

The Circuit Writer

Elkton United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Website: www.elktonvaumc.org

The Rev. David T. Reynolds, Pastor

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September/October

To fulfill our purposes as Christ's Church

I'm excited about the ways God is leading us forward in fulfilling our purposes as Christ's people! We have five purposes as the body of Christ. They are:

Worship

Evangelism

Fellowship

Spiritual Growth

Service

As you probably know by now, God has moved among us to inspire a new dream for reaching younger un-churched families in our community. We want to add a contemporary worship service, one that these younger, un-churched families (as well as some of us!) will find inviting and accessible and exciting. This style of worship uses upbeat new music, with non-traditional instrumentation for church, but instantly recognizable to the un-churched...drums, keyboards, and guitars. It also seeks to engage more of the senses through the use of video, thus raising the "feeling level" of worship. This promises to be an exciting endeavor! I personally think this could set the future of our church. I am praying that we as a congregation will not decide to die by doing nothing and saying the challenge is too big, but will earnestly support and meet this challenge for the future of Elkton UMC. Won't it be great to have a church full of young families with children and youth, worshiping in ways that touch them?

To fulfill this dream God has given us depends largely on the generosity of our congregation. To do this style of worship requires some re-tooling of our sanctuary's audio/visual capabilities. Our best estimate is that this will cost around \$18,000. So, we need your help. This church has proven time and time again that it is a generous people. And if we prove it again now, I honestly believe that this new endeavor will be our finest hour yet as Christ's people at Elkton UMC, and that our best days in the long history of our congregation are yet ahead of us.

Won't you help? Can you catch a glimpse of the ministry God is calling us to? Make a generous "over-and-above" gift today. Just designate your check, "contemporary worship."

Thanks for being Christ's wonderful people.

In Christ's love,

David

LAY READERS

Sept.13..Wingina Lindamood
Sept.20...Mickey Life
Sept.27...Ormond Painter
Oct. 4...Terri Davis
Oct. 11...Jan Lorette
Oct. 18...Lewis Lindamood
Oct. 25...Sandy Cabbage
Nov. 1...Betty Tavenner

ACOLYTES

Sept.13...Travis Cabbage
Sept. 20...Joseph Gooden
Sept.27...Joshua Gooden
Oct. 4...Kevin Wedow
Oct. 11...Travis Cabbage
Oct. 18...Joseph Gooden
Oct. 25...Joshua Gooden
Nov. 1...Kevin Wedow

TOWER BELL RINGERS

Sept. 13...Joseph Gooden
Sept. 20...Joshua Gooden
Sept. 27...Alex Fries
Oct. 4...Travis Cabbage
Oct. 11...Kevin Wedow
Oct. 18...Jordan Gochenour
Oct. 25...Hannah Gochenour
Nov. 1...Joseph Gooden

Back-to-School "Family Movie Night"

Families in the Elkton/Massanutten area are invited to a free Family Movie night at 7:00 PM on Saturday, September 19th. The newest VeggieTales movie, "Minnesota Cuke and the Search for Noah's Umbrella" will be shown in our church assembly room. There will also be free drinks, popcorn and cookies. (Volunteers are needed to bake cookies!) This is a way we are reaching out to young families in our community, so you can help by getting the word out to families you know!

The movie is from 7:00-8:00 PM and the doors will open at 6:30.

Homecoming Celebration & Hymn-Sing

Elkton UMC's annual Homecoming Service will be the third Sunday in September, the 20th. As is our custom in recent years, it will feature a Hymn-Sing as the centerpiece of our worship for the day. That will be followed by a covered-dish fellowship dinner in our social hall. Invite your family and friends to join us in fellowship that day!

Charge Conference

Our annual Charge Conference will be held at church at 12:00 on Sunday, Nov. 1st. This is a time to celebrate the past year's ministry and plan for the one ahead. All are invited. Administrative Council members are expected, as they are voting members of the Charge Conference.

We have Sunday School for all ages...

Why not make Sunday School a part of your journey of faith?? It meets every Sunday at 9:30 AM. Join us!

