

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle...

The Leisure Prayer

“O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirit may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”
(BOCP)

When spending the wealth of our money our accounting has categories for just about everything from transportation and haircuts to caring for our interests and the Lord's. When it comes to spending the wealth of our time many similar categories exist which could be accounted. Yet, I think it is fair to say we pay less attention to how we organize the wealth of our time than the wealth of our banking. When it comes to how we spend the wealth of our time, one category that God seems to direct our attention to quite often is the category of “leisure.” Leisure in the world of time is kind of like discretionary money in the world of finance. Both easily disappear if not given careful attention!

Recently, while praying the “Leisure Prayer” from *The Book of Common Prayer*, I recognized how much activity was being attributed to the prayer's emphasis on finding times for refreshment and peace. I had prayed this prayer a thousand times and each time I prayed it, I found myself wanting a hammock, a sea breeze, and a glass of lemonade! Although refreshment and peace can come in times of quietness and rest, this particular prayer is not an advertisement for the Outer Banks. It is rather a specific request given to God for help. It is a plea for God to come and help us with making time for leisure activities and then using the time well! It's stewardship! The variety of leisure activities I am suggesting are broad, but have something in common. They lead towards inspiration and to a returning of soul! The prayer closes with both aim and provision. The prayer aims the experience of leisure towards the goal of having our spirits opened to the goodness of God's creation and the provision is Jesus Christ himself!

Leisure is not a word for the lazy! It is ambitious and a lifeline for those who wish to please God! Praying this prayer for you!

Pastor Ken



Worship for February

- 3rd Series: Enter the Kingdom
Luke 13:10-17/ Acts 5:12-32
Sermon: The Baby & The Bath Water
- 5th Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17/ Ps 51:1-17/ II Cor 5:20b-6:10/
Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
Sermon: 12 Step Wisdom—
I'm ___ & I'm a Sinner
- 10th Series: What Works for the Team
Book of Jonah (4 Chapters)
Sermon: Challenging Losses & Inspirational Wins
- 17th Series: What Works for the Team
11 Corinthians 5:20—5:10
Sermon: Not Losing Confidence on the Defense
- 24th Series: What Works for the Team
Romans 15:13-21
Sermon: Not Losing Confidence on the Offense



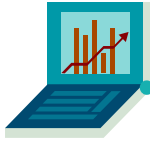
Methodist Men's Message

On Jan. 16th, the ladies served a nice dinner to 16 Methodist Men and guests. New President, Howard Hackenbracht went over the calendar and committee's for 2008. The following were organized: Program committee chairman--Jack Sperry, Easter Breakfast--Doug Estep, but we're still looking for a chairman for Wolfgang Christmas Candy and members to Usher, Greet, and read devotions.

Pastor Ken told us about a Mission Trip planned in August. Fifteen persons are needed to go to Kentucky to help rebuild some homes. About 8 persons have indicated some interest.

The February meeting will be held on the 20th. All men are welcome!

Jack Sperry



Budget Update Thru December 2007

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

	December Offering	Year-to-Date Offering
Actual	\$11,683.89	\$1,683.89
Needed	\$6,627.08	\$6,627.08
Difference	+\$5,056.90	+\$5,056.90

As you can see, we are beginning the year with an especially large first month offering. This is due to one of our church members tithing “up front”—the full year in advance. It is a practice helpful to the Treasurer and creates less paperwork for the member during the year. You should realize that, due to the up-front gift, the month-by-month report will be “slanted.” Each monthly Actual Offering will be reduced due to the fact that the portion usually given monthly has already been given, and the Difference calculations will show an inflated amount for a long while. Please don’t misinterpret this information to believe that your continual faithful gifting is irrelevant. In the end, we give of our many types of resources because God said it is what we should do. And that, Brothers and Sisters, is in no way related to any man-made budget.

Bonnie Good, Finance



Happy February Birthdays!

- 2/6 Jennifer Hackenbracht
- 2/10 Colton Henry
- 2/12 Dallas Cookus
- 2/14 Jean Estep
- 2/14 Onie Frye
- 2/20 Beverly Orndorff
- 2/27 Shirley Hackenbracht
- 2/28 Hunter Cookus



Board of Trustees Report



The Board of Trustees met January 13th. The new members were welcomed and brought up-to-date on ongoing trustee business. Barry Davis was elected Vice-Chairman and Brenda Driver re-elected Secretary. The Board will meet quarterly on the second Sunday of April, July, and October, at 7 pm.

The major project for 2008 is replacement of the parsonage roof. Several of the trustees will contact different contractors to secure bids. The parsonage was built in the 1960’s and this will be the 3rd roof. The

Board will visit the parsonage at its April meeting to review the basement door and outside drain.

The policy for determining cancellation of church due to bad weather was reviewed and approved to continue. The Chairman of the Trustees and the Chairman of the Administrative Board will confer with the Minister early, and if all agree it is not safe, the minister will contact the media to announce the closing. Arrangements were made for plowing the parking lot and cleaning the sidewalks.

An updated inventory of all church property with values assigned and a video tape made will be done this year. This was last done in 2004 and several new items added. This is important in case of fire or theft so we can verify any losses. When completed, it will be placed in the church lock box at the bank for safekeeping.

Another item of business that has been in the works for several years is a Child Protection Policy. The Youth Team presented a draft to the Trustees in 2006. A committee from the Trustees composed of Barry Davis, Mary Ann Miller, and Jon Reynolds was appointed to work with the Youth Team and the Minister on the areas in question.

Ken Hackenbracht, Chairman



Little Bits



One of our young members has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout—Troy Hackenbracht, a member of Troop 117 in Mt. Jackson. The troop will honor him at a Court of Honor on Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 2:00PM. Church members are invited to attend. I think Troy is the only member of our church who has made the rank of Eagle. Troy is a member of our Methodist Men, plays football for Stonewall Jackson High School, and is an Honor Student. We are proud of you Troy!

