

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



A Suspicious Gift in the Woods

More than dusty dirt and leafy summer branches rose up to meet me this past Monday evening along the Camp Overlook trails in Keezletown, Virginia. Campers with names like Maggie and Bob became teachers to the one who was designated to teach. Just that morning, the campers had experienced the Easter drama of the empty tomb. Now the campers were walking the trails of Agape Hill in feverish fashion asking each other questions about the teachings of Jesus. Putting together what they knew about Jesus, they were formulating bold statements. In particular, Jesus as the Lamb of God came to life! The Old Testament treatment of the lamb was bad news for the lamb. Sacrificial parts for the altars of Abraham, blood for the doorposts in the Passover record and much, much more. The poor Lamb had a tough role to fulfill. Lamb language in the New Testament makes a big transition from speak of young sheep to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Yet, the tough role to fulfill became even tougher. Because, instead of a common protein used for sustenance, Jesus, the Son of God, was now the ultimate sacrifice. We figured out pretty fast that actual lambs appreciated the fact that Jesus put an end to their Old Testament role. Much more importantly, we figured out pretty fast that we ourselves, as lambs who know the shepherd, as in Psalm 23, appreciated Jesus putting an end to the Old Testament role. Jesus broke his body and poured out his blood for the sake of restoring our relationship with God the Father. We remember and are truly thankful for God's choice to pay the price for our neglect and offense of love. About the time our conversations were turning towards God's care of us through the cross, we came upon a trail where a basket could be scene upon a stump. Curiously we made our way towards the odd items which were out of place along this path in the woods. As we approached, it became clear that inside the basket was a broken loaf of bread and beside it a cup of grape juice. Hesitant at first to consider that God had positioned this communion meal along our path for us to receive, we explored a few reasons why we should just leave the elements alone and move on. Then we explored a few reasons why we should share the meal. Finally, we listened to our hearts which led us to sharing the bread and the cup as the body and blood of Christ. Sharing holy communion in the context of Jesus the

Lamb of God, our faith in Christ became stronger and our sense of God's care for us led us towards sharing words of thank you to God from the heart! Big thanks to the staff of Camp Overlook and the important role they are playing in sharing Christ with young people!

*A Sinner of God's Own Redeeming,
Pastor Ken*

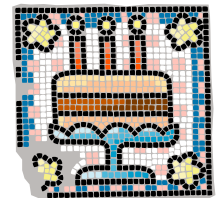


*Happy July & August
Birthdays!*

- 7/10 Richard Barb*
- 7/12 Troy Hackenbracht*
- 7/12 Bill Golladay*
- 7/16 Linda Cave*
- 7/23 Steven Spitler*

- 8/6 Raymond Jett*
- 8/7 Boots Frye*
- 8/11 Steve Weaver, Jr.*
- 8/12 Sam Clark*
- 8/13 Sherry Jones*

- 9/2 Tammy Estep*
- 94 Crystal Spitler*



Thank You

Dear Church Family,

You really blessed our lives with your outpouring of love and support. The visits helped me through the boring times when I had to be down. The food you provided was grat and especially appreciated by Don, who had to do all the cooking. Your cards were encouraging and brightened my days. We know it was your prayers that helped the healing process. It made me realize the importance of praying for each other so I used my time to pray through the "Care Page"!

You are truly an example of Christian love and mission outreach. May God richly bless you all.

*Love,
Margaret Harris and Family*



United Methodist Men News

June 17, 2009

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, June 17, 2009, in the church social hall with 19 members and no guests present.

The invocation was given by Jack Sperry.

Following a delicious ham dinner served by the women of the church, the meeting was called to order by President Steve Forster.

Devotions entitled "Is God Responsible for Disasters or Human Wickedness" was given by Roger Miller, based on various scripture.

The minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,715.91.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken Hackenbracht reported the lawn party netted \$745.84, all of which went towards the cost of the new boiler. While not a Methodist Men's project per se, many of the UMM helped work to make the project a big success, President Steve thanked the UMM for their support and help.

Howard Hackenbracht reported on the June 7th Fellowship Breakfast attended by 7 men. Good food (delicious sausage gravy and Pastor Ken's breakfast casserole) and fellowship were plentiful. The next Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for August 30th. Men, don't miss it.

The matter of a donation requested by the United Methodist Foundation for Scouting, having been tabled to this meeting for action, was discussed. Steve Forster moved we donate \$100.00 to the local Shenandoah Council of Boy Scouts. Seconded by Roger Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

President Steve reviewed the programs for the rest of the year. He announced the July meeting will be moved back one week from July 15th to July 22nd due to the mission trip. Devotions are now covered for the rest of the year but head ushers are still needed for July, September and November.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Showalter reported on a possible local project for the mission trip, a house in Woodstock badly in need of various repairs. The Pregnancy Center is also under consideration as a work site.

