

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
Fax: 540-662-1462

Staff

Rev. William M. White
Pastor

Mary Vorous
Director of Youth
Ministries

Kristen Grzywacz
Office Manager

Debbie MacKnight
Preschool Director

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

Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell
Children's Choir
Directors

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

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First Word

Pastor's Corner

Natural Disasters and the Bible-- Retribution or Opportunity?

The earthquake in Haiti has left hundreds of thousands dead. Many more have been left without running water. The transportation system has been severely damaged. The scope of this destruction has caused many people to ask the question, "Why?" Sometimes in the wake of a natural disaster there are those who say that the event was "divine retribution" for sin. I do not agree with this philosophy and I do not see it supported by the Bible as a whole.

Although in the Old Testament there are instances in which God punished sin through natural disasters, this perspective is neither supported by other portions of the Old Testament or by the New Testament. An earlier Old Testament idea implies that a Godly life prevents hardship. If a person is good, kind, loving, prayerful, and worshipful, then he or she will reap the blessings of God and nothing bad will happen to him or her. Most people remember Noah and the flood in Genesis. Noah, a righteous man, is told by God to build a boat that will save his family and the innocent species of the world from a flood sent to destroy the unrighteous people. This story and others similar to it lead people to conclude that natural disasters are God's punishment for bad behavior, retribution for sin. But look further in the Old Testament and we find that suffering comes to the righteous and unrighteous alike. The 73rd Psalm, and other similar Psalms, point out that righteousness does not protect one from disaster. In the book bearing his name, Job's home is destroyed by a tornado yet the text says he was a "righteous man." Job's good behavior was not a shield from the natural calamities that affected the world around him.

In the New Testament, Matthew 5:45 states that God "makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends the rain on the just and the unjust." Given these scriptures from the Old and New Testaments, it is hard to make the case that natural disasters are punishment for sin. With these words, Jesus seems to disconnect sin from the forces of nature. Jesus is describing that God and all that he created is present for the just and unjust alike. God's love is not whimsical or conditional.

Though some may try to make the case that the earthquake was God's judgment, I would like to think that there is another way to look at this tragedy altogether. When the apostle Paul was on a mission trip, he encountered a great earthquake (Acts 16:25-33) which destroyed the jail cell in which he was living. After the event, Paul's jailer and the jailer's entire family became Christians. Others became followers of the Christian way as well. The earthquake became an opportunity for him to witness to his faith in Christ. He took the terrible and turned it into a triumph, through Jesus Christ. Paul turned what is unquestionably an event that was tragic into an opportunity to share the love of God with others, inviting them to have the hope that God provides. Perhaps this earthquake will be an opportunity for contemporary Christians to share their faith as well. This will be a time when we will reveal our truest character through our words, prayers, and actions. We can respond with judgment. Or, we can be a Christian witness through mercy ministries, prayer, and finding ways to show God's love. Which will it be?

Haitian Relief through First UMC

Here are three ways that members and friends of First United Methodist Church can help with the disaster in Haiti. First, the most efficient way to provide immediate assistance is through **financial giving**. Gifts made through UMCOR (the mission arm of the United Methodist Church) provide 100% direct aid. All administrative expenses have already been absorbed by apportionment giving through the United Methodist Church so you can be assured that 100% of these gifts will be used for immediate needs such as food, water, shelter and medicine. If you would like to help in this way, please make out a check to First United Methodist Church. Write UMCOR Advance #418325 on the memo portion of your check. Second, our church is partnering with the *Shawnee Ruritan Club and MedMissionary.Org* to provide **clothing for Haitian children**. Bring "new", "summer" clothes to the church for infants and children under the age twelve. Remember, Haiti is a Caribbean nation. It is warm year round. Heavy clothes are unnecessary. New items should be placed on the stage in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Ruritans will pack items received and Haitian doctors will deliver and distribute them. Third, please **continue to pray for the aid workers as well as the people of Haiti**. Two United Methodist UMCOR workers, stationed in Haiti before the crisis, died in the earthquake. We will continue to update you on responses to the Haitian crisis through our church. Please check the newsletter and bulletin periodically.

News You Can Use Regarding Haiti

Haiti is located about 750 miles southeast of Florida and slightly to the east of Cuba. It is an independent Caribbean nation. The history of Haiti and that of the United States have been intertwined since the 1900's. Before that time, Haiti was a French colony. Haiti broke away from France in the only successful slave rebellion which ended in 1803. French is still the official language, but most people speak Haitian Creole which is a combination of various languages. The United States sent Marines to occupy the country from 1915-1937. After the Marines left, the nation became a democracy. Some of the elected leaders failed to step down when their terms expired including the infamous "Papa Doc" and his son "Baby Doc". The United States intervened once again in 1996 and 2004 to help with the transition of power as the terms of elected leaders expired. Since 2004 the United Nations has been present to ensure the stability of this nation. Haiti enjoyed a period of relative calm prior to the earthquake. The United Methodist Commission on Relief has been in Haiti for many years.

