

The Circuit Writer
Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



Pastor's Page

Fellow disciples,

Older cars can develop all sorts of interesting quirks as they age. Currently I drive a 1999 Mercury Mystique. It's in pretty good condition for being over ten years old, but even so it has a few problems. One that frustrated me for the longest time was the front driver's side door. About a year or so ago it wouldn't unlock properly - I'd put the key in and turn but the door would stay locked. I could pull and pull on the door to no avail. I eventually developed a habit where I would unlock the front passenger's side door, walk around to the back driver's side door, sit in the seat and reach forward to unlock the front driver's side door - quite a routine!

After a while I found the solution to my lock problem. One day I happened to push into the door before I pulled the handle. On this occasion, the door came open easily, no routine required. After thinking about what I did different, I tried opening the door a few times by unlocking it with the key and pushing on it a bit before pulling it open. It worked each time! To this day, I still push on the door a little bit before I pull it open, and I've hardly had a problem since.

The thing that surprised me about this whole experience was how counterintuitive it was. To pull the door open, first I had to push it in. Our spiritual lives can operate like this too. Sometimes we can feel 'stuck', like a door in our hearts or in our lives won't open. We try everything we can think of, and still the door stays shut. We can end up developing complex routines to open those stuck doors - going in a more difficult way, working harder and harder, or simply throwing up our hands in frustration.

Yet we consistently hear from Scripture that we need to do counterintuitive things in order to open those stuck doors. Jesus tells us that we must lose our lives in order to save them. Paul says that we are free in order to be slaves to God and one another. Love your enemies, do not worry over food and clothes, dying in order to live... again and again God confronts us with thoughts, feelings and actions that seem to point us in the opposite direction of success, safety and fulfillment. Yet it is when we throw ourselves in this 'opposite' direction that we experience the fullness of God's grace. When we serve one another, then we are truly free; when we give

all our being to God, we see God alive in us in ways we could never imagine; and on and on.

It is my prayer that each of us will have the courage and strength to try those counterintuitive directions that God gives us. We may look funny when we push against the doors of life in order to pull them open, but it's a lot less weird than crawling around trying to unlock them from somewhere else!

Living in abundant grace,
 Rev. Michael Dettmer



United Methodist Women
July 7, 2011



Betty Luse called the meeting to order with 10 members present. No minutes (a meeting was not held in June 2011).

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you from the Gene Harris family.

TREASURER: Shirley Hackenbracht read the report for June 30, 2011; balance \$3,841.36.

SUNSHINE Report for May and June: Get Well to Nancy Dinges, Rick Hassler, Lawrence Olinger and Shirley Bock. Happy Birthday to Ann Hockman and Rose Shaffer. Thinking of You to Boots Frye and Sympathy to Don and Margaret Harris.

KITCHEN: UMM's dinner on July 20 will be chicken salad, baked beans, fruit tray, deviled eggs, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, potato rolls, and bar cookies.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mission week will be July 11-15. Lunch for volunteers working at various sites will be served by the women of the church. Help will be needed with cooking and serving.

Joan Towe had a reading called "The Choice". Joan closed the meeting with a prayer.

J. Hackenbracht for Freddie Forster,
 Secretary



**Mt Jackson United Methodist Men
Minutes of the July 20, 2011 Meeting**

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson Charge met Wednesday, July 20, 2011 in the church Social Hall with 14 members and no guests present.

The invocation was given by President Steve Forster.

Following a summer buffet dinner served by the women of the church, the meeting was called to order by President Forster.

Richard Orndorff presented devotions from the Upper Room entitled "The Privilege of Giving" based on 2nd Corinthians 9:6-13.

The President thanked Ken Hackenbracht for arranging the evening's program which was a guided tour of the Town of Mt. Jackson's waste water treatment plant which took place prior to the meeting. Mr. Gale Netz, director of public services for the town, guided the tour explaining the functions of each component of the facility, which takes twelve million gallons or more of waste water and returns it to the river clean and pure, safe to drink. The state of the art facility replaced an old facility which, in addition to being too small for today's needs, could not remove the nitrogen and phosphorus which are critical to the clean up of Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. Netz also explained the Town of Mt. Jackson supplies its citizen's water from four active wells pumping 350,000 gallons a day or more, depending on seasons.

The minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting were read and approved with one correction: the next Fellowship Breakfast will be held August 28, 2011 instead of August 7, 2011.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,082.46.

Old Business:

1. Mike Showalter reported on the Mission Week work and stated there may be approximately \$600 to \$800 left from this year's monies. This will be put toward more mission work to be done, this year if possible.

2. President Steve reminded the members there will be no meeting in August as we traditionally join with the women and clean the church for homecoming on our regular third Wednesday night meeting. We will meet at 6 pm and food will be served.

3. The next Fellowship Breakfast is 8:00 am, Sunday, August 28. All men in the church are urged to attend and enjoy a delicious bountiful breakfast and good Christian fellowship.

4. Programs are needed for October and November.

5. Joe Williams reported the program for September, "The Building of the American Flag" is all set. The presenter's are from West Virginia and while there is no

charge for their presentation, they would like meals provided for them. There was no objection to this voiced from the membership.

6. Howard Hackenbracht will serve as head usher in August, September, and November. Troy Hackenbracht will serve in October and Ken Hackenbracht in December.

