

*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



The Messenger

True Love



Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deut 6:5

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

PEOPLE MAY NOT
REMEMBER
EXACTLY WHAT YOU
DID OR WHAT YOU
SAID, BUT~ THEY WILL
ALWAYS REMEMBER
HOW YOU MADE THEM
FEEL.

~

**Be kinder than necessary,
for everyone you meet is
fighting some kind of
battle.**

~

Valentine's Day with Jesus

Jesus does not send perfume
To linger in the air
Instead He sends salvation,
sweet
To show how much He
cares.

He doesn't bring me candy
hearts
In boxes of delight
Instead He always lets me
know
I'm precious in His sight.

He doesn't pass out pretty
cards
Trimmed in shades of red
Instead He gave His life for
me
His precious blood was
shed.

He doesn't hand out fancy
gifts
Like we would send to
mother
Instead He sends a message
clear
To always love each other.

A Few Moments with our Minister

Let's face it! Most of us make notes or keep calendars of things we need to do or appointments we need to keep. No argument here! We are busy people! We have places to go and things to do!

I was in a recent meeting where the group was reminded that the church has one primary responsibility: making disciples of Christ. The leader had notes - obviously, he felt we needed to be reminded. Imagine . . . the very idea that we Christians needed to be reminded of the priority of our "To Do" list or to be reminded to put it on our "To Do" list.

Perhaps there are some questions needed at the top of our "To Do" list in our coming and going from worship, study and fellowship, like:

1. why am I doing this?
2. whose need is being met by what I am doing?
3. am I a disciple of my personal "To Do" list or a disciple of Christ?

Praise be to God for those willing to become disciples of Christ that they will be able to make disciples of Christ.

Update on Sale of Parsonage

Fitsum Ghide, a member of our church family, has entered the highest bid of \$126,000 for the purchase of the parsonage. It is the decision of the Board of Trustees to accept his offer. A Charge Conference will be held Sunday, February 7, 12:15 p.m. to complete the process. Our appreciation is expressed to our Board of Trustees for their most capable leadership in handling this matter.

Did you know?

- ➔ Ted Avery, Financial Secretary and Kimberly Elliott, Treasurer/Finance Committee Chairperson, attended a Workshop at the United Methodist Building on Saturday, December 12th?
- ➔ John and Tonya DeLargy, Patsy Perkins, Don Ellis, Katie Mrozowski, Helen Townsend, Jane Avery, Rose Cash and our pastor attended the District Leadership Workshops on Sunday, January 10, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. at Mt. Sylvan UMC?
- ➔ The Youth Class, under the leadership of Katie Mrozowski, is planning a dinner theater presentation? Also, that they have plans to meet on Monday of each week for study and spiritual enrichment?

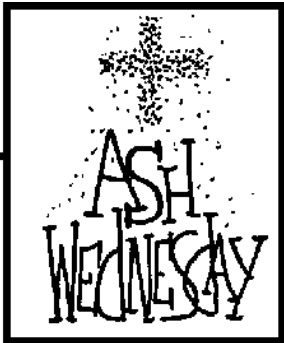
DO YOU KNOW? (Fill in the blanks, please!)

- (1) Who cleans the church buildings? _____
- (2) Is this a paid position or voluntary service? _____
- (3) If voluntary, what am I doing to support the effort? _____
- (4) Is it necessary to have the building cleaned? _____
- (5) If so, who should be responsible? _____

He doesn't give me teddy bears
That whimper, "Please be mine"
Instead He gave His heart to me
I wear it all the time.

He doesn't give me roses, pink
For all the world to see
Instead He gave eternal life
That's good enough for me.

Written By:
Marilyn Ferguson ©2003



Sunday School Teachers

We could use some additional help in the Children's class. If you are interested in helping please see **Craig N. Caroon** or **Pastor Warren**.

Prayer Communication Link

Mrs. Evelyn Wheeley was most faithful, at the request of our pastor, to establish a Prayer/Communication Link for our church family. She did an outstanding job! HOWEVER, our first attempt to use this tool for ministry revealed to us technology was already at work: the internet. So . . . future communication and prayer requests will be sent by email. Evelyn will contact those not connected to the internet.

Ash Wednesday

A worship service will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Throughout the Old Testament scriptures ashes are used as a sign of fasting, praying and penitence. The Christian Church has embraced the practice as a means of acknowledging we are sinners: sinners who experience God's grace by repentance. Christians do well when they remember that the worship service on Ash Wednesday is more than having the sign of the cross marked on ones forehead with ashes, but a commitment to fasting and praying. Some churches encourage their members to use the period of Lent as a time of self-denial, giving up something. Our pastor will be encouraging us to "add" something to our daily walk that removes us from our comfort zone!

Prayer Requests

Our pastor will greatly appreciate those persons requesting prayer for someone to let him know when they would like the names removed from the bulletin. Also, he is again requesting that the Prayer Requests be given to him on the cards in the pews. Ushers are designated to hand your requests to the Pastor. This process allows for the correct spelling of names. Also, those cards are placed on the Pastor's desk (home) for daily prayer.

Worship and Service Opportunities During LENT!

Sunday, February 21, is the first Sunday in Lent (the forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays). Lent provides the church the opportunity to prepare for Easter (the Resurrection of Christ) by repenting, sacrificing and renewing our commitment to be followers of Christ. It is a period of remembering the forty day temptation experiences of Christ and the wonder and mystery of His suffering for us.



Each Sunday during Lent, a life size cross, carried into the sanctuary and placed in the chancel areas by one of our members, will be a part of the weekly processional. The Choir will use "Were You There" as a Call to Worship, challenging each of us to examine our understanding and experience of the cross of Christ.

We will seek to gain a greater appreciation for the Cross of Christ by personally stepping from our comfort zone. Consider the following:

- (1) stop looking for excuses to be absent from Sunday School and worship.
- (2) participate in every ministry of the church during Lent.
- (3) invite and bring someone (not attending a church) with you each Sunday.
- (4) make peace with someone you have been avoiding.
- (5) forgive someone: set yourself free!
- (6) do not listen to gossip; do not repeat gossip;
- (7) volunteer for service- do not wait to be asked!
- (8) pick up after those yet to learn they too are servants.
- (9) become a friend to a shut-in.
- (10) look the homeless woman/man in the eye rather than turning your head.

The cross used during Lent will play a significant role in our Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday service on April 1st and the Good Friday service on April 2nd.

February Acolytes

- 7th – Nathan Caroon
- 14th – Alexis Simmons
- 21st – Brianna DeLargy
- 28th – Nathan Caroon

February Ushers

- 7th – Don Ellis/Katie Mrozowski
- 14th – Fitsum Ghide/Patrick Nolan
- 21st – Craig Caroon/Ted Avery
- 28th – Mary Haines/Dan Dunn

February Nursery

- 7th – Tonya DeLargy
- 14th – Stacey Simmons
- 21st – Mary Haines
- 28th – Cindy Dixon

Stay Up-to-date

Visit our web site at www.bethesdaunitedmethodistchurch.com to stay up-to-date on the happenings of the church.

March Newsletter Items

Please submit **March** Newsletter items to **Craig N. Caroon** by **February 25th**. Submissions may be handed to Craig or e-mailed to bumc.durham@gmail.com. E-mail is preferred.