

# The Circuit Writer

## Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



### Pastor's Page

#### Fellow disciples,

Love is in the air! Or, at least love is everywhere we look during February. Whole sections of stores are covered in seas of pink and red items that you can buy for someone special. Restaurants and theaters get ready to host lots of people looking for the classic 'dinner and a movie' date. Even those people who are fed up with the ideas of Valentine's Day or romantic love have to spend time telling people why they won't be doing this or that on February 14.

Love is very dear to Christians, too, but not in the same way that it's dear to Hallmark or Russell Stover. A Christian is defined by love - love for God, love for others, and love for self. We celebrate God's love each week in worship! Rather than buying cards or candy, we make offerings to God of our time, talents, and service. We receive grace from God - unmerited love - every day of our lives! When we do celebrate special days, we outdo the secular world by a mile. For us, the big day is really the Great Three Days (see this month's *Wondering About Worship* for more on this celebration's history). Instead of pink and red, we use purple or gray in our churches. Instead of dinner and a movie, we celebrate Holy Communion and read the biblical stories of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We have a whole six weeks of preparation (Lent) before we celebrate God's most intense expression of love for a whole three days!

No matter what you may think of valentines, candy, or roses, try to consider ways that love is shown in your relationship with God this month. How do you and God say "I love you" to each other? What kind of gifts would God like? What gifts is God giving you? How can you deepen your love for God, others, and yourself? When we consider these questions, we come up with more than cute ways to say "I love you" to God on one special day—we find ways to live in love with God for our whole lives!

Living in abundant grace,

Rev. Michael Dettmer



### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

#### January 5, 2012

Joan called the meeting to order with 9 members present.

No meeting in December. The November 3, 2011 minutes were accepted as corrected.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Several letters and cards of thanks were read from persons who received Christmas baskets or a poinsettia. Thank you cards were read from Pastor Mike's family for the luncheon served to the family after Hannah's baptism. Tiffany Brown responded to Joan with a nice letter of thanks for the box she received from us (Tiffany is currently on active duty in Afghanistan). Joan had asked her for additional suggestions for the box we will send each month and she responded with puzzle books, hot chocolate mix, gummy bears, and sunflower seeds.

**TREASURER:** Shirley H. read the reports for November and December.

**SUNSHINE Report for November and December:** Thinking of you to Terri Dent; 99th birthday to Ethel Garber; Get well to Roland Walters, Iona Frye, Bob Luse, Maryanne Miller, Dave Alexander, Boot Downey; Christmas card to Ethel Garber and Ann Hockman. Shirley also reported that she sent 60 cards in 2011.

**KITCHEN:** Jean thanked everyone for all their help and work that made 2011 a wonderful year. The UMM's dinner on January 18 will be ham loaf, sweet potatoes, peas, skillet fried apples, rolls, and cocoanut cake. Several upcoming dinners were discussed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Members were asked to think about a theme for the Mother/Daughter banquet which will be held this year on Friday, May 18.

Freddie discussed two upcoming events planned during the recent NOW meetings so everyone could reserve the dates on their calendars. Soup and Service will continue again this year during the Lenten season. The dates are every Thursday, starting February 23 thru March 29th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. There will be sign-up sheets posted same as last year for soup and sandwiches.

Local Mission week this year will be July 9-13. Freddie discussed the hope to again provide lunch for the volunteer workers. Last year Jean Estep planned the meals, so volunteers will be needed to prepare the meals. Participation by all members of the church is very important to the success of these outreach efforts.

Joan closed the meeting with a prayer.

Freddie Forster, Secretary



UMM's Fellowship Breakfast  
February 26th, 8:00AM

**MT. JACKSON UNITED METHODIST MEN**  
MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2012

The United Methodist Men of the Mt. Jackson United Methodist Charge met Wednesday, January 18, 2012 in the church social hall with 16 members and 7 guests (including 3 youth and 4 men from the Quicksburg UMC) present.

The invocation was given by Pastor Mike.

Following a delicious ham loaf dinner served by the women of the church, President Steve Forster called the business meeting to order. Steve asked the Quicksburg men to please introduce themselves after which he welcomed them to our meeting.

In memory of Jack Sperry, who traditionally offered devotions the first meeting of the new year, President Steve presented devotions entitled "See People as What They Can Be, Not What They Are" based on 1 Samuel 16: 4 - 7. The devotional story portrayed the "Driftwood Principal" where a man chose an ugly piece of driftwood and turned it into a beautiful Birdseye Maple clock. Prayer followed.

The minutes of the November 16, 2011, meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$666.74.

There was no old business.

President Steve announced that the January meeting has been used to plan and organize for the year. The officers met January 4<sup>th</sup> and developed a schedule for the year, a copy of which was distributed to the membership at the start of the meeting. There was consensus to adopt the schedule as presented.

Sign up sheets for head usher and devotions were circulated. Ken Hackenbracht will serve as head usher in February and Pastor Mike will present February devotions.

Meeting programs were discussed next. February's program will be a presentation by representatives from the Shenandoah Valley Teen Challenge arranged by Gary Driver. The March program will be Cross Country Trip - Part Two by Pastor Mike. The only other month arranged for is October when Mount Jackson Police Chief J. D. Fadely returns to speak on drugs, arranged by Joe Williams.

Discussion followed concerning possible fundraisers to add to the schedule. Several ideas were mentioned but no action taken.

President Steve asked the membership to think about possible fundraisers and future meeting programs.

Under other new business, Mike Showalter reported a young boy from Strasburg, Trent Williams, is suffering from cancer and has asked the Make a Wish Foundation for a trip to Disney World. Trent was a classmate and good friend of Brendon DeWitt. Howard Hackenbracht moved we donate \$50.00 to the effort, seconded by Roger Miller. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Pastor Mike gave the benediction and the meeting closed by the membership singing the Doxology.

