

# The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



## 07 to 11 - God Has Made Us Family!

Hoping to connect my last newsletter article with my first, I found the following address on how Christ helps us find stride and pace in transition times. The people of Mt. Jackson and Quicksburg have given voice and arms to God's love for the DeWitts. We are indebted by love and your choice to make us family. Once family, always family!

Love, Prayers, & Respect,  
The DeWitts

### *Finding Stride & Keeping Pace* By: Pastor Ken August 2007

***“Not that I have already reached the goal;  
but I press on to make it my own,  
because Christ Jesus has made me His own.  
I press on toward the goal for  
the prize of the heavenly call of God  
in Christ Jesus.”***

Philippians 3:12-14 Selections

Pressing on or running any distance includes an awkward time of feeling everything from breakfast and breathing to sore toes and tendons. Whether it was those puberty years when I was running Virginia Beach Boulevard and Thole Street, my cadet years running in battle-dress the back roads between Longwood College and Hampden Sidney, or my “identity crisis years” running much longer distances in Richmond, I spent quite a lot of time wishing I could just find my stride and hold steady a respectable pace. I deployed all sorts of methods for surviving the awkward stage of running from “getting psyched” to “denial”, but it was mostly the voice in my head which re-sounded the words “never quit” which kept me on course. I am thankful for having a variety of examples in my life which made it hard for me to ignore that voice.

Even well-trained & fit runners have an awkward time of feeling everything before finding their stride and pace. The reason for this is “Change.” The heart has to beat faster to keep the oxygen supply running to the muscles and the lungs have to work harder to supply the blood which is being pumped more rapidly

by the heart. Until rhythm is achieved, the introduction of change is awkward. Thankfully, what is experienced by runners once their bodies find rhythm, keeps them coming back for more. Likewise, when it comes to the overall effort of those involved with goal-oriented change, transformation may appear at first to be asking for more time and attention, but will soon reveal that efficiency will bring more value with less or similar effort. What is achieved through transformation far outweighs the initial investment of time and attention.

Fortunate for Mt. Jackson UMC, when we leave the rest position and begin yet another race, the heart beneath the surface is not our own, but that of Jesus Christ. Psalm 73:26 “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” We can depend on Christ as the muscle for our lives to be transformed. It is this muscle of Christ which can handle the awkward beginnings of change and can transition, even the Church, towards distances which will require an open stride and an accelerated pace. As the church of Jesus Christ, Mt. Jackson UMC, continues pressing on in the faith, we will spend much less time asking ourselves if we can run the race and will spend more time focusing on timing and distance! The heart-muscle of God will equip every one of us, even your new pastor, for “pressing on toward the goal!”

***With Much Appreciation & Prayer,  
Pastor Ken***



### ***Happy May & Early June Birthdays!***

- 5/3 Warren Hepler
- 5/7 Mary Weaver
- 5/9 Tim Ambrose
- 5/11 Katie Davis
- 5/12 Sharon Clark
- 5/14 Ann Hockman
- 5/18 Gene Harris
- 5/19 Louise Dellinger
- 5/23 Beth DeWitt
- 5/26 Joan Bynaker
- And
- 6/2 Mary Anne Miller



### ***Next to Last Call!***

We are looking for a new newsletter coordinator to take over the "production" of our Circuit Writer in July 2011. Training and support included! "It's really easy and lots of fun," said the current coordinator. If you have any interest in this position, please contact Bonnie Good (477-3143). Your prayerful consideration of this important church ministry will be greatly appreciated by our congregation.



### ***Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet***

Friday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.

Theme: Life's Journey

Cost: \$10



Tickets will go on sale starting April 17  
See Brenda Driver or Jennifer Hackenbracht



### ***MARK YOUR CALENDERS #1***

**The date for the 2011 Local Mission Work  
has been set for July 11-16.**

We need your help during that week  
for any amount of time you can donate.  
More details to follow.



### ***MARK YOUR CALENDAR #2***

**MJUMC Lawn Party**

**Saturday, May 28, 2011**

more information to follow in  
church bulletin and via e-mail



### ***Email Alerts***



If you would like to receive updates about  
MJUMC events via email,  
please send your email address to Barry Davis at  
[barry8360@yahoo.com](mailto:barry8360@yahoo.com)

### ***United Methodist Women***



We would like to invite all women of the church to our monthly meeting held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The following is a synopsis of our April meeting.

President Betty Luse called the meeting to order with 12 members present.

Freddie Forster read the minutes from the March 4 meeting and they were accepted as read.

