

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Importance of Being Dead to Sin

“The death Jesus died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God the Father. So we must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:10-11

The kind of love Jesus has for every human being, past, present, and future, is the kind of love that must be experienced through a close relationship. It was not acceptable to Jesus that our sin was keeping him out of our lives. It was also not acceptable to Jesus that our sins were keeping us out of his life and the life of his Father. If Jesus’ love cannot handle being alive to our sins, we most certainly are not up to the task of being alive to our own sins and to the sins of each other. Likewise, if the rule of love in our lives isn’t big enough to die to sin, then we are attempting to limit the reach of God’s love as given through the cross. With God’s love demanding mercy and aspiring to shower humankind with Grace, we are continually being MADE alive in Christ!

As followers of Christ, may our participation in Christ lead us towards the action-filled mercies of forgiveness—a forgiveness which leads to the crimson tides of the cross! Dying to our personal sins and to the sins of others is often so complex that it involves difficult personal sacrifices. For many in the world, the wrongs done to them compete, if not exceed, with that of the pains of crucifixion. For these, whose suffering for the wrongs of others is so great, I picture Christ weeping and waiting for the time of their full redemption in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Growing in God’s Grace together,
Pastor Ken



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

“The sermon this morning: “Jesus Walks on the Water.”
The sermon tonight: “Searching for Jesus...”



“The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.”

Happy March and Early April Birthdays!

- 3/2 Bob Luse
- 3/3 Gary Driver
- 3/5 Patrick Henry
- 3/6 Ted Dent
- 3/9 Betty Phillips
- 3/21 Drew Reynolds
- 3/29 Peggy Neff
- 3/30 Barry Davis
- 4/1 Josh Dent



Winter Renewal

The gentle falling of the snow brings quiet and silence. When the snow has covered the ground, the trees, and our homes, the beauty of it all brings a peace about it. A feeling of protection and almost a warmth, knowing God is right there in the midst of the storm.

God made each snowflake different and unique and just like the snowflakes, we as children of God are different and unique also.

Winter time is a time to settle the soul. As it says in Psalms 46:10 to, "Be still and know that I am God."

When the trees loose their leaves they rest for the winter, they take on a majestic barren stance while regenerating for the Spring ahead. So should we. Winter is a time of reflection, contemplation and a time of drawing closer to God. A time to give great thought to the Lenten season ahead. Giving God his proper place in our lives.

So I pray that instead of cabin fever or the end of the winter blues that you have rejoiced in time spent with God!!

By Joan Towe



We Lovingly Remember Warren Lynn Bock March 26, 1931—February 21, 2010





United Methodist Men News

February 17, 2010

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, February 17, 2010 in the church social hall with 19 members and one guest present.

The invocation was given by Rev. Lawrence Frye. Ken Hackenbracht reported Warren Bock will undergo surgery tomorrow to replace a pacemaker. A get-well card was circulated.

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

Roger Miller offered devotions from an essay in the *Northern Virginia Daily* on the earthquake in Haiti. The writer stated that sometimes the earth is cruel, and recounted the many times in recent history the Haitian people have suffered loss of life, often great loss, to natural causes. It raised the question why the most vulnerable always suffer the greatest. Roger offered prayer following his devotional.

Program: Joe Williams introduced Mrs. Lisa McDonald, Shenandoah County Voter Registrar, who gave a very interesting talk on how voters are registered, how elections are organized and held, and the many other things her office does to insure citizens can exercise their right to vote. A question and answer session followed.

The minutes of the January 20, 2010 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,439.43. The books have been audited and found to be in correct.

Old Business: President Steve reviewed the schedule of fund raisers and special events. Sign-up sheets for remaining devotionals and head usher assignments were circulated. Devotional leaders are need for July, September and October. Head ushers are needed for every remaining month except March and December. Programs scheduled are: March – Freemasons, Ken Hackenbracht and Joe Williams; April – Civil War Reenactment, Jeremy Hilliard; May – VFW Flag Program; June – A program on the economy by a local economist.

Gary Driver reported a former missionary partially funded by this church, now living in the Broadway area, has formed a Christian band. This will be looked into as possible entertainment for the June Lawn Party. Ken Hackenbracht volunteered to head-up the Pancake/Sausage Supper scheduled for March 5 in cooperation with the UMW.

New Business: Brochures announcing upcoming retreats at Camp Overlook of interest to UMM have been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

There being no other business, Rev. Lawrence Frye gave the benediction and the meeting closed by singing the doxology.

Ken Hackenbracht, Secretary

Pancake/Sausage Supper



The United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women are jointly sponsoring a Pancake/Sausage supper open to the public beginning at 5:00 pm, Friday, March 12, in the church social hall. The cost for all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage will be \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 10.

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## Trustees Report



There being no business matters to be acted on by the Trustees other than the annual election of officers, the regular quarterly meeting scheduled for January 10 was cancelled. A special meeting was held following worship services January 17<sup>th</sup> to elect officers for 2010. Ken Hackenbracht, Chairman; Barry Davis, Vice-Chairman; and Brenda Driver, Secretary, were re-elected to serve another year.

The winter weather has presented challenges for everyone this year and the church as well. Services were cancelled three times this winter due to the weather. Several years ago the Administrative Board adopted a policy for determining cancellation of services. The Trustees chairman, the Administrative Board chairman, and the Pastor confer and make the decision jointly. The Pastor alone, via a previously arranged code word, contacts WHSV-TV and WSVG radio. Of course the congregation helps spread the word via phone.

A huge word of thanks is due Warren Hepler for plowing the parking lot, no small job this year with the heavy snows. Also, thanks to Barry Davis for clearing the sidewalks with his snow blower and the others who shoveled the walks.

The handicap ramp entrance has been a real problem when heavy snows lie on the roof, melt and freeze in the gutters, and then the melt drips down on the entrance and freezes. We hope we have found an answer to this problem. The Trustees purchased and Barry Davis installed electric heating cable in the gutters over the hallway entrance. When weather conditions warrant, the unit will be plugged in and, hopefully, ice will not be able to build up in the gutters. We hope we don't have to use it any more this winter.

You may have noticed where the ceiling tile and insulation came down immediately inside the hall entrance door. This was due to the problem above and we don't think it spread any further than that area. We plan to leave it open well into the summer to let it thoroughly dry out before replacing the insulation and ceiling tile.

The Trustees plan a major renovation to the back yard of the church this spring. The yard is very

