

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle... Making Faith Count

The waters of my mother's soul became a Class IV rapid this week when her faith counted! Just like so many who endure incurable burdens my mother was counting various diagnosed numbers and graphing the numbers of her life to see if they could add up differently. To personify Knowledge, Knowledge was using her and convincing her of discouraging conclusions. It was a familiar story in Matthew 14 of God's addition, or should we say multiplication, that added an important variable to her complicated mathematical equations. This variable of God had already begun the work of transforming her conclusions. Call it Faith Counting! Faith in Jesus Christ Counting is all about changing what follows our = signs! I hear a lot of people share how their faith in God is important to them, but God is to be more than important, God is to be the Great Mathematician whose power and love working in us can accomplish more than we could ever ask or imagine! This, of course, doesn't normally mean that all the knowledgeable numbers which become apart of our lives will just disappear from our life equations, but is rather more specific to what happens to the conclusions which follow the = signs. I am hopeful for so many who endure such difficult knowledge, not because I believe that God's miracle is consistently going to make the difficult knowledge go away, but rather that God's miracle will certainly change what is to result once God's work in and through us is done. I love that God's math adds up differently than mine! In my own quest to see faith in God count for the people and ministries of our church, I will be joining alongside of you in making sure that 2008 is a year of conclusions that can only be reached with the inspiration and help of God! To Sum it up, God's math works for us!

Pastor Ken



**We Honor the Passing of MJUMC Member
Mrs. Esta Lutz
Sept. 30, 1913—Dec. 5, 2007**

Worship for January



- 6th Series: Epiphany/Communion Sunday
John 1:14-18; 35-51
Sermon: Simple Invitations Work!
- 13th Series: Enter The Kingdom
Luke 9:18-20/ Acts 2:22-40
Sermon: Jesus Who?
- 20th Series: Enter The Kingdom
Luke 6:6-11; 9:1-2/ Acts 16:16-34
Sermon: Status Quo Woes
- 27th Series: Enter The Kingdom
Luke 7:36-50/ Acts 11:1-18
Sermon: More Than A Doormat Welcome

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### Electronic Copies of Church Pictures Requested

The Ad-Hoc Communications Committee is putting together a collection of pictures of all MJUMC Church Activities for 2007. I have already assimilated a lot of pictures that were taken by Sharon Clark and Jack Sperry. If you have any additional pictures please send them to me. All pictures will be placed on a single CD for historical purposes. I prefer digital pictures, but I will try to scan prints if necessary. Please send any pictures to [sclarkrd@shentel.net](mailto:sclarkrd@shentel.net) or give them to me on a CD or Memory Stick. Thank you for your help!

*Bobby Clark*  
*Commun. Comm. Member*

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Life Line Screening will be held at the church on January 23rd from 8:30 AM—5:30 PM for pre-registered participation. If you wish to participate, the screening coordinator for Life Line Screening is:

Bobby Baughman
1-800-897-9177 Ext. 1164
Bobby.baughman@llsa.com



Budget Update Thru December 2007

MJUMC's '07 Budget \$82,447.00
52 Sundays

	December Offering	Year-to-Date Offering
Actual	\$8,438.00	\$82,768.86
Needed	\$7,927.60	\$82,477.04
Difference	+\$ 510.40	+\$ 321.82

Thank you for your financial stewardship this past year. We were able to meet our needs and step out further in nurturing our congregational spiritual growth. What a blessing!

Bonnie Good, Finance

Happy January Birthdays!

- 1/2 Pastor Ken DeWitt
- 1/4 Brenda Driver
- 1/7 Rhea Jett
- 1/8 Teresa Ryan
- 1/10 Margaret Oden
- 1/16 James Clark
- 1/16 Rick Hassler
- 1/16 John Flanagan
- 1/22 Betty Flanagan
- 1/22 Dickie Hawkins
- 1/27 Diane Stead
- 1/31 Pearl Clem



Board of Trustees Report

Five new Trustees, Ted Dent, Doug Estep, Brian Hepler, Mary Ann Miller, and Jon Reynolds, join the four holdover Trustees, Barry Davis, Brenda Driver, Lloyd Neff and Ken Hackenbracht, for 2008. We extend our sincere thanks to Betty Luse and Warren Bock, who go off the Board after six years of faithful service.

The first Trustees meeting of the new year will be 7:00 pm, Sunday evening, January 13, 2008. The Board will meet quarterly on the second Sunday night of April, July, October and in between if necessary.

The Trustees have a used sofa and desk [with a credenza] that has been declared surplus and are being offered free to anyone in the church who can use them. The only requirement is you have to be responsible for moving them out of the old basement. If we have no takers by the first of February, the Trustees will dispose of them. Contact Ken Hackenbracht if you wish either of these items.

Ken Hackenbracht, Chairman
Little Bits

Good Bye 2007 and Welcome 2008



2007 started a little slow for our church. Most members were not happy, but knew we had a job to do. I think most were praying for better things to come. Prayer is a powerful tool.

