

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist



The Dessert Christian

I am pretty sure it was my 3rd Grade Teacher, Mrs. Rogers, who taught me how to remember the spelling difference between a hot sandy desert and a cold ice-creamy dessert. She said “More Sugar, Less Sand!” I never had to question how to spell the “D” word again!

The motto “More Sugar, Less Sand!” fits well with my sweet tooth. Most sugary desserts today have sugar coatings on sugar and often have sugar coatings on the sugar coatings of the sugar. Cool!

The motto “More Sugar, Less Sand!” also fits well with my experiences with sand in desert places. Uncle Sam gave me several stays in the desert-like conditions just beyond the city of Roswell, New Mexico. It’s hot and with the help of the non-stop winds it stings you even through your clothes. After about 4 weeks of choking on sand and baking the soles of my feet, I knew I wanted less sand.

The motto “More Sugar, Less Sand!” works really well in a literal context. It also works really well in figurative contexts as well. For Example: When I pray for someone who realizes they have failed at something important. I pray for them to not take their failure as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. That is more sugar in a figurative context. I imagine that the person I am praying for appreciates this over and above a harsh prayer of condemnation as found in many of the Psalms.

In the context of the Christian life I am advocating people to be Dessert Christians instead of Desert Christians. For the literal reason, that a desert Christian is likely to find himself in a salt land where no-one lives. And for the figurative reason, that a Desert Christian is likely to find himself ignoring God’s call to restore those who have fallen into sin’s ways. In ignoring God’s call to restore those who have fallen, Desert Christians become like the wind which stirs up the sand and stings all of those in its path. Dessert Christians, unlike Desert Christians, are still able to hold people accountable to failed love, “sin”, but they are more likely to hold onto the person whose life must move forward and beyond the temporary experience.

Sugar Anyone!!

With Love & Respect,
Pastor Ken



Happy September Birthdays!

- 09/02 Tammy Estep*
- 09/04 Crystal Spitler*
- 09/12 Bobby Clark*
- 09/13 Pat Sperry*
- 09/17 Doug Estep*
- 09/21 Jeff Rexrode*
- 09/24 Megan Ryan*
- 09/24 Jackie Hawkins*
- 09/27 Sarah Rowling*
- 09/27 Barbara Orndorff*



MJUMC Tape Ministry



The Communication/Ad-Hoc Committee and the Senior Adult Ministry have been working together to get the “Tape Ministry” up and running again. A cash donation was given to our church to purchase a new dual cassette recorder for our current sound system, 4 new cassette recorders (to loan out to people who need them to hear a recorded sermon) and 25 new cassette tapes.

If you know of anyone who wants to hear a previously recorded sermon, please contact a member of the Senior Adult Ministry (Pat Sperry 477-3838, Doris Barb 477-3239, or Iona Frye 477-3828). Let’s get the weekly sermon out to those who are not able to make it to church every week.

Thanks,
Barry Davis
Communications Committee



United Methodist Men News

July 22, 2009

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, July 22, 2009 in the church social hall with 17 members and two guests, Ms. Janelle Fadely and Mrs. Wilma Miller, present.

The invocation was given by Jack Sperry.

Following a delicious picnic buffet prepared by the women of the church, the meeting was called to order by the President, Steve Forester.

Devotions entitled "Where do you go after death?" were presented by Roger Miller.

The minutes of the June 17, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,611.91.

Old Business: *A review of past and upcoming events.*

The August meeting, Wednesday the 19th, will again be our annual work night in conjunction with the UMW.

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be Sunday, August 30th, at 8:00 am.

President Steve reported that at the next meeting of the NOW Committee he was leaning toward recommending scheduling a lawn party again next spring. Head Ushers are still needed for September and November.

Warren Hepler reported Dick Bowman backed out of being a speaker for our October meeting. Doug Estep suggested a program of slides taken during the 2009 Mission Projects. Pastor Ken will prepare the program.

Several men who participated in the Mission Projects reported on various jobs that were anticipated and some that were unexpected. They all agreed it was hard but rewarding work with great fellowship. Richard Orndorff reported our UMM sponsored a hole in the Mac Fleming Memorial Golf Tournament for \$125.00, all the proceeds of which go to Camp Overlook.

Ken Hackenbracht asked for a show of hands of those interested in a tour of the Route 11 Potato Chip factory at 4:30 pm prior to the September 18th meeting. Enough men indicated interest and Ken will go ahead and arrange it. We will carpool from the church or members can drive directly there. The dinner will be served at 6:00 pm rather than 6:30. There will be more publicity on this as the date draws nearer.

New Business: *None*

Program:

Warren Hepler introduced Janelle Fadely and Wilma Miller of Dellinger and Son Funeral Homes who

presented a very historical and interesting account of perhaps the oldest on-going business in Mt. Jackson, now being operated by the 4th and 5th generation of the family. Ms. Fadely shared pictures and memorabilia collected over many years.

Pastor Ken delivered the benediction and the meeting closed by singing the doxology.

