

September 2011



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Word

Pastor's Corner

Many churches will be celebrating a "Back to School Sunday" sometime in the early fall. They do this because parents and children are all headed back to the classroom. From a theological standpoint, it might be a good idea to celebrate "Back to School Sunday" on Pentecost. For on the day it was born, the church committed itself to being a life- long learning partnership in faith. Sometime soon nearly all of the public and private school students will return to their classrooms. But lifetime learning takes no holidays - can the church continue to be "in session" throughout the year?

A Shell study revealed that of all the industries proudly listed as "Fortune 500" businesses nearly a third were no longer in existence a decade later. Structurally unable to learn from the changes and challenges thrown at them, these companies simply collapsed and fell by the wayside. The "fast track" began to hit warp speed in the last two decades. The church would appear to be among those casualties as well. Across denominational lines, fewer people seem to know the Bible or understand the connection between their lives and faith.

There is little doubt that oldline Protestant churches are in crisis. In his series of searches and researches into what has happened/is happening to oldline Protestantism in America, historian John Mulder, President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, gives high priority to the erosion of what he calls the church's "infrastructure of learning." "It used to be that church members could expect maturation in the Christian faith. But as our educational vision weakened, denominations fumed away from education and toward legislation. In essence, we have become churches of policy rather than churches of learning and exploration.

Remember, Jesus commanded the disciples to spread the gospel by "teaching them to do all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Dallas Willard calls this phrase "The Great Omission" instead of "The Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20). We have omitted learning and teaching from the regimen of faith. Just how deadly an omission is made pointedly clear by the sense of exhaustion and lethargy that permeates so many congregations. "Education is the primary means congregations have of keeping youthful," according to Willard.

Well, I'm not so sure that everyone is so guilty of "Great Omission." I see many people teaching and learning at FUMC. As we roll into the fall, I hope that you will take a little time to become involved in Christian study. If you are a young person, consider attending youth group. Come to worship. Join the choir. Consider taking Disciple I. Learning about Jesus keeps us young in so many ways.

I'll see you next Sunday at the church where, in different ways, we are all headed "Back to School".

Grace and Peace,

Will



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Special points of interest:

- *Pastor's Corner*
- *September Youth News*
- *September Church Calendar*
- *Disciple Bible Study*
- *Charge Conference*
- *Caretakers of God's Creation*

More VBS News

The Son Surf Beach Bash opened on Monday, June 27 with 20 children pre-registered. There were three groups: Angel Fish (ages 3-5), Dolphins (ages 6-8) and Star Fish (ages 9-12). Approximately half of the children registered were Angel Fish, and the rest were evenly divided into the other two groups. Each day, our numbers grew. By the end of the week, 45 children were participating in our VBS program with an average of 10 children in the older groups and twice that

many in the preschool groups. Each day, there were walk-ins who participated in VBS.

The most challenging day was Tuesday when the number of Angel Fish challenged our resources of space and leaders. This large group was broken into two smaller groups. Our creative and flexible staff managed the abundance beautifully. What a marvelous gift of children God provided for us, and how bountifully He supplied our need with

volunteer re-enforcements who were drafted to help. Many thanks to the various volunteers who helped manage this wonderful group of children.



Disciple Bible Study

On August 21, members of our church met to discuss Disciple I in the fellowship hall. This 34 week class intensively delves into the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Participants have experienced wonder-

ful transformation through DBS I. This class will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm beginning September 15th. Class books are \$40.00 and will provide materials needed for the 34 weeks.



Charge Conference

Church Conference, September 25 at 5:00 pm

After consulting with Rev. White, the Rev. Larry Thompson (Winchester District Superintendent) has granted the request for a Church Conference to be held on September 25th, at 5:00 pm for the following agenda items only:

- The Superintendent will explain what will guide his granting of Church Conferences in the future.
- Adoption of Ministerial Support
- Election of Officers and Approval of Lay Speakers
- Approval of Candidates for

Ordained Ministry

- One church leader will share one significant ministry from the previous year.

