

The Circuit Writer

Elkton United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Website: www.elktonvaumc.org

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Faith's Daring

Some 50 years ago, a man named Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote these words: "Only a Christian who does not allow himself to be infected by modern humanity's neurotic anxiety... has any hope of exercising a Christian influence on this age. He will not haughtily turn away from the anxiety of his fellow men and fellow Christians but will show them how to extricate themselves from their fruitless withdrawal into themselves and will point out the paths by which they can step out into the open, into faith's daring." Did you ever wonder why in the Bible when angels show up, their message so often begins with "Do not be afraid?" Often, from our modern world-view, we are inclined to think it's because it would be so scary to witness what we consider as supernatural as angels. But, the ancients didn't divide the world or their experience into natural and supernatural, that's a modern scientific distinction. So, I think the reason the angels message so often began with 'Do not be afraid,' is something else entirely. I think it's because in order to follow Christ's way in the world, we must let go of our fears. Scott Bader-Saye has said, "Fear makes it difficult to embrace the vulnerability involved in discipleship; it tempts us to replace Jesus' ethic of risk with an ethic of security." Noting what Irish theologian David Ford has written about "overwhelmings," he continues saying, "It may be helpful to think about excessive fear as a kind of negative overwhelming," and that when dealing with overwhelming experiences, tinkering with small details is not so helpful – for instance, dealing with our fear of terrorism by storing a bin of canned food and duct tape in the basement. Nor is it helpful to simply tell ourselves, "I should not be overwhelmed by this." We cannot command ourselves to feel less fear. Quite the contrary, our overwhelming fears need, themselves to be overwhelmed by bigger and better things, by a sense of adventure and fullness of life that comes from locating our fears and vulnerabilities within a larger story that is ultimately hopeful and not tragic."

I believe that's largely what Bible study and worship and preaching are about...locating our fears and vulnerabilities within God's story in Jesus Christ. Are you able to regularly see God's hand in your life or in the world around you, or does it seem more like just random events, chaos, threat and danger? Maybe it's time for a regular discipline of Bible study in a Sunday School class, or this fall, in Loaves and Fishes. Maybe it's time for you to come back to worship on a regular basis. Or, if you do know your life and our world as part of a larger mystery of Love, and you have felt that Love's tugs on your heart and claim on your life, maybe it's time for you to step out into "faith's daring" and give yourself more fully to Christ's ministry through Elkton UMC...either some aspect of that ministry as it exists or something new waiting to be born in you and in us together. Maybe it's time...

In Christ,

David

LAY READERS

June 8...Andy East
June 15...Wingina Lindamood
June 22...Mickey Life
June 29...Ormond Painter
July 6...Terri Davis
July 13...Ed Turner
July 20...Jan Lorette
July 27...Lewis Lindamood
August 3...Sandy Cabbage
August 10...Paul Goulart
August 17...Betty Tavenner
August 24...Winston Hensley
August 31...Harvey Gasser
September 7...Andy East

ACOLYTES

June 8...Joseph Gooden
June 15...Joshua Gooden
June 22...Conner Nusser
June 29...Kevin Wedow
July 6...Alex Fries
July 13...Joseph Gooden
July 20...Joshua Gooden
July 27...Travis Cabbage
August 3...Jordan Gochenour
August 10...Conner Nusser
August 17...Kevin Wedow
August 24...Alex Fries
September 7...Joseph Gooden

TOWER BELL RINGERS

June 8...Joshua Gooden
June 15... Alex Fries
June 22...Conner Nusser
June 29...Travis Cabbage
July 6...Kevin Wedow
July 13...Jordan Gochenour
July 20...Hanna Gochenour
July 27...Tatyana Nava
August 3...Joseph Gooden
August 10...Joshua Gooden
August 17...Alex Fries
August 24...Conner Nusser
September 7...Travis Cabbage

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. ALSO...Thanks to all who helped out with the two carwashes! We raised a total of \$450!!

For Youth.COM Christians on a Mission

On Tuesdays, beginning June 10, come to the Shenandoah Valley Youth Center for a FAST (Freaking Awesome Spiritual Thing). Experience contemporary worship through live music, activities and positive images.

It all begins at 7:00 PM at the Shenandoah Valley Youth Center located in the ShenElk Plaza in Elkton. Everyone is welcome. 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.... And don't forget PROJECT CROSSROADS!!!!

