

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle... My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less Than Jesus

For many of us and for many we know, hope in Jesus is much more than just a matter of the heart. Hope in Jesus is problem solving, relationship inspiring, and a driving force which places God's reputation on the line. I am thankful that hope is being given international attention right now. Unfortunately, it has taken international crisis for hope to be taken off the shelf along with the dusty family Bible. When need grips enough people, ideologies of excess and selfishness get thin.

The strength of a person's relationship with hope depends in whole to the target in which the hope is built. Christians are led by God's Spirit to place Christ as the target in which to build hope. The language of 'target' is appropriate for hope building as hope is so personal and noble within people that when anyone makes an appeal from hope there better be something substantial to back it up! For Americans, we hope there are enough people in place with the right knowledge to problem solve both in the public and private sectors. For Christians, we hope there are enough people in place with the right knowledge to problem solve both in the public and private sectors. For people of every profession, we hope there are enough people in place with the right knowledge to problem solve both in the public and private sectors. Success for Americans, for Christians, or for people of various professions, depends on the credibility and reliability of the source in which hope is to be built. Success also depends on whether or not the people will unite their trust and efforts to exercise their hope in their source.

Hope is the substance of positive revolutions! The Good News in regards to the success of hope for Christians is the historical reality of Jesus as the most reliable and trustworthy source of hope! When hope is built on principles of Jesus' teachings, hope has a credible chance at achieving milestones which support such hope. But personally, I would much rather have more than principles to build hope, I would rather have Jesus! Our Lenten Theme this year is "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less Than Jesus." This comes at a time when "hope" is in the spotlight and at a time when we need to be very careful not to replace Jesus with principles as

the source and substance of our hope! Please pray for me as I further work to communicate God's message of hope! Our focus on Hope is about preparing our common lives in Christ and our common purposes as a people who follow Christ for the many miles which hope must take us!

Hope in Christ,
Pastor Ken

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### Happy March & Beginning of April Birthdays!

- 3/2 **Bob Luse**
- 3/3 **Gary Driver**
- 3/5 **Patrick Henry**
- 3/6 **Ted Dent**
- 3/9 **Betty Phillips**
- 3/26 **Warren Bock**
- 3/29 **Peggy Neff**
- 3/30 **Barry Davis**
- 4/1 **Josh Dent**
- 4/5 **Bonnie Good**

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Budget Update Thru February 2009

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

	February Offering	Year-to-Date Offering
Actual	\$5,749.00	\$15,147.05
Needed	\$6,999.68	\$13,999.36
Difference	-\$1,250.68	\$1,147.69



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### Did You Know?

Way back in the olden days (1950's), Mt. Jackson UMC was in the Winchester District and was in a charge of 3 churches which included Quicksburg and Mt. Clifton. The pastor's salary was a whopping \$2500 and the total membership for the charge was 415 (238 being MJUMC).



## Newsletter Changes

Beginning in April, the processing of our church newsletter will be changed. For those receiving the paper by email, you will continue to have it come to you as before. If you can and would like to take advantage of that way to receive your document, please email Jack Sperry at [docjack1@shentel.net](mailto:docjack1@shentel.net) to be put on the e-mailing list.

For those wishing a paper copy, the newsletters will be available for pickup at the back of the Sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month. They will no longer be folded, taped, or have name labels, so you may just pick up off the pile without any problem.

As there may be folks who currently receive the newsletter who do not attend each week for one reason or another, if you request a newsletter be mailed to you, we will be glad to oblige. You must notify Bonnie Good at 540-477-3143 or write to P.O. Box 128, Mt. Jackson, 22842 if you wish to have a mailed copy.



## The Future Calling...



As you may be aware, the Scholarship Committee is requesting support for the 2009 school year awards. Over the past five years, we have faithfully supported this mission in our church to participate in helping to advance the education of all church members who have the need or desire to gain post high-school education. Recognizing that education is a positive advantage to the growth and development of all individuals, and, directly and indirectly positively affects the church, too, our church has generously held out a supporting hand to those on their education journey. As we are all aware, times are tough right now, for just about everyone. Your choice to selflessly give to the Scholarship Fund declares your commitment to our church family, members of the family of Christ. Please consider the impact your gifts can make in the lives of those asking for support.

The 2009 Mt. Jackson UMC Scholarship Applications are available on the large bulletin board in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall. Please respect the application deadline for submission of April 5, 2009. We wish to complete the scholarship process so awards can be made by the end of the current school year to help applicants plan for the Fall and be able to celebrate the success of our mission.

Isn't there a Methodist statement something like... open minds and open hearts can open doors...

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**Bonnie Good**  
**Scholarship Chair**



## World Religions Study

Over the past couple of months, 12 MJUMC disciples gathered on six Sunday evenings to compare and contrast the five largest faith groups in the world. We came to understand that there ARE true elements of doctrinal agreement among the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, and Hindu faiths...a responsibility to care for the dispossessed in our societies being one. The Christian, Jew, and Moslem all worship same God. And, most definitely, there are numerous splinter sects in all the faiths, so trying to give a rock-solid, detailed explanation of any of the mother faiths would be generally impossible. Just as Christians have Catholics, Pentecosts, Methodists, etc., etc. who differ significantly in their interpretation of the Bible, worship traditions, and our faith story, so do Catholics between other Catholics, Methodists between other Methodists, and so on. Probably the greatest understanding we gathered from our study is the diversity that exists so prominently in our own faith. When attempting to understand the "truth" behind writings and doctrine, multiple interpretations tend to confuse us. That also happens in all the other faiths as well. Perhaps the only way to press on in our journey of faith is to do our best to reconcile the many interpretations into our individual faith beliefs, keeping an open mind, and praying for guidance in our understanding.



