

# The Circuit Writer

## Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



### Charging Up Charge Conference

Charge Conference this year is **HOMEcomings STYLE!** So get your stories ready & your reports ready too and come anticipating a Sunday of telling our Story. Mt. Jackson UMC and Quicksburg UMC have a great "Name" and with God all things are possible as we anticipate the future!

Charge Conference this year will be filled with story telling which will begin during our worship services, continue during our pot-luck lunch, and end in the sanctuary where we will complete the sharing of reports. Through the use of video, special music, eye-witness reporting, food, fellowship, and the traditional reports, this year's Charge Conference is Super-Charged. Our October and November Administrative Council meetings would benefit our efforts wonderfully if everyone representing a ministry area of our church could bring their details to the table!

Respectfully,  
**Pastor Ken**

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**Happy October Birthdays!**

- 10/11 Grace Orndorff
- 10/19 Don Harris
- 10/20 Martha Spitler
- 11/1 Ken Hackenbracht
- 11/1 Oliver Henry



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**United Methodist Men News**



The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, September 16, 2009 in the church social hall with 17 members and three guests present.

Prior to the dinner and meeting at the church, 16 members and three guests enjoyed a tour of the Route 11 Potato Chip factory conducted by the

owner, Sarah Cohen. We viewed the entire process of making chips from the peeled potato being chipped, cooked, flavored, bagged and boxed for shipment. Ms. Cohen gave a very interesting history of how she started the business and how she has progressed into this 22,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility. Free samples of the several different flavors of chips were enjoyed along with a free sample bag to take home. Several of the most daring of our group also selected a bag of "Mama-Zooma" chips flavored with habanera peppers--very hot! Before leaving, group pictures with Ms. Cohen and her partner and plant manager, Mike Connelly were taken by Pat Sperry. A copy picture is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.



Following the tour, we gathered back at the church at 6:00 pm. Pastor Ken gave the invocation and we enjoyed a delicious hamburger steak dinner served by the women of the church.

Following dinner, the business meeting was called to order by the President, Steve Forster.

Ms. Cohen and Mr. Connelly, who joined us for dinner, were recognized by the President and given a hearty round of applause for showing us their facility and being such good hosts.

Richard Orndorff presented devotions entitled "Fellowship" by Billy Graham based on Jeremiah 31:34.

The minutes of the July 22, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,583.91.

**Old Business:**

President Steve reviewed the schedule of events for the remainder of the year.

- October 21<sup>st</sup> - UMM meeting at 6:30 pm. Program



**UMM Continued...**

will be a slide show of the summer mission trip by Pastor Ken.

- November 7<sup>th</sup> – Spaghetti supper, 5 pm until.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> – Quarterly Fellowship Breakfast, 8:00 am.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – UMM meeting at 6:30 pm, Roland Walters arranged a speaker from the Open Door Food Pantry.
- December 11 – Annual Ladies Night Christmas Dinner and Program, 6:30 pm.
- Head ushers are still needed for October and November

**New Business**

- President Steve announced a lawn party has been placed on the church calendar for May 29, 2010. The UMM 2010 program will be finalized at the January, 2010 UMM meeting.
- Bean Soup will be made and sold by the dish (or to take home) at the Apple/Wine Grape festival. The men will meet at 6:30pm, Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, to prepare the soup. Ken Hackenbracht is to secure the health dept. permit. Howard Hackenbracht announced he is attempting to get the District Scouting Council Chaplain to be the speaker at Scout Sunday in February, 2010.
- Jack Sperry commented he liked having the program speaker on first before the business meeting. They would then be free to leave or stay after the program if they desired. The consensus of the membership was to adopt this as a standard practice.



Pastor Ken gave the benediction and the members sang the doxology to adjourn the meeting.

**Ken Hackenbracht**  
Secretary



**United Methodist Women**



We would like to invite all women of the church to our monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of every month, 7:00 PM, at the church. It is a good time of fellowship, catching up on news, and making plans for the upcoming month and future church events.