At a Church Conference, each church member is allowed to vote. (UMC Discipline, Ph 248)

Educator & Student Recognition * Acolyte Appreciation

Educator and Student Recognition

On September 18, we will make a special effort in our worship services to recognize students and teachers as everyone heads back to school. Children will be given a small gift which they will be encouraged to give to their teachers. Public and private school educators will be prayed for by our congregation. Join us on this special Sunday to help spread the love of Christ through the community!



Acolyte Appreciation

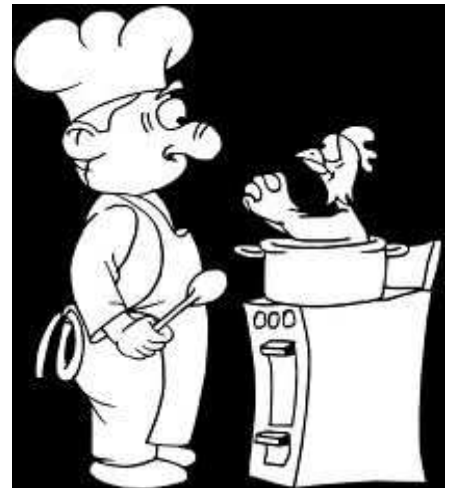
On September 18th, we will also be extending our appreciation to our church acolytes. These young men and women do so very much to serve our church and worship leaders during our weekly services. Join us for worship and please thanks to these teens and children.

Youth/UMM Chicken BBQ's

Don't you just LOVE the BBQ chicken the United Methodist Men make? If you haven't tried it you don't know what you are missing!

The dates for the last two barbeques are Saturday, September 10th and Saturday, October

8th at 11:30 am. Come out and show your support for the UMM and our youth. Both groups receive proceeds from the chicken sales. If you have any questions contact the church office or a member of the UMM.



WATTS

Please continue to collect extra travel size shampoos, soaps and other hygiene items. These items are perfect for the WATTS clients.

Donations of men's and women's pants, tops, sweaters and new underwear and socks. Items should be placed in the labeled box in the

narthex. Thank you for your generosity!



September Youth News

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."



Back to school already???

Dear Parent's & Youth,

Wow, what an eventful and wonderful summer the youth ministry has had this year! It is hard to believe it is over already. Thank you youth and parents for all your dedication and support with the "TOP" ministry, bible studies and the mission trip!!

Now school is in full swing and our summer youth program is over, I will be taking a few days off with my family vacation to complete our summer. I will be gone from Sept. 7th-17th. Please do not hesitate to call the office with any questions or concerns you may have. Please make note of the couple of things we have on the calendar for the month of September.

Peace & Blessings,

Mary

Sept. 10th- Men and youth BBQ at the APR campus. Please meet at 11:30 to help serve the meals. Part of the proceeds will help toward youth mission work.

Sept 24th, Saturday Night from 4-6 p.m.- Youth & Parents Kick-off for the Fall/Winter program! It will be a covered dish meal at the APR campus. Hope to see you there for information about the youth ministry with great food and lots of fun in Christian fellowship.

parents



September Calendar

September 3

3:30 pm Corbett/Sutphin
Wedding

September 4

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

September 5

Office closed

September 6

7:00 pm PPRC Meeting

September 7

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Nomination Mtg

September 10

8:00 am UMM Meeting
8:00 am ADK yard sale at the
APR Campus
11:30 am UMM/Youth Chicken
BBQ at APR Campus

September 11

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Children's Choir
11:00 am Worship

September 12

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

September 14

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Nomination Mtg

September 15

7:00 pm Disciple I Bible Study

September 18

8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Children's Choir
11:00 am Worship
(Acolyte Appreciation)

September 19

6:45 pm Worship Meeting

September 21

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm Nomination Mtg

September 22

7:00 pm Disciple I Bible Study

September 24

4:00 pm Youth & Parent
Kick-off at the APR

September 25

8:30 am Worship
**Blood Pressure Clinic after both
services and during Sunday School.**
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
9:45 am Children's Choir
5:00 pm Charge Conference

