

First Word



Church Vision

NEWSLETTER DATE
FEBRUARY 2011

American railroad tracks are 56.5" wide (the "gauge") because the English built the first railroads in America and they used that width. Why did they use that width? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that were used for building wagons which used that wheel spacing.

Why did wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Because older wagon ruts throughout England used that spacing, and if they changed it, wagon wheels would break by either falling into or being forced out of the old ruts, which were 56.5" wide.

The old ruts were that size because the roads were built by the Romans, who arrived in England in 54 BC and left about 400 AD. Their wagons, and their chariots before their wagons, used that spacing, and that spacing was used all over Europe and wherever Rome conquered, because their wagons used the identical wheel base everywhere. So the modern railroad track width derives from the Roman chariot. The same dimensions affect transportation even today. The parts of the space shuttle, which are shipped by rail, are all affected by the dimensions of the "gauge."

Just as transportation is affected by the "gauge" of days gone by, the church's work is affected by the practices of our forefathers and mothers in the faith. The early church served, worshipped, studied, welcomed outsiders, and gave of itself. Like the "gauge" is to transportation, these practices are vitally important to congregations today.

This winter, I would like to encourage church members and friends to study the book, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations". You can purchase a copy through Cokesbury. They can also be found new and used on Amazon.com. Essentially, this book reminds congregations to utilize deeply certain time honored Christian practices. I hope you will take the time to read it. The Maverick, Golden Link and Good Samaritan classes will all be addressing these practices during Sunday School from January 30th until February 27th.

Perhaps you have noticed that I will be preaching on Bible passages related to the five practices during that same time period. How can our church live more deeply into the five practices? At the close of each of the worship services in this series, you will be invited to brainstorm with the leadership by posting your own ideas (in the form of 3x5 cards) on two bulletin boards designated around the church.

Finally, the effort will wrap up with home meetings planned by the laity team. Please be on the lookout for the dates and times of these events which will be published in the Sunday bulletin and newsletter for March. These events will also be posted on the website.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

Grace & Peace,
Rev. White

Inside this issue:

Church Vision	1
Kids for Christ	2
Worship Preview	3
Discovery Preschool News	4
February Church Calendar	5
Youth News	6
WATTS	7
Food for Thought	8
Prayer Concerns	9

Special points of interest:

- Church Calendar
- Pancake Breakfast
- Sweetheart Dinner
- Youth News
- Church Vision
- Discovery Preschool
- Coffee with the Pastor



Thank you!

Pastor Will and the Laity team would like to thank all those who volunteered to be worship leaders during 2010. They would like to invite anyone else who feels lead to be involved in this valuable ministry to contact Susie Brown at 877-9016 or Kathy Baccary at 667-5529. A meeting will be set up for worship leader training in the near future.

Kids for Christ (K-5th grade children)

The Kid's for Christ group continues to meet twice monthly on Sunday afternoons at 4:30pm. Children hear a bible story, play games, and always have a snack. The current material being used is "Secrets of the Universe". Children will be glad to learn that the LADS video is back online. In the next few months, KFC parents will be invited to participate in some training for our next unit titled, "Children of the World". "Children of the World" will begin sometime this summer. In order to prepare, parents will learn how to make meals from Asia, Latin America, and Western Europe from a local gourmet chef. Parents, please be on the lookout for information about the upcoming cooking sessions. After the parents have learned the cooking skills, we will be ready to begin the unit with the children. The following schedule is place for "Secrets of the Universe":

- Secret 4.2 - January 16th
- Secret 4.3-4 - February 6
- Secret 4.5 -February 20
- Secret 5.1 -March 6
- Secret 5.2- March 20
- Secret 6- April 3
- Secret 6.1- April 17
- Secret 6.2- May 8
- Secret 6.3- May 22



Shickle/Omps Scholarship

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



Please Join Us for Coffee



Especially for newcomers...
Sunday, February 13 at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall

What is “Coffee with the Pastor”? This is a time for newcomers to meet with Rev. White, hear about First United Methodist Church, and to have some discussion about membership. It is also a time to learn about the various ministry opportunities within the church. If you are considering membership at First UMC, this is an important starting place. Coffee and a few goodies will be provided. Please join us!

Worship Preview for February 2011

January 30- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Service

February 6- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Worship

February 13- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Faith Development

February 20- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Hospitality

February 27- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Generosity

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregation by Robert Schnase

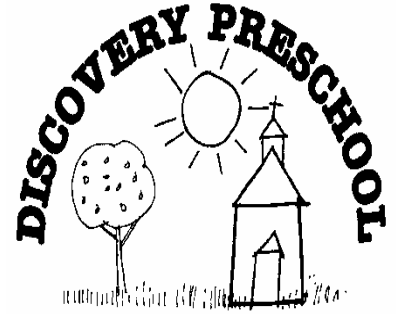
“People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations. Their presence and strength demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”



- Radical hospitality
- Passionate worship
- Intentional faith development
- Risk-taking mission and service
- Extravagant generosity



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 IS CURRENTLY REGISTERING FOR
 THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR



We have classes available 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, structured PE class, chapel service, 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 to set up an appointment to tour our facility.

