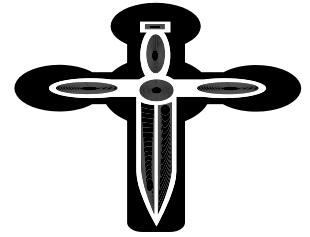


Good News at Gum Spring United Methodist



August 2008



I hope you're having a good summer. For some, the schedule doesn't change much, but for kids and parents, the summer schedule is very different. I hope that you are making the effort to enjoy some time with friends and loved ones – summer will be gone before you know it, especially as Louisa and Goochland schools move their calendar closer to the beginning of

August (Kim teaches in Hanover county, so we have summer until almost the end of August).

I don't want to be a spoiler, but I do want you to be thinking past summer and toward fall, when our activities really pick up into high gear again. One program that I consider very important is the *Disciple Bible Study*. *Disciple I* is a 34 week overview of the Bible. Each day has assigned readings and/or reflections, then we will meet each week to share and grow together. It does take a commitment, as the readings can be as much as 45 minutes a day, in addition to meeting for 2½ hours each week. However, those who have taken it have truly been blessed by it. My hope would be that all members of our congregation would become graduates of *Disciple*.

Here are some comments from the latest graduates:

"The Disciple study has blessed me. I can easily put things off but it forced me to be disciplined. I'm happy to have read so much of the Bible this year."

"The Disciple Bible study has broadened my understanding of the Bible. It has helped me to become better disciplined in my daily relationship with God. The fellowship and study with others has given me a broader awareness of God's presence in my life."

"I began the Disciple Study because I wanted to learn more about the Bible and how it related to my life today. What I discovered was how little I

knew about my faith and my true relationship with God."

"What Disciple has done for me is to show me what a personal relationship with God truly is. It has taught me to look deeper within myself to find the answers God is giving me. It has also shown me that God wants us to share our love and respect for Him with everyone, and to use what skills and talents I might have to do that: To love the Word of the Lord in my daily life."

Once you have completed *Disciple I*, you are able to participate in any of the other *Disciple* studies. These studies last about 30 weeks and spend time in more specific areas, so the reading commitment is a bit less.

I would like to get an early start on *Disciple* this year. If you are interested or have any questions, please plan to meet on Sunday, September 14th, 7:00 pm at the parsonage. I will try to give you a sense of the reading and commitment. One of the items of discussion will be a convenient day and time for our weekly meeting. If you are interested in teaching or co-teaching a *Disciple* class (either the first or one of the advanced classes), please let me know. If you cannot attend the meeting, then please let me know, as I hope to have our first meeting the next week.

Have a great summer! See Ya Sunday!

Jeff

Worship in the Coming Months

Our regular Sunday morning services are at 8:45 and 11 am. We celebrate Holy Communion at both services on the first Sunday of each month.

We have a nursery during Sunday School and both morning services. If you need nursery care during other church activities, please let us know. We also invite all children from ages 3 to 6 to children's church, right after the children's sermon during the 11:00 service.

Come and worship God with us



Homecoming

Sunday, August 3, 2008
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Marc Brown

Revival

Monday, August 4 thru
Wednesday, August 6, 2008
7:30 p.m.

(Guest Speakers)

Monday: Rev. Jim Lavender

Tuesday: Rev. Jim McClung

Wednesday: Rev. Sam NeSmith

Fall Festival



Craft-Bake-Yard Sale & Breakfast

Saturday, September 20, 2008

8:00 a.m-2:00 p.m.

Proceeds go toward the
Building Fund

*"And day by day, the Lord added
to their number"*

Acts 2:47

New Members:

† Tim & Jackie Knoebel joined our
faith family on July 13, 2008.

MEETINGS:

- ☉ **Open Trustees Meeting,**
Sunday, August 10th at 9:45 a.m.
- ☉ **Administrative Council,**
Monday, August 11th at 7:30
p.m.
- ☉ **Senior Citizens at GSUMC,**
Thursday, August 21st at 10:00
a.m..
- ☉ **Staff Parish Committee
Meeting,** Thursday, August 21st
at 7:30 p.m.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

The capital Campaign to fund our new facilities has now been underway since November, 2007. We were blessed with a tremendous response. The consultants told us to expect to receive about 85% of commitments. The Finance Committee projected receipts based on our full commitments and we are ahead of projections. As of June 30, 2008 we have \$672,380 in the Building Fund. Expectations were projected to be \$597, 382.21, so we are currently at 113% of expectations even though we have had some distributions from the Fund to pay for preliminary work needed as the Building Committee has ben developing the site plan. WHAT A TREMENDOUS BLESSING!

Please continue to pray for our building program and the capital campaign. Your continued prayers and support are a tremendous witness to the work God is going through Gum Spring United Methodist Church.

EDUCATION:

Sunday School News:

Senior High School Sunday School Class:

Since Easter, The Senior High School Sunday School class has explored and discussed several fascinating topics in scripture. We spent significant time on the early church and its organization and expansion. We went on to examine scripture describing visions, or visitations of God to individuals. We also studied all the different names in the bible that are used to refer to God and Jesus, and talked about what we can learn about our Lord's character from the meaning of those names.