Treasurer Shirley Hackenbracht was absent from the meeting. Sunshine report for February and March: Get well to Denny Shirley, Ethel Garber, and Mary Weaver; Thinking of You to Gene Harris, Melissa Prather, and Nancy Dinges; Sympathy to Donna Wolfe and Pat Sperry. Freddie will send get well cards to Shirley Hackenbracht and Roland Walters.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

KITCHEN: March 16 UMM dinner we will serve BBQ hamburger steaks, orange carrots, scalloped potatoes, pineapple jello with crushed pineapple, biscuits and chocolate lush.

OLD BUSINESS: Jennifer Hackenbracht reported on catering for the Mother Daughter Banquet to be held Friday, May 13. Creekside is available. Planned the menu of pan fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, CA mixed vegetables, fried apples, cole slaw and cheese-cake. The general charge for attendees will be \$10 per person. Jennifer will e-mail Creekside back with an estimate of 75 persons. Entertainment will be Cat's Meow. Jean Estep has the poster done and tickets will go on Sale April 17.

NEW BUSINESS: We will soon have a new baby in the church. It was suggested that we send a card and check to Carey Rexrode and family. Motion made by Tammy Estep; seconded by Margaret Oden, motion passed.

Pat Sperry thanked the UMW for the wonderful luncheon following Jack Sperry's funeral.

Jean Estep closed the meeting with a prayer.

***Freddie Forster, Secretary***



***Mt. Jackson  
United Methodist Men  
Minutes of April 20, 2011 Meeting***

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, April 20,

*[UMM Minutes Continued]*

2011 at 6:30 pm in the church social hall with seventeen members and one guest present.

The invocation was given by Pastor Ken.

The women of the church served a delicious hamburger steak dinner. A place setting with his eating utensils, a rose, and picture at his usual seat was placed in memory of Jack Sperry, this being the first meeting held since his passing.

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

Steve presented devotions that Jack had been scheduled to do, citing the many contributions Jack made over a lifetime of service to the church. He closed by reading the 23d Psalm followed by prayer.

The program for the evening, Veterans Experience's in Viet Nam and Other War's, began with a slide show of pictures taken in Viet Nam by Steve Forster and Charlie Towe, followed by short accounts by others of their experiences. Charlie Towe introduced Ray Powell, who heads up a program for youth for the American Legion. Mr. Powell read an essay written by an eighth grader, Winston Dannerman, entitled "I Like Living In America". Mr. Powell also spoke of his twenty-three year career in the Army as an engineer and helicopter pilot.

Due to the length of the program, the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report were dispensed with.

Final details for Sunday's Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast were completed. We will meet at 5 PM, Saturday, April 23 to fry sausage and set up the dining room. The kitchen crew will meet at 5 AM, Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Orndorff volunteered to take the last head usher and devotions vacancies in July. Devotions and head usher lists are now filled.

Pastor Ken announced Judge Hupp will speak at worship service June 5<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business the meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Ken and the group singing the doxology.

***Ken Hackenbracht, Secretary***



## **Church Calendar for May 2011**

<b>5/1</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
<b>5/2</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	8:00 PM AA, Library
<b>5/3</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	7:00 PM Choir Practice
<b>5/5</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	7:00 PM UMW Meeting
<b>5/6</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	8:00 PM AA, Library
<b>5/8</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Easter, White</b>
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:00AM	Children/Youth SS
	11:00 AM	Worship
<b>5/9</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	8:00 PM AA, Library
<b>5/10</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	7:00 PM Choir Practice
<b>5/11</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	6:30 PM Church Council
<b>5/13</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	6:30 PM Mother/Daughter Banquet
	8:00 PM	AA, Library
<b>5/14</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	9:00 AM Church History Workshop
<b>5/15</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Easter, White</b>
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Youth/Children SS
	11:00 AM	Worship
<b>5/16</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	8:00 PM AA, Library
<b>5/17</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	7:00 PM Choir Practice
<b>5/18</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	6:30 PM UMM Dinner Meeting
<b>5/20</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	8:00 PM AA, Library
<b>5/22</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
<b>5/23</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	8:00 PM AA, Library
<b>5/24</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	7:00 PM Choir Practice
<b>5/27</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	8:00 PM AA, Library
<b>5/28</b>	<b>Sat,</b>	TBA Lawn Party

*Spring Bible Study at Quicksburg  
"Discovering God's Leadership"  
Wednesday mornings May 4th—June 1st  
10:30—12:00 noon*