Do you ever wonder, as you sit in Church every Sunday, who is taking part in today's service? Thanks goes out to the following: our Pastor, our Choir and Music Director, readers, Ushers and Greeters, offering counters, those who help the handicapped, the children who add a lot to the service, ladies who provide music before the service, and Acolytes. If you would like to assist in any of these jobs, please talk to the Pastor—we are always looking for members wanting to share their time and talents. And, when you see those who are assisting to make our Sunday services the spiritual highlight of your week, give them a big “Thank You!”

Jack Sperry, Historian

Health & Welfare Update

Thank you for the special gifting to the Health and Welfare Fund last month. We are so pleased to report that it is now quite “healthy” and the Pastor can, again, help those in need.

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## *Welcome to the Season of Lent*



Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday (February 6th). Our church will celebrate in worship together that evening. Ash Wednesday developed as a day of penitence to mark the beginning of Lent—the forty days of preparation for the celebration of Easter.

From the Middle Ages, it has been characterized by the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of worshipers. We burn the palms from previous Palm Sunday to get the ashes. Particularly, in the Old Testament, ashes were applied to the body at times of fasting as a sign of penitence. It was the Old Testament rite of purification. Christ’s death and resurrection has taken away the rituals of the O.T.; however, the ashes on Ash Wednesday still remains a symbol of our confession of sin and our sorrow for it. Therefore, Ash Wednesday is a particular time for new beginnings in the faith...a time for returning to the Lord...a time to recall our mortality and wait upon the Lord for a renewing Spirit...a time for putting aside the sins and failures of the past in light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God. Lent is not a time for giving up something, but rather a time for taking upon ourselves the intention and the receptivity to God’s grace so that we may worthily partake in the mystery of God-with-us.

The main color in our worship for Lent is purple. It is the color of both penitence and royalty and is used in both Advent and Lent.

Lent begins the 7th Wednesday before Easter and lasts to sunset Easter Eve. Easter is the Sunday after the 1st full moon on or after the 1st day of Spring, which can take place as early as March 22 or as late as April 25th.

“Talk” to you next month!

*Cyndy Frye  
Ret. UMC Pastor*

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Anyone interested in helping to reorganize the church library, meetings will be held on Fridays, 1-3:00 PM in the downstairs library.

Dorcus Guild



Any woman in the church is invited to join with our group of ladies in the Dorcus Guild. Our next meetings will be February 21st and 28th at 7:00 PM.

Our current project for the church is banners. Banners have been used in churches since ancient times, but for a long time they were rare. Only in the last 1/2 century or so, have they again become popular. Their designs are simple and colorful. They may be used in various ways—hung on poles, carried in the service procession (as we did during Advent), placed in stands, hung on the walls, etc. They usually represent the season being celebrated in the Christian year or for a special event in our church. There will be a banner for Lent on which we are currently working and we are planning one for Easter. Come join our fellowship together and in the Lord.

*Cyndy Frye
Dorcus Leader*

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## 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 10:00 – 10:45 AM

**Where:** Mt Jackson United Methodist Church

**Who:** All kids age Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**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 MJUMC at 477-2128



**Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church**  
**P.O. Box 27**  
**Mt. Jackson, Virginia 22842**

Phone: 540-477-2128  
 Pastor's Phone: 540-333-3854  
 Email: [mjumc@shentel.net](mailto:mjumc@shentel.net)  
 Web: [www.gbgm-umc.org/mjumc/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mjumc/)

**Church Calendar for 2008**



|      |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |        |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2/3  | Sun.  | <b>Last Sunday after Epiphany/<br/>Transfiguration Sunday, White</b><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>12:00 PM Mission Trip Interest Meeting | 2/14 | Thurs. | 6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast                                                                                                                                           |
| 2/4  | Mon.  | 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"<br>8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                                                | 2/15 | Fri.   | 8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2/5  | Tues  | 7:00 PM Choir Practice                                                                                                                                                                               | 2/17 | Sun.   | <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b><br><b>Purple</b><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>12:00 PM Community Support<br>Ministry |
| 2/7  | Thurs | 6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast<br>7:00 PM UMW                                                                                                                                                   | 2/18 | Mon.   | 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"<br>8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                         |
| 2/8  | Fri.  | 8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2/19 | Tues.  | 7:00 PM Choir Practice                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2/10 | Sun.  | <b>First Sunday in Lent</b><br><b>Purple</b><br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders<br>11:00 AM Worship                                                                   | 2/20 | Wed.   | 6:30 PM UMM Dinner Meeting                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2/11 | Mon.  | 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"<br>8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                                                | 2/21 | Thurs. | 6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast<br>7:00 PM Dorcus Guild                                                                                                                   |
| 2/12 | Tues. | 7:00 PM Choir Practice                                                                                                                                                                               | 2/22 | Fri.   | 8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2/13 | Wed.  | 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting                                                                                                                                                                       | 2/24 | Sun.   | <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b><br><b>Purple</b><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>10:00 AM Kids Own Worship/Pathfinders<br>11:00 AM Worship                                            |
|      |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2/25 | Mon.   | 7:30-9:00PM Disciple "Genesis"<br>8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                         |
|      |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2/26 | Tues.  | 7:00 PM Choir Practice                                                                                                                                                        |
|      |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2/28 | Thurs. | 6:45-7:15AM Weekly Prayer Breakfast<br>7:00 PM Dorcus Guild                                                                                                                   |
|      |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2/29 | Fri.   | 8:00 PM AA, Library                                                                                                                                                           |