

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle... What I Learned in Disciple Genesis

Disciple Bible Studies have a particular liking to the words "Disciple" & "Bible." Its premise is this: Jesus Christ wants his followers to Disciple or Discipline themselves after the Jesus Christ we have come to know. This knowledge we have come to know in Jesus Christ happens intellectually through study of the Bible and emotionally/spiritually through long walks in prayer and in service!

In our recent Disciple Bible Study, we studied the relationships in the Book of Genesis. From the cast in the Garden of Eden to the cast of Jacob's sons, we witnessed a determined God reaching out in love to a resistant people. Likewise there are many stories of one step forward and three steps back which understandably belong to a beginning the magnitude of the Christian Faith.

Through the thick and the thin, the discovery of God amidst Genesis' pages reveals a God who disciplines those in whom He loves. The floods and famines, the swords and the slavery, were like Creation reversals which while being a tragedy within God revealed a toughness about God's love. We learn that this toughness in God's love had a vital purpose. It's purpose was to safeguard the future of the people of God. The toughness of God's love had to meet up with the destructive decisions the people were making in their misuse of 'Free Will.' If this seems far-fetched, consider the number of mom's and dad's who, knowing what was quickly becoming of their children, have had them arrested and their freedoms taken away. Last resort, do or die situations. I know of many, and I am sure you know of many and have found an utmost respect for those whose love could be so strong. So strong that they risked the illusion of betrayal for the sake of securing a future for their son or daughter. When God disciplines, God is risking it all in a desperate attempt to rescue. Although God's reputation is on the line, God's concern is not love of self, it is love of other!

On the closing night of our Disciple Genesis Bible Study we shared communion and made some connections between the stories of God's actions of discipline in the Book of Genesis and that of the Gospels. The connection was this: In the Old Covenant Relationships, God's actions of discipline were both a burden in God and a burden for the people of God to endure. In the New Covenant Relationship established through Jesus

Christ, we find God's actions of discipline as the burden in which God alone carries the sacrifice and must endure. In both the Old and New Covenants, safeguarding the future of God's people is just plain difficult as challenges and inspirations are needed in keeping a family together. God choosing to bear the wrath of Love's Discipline upon His only Son, Jesus Christ, is Good News for those who would believe. Good News because the course of God's use of discipline to rescue those in whom God loves would be changed forever. A new beginning for God and for the people of God. It's also good news because our rescue is found in the terrible sacrifice which Jesus made on our behalf. Although catastrophe and destructive activities continue to occur in the world, God is no longer initiating plagues, etc., to regain the attention of the people. But rather, God has placed the historical events of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and return as the events which will make us or break us as a people. In the end, it is still God taking ultimate risk for the sake of love & community! Embracing this understanding of God is a big deal! The next time you hear yourself say something is God's will or hear another suggest that destructive events are connected to God's discipline, please challenge this with Jesus Christ.

Pastor Ken



Worship for April

- | | |
|------|--|
| 6th | Series: First Love
I John 2:3-11 / 3 John 9-10
Sermon: Unity, Liberty, Charity |
| 13th | Series: First Love
I John 2:18-27 / 2 John 7, 9 / John 6:51-59
Sermon: Sticks & Stones |
| 20th | Series: First Love
I John 3:11-24; 4:19-21 / John 13:34-35
Sermon: All You Need Is Love... |
| 27th | Series: First Love
I John 4:1-6, 13-21
Sermon: Testing the Spirits |





Budget Update Thru March 2008

MJUMC's '08 Budget \$86,152.12
52 Sundays

	March Offering	Year-to-Date Offering
Actual	\$8,574.06	\$26,629.69
Needed	\$8,283.85	\$21,538.01
Difference	+\$ 290.21	+ \$ 5,091.68

Happy April Birthdays!

- 4/1 Josh Dent
- 4/5 Bonnie Good
- 4/6 Billy Wealthy
- 4/8 Jordan Cookus
- 4/17 Brendon DeWitt
- 4/17 Tracey Silvius
- 4/22 Mary Ryan
- 4/25 Barbara Jett
- 4/27 Eldo Wheat



Methodist Men's Message



The March Mt. Jackson United Methodist Men meeting was held on the 19th. in the church Social Hall. The Methodist Ladies served our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner to 22 members and 3 guests. President Howard Hackenbracht opened the meeting and announced that member Richard Orndorff would chair the Wolfgang Christmas candy sales. Jack Sperry presented each member a pocket cross and told the story about the cross.

