



# THE MESSENGER

The News of the Centreville United Methodist Church March 2007

## **PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS**

*Pastor Grier*

At the end of last year and the beginning of this year, the One Year Bible was offered as a gift to members and friends of the church through the generosity of our Volunteers in Mission group. What a great ministry it is to have 160 individuals/families reading each day the same passage from God's holy word. I have been amazed how the daily Bible readings have not only refreshed my mind about some long-forgotten Bible facts, but I have also found that most weeks the readings have been applicable to Sunday's sermon. The Old Testament readings during the past week or so have been from the book of Leviticus. Now, even, as a pastor, I have to admit that Leviticus (and for that matter Numbers, too) is not very interesting reading. People who begin to read the Bible from cover to cover often get "bogged down" in Leviticus and Numbers and give up. But the books of Leviticus and Numbers are in the Bible for a reason, and we do need to read them.

One of the things that we cannot escape in reading Leviticus is the elaborate system of sacrificial offerings. There were sin offerings, burnt offerings, fellowship offerings, guilt offerings, wave offerings, grain offerings etc. etc. Each of these offerings was prescribed to be carried out in a specific way. Each of these offerings was designed to bring glory to God and God's blessings and forgiveness to the people of ancient Israel. Many of the offerings involved the shedding of blood - - animal sacrifice to be specific. I've found myself thinking as I've read the Leviticus passages, "That's a lot of blood!"

As we enter the season of lent, we are reminded of the problem of sin in our lives, and of the necessity of shed blood for the forgiveness of our sin. It's not only the story of ancient Israel, it's our story as well. What the ancient Israelites experience as atonement for sin through animal sacrifice, we Christians find through the suffering and death of Jesus upon the cross. Jesus has become for us "the

lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

The ancient system of animal sacrifice involved great cost. One had to bring as a sacrifice the finest of one's herd or harvest. In so doing, one was reminded of one's sin through personal loss—the bull, goat, lamb, etc. Of course, such sacrificing never ended. On the other hand, Jesus died once for all, "the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God...." (1 Peter 3:18). His death on the cross is as valid for the forgiveness of our sin today just as it was two thousand years ago.

When we read of the elaborate system of sacrifices in the book of Leviticus, we are reminded that God takes the matter of sin seriously. So should we! The season of Lent reminds us that we have been bought with a great price (1 Corinthians 6:20a). Jesus paid it all! Ours is the response to love Him, trust Him, serve Him. To this end, may each of us observe a true Lent!

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

*Barbara Erickson*

The question is often asked "what does UMW do besides serve food?"

If you attended the recent Mission Fair you would observe that we have and do support Camp Pecometh, Conference and district UMW and have supported migrant summer program with school bags, clothing drive, school supplies, baby blankets and soft toys. We also have supported individuals in need in the community when the need arises.

Other outreach in the community includes bibs, lap robes and totes especially for our senior citizens, and in this we need help! We have supplies and Emily and Stacey have made them into individual kits if you would like to sew at home or join us on Tuesday mornings at church for our work sessions.

Through ABC Quilt Programs some are knitting caps and making baby quilts and burial gowns that go to local hospitals. Help!

Here at church we have sponsored Bible Studies, support our VBS and give our own scholarships.

We supply paper products and purchase other items for the kitchen as needed i.e. refrigerator, freezer, serving dishes, coffee pots, trays etc.

Drapes and blinds have recently been purchased and installed for the fellowship hall.

Last but not least, we continue to serve the UMM and the Lions Clubs (and other meals when asked) every month. Our major fund raiser is our Fall Bazaar.

Come join us in all our activities!

### **UMW Calendar of Events**

Tuesday mornings - 9:30 workshops

Crab Feast - NEED CHAIRPERSON!

October 27<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m. - Fall Festival

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - 9a.m. - Children's Shopping

Our Cookbooks are still available ....contact any UMW member or the church office for a copy.

### **YOUTH MISSION TEAM**

*Katie Laing*

A Big Thank you from the team!

The 2007 Super Bowl Sunday Sale was a huge success, and we just want to say thank you! We sold 175 subs, and we made \$1,000 towards our trip! This money goes towards building supplies needed to help make homes safer, warmer, and drier in the Appalachian area.

The Youth Mission Team hopes that one more fundraiser will be enough to raise the other \$1,300 needed for the trip. We plan on beginning our "Letter Campaign" the first week of March, and this is where we will be sending our families and friends letters to support us with prayer and monies for the trip. If you would like to help us with the costs of our trip, please make checks payable to the MYF and write "Missions Trip" in the memo. If you would like to be a prayer partner, contact Katie Laing at 410-758-6939 or through email at [kttodd1@yahoo.com](mailto:kttodd1@yahoo.com).

Also, we are still in need of a male chaperone for the trip. If you would like information so that you can consider if this trip is for you, contact Katie.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

*Fran Comegys*

At CUMC we have dedicated and loving teachers that need our help. Our children are an important part of our church, they are the future adults. As we continue to grow in our community we are also

growing in the church. Our Sunday School classes are getting larger by the numbers, therefore, we need adults to help with the children. If there is a desire in your heart to work for the Lord there is a need in our Sunday School classes for a person like you.