Issue
Two



Way to Go First Church!

LÓÓK
at **THIS!**

On Tuesday, January 5th, 2010 First United Methodist Church had the first of their biannual Blood Drives. We projected to collect 30 units of blood but..... 41 units were collected! Way to go!!!! Thank you to all those that assisted in any way to help make this drive a success. A special thank you to all those that donated blood. We will have another blood drive in late summer check the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters for more information.

February Youth News

Mission Statement

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

February 7th– Youth and Parent's meeting 4:30, we will meet to catch up on the youth schedule and upcoming events. We **will not do** our regular covered dish meal due to the Super Bowl.



February 14th– No regular Sunday evening youth time due to Valentine Days! Enjoy the evening with your loved ones!

February 21st- "TOP" today, meet in the kitchen at 11 to prepare the food and we will leave the church around 12:30 to deliver the meals. There will not be a regular evening youth time due to the "TOP".

February 26th-27th- "B1" which is the same as 30 hour famine. "B1" is a fasting campaign that engages youth in issues facing impoverished communities. "B1" stands for "one being, being one." Through "B1", youth will learn about poverty and a sampling of the ways the United Methodist Church has and continues to respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers in both love and justice. In this way, "B1" is more than a fast, it's training for our current and future church leaders in holistically caring for and understanding the concerns of members of our local, national and global church community. Through their actions each youth will learn that their choices can and do affect our world.



We will meet in the social hall at the church at 6:00 p.m. and pick up will be the next day at 6:00 p.m. Come and experience and learn more about poverty in our world and community. Looking for chaperones and team leaders for the "B1" fast! You may be a college student or an adult. Please let me know if your interested in helping out.

Confirmation Class



February 28th– No regular youth due to recovering from the "B1"

Confirmation Classes are during the Sunday school hour every Sunday during the month of February. Continue to pray for our confirmands!

Happy Birthday!!!

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

Feb. 2	Allie Hoffman	Feb. 13	Bryon Shepard
Feb. 2	Christian Hoffman	Feb. 25	Alexis Grzywacz



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.*

♥ BINGO ♥

Don't forget the **Children's Ministry's Valentine Bingo** is right around the corner! Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 21 at 12:15 pm. Come and enjoy a yummy lunch and enjoy a fun filled afternoon with your church family & friends!

More First Church Opportunities

3-F Dinners

We are always looking for individuals who would like to share their culinary gifts! Desserts for our 3-F dinners are not purchased they are graciously donated. If you would like to provide a dessert please sign up on the sheet located at the table with Pat & John Shepard when you purchase your meal tickets. Thank you!!!!

Scripture Readers & Greeters

Why not share God's Word by reading scripture at one of the Sunday morning services? It is a simple way to help out with the worship services. Reading not your thing? How about sharing your smile by signing up to be a greeter at one of the Sunday morning worship services. Sign up sheets are located in the back of the sanctuary or see one of the ushers.

Vacation Bible School June 27-July 1, 2010

Can you believe it is time to start thinking about summer and VBS! Do you love children? Well.....how about helping them learn about God. There will be many opportunities to direct, crew lead, set design, etc. Please see Jennifer White or Kathy St. Amand.

Sweetheart Dinner Saturday, February 13th



5:30 pm Hors d'oeuvres
6:00 pm Dinner will be served.

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans. Tickets can be purchased from the United Methodist Men for \$10.00 per person.

Super Saturday Spiritual Breakfast- Sponsored by the United Methodist Men of First Church

February 6th at 8:00 am breakfast begins in the Social Hall.
\$6.00 per adult
\$3.00 for children

Steve Jennings (Director of Teens Opposing Poverty-TOP) will be speaking at 9:00 am and The Ambassadors of Joy Group will be singing God's Praises in the sanctuary! Please call the church office to register 662-3151 or for more information call Roger McGaffick at 667-7215.

February Church Calendar

Feb. 2	
7:00 pm	SPRC Meeting
Feb. 3	
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
Feb. 4	
6:00 pm	Census Testing
Feb. 5	
	Youth District Winter Retreat at Hunting Ridge
Feb. 6	
	Youth District Winter Retreat at Hunting Ridge
8:00 am	Super Saturday Spiritual Breakfast
Feb. 7	
8:30 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Sunday School
9:45 am	Confirmation Class
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:30 pm	Get My People Going
4:30 pm	Sunday Evening Youth/Parent Meeting
Feb. 8	
6:45 pm	Trustee Meeting
7:00 pm	Finance Meeting
Feb. 10	
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
Feb. 13	
7:00 am	Pancake Breakfast
5:30 pm	Sweetheart Dinner

