

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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February / March

A Life Worthy of the Gospel

This is the title and the topic of our Lenten study for 2008... a life worthy of the Gospel. Whether or not you're signed up for the class (by the way we have an extra Participant book or two if you meant to sign up but forgot) what better time than in this season of Lent, when we seek to prepare ourselves to fully celebrate the central reality of our faith at Easter, to consider what a life worthy of the Gospel looks like? Is there a recognizable pattern of life that follows from accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ? Or is being a Christian simply a matter of what we believe? I think that there is a recognizable pattern of life that flows from faith. I think that we *act* according to what we *really* believe about life and about reality, no matter what we *profess* to believe. It's for that reason that we need to be in worship and/or some kind of Bible study. It's a lifetime's work for any of us to be fully shaped by the story that is ours in the scripture. But, in this mass media world in which we live it is infinitely harder for that to happen because we are *being constantly* shaped by so *many* other things. If we aren't attending to worship and/or serious bible study in a shared experience, how will our lives ever really show forth the faith of Jesus Christ as we interact with one another, with creation and with other cultures and peoples not like us? So, I would like to challenge you in keeping with the church's best traditions of keeping a "holy" Lent, to make this time, *right now*, the time when you come back to worship if you've been away awhile. And if you are an active worshiper, then make this time the time when you get involved in Sunday School or in the Wednesday night study.

The best time is now, not when things "settle down a little bit." It's when things are unsettled in your life or in your heart that you most *need* these spiritual disciplines that your church offers. Living a life worthy of the gospel is more needed than ever. It's something to think about. More importantly, it's something to do something about!

In Christ,

David

LAY READERS

Feb. 10...Winston Hensley
Feb. 17...Virginia Gentry
Feb. 24...Betty Tavenner
March 2...Harvey Gasser
March 9...Andy East
March 16...Wingina Lindamood
March 23...Mickey Life
March 30...Ormond Painter
April 6...Terri Davis

ACOLYTES

Feb. 10...Alex Fries
Feb. 17...Joseph Gooden
Feb. 24...Joshua Gooden
March 2...Nick Fries
March 9...Connor Nusser
March 16...Kevin Ogden
March 23...Alex Fries
March 30...Joseph Gooden
April 6...Joshua Gooden

TOWER BELL RINGERS

Feb. 10...Joseph Gooden
Feb. 17 Alex Fries
Feb. 24...Kevin Ogden
March 2...Nick Fries
March 9...Travis Cubbage
March 16...Connor Nusser
March 23...Jordan Gochenour
March 30...Joshua Gooden
April 6...Joseph Gooden

Harrisonburg District UM Women's Spiritual Life Retreat

March 14-15 at Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook, Ellen Martin, the Dist. UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator, will be leading "The Journey of the Yahweh Sisterhood." Check-in is at 6:00 PM Friday, March 14. Breakfast and lunch are included on Saturday. The price of the whole retreat is only \$45. Registration is due by March 1st. Questions? Call Mary Jane Rawley 540-828-2436 or Dolly Huffman 540-896-5222.

Project Crossroads

We have reserved our place at Project Crossroads for the week of July 13. Project Crossroads is a national UM mission which serves four counties in southwest Virginia where poverty and unemployment are quite high. This opportunity to be part of a team doing hands-on mission work on peoples' homes is open to youth (rising seventh graders and up) and adults! Proudly, this will be Elkton UMC's 14th consecutive summer of sending a work-team. If you've not been yet, consider going this summer! You won't regret it. We'll leave Sun. afternoon July 13 and return Friday night the 18th. Think about it!

NURSERY WORKERS

Feb. 10...Jerri MacLennan
Feb. 17...Irene Reynolds
Feb. 24...Lisa Gooden
March 2...Loretta Miller
March 9...Nancy Fries
March 16...Sandy Cubbage
March 23...Carol Hensley
March 30...Neil Hillsman
April 6...Jerri MacLennan

GREETERS

Feb. 10...Dianne Lowman & Alda Powell
Feb. 17...Irene Jenkins & Mike Jenkins
Feb. 24... Marvin & Neil Hillsman
March 2...Ted & Anna Campbell
March 9...Ditman Flory & Jim Lawson
March 16...Nancy & Lynn Flory
March 23...Don & Kathleen Grimes
March 30...Marie Frey & Pat Fitzwater
April 6...Jerri MacLennan & Sandy Cubbage

USHERS

Feb. 10...Mike Jenkins, Lewis Lindamood, Bill Madren, Alan Thompson
Feb. 17...Wingina Lindamood, Marge Klawiter, Sharon Gasser, Kathleen Grimes
Feb. 24...Ed & Michelle Turner, Mickey & Patty Life
March 2...Marvin & Neil Hillsman, Frank & Linda Adams
March 9...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cubbage, Bill Madren, Alan Thompson
March 16...Ed & Michelle Turner, Alda Powell, Jerri MacLennan
March 23...Sam & Virginia Gentry, Jim & Carol Lawson
March 30...Wingina Lindamood, Marge Klawiter, Sharon Gasser, Kathleen Grimes
April 6...Harvey & Sharon Gasser, Don & Kathleen Grimes

After Worship "Fellowship Hour"

The attendance at our "Fellowship Hour" following worship continues to be fantastic! If you can help out, be sure to sign up to host refreshments.

