

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle...

The Health of our Economy is Measured by Generosity Too!

It's been said a thousand times that the health of the Church is best measured by its generosity. So let me say it once again, "Churches which position themselves to be generous with both the message of Jesus Christ and with vital community support initiatives are healthy churches!"

Come to find out, the health of the town of Mt. Jackson, the health of the Valley, Virginia, the Nation, and the World, are all best measured by generosity too! When looking for employment, the first place of interest in the mind of the applicant ought to be questions related to the generosity of the company. If the generosity of the company towards its employees and customers is weak, the company's health is in trouble and being an employee in such a company will likely be a bad investment of time and effort. This goes as well for anyone looking to join a church or looking to locate themselves within a local community.

Come to find out, the health of America's economy is also measured by generosity. A financial analyst on a BBC news broadcast last week shared how the success of the possible 700 billion dollar U.S. Treasury investment in America will not be measured by increased numbers on Wall Street, but rather by what happens in terms of generosity between lending agencies. Who would have thought that even in the world of intense greed found in Trillion Dollar Markets, that even their health and success are measured by generosity. Here is how I understand it to work. When banks are making their funds available to other banks and are offering low interest rates, the banking community becomes positioned to make their funds available and desirable to individual investors. The world of higher education, entrepreneurial enterprise, and personal short & long-term financial planning become accessible to a much broader range of interested people! In the business of nations, capitalism works when the socio-economic environment is conducive for generosity.

So, knowing so much about the healthy effects of generosity, why do churches, companies, towns, states, and nations choose to hold back on generosity? To name just a few: 1) ill-informed habits, 2) an inherent nature to get what is ours for the taking while the taking is to

be had (poor English on purpose), 3) fear replacing faith, and, 4) confidence in gods rather than God.

Often, when praying for the supporting structures of our nation and of our community, I include in my prayers the phrase, "make the heart of the people wise and the will of the people righteous." Although this is a simple stewardship prayer, it is essential to the success of having investments serve the interests of the common good or to put it plainly, "Be Generous!"

Paying Attention to Generosity,
Pastor Ken

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## Fall Study Being Organized



In many of the past Disciple Bible Studies I have participated in, during discussions, participants expressed the interest in learning more about how other peoples of the world see us as Christians when compared to their religious preferences. Where do the strong disagreements stem from? Why isn't there more tolerance for individual beliefs? Where is the commonality in our faith?

This fall/winter a video-based study from Adam Hamilton entitled *Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask* will be offered at the church. It will have sessions on Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism recognizing the contributions of each and then comparing and contrasting them with Christianity--sharing essential beliefs of Christianity in light of the other beliefs. Through this study and discussion, we will work toward finding the answers that will make sense out of some of the conflict in the world today.

This will be a short-term study, in evening sessions, to begin in late October with breaks in study to accommodate the fall/winter season. [Suggested time, 6:30-7:30 PM.] I will be the leader for this class, so if you are interested in participating, please let me know by October 15th to give me an idea of how many participant's books to order. A signup sheet will be at the back of the Sanctuary and on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall, as well. I look forward to learning with you!

**Bonnie Good**



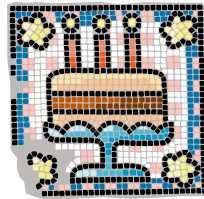
### *Budget Update Thru September 2008*

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

|            | September Offering | Year-to-Date Offering |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Actual     | \$5,419.46         | \$66,361.11           |
| Needed     | \$6,627.08         | \$66,270.80           |
| Difference | - \$1,207.62       | + \$ 90.31            |

### *Happy October/November Birthdays!*

- 10/11 Grace Orndorff
- 10/19 Don Harris
- 10/20 Martha Spitler
- 11/1 Ken Hackenbracht
- 11/1 Oliver Henry



### *Methodist Men's Message*



Our Methodist Men enjoyed a turkey dinner served by the Methodist ladies on September 17th at our regular meeting. We had 18 men attending. President Howard Hackenbracht opened the meeting with prayer by Pastor Ken. After the meal, Secretary Ken Hackenbracht said no minutes were taken at the August meeting as it was a work night before homecoming. Treasurer Doug Estep gave the Treasurer's Report. No old or new business was discussed.

The program for the night was some photo's shown by Pastor Ken of our mission trip to Eolia Kentucky the first week in August. Member Steve Forster gave us some information on what a workday was like, from the time they got up till the time they turned in. One night, the local Baptist Church invited the group over for a fish fry—all enjoyed this. A good time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be October 15th. at 6:30 PM. The program will be Life at the Country Store in the twenties and thirties. All are welcome to attend.

**Jack Sperry, Reporter**

### *We Remember With Love Our Sister in Christ Hilda Ambrose 12/31/1919—9/29/2008*



### *Christmas Jars*

If you were not in church for the presentation by author Jason Wright, you probably do not have a "Christmas Jar." They are special! Ask your friends in the congregation about them! And, pick up one, just for you, at the back of the Sanctuary on the table behind the last pew.

### *New Member Sunday*

Mark October 19th on your calendars! We will be accepting and celebrating new members coming into our church family that day. Come to share in their welcome!

### *All Hallows Eve Party*



Our church Halloween party will be held on Sunday, October 19th from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Supper will be provided and there will be games for everyone! Come and discover the Biblical origins of All Hallows Eve.

Adult volunteers are welcome!!

For more information, contact Sharon Clark (477-3514).

[\*\*\*Please no Halloween costumes this year.]





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**Church Calendar for 2008**



**10/5 Sun. 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

10/6 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 10/7 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 10/8 Wed. 7:00 PM Church Council  
 10/10 Fri. 7:00 PM AA, Library  
 10/11 Sat. 6-10 PM Youth Rally 2008 at  
 Shen. Co. Fairgrounds

**10/12 Sun. 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting

10/13 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 10/14 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 10/15 Wed. 6:30 PM UMM Dinner  
 10/17 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**10/19 Sun. 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Green**  
**New Member Sunday**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 4-6:00 PM All Hallows Eve Party

10/20 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 10/21 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 10/22 Wed. 7:00 PM Community Support/  
 Missions Dev. Team

10/24 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**10/26 Sun. 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Green**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship

10/27 Mon. 8:00 PM AA, Library  
 10/28 Tues. 7:00 PM Choir Practice  
 10/31 Fri. 8:00 PM AA, Library

**11/2 Sun. All Saints Sunday**  
**Red**  
 9:45 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Pathfinders & Youth  
 11:00 AM Worship  
 12:00 PM Children's Ministry Team