The following is a synopsis of our September meeting:

- President Betty Luse called the meeting to order

with eight members present. Betty discussed correspondence from RESPONSE, reference a donation. A motion was passed that we would send a donation of \$100 for 2009.

- Secretary Freddie Forster read the minutes from the August meeting and they were accepted as read. Treasurer Shirley Hackenbracht gave her financial report. Shirley also reported on various cards sent to church members from the UM Women during the last month, such as get well, thinking of you, and sympathy.
- Kitchen report: the September 16 men's meeting dinner will be hamburger steak and gravy, rice, beets, large biscuits, tossed salad, and dump cake. The meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. as the UM Men are visiting the Route 11 potato chip factory earlier in the afternoon.
- Under Old Business, the August 8th yard crawl was discussed. Thanks to Ken Hackenbracht and Steve Forster for helping us set up the tent in front of the bank on Main Street in town. Freddie, Jean, Shirley, Tammy, Jennifer and Katie had a good time selling cookbooks, knives, and vanilla. It was a very successful day overall. To date, we have sold 233 cookbooks and it has been a wonderful way of talking to folks in the community and putting forth our church name and the activities we are involved in.
- Under New Business, several pledges were discussed. Motions were passed for the following:
  1. \$800 to District, which includes \$600 to missions, \$200 to UMCOR and \$100 to Camp Overlook.
  2. We talked about the work done by our mission team this past July at the Pregnancy and a motion was passed to contribute \$100 to that organization.

We will discuss further plans for the October 10th-11th Apple Grape Festival at our next meeting on October 1. Beth will request that Pastor Ken put a notice in the church bulletin that we plan a joint UM Men and UM Women bake sale and bean soup sale during the festival.

Beth closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Freddie Forster**, Secretary



**Our New Furnace!**

Thank you to all who helped us get out new furnace just in time for this cool Fall weather!





## *The Cussing Jar A Lesson in Sacrifice*

My best friend in the whole world at the tender age of seven was Margaret Ellen Cooke. Most afternoons, if I had done my homework and chores, I would be allowed to go over to her house to play. I loved to go there because she lived in one of those houses that had a porch that went all around the house and there was lots of space to spread out our toys. In my mind, an even better reason to go to her house to play was that Margaret Ellen didn't have any brothers to tease us or take our dolls when we were playing. I, on the other hand, had four older brothers who were a constant source of irritation to me.

One Friday afternoon when I was playing with Margaret Ellen her mother asked me if I would like to go to the Saturday matinee movies with Margaret Ellen and the rest of their family the next day. Well, of course I would, which I promptly told Mrs. Cooke. The Saturday matinees were a treat that rarely came my way. I was born a few years after the great depression and even though it had been several years since that awful time, money was still a scarce commodity in my house. What little extra my parents were able to find, quickly went to a savings account for college for all of us kids. What a wonderful time I had with Margaret Ellen and her family watching the Road Runner outmaneuver the coyote and Bugs Bunny outsmart Elmer Fudd that Saturday.

I was still telling my brothers about that experience when three weeks later Mrs. Cooke invited me to go again to the Saturday matinee with their family. I was just amazed. How could one family have so much money to be able to afford to go to the movies once a month! As a seven year old is apt to do, I bluntly asked Margaret Ellen one afternoon how this could be. That's when I learned about the cussing jar. It seems that it was the practice in the Cooke family to have an old Mason jar sitting in the middle of the kitchen table and every time that anyone in the family said a cuss word, they had to drop a nickel in the jar. At the end of the month, the Cooke family used the money to go to the movies or some other family activity. At that time, I thought that there must be a lot of cussing going on in that house in order to get enough money for everyone to go to the movies. What a great way too get money, I thought.

