



Centreville United Methodist Church

608 Church Hill Road
Centreville, MD 21617

K. Wayne Grier, *Pastor*

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Dear CUMC Family and Friends,

We have reached the halfway point of 2007 and we have many things to be grateful for. At the front of those things to be grateful for is our Building Project that is just about complete. The addition to our building will add five classrooms and additional restrooms to better serve our church and Christian community.

Over the past several years our church has experienced challenges that we have managed to overcome and learn from. Today is no different, as we are now experiencing a financial shortfall that could have a big impact on our church in the coming months. We are in need of a *“Shot in the Arm”* and I am reaching out to you all for your financial support. As of May 31, 2007 we are \$18,717 behind in our giving. At this rate we will end the year with expenses more than \$40,000 greater than our giving.

Our church, as with all organizations, must be able to generate enough revenue (in our case tithes and offerings) to support the operation and staffing needs for a congregation our size. We continue to manage the day-to-day operation of the church in the most efficient manner possible, conserving electricity usage and monitoring all operating expenses. Our current CUMC Staff of six consists of Pastor Wayne Grier, Director of Music Jim Telepchak, Director of Youth Ministries Kent Laing, Organist Avis Wheatley, Secretary Pat Mock, and Custodian Vicki Morris. All of these positions are vital to continuing the spread the word of Jesus Christ throughout our community.

All of our ministries and projects cost money, and yet they reap tremendous blessings for the entire Church. But right now we are facing significant shortfalls that need to be addressed immediately. Centreville United Methodist Church needs a big financial *“Shot in the Arm”* as soon as possible. Therefore, I ask you to make a special donation – as much as you can possibly afford – to help us cover these shortfalls and prepare to spread the word of Jesus Christ and grow our congregation. Unfortunately, if we do not receive the needed donations, we will have no choice but to curtail our work and potentially eliminate programs that are necessary to further grow our church.

Please consider how much you might be able to sacrifice at this time in order to give CUMC the boost it needs. Pray on it. If you could give **\$100, \$250, \$500, perhaps \$1,000 or more**, I'm confident we'll be able to keep going without breaking our stride. If you are unable to give a large special donation at this time, perhaps you can put something extra in the weekly offerings. Let us all pull together to support and continue all of the wonderful programs we have in our Church.

God Bless you for all that you do for our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Jerry Thomas
Chair – Staff Pastor Parish Relations



THE MESSENGER

The News of the Centreville United Methodist Church July 2007

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

While listening to a devotional the other day, something was shared that got me to thinking. There are many things which concern us during our lifetimes, ie money needs, family needs, health needs, job needs, etc. Do we ever stop and consider what things concern God? When it comes to our money needs, God isn't concerned about how much we make, but He is concerned about how much we give! When it comes to our family needs, God isn't concerned about all the material things we may provide for our families, but about giving the gift of ourselves to our families. When it comes to our health needs, while God wants us well, and while God reminds us that our body is the temple of His Spirit, God is most concerned about our spiritual health, ie is it well with our soul? And, finally, when it comes to our job needs, God isn't concerned about the kind of job we have, but that we be His servants, His witnesses, and the magnifiers of His love in our world. Matthew 6:33 tells us: "Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Perhaps if we gave a little more attention to the things God is concerned about for our lives, we would have less time to worry about the things that concern us!

Calling All Ushers and Greeters!

If you volunteer as a church usher or greeter, or if you would like to serve as such, there are two upcoming opportunities to learn more about this important ministry of our church. Ushers and greeters are usually the first people that attendees at worship meet. Ushers and greeters, therefore, are the ones to make the first impression on attendees at worship, especially first-time attendees and visitors. First impressions often make the difference between a person coming back again or looking elsewhere for a church home.

In an effort to make our ushering and greeting ministry more effective at CUMC, the pastor will be leading two training events. Current ushers and

greeters, and would-be ushers and greeters, are urged to attend one of the two training events. The first event will be held on Monday evening, July 30th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The second event will be held on Saturday, August 18th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please pick the date and time most convenient for you, and please help us make these ministries of our church more effective. We want to let people know that we care!