Sperry also introduced the evening's speaker, Ronnie Zerkel, from Zerkel's Hardware. Ronnie told us his Father got out of the Navy in 1946 and worked for Gaylon Zerkel 2 years before going into the plumbing and heating business. A little later he went in the LP gas business. A few years later he purchased the LP gas business from H.W. Wagley in Charlestown and renamed the gas, Zer-Gas. The corporation has since sold the gas business to Ameri-Gas. Ronnie said they now sell hardware but no longer do plumbing or heating.

We meet the 3rd. Wednesday of each month and eat at 6:30 PM. All men are welcome to attend.

Jack Sperry
Secretary

Kites and Kids



VBS-Style Sunday Afternoon Ministry for Kids
Age 3-10yrs.

Every Sunday afternoon in April, 1:30 – 3:00pm
April 6, 13, 20 & 27

Mount Jackson United Methodist Church

Build your own Kites, Singing, Skits, Games,
Crafts & Snack!

Bring a Friend as we learn about God through
Kite Flying!

You are Invited to Join Us for Kids Own Worship



At **Kids Own Worship**® Children's Sunday School, kids sing...shout...and celebrate God's goodness and love.

What: Kids Own Worship Sunday School.

Stories, Crafts, Skits, Snacks, Songs & Fun!

When: Every Sunday Morning 10am – 10:45

Where: Mt Jackson United Methodist Church

Who: All kids age Pre-K through 5th grade

For More Information: Call Sharon Clark 477-3514 or MJUMC at 477-2128

Parents can join in our Pathfinders Adult Sunday School Class during the same time in a room right next door.

Worship for the whole family!

For more information call Sharon Clark 477-3514 or Pastor Ken DeWitt 477-2128



Congratulations to Boot Downey and Teresa Ryan on their wedding, February 14, 2008!

Congratulations to Rick Hassler and Cheryl Kagey on their engagement!





He Is Not Here For He Has Risen

March 23rd we celebrated Easter... the resurrection of our Lord... an occasion of great joy and renewal. Even in churches that do not follow the Christian year as we do, it is a day of many rituals and local customs. People expect to hear the Easter Gospel, to sing Easter hymns, and see the beautiful flowers. Although the flowers "decorate" our church, most of them come from bulbs... bulbs that have lain dormant in the ground all winter and now "spring" forth into bloom just as our Savior was in the ground and rose triumphantly on Easter morning. Butterflies are also a symbol of resurrection because of the stages from larva to the not so pretty caterpillar to the beautiful butterfly. That is why they appear abundantly on the Easter banner by Dorcus. All these things work together to heighten the Word of God and guide us in the theological meaning of paschal renewal... of dying and rising with Jesus our Lord.

White and gold are the liturgical colors of Easter. The paschal candle is a particularly important visual symbol. It's requirement is that it be at least two inches in diameter, at least two feet tall, and placed in a candlestick at least three feet high... as is ours. Like the Morning Star that never sets, it signifies Christ's shining eternally. It is first lighted at the Easter Vigil or the first service of Easter and remains lighted at the front of the church for all the services through the Great Fifty Days. After Pentecost, it is placed near the baptismal font for the remainder of the year, where it is lighted for all baptisms, church funerals (where it is placed at the coffin), and memorial services to signify the resurrection. It is a token of Christ's leading the baptized through the exodus of death.

A little history! In medieval England, the paschal candle stand at Durham was seventy feet high and had to be lighted from above. At Salisbury, in 1517, the candle itself was thirty-six feet high. The paschal candle is inscribed with red wax with a Greek cross and with four numerals in its corners. An alpha and omega above and below, or to each side, complete the insignia.

The burst of praise and resurrection joy of Easter permeates the entire period from Easter morning through Pentecost. This is known as the Great Fifty Days. While Easter is the Sunday of all Sundays, gathering up and transfiguring the narrative of Holy Week, and indeed the whole history of God's mighty works, the resurrection courses through the days and weeks of the Easter season as a never-ending day... a prolonged and sustained Lord's Day. As I said before, the paschal candle, symbolizing the Morning Star that never sets should be visible and lighted for every gathering for worship during these days of the Easter-Pentecost Season. The whole fifty days should echo the song of vic-

tory, "For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:9,11) The Easter "Alleluias" should resound throughout this whole season which unfolds the reality of life in the Spirit. It comes to full consciousness when the whole church celebrates the feast of the new age of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. On that day, we make explicit again the fact that the gospel is proclaimed in every tongue, in every place unto all the world.

