

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle... Holy Week & Eating Beets

The introduction of Holy Week to the disciples and observers involved many details which to them seemed improper and out of line for a celebrity such as Jesus. Today, many of us have heard the story so many times that the rather shocking elements of the narrative have lost significant punch. An improper comparison I have chosen to illustrate my point involves eating beets. The first time I ate fresh steamed beets I became alarmed at all the red which just kept showing up! I thought surely something terrible had happened and that I was bleeding internally. We eat a lot of beets now, as their health benefit is convincing, but no longer am I alarmed at all of the red which just keeps showing up. Comparing God's love at the cross to beets only holds up in as much as it makes the point that love changes everything! God's love towards us changes everything from the finer attributes of our public lives together to the less refined attributes belonging to our much more private lives. I pray your experience of God's love this Passion Week will allow the shocking elements of God's Passion become such in your lives that God's love just has to keep showing up!

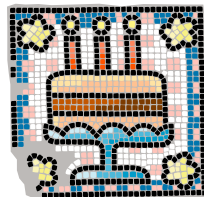


Sincerely,
Pastor Ken

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### Happy April & Beginning of May Birthdays!

- 4/6 *Billy Wealthy*
- 4/17 *Brendon DeWitt*
- 4/17 *Tracey Silvious*
- 4/22 *Mary Ryan*
- 4/25 *Barbara Jett*
- 4/27 *Eldo Wheat*
- 5/3 *Warren Hepler*



### Budget Update Thru March 2009

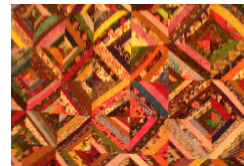


Mt. Jackson's 2009 Budget \$90,996.00      52 Sundays

|         | March Offering | Year-to-Date Offering |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Actual  | \$7,758.76     | \$22,905.81           |
| Needed  | \$8,749.60     | \$22,748.96           |
| (+)/(-) | -\$990.84      | \$ 156.85             |

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Mission Fund-Raisers!



[quilt design]

MJUMC is raising funds for this year's Mission Work Week in July, 2009. We are selling raffle tickets for two prizes to be drawn on June 28th at the church after services. The first prize is a quilt made and donated by the Shenandoah Valley Quilter's Guild in Woodstock, VA. The second prize is a golf package that includes green fees for four, a golf hat, a box of balls, and a bag of tees, all donated by the Shenvalee Golf Course in New Market, VA.

Raffle ticket prices are \$2.00 each, or three for \$5.00, with all proceeds going toward materials and tools to be used for our mission work. Our work this year is going to be done in the local community to help individuals and nonprofit organizations in need during these difficult economic times.

We will also have a yard and bake sale on April 25th, beginning at 7:00 AM, at the Shenandoah Valley Flea Market near New Market, VA.

We appreciate and welcome any and all support and donations during our fund-raising efforts. Raffle tickets are available from many in the congregation, and will be on sale at the yard and bake sale and at other upcoming community events through June.

For questions, please contact Pastor Ken at 540-333-3854.



Trustees Report

The Trustees met March 22nd to consider final amendments and adopt the Child Protection Policy. The attorney, Mrs. Suzanne Thomas, is now incorporating the final amendments into the document, a copy of which will be available upon request when received. Meanwhile, I will outline several items the document addresses.

What is the Child Protection Policy and what is its purpose?

- It is a document that spells out in detail how the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church will conduct all church children's ministry activities directly involving children from newborn (nursery) through age 18 (not having graduated from high school).
- Its purpose is to establish a balance between protecting minor children from harm, all persons from false accusations, and the church from legal liability, while making an intentional effort to manage and minimize the inherent risks involved without hindering and making difficult the task of making young disciples of Christ.

What are some of the guidelines and specific policies?