## Thursday Evening Soup & Service

Our first Lenten season Soup & Service was held on February 26th at 6:30 PM. The soup was made, sandwiches toasted, coffee brewed and tables set. Just over 20 people attended this first evening of food, fellowship, and worship. Part



of the program was live music provided by Tim Ambrose who honored the gathering by presenting a new piece of worship music he wrote. As always, it was inspiring.

We're hoping that each Thursday we will be able to welcome more members of our community serving them a warm meal and Christian message. Encourage your friends and neighbors to drop in! All are welcome for these informal gatherings.

[Talk to Pastor Ken if you wish to help with this project and have not yet signed up.]



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***Church Calendar for 2009***



|                    |                                   |                         |                           |                                   |                                   |                       |                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>3/1 Sun.</b>    | <b>1st Sunday in Lent, Purple</b> | 9:45 AM                 | Sunday School             | 3/16 Mon.                         | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library           |                     |
|                    |                                   | 10:00 AM                | Pathfinders & Youth       | 3/17 Tues.                        | 7:00 PM                           | Choir Practice        |                     |
|                    |                                   | 11:00 AM                | Worship                   | 3/18 Thurs.                       | 6:30 PM                           | Soup & Service, FHall |                     |
|                    |                                   | 2:30 PM                 | Tandem Visitation (Wdstk) | 3/20 Fri.                         | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library           |                     |
| <b>3/2 Mon.</b>    | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library             |                           | Fri-Sun                           |                                   | Youth Retreat         |                     |
| <b>3/3 Tues.</b>   | 7:00 PM                           | Choir Practice          | <b>3/22 Sun.</b>          | <b>4th Sunday in Lent, Purple</b> | 9:45 AM                           | Sunday School         |                     |
| <b>3/4 Wed.</b>    | 7:00 PM                           | NOW meeting, FHall      |                           |                                   | 10:00 AM                          | Pathfinders & Youth   |                     |
| <b>3/5 Thurs.</b>  | 6:30 PM                           | Soup & Service, FHall   |                           |                                   | 11:00 AM                          | Worship               |                     |
|                    | 6:30 PM                           | UMW with Soup/Service   | <b>3/23 Mon.</b>          | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library                       |                       |                     |
| <b>3/6 Fri.</b>    | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library             | <b>3/24 Tues.</b>         | 7:00 PM                           | Choir Practice                    |                       |                     |
| <b>3/8 Sun.</b>    | <b>2nd Sunday in Lent, Purple</b> | 9:45 AM                 | Sunday School             | <b>3/26 Thurs.</b>                | 6:30 PM                           | Soup & Service, FHall |                     |
|                    |                                   | 10:00 AM                | Pathfinders & Youth       | <b>3/27 Fri.</b>                  | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library           |                     |
|                    |                                   | 11:00 AM                | Worship                   | <b>3/28 Sat.</b>                  | 8:30 AM                           | Mystery Mission       |                     |
| <b>3/9 Mon.</b>    | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library             | <b>3/29 Sun.</b>          | <b>5th Sunday in Lent, Purple</b> | 9:45 AM                           | Sunday School         |                     |
| <b>3/10 Tues.</b>  | 7:00 PM                           | Choir Practice          |                           |                                   | 10:00 AM                          | Pathfinders & Youth   |                     |
| <b>3/11 Wed.</b>   | 7:00 PM                           | Church Council, Library |                           |                                   | 11:00 AM                          | Worship               |                     |
| <b>3/10 Thurs.</b> | 6:30 PM                           | Soup & Service, FHall   | <b>3/30 Mon.</b>          | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library                       |                       |                     |
| <b>3/13 Fri.</b>   | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library             | <b>3/31 Tues.</b>         | 7:00 PM                           | Choir Practice                    |                       |                     |
| <b>3/14 Sat.</b>   | ?                                 | Good Times Bowling TBA  | <b>4/2 Thurs.</b>         | 6:30 PM                           | Soup & Service, FHall             |                       |                     |
| <b>3/15 Sun.</b>   | <b>3rd Sunday in Lent, Purple</b> | 9:45 AM                 | Sunday School             | <b>4/3 Fri.</b>                   | 8:00 PM                           | AA, Library           |                     |
|                    |                                   | 10:00 AM                | Pathfinders & Youth       | <b>4/5 Sun.</b>                   | <b>Palm Sunday, Red or Purple</b> | 9:45 AM               | Sunday School       |
|                    |                                   | 11:00 AM                | Worship                   |                                   |                                   | 10:00 AM              | Pathfinders & Youth |
|                    |                                   |                         |                           |                                   |                                   | 11:00 AM              | Worship             |