NURSERY WORKERS

June 8...Irene Reynolds
June 15...Lisa Gooden
June 22...Loretta Miller
June 29...Nancy Fries
July 6...Sandy Cabbage
July 13...Carol Hensley
July 20...Neil Hillsman
July 27...Jerri MacLennan
August 3...Irene Reynolds
August 10...Lisa Gooden
August 17...Loretta Miller
August 24...Nancy Fries
August 31...Sandy Cabbage
September 7...Carol Hensley

GREETERS

June 8...Jerri MacLennan/Sandy Cabbage
June 15...Tamlyn Ogden & Henry Duclos
June 22...Mickey & Patty Life
June 29...Joe & Shirley Diggle
July 6...Carolyn Gooden & Carolyn Akers
July 13...Allen & Kitty Young
July 20...Ormond & Joan Painter
July 27...Richard & Betty Tavenner
August 3...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
August 10...Ed & Michelle Turner
August 17...Don Grimes & Jim Lawson
August 24...Irene & Mike Jenkins
August 31...Ted & Anna Campbell
September 7...Sam & Virginia Gentry

USHERS

June 8...Ed & Michelle Turner
Mickey & Patty Life
June 15...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Frank & Linda Adams
June 22...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cabbage
Bill Madren, Alan Thompson
June 29...Ed & Michelle Turner
Alda Powell, Jerri MacLennan
July 6...Sam & Virginia Gentry
Jim & Carol Lawson
July 13...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Don & Kathleen Grimes
July 20...Mike Jenkins, Lewis Lindamood
Bill Madren, Alan Thompson
July 27...Wingina Lindamood, Marge Klawiter
Sharon Gasser, Kathleen Grimes
August 3...Ed & Michelle Turner
Mickey & Patty Life
August 10...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Frank k& Linda Adams
August 17...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cabbage
Biill Madren, Alan Thompson
August 24...Ed & Michelle Turner
Alda Powell, Jerri MacLennan
August 31...Sam & Virginia Gentry
Jim & Carol Lawson
September 7...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.

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 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.

News from the Elkton United Methodist Women

FUN & FELLOSHIP activity for all women of the church... a Mad Hatters' Tea Party, 1:00 PM, Saturday, July 19th at the home of Marie Frey (17047 Mt. Pleasant Rd.) Decorate your favorite hat and come join in the fun.

THE WESLEYAN CIRCLE...annual picnic will be Tuesday, July 1st, at 6:00 PM, at the home of Marie Frey. It is a covered dish affair, and everyone is invited!

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

IF YOU are not currently involved in one of our women's circles, we enjoy having guests at our meetings! Come join us in fellowship and service.

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...

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

Feed the Hungry in our Community

We are still collecting items for the EAUS Pantry each week at worship. DON'T FORGET!
For June:
canned fruit,
condensed soup or ready-to-eat soup (family size cans)
canned fish such as tuna or salmon,
liquid laundry detergent.

Ukraine Special Needs Orphanages Fund, Inc

Dianne Lowman is currently in the Ukraine as part of this non-profit organization that works to improve the future of young children with special needs in the orphanages there. Our congregation, generous as always, raised over \$1,000 in support of this mission. With the money we gave, Dianne bought numerous supplies for the center there, and for parents of special needs kids there.

We look forward to another slide show and presentation from Dianne on the work taking place there, when she returns!

Church Picnic!

Put Sunday, August 17th on your calendar now. After worship that day, we'll gather together under the trees in the back of the building for our annual church-family picnic! As always, we'll supply the drinks and the hamburgers and hot dogs, and you bring the salads, side-dishes and desserts. Best of all, God provides the shade, and the Spirit of Christ provides the fellowship among us!

...Also, during worship that Sunday, we'll have a special guest representing Bethlehem Christians to speak to us briefly at the conclusion of our worship about the plight of the minority Christian population in Palestine.

Plan to be with us Sunday, August 17th.

Camp Overlook

One of our church goals for 2008 is to sponsor a child with a full scholarship for a week at Camp Overlook. We are pleased to be sending Travis Cabbage to camp for the week of July 20th. If you would like to be part of this "second mile" giving effort, just make your check out to the church and designate it Camp Overlook scholarship.

UM Night at the Ball Park

The Harrisonburg District is sponsoring a night at a Turks ballgame, Friday, July 11, 7:00 PM, at Memorial Stadium. Bring the ad from the Daily News-Record on Thursday, July 10 and you and all with you will be admitted free. Sounds like a good MENS EVENT doesn't it?

Church Outdoor Clean-Up Day

Saturday, June 28th, beginning at 9:00 AM, please come and join us as we clean up around our grounds. We need to especially work on all of the over-growth in the forsythia bushes that line the western edge of our property. So, bring your gloves and your weeding tools and come help!

District Mission Trip

You are invited to join a District Mission Team going to Lumberton NC, July 5-12, to replace the roof on a house and repaint classrooms in a UMC for the Lumbee Indian Tribe. The cost is \$200 per volunteer. To register, contact Pastor Bob Talbot at 298-8196.

PRAYER CONCERNS...

(as known)
Mary E. Kite
Jenna Turner
Bud Fitzwater
Bill & Jean Madren
Bill & June DeNeale
Ted Campbell
Neil Hillsman