Feb. 14	
8:30 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Sunday School
9:45 am	Confirmation Class
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:30 pm	Get My People Going
4:30 pm	No Sunday Evening Youth
Feb. 15	
6:45 pm	Worship Meeting
Feb. 17	
10:30 am	J.O.Y.S. (Join Our Yarn Stitches)
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
Feb. 21	
8:30 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
11:00 am	"TOP" Mission in Winchester
12:15 pm	Children's Ministry Bingo
12:30 pm	Get My People Going
4:30 pm	No Sunday Evening Youth
Feb. 24	
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
Feb. 26	
6:00 pm	Youth 30 Hour Famine B1
Feb. 27	
6:00 pm	Youth 30 Hour Famine ends
Feb. 28	
8:30 am	Worship Service
	Blood Pressure Sunday
9:45 am	Children's Choir
9:45 am	Sunday School
9:45 am	Confirmation Class
11:00 am	Worship Service
12:30 pm	Get My People Going
4:30 pm	No Sunday Evening Youth

Greetings from Parish Health!



Below you will find the second installment of the Get My People Going Program. All information provided is applicable to everyone and not just to those in the program. As a reminder, mark your calendars! February 27th is the Community Wellness Festival sponsored by the Winchester Medical Center and is held at Apple Blossom Mall. The theme is "Know Your Numbers". See if you can attend and learn something new. There are always free demonstrations and lots of neat stuff to do for kids. See me for more info. "A Pyramid for Everyone"

The children of Israel were blessed with manna and quail in the desert, and were glad to leave the land of pyramids and get to the land "of milk and honey." Did you know that there are several food group pyramids to help you eat a more healthy balance of nutrients? These include the Vegetarian Diet, the Mediterranean Diet, the Asian Diet, the Latin American Diet, and the Mayo Clinic Healthy Weight Pyramid. All of these can be found on-line at www.mayoclinic.com. Just type "food pyramid" in the SEARCH box.

You can also find the revised food pyramid developed by the United States Department of Agriculture at www.mypyramid.gov. Both the Mayo Clinic and MyPyramid will let you enter your height, weight, age, and gender into a simple program and will give you recommended daily caloric input for weight maintenance or weight loss.

Don't forget, all healthy diets require moderation in portion size, and exercise as part of a balanced lifestyle.

Blessings on the journey!

Ellen Cavanagh, RN

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



First United Methodist Church is having a Sausage Gravy, Pancake & Sausage Breakfast and a Bake Sale & Ham Sandwich sale.

You are cordially invited to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast!

Saturday, February 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.



First United Methodist and Haitian Relief

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We will continue to update you on responses to the Haitian crisis through our church. Please check the newsletter and bulletin periodically.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Will



SOUND SYSTEM TRAINING



We are in need of people to help with sound for both services. We would love to help you learn how to operate this simple system. If you are interested please see Wayne Corbett, Jack Wilfong or Robby Baccary.

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



Worship Series: The Power of Faith in Authentic Relationships

Sunday, January 24 – February 28

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Philippians 4:2-9

"Everyday Relationships: Inward, Outward, and Upward"

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Valentine's Day

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

"Enduring Love"

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

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.

Sunday, February 21, 2010

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

"Functional Families"

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Scout Sunday

Series: Lenten Lectionary Sermons

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Luke 13:1-9

Keep on Going—Today, Tomorrow, and the Next



Worship Schedule



Please remember the following members in your prayers:

Bonnie Keplinger, Doris & Ray Harding, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Velma Ritenour, Elsie Ramey, Pearl Gaines, Ann Hoffman, Edith Anderson, Robert Spaid, Carole Lineberg, Polly McIntire, Our church and church leaders, Hazel Starke, The Slonaker Family, Barbe Marlin, Kathy Dunn, Phyllis Lee, Richard Swisher, Madge Fries & Helen Abshire, Ed Grove, Chester Rockwell, Albert & Jean Elgin, Courtney Lowe, Susan Horton, Jeff White, Ellin Peters.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Don Smallwood, Janice Dickerson, Lois Hoffman, Bill Morris, Dessie Taylor, Gary Houck, Jennifer Carper, Paul Carper, Shirley Miller, Kim Bennington, Ellen Suite's parents, Ralph Miller, Jeanette Shickle, Lorraine Vann, Rebecca Brennan, Ruby Boyd, Ian Eckert, Sarah Kingery, R. C. Simmons, Leo & Katie Feeley, Wesley & Valerie Robey, Jennifer Lewis' brother Harry, Our Military, Alexandra Combs, Dick Potter, Fran Ricketts, Sonny Cooper.

SHUT-INS

Envoy of Winchester Elma Anderson
(110 Lauck Drive Winchester, VA 22603)

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

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

