

January

Events

January 8-10

Youth Rally

January 20

7:00 pm

Focus Group

January 24

5:30 pm

Youth Rally

Pot Luck

The Messenger



January 2010

Newsletter

Reverend's Remarks for January 2010

As I look out the boy's playroom window which overlooks the church, I reflect on 2009 and I'm amazed at the marvelous things God has done through our ministry at Centreville United Methodist. Truly God has blessed the efforts of all of those that have given of their time and talents over the past year. We have worked hard! But in the midst of reflecting upon where we have been as a church I can't help but wonder what new thing God is going to do in 2010. Whether we see it or not, God will be at work with God's people, and he will be doing a new thing. The scripture says, "*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*" Isaiah 43:19.

None of us know what will happen in the upcoming year but God will work to make things happen that this world has never seen. We might not get it, we might not perceive it, but God is ready to do a new thing in 2010. God is in the business of making all things new. Through Jesus, we can be a new creation; we can have new life. In the scripture above the prophet Isaiah cries out on behalf of God. The people of Judah are caught in exile in Babylon wondering if they will ever see home again. Isaiah is saying to them open your eyes, look around, God is going to do a new thing. Open your eyes and see God is making a way home. Whether it is eighth century B.C. or 2010 God is going to do a new thing!

Rest assured, God will be doing a new thing at Centreville United Methodist Church! Can you feel it? Can you see it? These are exciting times to be a part of this ministry. In 2010 our church is God's new thing. God will be doing a new thing through all our programs and personnel. God will be doing a new thing as we reach out to others in the name of our Savior. God will be doing a new thing as we spiritually mature in our faith. God will be doing a new thing as we hear the call of new leaders rising up in our midst, and strengthening those who have been working hard for many years.

Let's hold each other up, celebrating our gifts and respecting our differences. Let's be patient with one another and marvel as we hold on, roll up our sleeves, and see what new thing God has for 2010. Happy New Year!

PRAYER THOUGHTS



The month of January is the beginning of a new calendar year...a month when all of those New Year's Resolutions are thought about and made. It's also a time to reflect on what we have accomplished in the year past, being thankful for the Lord's daily help.

As we begin the year 2010, please think about taking some time to seek His will for this New Year. Perhaps you can spend some time dedicating this new year to loving and serving our God through praying and fasting or (denying yourself of something you enjoy, if you have medical problems that prevent you from fasting), asking Him to direct your path each day and to just praise and worship our Heavenly Father, Christ, His Only Son, and the Holy Spirit for Who They are. In other words just seek to know Them better, Their characteristics, Their various Names and Their attributes. It seems we always seek His hand to help us with our needs – and there's certainly nothing wrong with that, but how many of us just take time to sit in His beautiful Presence, to gaze upon His holiness and purity – to sit at His feet, as Mary did and just "Be still and know that I AM God." Psa. 46:10.

It is wonderful to get together and pray as a group, but there is no comparison to meeting with God by yourself in your own "prayer closet". It is here that you may possibly start out with a worship CD, sit quietly before Him, concentrating on and thanking Him for His Presence, pouring out your heart to Him in adoration and praise. It is here that He sees our heart's desires and in His time will show you His – especially how very much He loves us and anticipates our daily time alone with Him. It is here that our personal relationship grows. Keep your Bible close by as He may lead you to certain passages of Scripture that you can pray back to Him or that He wants to speak to you about. Also keep a note pad and pen to write these things down – to reflect upon them later. You'll find that every time you meet with the Lord, it's different. Sometimes He just wants us to be still and not say a word. Sometimes He'll use a friend to speak to us. Whatever He chooses, the more quality time we spend with Him, the more He loves to show Himself to us, whether through the Word, music, or quiet prayer, or all of the above. We grow closer and closer to Him; becoming more and more like Him, which is His and our desire. Our goal is to be Christ-like - to allow the Father, through the Holy Spirit to draw people to Christ through us.

If you are new to this, you may find your mind wandering from thought to thought and not being able to concentrate on entering into the Lord's Presence. Make sure all known sin is confessed (The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13 or 1John 1:9) and that you have your armor on (Ephesians 6:10-18). Write down all of these thoughts and take them captive according to 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and eventually your mind will clear and you can turn your full attention to the Lord. A couple of Scripture verses that help to "see" the Lord are found in [Ezekiel 1:1-28](#), Isaiah 55, Psalm 18, 27, 34, 46, 103, 104, 139; [Revelation 4](#). You may say you don't have time for all of this, but if you take that first step of perhaps 15 minutes or so, I can promise you that you will soon want to spend more and more time in your prayer closet and wanting to get into His Presence. What joy and peace this brings to the Lord and us!

