



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

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Treasurer

Ellen Cavanagh, RN
Faith Community Nurse

Queenie Dockenev
Custodian

Wayne Corbett
Organist and Music
Director

Gary Fisher
Choir Director

Melinda Russell
Hand Bell
Director

Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell
Children's Choir
Directors

coming soon >>>

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First Word

Pastor's Corner

The History and Mystery of the "Three Kings"

If you attended worship with us on January 3rd, you are probably aware of the fact that there are many questions regarding those strange characters from the East who came to call on the baby Jesus. Who were they? We call them kings, but they weren't. Matthew's gospel refers to them as Magi and that has usually been understood to mean anything from wisdom seekers to astrologers. How many of them were there? We say that there were three of them because of the gold, frankincense and myrrh they presented the baby Jesus, but we really have no idea how many of them there were. How did they travel? Artists have depicted them as having arrived on camels, but that is only more tradition. Neither the Biblical record, nor the customs of that time show us how the Magi actually arrived. What about their faith? We do not know which faith the Magi held, or even if they were part of a formal belief system.

When I was younger, I wanted answers to the questions surrounding Matthew 2:1-12. As I have grown more mature, which is sometimes accompanied by the process of aging, I find the answers to be less important than the questions themselves. Scholarship over the last one hundred years has demystified religion in many ways. Some have been helped by these discoveries while others have wound up feeling violated. For those who might think there is nothing transcendent left, Matthew describes our Lord's birth as so unique that bizarre and mysterious characters from the East—with no familial or religious ties to Jesus—dropped everything to make an arduous journey to see him. Even the bored, stale and smug must contend with the mystery surrounding the Magi, a star, and angels. If we are content to accept their presence as something from God, and beyond our ability to comprehend, we might even be released from our sense of self, desire to be in control, and stubbornness to do our own thing, long enough for us to be followers of Christ.

A couple of years ago, I found myself in the company of a farmer and a retired Marine in Gulfport Mississippi. We were part of a group of United Methodists cleaning up after hurricane Katrina. On this particular day, we had the odious task of shoveling mud and sewage out of a home that had been completely submerged. The homeowner graciously thanked the team, but had some questions for us also. In a delicate southern voice she asked, "Do ya'll need to be paid for this?" "No Ma'am", answered the Marine. Pointing to the shovels and equipment he added, "All this stuff is a gift from the church". She then asked, "How on earth did you get here?" The farmer stood up as if to work a knot out his back and said with a broad smile, "Lady...you don't really want to know." Puzzled, but also moved, the homeowner asked finally, "Why DID ya'll come all the way from Virginia to help us anyway?" It was my turn to answer so I took a stab at it. "It's a mystery", I said. She looked at me as if lobsters were crawling out of my ears. I continued, "Yeah, I don't get it either. I really don't. All of us...the ones who will follow...it's just one of those God things...a real mystery."

Survey of the Bible

Beginning in January Rev. White and Bobby Dick will be teaching a survey of the New Testament course after the 3-F dinners from 6pm to 7pm in the church parlor. This class will cover all of the New Testament books from Matthew to Revelation. Participants are encouraged to use a paraphrase such as the Living Bible as they will be scanning the content of a variety of the New Testament books. Participants will be asked to make a covenant in which they will promise to keep up with the reading that should take about an hour each week. Enroll in the class by calling the church office and speaking with Rev. White.

January Youth News

Mission Statement

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

January 3—No youth group tonight, still recovering from the Christmas and New Years season! Hope it was as

wonderful as my holiday with family and friends!

January 10th—"TOP" in place of youth group. We will meet in the kitchen at 11:00 and prepare the meal. We will leave the church by 12:30 to deliver the meals to the Budget Hotel and the Elms. Please sign up on the board if you will be going.

January 17th—Confirmation Classes will start, classes will be held during the Sunday school hour.

January 17th—Regular youth group time from 4:30-6:30, come for dinner, games and a message.

January 24th—Confirmation Class during the Sunday school hour.

January 24th—Regular youth group time from 4:30-6:30, come for dinner, games and a message.

January 27th—The youth will be cooking for 3-F, come and help and have some fun! Meet at the church around 3:30 if you are able to help.

Parent Notice:

January 10th & 24th—There will be a notary in the church office during the Sunday school hour to update or do the safe sanctuary background checks if you need yours done.

Happy Birthday to the following youth!

Samantha Day	January 3
Joseph Baccary	January 9
Luke Grzywacz	January 13
Joe White	January 31



HOW TO JOIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church membership is open to any and all who seek the presence of God in their lives. Baptism is a requirement for membership. If you have not been baptized, please contact Pastor White to schedule a personal pre-baptism counseling session. If you have been baptized in any denomination, you are free to join whenever your heart is called to do so.

Persons may become members of the United Methodist Church by:

- Vows and profession of faith;
- Transfer from another United Methodist Church;
- Transfer from another body of the Christian Church;
- The renewal of vows if they have lapsed;
- Affiliate transfer if they are Methodists and will be in town a short while;
- Associate transfer if they belong to another denomination and are in town for a short while.

Profession of Faith includes:

- Affirming your baptismal vows;
- Commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord;
- Accepting the Old and New Testaments as normative for faith and practice;
- Commitment to live the Christian life and remain a faithful member of Christ's Holy Church through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and witness.

If you would like to join our church, please do one of the following:

- Indicate "Desire to join" when filling out the pew pad during the worship Service
 - Call or email to discuss your interest with Pastor White in the church office at (540)-662-3151 or pastorwill@fumcwinchester.org.
- Once you are ready to make your commitment, please come forward during the last hymn in the worship service. You will also need to fill out a membership form for the church's record prior to or after the service at which you join.