**We need an assistant teacher**, someone that can help with the class work and take over the class if a teacher calls out or needs off. **We also need a teacher helper**, someone that takes the attendance and offering, helps to get the crafts ready and hands on help with the younger children.

If you feel you can help please call Fran Comegys @ 410-758-1421.

### **CENTREVILLE UMC WEBSITE**

*Jerry Thomas*

*Did you know that the Centreville United Methodist Church has a website?*

When was the last time you visited it? Try logging in today and see what you have been missing.

[www.centreville-umc.com](http://www.centreville-umc.com)

The Church website is a great spot to find out what's going on within the church. When you log into the site you will find the latest updates regarding special activities and events. There are links to the Upper Room and Daily Reflections, photos of events from the church and community, and much more.

Every organization within the church has a page on the site where they can have as much information regarding their group and activities as they would like. We need all of you to help keep us informed of what is going on. If you are the head of a church organization or group, please send updates about your group.

Any information that you would like posted on the website should be sent to [information@centreville-umc.com](mailto:information@centreville-umc.com) or you can fax it to the attention of Jerry Thomas at 410-758-8284.

We would also like to put together an e-mail directory for the church as well, so send your contact information to [information@centreville-umc.com](mailto:information@centreville-umc.com) so that you may receive The Messenger each month via e-mail!

Visit today and send us your feedback and thoughts!

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Henry Covington, Sr.

The Finance Committee would like to thank our faithful members who, have and do, support CUMC with ever increasing gifts, tithes and devotion. CUMC is indeed fortunate to have such devotion to CUMC's Christian mission and outreach.

You have heard and noticed that we have changed our method of weekly reporting to reflect income to budget. Our hope is our members be as informed as possible.

As of 2-11-07 our income is \$25,836 and our budgeted need is \$36,351. As you see, at this point, our gifts do not equal our budget needs. This comes as no surprise to the Finance Committee. We were aware of the likely budget deficit when we presented the budget to the Church Council for approval. Projecting this deficit over 12 months leaves a \$57,000. Deficit. Our adopted budget, projected deficit is \$59,000. A ray of light, in 2006 CUMC overcame a \$53,000 projected deficit through tithes, gifts, prayer and faith.

When we assembled our budget, we looked at every possible area to cut expenses. After much prayer and discussion, we did not see any area, that would not diminish the Christian ministry of CUMC.

Here is an abbreviated summary of our expected expenditures. A copy of the church budget is always available to anyone to have.

1. Salaries & benefits 4% increase (salaries have not been increased for several years)
2. Fellowship expenses 5% increase
3. Office expense 3% increase
4. Utilities - church 13% increase
5. Parsonage utilities and expenses 0%
6. Repair and maintenance 0%
7. Overall budget increase 4%

CUMC through faith and prayer can find a way, through God's direction, to meet its needs.

For any who, for one reason or another, may not be sharing in God's ministry and outreach, we challenge you to participate. It will bring joy and satisfaction, that comes only through Christian service.

## **EVANGELISM**

*Ann Harlan*

Just a short article this month to let everyone know there will not be a Women's Morning Out in April due to the construction. I will announce our speaker in the April Newsletter.

## **PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

*Ann Harlan*

Lots of you may not realize we have a prayer chain available anytime. Call Jim Starkey at 410-758-0669 he will pass it along to everyone else. There is also a prayer meeting each Sunday at 6:30 in our Sanctuary. You need not speak your prayers to anyone and all are welcome!

## **OPEN SLOTS FOR APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP**

*Larisa Thomas*

The Appalachia Mission Trip, sponsored by VIM, will take place Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>. This is open to anyone 14 years and older, and there are more slots available for anyone interested in fellowship and helping people. There is a mandatory meeting Wednesday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the church library. Anyone interested please contact Larisa at 410-758-2144.

## **CHANGE IN NURSERY VOLUNTEER POLICY**

*Larisa Thomas*

The Methodist Churches have been instituting Safe Sanctuary practices. This protects our minor children and the adults both. In relating to the nursery, Safe Sanctuary guidelines state that there should always be 2 non-related, non-married people in the nursery at all times. This means that Nursery Volunteers are asked to remain in the nursery during their shift, whereas before they just checked in with Kelly. Volunteers typically have 2-3 Sundays a year; only 2-3 hours a year. This is a great way to help the church without a big commitment.

Additionally, CUMC is trying to expand the nursery to the Contemporary Service at 8:45. There has been quite a few requests, especially by young families who would like to be part of our church but feel they can't with young children. We need a paid nursery attendant, a nursery coordinator, and lots of volunteers.

Wanted: A crib. The nursery could use a crib for the

will be needed. For any of these nursery issues,  
please call Larisa at 410-758-2144 for more  
information or email [Larisa@atlanticbb.net](mailto:Larisa@atlanticbb.net).

## **CALENDAR**

A calendar for March is available on our website  
and on the literature table in the church.



**Centreville United Methodist Church**

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