Our minister told us she would be retiring in June. The members were not sure what to expect. Our PPR committee started meeting and with the help of our D.S. Ed Pruitt, we received a pastor and his family from Mt. Clinton UMC in Rockingham County. If we were running on a scale from 1 to 10, we were then running about 6. After we had a retirement dinner for Pastor Flo in June (thanks to Bob Clark) and a welcome picnic for Pastor Ken Dewitt and Family in July, we were running at about 8.

I'm pleased to say the meter has now pegged the 10 mark. One of the first things Pastor Ken did was get a few ladies together and make about 20 quarts of soup. When the pastor goes to visit a sick member or a member he takes them some soup [the ladies have been busy making soup].

I have never seen our congregation as happy. I don't want to take away anything from our former Pastors, but Pastor Ken is one of a kind. All of our committees have been filled and they are working. The Sunday School and Youth are very active, they work and eat a lot. Our Prayer is that Pastor Ken, Beth and Brenden will have a long stay in Mt. Jackson.

Jack Sperry, Historian

Methodist Men's Message



Mt. Jackson United Methodist Men held their Annual Christmas Banquet in our Social Hall on Friday, December 14th. Dinner was furnished by "Stony Creek Plain and Fancy." Widows of the Church were invited guests and each received a present from the UMM.

President Joe Williams thanked Doug Estep and Ken Hackenbracht for planning events. Joe then introduced our guest singers, Wanda Rinker, Julie Wilkins and Jane Burch, known as the "Cat's Meow". They sang Christmas music and all enjoyed it very much.

Our men meet the 3rd. Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. A meal is served by our Ladies and all men are welcome.

Jack Sperry

NOTE: Both MJUMC and Lebanon St. Stephens Choir donated all proceeds from our Christmas concert to the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter. The event was a blessing in many ways!

2008 Officers and Budget

The new list of 2008 MJUMC Officers and the 2008 Budget are available at the table in the back of the Sanctuary. They are stapled together. Please help yourself.

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### ***2007 Individual Contribution Reports***

The End-of-Year Individual Contribution Reports will not be printed church-wide and mailed this year unless requested. Please contact Bonnie Good (540-477-3143) or jot your name on the sign-up sheet on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary if you wish your printed report. The sign-up sheet will be available through the month of January, but you can call or ask me at any time, it is no trouble.

***Bonnie Good, Finance***

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Health & Welfare in Pitiful State

The Health & Welfare Fund income has averaged about \$56 per month for 2007. At this time of the year, there is considerable need in the community for a helping hand. Our resources are low. If you would like

to consider supporting this critical mission, you may make a contribution at any time, not just on the first Sunday of the month (which is our regular Communion gift time). Just make sure you note it is for H&W and it will be transferred to that account in a timely manner. Pastor Ken would sure love to be able to say, "Yes, we can help you!" instead of the alternative as he hears from those in need.

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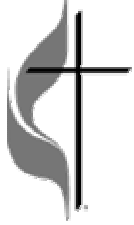
### ***Advent & Christmas Additions***

At the request of Pastor Ken, the Dorcas Guild created a beautiful Advent banner for the church. It made it's way to the Alter each Sunday in Advent to prepare the way for our worship, adding a new element of spirituality to our time together.

Also, many of the church ladies joined together this year to create decorated-felt Chrismons for our Sanctuary tree. Doris Barb, Sharon Clark, Katie Davis, Jean Estep, Freddie Forster, Katie Hackenbracht, Shirley Hackenbracht, Jackie Hawkins, Marcia Joseph, Betty Luse, and Luann Rowling spent hours beading and stitching these lovely ornaments that represent Christ and his ministry. The picture below shows our newly decorated tree.

Thank you to all who joined in these projects to the Glory of Christ!





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

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 Email: [mjumc@shentel.net](mailto:mjumc@shentel.net)  
 Web: [www.gbgm-umc.org/mjumc/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/mjumc/)

***Church Calendar for 2008***



1/1 Tues. New Year's Day  
 1/4 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**1/6 Sun. Epiphany Sunday**  
**White and Gold**  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Worship

1/7 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 1/8 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 1/9 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting  
 1/11 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**1/13 Sun. Baptism of the Lord**  
**White**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting

1/14 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 1/15 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 1/16 Wed. 6:30 PM UMM Dinner Meeting  
 1/17 Thurs. 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting in Library  
 1/18 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**1/20 Sun. Second Sunday After Epiphany**  
**Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Worship

1/21 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 1/22 Tues. Choir Practice  
 1/25 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**1/27 Sun. Third Sunday After Epiphany**  
**Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Worship

1/28 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 1/29 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 1/30 Wed. 9:00 AM Newsletter Articles Due  
 9:00 AM Deadline for Furniture Give-away