Open House Month

With the near completion of our new educational wing and other renovations, CUMC will be holding "Open House" during the month of September. We want to "show off" our new addition, but also use this opportunity to be intentional about inviting people in the community, especially the unchurched, to come and visit with us and become a part of our faith family. A number of special events are being planned for during the month, so expect more information in the August/September newsletters and also on our website in the coming weeks.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Barbara Erickson

Due to construction, the UMW is in a "holding pattern" not that we have not been busy! Planning for fall bazaar and working at home on items for older adults or for infants..

This may be a good year to attend school of Missions - registration form and more info is available in the church office.

Please watch bulletin and newsletter for information on getting back into church kitchen

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Lester Downes

The United Methodist Men ended their season by taking their wives to dinner at the Fisherman's Inn. A good time was had by all.

The next meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday in September.

Migrant Program

This year the church and VIM donated "buckets" for toiletries to the Migrant program. Church members were asked to pick up a bucket at the church on Sunday, fill it with necessary toiletries and then return to the church for distribution to the migrant workers in our area. We thank all who so generously donated to this local outreach.

CENTREVILLE YOUTH MINISTRIES

Ken Laing

Summertime has arrived and that means we are taking a bit of a break! We ended the year with a barbeque at the Connolly's house (thanks!) We all had fun kayaking, playing cards, and Pictionary...even though I do not think we play by the rules.

This summer also means that it is my major planning time, after a bit of time to digest the last year. Centreville Youth Ministries is so blessed to have such wonderful youth who want to grow in their faith and have some great fellowship time.

Summer also means that our youth will be going on their annual Youth Missions Trip. This year they are leaving on July 1. They will be in Man, West Virginia when you are reading this. Please keep them all in your prayers and also keep the Appalachia Service Project in your prayers. Thanks to Katie and Larry Morris for taking this group. Also a big thanks to all of you that were able to help support this trip happening.

Please share as much of this info with any youth that you know!!! I am planning some major changes for Centreville Youth Ministries!!! Over the last three years our growth has been awesome, but there is so much that could be better for our youth to know Jesus. Make sure you look in next month's newsletter to read what will be going on with us. If you have any ideas or want to be a part of Centreville Youth Ministries (youth or adults) please just let me know!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Harriet Caporin

Books had to be boxed up and stored away for the past few months during our building and renovation work. They are now back on the shelves and ready for circulation.

To check out a book, simply remove the book card from its pocket in the back of the book, date and sign it and leave the card in the plastic container on top of the brown cabinet in the library or the basket

on top of the book kiosk in the hall.

Thanks to a donation by Mary Ethel Dye, there are several new books from the Tales from Grace Chapel Inn and several new Beverly Lewis titles. I know many of you enjoy these and they should be good summer reading.

Please keep the library in mind if you have recent books you would like to donate that are appropriate for the church library.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Two Marriage Encounter retreats are offered this fall. The first will be held at the beautiful Skycroft Retreat Center near Frederick Maryland on October 14-16. It is organized by the Interfaith MARVA Marriage Encounter. CUMC members Harriet and Ed Caporin will be directing the presenting team.

The second weekend opportunity is offered by United Methodist Marriage Encounter on November 16-18, in Easton Maryland. Both weekends offer married couples communication and spiritual growth in their relationship. The Easton weekend is presented by Methodist couples and offers the benefit of being close by.

Ed and Harriet have participated in both Methodist and interfaith weekends and can discuss more details on what to expect. Call them at 410-758-0405.

GOLDEN YEARS

Barbara Erickson

Do you know how many of our church family have been married 50+ years?

The children of Bud and Barbara Erickson invite the church family to help them celebrate the first 50 years on July 22, following church service.

Especially those who have reached the milestone of 50 (to date we have counted 10 couples.)

If you would like to honor any of the couples, a donation to the church would be appropriate.

For Such a One as This

After much anticipation, almost as much as the iPhone, it's finally here; the recording of CUMC's Easter Presentation of "For Such a One as This". If you are interested in obtaining a copy please check in with Pat Mock or Jim Telepchak. We are simply asking a \$5 (five) dollar donation to help defray the cost of recording supplies. Thanks.

