

NEW MARKET UMC NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2011

They say the toughest sermons to preach are “first sermons” - the first sermon a pastor preaches at a particular congregation - because it’s the one that sets the tone for their ministry at that church. But I would say that a close second to this is the last sermon. The last sermon is the one that puts the punctuation at the end of a pastorate. The same can be said about Church newsletter articles, two of which I am writing this week. One will go to the congregation of New Market United Methodist Church and the other will go to the congregation of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church. One will be a “last word”. The other will be a “first word”. I’m finding both to be tremendously difficult. One will set a tone for my ministry over the next few years. The other, this one, will serve as the punctuation mark for the conclusion of my ministry here in this place. As I sit here, I am wondering what that punctuation will be. A period? A question mark? Or an exclamation point?

Is it a question mark? I do have lots of questions. Did I make a difference? Did I do any good? Am I leaving the church better than when I found it? What will become of the ministry I have labored over during the last five years? What will become of all of you the people I have come to love? Yes I will conclude with lots of questions. The questions however don’t really matter. What matters is that our ministry together here has always been in God’s hands and will remain in God’s hands after I’ve left. I am confident that any difference that was made here was made because of God, not me. I know that a great deal of good ministry took place here, but again this was Gods doing not mine at all. I may have questions, but I have no doubts. God has been at work among us over the last five years. And where God has been at work a positive difference has been made, a great deal of good ministry has occurred, and the church has moved in a positive direction. As God has been moving among us over the past five years, I know God will continue to move among you. As long as you are faithful, as you have been, the ministry here will thrive. So I may have questions but God has already answered them.

Does my tenure here end with an exclamation point? I think it does, but again not because of anything I have done. It needs to be an exclamation point because of what God has done and continues to do through all of you. Exciting things have happened, are happening now, and will continue to happen. Anywhere God is at work it’s exciting. And I have no doubt that there is excitement in store. So definitely an exclamation point belongs! The Spirit of God is alive and thriving here at New Market UMC!

Does my tenure here end with a period? Well yes, as a matter of fact it does, three of them - three periods one after another. This is the literary way of indicating that the story continues - it goes on. I am confident in the abilities of Pastor Jason. With him as the primary pastor your shared ministry will go far. Over the past five years we have laid a good foundation. So now the story continues. . .

Thanks be to God!

Blessings and Peace - Mike



Thank you to Pastor Mike and Leslie Fauconnet for all you have done for our church. We will miss you and your family and wish you all the best at your new church. I leave you with this, a traditional Irish blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be ever at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rain fall softly on your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand

MESSAGE FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Roller Coaster Ride

Do you remember your first roller coaster ride? The jitters, goose bumps, and nervous chatter with your coaster partner, as that car s l o w l y creeps up the steep incline? Finally you are at the top and take a quick peek around. You can see forever from the top of that very high man made monster hill. For a few seconds the car stalls there and with breath catching anticipation you wait for what is to come next. You have a good idea of what is to come, but only in a vague, I know this is going to be something special, type of a way. You question your sanity for getting on this crazy ride in the first place! Then - BAM! You are racing down the other side of the hill, streaking around sharp curves, turning up side down in the loop to loops and it feels like you left your stomach behind on the top of that first incline. You are crying, laughing and/or screaming uncontrollably. You are jerked to the right and the left until your head feels like it will snap off. Finally, you are slowing down and coming into the platform to get off the ride and let a new group fill up those cars and start the process all over again. You are elated, relieved, sick or a myriad of other feelings, but basically you are pretty dog gone happy to have your feet back on the ground again. I believe New Market United Methodist Church has been on several roller coaster rides over its 210 year history, but this is the first one for me as a member of the church.

I was brought back to church after a 40 year absence due the loss of a grand-daughter I never got to know. She was perfectly formed little girl who died before she was even born at eight months. I was to visit my eldest daughter for the baby shower and ended up going to her baby's funeral. I could not understand what happened? There had never been such a tragedy in my life. I needed help for myself and much more for my daughter, who had just lost her first child.

The Sunday after Hannah's death, I walked into a church service in Olathe KS, looking for something. To this day I am not sure what I expected from a group of strangers, but I knew I wanted to be in church. I cried through the entire service and after the service had ended, I was approached by one of those "strangers" and led to the pastor's office. I can't remember the pastor's name, but she was a wonderful lady. She calmly listened to me, prayed with me and helped me attain a level of peace about what had happened. How ironic it was that she had her own tragic history of losing not only a daughter, but also a daughter-in-law in the past few years.