Debbie MacKnight-Director



Sweetheart Dinner

Date:
 Saturday, February
 12th
Time:
 5:30 pm
Fee:
 \$20.00 per couple

Menu:
 Roast Beef, Mashed
 Potatoes and Gravy,
 Green beans, Rolls,
 Salad and Dessert.

Grab your sweetheart and come and enjoy a great meal. If you have any questions contact the church office or Tim Day. Tickets can be purchased by contacting any of the UMM.

February Calendar



February 1

7:00 pm SPRC Meeting

February 2

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

February 4

3:30 pm Senior High
"Devo" Coffee

February 6

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Confirmation Class
11:00 am Worship
4:00 pm Sunday Evening Youth
4:30 pm Kids for Christ

February 9

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

February 11

3:30 pm Senior High
"Devo" Coffee

February 12

7:00 am Pancake Break fast
8:00 am UMM Meeting
5:30 pm Sweetheart Dinner

February 13

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am Coffee with the Pastor
11:00 am Worship
4:00 pm Sunday Evening Youth/R U
Worth Waiting 4

February 15

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

February 16

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

February 18

3:30 pm Senior High
"Devo" Coffee

February 19

7:00 am Confirmation
Washington
Retreat

February 20

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Confirmation Class
11:00 am Worship
4:00 pm Sunday Evening Youth/R U
Worth Waiting 4
4:30 pm Kids for Christ

February 21

6:45 pm Worship Meeting

February 23

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

February 25

6:30 pm Senior High
Winter Retreat

February 27

8:30 am Worship
Blood Pressure Clinic after both services and during Sunday School.
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Confirmation Class
11:00 am Worship
*Senior High return from retreat no evening youth.

February 28

7:00 pm Church Council



February Youth News

parents Feb. 6th- Parent meeting and Sunday Evening Youth. Due to The Super Bowl, we will just meet for business from 4:00-5:00 pm so you may get back to your family and friends before the big game. No potluck dinner.

Feb. 13th & 20th- ABBA program for all youth, "RU Worth Waiting 4?". This is a Christian organization whose mission is "Honoring God, Loving Life and Serving Others". The "Worth Waiting4" program is a tri-level sexual integrity program promoting individual worth, integrity and responsibility for our teenagers. Our youth will have the opportunity to do a two week, level one course during our regular Sunday evening youth time from 4:00-5:30 pm. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions concerning this program, our you may go online and check it out. Info@iamworthwaiting4.org



Feb. 21st- Ski/Snowboard trip to Bryce an all day trip. Please watch for details.

Feb. 27th- In place of Sunday Evening youth we will be having our "TOP" mission. Please meet in the kitchen at 11:00 am to serve those in our area that may be struggling financially. If you are able to help out in any way, please sign up on the youth board downstairs.



February Youth News cont.



Youth Group

Feb. 28th-30th- Senior High District Winter Retreat at Hunting Ridge Retreat Center. This is a new event offered to our youth. It will be a time to come together with other youth from the Winchester District UMC and have a time of fun, fellowship and worship. The cost is \$75.00 per person, which includes the weekend retreat and food. Please sign up by Feb. 13th.

Senior High "Devo-Coffee Hour" every Friday afternoon from 3:30-4:30 pm. We will meet at the church and walk downtown for a time of devotion and a cup of your favorite beverage. Hope you can make it! It has been a wonderful time of sharing and caring together.



Confirmation Classes are taking place every Sunday during the Sunday school hour throughout the month of February. Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers!

WATTS Update on for February 26, 2011

As you may know, WATTS stands for Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter. First United Methodist Church began its week of hosting WATTS on January 24, 2011. On the first two nights, more than 20 members of First UMC helped. They prepared meals, assisted with intake and registration, and some stayed the night. Still others made financial contributions. On each of the first two nights, our church hosted more than twenty five guests. Thanks are extended to the many church members assisting with the program. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt. 25:40)



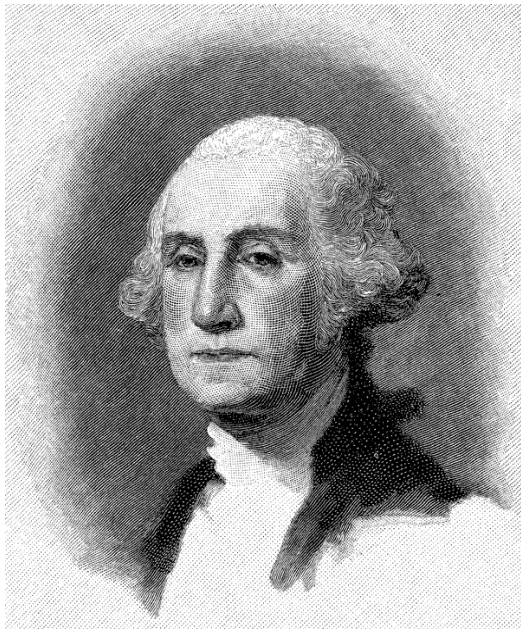
"We are servants of Christ witnessing to His people through our words and actions as we grow in discipleship."

