

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



An Attention Seeking Dog, A Cross & A Loaf of Homemade Bread

Every morning at 5:15 a.m. the alarm clock tells me its time to get out of bed. My first steps are towards the coffee maker and just a couple of minutes later, I am heading for my chair of choice with coffee in one hand, a clicker to light the candle beside my chair, and my prayer book. Often, when the candle is lit, the first thing I see is two very loving eyes looking up at me from my chair. This morning it was Beau Bear, our English Cocker, who was in position to give and get his loving. He is smart that way! In keeping with the spirit of the activity I was about to begin, immediately I thought about how God is always getting into position to love and be loved.

Maybe in some small way God is in my alarm clock, my cup of delicious caffeine, my candle, my chair, and my dogs leading me to look into the eyes of God. Similar to my dog's appreciation for love, I think God is often much more appreciative of being in the moment of love than any words I could say, any unselfish prayers I could pray, or any deep theological thoughts I could think! The importance of just being in the moment with God often gets undercut by our inner drive to make everything we do, even prayer, about productivity. In this busy Passion Week, it was God's use of my chair-stealing dog which reminded me that God doesn't want me or anyone to miss out on being in the moment with Him this Easter.

On Sunday, March 21st, as represented in the picture below, children, youth, and adults knelt or stood at the foot of the cross for a time of being in a moment with God. The attention we were giving God in that special moment and God's attention being given to us enkindled God's love within all of our hearts. What makes a cross such an excellent location for prayer and for being in moments with God is it's pursuit of our attention. Every time we see a cross, it's an invitation to stop, get some love, and give some love. All bundled up within the cross's invitation is a message of God saying, "Look, I have come to you. Spend some time with me!" Sound familiar?

On Palm Sunday, March 28th, our church participated in a bread drive so we could, in a very tangible way, send door to door a message of God's daily bread. This activity was one way in which we could align ourselves with God's way of going to people. It took the faithful love of many others to lead us towards becoming

a community of Christ followers. May our efforts increase more and more in drawing the attention of others towards God's love. God's love reaches people where their lives are being lived and God's love is busy drawing all people towards places of worship where God's love can be nourished and grown. "Look, I have come to you. Spend some time with me!"

Happy Easter, Pastor Ken



Happy April and Early May Birthdays!

- 4/6 Billy Wealthy*
- 4/8 Jordan Cookus*
- 4/17 Brendon DeWitt*
- 4/17 Tracey Silvius*
- 4/22 Mary Ryan*
- 4/25 Barbara Jett*
- 4/27 Eldo Wheat*
- 4/28 Edna Carpenter*
- 5/3 Warren Hepler*



Notable Church Bulletin/Announcement Bloopers :) (not ours...)

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands."



"Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help."



"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."



"Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get."
[maybe this one IS ours...]



United Methodist Men News

March 17, 2010

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, March 17, 2010 in the church social hall with 18 members and no guests present.

The invocation was given by Pastor Ken.

The women of the church served a dinner of corned beef with potatoes, cabbage, carrots, cornbread and éclair dessert.

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

Devotions entitled "Cured or Healed" from the Upper Room followed by prayer were given by Gary Driver.

The minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,852.30. The Pancake/Sausage dinner netted \$433.87. 82 people were served. The report was approved as presented.

Old Business:

- Easter Sunrise Breakfast: Doug Estep and Mike Showalter will chair.
- Mothers Day service: Pastor Ken, Jack Sperry, Doug Estep and Gary Driver will develop the program.
- 2nd annual Lawn Party, May 29th: Gary Driver is working on arranging the entertainment.
- Spaghetti Supper: November 13th: Howard and Jennifer Hackenbracht will chair.
- Programs are arranged through July.
- Head ushers needed for April, May, and July through November.
- Devotions assigned through June.
- Rod Shepherd handed out information on the Rain Barrel Project.

New Business:

- New membership cards were distributed.
- District Spring Rally at Manor Memorial, New Market, April 27th with Rev. Amanda Garber the speaker. Cost of the meal is \$12.00.
- Gary Driver reported Jack Sperry suggests we donate \$100.00 to the church Scholarship Fund in memory of Warren Bock. Roger Miller moved we do this, seconded by Gary Driver. Motion carried.
- Pastor Ken suggested the group consider making a donation to "Emily's Buddies". Emily Rexrode, a 7-year girl in our church diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, is leading a group of friends and church members in a walk to raise funds for MS at JMU April 24th. Howard Hackenbracht moved we donate \$200.00. Seconded by Bob Luse. Motion carried.

Program:

- Ken Hackenbracht explained the history and purposes of the Masonic Fraternity. Freemasonry is the world's oldest fraternity dating back to the craftsmen who built the great cathedrals and churches of the Middle Ages. All Masonic bodies collectively donate more than 2.6 million dollars per day to charities in and out of the Fraternity, including 17 Crippled Children's Hospitals and 4 Burn Centers.

Pastor Ken dismissed the meeting with prayer followed by the group singing the Doxology.