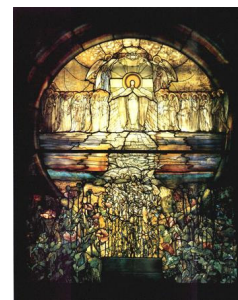
That very evening at supper I asked my mother and father if we could have a cussing jar in our house so that we could get some extra money. That's when I was given my first lesson in sacrifice, although at the time, I truly didn't appreciate its significance. My father asked me why I thought that the Cooke's had to put money in

the jar if they said a bad word. I replied that it was wrong to say bad words and they were being punished because they had to give up some of their money. He then asked me if I thought that the money they had given up should be given back to them in the form of a treat. I wasn't sure about that, so he told me to think about it and when I had the answer to come back to him and we could discuss the cussing jar again. I thought on that for a long time and it wasn't until Mrs. Cooke invited me again the following month that the first seed of understanding was planted. Somehow, I didn't feel right going to the movies and having a good time with money that was put in the jar because someone did a bad thing. That was pretty simplistic – it just didn't feel right. But, I was never able to put it in words for my father and we never again discussed the cussing jar.

Now many years later, I think I have a better understanding of what my father was trying to teach me. The cussing jar provided a momentary reminder to our neighbors that saying bad things was not acceptable, but the focus was truly not on improving behavior. When we sacrifice, it is not so much that we give up something, but that we make holy or transform something because of that sacrifice, whether it be our job, ourselves, or our relationships. We should experience sacrifice as a holy act or an act of transformation. The cussing jar was a repository of money, albeit for a bad behavior, but there was no transformation taking place as the coins kept piling up in the jar month after month. We can experience an act of sacrifice everyday, forgoing that dessert for a healthier life, taking time from our lives to visit someone who is sick, or putting in extra effort at work to do the job just a little bit better. It's not the treat or reward at the end that is the goal, but the transforming of who and what we are...what kind of person our sacrifices can help us become.

I think my father knew that I would not be able to answer his question that day or for many days to come. He recognized that understanding the real meaning of sacrifice and how it should impact an individual would be a life-long learning experience; one that I continue to experience still to this day.

*Edna Carpenter*  
September 2009



## Church Calendar for



### 10/4 Sun. 18th Sunday after Pentecost, Green

9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Children/Youth Sunday  
 School-under Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 6-7:30 PM Youth Video Study  
 (Parsonage)  
 6-7:30 PM Men's Video Study  
 MJUMC

10/5 Mon. 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study  
 8:00 PM AA, Library

10/6 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

10/7 Wed. 10:30 AM Q'burg Disciple Bible Study  
 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting

10/9 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

10/10 Sat. Harvest Festival Bean Soup Sale

### 10/11 Sun. 19th Sunday after Pentecost, Green *Laity Sunday*

9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Children/Youth Sunday  
 School-under Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 2:00 PM Shenandoah Place  
 6-7:30 PM Youth Video Study  
 (Parsonage)  
 6-7:30 PM Men's Video Study  
 MJUMC

10/12 Mon. 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study  
 8:00 PM AA, Library

10/13 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

10/14 Wed. 10:30 AM Q'burg Disciple Bible Study  
 7:00 PM Council Meeting

10/16 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

### 10/18 Sun. 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Green

9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Children/Youth Sunday  
 School-under Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 6-7:30 PM Youth Video Study  
 (Parsonage)  
 6-7:30 PM Men's Video Study  
 MJUMC

10/19 Mon. 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study  
 8:00 PM AA, Library

10/20 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

10/21 Wed. 10:30 AM Q'burg Disciple Bible Study  
 6:30 PM UMM

10/22 Fri. 6:30 PM ? Family Night Chili  
 Supper at church

8:00 PM AA, Library

10/24 Sat. TBA ? Youth trip to corn maze

### 10/25 Sun. 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Green

9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Children/Youth Sunday  
 School-under Sanctuary  
 11:00 AM Worship

2:00 PM Shenandoah Place

6-7:30 PM Youth Video Study  
 (Parsonage)

6-7:30 PM Men's Video Study  
 MJUMC

10/26 Mon. 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study  
 8:00 PM AA, Library

10/27 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

10/28 Wed. 10:30 AM Q'burg Disciple Bible Study

10/30 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

### 11/1 Sun. All Saints Day, Red or White

9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Children/Youth Sunday  
 School-under Sanctuary

11:00 AM Worship

6-7:30 PM Youth Video Study  
 (Parsonage)

6-7:30 PM Men's Video Study  
 MJUMC