The first Sunday I got home from Kansas I attended New Market UMC for only the second time in my 7 years of living in New Market. I am not sure what brought me to the church the first time but I had come once before and the only thing that sticks in my mind about the first visit

is that I received a cross lapel pin. However, that Sunday in February, 2008 I remember that Nick Wood actually gave the sermon about the importance of music in a church service and how a hymnal contains much more than hymns. Within a few weeks I was attending Sunday school and within a few months was singing in the choir. And as they say the rest is history.

I do not have much to compare the congregation of New Market UMC to, as I only was a kid when I stopped attending church on a regular basis. But I know this about this church, it is where I belong. The support, warm and comfort of joining this church, as well as, relearning all the beauty of God's teaching has made a marked difference in my life.

So what does all of the above have to do with a roller coaster ride? The church has been perched on the top of that first big hill on that roller coaster, under the guidance of Pastor Mike. It took the church awhile to climb the hill and it still sways with the wind and creaks and moans some, but is still whole, with a firm foundation.

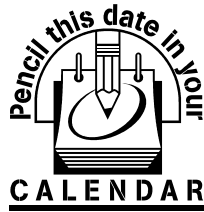
I hear many of you talk about previous pastors, but I have only known one pastor during my time here and he has been a wonderful teacher for me. In the little over three years I have attended the church I have seen him grow as a preacher and a speaker. He created an in-depth Bible study which was extremely educational and moving at times. He even joined the choir. He has offered me the opportunity to grow as a Lay Leader, and more than once has challenged me to stretch myself way outside my comfort zone. He has taught me about God's calling and with his sermon's has sometimes made me face up to aspects of myself that are not all that pleasing to examine. He has made me a better Christian.

I will miss you Pastor Mike and I wish you only the best with your new congregation. I will miss, Leslie and all your lovely children (even Mr. cha cha cha Stephen). Thank you, the church and God for being there for me during the darkest period of my life.

So, Pastor Mike and my fellow members we all are getting ready to scream down that steep hill and start the roller coaster ride all over again. We are not sure what to expect, but we all pray it will be something special.

God's Blessings on you all

Patty Robinson – Lay Leader



- 1 Scout Leader meeting 7pm
- 2 Scouts 628
Intercessory prayer group 7pm
Choir 7:30pm
- 7 Trustee's meeting 7pm schoolhouse
- 8 Scout Leader meeting 7pm
- 9 Scouts 628
Intercessory prayer group 7pm
Choir 7:30pm
- 12 Luke Myers Baptism 11:00am
Farewell potluck lunch for Pastor Mike
Last day of Sunday School
- 13 Foster's Grill Scout 628 fundraiser 3-9pm
- 14 UMW circle of friends 11:30am
SPRC meeting 7pm schoolhouse
- 16 Scout 628
Intercessory prayer group 7pm
Choir 7:30pm
- 19 Father's Day
- 21 Church Council meeting 7pm schoolhouse
- 23 Scout 628
Intercessory prayer group 7pm
Choir 7:30pm
- 28 Outreach committee meeting 7pm
Newsletter deadline
- 30 Scouts 628
Choir 7:30pm
Mike's Last Day



Vacation Bible school will be held August 15th-19th from 6-8pm. Our theme will be "Hometown Nazareth-where Jesus was a kid". It takes a lot of volunteers to make VBS successful. If you are able to volunteer, please call the church office at 301-865-3530.



Flag Day is Tuesday, June 14th 2011

LOOKING AHEAD.....

On Friday, July 1st 2011 we will welcome our new pastoral team here at New Market UMC. In celebration, we will have a seniors breakfast from 8:30-10:00am during which time you will be able to meet and talk with our new pastoral team (Pastor Jason, Pastor Jenny and Pastor Scott). Please plan on joining us to kick off the next chapter in our church's history.

On Sunday, July 31st 2011 we will hold our annual outdoor worship and church picnic starting at 11:00am here at New Market UMC. There will be fellowship, fun & games, food and family. All are welcome to attend. More details to follow in the July newsletter.

On August 15th-19th we will have VBS here at New Market UMC from 6-8pm. Our theme this year is Hometown Nazareth: where Jesus was a kid. Our VBS is free and open to kids of all ages. Please help us spread the word about our VBS program. If you are able to help out, please call the church office at 301-865-3530 or email at nmumc21@verizon.net. We are in need of all your talents!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE WILL BE HAVING A 6 MONTH PLANNING MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 5TH AT 6:00PM. WE NEED AS MANY PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE AS POSSIBLE TO HELP US PLAN OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.



