

May Events!

May 6th-

Senior Singles
Gathering

May 9th-

Mother's Day
Pancake Breakfast
and
Youth Missions
Car Wash

May 17th-

Fellowship Sunday

The Messenger

Centreville United Methodist Church



May 2009

Newsletter

Reverend's Remarks by Pastor Mark Farnell



God has risen! God has risen indeed! Holy Week was an exciting time in our church. We had two special services starting Holy Thursday through Good Friday and then on to Resurrection morning. We are an Easter people! Christianity is about resurrection. Louis Stokes wrote: *"Before the tomb Christ stood one day, and dried the people's tears away. As He spoke forth in mighty voice that made Judeas' hills rejoice, Come forth.....!"* Our God has given us so many reasons to celebrate.

God's spirit is moving in mighty ways.

In addition to celebrating the resurrection, our church celebrated on Sunday April 5th by bringing in 26 new members to the family of God in Centreville. The faithfulness of our church is not because of one person but the collective effort of all the people that share their time and gifts with us. On behalf of Centreville United Methodist Church I want to (once again) welcome our new members!!! Membership is so much more than putting names on the church role. It is about making people feel as though they are part of the church family. Membership is an essential part of building relationships within the church. Fellowship is an essential element of a healthy church and a necessity for personal growth.

God has designed the church to function like a loving family. Ninety percent of people that come to church are there because they say someone invited them. Church is a place to nurture growth and be in fellowship. The first church went out of their way to be there for each other, to experience life together, and relied on one another for fellowship. Acts 2:46 says, *"they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine & fellowship..."* The word fellowship translated in Greek means so much more than occasionally meeting and eating together. It meant a tight common bond, sharing a familial closeness, a belonging to each other - belonging to the family of God. It is the fellowship found in the church that gives us reason to roll out of bed on Sunday morning and come to church, to comfort one another during setbacks, share our joys, and be an encouragement. We are the family of God!!!!

SPRC is Going Fishing

Much to our dismay, Pat has given the SPRC the license to go fishing for a new Administrative Secretary. As most of you are aware, Pat has been battling melanoma as well as the treatment effects and that battle has understandably compromised her health and vitality. She has grown concerned that it may become increasingly difficult for her to meet the challenges of her job and Pat feels that it is a good time for us to begin the search for her successor. Notice the use of the word successor rather than replacement since the SPRC is cognizant of the fact that truly replacing Pat is beyond our capability. To our delight, Pat has agreed to provide training and serve as a consultant to the "new hire". The SPRC is well aware of the challenge it faces but is also comforted by the fact that, through the grace of God, all things are possible. Anyone who may be interested in pursuing the position of Administrative Secretary may obtain a job description by contacting Barbara Meeks at bsmeeks@verizon.net. Those who do not have Internet access are directed to contact Susan Morris at 410-758-2131. The SPRC is specifically requesting that one of these two options be exercised rather than directly contacting the church office or Pastor Mark. The SPRC is in hopes of scheduling interviews for this position before the end of May.

On a more joyous note the SPRC would like to remind you of Pastor Mark's upcoming ordination as a Full Elder in the United Methodist Church which is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009. The service is scheduled for 7:00 PM at the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, MD. Plan to arrive well in advance since seating is limited. It is always a beautiful ceremony and only made more poignant by the fact that we can share in this experience with Pastor Mark. The SPRC is trying to ascertain if there is sufficient interest in procuring a bus to facilitate travel to and from the site of the ordination for such a plan to be earnestly pursued. At this point in time, you are asked to contact SPRC Chairperson, Susan Morris at morris@hughes.net if you are interested in getting some details about obtaining bus service to this event and make sure you communicate how many people you anticipate will be in your party. You will not be asked to commit to such arrangements until a final decision has been made and the details provided to you. Those who do not have Internet access may leave a voice mail message at 410-758-2131.

Evangelism by Ann Harlan

Evangelism is a noun that means "the preaching of the gospel"

Senior Singles Gathering May 6th at 11:30

Please join our new group on Wed., May 6th at 11:30 at church. The group will meet in the library or a Sunday School room. Bring your lunch and something funny to share. The group will have lunch together, pray, enjoy some humor, and fellowship and get to know one another better. For more information please call Ann Harlan at 410-758-4349.

