

NEW MARKET UMC NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2010

Our church building does not have a steeple. It was built in the style of a meeting house and meeting houses traditionally didn't have steeples. So I suppose sticking a steeple up there on the roof would violate some architectural rules. Meeting houses don't have steeples! Besides, the structure of our roof probably wouldn't support one.

But I miss having a steeple. I miss the soaring finger pointing to heaven and God as if to say, "that's where we are heading" or "heaven is the direction we take". The steeple can be a visible reminder to folks about where our focus should be – on God!

It's also kind of nice having something on the building indicating that we are a church. We have had people come to worship and literally ask someone in the parking lot which building is the church. (The Verizon switching office does in some ways resemble a modern church building). Sometimes I think it would be nice to have a soaring steeple on the roof declaring to the community that we are a church, we meet in this building, and our focus is on God's Kingdom.

Wait a minute; let's think about that a bit. Do we really need a steeple to say all these things? In fact, wouldn't it be more effective if our entire membership said the same thing to the people of our community in thought, word, and deed? Steeples may draw a few people to the church on Sunday morning but I think it would be way more effective if our members drew, and invited others to worship with us.

Do we need a steeple to tell our community where our focus as the church is? Wouldn't it speak much more loudly if all our members declared this in our conversations, interactions, and our faith lived out in the community? When Jesus commanded in Matthew 5:14 to "let your light shine before men" that he was talking about erecting a steeple on the roof and illuminating it with flood lights. He was telling us to be living steeples inviting and drawing people to God and the church in the way we live with and speak to others.

A steeple on the church would be nice if for no other reason than to indicate that there's a church back here. But I don't really think we need it. We need to point to heaven with our lives. We need to tell others who we are and what we believe. Remember it's not steeples that invite people to worship, its people like you and me.

Peace, Pastor Mike

MESSAGE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

For about the last month I have been sick with flu with a residual cough and sinus infection. This bug has really laid me low, to the point where I missed a couple of church services, choir practice, Bible study, church meetings and more. I am a stickler for following through on my commitments, so it really bothered me to miss so many church activities.

However, getting back to being sick, I have always been a relatively healthy person, so being so sick that I fainted for the first time in my life, brought home some truths that I am not sure I was prepared to face.

One truth is, when you are a bit older, you don't tend to bounce back from an illness as quickly as when you were younger. The second truth is, being so sick I could barely move, reminded me that I am not going to be on this earth forever. Death is not something I dwell on but like any normal human, I think about it and wonder. It is not so much dying, as it is thinking about missing those I love and not knowing what to expect.

What has helped me to grapple with the question of what comes after this life is getting back to basics with attending church, Sunday school and Bible study. Therefore, when I cannot attend I feel like I am missing something that will in the long run, make me more comfortable with some of the tough questions life throws at me.

I did not realize how truly blessed I am with being physically able to participate in all that our church has to offer until this last month when I was incapacitated with my illness. For me personally, all the activities are not only fun and pleasant to attend, but also educational and simply self satisfying.

So what is my point? I see several of you during the week and even more during the Sunday church services. However, I think that some of you are missing out on learning really good lessons by not taking advantage of all opportunities offered by our church and you do not have an incapacity to blame it on. Why not come to Bible study on Wednesday at 7:00 pm? Will taking that hour and spending it at home in front of the TV really be more satisfying to you? Will getting up and coming to adult Sunday school really put that much of a crimp in your Sunday mornings? Or how about volunteering an hour or so during Vacation Bible School, coming up in June?

I know we are all busy, but a couple of hours a week here or there should not impact your world too much. I work full time, am the church Lay Leader, participate in two church committees, choir, Bible study, mentoring a confirmand, VBS planning, attend Sunday school, plan the annual church picnic and am about to launch the second church book sale and you know what --- I wish I could do more.

We want our church to grow and get better and that can only begin from within, so come, participate and bring a friend!

Maybe you will be surprised how much you get in return.

During all my trials and tribulations over the last month with being sick, I thought it rather ironic, when I attended church on Sunday and on front of the bulletin were these words...

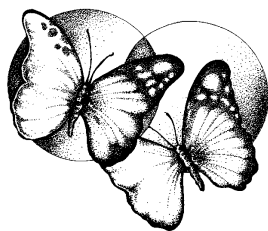
Fear thou not; for I am with thee...for I am thy God.

Tell me that he does not watch over all we are doing and will always be there to support his children. Pretty cool!