**Youth Group
Mission
Statement**

Food for Thought

I would like to share with you just one aspect of my research of Washington's life while he was here on the frontier of Virginia. His recorded actions indicated that this time spent here was extremely important to him, actions which we can use today as a guide for us to follow in our decision making experiences pertaining to being good stewards of our natural resources. It is also ironic that the General Assembly is in session this very day.

George Washington was an environmentalist! Finding and protecting his water source was a top priority. So important was this to him that during his terms as Burgess from Frederick County, he sponsored this bit of legislation affecting the Town of Winchester which is recorded in The Journal of the House of Burgesses for March 1, 1761; page 228 and I quote.



“Mr. Washington presented to the House, according to order, a bill to prevent hogs running at large within the Town of Winchester or the limits thereof.”

The Town Run still bubbles up from the springs at Glen Burnie, flows through the city of Winchester into Abram's creek, which flows into the Opequon Creek, which flows into the Potomac, which flows by Mt. Vernon as it makes its way to the Chesapeake Bay.

Little did Washington know that his leadership actions of protecting his drinking water source on the frontier of Virginia in the 18th century could be used to motivate people today in the 21st century to the cleaning up of our water ways.

Both Abrams and the Opequon Creeks have been labeled “impaired” and the Shenandoah River, the life line of our Valley, is now the 5th most endangered river in America!

It was quite obvious to Washington what could pollute his water supply, but today's pollutants to our water supply are wide spread and variable. However, the message Washington gave on the floor of the House 246 years ago on March 1, 1761 was that you can take positive steps to solve any problem you may be facing, but it has to be a team effort.

In closing, I would like to share the Thought for the day:

“Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire---conscience.”

George Washington

Patsy Gochenour

Prayer Concerns



SHUT-INS

Hilltop Mary Everline, Clara Kerns, Thelma Rockwell
(111 Denny Lane Winchester, VA 22603)
Spring Arbor Hazel Fries, Jean Loy
(2093 North Western Pike Winchester, VA 22603)
Amerisist Assisted Living Home Pearl Gaines
(110 Spanish Oak Road Stephens City, VA 22655)

Please remember the following members in your prayers:

Bonnie Keplinger, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Velma Ritenour, Edith Anderson, Carole Lineberg, our church and church leaders, Kathy Dunn, Richard Swisher, Madge Fries & Helen Abshire, Susan Horton-Pannell, Faye & George Weidig, Betty Dunn, Betty Carper, Robbin Wilfong, Tara Aycock and Family, Bobby Vorous, Brandon Laughrey, Jane Carson, Pearl Gaines, Hazel Fries, Jean Loy, Clara Kerns, Thelma Rockwell, Betty Sager, Brenda Dick, Alice Shell.

Please remember to add the following friends and family in your prayers:

Don Smallwood, Janice Dickerson, Jennifer Carper, Our Military, Alexandra Combs, Fran Ricketts, Barbara Rinker & Family, Andrew Partlow, The homeless in our community, Ruth Holmes, Mike Jenkins, Bobby Shives, Spc. Bowe Bergdahl.



Pastoral Care

We have one pastor and he has many responsibilities within the life of the church including the following: pastoral and bereavement care, worship preparation, teaching classes, administration duties, and mission leadership. In order to rest and recuperate, Rev. White's weekly off day is on Friday. This is in keeping with the policy of First United Methodist Church as well as that of the Virginia Annual Conference. In case of pastoral emergencies on Fridays, please call the church office directly. The SPRC has an approved list of Pastors, who will be called upon/ contacted to make visits and handle events/ situations on Fridays. Rev. White will be advised of any events/ situations and will be able to follow up when he returns to the office on the next business/ work day.
Thank you!

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

Susan Brown
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

Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell
Children's Choir Directors

Non-Profit Org
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 136
Winchester, VA

Pancake Breakfast

When: Saturday, February 12th
Time: 7:00 am to 11:00 am
Where: First United Methodist Church in the Social Hall

Menu:

Pancakes, Gore's Sausage and Sausage Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fresh Fruit, Baked Apples, Orange Juice, Ice Tea, Coffee and Milk.

Candy for your sweetheart will also be for sale!

Adults~\$6.00

Children under 12~\$4.00

Take out or eat in available.

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