The Board of Child Care's Auxiliary

2008 Contributions

- Each graduating senior received an afghan and \$100.
- 168 foster families and other families associated with BCC received Thanksgiving baskets.
- 200 children and youth in the residential and emergency shelter programs received Easter baskets.
- The Auxiliary Districts baked more than 27,000 cookies for the children.
- Children and youth living on the Balt. and West Virginia campuses received Valentine candy and birthday cards.
- At Christmas youth on both campuses received gifts
- The Auxiliary gave \$30,000 from its treasury to support the BCC.

Volunteers In Mission

VIM is currently focusing on the QAC homeless shelter, Our Haven, using the KIUMC for its facilities. We need 3 volunteers for the 6PM to midnight shift for each night, with at least one man and woman needed on each shift. The main part of this job is fellowshipping with the guests, while making sure they follow the rules. Dinner is provided by a member of our church. The dates this year are January 14-16, February 25-27, and March 25-27. Please see Stacey Strotman at 410-482-2279 to volunteer to staff the shelter.

In addition, VIM needs church members to cook and serve a meal for up to 20 people staying at the shelter. It does not have to be fancy; in fact, plain home cooking is great! Some past dinners included chili, soup, spaghetti, hot dogs, pizza, casseroles, whatever you feel like cooking. Feel free to bring other family members or friends to help to serve.

The signups to provide dinner are posted on the bulletin board. Please contact Larisa Thomas 410-758-2144 for more details or sign up at the VIM Bulletin Board.

Please note the rule change: all youth volunteers under 18 years of age must leave the shelter by 8 PM.

The next VIM meeting is January 18th at 7 PM. We are going to be focusing on being involved in more local mission work. All are invited to be the hands through which God can work!

SPRC

As 2009 winds to a close, the SPRC would like to share the goals that were developed to pave the path for pastoral ministries during 2010. This process is inherent in our Ministry Covenant and the goals are developed through the collaborative efforts of the SPRC and Pastor Mark.

While a broad range of pastoral ministries is defined in the Book of Discipline, the goal of this process is to identify areas of "high need" for CUMC so that Pastor Mark can focus his efforts and energy to improve ministries in these targeted areas. There is no intent to diminish the value of any other area of ministry and Pastor Mark certainly takes the full range of his responsibilities quite seriously. While he is observed to have "boundless" energy, it is not limitless, and the SPRC is charged with recognizing that reality and helping him use the resources with which he is blessed to serve the Lord, his family, and his church without "burning the candle at both ends". The targeted areas/roles for 2010 are as follows:

- Preaching and Worship
- Personal and Spiritual Growth
- Enabler
- Leader among Leaders

Please feel free to contact me at 410-758-2131, if you have questions about this process. Quite frankly, I just recently became aware that it is easier to walk through it than it is to explain it on paper!!

Fred Edwards has just concluded his most recent three year term as a member of the SPRC and as he steps down as a committee member, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for his long-standing commitment and many valuable contributions. He richly deserves a break from us but he will be sorely missed!



Focus Groups

Pastor Mark and the Worship Committee are planning a series of Focus Groups to discuss a mid-week worship experience at our church.

Times:

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 7:00 p.m. (Sunday School Wing)

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 7:00 p.m. (Sunday School Wing)

These groups are designed for you (the members of our church) to share your thoughts or ideas concerning this new experience. Everyone is welcome.

Evangelism Committee

Backpacks for Kids: January Juice Month

We are in our 10th week of providing weekend food for 25 children at Kennard Elementary. Thanks to the financial commitment of the Evangelism Committee, UMW, UMM, VIM, and donations from the congregation, we are providing 2 breakfast, 2 lunches, 2 fruits, 2 juices, 2 snacks and 1 or 2 extra items. During the week, these children qualify for free or reduced cost breakfasts and lunches at school.

Susan Davis, counselor at Kennard, reports that the children are excited to pick up their backpacks of food every Friday morning. We know nothing else about these children, except that they need our help.

With careful shopping and generous donations of food, the cost has been kept to an average of \$4.50 per child per week. To help keep the cost as low as possible, and the nutritional value of the food as high as possible, we are seeking donations of 100% juice boxes during **January Juice Month**. These can be purchased in 6 packs at the grocery store or in larger quantities at Sam's Club or Costco. There will be a basket in the hallway for donations or you can leave them in the office. If you don't want to shop, you can adopt a child for \$4 - \$5. Donations can be made as often as you'd like. Place the check (Made payable to CUMC and noted Backpacks for Kids) or money in an envelope marked "Backpacks for Kids", and put it in the offering on Sundays.

In coming months, we will have other requests. Thank you for helping this mission for neighborhood children.