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS @ NMUMC

- 1 Book & Yard Sale(Book sale 8-3 Yard sale 8-1) also New Market Day
MMPAC spring voice recital 4pm-
in the Sanctuary
- 4 Trustee's meeting 7pm Schoolhouse
- 9 Mother's Day
- 11 SPRC meeting 7pm Schoolhouse
UMW afternoon circle 12:30-Barbara
Zimmerman's house
- 15 Outreach Committee- 6 month planning
meeting 9-12
- 18 Council meeting 7pm Schoolhouse
- 25 Outreach Committee meeting 7pm
Schoolhouse
- 29 Confirmation Dinner
- 30 Confirmation Day- ceremony at the 11:00
Service/potluck
- 31 Memorial Day



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)

THANK YOU

Thank you to Thelma Gesling for setting up, cleaning up, and coordinating the coffee/fellowship time after the early service. This has been a very enjoyable time for all who have attended.



Jonathan Crandall	5/1
Madison Riley	5/2
Coy Price	5/3
Sue Wood	5/3
Ashley Gamble	5/4
Jensen Riley	5/4
MaryAnn Hobbs	5/10
Marjorie Young	5/10
Barbara Zimmerman	5/19
Nick Wood	5/22
Don Peterson	5/23
Brandie Kellog	5/28
Evelyn Gaver	5/30



We are still in need of someone to set up and clean up for the coffee/fellowship time after the early service. It would be inside for May and would need to be set up by 9:00am. In June we move outside and our early service changes to 9:30 am so it would need to be set up by 10:00am. If interested please call the church office at 301-865-3530 or email at nmumc21@verizon.net.

We are looking for a sign design and additional naming suggestions for a two sided outdoor sign for the Schoolhouse. Let's have a contest! Thanks, Scot



Please welcome the newest members of our church to be confirmed on May 30, 2010:

Stephen Fauconnet
Ashley Gamble
Zach Grenier
Andrew McCollum
Carlton Plaskett
Edward Plaskett
William Plaskett
Luke Summers



Our May Mission offering goes to Heartly House which serves Frederick County residents who have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. The organization also assists secondary victims such as family members, spouses, significant others, and sisters or brothers. Heartly House has been providing comprehensive services for 30 years, including: a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, individual and group counseling, victim advocate services and legal representation, medical advocacy services for victims of sexual assault, abuser intervention groups, transitional housing, and community outreach and professional education.

Heartly House, Inc. is committed to the effort of achieving a society free of violence by providing public education, working for the equality and empowerment of all, and developing and maintaining comprehensive services to survivors of family violence, rape, sexual assault and child abuse. Please contribute generously to this worthwhile local organization.

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.

THIS & THAT

Comfort - when I think of comfort I get a warm feeling. I remember coming out of surgery years ago and I was freezing (the operating rooms are kept cold to discourage germs) and a nurse wrapped me in a very warm blanket that brought me so much comfort. I'm not a hot weather person but that felt really good.

What brings you comfort? For me some of the simple things would be food, getting in bed at night when I'm exhausted, knowing I'm in a safe place, etc. Then there is knowing my family and friends love me just as I am, hugs, beautiful music. But beyond that is the comfort you get when someone shares your sorrows and pains because they've been through it themselves. That is why support groups are so important!! If you are struggling, please find a support group and share with others. I finally went to Al Anon years ago and it started me on a road to healing I've always been thankful for.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

Blessings , Marilyn Brooks



Thank you to all the mothers who make the world a better place just by being in it!

Join the Fun at VBS



We are still in need of volunteers. Please consider donating your time and talents to help make it a success. You may use the insert in the bulletin to sign up or call the church office for more information at 301-865-3530.

Mt. Carmel UMC's Hope Community Preschool still has openings for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year

- *BRAND NEW FACILITY
- *SECURE KEY CARD ENTRY
- *MSDE LICENSING
- *PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

Please check out our staff bios at www.hopemtcarmel.org/preschoolstaff.htm

We offer Lunch Bunch and Fit Kids classes to extend the day~

For more information contact Athie Edsall, Administrator at

athie@hopemtcarmel.org or 301-514-4893

THANK YOU

To my church friends,

I want to thank you for your prayers for my brother Lee. He passed away at his home very peacefully, that was his wish. Also thanks for prayers for me when I had my back worked on. Just a great big thanks to you all for the cards and prayers.

Peace and Prayers to you all,
Barbara Zimmerman

NEW MARKET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SECOND ANNUAL BOOK & YARD SALE

**WHEN: Saturday, May 1st
Book Sale 8-3 and Yard Sale 8-1
WHERE: New Market UMC Schoolhouse
Yard Sale in front of Schoolhouse**

We are still in need of help setting up, working during the sale and clean up. If you are able to help in any way please let the office know at 301-865-3530.
