

# The Circuit Writer

## Mt. Jackson United Methodist



### The Pastor's Epistle... Having a Flow of Praise

#### The Theological Statement:

Christians are asked often in the Scriptures to give care to the flow of praise in their lives. God wanting everyone to know they are important to God and to others is busy at work assisting everyone in receiving praise. When people know their importance, and the importance comes from a place of loving support, they are likely to mimic God's flow of praise.

#### Speaking Personally to The Theological Statement:

Twenty-three years later I can remember the feel in my lungs, the heat in my legs, the thoughts in my mind, and the details of the roads in which I ran as a 14 year-old boy. Virginia Beach Boulevard, Kempsville Road, Granby Street, and the ball-fields of Fairlawn were a few of those locations where I worked out more than just my lungs and legs. These were the places where I proved to myself that I was worthy of the praise I had been so fortunate to have received from parents, coaches, and friends. Transitioning from the easier childhood venues for praise to more competitive adolescent and young adult venues for praise was an unsettling and anxious time. With God's help, the important role of praise in my life transitioned from a place of anxiety where much had to be proven to an insecure Ken, to a much more joyful existence where my life became more focused on being in God's support. The coined phrase, "In God We Trust," has two sections. The two phrases "In God" and "We Trust" has transitioned my flow of praise from involving an ambition driven by anxiety to ambitions driven by a love to share God's praise with others.

At first thought, it may seem awkward to you for a pastor to give attention to his own pursuit of being praised. I write this article, not to draw attention to my own defined needs for praise, but to try to open, for a few of you who are reading this article, the important role of praise in your life. The easiest way to spot someone who is comfortable with the flow of praise in their life is by observing how much praise is coming from their life towards others! The easiest way to spot someone whose flow of praise is in a time of drought is to observe behaviors which draws more attention to self than others.

#### An Application of The Theological Statement:

Give consideration to the flow of praise in your life. Are there enough voices of praise to support the flow? Is your life more like a dam to keep the praise unto yourself? If God were to increase the current of praise in your direction how free would you be to increase the flow of praise coming out of your life? Would you consider asking God for more freedoms to praise others? Would you consider asking God to help you with taking notice of the spoken and silent praises of others or even of God? **Are you important enough to have a flow of praise? God's answer is Yes!**

Sincerely,  
Pastor Ken

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### Happy May & Beginning of June Birthdays!



- 5/3 Warren Hepler
- 5/7 Mary Weaver
- 5/9 Tim Ambrose
- 5/11 Katie Davis
- 5/12 Sharon Clark
- 5/14 Ann Hockman
- 5/18 Gene Harris
- 5/19 Louise Dellinger
- 5/23 Beth DeWitt
- 5/26 Joan Bynaker
- 6/1 Dana Black
- 6/2 Mary Anne Miller
- 6/3 Jack Sperry

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*If you pray today  
Or any day, you are blessed  
Because you believe in God's willingness  
To hear your prayer.*



## Trustees Report

The Trustees have known for some time that the condition of the boiler in the church's heating system was poor. This past winter we had to have service on the system twice, and we were advised not to try another winter with it. The boiler is about 30 years old and cannot be repaired. Some degree of efficiency should be expected with a new boiler with, perhaps, some savings in oil.

A bid price to replace the complete boiler system of \$11,262.50 was received from Emmart Oil who has serviced our heating and air conditioning systems for many years. We did not consider soliciting bids from any other companies as Emmart has given us excellent service over the years and they know our system inside and out. We were very surprised and pleased with the price as we fully expected maybe \$15 to \$18,000.00.

The Trustees have signed a contract to have the boiler installed late spring or early summer. As this is written, the Building Fund has enough to cover this project. However, there will be virtually nothing left to cover any emergency needs should any occur. Accordingly, the Trustees voted to allot \$6,000.00 from the Building Fund and ask the congregation for donations to cover the balance. We felt this to be the best way to proceed rather than exhaust the Building Fund completely. Should an emergency occur with no fund balance, we would possibly have to borrow money or ask the congregation to raise a sizeable amount in a short time. We realize that this is not the best of times to ask for money but it is a genuine need. Please make your donations payable to the Building Fund-Boiler. Thank you for your help to keep God's house, and all of us, warm next winter.

Ken Hackenbracht, Chairman



## United Methodist Men News

April 15, 2009

The United Methodist Men met at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 in the church social hall. The invocation was given by Pastor Ken DeWitt.

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

Devotions detailing the origins of the Islamic faith, based on Genesis 16: 1-20 and 21: 1-21 were given by Roger Miller.

The minutes of the March 15, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer reported the Easter Sunrise



breakfast netted \$340.98. The current balance is \$1,907.41.

Under Old Business, President Steve announced a choir practice for all members on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM for Mother's Day service. Suggestions of a speaker were solicited. Ken Hackenbracht suggested Charles Bruce, Jr., of Basye, and offered to contact him. President Steve will obtain the flowers.

The second fellowship breakfast will be held Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Howard Hackenbracht will furnish sausage gravy, Ken Hackenbracht juice, Mike Showalter fruit, and Pastor Ken a breakfast casserole.

