



The Corner Journal

August 2009

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VBS Program receives great ratings

The Bible tells us that following Jesus' ascension into heaven, the disciples and followers of Jesus followed his command and waited in Jerusalem for the gift that God had promised them and of which Jesus had spoken. It was on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit descended upon them and filled them. This was the gift that God had promised. It is given to us as well. Upon hearing of these events, there was much talking, fear and speculation. Peter advised all who came in contact with him to "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our Goad will call." (Acts 2:38-39). Supported by this belief and hope, the disciples set about spreading the word.

All who experienced our Vacation Bible School this summer were encouraged to consider what it must have been like to be a believer in the early times of the church. They were provided a glimpse of Paul's ministry to the people even as he was under house arrest. Even though he was not free to move about, he emboldened others through his words and witness. For those that were able to visit him, he challenged them to live out the Great Commission. He was especially committed to spread the word to the gentiles, something that even Peter had a difficult time accepting. Paul also sent and received many letters.....we are the beneficiaries of these as found in the New Testament. From these letters we know of the efforts and challenges that the early Christians experienced and endured. Through it all, they continued to spread the word. They supported each other through prayer. They supported each other with their financial resources and served as witnesses so that others would know the message of love, acceptance, forgiveness and everlasting life.

Each evening during VBS, a main Bible Point was shared and demonstrated through song, games and drama. Beginning with the opportunity to be part of a smaller Roman Family, participants learned about God's love through the Bible verse – called the Bible Point as well as simple activities to bring the point home. A recreated marketplace enabled the participants to not only sample foods of the time but also crafts demonstrated by volunteers playing the role of early believers and non-believers of the time. Dramatizations in the marketplace sought to teach those present the challenges early Christians experienced during the time when the Roman government had a hold on Jerusalem. Hopefully the introduction of Paul, his Roman guard and two members of the Underground Church imparted some appreciation of the commitment and love that these early Christians had as they sought to share God's love.

The main themes experienced even through the games that the participants experienced were:

God's love is a gift.

God's love changes us.

God's Love is always with us.

God's Love saves us.

God's Love is worth sharing.

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Russian Delegation to visit Luray United Methodist

A team of seven Russian United Methodist church members from the North Caucasus District will be arriving in Virginia on August 4 for a visit with churches in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Virginia Beach, Luray, and also Camp Overlook.

They will arrive in Luray on Friday, August 14, and will be staying with host families from our church.

They will participate in both our worship services on August 16, and will be guests at our Fellowship Dinner at 6 pm that evening, where they will share with us about their home churches.

They will also be participating in our August 14 Game Night and Just Friday Nights (JFN). The group will glean in Winchester, work at Page One, and attend a Bible study, as

well as tour Luray Caverns and go swimming before traveling to Camp Overlook on Tuesday, August 18.

We hope you will keep the team members, all their hosts, and all the involved churches and church members in prayer during this time so that we all may be blessed by the sharing of Christian fellowship and worship.

Possibility for new Sunday School (or another time) classes

We would like to offer some additional classes during Sunday School (or whenever convenient for those attending). Some have expressed a need for a confirmation class or, if new to Methodism, an introduction to "Who Are the Methodists". Another idea is for those folks who are "tweeners" those who are no longer the "kids" but still aren't "seniors". If you would be willing to help organize these classes or have another interest to suggest, please notify the Education Committee (Garnett Brockman) or the church office.

News of the Luray United Methodist Women

The UMW Executive Committee meeting on Friday, August 7 at 10 am in the IMAGE classroom.

The United Methodist Women will be planning both services for Sunday August 31. Pastor Ellen Martin will be preaching, and UMW members will be involved in this special service. Plan now to attend!

Message is now online– submitted by George Nosek

During the second week of July 2009, Pastor Doug, Larry Hakel and Carla Chamberlain initiated a sermon on-line procedure. The three part series sermons during June/July on SIN were entered onto the church web site www.gbgm-umc.org/lurayumc as the initial effort. On-line sermons are on a trial basis with continuance dependent on whether it is considered useful. Sermons will be added weekly. How long each sermon will remain on the web site and how long the trial will last is yet to be determined. It was agreed that the format that the pastor uses will not be modified. The on-line sermons are not meant to be a substitute for attending a worship service. Worship includes gathering, praising, adoring, thanking, confessing sin, proclaiming scripture, affirming faith, offering, petitioning, interceding, testifying, blessing and sending. A sermon is only a part of the worship experience.

