

NEW MARKET UMC NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2011

As I write this article I'm still high with the joy of Easter, the sight of an open and empty grave, and the wonder of everlasting life. I'm also watching the Weather Channel reports of tornado devastation stretching from Alabama to Maryland. They say this could possibly be the worst tornado outbreak on record. I'm reminded that for many people as spring brings new life and Easter Celebrations it also brings dark rain swollen skies, huge super-cell thunderstorms, and the destruction of tornados. It's a mixed bag of the good with the bad, life existing right alongside death. It always has been. A few years ago there was a devastating outbreak of deadly tornados on Easter day of all things. I remember thinking of how terribly ironic it seemed. On reflection I've been able to see it as a reminder that even in the midst of life there is death and more importantly that in the midst of death there is life. Spring brings celebrations of new life, and the storms that take it away. So as we live in the face of death, in close proximity to the antithesis of life, where does our help come from? How do we endure?

The resurrection is Gods statement to us that after the storms of suffering and death the sun will appear, the skies will be blue, and there will be new life. . . forever. The storms will come and go, but resurrection is forever. We only need to live in the light of that resurrection and let the storms rage knowing that they are only a passing breath.

I'm watching the reports from Alabama and Georgia. The news caster is talking about body counts and swaths of destruction. And behind him is the parking lot of a church. People are arriving for Wednesday evening services (A wonderful Baptist tradition). There may be death raining from the skies. But these folks will be spending the evening in the presence of their risen Lord, celebrating and anticipating resurrection. The news caster on the other hand will focus on body counts, destruction and death.

The choice is ours. We can live in the shadow of death and if we do that's all we will have and life will be difficult. Or we can while away the storms in the presence of our risen Lord and let resurrection light drive away all darkness. We can be the people who take the storms in stride, who don't allow life's occasional tornados to eclipse our view of heaven. We can be people of hope. And by being people of hope, resurrection people, we will be able to comfort all those overwhelmed by storms. And that's exactly what Christ calls us to do. It's one of the ways Jesus brings resurrection hope into the world, through us.

In closing always remember that the storms don't last, but God's love in Christ does. And if you have an opportunity, say a prayer for the people of Alabama.

Blessings - Mike



- 1 MMPAC Spring Voice recital 3:00pm
- 3 Trustee's meeting 7pm schoolhouse
- 4 Bible study 7pm
Prayer & Meditation group 8pm
- 5 Scout Leader meeting 7pm Ed bldg
Scouts 628
Intercessory prayer group 7pm
Choir 7:30pm
- 7 Book, Bake and Plant Sale 8-3pm
- 8 Mother's Day
NM Fire Co. breakfast 7am-12pm
- 10 SPRC meeting 7pm schoolhouse
- 11 Bible Study 7pm Ed Bldg Kitchen
Scout Leader meeting Ed Bldg
Prayer & Meditation group 8pm
- 12 Scouts 628
Intercessory prayer group 7pm
Choir 7:30pm
- 13 New Market Garden Club meeting am
schoolhouse
- 17 Church Council meeting 7pm schoolhouse
UMW Circle of friends 11:30am at the
Home of Joan Price
- 18 Bible study 7pm
Prayer & Meditation group 8pm
- 19 Scout 628
Intercessory prayer group 7pm
Choir 7:30pm
- 21 Armed Forces Day
- 24 Outreach committee meeting 7pm
Newsletter deadline
- 25-28 Annual Conference
- 26 Scouts 628
Choir 7:30pm
- 27 UMW Picnic 11:30am schoolhouse
- 30 Memorial Day



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. Accommodations 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.

OUR MISSION FOR MAY IS HEARTLY HOUSE

Our May mission offering will go 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, sisters and 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, legal representation, medical advocacy services for victims of sexual assault, abuser intervention groups, transitional housing and community outreach and professional education.

Heartly House 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.



Youth Sunday School

The youth Sunday school class meets in the school house every Sunday at 9:45. We are currently studying Extreme Faith: 12 Radical Young Believers from the Bible Who Changed Our World. During the hour we study, share prayer concerns, encourage one another by discussing our faith, and enjoy refreshments. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to come and bring a friend!



FOR MAY

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

Decisions - There were three answers in the dictionary and I like the third one best - "The ability to form clear opinions and act on them." Of course I can't always do that!

Our lives are full of decisions. I have two events coming up that are very special to me. On May 28th our oldest grandson, Brian, is getting married and our granddaughter, Meghan, graduates from high school. Yes, they are both the same day so I had to make a hard decision because one is in Hagerstown and the other in Richmond. Her graduation starts at 1PM and Brian's wedding at 5:30PM. I racked my brain to figure out how I could go to both (even got the crazy thought if I knew someone who had a private jet I could make it.)

I think most of us dislike making decisions sometimes. We want to rearrange things so it's not so hard, or put it off. There are times you have to make quick decisions but other times you have longer to decide. Whichever way include God into the process. He really does care about the large and small happenings in your life and of course knows far more about it than we do.

There times we make a wrong decision and have to live with the outcome, but I've never heard anyone say they were sorry they accepted Christ into their heart. That my friend, is the best decision you'll ever make!

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."
Pericles (495-429 B.C.)

Blessings, Marilyn Brooks



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.

New Market Volunteer Fire Company

All you can eat country breakfast:

Pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits, sausage gravy, fried potatoes, pudding and stewed apples.

May 8th from 7am-12pm

Adults \$7 Kids 6-10 \$3.50 under 6 free

Located at 76 West Main Street New Market, MD



On Saturday May 7th we will hold a Book, Bake and Plant Sale from 8-3(or whenever folks stop coming!). Patty will host the Book sale in the schoolhouse, Scot will have the plant sale in the parking lot and the UMW ladies will have a bake sale and sell Bonnie Mohr note cards. If you wish to donate new or gently used books, please contact Patty Robinson. If you wish to donate baked goods and homemade candies, please contact Thelma Gesling. If you wish to order plants, please contact Scot Morrow.



Vacation Bible school will be held in August. 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.



A choir cantata is planned for Sunday May 1st at
the 11:00am service



Samuel Benjamin Morrow

*Proud Grandparents: Scot & Patti
Morrow*



Thersa Heimiller & Jason Dowling

4-16-11