September 26

7:00 pm Church Council

September 28

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

September 29

7:00 pm Disciple I Bible Study

*"He established a decree in
Jacob, and appointed a law
in Israel, which he com-
manded our ancestors to
teach to their children; that
the next generation might
know them, the children yet
unborn, and rise up and
tell them to their children,"*

Psalm 78: 5-6

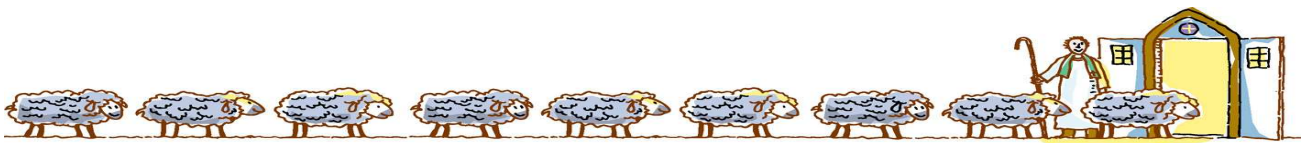
Back to School!!!!



Sunday Morning Worship

The Worship Committee would like to invite you to assist with the weekly Sunday worship services. There are no tests or auditions required, just a personal desire to worship and serve God. If you feel called to help, please contact one of the people listed below for that particular activity or let Kristen know at 540-662-3151 and she will relay the information to the appropriate coordinator.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Altar Guild ----- | Cheryl Dyksen | 540-662-1348 |
| Communion Assistant ---- | Music/Choir Rep | |
| | Melody Harmon | 540-667-3514 |
| Scripture Readers ----- | Melody Harmon | 540-974-9753 |
| Worship Leader ----- | Susie Brown | 540-877-9016 |
| Sound System ----- | 8:30 Alan Cavanagh | 540-678-9042 |
| | 11:00 Jack Wilfong | 540-662-2348 |
| Ushers ----- | Kenny Burcham | 540-667-5262 |
| | Craig Stultz | 540-662-3651 |
| Acolytes ----- | Mark St. Amand | 540-247-3372 |



Apple Butter



Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 22 for the United Methodist Men's annual apple butter making. Plan on coming out and spend some time stirring and fellowshiping with your church family.

Check the weekly bulletin

for more information as the date gets closer. The men will need **LOTS** of peeling and cutting help a couple of days before the apple butter is made. If you have any questions see a member of the UMM or contact the church office at 662-3151.

Caretakers of God's Creation

For the past three years, the Caretakers of God's Creation, a United Methodist Church and Community Ministry, has been focusing on the importance of church members learning their Watershed Address and the source of their drinking water. This desire was strengthened by the fact that the first Social Principle in our Book of Discipline states "that all creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways we use and abuse it!" As many of us have learned, we take too many of our natural resources for granted, especially air and water. I believe we realize now what can happen if we pollute the water we drink and the air we breathe. Also, an interesting twist to our study is that we can use George Washington as our icon to model the actions we take in dealing with present day critical issues.

While Washington was on the frontier of Virginia, 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 a bill affecting the Town of Winchester, "prevent hogs running at large within the Town or the limits thereof" which would pollute his drinking water source, the Town Run. He identified his pollutant and did something

about it! 250 years later, the residents of Virginia are in danger not only with one but two disastrous threats to our drinking water: Hydrofracking and Uranium mining!

Hydrofracking is a method of drilling for natural gas that allows penetration miles into the earth and horizontal drilling within particular geologic layers that contain natural gas. The economic potentials could be large but the environmental and infrastructure impacts of this type of drilling are of great concern, especially to the George Washington National Forest and the headwaters of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, our drinking water sources.

Virginia has had a ban in place on mining uranium for nearly 30 years, and rightly so! It is my understanding that there is a great risk of radioactive and toxic materials contaminating our streams, rivers and drinking water. I believe we should become advocates to keep this ban on uranium mining, not only to protect the present children of Virginia but for future generations. However, the uranium industry is lobbying to lift the ban and begin mining

uranium in Virginia, starting at a major deposit at a Pittsylvania County site called Coles Hill.

