

The Circuit Writer

Elkton United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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November-January '08/'09

My Opportunity for Giving Stewardship as a Way of Life

As you know, we are currently in the midst of a wonderful Stewardship Campaign in our church! In very special and helpful ways, we are being led to examine all aspects of our lives-- our time, our talent, and our treasure – and to evaluate for ourselves how well we are responding in gratitude for the great Gift which is our life itself! I hope you have enjoyed the videos by Paul Wilkes that we have seen so far as much as I have.

So, as we approach Thanksgiving and continue on our journey of stewardship, I just want to share with you some inspirational quotes.

It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: what are we busy about? *Henry David Thoreau*

How strange is the lot of us mortals! Each of us is here for a brief sojourn; for what purpose we know not, though sometimes sense it. But we know from daily life that we exist for other people first of all for whose smiles and well-being our own happiness depends. *Albert Einstein*

Use what talent you possess – the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.
Henry Van Dyke

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and world's deep hunger meet. *Frederick Buechner*

We draw energy from prayer to the extent that it draws us into the here and now. The only place I can meet God is in this body, with this heart and mind, in this room. It is not an exercise of fantasy, or placing myself above the clouds in some imaginary heaven. I find God, or rather God finds me, when I am home to myself. www.sacredspace.ie

If you don't have much, but give, you will have more. But if you don't give, whatever you have will never be enough. *D.L. Moody*

Tithing has more to do with faith than finance. But tithing makes little sense, unless you are a person of faithfulness and devotion, or hope to be. Tithing makes little sense, unless you are yearning for God's will in your life. Tithing makes little sense, unless you are seeking a way to thank God for priceless gifts and to share them with others. But, if any of these qualities of a disciple describe you or the person you want to be, tithing, or a step toward the tithe, makes a lot of sense. *Heather Entrekin*

May a happy Thanksgiving and truly blessed Christmas be yours!

LAY READERS

Nov. 9...Betty Tavenner
Nov. 16...Winston Hensley
Nov. 23...Harvey Gasser
Nov. 30...Andy East
Dec. 7...Wingina Lindamood
Dec. 14...Mickey Life
Dec. 21...Ormond Painter
Dec. 28...Terri Davis
Jan. 4...Ed Turner
Jan. 11...Jan Lorette
Jan. 18...Lewis Lindamood
Jan. 25... Sandy Cabbage
Feb. 1...John Christophel

ACOLYTES

Nov. 9...Travis Cabbage
Nov. 16...Joseph Gooden
Nov. 23...Joshua Gooden
Nov. 30...Kevin Wedow
Dec. 7...Travis Cabbage
Dec. 14...Joseph Gooden
Dec. 21...Joshua Gooden
Dec. 28...Kevin Wedow
Jan. 4...Travis Cabbage
Jan. 11...Joseph Gooden
Jan. 18...Joshua Gooden
Jan. 25...Kevin Wedow
Feb. 1...Travis Cabbage

TOWER BELL RINGERS

Nov. 9...Jordan Gochenour
Nov. 16...Hannah Gochenour
Nov. 23...Joseph Gooden
Nov. 30...Joshua Gooden
Dec. 7...Alex Fries
Dec. 14...Travis Cabbage
Dec. 21...Kevin Wedow
Dec. 28...Jordan Gochenour
Jan. 4...Hannah Gochenour
Jan. 11...Joseph Gooden
Jan. 18...Joshua Gooden
Jan. 25...Alex Fries
Feb. 1...Travis Cabbage

District Conference and Training Day

Sunday November 16th two events take place at Otterbein UMC, in Harrisonburg.

- 1) From 2:30 – 3:45 the Harrisonburg District Conference.
- 2) From 4:20 6:00 District Training Day workshops.

There will be refreshments and time to shop at the Cokesbury display between these two events.

