

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



Pastor's Page

Fellow disciples,

I had no idea of what I would preach about. As the newest pastor in the Lyndhurst area, I had the blessing (or was it obligation?) to preach the sermon at the Community Thanksgiving Service in November. I knew I was supposed to preach on thankfulness and giving thanks, but for some reason I kept drawing a blank when I tried to write my sermon. In my mind, thankfulness was mostly centered around politeness. When my elders asked (or was it directed?) me "What do you say?" whenever a kind person gave me something, "Thank you" was the expected response. 'Giving thanks' for a meal in my extended family could range from what could feel like an unending litany of praise to a down-and-dirty sentence or two that treated the prayer as a begrudged requirement. I can't count how many times my mother had to make sure I sent a thank you note in response to a gift or invitation. Even when I was genuinely thankful for something, the routine rituals of acknowledging my thankfulness in public seemed to rob the sentiment of its sincerity.

What could I say, then, about thankfulness in worship or discipleship? I didn't want the Christian life to seem like the church was sending an unending pile of thank you notes to a God who would punish those who weren't polite enough to fulfill their obligation. Yet I did feel in the depths of my being that being thankful to God wasn't supposed to be a joyless routine or a required ritual. Giving thanks to God was just... right.

That was it! What better expression of the true meaning of worshipful thankfulness was there than the words that we say during Holy Communion - "It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." After all, the prayer itself is called The Great Thanksgiving! True thankfulness isn't simply routine, although we do it very often. True thankfulness isn't just a ritual, even though we may use words and actions that have stood the test of time. True thankfulness is right - right in the sense that it is a genuine reaction for all that God has done for us. This doesn't mean we have to

be spontaneous or that we always have to 'feel it' when we're thankful. It does mean, though, that the routines and rituals of life and the church aren't ends in and of themselves. Instead, these words and actions help us to accurately remember what God has done for us and respond to God's grace with active love. This is especially the case during Communion, when we gather at the table together, give thanks for the food, ask God to bless both the food and us, and eat together as God's children and guests.

After this revelation, the sermon flowed forth. My experience of Communion was forever changed, too. The request that I give to the church during the Great Thanksgiving, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," isn't a nag or a requirement - it's an invitation to remember and respond to God's grace. May we all say with faith and love, "It is right to give our thanks and praise!"

- Pastor Mike



UNITED METHODIST WOMAN



October 6, 2011

President Betty Luse called the meeting to order with 6 members present.

The September 1 Minutes were accepted as read by Freddie Forster.

CORRESPONDENCE: Betty read news from the District Secretary reference various upcoming meetings: District UMW Annual meeting at Bridgewater UMC on October 13, 7:00 p.m.; Conference UMW Annual Meeting October 29-30 at Blackstone; Leadership training for UMW is at Asbury UMC on November 12 at 9:00 a.m.

TREASURER: Shirley Hackenbracht was absent from the meeting.

SUNSHINE: No sunshine report for September.

KITCHEN: Jean Estep was absent from the meeting. Jean will get with us individually in reference to the UMM October 19 dinner and the October 31 Mason's dinner.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussed the box of items to be sent to GySgt Heather Brown who is stationed overseas. We will delay shipping until after the November 3 meet-

ing. Joan will write to GySgt. Brown this month to introduce our group and explain our plans to send a box; she will also call members and remind them to bring items for mailing.

NEW BUSINESS: We discussed the October 8-9 Mt. Jackson Festival and our plans to sell baked goods, knives, and cookbooks on Saturday. We will discuss at our next meeting the UMW's Christmas party planned for Sunday, December 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Joan closed the meeting with a prayer.
Freddie Forster, Secretary



MT. JACKSON UNITED METHODIST MEN

Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2011

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, October 19, 2011 in the church social hall with 15 members and 10 guests present.

The invocation was given by Pastor Mike.

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

Gary Driver presented devotions from the Upper Room entitled "SECOND CHANCES" based on scripture from Luke 13: 6-9. When God forgives, He gives us renewed energy and restored hope- a second chance. Gary closed with prayer.

Joe Williams presented a group of 4 men and 1 woman representing an area chapter of National Sojourners, Inc., a Masonic affiliated organization, who presented a very interesting and educational program "Building the Flag" which told and illustrated the history of our flag from colonial times until the present. Using cloth stripes and stars we were shown how the flag has evolved from 13 stars representing the 13 original colonies to the pre-

sent flag with 50 stars representing our 50 states and the years they joined the union.

The minutes of the September 21, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$757.74. The report was approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Spaghetti supper: Advertising flyers were handed out for distribution. Howard Hackenbracht, C-Chair, announced dining hall set up would start at 2 pm, Saturday, November 5 with serving to begin at 4 pm.

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be held November 20, 2011 at 8 am. All men in the church are invited to come and enjoy a bountiful breakfast and good Christian fellowship.

The program for the November 16, 2011 meeting will be a presentation by Mt. Jackson's new police chief, J. D. Fadely.

An open election of officers for 2012 will be held at the November 16th meeting.

Ken Hackenbracht will present devotions at the November meeting.

Head usher for October is Troy Hackenbracht, November Howard Hackenbracht, and December, Ken Hackenbracht.

