



June 2009



First Word

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 11, Issue 6



Caring Team Update

Easter Bunny helpers, looking very much like members of the Caring Team met at the home of Joan Bush a few weeks before Easter. After sharing pizza and fun-they assembled 14 baskets complete with fuzzy bunnies and other goodies. As some of us were having a good time with our little project— others were addressing Easter cards to be mailed to our folks who live in the nursing homes or who are home bound. On Thursday before Easter, teams of two hopped off to make our deliveries. What a joy

and delightful day was had by all!

And now to other news. A heartfelt thanks to all who rallied to our cause of greeting. Another joy!! We especially recognize members of the early service. What a good job!!!

We would also like to recognize newcomers to our church who ask if they could greet. WOW!

As we look forward to summer and other projects for “reach-out”, we extend an invitation to have you join us.

We continue to send cards, notes to visitors, get well messages and sympathy notes as the needs arise. An acknowledgment to the Cooper Family, in Larry’s memory, has been made with the purchase of a table for the Social hall.

Many, many thanks to all who support us.

Blessings,

The Caring Team



Tell God what bugs you

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Put your best foot forward for Jesus

Prayer Concerns

Please let the church office know if there are persons in your family serving overseas and need to be added to the prayer list. *Please remember in your prayers all the men and women serving our country especially those that have been injured and are recovering physically or mentally. There are many service personnel that will never be the same. Remember we owe our freedom to them.*

SHUT-INS

Ruxton Health Care Elma Anderson
(110 Lauck Drive Winchester, VA 22603)

Hilltop Mary Everline, Clara Kerns,
Boyd & Elsie Ramey
(111 Denny Lane Winchester, VA 22603)

Westminster-Canterbury Virginia Lee
(290 Westminster-Canterbury Drive Winchester, VA 22603)

The Willows Hazel Fries, Jean Loy
(1881 Harvest Drive Winchester, VA 22603)

Please remember the following members in your prayers:

Bonnie Keplinger, The Cooper Family, Doris & Ray Harding, Nancy Palmer, Dan Dutchess, Alice Shell, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Kathy Dunn, Ray Keplinger, Jr., Velma Ritenour, Boyd & Elsie Ramey, Katherine Dix, Pearl Gaines, Dale Hoffman, Becky Cloud, Edith Anderson, Jennifer Lewis' brother Harry, Margaret Johnson, Robert Spaid, Our Church, Pastors & Church Leaders, Polly McIntire.

*“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!”
Psalm 130: 1-2*

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Don Smallwood, Mike McKeirnan, Janice Dickerson, Evelyn Harrison, Bill Morris, Dessie Taylor, Ricky Mitchem, Gary Houck, Jennifer Carper, Paul Carper, Shirley Miller, Sonny Cooper, Kim Bennington, Bob Shields, Ralph Miller, Rita Holly, Jeanette Shickle, Lorraine Vann, Rebecca Brennan, Ruby Boyd, Ian Corcoran, Sarah Kingery, Jaime Lee, Alisha Hudson, Al Mier, Christina Inglis.

Please keep this page from your newsletter and include those listed here in your daily prayers. Additional names to be included in your prayers, will be listed in the weekly bulletin insert. A complete updated prayer list will appear in next month's newsletter.

Summer Organ Academy

June 21-July 3, 2009

This is a two week introduction to pipe organ and electronic keyboard instruments found in church services today. Most middle and high school students are at a perfect age to begin church music training, in order to later provide service to the church. This service could include the training of substi-

tutes and/or accompanists for local congregations.

The students will learn basic organ technique, available literature and repertoire, and enjoy sessions on "The King of Instruments" - the pipe organ.

*Each student is invited to attend all workshops and services during the 2 weeks at CMI on the campus of Shenandoah

University at no cost. A schedule of the workshops and services at BSUMC website www.braddockstreetumc.org. *Shuttle service between SU and BSUMC will be provided.

Registration forms are located in the back of the sanctuary.

Summer Music

If anyone would like to present or know of someone that would like to do Special Music for the summer months (July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, or 30), please contact Wayne Corbett @ 667-5822 or waynecorb@comcast.net.

This could be vocals, instrumentals, or drama. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

- **Psalms 7:17 NIV**

- "I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High."

Graduation Sunday

Mark your calendars for June 7 which is Graduation Sunday. The 11:00 A.M. service will be followed by a covered dish dinner. Meat, drinks

and cake will be provided by the Church. Please bring a dish large enough to share.

Please plan to come and celebrate this impor-

tant step in our Graduates' lives.