7. Steve Forster will present devotions in September, Gary Driver in October, and Ken Hackenbracht in November.

New Business:

1. Possible mission projects for yet this year were discussed. Rose Shaffer has a floor that needs repairs, the Dent family may need fire wood and possibly other help depending on Ted Dent's health.

2. Joe Williams volunteered to arrange a program for October: a presentation from the Town of Mt. Jackson's new police chief, J. D. Fadely.

3. President Steve presented Pastor Mike two of Jack Sperry's crosses fashioned into key chains for him and Gabriella. Pastor Mike was very appreciative and remarked he had learned how high in regard Jack was held in the church and was honored to receive the crosses.

There being no further business, Pastor Mike gave the benediction, and the membership joined in singing the doxology to adjourn the meeting.

Ken Hackenbrcht, Secretary



Happy August & Early September Birthdays!



- 08/06 Raymond Jett
- 08/07 Boots Frye
- 08/11 Steve Weaver, Jr.
- 08/12 Sam Clark
- 08/13 Sherry Jones
- 09/02 Tammy Estep
- 09/04 Crystal Spitler



Homecoming



It's Homecoming Time once again.

Sunday, August 28, 2011.

Bring a covered dish for the luncheon right after church service, bring a friend.

Our very own Rev. Michael Dittmer will be preaching on this day of celebration.



Mission Week July 11-15, 2011

Mt. Jackson United Method Church had another very successful mission week. The first big THANK YOU has to go to our Mission Team Leader, Mike Showalter. Thank you, Mike, for another year of site planning and gathering material for the mission...your dedication and work are invaluable.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers that came out in the heat and worked so hard, yet still managed to have a sense of humor and a good time.

THANK YOU to the United Methodist Women. You fed our bodies, which enabled us to do the work. As usual, what a feast! You are the best.

God bless all of you.

Community Support Ministry
Committee



Trustees Report



The Trustees met July 24th to discuss and take action on several ongoing items of business.

The minutes of the May 22, 2011 meeting and the financial report, as of July 24, 2011, were approved as presented.

Old Business:

1. Douglas Estep II, Chairman of the backyard – drainage committee, reported on three bids he had to install drainage tile to drain the back, east side of the new addition, connecting to the downspouts on the south roof, grading and sloping the south backyard to drain surface water away from the building, adding top soil and putting down sod on all area's excavated. The Trustees voted to except the bid of Lonas Excavating of Woodstock in the amount of \$3,550.00.
2. Ken Hackenbracht reported on bids he had received to replace a badly soiled section of carpet immediately upon entering the Sanctuary from the Narthex using either laminate or ceramic tile. The Trustees accepted the bid of C. & S Carpets to use ceramic tile

at \$1,522.00.

3. The Trustees decided to wait until fall to remove, sand, and paint the three steel entrance doors and handicap ramp railings.
4. Doug Estep reported on the repairs and work done on the parsonage. Boyd Lutz painted all the interior of the house except the master bedroom. A new hot water heater and a new water softener were installed. A new light in the kitchen was installed and repairs to outside lights were made. Both bathroom fans were cleaned and a new electric motor installed in one. Repairs to the drain system on the air conditioner were made. Many other odds and ends were taken care of. The Trustees gave special thanks to Doug and Jean Estep for their hard work over a week's time getting the work done. Thanks due also to our church custodian, Dianne Seemiller, who spent two days doing special cleaning and to Charlie Towe for electrical work.
5. There are several chairs which have been declared excess which are being offered to parishioners for a modest donation to the church. If you are interested see Ken Hackenbracht or Barry Davis.

New Business:

The water softener installed several years ago has been very difficult to maintain a proper operating level. Recently salt has been discovered in the dishwasher. The Trustees voted to replace the softener at a cost under \$500.00 including installation.

A new lawnmower was purchased for the church at a cost of \$220.00. The old mower had a broken handle; the cost to replace it was \$68.00 plus shipping, deemed too much to spend on a ten year old mower.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Trustees is October 9th at 6:30 pm. All meetings are open for church members to attend and comments or questions for the Trustees are always welcomed.

Ken Hackenbracht, Chairman

***Church Calendar
for August 2011***



8/7	Sun.	8th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
		9:45 AM Sunday School
		10:00 AM Children/Youth SS
		11:00 AM Worship
8/8	Mon.	8:00 PM AA, Library
8/9	Tues.	7:00 PM Choir Practice
8/10	Wed.	6:30 PM Church Council
8/12	Fri.	8:00 PM AA, Library
8/14	Sun.	9th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
		9:45 AM Sunday School
		10:00AM Children/Youth SS
		11:00 AM Worship
8/15	Mon.	8:00 PM AA, Library
8/16	Tues.	7:00 PM Choir Practice
8/24	Wed.	6:00 PM Clean up for Homecoming
8/19	Fri.	8:00 PM AA, Library
8/21	Sun.	10th Sunday after Pentecost, Green
		9:45 AM Sunday School
		10:00 AM Youth/Children SS
		11:00 AM Worship
8/22	Mon.	8:00 PM AA, Library
8/23	Tues.	7:00 PM Choir Practice
8/26	Fri.	8:00 PM AA, Library
8/28	Sun.	11th Sunday after Pentecost, Green Homecoming
		11:00 AM Worship
		12:00 PM Covered Dish Meal
8/29	Mon.	8:00 PM AA, Library
8/30	Tues.	7:00 PM Choir Practice
9/02	Fri.	8:00 PM AA, Library