Mike Showalter reported he spoke to Terry Dent re: possible mission work. She needs firewood. John Koontz has firewood to donate and a tentative date of Saturday, October 29th was established to organize trucks and men to haul it. Mike will keep us informed. She also needs a rack to hold firewood and a hand rail from the driveway to the back porch.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mike Showalter asked the group to give serious thought to fundraisers and how we can increase our treasury. Doug Estep moved the price of meals be increased by \$1.00 to \$8.00 with the \$1.00 increase going to the UMM treasury. Seconded by Gary Driver. Motion carried.

2. Joe Williams, on behalf of the Festival Committee, thanked the church for their cooperation and participation in the recent Festival which was very successful. Doug Estep reminded the annual Christmas party will be Friday, December 9th. The caterer is lined up as is the musical entertainment.

There being no other business, Pastor Mike gave the benediction and the meeting closed with the group singing the doxology.

Ken Hackenbracht, Secretary

*November
Trustees Report*

Trustees Report for October, 2011 Newsletter

While the Trustees have not formally met since July 24th, I can report on several ongoing projects since that time.

1. The project to replace the badly soiled carpet upon entering the sanctuary from the narthex has been finished. C and S Carpet laid ceramic tile on the area and Doug Estep and his brother Larry crafted, finished, and installed new thresholds at both doors. Many thanks to Doug and Larry for stepping in and doing this as Mr. Keith Mumaw, who originally was hired to make them, had to give it up due to serious health problems.

2. Lonas Excavating of Woodstock came on September 21 and began the east side yard/ backyard drainage project. A "French ditch" (a ditch 30 inches or so deep with slotted plastic drain tile in the bottom filled with rock and covered with enough soil to grow grass on) was put in beginning just north of the point where the new addition joins the old church and running down to the south corner of the new addition and on across the backyard, through the cement wall and draining out onto the overflow parking lot. All downspouts which could be connected to this drain line, including the easternmost two on the backside of the new addition, were connected. The Trustees feel confident this will correct the problem of water seeping into the new addition in the area of the nursery and floor at the foot of the steps which has been a problem in periods of heavy rain. We hope that it will also alleviate some or all of the mold problems in the nursery. The backyard was graded to slope the soil so the surface water would run toward the cement wall instead of toward the south wall of the new addition. The project was then finished with all the old sod around the church being taken up lowering the level of the new grass below the window wells and sidewalks. New sod grass was then laid completely around the church. Many thanks to Trustee Douglas Estep who chaired this project.

3. Trustee Doug Estep and Boot Downey installed the new water softener in the church. Barry Davis hauled the old softener to the landfill. Thanks to these Trustees for getting this project finished.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Trustees will be held on Sunday, October 9th at 6:30 pm in the social hall. All meetings are open for church members to attend and comments and/or questions for the Trustees are always welcomed.

Ken Hackenbracht,
Chairman



Happy November Birthdays!



11/01 Oliver Henry
11/01 Ken Hackebracht
11/05 Freddie Forster
11/06 LuAnn Rowling
11/16 Jon Reynolds
11/20 Judy Dove
11/21 Douglas Estep, II
11/30 Luci Dent

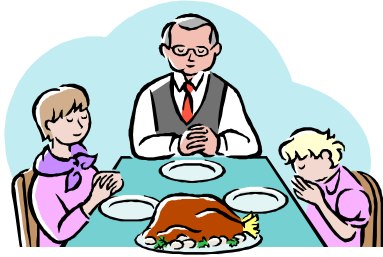
Early December Birthdays!

12/01 Terri Dent
12/01 Karey Rexrode



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

The United Methodist Women's Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 4th, 2011 at 5:00 PM in the Social hall. All the women of the church are invited. Please bring a covered dish. A good time is always had at this annual event. Make plans to attend!!



Happy Thanksgiving!!

May you find many things to be thankful for on this special day.

Thank You United Methodist Women's group for providing the Upper Room for all to read!



SPECIAL EVENTS

Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at Union Church in Mt. Jackson, Sunday, November 20th at 4:00 PM.

Charge Conference for MJUMC and Quicksburg UMC will be held at MJUMC November 21 at 7:00 PM.

Deck the Halls will be November 30th at 6:30 PM, meeting at MJUMC.

You won't want to miss the Lebanon St. Stephens Choir on Saturday, December 3rd at MJUMC at 7:00 PM.

District Conference will be held at Ashbury UMC in Harrisonburg at 2:30 PM on Sunday November 13th.

There will be Leadership training that all are encouraged to attend.

**Church Calendar
For November 2011**

11/6	Sun.	21th Sunday after Pentecost, White or Green
		9:45 AM Sunday School
		10:00 AM Children/Youth SS
		11:00 AM Worship
11/7	Mon.	7:00 PM PPR Committee

		8:00 PM	AA, Library
11/8	Tues.	6:30 PM	Finance Committee
		7:00 PM	Choir Practice
11/9	Wed.	7:00 PM	Counsel Meeting
11/10	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library
11/13	Sun.	22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Green	
		9:45 AM	Sunday School
		10:00AM	Children/Youth SS
		11:00 AM	Worship
		2:30 PM	Nominating Committee
11/14	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library
11/15	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
11/16	Wed.	6:00 PM	Church Counsel
11/18	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library
11/20	Sun.	Christ the King/Reign of Christ, White or Gold	
		8:00 AM	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
		9:45 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Youth/Children SS
		11:00 AM	Worship
11/21	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library
11/22	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
11/23	Wed.	6:30 PM	UMM
11/25	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library
11/27	Sun.	1st Sunday of Advent (Yr. B) Purple or Blue	
		9:45 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Youth/Children SS
		11:00 AM	Worship
11/28	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library
11/29	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
12/02	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library