Ken Hackenbracht, Secretary

~~~~~

**Special  
Emily**



**Event with**

Having multiple sclerosis means that you may not be able to walk when you wake up. Or that you may suddenly have impaired vision. Or that your memory will fail you for no apparent reason. The symptoms of MS are different, and devastating, for everyone - the only certainty is that it will affect yet another person every hour of every day.

There will be a MS Walk on April 24 in Harrisonburg. Emily Rexrode is a team captain. She has chosen the name of *Emily's Buddies* for her team. She would like for everyone to come out and walk with her and she would greatly appreciate all donations. You can register online at [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org) or get in touch with Emily.

Thank you

**Sabrina Showalter**

**Date:** 04/24/10

**Time:** 9:00 AM - Registration 10:00 AM - Walk

**Location:** Duke Hall at JMU

**Event Manager Name:** Camille Weaver

**Email:** [camille.weaver@nmss.org](mailto:camille.weaver@nmss.org)

**For more information call:** 1-800-344-4867



**United Methodist Women**

We would like to invite all women of the church to our monthly meeting 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 March 4, 2010 meeting.

President Betty Luse called the meeting to order with twelve members present. A thank you card was received from Ethel Garber for her Christmas basket and from the Shenandoah Pregnancy Center for our donation.

Secretary Freddie Forster read the minutes from the January meeting and they were accepted as read (the February meeting was cancelled). Treasurer Shirley Hackenbracht gave her financial report. Shirley also reported on various cards sent to church members from the UMW, such as get well, thinking of you, and sympathy. Jean Estep reported on our kitchen news. The UMM dinner on March 17 was discussed and the meal planned. The UMM meals were also planned through July 2010.

Under Old Business: Shirley reported on the status of our cookbook sales; we have sold 371 cookbooks and have 83 remaining.

Under New Business: Jean made a motion that we donate \$100 to Troop 117 (their 100th Anniversary); the motion was seconded and passed. Sabrina made a motion that we donate \$100 to Emily Rexrode's Walk for MS to be held on April 24; the motion was seconded and passed.

Betty reported that she was contacted by Donna Wolfe about a group (of about 50 persons) from Roanoke that will be touring the Mt. Jackson area on Tuesday, September 8. Donna wanted to know if we would like to host them for lunch and it was decided that we will. Betty will contact Donna to let her know the price and the lunch menu we plan to serve.

The May 14 Mother/Daughter Banquet was discussed. It was decided that 'Basket of Blessings' will be the theme for this year's banquet. Jennifer will contact Creekside to reserve the date and price. Entertainment was discussed and Jean is going to contact a group to inquire as to their availability.

Joan Towe closed the meeting with a prayer.

*Freddie Forster, Secretary*



**Church Calendar for  
April 2010**



4/4 Sun. **Easter Sunday, White**  
6:30 AM Sunrise Service  
7:ish AM Breakfast

|             |             |                                    |                                       |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|             |             | 11:00 AM                           | Worship                               |
| 4/5         | Mon.        | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| 4/6         | Tues.       | 7:00 PM                            | Choir                                 |
| 4/8         | Thurs.      | 7:00 PM                            | UMW Meeting                           |
| 4/9         | Fri.        | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| <b>4/11</b> | <b>Sun.</b> | <b>2nd Sunday of Easter, White</b> |                                       |
|             |             | 9:45 AM                            | Sunday School                         |
|             |             | 10:00 AM                           | Children/Youth SS                     |
|             |             | 11:00 AM                           | Worship                               |
|             |             | 3:00 PM                            | Disciple Bible Study at Sperry's home |
| 4/12        | Mon.        | 7:00 PM                            | PPRC Meeting                          |
|             |             | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| 4/13        | Tues.       | 7:00 PM                            | Choir Practice                        |
| 4/14        | Wed.        | 7:00 PM                            | Church Council                        |
| 4/16        | Fri.        | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| <b>4/18</b> | <b>Sun.</b> | <b>3rd Sunday of Easter, White</b> |                                       |
|             |             | 9:45 AM                            | Sunday School                         |
|             |             | 10:00 AM                           | Children/Youth SS                     |
|             |             | 11:00 AM                           | Worship                               |
|             |             | 3:00 PM                            | Disciple Bible Study at Sperry's home |
|             |             | 5:30 PM                            | UMYF Planning dinner at Parsonage     |
| 4/19        | Mon.        | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| 4/20        | Tues.       | 7:00 PM                            | Choir Practice                        |
| 4/21        | Wed.        | 6:30 PM                            | UMM Dinner Meeting                    |
| 4/23        | Fri.        | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| 4/24        | Sat.        | TBA                                | Church Yard Sale                      |
|             |             | 9:00 AM                            | Emily's Buddies Walk                  |
| <b>4/25</b> | <b>Sun.</b> | <b>4th Sunday of Easter, White</b> |                                       |
|             |             | 9:45 AM                            | Sunday School                         |
|             |             | 10:00 AM                           | Children/Youth SS                     |
|             |             | 11:00 AM                           | Worship                               |
|             |             | 3:00 PM                            | Disciple Bible Study at Sperry's home |
| 4/26        | Mon.        | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| 4/27        | Tues.       | 7:00 PM                            | Choir Practice                        |
| 4/28        | Wed.        | AM-PM                              | Newsletter articles to BG             |
| 4/29        | Thurs.      | 7:00 PM                            | Maundy Thurs. Reenactment             |
| 4/30        | Fri.        | 5:00 PM                            | Youth Retreat Overlook                |
|             |             | 8:00 PM                            | AA, Library                           |
| <b>5/2</b>  | <b>Sun.</b> | <b>5th Sunday of Easter, White</b> |                                       |
|             |             | 9:45 AM                            | Sunday School                         |
|             |             | 10:00 AM                           | Children/Youth SS                     |
|             |             | 11:00 AM                           | Worship                               |