- Every volunteer working with children must be approved through a screening process involving a sexual/child abuse background check through the Virginia State Police.
- There must be two approved volunteers with each group of children at all times.
- Anyone age 18 not having graduated from high school, and under, must have completed an enrollment form, signed by parents or guardian, on file with the Trustees, giving permission to participate in church children's ministries activities.
- Specific permission slips for children's ministries activities occurring away from the church, signed by the parents/guardian, are required for each activity and must accompany the Approved Volunteers on the trip.
- In order to drive youth for any reason, Approved Volunteers must be 21 years old, have a copy of his/her current valid drivers license and proof of vehicle insurance on file with the Trustees.
- Any children's ministry off the church premises must have prior approval from the Trustee sub-committee.

How and by whom will this policy be administered?

The Trustees established a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in cooperation with the Pastor, to implement, educate, and oversee the policy. Every effort will be made to protect the confidentiality of back-ground check records, restricting access to Trustees, sub-committee, and Pastor

and securing the information under restricted lock and key.

Much work has gone into formulation of this policy. The Trustees have received input from the Youth Leadership, Pastor, Administrative Board, and others in putting this document together. We wish it was not necessary. Times have changed and churches no longer enjoy immunity from litigation. The sub-committee will work hard to implement the policy fairly, courteously, and with the least impact consistent with upholding the provisions and objectives outlined within.

***Ken Hackenbracht,
Chairman***

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## ***United Methodist Men News***

The United Methodist men have met twice since last reported in the newsletter, February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>. We have had good attendance, excellent meals served by the women of the church ( baked chicken and corned beef and cabbage) and very interesting programs. At our February meeting Mike Showalter presented an interesting talk on his environmental work, the purposes of it, and showed and explained the use of the many tools he uses. David Brinegar, President, and Gerald Bohus, Rescue Squad Chief, of the Mt. Jackson Rescue and Fire Company, presented a program on the history, current operation, and future plans of the company. They have now operated one year since the merger and things are going well.



The UMM held a pancake/sausage dinner March 14<sup>th</sup>. Eighty were served netting the organization \$492.70. Many thanks to all the men, and especially to the women who helped make this a success. The Men voted to donate a portion of the proceeds to Jack Sperry to help with expenses due to his recent health problems.

Men of the church, if you don't attend United Methodist Men's meetings, you are missing out on fine meals, interesting and informative programs, and best of all, good Christian fellowship. Join us at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. You will be glad you did!

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Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the MJUMC Scholarship Fund over the past two months. We raised \$419 to increase our Scholarship balance to \$2200.15. That will greatly help to serve the applicants this year.

Again, thank you for your generosity towards this wonderful mission.

Bonnie Good, Chair Scholarship Comm.



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Church Calendar for 2009



<p>4/5 Sun. Palm Sunday, Purple 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Pathfinders Youth Egg Hunt 11:00 AM Worship 2:30 PM Visitation @ Life Care Sponsored by QUMC</p> <p>4/6 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library 4/7 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice 4/8 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council, Library 4/9 Thurs. 6:30 PM Soup & Service, FHall Passover Meal</p> <p>4/10 Fri. 6:30 PM QUMC 8:00 PM MJUMC 8:00 PM AA, Library</p> <p>4/12 Sun. Easter Sunday, White 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth 11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>4/13 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library 4/14 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice 4/15 Wed. 6:30 PM UMM 4/17 Fri. 7:00 PM Family Game Night 8:00 PM AA, Library</p>	<p>4/19 Sun. Second Sunday of Easter, White 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth 11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>4/20 Mon. 7:00 PM PPR, Library 8:00 PM AA, Library</p> <p>4/21 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice 4/24 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library 4/25 Sat. _____ Missions Yard/Bake Sale</p> <p>4/26 Sun. 4th Sunday in Lent, White 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth 11:00 AM Worship 12-2 PM Potato Bar Lunch</p> <p>4/27 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library 4/28 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice 4/30 Thurs. 6:30 PM Soup & Service, FHall</p> <p>5/1 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library 5/2 Sat. 8:30 AM Mystery Mission</p> <p>5/3 Sun. 4th Sunday of Easter, White 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth 11:00 AM Worship</p>
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