Worship Schedule at First United Methodist Church for Jan. & Feb. 2010

January 10—Epiphany Cantata

January 17—Downtown Clergy Association Pulpit Exchange For many years, the pastors of First United Methodist Church have been participating in the Downtown Clergy Fellowship. On January 17, the downtown pastors will rotate and preach in different pulpits. Rev. White will be preaching at Centenary United Church of Christ. First United Methodist Church will receive Rev. George Fletcher from First Baptist Church.

The Power of Faith in Authentic Relationships

January 24 – February 28

January 24, 2010

Hosea 11:1-4; Psalm 18:1-3

"The Meaning of You and I"

January 31, 2010

Genesis 2:18, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, John 15:12

"True Friendship"

February 7, 2010 (series break)

Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Troop 21 leading worship

Holy Communion

February 14, 2010

Valentine's Day

Genesis 2:18-25, Colossians 3:13-17, John 2:1-11

"Enduring Love"

February 17, 2010

The Season of Lent *Ash Wednesday, 7pm Worship Service*

"Repent"

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Join us after the regularly scheduled 3F dinner. In preparation, you are invited to read the short, enigmatic book of Joel which is found in the Old Testament. It is only three pages long in most Bibles! When else will you have the opportunity? As part of this service, you will have the opportunity to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead (in ashes) which is an ancient Christian custom.

February 21, 2010

Ruth 1:3-5, 8-9, 16-17

"Functional Families"

February 28, 2010

Philippians 4:2-9

"Everyday Relationships: Inward, Outward, and Upward"

8:30 and 11:00AM services unless otherwise indicated.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WHERE CHILDREN CAN DISCOVER THE JOY OF LEARNING IN A LOVING CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT

REGISTER NOW

Discovery Preschool has begun registration for our 2010-2011 school year.

We have available classes for two through five-year olds. We offer a program filled with fun and learning in a developmentally appropriate atmosphere.

The children participate in a weekly music program, chapel services, and take field trips. They are taught in a structured learning environment geared towards preparing the children for kindergarten.

Please call **665-1696** for more information and a registration form.

Church members receive a 5% discount.

Debbie Macknight-Director



January Church Calendar

Jan. 1

Office closed

Jan. 5

Noon Blood Drive

Jan. 6

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
6:00 pm Youth Worship Team
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Jan 9

7:00 am Pancake Breakfast
8:00 am UMM Meeting

Jan. 10

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Children's Choir
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Background checks done
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am "TOP" Mission, no evening youth.

Jan. 11

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

Jan. 12

5:00 pm Discovery Preschool
Night at Chick-fil-a
7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

Jan. 13

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
6:00 pm Youth Worship Team
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
8:00 pm Laity Meeting

Jan. 17

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Children's Choir
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Confirmation Class starts
11:00 am Worship Service
12:30 pm Get My People Going
4:30 pm Sunday Evening Youth

Jan. 18

6:45 pm Worship Meeting

Jan. 20

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
6:00 pm Youth Worship Team
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Jan. 21

10:00 am CCAP Meeting

Jan. 24

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Children's Choir
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Confirmation Class
9:45 am Background checks done
11:00 am Worship Service
12:30 pm Get My People Going
4:30 pm Sunday Evening Youth

Jan. 25

7:00 pm Church Council

Jan. 27

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
6:00 pm Youth Worship Team
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Jan. 28

6:00 pm Census Testing

Jan. 29

3:30 pm Confirmation Retreat leaves

Jan. 30

Confirmation Retreat returns
(will call for rides as they return)

Jan. 31

8:30 am Worship Service Blood Pressure Sunday
9:45 am Children's Choir
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
12:30 pm Get My People Going
4:30 pm Sunday Evening Youth



Greetings and Happy New Year from Parish Health!



Below you will find information as it pertains to our Get My People Going Health Program for month one. If you haven't signed up and want to, please let me know. If you haven't the spare time, I will be happy to show you how you can do it on your own with a partner.

The people of Israel had a lot of exercise walking from Egypt to the Promised Land! Did you know that exercise not only helps you lose weight or maintain a healthy weight, it also helps with brain function, strengthens your immune system, significantly reduces your risk of developing a wide range of diseases, and reduces your risk for reoccurrence of certain cancers. Exercising helps your lymphatic system move toxins out of your body, and speeds up your metabolism for close to 24 hours. Of course, you already know that it helps you sleep better.

So, why is it hard to exercise? Those people who don't exercise either fell out of the habit or never got into it in the first place. So, start small! How about exercising simply five minutes today? Go for a walk or wave your arms around in your chair. You can do it!

And if you DO exercise, give yourself a huge pat on the back. You are taking a proactive step that can add years to your life, and quality to those years.

No matter how young or old you are, no matter what your physical condition, exercise that's right for you can help you feel better. I will be glad to help you find an exercise routine that will work for you.

Blessings on your journey,

Ellen Cavanagh, RN

First United Methodist Church is having a Sausage Gravy & Pancake Breakfast



You are cordially invited to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast!

Saturday, January 9th
7:00 am to noon

Tickets will be on sale at the door, adults \$6.00 and children \$4.00

Any questions please contact First United Methodist Church office at 662-3151.



Shickle/Omps Scholarship

High School Seniors interested in applying for the Shickle/Omps Scholarship, may pick up the application forms in the church office or from the back window of the sanctuary. Application forms must be returned to the church office by March 31. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

Don't forget 3-F Dinners resume Wednesday, January 6th at 5:15 pm. Stay for Bible Study at 6:00 pm with Pastor Will in the church parlor.