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VBS information (continued from p. 1)

This VBS was a major undertaking but early feedback and comments seem to indicate that it was a memorable event for those that experienced it. It would not have been possible had it not been for the prayers, donations and efforts of so many. A profound thank you is given to all. The following are those that assisted in some way in making this happen. It is believed that this endeavor was successful because we were able to benefit from all the talents our church and other congregations had to offer. In! Corinthians 12:12 we are told that "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body." We worked together, utilizing what God has given each one of us to spread the word! THANKS BE TO GOD!

VBS Planning Team:

Director: Faith Carlson

Publicity: Elly Hakel

Photographer: Larry Hakel

Apprenticeship Games: April Mays (Luray Christian Church)

Betty White

Marketplace Coordinator: Missy Deibert

Paul and the Underground Church : Chris Deibert

Set Design and Construction: Joanne Lee

Drama: Layne Vickers

Extollo: Cathy Ashanky and Robin Stevens

Pastor Doug

Roman Family Leaders:

Jeanne Judd and Susan Armstrong (Luray Christian Church)

Pastor Doug and Sam McNeely

Karen Grieves and Jim Ashanky

Lianna and Patrick Barrett (Big Springs Mennonite)

Substitute/Stand-By Family Leaders: June and Bruce Clark

Registration:

Wanda Couch

Lenora Zirkle

Barbara Ramey

Set Construction/"De-Construction":

Dave Naser

Cliff Lee

Karen Grieve

Ron Vickers

Joe Vickers

April Mays

Leif Carlson

Sue Raeburn

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Sermons now online (continued from Page 2)

There were several reasons considered for putting the sermon on line. There are times that a sermon comment may be missed or not understood. Seeing a written text may help in clarification. Also, the pastor provides scriptural references which are contained within the text that may need to be referenced for understanding. And of course home bound or people that can not attend a Sunday service have the opportunity to at least read the sermon that was presented.

Another reason is based on the 80/20 rule. I need a little time to relate the fact that I believe is appropriate accurately. Since this article is due now I'll include the 80/20 rule in the next months Corner Journal.

HELPERS	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Acolyte -11:00	Carolyn Vickers	Olivia Deibert	Ben Vickers	Caroline Suddith	Carolyn Vickers
Greeters - 8:30	George & Betty Nosek	Chris & Maggie Emert	The Brockman Family	Myrt & Ashby Downer	Betty & Alex White
Greeters -11:00	Walt & Nancy Gordon	Nancy Bell & Mary Lou Owens	Mary Ann Suddith & Peggy Turner	Nancy Bedinger & Ella Cummings	UMW Sunday Loree Fisher & Nancy Gordon
Reader - 8:30	George Nosek	Cathy Ashanky	Walt Surratt	Carol Eackles	Jennifer Puffinburger
Reader - 11:00	Chris Deibert	Layne Vickers	Leon Waters	Judy Suddith	Jim Ashanky
Nursery - 8:30	Myrt Downer	Sheryl Brockman	Devon Deavers	Faith Carlson	BettyWhite
Nursery - 11:00	Winn Jennings	Barbara Ramey	Layne Vickers	Missie, Ashleigh & Olivia Deibert	Judy Suddith
Counters	Carol Eackles & Doug Raeburn	Carol Eackles & Cathy Weaver	Walt Gordon & Cathy Weaver	Walt Gordon & Cathy Whittle	Leon Waters & Cathy Whittle

VBS Information continued

Joanne Lee Cathy Whittle
Larry Hakel Donna Miller
Chris Emert

Costumes: Judy Suddith, Elisa Thompson,
Richelle Grdina, Betty White, Faith Carlson,
Meredith Houff, Carol Eackles
Myrt Downer

Paul and the Underground Church :
Chris Deibert. Brett Raeburn, Ashleigh
Deibert,
Missy Hoak (Luray Christian Church)

Drama Team: Layne Vickers, Joe Vickers,
Carolyn Vickers, Tommy Ramey, George
Nosek, Doug Raeburn

Marketplace: Missy Deibert, Olivia Deibert,
Wynn Jennings, Maggie Emert, Dave Naser
Lisa Martin, Connor Grieve, Jim Grieve
Doug Raeburn, Sharon Surratt, Walt Surratt
Chuck Butler, Sue Raeburn, Richard Holder
Ron Vickers, Joe Vickers, Ben Vickers and
Carolyn Vickers

Donations/Loan of items
Many church members!
If anyone was omitted – sincere apologizes!