Ken Hackenbracht
Secretary

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## **MJUMC Website Update**

Our  
Website  
Address:



[www.mtjacksonumc.com](http://www.mtjacksonumc.com)

In March 2008, we created a new website for MJUMC. A Communications committee was created to help define the new MJUMC website and other communication items like the Tape Ministry and the Monthly Newsletter. This committee used feedback from the entire congregation to build the new website which included items from the old website.

The website is updated weekly with items from our church bulletin and any upcoming meetings for the church. There is lot of information on our website. You can find information on our church history, our location, our missions, our pastor and much more.

Did you know that you can get your monthly Newsletter from our website? You can view it online, print it out or you can download it. Other benefits of the Newsletter being on our website; you don't have to "remember" to pick one up at church while you're there. Also, if you're unable to attend the first Sunday of the month, they you can always go to the website to view the Newsletter. It saves the church time and money from having to print, sort, fold, staple, tape and then mail the Newsletters. The possibilities are endless! We keep all of the Newsletters for the current year and the previous year on the website. It's a great resource to see how we're growing year to year!

### **Fun Website Facts!!**

- March 2008 was the winning month for the most visitors to our new website. We had 110 visitors view our site during that month. WOW! That's the month we built the website and lots of people wanted to visit the new website.

- 25% of people visiting our new website came from the old website (which points them to our new website)
- Did you ever wonder where visitors go when they get to our website or which pages are viewed the most? So far, we've had 2,553 page views on our website. A "page view" means someone went to a specific page in our website. Here is the list of page views and the number of page views per page.

MJUMC Home Page (688 views)  
 Pastor (247 views)  
 Newsletter (220 views)  
 Behind the Scenes (212 views) This is where we list all of the events happening for the church  
 Contact Links (184 views)  
 History (171 views)  
 Worship Hours & Location (148 views)  
 Missions (116 views)  
 Methodist Men (105 views)  
 Methodist Women (86 views)  
 Children Ministry (85 views)  
 Youth Ministry (80 views)  
 Daily Devotions (79 views)  
 Adult Ministry (70 views)  
 Senior Adult Ministry (62 views)

Remember, the website is a direct reflection on our congregation, the church and the events/missions we support. Please visit our website and provide feedback. You can submit your feedback on the website by clicking on the Contact Links and then clicking on the link for Contacting the Web Master or you can talk to me in church or call me on the phone at 540-335-2077.

**Barry Davis**  
 Web Site Manager

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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 at 7:00 p.m. 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 August 6 meeting:

Betty Luse, our president, called the meeting to order with nine members present. Betty discussed thank-you notes received and correspondence business for the prior month.

Freddie Forster, the secretary, read the minutes from the July meeting and they were accepted as read. Shirley Hackenbracht, our treasurer, gave her financial report. Shirley also reported on various cards sent to church members from the UM Women, such as get well, thinking of you, and sympathy.

Jean Estep reported on our kitchen news, referenced upcoming UMM dinner meetings hosted by the women, and other events. There will be no men's meeting on August 19; it will be work (cleaning the church night) in preparation of Homecoming to be held August 23. Hamburgers, hot dogs and desserts will be served to the workers at 6:30 p.m. Plans for the upcoming Ruritani's November 8 dinner, were discussed; we will charge \$12.00 per person. Also, upcoming September, October and November UMM dinner menus were planned.

Under old business, Freddie reported that we received our new UMW cookbooks on July 21. A meeting of the cookbook committee, which includes Freddie, Jean and Shirley, was held on July 24 to discuss selling plans. Cookbooks will always be available for purchase after church each Sunday in the social hall. Plans were made to sell cookbooks, knives and vanilla at the 4th Annual Shenandoah County yard crawl on August 8, during our homecoming August 23, and at the October 10 Apple/Wine festival in Mt. Jackson.

Under new business, Jennifer Hackenbracht discussed the spaghetti dinner that she and Howard are taking the lead. The date will now be Saturday, November 7. Planning for 2010 was discussed and coordinated with a list of the UMM's 2010 events, in preparation for the September 2, 7:00 p.m. N.O.W. meeting. At that meeting, every group who plans meetings and events will coordinate the 2010 church calendar.

Joan Bynaker, our Vice President, did a program from Lightpost for Living and closed the meeting with a prayer.

NEW CHURCH COOKBOOK

As many of you know, the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Women published a new cookbook this year. It is a beautiful, 3-ring binder book, which makes it easy to add any new favorites. There are 400 recipes, which includes many taken from the previous book; the old favorites of many past members, as well as some requested microwave recipes. Besides being pretty, the book also has 16 pages of full-color Cooking Hints and additional helpful hints printed on the back of each category divider. The BEST extra item is an E-Zel book stand, which can be stored right in the book, so it is always handy and is ideal for keeping your book and recipes clean. AND YOU GET ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$10.00. Cookbooks will be available after church every Sunday, and will be sold at the October 10 Fall Apple/Wine Festival in Mt. Jackson. They will make a great gift. Lots of folks have purchased them for birthdays or Christmas, so keep that in mind.