I will continue to update you with additional information in our next newsletter. 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
Caretakers of God's Creation



Worship Preview

September 4

Moses on Prayer
Exodus 3: 10, 4: 10-13

September 11

Elijah on Prayer
1 Kings 19: 9-13

September 18

David on Prayer
II Samuel 22: 1-3

September 25

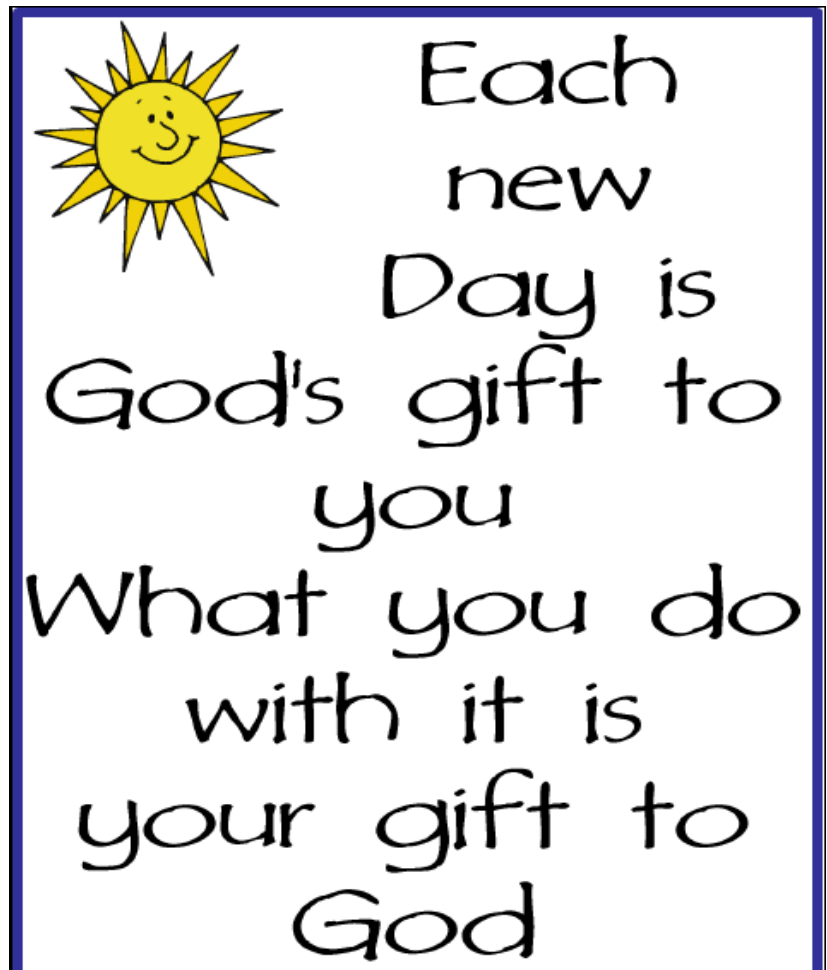
Mission Interpretation
Guest Speaker
Darlene Amon

October 2

The Disciples on Prayer
Luke 7: 36-38; 48-50

October 9

Paul on Prayer
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18



**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*

*Allyson Allison
Preschool Director*

*Susan Brown
Lay Leader*

*Jennifer White
Treasurer*

*Ellen Cavanagh, RN
Faith Community Nurse*

*Queenie Dockeney
Custodian*

*Wayne Corbett
Organist and Music
Director*

*Jim Harmon
Choir Director*

*Melinda Russell
Hand Bell Director*

*Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell
Children's Choir Directors*

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Music News

Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 31. Our first Sunday to sing will be September 11. The schedule for the fall is still in the planning stages, but there will be many opportunities to sing and perform to the Glory of God in the coming months. I invite you to join us in the first rehearsal on Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m. I plan to have a full list of music we will perform available that night. Plans include a possible lessons and carols for Christmas.

If you have any questions about the choir, joining the choir, or the music for our worship services, you can call me at

540-974-9752 or
e-mail me at
harmy@comcast.net.

I look forward to
seeing you this fall!

Jim Harmon

