mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 9, at 12:30 p.m. when the Afternoon Circle will meet in the home of Ruth Meyer's. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to be a part of one of the U.M.W. circles. We have an Afternoon and Evening Circle.

U.M.W. is a great way to become better acquainted with ladies of the church, learn of mission programs and needs, special projects and special outings.

The Afternoon Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. For those wanting a ride to Ruth Meyer's home we will meet at the church parking lot at 12:10 p.m. to carpool. The date and time for the Evening Circle will be listed in the bulletin monthly.

Please call Thelma Gesling (301-865-5514) or Melinda McCollum (301-695-6229) if you want more information or need a ride.

Thelma Gesling

**Please remember to bring in can goods for the Frederick Food Bank. There is a box at the front of the church on your right. Thanks so much! Mary Lou Bernota**

## THIS & THAT!

I am pleased to share with you a true story written by Susan Baker my friend Carol's daughter. Susan lives in North Carolina with her husband Bill and their three children Matthew, Nicolas and Melissa.

### The Umbrella

*“Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...it's about learning to dance in the rain!”*

On a rainy spring day, I entered my school and tucked my generic, black, wet umbrella into the corner with the others. At the end of my school day, the sky was bright and sunny. Thank goodness, I couldn't find my umbrella! I assumed someone had taken it mistakenly – and it might turn up later that week. No luck. Oh, well. I decided not to spend another ten dollars on a new umbrella – that money might be better used for my children and end-of-the-year school activities. I don't melt.

Several weeks later, my own school year came to an end, complete with many thanks and wonderful gifts. The very last gift that was handed to me in our last hour – was an umbrella. The umbrella is a beautiful blue, with currently-fashionable chocolate brown trim...and my name. My daughter wisely noted that no one would take my umbrella with my name on it☺

Nobody but my children knew my umbrella had been missing. When I looked at the umbrella in the box, all I could think was that God was present, taking care of a small need, through a beautiful gift. There are so many small things that God tends to. It is with these small things that I can hold onto my faith that God also tends to the larger things. With faith in hand and my new umbrella – I can dance in the rain and keep from getting soaked.

*“God will put his angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go.” Psalm 91:11*

*“What are the angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to receive salvation.”*

*Hebrews 1:14*



**Church Yard Sale** Saturday October 18 from 8:00 am - 3:00pm in the Church parking lot. The yard sale will include door prizes, bake sale and 18

individual sites (2 parking spaces). Spaces will be reserved for \$25.00/each and will be available to Church members first. A sign up sheet is posted in the rear of the Church. Or you can email [OutreachNMUMC@hotmail.com](mailto:OutreachNMUMC@hotmail.com) or call the Church office at 301 865 3530 to make a reservation.

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**THE BIBLE CONTAINS:**

- 3,566,480 Letters
- 810,697 Words
- 31,175 Verses
- 1,189 Chapters
- 66 Books

The longest chapter is the 119 Psalm. The shortest and middle chapter is the 117<sup>th</sup> psalm. The middle verse is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the 118<sup>th</sup> Psalm. The longest name is in the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah, maher-shalal-hash-baz. The word “and” occurs 46,627 times. The 37<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah and the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> book of Kings are alike. The longest verse is the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Esther. The shortest is the 35<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of John. The 21<sup>st</sup> verse of the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezra is the only one of the entire collection which contains every letter but one in the alphabet. The word “Lord”, or its equivalent, Jehovah, occurs 7,698 times in the Old Testament. The word God does not occur in the book of Esther.

**But there is wisdom, knowledge, holiness, and love in every chapter of the entire work.**

Submitted by Ann Winters given to her by her mother.



**& Birthdays  
Anniversaries**

**FOR SEPTEMBER**

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



*Paul William Goebel Jr. and Candace Felton Goebel will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY September 6, 2008. They were married fifty years ago in the First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury, Nebraska. They have two sons Paul Bradley and Peggy Loveland Goebel of Frederick and Dr. Paul William III and Michelle Rose Goebel of Woodstown, New Jersey. Candy and Paul take much delight in their six grandchildren. Many of you will know Peggy Goebel as she is the daughter of Larry and Edie Loveland of New Market and grew up in this church.*

**Thank you ♪**