BANNER WORKSHOP

Ann Harlan

I am inviting anyone to come to my house on July 26th at 10 a.m. for a Banner workshop and lunch. You need not know how to sew or design the banners just help to glue and cut and to put them together. Banners add lots of color and meaning to our church and I would like to have them available for all seasons and traditions in our church. I live about 1 and ½ miles from our church at 515 White Marsh Road. It is easy to find so please call and let me know if you can help, enjoy lunch, and have a good time together. Please call me, Ann Harlan, at 410-758-4349. Looking forward to all who can come!!!

EVANGELISM

Ann Harlan

I was reading an article recently about the faith journey one woman chose to share and it got me thinking about mine. It also made me wonder how many of us have thought what path has brought us here. I think it would do us all well to consider the journey we have taken and see how Christ has made his presence known in our lives.

I was raised part of my life in the Presbyterian church where I remember how important it was to attend Sunday School each Sunday to get perfect attendance and then an award. We had to memorize the chapters in the Bible and lots of prayers and songs. I felt as a child the power of being there and doing all of those things but it was certainly very different than now. As a child I had no question of my belief. As a teenager and in college, then in the Methodist Church, church was more a place to be with friends and to feel a belonging. I had some years of doubt then and it was not until I had children my faith began to rebuild and I started letting Christ back into my life fully. Little did I know how much I would need him until the birth of my second child, Matthew. He was born with life limiting heart problems. During his brief life, I felt the closeness God in him and around me. Matthew seemed to know Jesus without anyone ever teaching him and it gave me peace. When we lost him, I know I was visited by the Holy Spirit, for he came running to me in half sleep after his surgery, saying "Mommy, I am alright now" and then they told me he was gone. As painful as his loss has been, I have never felt angry but that he was a gift to me. He

was part of my journey to help me know Christ and have a deeper faith than ever before.

Now, I feel the presence of God around me all the time. I know when I ask that the peace I need will surround me. I want everyone to know how much his love has helped me through my life and has made my own journey rich and full. May you have some moments to reflect yourselves this summer and know the closeness of Christ's love as we spread his love to others.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Larisa Thomas

Spring was a busy time for VIM. We had a team that went to Appalachia and a team involved in "Christmas in April" here in Queen Anne County. Both projects gave team members the opportunity to create a better living environment for those families we assisted.

We currently have a challenge before us here locally in QA County. Social Services has asked VIM to assist in making some repairs and renovations to a mobile home for a mom and her 4 children. I say it is a challenge - as there is currently no working plumbing and serious electrical wiring problems. We wish to help this family anyway we are able. Can you help?"

Do you know anyone who has an older mobile home they would like to relieve themselves of? We may be able to have it moved for them!

There are 2 girls and 2 boys. They have very little and rather than asking for "hand me downs" we were hoping to get 1 new outfit and toy for each child. These children have rarely had anything NEW. Would you be willing to purchase 1 item? Call Robin Pilli, 410-758-1126, who will be coordinating what is needed.

We are all called to help our brothers and sisters in Christ. By helping our neighbors and giving of our time, talents and treasures we are responding to God's call to feed the hungry, give the homeless a place to stay and clothe the poor. This is your opportunity to be fruitful for God's Kingdom.

Save the date!!! September 15, 2007

VIM is having their fall Pancake Breakfast, Flea Market and Bake Sale on this date. Please mark your calendar now and save the date. We will be asking for donations for the Flea Market close to time, so don't throw out any items,Save it for us!



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SUMMER CHOIR

Jim Telepchak

As a way to try and keep everyone's voice in tune for the fall, we've started a summer choir. This is the ideal win/win situation for any of you who have been bemoaning those l-o-n-g choir rehearsals or weekly commitments. The basics of this group are as follows; a hymn is chosen each week that agrees or amplifies the sermon topic, we meet in fellowship hall 15 (fifteen) minutes prior to the service, rehearse the selection, and sing it during the traditional service. At my estimate, that amounts to a total commitment of approximately 20 minutes. What could be simpler? We've been seeing new faces every week. When will we see yours?

HAND BELL POSSIBILITIES

Looking for something interesting and challenging to add to your empty summer schedule? Why not try out the Hand bells. If there is enough interest, we may try a handbell week sometime in August. This would be the type of situation where we would work on skills, as well as an easily accessible piece to be performed on the Sunday following the workshop. If you have interest in something of this nature, contact Jim Telepchak at: cumcmusic@yahoo.com or phone: 410-708-7137.