PROGRAM

Howard Hackenbracht, Scoutmaster, and Eagle Scout Troy Hackenbracht, both of Scout Troop 117, Mt. Jackson, presented an interesting and informative presentation on activities the troop are involved in. Troy brought his fully packed hiking backpack, unpacked it, and explained each items use. Hiking in the mountains is very popular with the Scouts. Howard explained the various steps in Scouting as the boys advance in age and experience.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by singing the doxology.

Ken Hackenbracht
Secretary

I COULD'VE HAD A V-8



Arriving home from a particularly stressful day at work, I was immediately met with a question from son, "what's for dinner?" Needless to say fixing dinner was the last thing on my mind. As I stood in the middle of the living room desperately trying to gather enough energy to make it around to my bedroom to change clothes and not make some smart remark to my son, the commercial for V-8 juice came on the television. I've seen that commercial at least a thousand times, but just at that moment, the commercial took a whole new direction in my mind....

This morning as I was getting ready for work, I could have had a prayer (just to say Good Morning Lord, thank you for this beautiful day)...

As I was driving to work and that other driver sped up just to cut into the lane in front of me, I could have had a prayer (thank you Lord for keeping me safe)....

When I got to work and my co-workers were complaining about the cutback in the budget which was going to impact the amount of supplies we could order, I could have had a prayer (thank you Lord for the job that I have in these tough times)...

During lunch, when an employee shared her personal problems, I could have had a prayer (thank you Lord for making me a safe harbor for this friend who needs to talk)...

Later in the afternoon when a thunder storm came through the area, and power went out, I could have had a prayer, (thank you Lord for the rain that will make the gardens grow)...

Just before I left work, and I had to take a phone call from an upset client, I could have had a prayer (Lord help me to be a good listener and make things right for this person)....

When I was stopping to refuel my car on the way home, and I had to sit in line to wait to get to the gas pump, I could have had a prayer (thank you Lord for this brief moment in my day to be quiet and reflect)...

And now, as I stand in the middle of the living room, I could have had a prayer (thank you Lord for all the blessings my children bring to me, give me patience, and allow me to show them the love that grows within my heart every day for each of them).

Yes, I could have had a V-8; at least 8 opportunities to go to the Lord today and share my victories over the challenges of everyday living. I guess, if I looked back, there would be many more than 8 chances, but wouldn't 8 be a good place to start! You know, I think I will try very hard to have at least a V-8 everyday.

Edna Carpenter
June 2009

Just a Thought...

A dear friend of mine sent me this quote the other day. I thought it was so wise and humbling. It reminded me of how hard it has been, over the years, to get used to receiving instead of giving. That concept is awkward for many of us. Why? Giving and receiving are both halves of the same action. Perhaps this wisdom will help open your heart to the other half—freeing you to be both giver and receiver.

By Patricia Spadero
In Honor Yourself

“One of the greatest lessons you can learn in the inner art of giving and receiving is that asking for support, when appropriate, is not a sign of weakness but a sign of strength. Asking for support is healthy. It means you believe that you are worthy of receiving. Not only that, but it's an act of love. When you seek support in making the best decisions in your life, you are acting out of love - love for yourself and for those who will be impacted by your choices.”

Bonnie Good



MJUMC has had, and plans for more
wonderful activities this past month and the next.
It would be great to put them in the newsletter
to keep you informed.
But...
No one has reported on them!

I encourage ALL organizations, groups, committees, gatherings, planners, etc
to always assign a reporter to get information together for the newsletter as you
plan and accomplish your plans and activities.

Let's
SHARE THE NEWS!



There will be no newsletter in August.
Please have articles ready for the September newsletter by September 2.
Place in “Newsletter” mailbox next to Pastor’s office
Or email to msbonniegood@yahoo.com

Church Calendar for



7/5 Sun. 5th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship

7/6 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 7/7 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 7/8 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council
 7/10 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

7/12 Sun. 6th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship
 ? Trustees Meeting
 { 7/12-1/18...Mission Week at MJUMC}

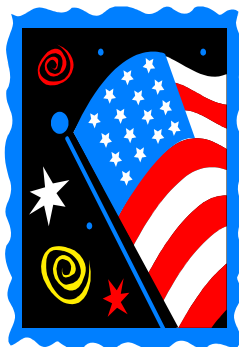
7/13 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 7/14 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 7/17 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

7/19 Sun. 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship

7/20 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 7/21 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 7/22 Wed. 6:30 PM UMM
 7/24 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

7/26 Sun. 8th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship

7/27 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 7/28 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 7/31 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library



Church Calendar for



8/2 Sun. 9th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship
 { 8/3-8/8 Dewitt family vacation }

8/3 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 8/4 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 8/6 Thurs 7:00 PM UMW
 8/7 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

8/9 Sun. 10th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship

8/10 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 8/11 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 8/12 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council
 8/14 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

8/16 Sun. 11th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship

8/17 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 8/18 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 8/19 Wed. 6:30 PM UMM Work Night for Homecoming
 8/21 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

8/23 Sun. 12th Sunday after Pentecost, Green Homecoming Celebration
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship

8/24 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library
 8/35 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice
 8/28 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

Happy Homecoming