Bear Ministry

We are now in need of more teddy bears for our bear ministry. Please make sure they are clean and leave them in the room next to the library. Be sure to use one for someone who needs a bear hug!

Guess Who!!!

Last month's mystery person was Andrew Thiesse!

I was born and raised in Queen Annes County. I grew up on a farm in a small town outside of Centreville. I graduated from Salisbury University and have an Education degree. I presently work as a realtor. I have been married for 21 years and I have two daughters. In my free time I like to shop and travel with my family.

**Join us for Coffee Hour
Sunday, May 17th, 2009**

Following the 8:45 Service through the Beginning of the 11:00 Service!

We encourage those attending the 8:45 service to stay later and for those attending the 11:00 service to come earlier on this day so that we can fellowship together.

CHURCH LIBRARY NOTES by Harriet Caporin

A couple of months ago Pastor Mark mentioned the author Josh McDowell and his book "Evidence That Demands a Verdict". Pastor Mark thought the book was an unparalleled defense of Christianity. We now have the book in our church library. Josh McDowell has written numerous books that I think many of you will be interested in. Most of them were written in the 90's but I believe you will find them relevant and timely. I have placed a display of the books we have in our collection on the shelves in the lobby for you to check out and read.

Upon doing a little research on Josh McDowell I found that he has given more than 23,000 talks to over 10 million young people in 115 countries. Josh graduated magna cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree from Talbot Theological Seminary. He joined the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ International in the early 1960's. A few years later, he formed the Josh McDowell Ministry to realize the vision of reaching young people worldwide with the truth and love of Jesus Christ.

Below is a list of the books on display:

EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT

A READY DEFENSE

RIGHT FROM WRONG

BEYOND BELIEF TO CONVICTIONS

TEENAGE Q&A BOOK

THE FATHER CONNECTION

THE DISCONNECTED GENERATION

EVIDENCE FOR CHRISTIANITY

ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS SKEPTICS ASK ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

THE NEW TOLLERANCE

MORE THAN A CARPENTER-(audio cassette 230M)

A READY DEFENSE

DON'T CHECK YOUR BRAINS AT THE DOOR

If you read any of the above books, it would be nice to have some **feedback for the newsletter**. Your input might encourage someone else to read the same book and perhaps this would inspire some interesting communication.

Volunteers In Mission

Our **Appalachia Service Project** team has returned! 12 volunteers took the trip down to Jonesville, Virginia on April 2nd to be a “spoke in the wheel of change.” Both teams were able to work together on a gentleman’s house. Mr. Wheeler is currently living in a van, but hopes to be back in his house by May 5th. With hard labor, CUMC was able to complete more work than the ASP staff had anticipated. The 12 participants were Barb Thompson, Barry Ebersole, Bill Stotman, Casey Strotman, Guy Pilli, John Price, Katie Thompson, Nikole Stotman, Rachel Connolly, Stacey Strotman, Taylor Ebersole, and Trevor Walls. If you see them, congratulate them on a job well done!

Locally, Volunteers In Mission took part in the **Rebuilding Together** (formerly Christmas In April) on April 25th. We helped rebuild a lady’s home in Stevensville, where she cares for her disabled child. The large group from CUMC replaced windows and doors, worked on porches and the yard, as well as painted.

Our Haven Homeless Shelter closed its doors for the summer. Our thanks go out to the many volunteers who helped staff and cook the meals. The outreach provided a safe, warm place for many individuals. As long as the funding continues, it will reopen its doors next winter around Christmas.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Crocodile Dock: This Dock Rocks!

Come join us on a trip to the Bayou July 5th to July 10th from 6:00-8:30 PM. We’ll sink our teeth into BIG fun! Crocodile Dock is filled with incredible Bible learning that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste. Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Crocodile Dock activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we’ll help kids discover how to see God in everyday life – something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot! At Crocodile Dock, fearless kids shine God’s Light!

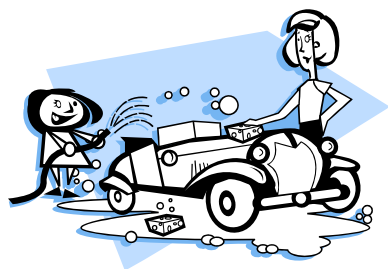
Help Wanted! Teens through adults are needed to serve as group leaders for VBS. Volunteers will guide small groups of VBS participants to all of the fun and exciting activities. You can sign up to help all week or just for the evenings that you are available. Training will be provided. If you would like to join in the fun and help us with this important ministry (or would like more information) please contact Sharon Murdoch at (410) 758-3326 or jsmurdoch@yahoo.com.



