

# The Circuit Writer

## Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



### The Pastor's Epistle... Icy Road Wisdom

I did something really thick-headed today! I drove down the icy road which leads to the Mt. Jackson Park. Call it anxiety from lack of snow! I took the dogs and Brendon to go sledding on the ice! Approaching the ice covered hill all of the sensors were going off that I shouldn't be doing this, but not listening to the warnings, I proceeded instead. I made it down the hill with a few minor car slides, breathed a sigh of relief, and surprising enough had a blast sledding with Brendon and watching the dogs explore on the ice. Back in the car and ready to get home, the adventure was about to continue. On four separate attempts I made it about halfway up the hill before the car would begin sliding backwards. Apparently the car was envious of our sledding fun and wanted to participate, too! Each attempt introduced more fun for the car and more fear of harming the car for me. After the car had its last yahoo, I managed to get the car parked at the bottom of the hill. We walked home from there! The car was safe, we were safe; getting the car home would just have to wait!

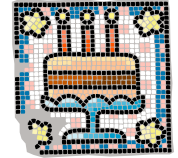
For me this was just another lesson in patience and impatience. Patience makes room for wisdom. Impatience makes room for folly. Today, a rather serious provision in my life needs to be driven home. It's the need for the Board of Ordained Ministry to give me their approval for Ordination. Maybe the phone call I will receive today will be the okay to drive this car of ordination home. Maybe the phone call I will receive today will involve news of icy impassible roads with an order to park the car of ordination and wait for more instructions.

Between the last paragraph and this paragraph the phone call arrived. The car of ordination isn't quite ready to be driven home. More time and work is needed before the provision of elder will be granted. Fortunately, a whole lot of good, affirming news has softened the fall of my emotions.

As your pastor, I am thankful for your prayers and on-going commitment to work together. I am thankful the remaining work I must do for ordination is more focused and less involved. We need to start planning now for the big celebration that will follow ordination in June of 2010!

Pastor Ken

### Happy February Birthdays!



- 2/2 Jennifer Hackenbracht
- 2/1 Colton Henry
- 2/14 Pat Callis
- 2/14 Jean Estep
- 2/14 Onie Frye
- 2/20 Beverly Orndorff
- 2/27 Shirley Hackenbracht

~~~~~

### Budget Update Thru January 2009

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

|                   | January Offering | Year-to-Date Offering |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Actual            | \$9,398.05       | \$9,398.05            |
| Needed            | \$6,999.68       | \$6,999.68            |
| Plus (+)/Minus(-) | \$2,398.37       | \$2,398.37            |

Thank you,  
**Bonnie Good, Finance Chair**

~~~~~

### Prayer Vigil



As a response to war and poverty, on Friday, February 20th from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM we will have a prayer vigil in our Sanctuary. Each church member who would like to participate can sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway to the Social Hall. There are eight 30 minute time slots, but more than one person can participate at a time during those half-hour periods. When you arrive, you will be greeted and will receive an optional prayer guide to help you direct your prayer time.

We all know that our prayers are heard by our Father. The terrible hardships due to war and poverty are concerns of all mankind. Please lend your spiritual time to this time for prayer for our human community.



## Trustees Report

The Board of Trustees met January 18, for their first regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of 2009. The following items of business were discussed and acted upon.