FOR JUNE

Allie McCollum	6/6
Joan & Walt Russell	6/13
Howard & Patia Selby	6/15
Julie & Mike Grenier	6/15
Joan Price	6/18
Phil & Cathy Gamble	6/20
Aaron Fauconnet	6/21
Mike Grenier	6/27
June Oden	6/30



Rev. Jason N. Shank will graduate from Wesley Theological Seminary in May and will also be commissioned as a Provisional Elder at Annual Conference. Shank also holds a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Messiah College. For the past two years Shank has served as the Associate Pastor and Music Team Leader at Community/Trinity UMC Cooperative Parish in Crofton and Odenton. Shank brings with him a passion for worship design, teaching, preaching and Young Adult Ministry. He is passionate about reaching those outside of the church and finding new ways of actively being the body of Christ.



Thank you to all the fathers that make this world a better place just by being there. Happy Father's Day!

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PASTOR MIKE

As you all are aware Pastor Jason will be assuming pastoral responsibility here at New Market United Methodist Church on July 1, 2011. On that same date, I will be assuming pastoral responsibility at Mount Carmel United Methodist Church in Pasadena. All members of NMUMC need to be aware that it is the Baltimore Washington United Methodist Conference policy that pastors not return to a previous appointment for any pastoral duties or functions. To do so would deprive the new pastor of opportunities to serve you and become your pastor. I really love all of you but please do not ask me to return and serve you in any pastoral function. Thanks, Mike

RETURNING TO A PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT

(as stated in the BWC Manual on Policies and Procedures)

1. As of the effective date of a new appointment, a pastor shall immediately cease all pastoral counseling and pastoral visitation with members or member families in the previous appointment. Since appointments are generally announced several weeks in advance, each pastor has adequate time in which to effect closure and make appropriate referral to another for the pastoral care of members.
2. Pastors shall have a clear understanding with former congregations that they will not return to officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals, or do pastoral counseling or pastoral visitation in that parish. Pastors, active or retired, shall respectfully decline to participate in such duties when invited by members of a former congregation. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. The present pastor, at his or her discretion, may invite the previous pastor to return for pastoral functions. However, the present pastor should never be under any pressure to invite the previous pastor.
3. Through transitions in pastoral leadership, local congregations should be educated concerning this policy and asked to support it by prayer and actions.



Service Opportunities

Harvest of Hope Retreat

The next Harvest of Hope Retreat in Gretna Glen, PA will be Oct. 21-23, 2011. This is an intergenerational event open to participants age 10 and up. You will spend some time gleaning apples and potatoes and maybe some corn, as well as time in worship and large and small group study time and games. There is also free time to enjoy the beautiful camp area and get to know other folks on the retreat. Accomodations are a lodge and heated cabins. Cost is \$75.00. Last year's group included Roger VanLaan, Toni Carnahan, Cathy and Justin Gamble, and Stephen and Leslie Fauconnet who would all be happy to give you more details about this educational and inspiring experience. Contact the church office to sign up.

MISSION OFFERING FOR JUNE

The mission offering for June is going to benefit Boy Scout Troop 628. Here are some interesting statistics about Troop 628 "by the numbers."

- 17 - The number of months Troop 628 has been in existence.
- 7 - The original number of scouts in the troop.
- 30 - The number of scouts currently in the troop.
- 28 - The number of adults that have committed themselves to be leaders for the scouts.
- 3 - The number of Eagle Scouts on the Troop 628 Eagle Honor Roll.
- 63 - The number of merit badges earned since the troop was chartered.
- 51 - The number of rank badge advancements earned in 17 months.
- 18 - The number of overnight events the Troop has participated in since its founding.
- 52 - The number of miles of troop hikes.
- 2,340 - The number of bags of mulch sold by the scouts in April for our troop fundraiser
- 200 - The number of dozens of donuts sold by scouts in April for our troop fundraiser
- 300 - The amount of marshmallow shooters assembled to be sold by scouts in the last year.
- \$247 - The amount of money the troop spends to provide the necessary troop camping equipment for each scout.

\$4,500 - The amount of money the troop is working to raise to purchase a trailer to haul the troop equipment.

689 - The number of community service hours logged by troop members since the troop was chartered.

12 - The number of words to live by that Boy Scouts are taught to guide them into adulthood.

A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Please think of all of these statistics as you consider your mission offering in June. Thank you for supporting our troop in so many ways.



Edith Hunter

3-6-1913 - 6-4-2011

Edith's memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 18th at 11:00am here at New Market UMC.