Another Chance (from the Upper Room Daily Devotional) by Raymond N. Hawkins

Read Exodus 2: 11-15; 3: 1-12

“The Bible is a book about sin. But it’s also about the grace that continues to seek us out for God’s purposes and pleasure despite our sins. David sinned. The disciples sinned. Moses sinned.

I wonder how Moses felt after his sins. Surely after killing the Egyptian, Moses thought his life was ruined. Consider how he responded later to God’s call: “Who am I?” “Suppose they don’t believe me?” I can relate easily to his self-doubts and reluctance.

I have sinned, as I would guess each of us has. God, however, does not abandon us. God has provided a remedy for the burden we carry because of our sins, overruling sin with mercy. God returns to us, as to Moses, and re-commissions us. In God’s sight, we are precious. Though we may feel unworthy to be used by God, our past mistakes can become steppingstones to deeper devotion and service.

Prayer: God of Mercy, we thank you for looking beyond our sinfulness to what by your grace we can be. Amen



Thought for the Day

Yesterday’s failures are outweighed by God’s mercy today and God’s purposes for our tomorrows.”

(God said to Moses), “Go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” Exodus 3: 10 (NIV)

SINGGG! (Northern Shenandoah-Valley Area Music/Fine Arts Camp)

This ecumenical music camp is designed to provide children with a summer singing experience and to introduce them to new forms of musical and artistic expression, all to the praise of God.

When: July 27-31, 2009

Time: 9:00 am -12:30 pm

Where: Christ
Episcopal Church

114 W. Boscawen Street

***Camp is for ages Rising 2nd thru 8th grade.**

Registration forms are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Pastor's Corner

Deena and I had never been to Northern Virginia prior to moving to Winchester. Our first impression of the area came when we pulled into the driveway of the parsonage on Pebble Brook as the sun was going down.

Three very tired and hard working parishioners had just finished cleaning the parsonage. Once we were inside we found food had been left for us along with a very thoughtful note. After preaching two services on Sunday, Deena and I were applauded when we entered the Fellowship Hall for a welcome luncheon. One of the members of this church said to me, "This church knows how

to love people." Deena and I certainly saw evidence of that in the first few days after our arrival. We are appreciative for the love and support you have given us these two years. Your new pastor will be very fortunate to be received with the same loving spirit Deena and I experienced.

Deena and I will be moving to the East Halifax County Circuit in the Farmville District. This is a two point charge. The Clover United Methodist Church and the Scottsburg United Methodist Church are included on this charge. The church in Clover was built in 1895 and the parsonage next door was

built in 1896. This will be a fitting residence for an architectural historian like Deena. Our new mailing address will be:

1005 Mosely Ferry Road Clover, VA 24534. We would welcome your correspondence anytime. The grace and peace of God be with you always.

Pastor Doug



Say Goodbye to
Our Pastor and Family

CCAP Benefit Concert

The Greenwood United Methodist Church will be holding a Gospel Concert to benefit CCAP on June 13th at the UAW Union Hall located at 2625 Papermill Road (just off of Pleasant Valley Road—behind Panera Bread). The

featured groups will be: The Ambassadors of Joy from Strasburg UMC, Men for Christ from Bluemont UMC, & Macedonia BlueGrass Band from Macedonia UMC.

There is no cover charge, but a free-will offer-

ing will be taken.

Food will be sold beginning at 5:00 pm and the concert will begin at 7:00 pm. All proceeds will go to CCAP.

Reflections of An Interim Pastor

I wanted to express my appreciation to First Church for the privilege of serving with you for this brief interim period. It has been a rich time for me in the variety of ways you have demonstrated what it means to be church. You are blessed with many gifts for ministry, with capable and energetic lay leadership, and a history of ministry in the downtown that provides a solid basis for your future work. I envy the new pastor's opportunity to begin writing with you the next chapters of your history.

In one sense this interim period has offered a time of congregational freedom that I hope you have appreciated. I also have experienced a new kind of freedom in ministry because an interim period lowers expectations and problem-solving demands and allows everyone to catch their breath. I believe this brief respite can be productive of future relationships and congregational accomplishments. Vital to your future is the kind of relationship you will establish with your new pastor, and that pastor with you.

In the beginning of the fourth year of my service with one congregation the Lay Leader and I prepared a dialogue sermon in which we each addressed two questions:

1. What would the Laity most like to say to the Pastor?
2. What would the Pastor most like to say to the Laity?

We acknowledged that the ministry of the Pastor and the Congregation is interdependent. Neither can function effectively apart from the other. All are called, without exception, to take up the ministry.