One other celebration before Pentecost is Ascension Day which is celebrated forty days after Easter or Thursday, May first. Most churches celebrate it the following Sunday. The connection between Easter and Ascension Day: Christ died and rose that we might have eternal life; and he ascended that we might be given a share in his divinity, his continuing presence and, hence, life with God. We say it in the Apostle's Creed, "The third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God." I will discuss Pentecost next newsletter.

***God's grace to you all.
Rev. Cyndy Frye***

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## ***Scholarship Committee***

Connie Hepler and Larry Ambrose have joined Dave Alexander, Bonnie Good, and Warren Bock on the Scholarship Committee.

The 2008-2009 school year scholarship applications, for any church members wishing to further their education, are available in the hallway leading to the Social Hall. The deadline for submitting them is May 9th, 2008.

The committee wishes to remind all church members to consider supporting those in our Church family seeking higher education. Donations may be made via your weekly envelopes or by separate transactions. May God add His Blessings-

***Warren Bock, Chairman***

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MJUMC Scholarship Fund

Our greatest gift is our children. Our greatest challenge is their proper education.

Please make a donation to support our youth's education {beyond high school}. This advanced education, with God's help, will lead to a better world.

A member of your church has agreed to match all individual donations given by May 15, 2008, up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Please consider meeting this special challenge!



Trustees Report

The church Board of Trustees will meet at 6:00 pm, Sunday, April 13. Several items of importance will be on the agenda. Church members are invited to attend any trustees meeting.

The Board will hear a presentation by a representative from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation on investments and endowments. The Trustees have received a bequest from the estate of Esta Lutz in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be used for maintenance of the church parking lot.

Quotes on replacing the roof on the parsonage will be considered. The roof will be replaced when the weather is warmer.

The Administrative Board has asked the Trustees to review the policy concerning rental of the church facilities to church members.

A committee from the Trustees was appointed at our January meeting to work with the Youth Team on the Child Protection Policy and to make a progress report back to the Trustees in April. This is an issue that has been under discussion and study for several years and needs finalized. The Trustees are responsible for approving the final policy.

Heating season is nearly over and, thankfully, the mild winter has certainly been a blessing with the high cost of heating oil. I have not observed myself, nor have I heard as many complaints about lights being left on in the building. Thank you for checking that all lights are turned off, heat or air turned back, and all interior doors closed when you leave the building. Should a fire break out in a certain area, having doors closed helps keep the fire contained.

*Ken Hackenbracht,
Chairman*



Mother-Daughter Banquet



It is time to mark your calendar for the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet to be held on Friday, May 16th at 6:30 PM in the MJUMC Social Hall. It is open to all ladies and their female guests, parents, siblings, children or adopted loved ones. Creekside will be catering the meal. It is always an enjoyable time for “the girls” to get together for an evening of fellowship and entertainment.

Tickets will be on sale soon! Please keep an eye out in the weekly bulletins for more information.



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Church Calendar for 2008



4/1	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice				
4/3	Thurs.	6:30 PM	UMW				
4/4	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/6	Sun.		Third Sunday of Easter, White/Gold				
		9:45 AM	Sunday School				
		10:00 AM	Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders				
		11:00 AM	Worship				
		1:30-3:00 PM	Kites & Kids				
4/7	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/8	Tues	7:00 PM	Choir Practice				
4/9	Wed.	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting				
4/10	Thurs	6:45-7:15AM	Weekly Prayer Breakfast				
4/11	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/13	Sun.		Fourth Sunday of Easter, White/Gold				
		9:30 AM	Sunday School				
		10:00 AM	Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders				
		11:00 AM	Worship				
		1:30-3:00 PM	Kites & Kids				
		6:00 PM	Trustees Meeting , Social H.				
4/14	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/15	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice				
4/16	Wed.	6:30 PM	UMM Dinner Meeting				
4/17	Thurs.	6:45-7:15AM	Weekly Prayer Breakfast				
4/18	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/20	Sun.		Fifth Sunday of Easter, White/Gold				
		9:45 AM	Sunday School				
		10:00 AM	Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders				
		11:00 AM	Worship				
		1:30-3:00 PM	Kites & Kids				
4/21	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/22	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice				
4/24	Thurs.	6:45-7:15AM	Weekly Prayer Breakfast				
4/25	Fri.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/27	Sun.		Sixth Sunday of Easter, White/Gold				
		9:45 AM	Sunday School				
		10:00 AM	Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders				
		11:00 AM	Worship				
		1:30-3:00 PM	Kites & Kids				
4/28	Mon.	8:00 PM	AA, Library				
4/29	Tues.	7:00 PM	Choir Practice				