Ken Hackenbracht,  
Secretary



**Trustees Report**

The Trustees met Sunday, January 15, 2012 in the church social hall.

All of the Trustees extended a special Thank You to Ken Hackenbracht for his many years of service and leadership as Chairman of the Trustees. We appreciate his faithful service to the Trustees and the church.

The annual election of officers was held for 2012:

Barry Davis, Chairman and Trustee representative to

the Finance committee

Doug Estep, Vice-Chairman

Brenda Driver, Secretary

Per the request of the Trustees, Steve Custer has made repairs to the downspout on the Ryan House. He has started the work of adding gutter guards to the church which is still in progress.

The Ministers name plaque and United Methodist Men name plaque need to be updated. Danny Wymer in Strasburg is currently making the updates. Special thanks goes out to Ken Hackenbracht and Doug Estep for gathering the UMM information so it could be updated.

There was discussion about general maintenance items at the parsonage and church. Douglas Estep volunteered to gather estimates and report back at the next Trustees meeting.

It's the start to a new year and the Child Protection Policy forms have been updated for 2012. It's been 3 years for all of our Approved Volunteers and it's time for their information to be updated. Those forms have been handed out. If you would like to be an Approved Volunteer or need to renew, please contact Barry Davis or Bobby Clark and we can provide you with an application. Thank You for your continued support of the Youth!

The church alarm system was inspected December 2011. The call sheet will be updated based on the election of new officers for 2012.

Doug Estep reported the new water softener installed at the church is working great and it is using less salt than the previous water softener.

The next regular quarterly Trustee meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2012 at 6:30pm. As always, the congregation is welcome to attend and your comments received anytime.

Barry Davis,  
Chairman



*May you feel the special love of our Heavenly Father flow down on you from Heaven during this Valentine and Lenten Season and throughout the whole year*

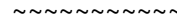


***Happy February and Early March Birthdays!***

- 02/06 Jennifer Hackenbracht
- 02/10 Colton Henry
- 02/14 Onie Frye
- 02/14 Jean Estep
- 02/14 Pat Callis
- 02/19 Scott Carpenter
- 02/20 Beverly Orndorff
- 02/27 Shirley Hackenbracht
- 03/02 Bob Luse
- 03/03 Gary Driver
- 03/05 Patrick Henry

***Happy Anniversary to:***

02/22/69 Gary & Brenda Driver



***OUR CONDELENCES GO OUT TO THE FAMILY OF ROSE SHAFFER WHO WENT HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD ON JANUARY 21, 2012. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU DURING THIS TIME OF LOSS AND GRIEF.***



***MT. JACKSON UNITED METHODIST LOCAL MISSION DATE HAS BEEN SET.***

*July 9-13, 2012*

More information on this important event will follow later.

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### **Come Play White Elephant Bingo 2/11/12 at the church 6:30pm - 8pm**

The Youth Team of the MJUMC Church welcomes everyone young and old to join us for a fun, family friendly evening of bingo, laughter and fellowship. You may be asking "What is White Elephant Bingo?"

It is a simple game of Bingo where instead of paying money to play you bring a wrapped gift. To keep with the spirit of [white elephant](#), the gifts are often ones the players have received but do not want. Gifts are typically inexpensive, humorous items or used items from home. The winner of the bingo game gets to choose a wrapped gift. The second person to win at Bingo then chooses whether to open a wrapped gift or "steal" a previously opened gift. If a person has his gift stolen, he also has the option of choosing a wrapped gift or stealing an unwrapped one. When a wrapped gift is opened, the turn ends. When all gifts have been unwrapped, the game ends. It sounds more complicated than it is. It's a lot of fun!

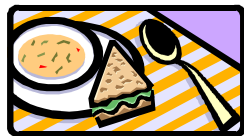
For more information contact Sharon Clark 477-3514  
sclarkrd@shentel.net.

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### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 7:00 PM**

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### **Free Soup and Service**

Free Soup and Service will be held again this year during the Lenten season. Actually, it is Soup, Sandwich and Service. This event will be open to all and will be advertised in the community. Please encourage folks to attend.

Dates: Every Thursday beginning February 23rd thru March 29th: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

Participation by all church members is very important to the success of this community outreach effort.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**For  
February 2012**

2/05	Sun.	<b>5th Sunday after the Epiphany Green</b>	9:45 AM	Sunday School
			10:00 AM	Children/Youth SS
			11:00 AM	Worship
2/06	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	
2/07	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice	
2/08	Wed.	7:00 PM	Church Counsel	
2/10	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	
2/12	Sun.	<b>6th Sunday after the Epiphany Green</b>	9:45 AM	Sunday School
			10:00AM	Children/Youth SS
			11:00 AM	Worship
2/13	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	
2/14	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice	
2/15	Wed.	6:30PM	UMM	
2/17	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	
2/19	Sun.	<b>Transfiguration Sunday White</b>	9:45 AM	Sunday School
			10:00 AM	Youth/Children SS
			11:00 AM	Worship
2/20	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	
2/21	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice	
2/22	Wed.	7:00 PM	Ash Wed. Service	
2/23	Thur.	6:30 PM	Soup & Service	
2/24	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	
2/26	Sun.	<b>First Sunday in Lent White</b>	8:00AM	UMM Fellowship Breakfast
			9:45 AM	Sunday School
			10:00 AM	Youth/Children SS
			11:00 AM	Worship
2/27	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	
2/28	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice	
3/01	Thur.	6:30 PM	Soup & Service	
		7:30 PM	UMW	
3/03	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library	