NURSERY WORKERS

Sept. 13...Loretta Miller
Sept. 20...Nancy Fries
Sept.27...Sandy Cabbage
Oct. 4...Carol Hensley
Oct. 11...Neil Hillsman
Oct. 18...Jerri MacLennan
Oct. 25...Irene Reynolds
Nov. 1...Lisa Gooden

GREETERS

Sept. 13...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Sept. 20...Dianne Lowman & Alda Powell
Sept. 27...Alice Hensley & Loretta Miller
Oct. 4...Dick & Jan Lorette
Oct. 11...Ted & Anna Campbell
Oct. 18...Tamlyn Ogden & Spence Wedow
Oct. 25...Carolyn Gooden & Terri Davis
Nov. 1...Marie Frey & Pat Fitzwater

USHERS

Sept.13...Wingina Lindamood, Marge Klawiter
Sharon Gasser, Kathleen Grimes
Sept. 20...Mike Jenkins, Kenny Cabbage
Lewis Lindamood, Alan Thompson
Sept. 27...Ed & Michelle Turner
Mickey & Patty Life
Oct. 4...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Frank & Linda Adams
Oct. 11...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cabbage
Lewis Lindamood, Alan Thompson
Oct. 18...Ted & Anna Campbell
Alda Powell, Jerri MacLennan
Oct. 25...Sam & Virginia Gentry
Don & Sandy Cude
Nov. 1...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Don & Kathleen Grimes

Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Blue Ridge Ministries is offering the following events this fall and beyond:

Oct. 3 "Deepen Prayer Life: Explore *The Interior Castle* with 16th century Teresa of Avila" led by Lucy O'Meara

For more information or to request personal spiritual direction, contact blueridgeministries@yahoo.com or 540-560-1605.

News from the Elkton United Methodist Women

The MAD HATTERS' TEA was a great success. We had 30 women in attendance, all wearing their favorite hat.

DESSERT BOOTH! We will be sponsoring a Dessert Booth at Elkton Autumn Days, on Oct. 17 & 18. Each church family is asked to be generous in baking something to sell and/or making a contribution. This is our major fundraiser for the UMW. For more info on how to help contact Marie Frey (298-

1770)

THE UMW are still making quilted lap robes. If you have any cloth to donate, please bring it to the church.

If you aren't currently involved in one of our circles, we enjoy having guests at our meetings! Come join us in fellowship and service.

Amanda Kite Circle: 1st Monday nights at 7:00 PM.

Wesleyan Circle: 1st Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM.

Elsie Cover Circle: 2nd Thursday afternoons at 1:30 PM.

Update—Roof and Church Building Repairs

With about equal parts excitement, relief, and sorrow I can report that we have the end in sight for repairs to our church building, repairs that will provide an attractive center for worship and our ongoing ministries for years to come.

Excitement, because members and friends have so generously supported this project with donations, pledges, and volunteer labor. The new roof has proved it is doing its job, providing one hundred percent protection from summer rains. Under a sound roof, we have hired work done: major repairs to walls and ceilings in the education wing and the vestibules, repairing damaged plaster and re-painting the sanctuary, and some electrical work. Our own volunteer painting and cleaning crew, headed by Dick Lorette, has helped trim costs by doing most of the painting in the education wing. Thank you, intrepid paint brush, vacuum, and broom warriors!

Relief, because by this month's end repair work should be complete, including new paint on the exterior window and door frames, porch ceiling, and gutters and downspouts.

Relief, because the sum of pledges to cover these repairs is adequate and you are proving faithful in your giving (we have a loan through the Virginia conference credit union with monthly payments of \$500).

And **Sorrow**, because John Christophel, without whose prodding these repairs would not have happened so quickly, is not here to give his quiet stamp of approval. Please understand: John is the man who made this happen. For months, beginning last December, Ed Turner, chair of trustees, and I served as "front men" for John, who made contacts, listened to the contractors, debated options, and urged us on. He had the big picture, concerned for costs, funding, and establishing our goals in repairing our church building. John refused to appear in committees or have his name publicized, but:

John, I am letting everyone know that Elkton United Methodist Church has been blessed beyond measure by your efforts. I hope you are comfortable with that.

--Harvey Gasser

Join the Joy Club

When you put happiness into others' lives you can't keep it from your own. The Joy Club visits people once a month to bring cheer. We don't want them to think we've forgotten them just because they're sick or shut in.