The workshops offered are: Growing your Church through starting a Second Worship Service; Pastor-Parish Committee; Developing a Strong Leadership Team; Support Systems for Clergy; Older Adult Ministries in the Local Church; The Work of Outreach/Missions

NURSERY WORKERS

Nov. 9...Neil Hillsman
Nov. 16...Jerri MacLennan
Nov. 23...Irene Reynolds
Nov. 30...Lisa Gooden
Dec. 7...Loretta Miller
Dec. 14...Nancy Fries
Dec. 21...Sandy Cabbage
Dec. 28...Carol Hensley
Jan. 4...Neil Hillsman
Jan. 11...Jerri MacLennan
Jan. 18...Irene Reynolds
Jan. 25...Lisa Gooden
Feb. 1...Loretta Miller

GREETERS

Nov. 9...Ted & Anna Campbell
Nov. 16...Frank & Linda Adams
Nov. 23...Mike & Irene Jenkins
Nov. 30...Terri Davis & Lisa Gooden
Dec. 7...Ditman Flory & Don Grimes
Dec. 14...Dick & Jan Lorette
Dec. 21...Lewis & Wingina Lindamood
Dec. 28...Marie Frey & Pat Fitzwater
Jan. 4...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Jan. 11...Don & Kathleen Grimes
Jan. 18... Alice & Carol Hensley
Jan. 25...Jerri MacLennan & Sandy Cabbage
Feb. 1...Dianne Lowman & Alda Powell

USHERS

Nov. 9...Mike Jenkins, Lewis Lindamood
Kenny Cabbage, Alan Thompson
Nov. 16...Wingina Lindamood, Marge Klawiter
Sharon Gasser, Kathleen Grimes
Nov. 23...Ed & Michelle Turner
Mickey & Patty Life
Nov. 30...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Frank & Linda Adams
Dec. 7...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cabbage
Lewis Lindamood, Alan Thompson
Dec. 14...Ed & Michelle Turner
Alda Powell, Jerri MacLennan
Dec. 21...Sam & Virginia Gentry
Jim & Carol Lawson
Dec. 28...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Don & Kathleen Grimes
Jan. 4...Mike Jenkins, Lewis Lindamood
Kenny Cabbage, Alan Thompson
Jan. 11... Wingina Lindamood, Marge Klawiter
Sharon Gasser, Kathleen Grimes
Jan. 18...Ed & Michelle Turner
Mickey & Patty Life
Jan. 25...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Frank & Linda Adams
Feb. 1...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cabbage, Lewis
Lindamood, Alan Thompson

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!

News from the Elkton United Methodist Women

A GREAT BIG THANKS goes to everyone for helping make our Autumn Days Dessert Booth a resounding success! We made \$1180.42

WOMEN!! Put Saturday December 13th on your calendar. All of you are in^vited to a Christmas Brunch at the home of Betty Tavenner at 9:30 AM. Come and enjoy great food, fun and fellowship.

We are participating in the Apple Tree Gift Project for children of prison inmates. Please take an "apple" off the tree at the rear of the sanctuary. Make some child's Christmas happier.

If you aren't currently involved in one of our United Methodist Women's Circles, we love to have guests at our meetings and we are always overjoyed to welcome new members into our fellowship! Join us for 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.

Please continue to save your Campbell Soup labels. Bring them to church and place them in the marked box in the Assembly room.

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)

EAUS Turkey Drive

Elkton Area United Services is currently holding their annual turkey drive. If you would like to donate a whole frozen turkey or turkey breast, please arrange to drop off the turkey by Nov. 20th, by contacting Sally Williams at 298-0931

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.

Advent & Christmas Calendar

Saturday, Nov. 29 – 9:30 AM: erect the Chrismon Tree
6:00 PM Soup & Sandwich dinner, followed by the decorating the Chrismon Tree

Sunday, Nov. 30 – 11:00 AM: First Sunday in Advent Special Music by Steve Simons' group *Heart of the Matter!*

Sunday, Dec. 7 – 11:00 AM: Second Sunday in Advent Advent Communion celebrated.

Sunday, Dec. 21 – 11:00 AM: Fourth Sunday in Advent Special Christmas music from our Chancel and Handbell Choirs!

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 7:30 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service... special music from our choirs and a solo by Lynn Atkins!