Pastor Ken reported Rick Hassler declined to speak at the May meeting because of professional considerations. President Steve will contact Bob Luse to see if his tourism contact would be available. All other months are now covered for programs.

Mike Showalter announced the raffle ticket program now ongoing to benefit the mission trip. A yard and bake sale will also be held Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the New Market Flea Market to benefit the mission trip.

President Steve reported eight members visited the Woodstock UMM Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and heard Shenandoah County School Superintendent Rowland speak.

Under New Business, the Harrisonburg District UMM Annual Spring Rally will be held April 28<sup>th</sup> at New Market Manor Memorial Church at 6:30 PM. President Steve and Gary Driver have tickets.

Gary Driver stated a group within the church is sponsoring a team to walk in the Relay for Life. In the past, teams from the church had their registration fees paid by the UMM and would the group consider doing this again this year. Discussion followed. Pastor Ken stated there were several activities ongoing right now within the church, all of them trying to raise funds for their particular cause. The Relay for Life team is sponsoring several different fundraisers and he felt they should cover their own expenses and so moved. The motion was seconded by Howard Hackenbracht. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was turned over to Howard Hackenbracht, who introduced Kenna Fansler, President of the Mt. Jackson Museum, who presented a very interesting program on how the museum was started, how it operates, and their goals, along with showing several publications and calendars of the Mt. Jackson area. Questions and discussion followed Mr. Fansler's presentation.

The meeting was closed by signing the doxology followed by dismissal by Pastor Ken.

Ken Hackenbracht, Recorder



### MJUMC Boiler Project

As you may have heard or read, the church needs a new boiler for heating. We have signed a contract to replace the current boiler for \$11,262.50. Our goal is to raise \$4,000.00 in 2 months to be able to do this job and have a cushion in the Building Fund for emergencies. Please help by contributing and marking your gift "Building Fund Boiler." We have a great start but need a little more help to reach our goal!

\$ 4,000.00	Needed for Project
<u>- 1,380.00</u>	Received thru 4/30/09
<b>\$ 2,620.00</b>	<b>Remainder Needed</b>

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### Update for April Giving



|                           |                |                       |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Mt. Jackson's 2009 Budget | \$90,996.00    | 52 Sundays            |
|                           | April Offering | Year-to-Date Offering |
| Actual                    | \$5,485.20     | \$28,391.01           |
| Needed                    | \$6,999.68     | \$29,748.64           |
| Plus (+)/ Minus(-)        | -\$1,514.48    | -\$1,357.63           |

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### YARD SALE/ BAKE SALE



The Yard Sale/Bake Sale held on Saturday, April 25th, to raise funds for our local mission work was VERY successful. The generosity in supplying sale items and support during sale day of our church members made possible raising over \$1,000 to be used to purchase building materials and supplies for our week-long mission work to take place the week of July 13-17. The bake sale items were delicious, as usual, so a big thank you also goes to all the bakers as well as the hot dog cooker, Chef Mike. The variety of yard sale items donated by you made the sale not only successful, but fun. All unsold items were donated to the Shenandoah County Search Thrift Shop. We had a beautiful (if somewhat hot) and sunny day for the sale. A really big thank you to those who helped during the sale and then in packing up and transporting unsold items to the Thrift Store.

*Freddie Forster*

### Update On Change To Win Quilt And Golf Package



During the yard sale/bake sale, we also sold chances to win the beautiful quilt donated by the Shenandoah Valley Quilters Guild and a golf package for 4 donated by Shenvalee Golf course. Those funds will also be used toward purchasing materials and supplies for the local mission work. We will report the total of this fund-raising effort at the drawing on Sunday, June 28, at the church. We again need your support in this effort, not only of buying tickets, but also selling tickets. Please take some tickets to your workplace to sell or ask family and friends if they would like to help our local mission work by purchasing a chance to win one of these nice items. We hope to let the quilters guild and golf resort know that we raised a lot of money for our important work because of their generosity.

### Freddie Forster





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***Church Calendar for 2009***  
***May***

**5/3 Sun. Fourth Sunday of Easter, White**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

5/4 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 5/5 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice for Men  
 5/6 Wed. 7:00 PM N.O.W. , Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 PM Finance Meeting, Library  
 5/8 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**5/10 Sun. Fifth Sunday of Easter, White**  
**Mother's Day**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship Led by Men

5/11 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 5/12 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 5/13 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council, Library  
 5/15 Fri. 6:30 PM Mother/Daughter Banquet  
 8:00 PM AA, Library

**5/17 Sun. Sixth Sunday of Easter, White**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

5/18 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library

5/19 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 5/20 Wed. 6:30 PM UMM

5/22 Fri. 5:00 PM– 8:00 AM Sat. Relay for Life  
 8:00 PM AA, Library

**5/24 Sun. 7th Sunday in Easter, White**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

5/25 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 5/26 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 5/29 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 5/30 Sat. 8:30 AM Mystery Mission

**5/31 Sun. Pentecost, White**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

6/1 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 6/2 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 6/5 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**6/7 Sun. Trinity Sunday, White**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 2:30 PM Visitation