Cheryl Vorhauer, Evangelism Committee Member

2010 Committee Chairs

Administrative Council Chair	April Sharp
Administrative Council Vice Chair	Richard Phillips
SPRC Chair	Susan Morris
Finance Chair	Dukes Meeks
Treasurer	Lee Clark
Trustee Chair	Henry Covington, Jr.
Worship Chair	Tammi Sewell
Evangelism Chair	Laurie Dalziel
Mission Chair	Larisa Thomas
Fellowship Chair	Arlene Hyde
Lay Leadership Chair	Pastor Mark Farnell
United Methodist Men	Lester Downes
United Methodist Women	Barbara Erickson
Lay Members to Conference	Barbara Meeks and Emily Parry

MUSIC NOTES

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Music Ministry of
Centreville United Methodist Church!

As you enjoy the holidays, we offer you a Christmas Carol Puzzler. The Challenge is to translate an over-achieving linguist's title and figure out the original title. An example – Small City in Judea = *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

Embellish the Corridors =

Far Off in a Bovine Feeding Trough =

Seraphim We Aurally Detect in the Stratospher e=

Righteous Darkness =

Diminutive Masculine Master of Skin-covered Percussion Instruments =

From Dark until Dawn, Cloudless and Sanctimonious =

Proceed and Enlighten Upon the Pinnacle =

Universal Elations =

Clappered, Inverted Cups, Amalgamated =

During the Time Ovine Caretakers Supervised Their Charges Past Twilight =

Need the answers or wish to try a few more puzzlers, see Nancy.

As we usher in the New Year, the music ministry department issues another Challenge – join a musical group within the church. The Praise Band, the Youth Praise Band, the handbell choirs, the Cherub, Carol and Chancel Choirs welcome **YOU!**

Instrumentalists are always needed to enhance our services – please let us know who you are and your special talent.

I expect some responses from my invitation, so you may contact me at:
Nancy.Cook@centreville-umc.com



This fall has been an exciting adventure for Centreville Youth Ministries. As we move forward into our winter programming, I see three things going on with CYM.

1. The youth of our community want to have a safe place to come, have fun, and learn more about Christ
2. We have an unique church, in that we offer that facility and that programming. We not only offer it, we enjoy seeing things happen.
3. Growth is happening!! Not only are the number of youth taking part in our programming increasing, the spiritual growth is too!

None of these three things happen without a strong church foundation. Without the prayers and support from, YOU, the church our youth would look for places to gather with no focus to allow them to learn about Christ.

With this growth comes great responsibility as a church to make sure we see that each youth that comes into our church feels the love of Christ in their lives. I sincerely thank each one of you for taking on this responsibility and meeting it so willingly!

Please keep us in your prayers as we travel to Ocean City for the *Pyromaniac* youth rally. To date we have 67 youth attending, so all the prayers you can offer are appreciated!

In Christ,
Ken Laing
Director of Youth Ministries

United Methodist Women

Did you admire the Chrismon Trees during the Advent Season? Thank you Susan Murdoch, and all those who helped to make all the new decorations.

We continue our Tuesday morning study of "Women of the Bible" and also our sewing of chemo turbans, bibs, blankets and bags. Our Senior shut-ins and also Hospice received Christmas theme bibs. Two blankets were made for the homeless shelter. Please come out and join us on Tuesday mornings.

Reminder to High School Seniors, the application for scholarships is in the church office. Also we are in need of a Chairperson for the scholarship committee.

Our thanks to MYF for serving UMM ladies night in February, Barry Ebersole's Sunday School class for serving in March, Dukes Meeks Sunday School class for serving in April and VIM for serving the UMM and graduates in May.

Please check the kitchen and pick up any container belonging to you.

UMW will prepare gift bags for our shut-ins for Valentine's day. We will start the new year at our January meeting with a pot luck luncheon with beverages and dessert provided. Also in January we will provide Coffee Hour and the present Corsica Hills Nursing Center Worship Service.



Centreville United Methodist Church
608 Church Hill Road
Centreville, MD 21617

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Email Pastor Mark @
Mark.Farnell@centreville-
umc.com

We're on the Web at
www.centreville-umc.com

Sunday Church Schedule

8:45 AM - Praise Service with Nursery Available

9:45 - Sunday School for Ages Pre-School through Adult

11:00 AM - Traditional Service with Nursery Available

5:30-7:30: Middle School MYF (Grades 6-8)

6:30-8:30: High School MYF (Grades 9-12)

Calendar available online at www.centreville-umc.com.

Fellowship Hour will be held the 3rd Sunday of each month between both services in Fellowship Hall.
Mark your calendars for January 17th.