Thursday, Dec. 25 – 10:30 AM: Christmas Day Service of Morning Prayer and Praise

Saturday, Jan. 3 – 9:30 AM: Taking down the Chrismon Tree

Upcoming Opportunities at Blue Ridge Ministries

November 15-- "Living in Sync with God in the Mundane"

led by Sheryl Shenk

December 6 -- "Advent: The Word Made Flesh" led by

Kevin Clark

For more information and/or to register, go to: blueridgeministries@yahoo.com or call 540-560-1605

Join Us for Bible Study

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST BEGINS WITH DISCERNING THE WORD OF GOD TOGETHER

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 PM, "Loaves & Fishes" meets for a covered-dish supper and fellowship. Then, from 6:30 – 7:30 PM, we study and discuss one of the upcoming Bible lessons for the next Sunday's worship.

We'd love to have YOU join us. The food, the fellowship, the discussion, it's all good!

Does God Call Us to be "Green?"

What does the Bible and our Faith have to say to us about our relationship with the earth and our environment?

Join us for three or four Wednesday nights beginning January 7th as a special study will replace the normal Bible study at *Loaves and Fishes* and will examine the Biblical and theological implications for what it means to be a good steward of creation and what this might mean for us as a church.

Job's Jobs Jibber Jabber

Well it seems that Job has been attempting to keep his crew fairly busy of late. We would like to thank John Christophel for his efforts with Richard Tavenner (and anyone else involved) in removing and clearing the tree top that was snapped off and trapped in the top of the tree beside the church from the August wind. John and Harvey also rewired one of the big lights in the sanctuary as well replacing ballasts and lamps in the basement and boiler room.

Job had a major project day planned for October 25th however the weather was not cooperative. Despite the rain, Dick Lorette and Lewis Lindamood replaced the carpet on the handicapped ramp at the main door. This went fairly quickly. Wingina and Lewis replaced two broken window panes in the garage. This turned into more of project than expected when it came time to remove the old putty which was more of the consistency of CONCRETE. After much unproductive chiseling Jim Lawson suggested that we remove it using a Dremel grinder, Wingina became much more enthused once it involved POWER TOOLS. Jim Lawson on the other hand refused to admit that it was raining and continued to cover broken basement windows with Plexiglas. Yes, he was doing a very good imitation of a drowned rat by the time the other projects came to an end. The following weekend Jim, Dick, Steve Simons and Lewis returned to the window well project, built the frame and covered them with a white plastic. Having completed replacing this cover we are now considering creating a cover on the east side bathroom window well and then doing the north and west window wells also.

Job also created a Cantaloupe List (or was that a Honey Dew list) and left it on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to add items that catch your attention and need our attention to this list. Beside that list is also a list on which you can sign up to help assist and to be kept informed of pending projects times. Job would also like to take a moment to thank the United Methodist Women for their financial contribution of replacing the nursery toilet and taking care of removal of the problem water fountain. Future projects presently being considered include coving the other window wells, replacing the thermostats with programmable thermostats, repainting the church sign and repairing the light inside of it and clearing and organizing the boiler room.

Administrative Council Planning Session

9:00 – 11:00 AM, Sat. November 22nd.

All present and future (2009) Ad. Council members' attendance is needed (as well as anyone else who'd like to attend) for a ministry planning session!

Our District Program Director, Glen Langston, will lead us in a time of prioritizing and strategizing about some exciting ideas for ministry for 2009.

We are seeking to reach more people, more young people and more diverse people for Christ. The ministry ideas we will be paring down include the possibilities of:

- 1) changes in worship, or even beginning a new, separate "contemporary" service
- 2) sponsoring community-wide children's events like a kite-flying day, etc.
- 3) making quilted baby blankets for hospital maternity wards to give poor families
- 4) sponsoring a support group and parenting classes for teenage mothers
- 5) offering a VBS class for kids with autism and possibly expanding our ministries further for families with autistic children.
- 6) offering Christian Financial Planing classes

Come help us plan for exciting new outreach ministries! We already have all we need to be Christ's body in mission. Remember, Jesus started with just twelve people, and most of the early churches were "house" churches, truly "small" churches all!