What I have heard the laity say to me over the years goes something like the following:

- Do you truly care about me as a person in my life situation, and do you genuinely love and respect me in the midst of the struggles?
- Will you as pastor hold before us as a congregation an authentic vision of the truth of Jesus Christ?
- Can you effectively lead us into a Gospel vision that builds confidence and hope in a very unsettling world?
- Can you both disturb us when we get comfortable, and comfort us when we are disturbed; and can you discern the appropriate time to do each?

And what I have tried to say to the laity over the years goes something like the following:

- Take up your own ministry as a follower of Jesus Christ
- Try to keep the whole Church in mind as the context for your self-understanding as a Christian and for your work of ministry. The whole Body of Christ is diverse, varied, and interdependent.
- Give me honest, constructive feedback, and do not assume that I can read your mind. You will have to tell me plainly.
- My duties revolve around the things I was ordained to do: Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service, and hence are somewhat limited in terms of all that the Church is called to do. I have a specialized ministry among you, and my duties are outlined in ¶340 of the *Book of Discipline*. It is difficult to do all these things equally well, and impossible to meet everyone's expectations and definitions of my ministry apart from what the Church requires.
- **Keep me in your prayers at all times.**

I am hopeful for First Church based on what I have experienced with you in this all too brief period. I have been energized by your responsiveness and genuine interest in hearing my perspectives. The best days for the church are out ahead of us where Christ already is and where he beckons us to go. We rejoice in all past days of faithfulness, but our orientation in Christ is to move into his future.

I approach those days in gratitude because of our connection at First Church. Thank you for who you are!

Daniel L. Garrett

First United Methodist Youth Mission Statement

“We are servants of Christ witnessing to His people through our words and actions as we grow in discipleship. ”

June 1-4 Mary’s out of town for Samantha’s wedding (my daughter).

June 6th United Methodist Men and Youth Bar-B-Q @ the APR campus. If you are working, please show up around 11:30. Please sign up on the youth board if you would like to help out.

June 7th Graduation Sunday is being recognized at both services. After the 11:00 service, we will have a covered dish meal in our graduates honor. If you are a graduate, make sure you bring in your memorabilia to share during the reception. Please drop your items off by the Friday before the reception.

June 20-26 Please be at the church on that Saturday by 2:00 . Senior High Mission Trip, Christiansburg, Va. “SPY” , we will be doing mission work on homes of those that are having hard times.

June 28th Church wide picnic and youth auction. We will have an auction to help raise funds for our summer missions. If you are able to help out please contact me or Janie Dickens Bowman. Donations are needed for our auction. Dave Owings will be our auctioneer this year.



Notice: In the youth hallway will be a sign up for our summer schedule. If you are able to sign up ahead of schedule, it would be awesome, especially for the cook-out/bible study time for food preparation purposes. Knowing numbers is good!



June Youth News continued

Happy Birthday to...

Lauren Cowan—June 3

Lauryl Andrus—June 6

Chris Purvis—June 21

Philip Robinson—June 21



If your birthday was not listed and you are a youth please let me know. I apologize for any oversights.

Mary

Annual Church Picnic

Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 28th at 12:30 pm. The picnic will be held at the Apple Pie Ridge Campus. The United Methodist Men will be cooking Hot Dogs and Hamburgers. The UMM are requesting that all those with the last names beginning with A-H to please bring a type of salad or side. All those with the last name be-

ginning with I-O, please bring a vegetable; and all those with last name beginning with P-Z, please bring a dessert.

The Youth are having a silent auction, & pound auction. All proceeds from the silent auction, & pound auction will go toward the summer youth mission trips.

Please bring a pound of something for the auction. The UMM will be having games, so plan on spending the afternoon with your church family. If you have any questions, contact the church office or Roger McGaffick.



Vacation Bible School

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be one of the first Christians? This year at Vacation Bible School we'll be going to ancient Rome to visit Paul in prison and also the first Christians in an underground church. Mark your calendars to join us from Sunday, July 12th through Thursday, July 16th. On Sunday evening we start with a light supper at 5:00 pm. All other evenings we will begin

at 6:00 pm and finish up at 8:00 pm. Registration can be completed on line by clicking on the VBS link on the church website, or by completing the attached registration form and turning it into the church office. Volunteers are needed to make this year's VBS a success. Please search your heart and play a very important role for your church and God's children. We would like to see some new faces

help out this year. You may be surprised how you'll be blessed.

For more information please contact Jennifer White at 723-0289.