You may contact Freddie Forster at 540-477-3943 for information or your purchases.

Freddie Forster
 UMW Secretary



Come Walk with US

I find myself walking with my brother along this path. I don't know when I made the decision to take this walk, or even if it was a conscious decision, I just know that now we walk together with a common destination. The longer I stay with him, the more I value his love and direction, for when I would have quit this journey, he led me on. So many times in my youth there were temptations to stop and follow a different way with others, to follow the path of physical fulfillment and false joys. This world seems to have so many diversions, drinking, drugs, gambling, stealing, cheating, that it is sometimes overwhelming for us, especially for the young. The pressures from others to do as they do; to indulge in such activities is a constant attraction that pulls many travelers from this path. Even now in my adult years, the diversions are still there; the unkind thoughts about others, the need to "get even" when you feel wronged, the envy when you see what others have, the anger you feel when those you think undeserving are rewarded. I recognize now that from the age of accountability, there will always be obstacles and temptations; the variety and choices just change with age. What would once have tempted me as a youth no longer holds appeal. For when my thoughts and actions take those paths, I stumble on this course I travel with my brother. The momentary pleasures to be gained by such unkind thoughts, I have found, are not worth the fall that may occur when one strays from the path chosen.

But other more enticing distractions appear around every bend in this path that I walk. There are moments when this journey is so peaceful and my mind is open to look at the glorious things along the way; the friendships of many, the beautiful scenery, the inspiration of a sunset, the cooling shade of a tree, the pure joy of an infant's smile, the smell of buttered popcorn...from the simple to the magnificent! I treasure those moments in this journey and I realize that those things are the values in this life ... not the fast cars, the large bank accounts, the status that can be achieved. But there are other times when my mind is so wrapped around the trouble of this life that I fail to see where I am going and lose sight of my destination. I struggle daily to make progress in my journey.

This path that I walk is filled with learning opportunities, with growing opportunities. When I learn to look around me and take time to appreciate the glories of this path, I grow in my understanding. When I take the time along this path to study the flight of a bird or the complexity of a rock formation, I grow. I grow in the joy and understanding of creation. I grow in the appreciation of all that I have been given and often take for granted. I grow in my ability to stay the course. I grow in my love of my brother, Jesus and the Father.

As I walk this path with my brother, I see others up ahead and share in the celebration of their progress. I see others who journey behind and cheer them on. I see others fall along the side but quickly regain their footing and welcome them back. And, I see others who stumble never to regain direction and my heart aches. I want to call out to them; "come walk with us" for I know in my heart this is the way. If you are tempted to go along with others, even when you know it is wrong, "come walk with us". If you are caught up in all the negative that swirls around you every day "come walk with us". If you feel isolated and alone, "come walk with us". Whatever pulls you, whatever distracts you, take time to open your mind to what lies down that path and know that the temporary pleasures and joys of those choices can never compare with the joys and glories at the end of this path. And, if you should see me stumble please call out to me, come, come walk with us.

Edna Carpenter
August 2009



E-Mail Reminder

If you wish to get your newsletter by email, just send a note to Jack Sperry at:
docjack1@shentel.net

You can read it any time and get it with COLOR clip art! Can't beat that!



Notes ✓

- School begins this month so remember to be prayerful about our children, youth, and young adults going back to their studies and hectic lives. (As well as their parents!)
- New Bible Studies begin this month, also. In particular, the Children's Sunday School class picks up again on September 20th. And there are Men's and Youth Bible video classes that begin on the 27th as well as Disciple classes on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings beginning on the 13th of this month. Call the Pastor for details (333-3854).
- Quicksburg Homecoming is the 13th. They will have church at 11:00 AM. **We will not have Sunday School that day, and will have church at 9:30 AM. Don't be late...**
- Check the calendar on the last page for all this month's happenings.

Church Calendar for



9/6 Sun. 14th Sunday after Pentecost, Green

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

9/7 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library

9/8 Tues. 7:00 PM No Choir Practice

9/9 Wed. 7:00 PM Council Meeting

9/11 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

9/13 Sun. 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Green

Quicksburg Homecoming 11:00 AM

9:30 AM *Worship*
No Sunday School

9/14 Mon. 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study

8:00 PM AA, Library

9/15 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

9/16 Wed. 10:30 AM Q'burg Disciple Bible Study

6:30 PM UMM

9/18 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

9/20 Sun. 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Green

9:45 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Children's Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

9/21 Mon. 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study

8:00 PM AA, Library

9/22 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

7:00 PM PPR

9/23 Wed. 10:30 AM Q'burg Disciple Bible Study

9/25 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**9/27 Sun. 17th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
World Communion Sunday**

9:45 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Children's Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

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

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

9/28 Mon. 7:00 PM Disciple Bible Study

8:00 PM AA, Library

9/29 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice

9/30 Wed. 10:30 AM Q'burg Disciple Bible Study

10/1 Thurs. 7:00 PM UMW

10/2 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

10/3 Sat. 4:00 PM... Quicksburg Road Party

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

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