Living Water

The Living Water ministry of hospitality offers you the chance to serve some of our closest neighbors. As Christ's people, we're here to serve others and to share life with them. In this way we extend Jesus' love and his invitation for all to sit at his table of reconciliation, peace and love. Every Monday afternoon at 2:45, we give out free bottles of water to those who show up in our parking lot to pick up kids after school. Come join the fun and be part of Christ's presence!

extreme FAITH!

Take your Christianity
to the Edge!

Harrisonburg District Youth Retreat

March 28-30

Gather with other Harrisonburg District youth groups at

Camp Overlook as we get the scoop on

how to be excited about our faith in every aspect of our life!

In addition to the awesome music and testimony of
Covenant, (Alternative Christian Rock Band) we will be joined by
missionary, Bob May, who has just returned from Tonga and will

share his experiences in this and other places including the West Bank. We will also explore the influence of secular music/media on our spirituality, the importance of self-esteem in remaining strong our faith, how to be Christ-like in our relationships, and much more.

*And it wouldn't be camp without great games and
a late night campfire!*

Contact the Camp Overlook office for additional info!

540-269-2267 / OverlookUM@aol.com

(Youth leaders must attend with group)

Price per person:

\$68.00

Arrive: March 28th 6:00PM

(Dinner included)

Depart: March 30th 1:00PM

(Lunch included)

Lent & Easter Calendar

Wednesday, February 6 – Ash Wednesday.

Noon worship service w/imposition of ashes

Wednesday nights: Feb. 13 – Mar. 19, 6:30 -7:30 PM:....Lenten

Study: "A Life Worthy of the Gospel" (Also, covered-dish suppers
each of those Wednesdays at 6:00 PM)

Sunday, March 16 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Thursday, March 20 – Maundy Thursday, 6:30 PM – Beef/Barley
Soup and Bread "Silent Supper."

7:00 PM Communion service

Friday, March 21 – Good Friday, 7:00 PM worship service.

Sunday, March 23 – Easter Sunday

6:30 AM Sunrise Service on the church front lawn,

w/covered-dish breakfast following.

11:00 AM Worship- Liturgy of Resurrection

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)

We have Sunday School for all ages...

and our **Adult Class continues to grow**. Why not make Sunday
School a part of your journey of faith?? It meets every Sunday at
9:30 AM. Join us!!

FOCUS GROUPS ACCOMPLISH MANY GOALS IN 07

The Administrative Council (AC) would like to thank the leaders and
members of the 07 "Focus Groups" for their outstanding
accomplishments this past year. A lot of "good things" happened
and you can read about many of them in the yellow "Focus Groups
Update Book" located at the back of the sanctuary. The Focus
Groups were established by the members of the church to
accomplish many of the EUMC goals presented at the charge
conference. Due to the success of the Focus Groups, the AC is
also requesting the leaders and members of Focus Groups to
continue forward into 08. Most of the Groups have ongoing and
additional goals they would like to achieve. A chart, located on the
wall in Fellowship Hall (Adult Sunday School area), list the current
Focus Group leaders and members. If you would like to participate
in any of the Focus Groups, or you are unable to continue leading
or participating on a Focus Group in 08; please contact the leader
of the Focus Group or anyone on the AC. **NOTE: If you are unable
to attend EUMC Sunday services and would like to keep informed,
please call the church for updates on current and ongoing activities.**

Youth!

Youth, get (or stay) in touch with Sandy Cabbage to help
plan and to participate in lots of fun activities and to be of service
together as youth to your church and community! The youth group is
for all youth, 6th grade. Bring your friends! Sandy's number is:
298-1390

Feed the Hungry in our Community

We are still collecting items for the EAUS Pantry each week at
worship. DON'T FORGET!

For February: Peanut Butter and Canned Fruit

Liquid Laundry Detergent

For March: to be announced

Scout Sunday Activities a Great success!

Sunday, February 10 was Scout Sunday and we had a **BIG** turnout
of Boy Scouts and their families for worship! Our congregation is the
sponsor for Troop 46. Following worship we hosted the scouts and
their families at a covered-dish dinner and got to meet and greet
them and to hear what's going on with the troop. Do YOU have a
skill or a hobby which you can teach to a scout to help them earn a
merit badge? Talk to David and get involved in offering your gifts!

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 to 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 to these folks? 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS...

(as known)

Ralph Huffman
Mary E. Kite
H.C. Hisey
Jenna Turner
Bud Fitzwater
Bill & Jean Madren
Bill & June DeNeale
Ditman Flory
Alice Hensley

Building Repair Update

Recently completed: 1) termite treatment
2) brickwork repair

Next on the agenda: roofing repair (we are currently seeking to raise \$10,000 for this roofing project)

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