The Richmond Times Dispatch reported on June 22 that “New restrictions that cut down on the number of payday loans that borrowers can get have drastically reduced the number of short-term, high interest loans issued in Virginia. Last year, Virginia payday lenders made nearly 3.4 million payday loans, or about 281,000 each month. Through the end of May, lenders had issued 226,807 loans, an average of 45,000 per month— an 84% decline, according to the Bureau of Financial Institutions. While payday lenders are always looking for a way around new restrictions for the present, we can take heat in this decline.

Submitted by Lena Bish

Holy News Briefs!!!!!!

- We give a special thank you to Jeff Jennings for cooking the pork loin for our dinner on June 27th. Those attending greatly appreciated the delicious preparation of the meat. We will have another dinner coming on Sat., Sept 12th. For that dinner, we will be offering chicken as well as pork loin. Reservations will be required for those choosing chicken.
- A special thank you to Faith Carlson for all the planning, organization and time that went into making Rome, Paul & the Underground Church our best VBS! We also thank everyone from our congregation, Big Spring Mennonite & Luray Christian Churches who gave time & talents for this memorable VBS.
- Thank you to the Volunteers who faithfully provide refreshments each Sunday morning through out the year for Coffee Time following the Early Worship Service.
- Thank you to those who graciously helped to stock the Kitchen Party with Coffee, Lemonade, Napkins, Paper Plates, etc. Your gifts are noted and appreciated.
- Friday, August 14th- 7 PM Fellowship Game Night. Bring your favorite board game, etc and favorite snack to share. Invite your friends to join us for the evening. . Come join the fun.
- Russian United Methodist Team Fellowship Dinner ,Sunday, August 16, 6 PM. Come and share this time with our fellow United Methodists visiting Luray. Bring salad or vegetable and/or dessert for your family plus extra. Meat & beverages will be provided.
- Church picnic is September 20th at Lake Arrowhead.

Yarners to meet August 22nd

Yarners continue to meet each month, usually the 4th Saturday of the month (unless otherwise advertised). We continue to knit/crochet prayer shawls and other items crafted in prayer which bring comfort and support to others. Think about joining us this month from 1 pm-3 pm in the parlor located behind the sanctuary. We would love to teach you how to knit or crochet if you don't know how! We will be meeting on August 22nd. If you would like to give a prayer shawl away that is made and blessed at the altar, check the basket on the left front pew in the sanctuary. All we ask is that you write your name and who the shawl will be given to in the composition book located in the same basket. Questions? Talk to Sue Raeburn or Cathy Ashanky

August Birthdays

Barbara Shenk	01
Woody Turner	02
Jen Surratt	06
J. Alex Seal	06
Nell Strong	10
Leanne Griffith	15
Ashley Glether	15
Brett Raeburn	19
Charles Rickel, Jr.	19
Clifford Lee	20
William Houser	20
Violet Griffith	21
Daniel Pender	24
Bradley Hakel	26
Whitney Marston	27
Nancy Gordon	28
Matthew Whittle	29
Jamie Martin	29
June Rickel	29
Beverly Armel	30
Ben Vickers	30



August Anniversaries

Lena Bish & Jim Sedwick	14
Garnett & Sheryl Brockman	28
James & Betsy Campbell	25
Kenneth & Alice Fisher	20
David & Donna Hansen	09
Robert & Deanna Jenkins	27
Albert & Faith Judd	09
Julian & Ellen Sedwick	08

If there are any errors or omissions to the birthday or anniversary list, please contact the church office directly at 540-743-6540. Thank you.



WANTED!!!

PEOPLE TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST!!

These people must be willing to perform at least one of the following:

1. Greet visitors to our worship services and follow-up in some way.
2. Visit our church family in our local hospital, nursing home, or in their homes,
3. Pray for the applicants and those visited in a "gathered" fashion.

(Training provided)