1. Heard a report from Doug Estep that the new hot-water heater has been installed. The old heater, installed in the new addition in 1985, developed a leak and had to be replaced. A new 50-gallon heater was ordered through Mr. Boot Downey and installed by him and Doug. Cost of the heater was \$508.66 plus \$150.00 installation parts and labor.
2. Heard a report from the Chairman that the insurance company paid the entire bill of \$850.00 for repair of the ceiling at the parsonage. Because we have had no claims the past six years, the \$500.00 deductible was waived.
3. Heard a report from the Chairman concerning Officers and Directors Liability Insurance. While the church has comprehensive liability coverage in our policy, there is no coverage for the actions of the trustees individually or as a body, and under certain circumstances, trustees could be held personally liable, wrongly or otherwise, should a lawsuit develop over their actions. Brotherhood Mutual, the church's insurance carrier, offered an officers and directors endorsement providing \$1,000,000.00 coverage plus \$250,000.00 legal representation coverage for an annual premium of \$88.00. The Trustees voted unanimously to accept this coverage.
4. Received, reviewed, and voted to send the final draft of the Child Protection Policy to the attorney for legal review. Upon approval of the attorney, the Trustees will adopt this policy and it will then become the guide by which all activities involving youth (up to age 18) and volunteer adult leaders must conform. This policy has been in the developmental stage for over 2 years and represents our best efforts to provide protection to children from acts of sexual and/or physical abuse and conversely, protection for adult volunteers working with youth from false accusations. The Board of Trustees, recognized by the Circuit Court as the legal representatives of the church, bears responsibility for the formation, adoption, implementing, and oversight of this policy. Much time and work has gone into developing this policy with input from youth group leaders, the Pastor, a sub-committee from the trustees and the Virginia UM Conference. It is unfortunate that actions such as this have to be undertaken, especially by churches, but in today's litigious society, it is a necessity.
5. Approved a request from a member of the church to furnish an unused Sunday school room into a parlor setting for pastoral counseling, small group Bible study, small group meetings or meditation. Tasteful furniture and accessories will be furnished and set up at no cost to

the church with the understanding that should the room be needed for Sunday school, the furniture will be removed and the room restored to its current status.

6. Accepted an offer to sell 5 garment racks for \$30.00 each. These racks are currently in an off-site storage and have not been used for several years. Having been previously used for rummage sales, which the women say they will no longer do, 5 of the 12 racks were sold.

7. Heard a report from Doug Estep concerning the condition of the heating-system boiler. The portholes on the side of the boiler which allow access for cleaning, having been on and off many times and are very near the point of not being able to seal when replaced. Once this happens, it is impossible to stop the leaking. The boiler is over 30 years old. An estimate of \$11,262.50 was received to replace the boiler and burner after the current heating season. A financing plan was approved for presentation to the Administrative Board at their February meeting, and if approved, will be presented to the congregation.

8. Committee appointments were made for re-seeding the back yard, refurbishing the front doors, and conducting an inventory of all church property.

**Ken Hackenbracht, Chairman**



A note from our brother, Jack Sperry, who broke his foot and is away from home recovering...

***I thank each one for the cards, calls, your prayers and visits. and kindness to Pat. I've been in 2 weeks and expect 3 more. I'm at Shenandoah Place, 50 Burkholder Lane, New Market, Va. 22844. Jack***

## Lenten Church Project



*Matt 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

Our Lenten Response to both physical and spiritual hunger will be to provide 7 Thursday evenings from February 26th through April 9th as a time of "Soup & Service." We will facilitate the equivalent of a soup kitchen for the public. Following the meal, a service of worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

We need 20 people to sign up for each Thursday evening to attend and assist with serving. Sign-up sheets are on the hall bulletin board. Please check your calendars and graciously volunteer to help us in this important **SERVICE** activity.



**Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church**  
**P.O. Box 27**  
**Mt. Jackson, Virginia 22842**

Phone: 540-477-2128  
 Pastor's Phone: 540-333-3854  
 Email: [mjumc@shentel.net](mailto:mjumc@shentel.net)  
 Web: [www.mtjacksonumc.com](http://www.mtjacksonumc.com)

**Church Calendar for 2009**



**2/1 Sun. 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 12:00 PM Childrens Ministry Team Meeting/Lunch  
 2:30 PM Tandem Visitation (QUMC)

**2/2 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library**

**2/3 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice**

**2/6 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library**

**2/8 Sun. 5th Sunday after Epiphany, Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 12:00 PM Community Support Team Meeting/Lunch

**2/9 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library**

**2/10 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice**

**2/11 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council**

**2/13 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library**

**2/14 Sat. all day Valentine's Day**

**2/15 Sun. 6th Sunday after Epiphany, Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

**2/16 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library**

**2/17 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice**

**2/18 Wed. 5:30 PM UMM Dinner**

**2/20 Fri. 6:00-10PM 4 Hour Prayer Vigil**  
 8:00 PM AA, Library

**2/22 Sun. Transfiguration Sunday, White**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

**2/23 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library**

**2/24 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice**

**2/26 Thurs. Soup & Service**

**2/27 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library**

**2/27 Sat. 8:30 AM Mystery Mission**