By Ken Laing

Recycle Used Cell Phones and Ink Cartridges with us! Look around the church for our Recycle buckets. All types are welcome!

Free Car Wash



Join us on Saturday, May 9th from 9-3 for your Free CAR Wash! The wonderful youth are ready and willing to scrub away those winter blues! (Donations Always Appreciated!)

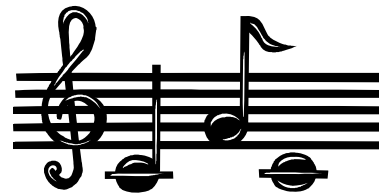
Picnic Table Sale

The Youth Missions Team is Selling Three Picnic Tables for \$150 each. Teams build the tables to practice tool skills. Interested in ordering one? Call Ken at 443-262-6449.

Calendar Update:

- No MYF on Mother's Day, May 10th, or on Memorial Day, May 24th.
- Serve Methodist Men Dinner on Tuesday, May 12th. Volunteers Needed.
- End of Year Party is Sunday, May 31st! Info will be coming!

Music Notes by Nancy Cook



Speak To One Another With Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs.

Ephesians 5:19

What a wonderful September beginning as all our musical ministries groups are singing, playing, and ringing the glorious sounds of our faith!

You are invited to join one or several of the following opportunities for making music:

WEDNESDAYS - 6:30 PM - Cherub Choir - Ages 2 through Grade 1
6:30 PM - Youth Choir - Grades 2 through Grades 8
7:00 PM - Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAYS - 6:00 PM - Tintinnabulators - Grades 3 through Adult
(Music Reading Required)
6:45 PM - Joy Bells - Experienced Bell Ringers
(All bell positions are filled at this time)
* 7:50 PM - Adult Choir - High School Juniors through age 90

SUNDAYS - 4:00 PM - Youth Praise Team Rehearsal

* A Special Note: The Adult Choir is seeking persons who have sung in high school or college. **NO MUSIC READING IS REQUIRED**, just a love of singing and of serving the Lord.

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Saturday May 9th

8:00 to 10:30 AM


Let Mom relax as she eats pancakes, eggs, and sausages
as we do the cooking and cleaning!


\$5 Adults/ \$4 Seniors and Kids


Proceeds Benefit Volunteers In Missions


Music Notes *Continued* by Nancy Cook

Grace Notes

 What a wonderful response to the call of choir alumni to participate in the church's 50th Anniversary Celebration!! We are still rejoicing from the glorious sound on Sunday, March 22 as the choir of twenty alumni and our chancel choir sang *Christ for the World We Sing* by Craig Courtney, accompanied by the trumpet trio of Rachel Connolly, Jack Draper, and Thomas Clare. Several of those alumni had been members of the youth or chancel choir some forty years ago; we felt so privileged to have had them be part of this musical celebration.

 Our **Chancel Choir** provided the Corsica Hills Nursing Home service on Sunday, March 8th at 2:30 PM. The residents who were present certainly provided great inspiration for us as we sang the old hymns that they loved and which sustained their faith for so many years.

 Our **Cherub Choir**, under the direction of Barbara Meeks, will sing in April and that will end their singing season. Rehearsals will begin again in September. The last time the **Youth Choir**, under the direction of Robbin Twilley, will be singing will be on May 17th and they, too, will be ending their rehearsals until September. The "revival" of the Cherub Choir, the Youth Choir and the singing in the Sunday School's first Sunday Meeting has really made a difference in the musical growth of our youth! Thank you to those parents who encourage and bring their children to the rehearsals and to those involved in offering these musical opportunities.

 The **Organ Fund** is receiving contributions so that renovations can be made to the organ—the releathering of the existing stops is the major thrust of the work to be performed. We are most fortunate to have the pipe organ, that is a combination of the two organs from the merger of Epworth Methodist Church and Grace Methodist to form the Centreville United Methodist Church in March of 1959.



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

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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 May 17th!