A Second Farewell

In 1979, following my first year at Wesley Seminary (I had spent two years at Yale Divinity School years before), I was ordained by Bishop Kenneth Goodson to the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order. I think the first time I really understood the implications of this ordination was the next year, which I spent at First United Methodist Church as the student associate. There Jim Cooke and the congregation of First Church let me enter into their lives of ministry, and I learned about the rhythm of life in a local church. You let this 33 year old seminary student be one of your pastors, and treated me with grace and respect, and helped me to understand what ministry was all about. I want to thank all of you who were a part of the congregation from September 1980 through May of 1981. I took what I learned about ministry from you with me into the next year, when I continued the journey as pastor of my own church in Middletown for the next 15 years, and then to the Harrisonburg District Office, and finally to the United Methodist Center in Richmond.



It is one of the wonderful ironies of life, and perhaps shows God's sense of humor, that 30 years later, and following my retirement, I would be back at First Church. And not alone—but as a part of a pastoral staff which included Dan and Doug. We three have had a very good time together during the six months we have worked together. It is, many of you know, the first time Dan and I have ever served together on a church staff in all our 41 years of marriage—and we are pleased to report that we are still together and still talking. Doug has been a delight to work with, and The United Methodist Church in Virginia received a wonderful gift when Doug and Deena became a part of its life. As I told the Farmville District Superintendent, he is very lucky to have Doug as one of his pastors next year! It has been good to spend some time with Becky, too, whom we have known for number of years, and we rejoice with her in her new appointment and ministry in Lynchburg.

We will miss the people of First Church in the months ahead. We have had such a good time with the Church Staff—First Church is **EXTREMELY** fortunate to have such wonderful people in ministry with and for the congregation. They are so dedicated to the work of First Church in all the different areas where they serve—and they are funny and caring and strive for excellence in all that they do. And we will miss the Church Leaders and Ministry Groups, who are amazingly dedicated—they spend hours and hours planning, administering, coordinating, and doing the work of the church. And finally, we will miss the Congregation in all the ways it gathers: at Sunday morning worship, at ALL those wonderful meals (I have had to keep a vigorous work-out schedule to keep from gaining weight from all that wonderful cooking!), for work projects, in Sunday School and during coffee hours, to mention just a few areas. We have loved the casual conversations and the parking lot stories—and I am going to have to work very hard to make sure Dan gets enough people to laugh at his jokes in the months ahead.

Those months will be full of travel—something we love dearly. Our last Sunday with you is June 21, and the next Sunday we will be in Montreal, on our way to travel by train through Nova Scotia. In the next months we will be in Connecticut, Ohio, Indiana, California, and various places in Virginia. That will be fun—but we will miss you and will always keep you in our prayers in your wonderful years ahead. Being with you in these months has been an amazing blessing!

Susan

June Calendar

Monday, June 1

7:00 pm Church Council

Tuesday, June 2

7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

Wednesday, June 3

4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline

Saturday June 6

8:00 am United Methodist Men's Meeting
12:00 pm BBQ Chicken at the APR Campus

Sunday, June 7

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am
Graduation Sunday
9:45 am Summer Sunday School Begins

Monday, June 8

6:45 pm Trustee Meeting
7:00 pm Finance Meeting

Tuesday, June 9

2:00 pm Faith Based Organization Mtg

Wednesday, June 10

4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline

Saturday, June 13

10:30 am Young Adult Hike

Sunday, June 14

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am
9:45 am Sunday School
Annual Conference Begins

Wednesday, June 17

4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline
Annual Conference Ends

Friday, June 19

4:00 pm Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, June 20

2:00 pm Senior High Youth Mission Trip

Sunday, June 21

Happy Father's Day!
Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am
9:45 am Sunday School

Wednesday, June 24

4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline

Friday, June 26

Senior High Return From Mission Trip

Saturday, June 27

CPR Class

Sunday, June 28

Blood Pressure Sunday
Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am
9:45 am Sunday School
12:30 pm Annual Church Picnic



Bathe in God's goodness

*Please contact the church office if you need to list an event on the church calendar.

First United
Methodist Church
308 North Braddock Street
Winchester, VA 22601
& Apple Pie Ridge
Campus directly across
from the Apple Pie Ridge
Elementary School

Web site:
www.fumcwinchester.org
Church: 540-662-3151
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Ralph Gronlund
Lay Leader

Jennifer White
Treasurer

Ellen Cavanagh, RN
Faith Community Nurse

Queenie Dockeney
Custodian

Wayne Corbett
Organist and Music
Director

Gary Fisher
Choir Director

Melinda Russell
Hand Bell
Director

Amy Costello-Wilfong
"Ignite" Music Director

**Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell**

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**No use crying over spilt milk,
leave the past and press on for Jesus**