We need more help. We'd like to visit more often! Won't you come and join this ministry and help it grow?

If you can help, or know someone who could use cheering up, give us a call! Jerri MacLennan (298-1876), or Linda Adams (298-2326)

Letters to New Residents

Did you know that our church sends out letters to new residents seeking to minister to the grief and adjustments involved in moving to a new place? It's a letter of welcome identifying with what they are perhaps experiencing and inviting them to come to our congregation and meet warm and loving people and discover with us what God is doing in their life. But, do you know what's an even better way to extend the love of Christ? When you see new folks moving in, go and welcome them and seek to make friends! Then invite your new *friends* to come be part of our church family.

Contemporary Worship Update

Why a Contemporary Worship Service for Elkton UMC?

- Fall of 2008, Council Planning Session, Contemporary Worship Service was the number one goal
- Also, Jesus gives the Church the great commission in Matthew 28: 19-20 - "Go and Make Disciples of all the Nations"

What is a Contemporary Worship Service?

- In February of this year, the Team began meeting weekly to understand what that meant and to plan for it.
- We have an enthusiastic team of: Betty Tavener, Terri Davis, Sandy Cabbage, Linda Adams, Diane Lowman, Tamlyn Ogden, Shirley Diggle, Sandy and Don Cude, Lynn Atkins, David, and Winston Hensley
- We will be adding a new Sunday service, earlier in the morning and will retain our traditional service
- David will be using the same Bible verses and sermon in each service; however the style of the Contemporary Service will be different – with praise songs, singers and a group of musicians; the atmosphere is less formal than the 11:00 service
- Our goal is to reach the un-churched families in and around Elkton and help them to accept Jesus as their savior.
- Our target date for starting this service is Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010
- The Vacation Bible School program may have been your first exposure to a Contemporary Worship Service. Wasn't it refreshing to see all the children and the energy of they had? A big thank you to Diane and all those who helped with every part of VBS. That same kind of energy is part of a Contemporary Worship Service

What has the Contemporary Worship Team been doing?

- Since starting to meet in February, we've read and discussed Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Church (if anyone wants to borrow a copy, please see one of the team members)
- We've identified tasks and started working on them
- Some of our members have visited other Churches' having Contemporary Worship Services to gather information on how they began their services and what they've learned.
- We met with the Council in June and developed the Church purpose statement: "Becoming a family, we celebrate God's love, serve the world and share Christ's message with all who seek."

What's coming up?

- We have a few things planned, in order to make

our Church more visible and attractive to young families in the community:

- On Saturday, September 19, we're planning a FREE Community Back to School Night here at the Church. We'll have a movie and light refreshments, starting about 7:00
- In October, we're planning an activity for Halloween
- Possible activities for Thanksgiving or Christmas
- In order to have a Contemporary Worship Service in our Sanctuary there is some updating that must be done, such as add a projector and screen, mikes, speakers, amp, wiring, etc, etc. We've met with a local business that specializes in Church audio and video equipment. We're estimating about \$18,000 for this. This amount is not in the Church budget. Our Team knows we're raising money for the roof repair and the painting. But we also know this is a very generous Church. After all, are we doing all these repairs of our building just for ourselves, just because we like our building? Or, are we doing them because our building is the base of our ministry for Christ in and for the community?

What can you do to help with the Contemporary Worship Service?

- Pray for the Contemporary Worship Team and the work we are doing – the committee can't do this alone - We need your support, interest, and enthusiasm
- We also need your financial support in helping to purchase the equipment we need – on your check or on the offering envelope, please designate your donation as Contemporary Worship and Lewis and Loretta will keep track of the funds.
- And we need your help in reaching and inviting to the community and welcoming them into our congregation
- Above all, with God's direction and with your help we can make it happen – we can make add a Contemporary Worship Service and we can reach the un-churched of the Elkton area!!

PRAYER CONCERNS...

(as known)
Edward Turner, Sr.
Mary E. Kite
Jenna Turner
Bud Fitzwater
Bill & Jean Madren
Bill & June DeNeale
Linda Life
Anita McGregor
Ed Turner

(Adapted from Winston Hensley's report to the congregation)