Our class has spent a lot of time in the Old Testament, and learned that it is not really the "boring history with no application to today" as it may have been approached by some of them before. Instead, there is endless treasure there and more than we can learn in a lifetime about God and His purposes. Of course we discuss the teachings of Jesus along with prophecies He fulfilled and what the bible reveals about things that are to come.

The boys and girls in this class are preparing to enter a new phase of their life, and already are on their way to becoming more independent from their parents. Parents will always be able to intercede by prayer for their children, and should, but the time is near for students in the Senior High class to make choices on their own. My heartfelt prayer is that each one of them carry with them, wherever they may go, a desire to know Jesus Christ more intimately and, furthermore, a willingness to be shaped into His image. Therefore, one of the most important things stressed in this class is that the bible is not another academic subject

meant to merely memorize and achieve mastery of in only an intellectual manner. Rather, it teaches us how to live and love and find joy and true peace in our knowledge of and obedience to the teachings of Christ. Learning God's Word in a way that it is impressed upon their hearts as well as their minds is the goal. As these young people transition into young adulthood, I ask the congregation to remember them in prayer .

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:3-6

J.O.Y. Sunday School Class:

The J.O.Y. Sunday School Class has collected money from its members to assist in the purchase of large print Bibles for the Good News Jail Ministry. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please do so by August 24th. Please designate envelope or check as "Prison Ministry Bibles." donations may be put in the offering plate, or sent to the church office appropriately marked. No donation is too small. We can make a difference!

YOUTH:

The Youth Group will attend the ROCY on the River Event on Saturday, August 16th. All Rising sixth graders are invited to attend. Contact Ricky Rowe at 519-7350 or RDRowe23@aol.com for more information.

MISSIONS:

GSUMC will be hosting Red Bird Mission Craft Fair on Saturday, October 4th. They bring with them crafts made in Appalachia: baskets, pottery, wooden items, toys, music and more. The representatives will also be a part of our Sunday worship. During this time they will need a home to stay in for the Friday and Saturday nights. Please call if you can help out in this way. For more information call Linda Dewar at 556-6789.

CHANCE:

Christian Homeschoolers Aiming to Nurture Character and Excellence will begin using our facilities for their 2008-2009 school year Orientation on August 28th at 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Their regular school hours will be on Thursdays beginning on September 4th. Check the monthly calendar in the newsletter, on our web-site at www.gumspringumc.org, or in the bulletin for dates.

Happy 100th Birthday from GSUMC!!

Our oldest church member Hilda Parrish will celebrate her 100th birthday on August 6th. Her family would like the congregation to help celebrate her birthday by sending her cards. Please send these cards to:

Hilda Parrish

% Patsy Ann Griffin

Addresses are not included in the online edition. Please contact the church office for information.

UMW:

The UMW will not have their regular meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Child care will be provided. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

The UMW will hold their third annual Fall Festival which will include a Craft, Bake and Yard Sale and Breakfast on Saturday, September 20th 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We again ask for participation from the congregation by providing donations of crafts, baked goods, and gently used yard sale items, to sell. The proceeds from this sale will go to the Building Fund. This event will provide a good opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping.

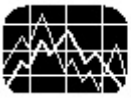
Thanks again for all the support you provide in our mission endeavors.



Bill Harris, Louis Parrish, Gene & Anne Rigsby, Audrey Henley, Don Comer, Dennis Gammon, Lois Royster, Aubrey & Margaret Ford, Lizzie Martin, Margie & Angela Perry, The family of Carroll Parrish, The Family of Francis Boothe Brooking, Michelle Armentrout, Courtney Howarth, Eric Ellison, Stephanie Reynolds, Kimberly Jones, Robert Brown, The Rudolph Family, Candace Ireland's father, Gordon & Erma Lee Harris.



Congratulations to Josh & Kristie Spain who were married on June 28, 2008.



FINANCE

Through June 2008

Stewardship of Presence:

Average Worship Attendance (combined): 184

Average Sunday School Attendance: 93

YTD OPERATING RECEIPTS: \$ 130,261.41

YTD DISBURSEMENTS: \$ 103,130.09

REMAINING BUDGET \$ 121,161.10

Address Changes:

Addresses are not included in the online edition. Please contact the church office for information.

Lyndsey Edwards
Jennifer Sale
Sarah Wingfield
Aubrey Ford



Sunday Funny:

* The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when a little boy interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

* A Sunday School teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, What would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

Food for Thought:

THOUGHT: Unless we come apart and rest awhile, we may just come apart. *Vince Havner*

A man stormed into the newsroom of a San Francisco paper and demanded to see the person in charge of the obituaries.

The irate customer then marched to the young reporter at his desk and waved a newspaper in front of his face

"See this?" he growled. "You printed my obituary and I am very much alive. I demand a retraction and an apology."

The brash young reporter was unfazed by the man's angry outburst, and replied with an edge of disdain. "I never print retractions or apologies."

Then with sudden inspiration he added: "What I can do, however, is to include your name with the newborn babies in the birth column of tomorrow's edition."

We don't know what the angry gentleman had to say to that proposal, but it's intriguing!

How would you feel if you saw your name in the birth announcements for the day?

You might be grateful that you don't have to live your youth again with the natural awkwardness and foolishness that goes along with it.

But you might also be challenged to consider the day ahead of you in fresh light. While we are not babies, the day to which we have opened our eyes is brand-new!

Brand-new! Think of it! No one has ever lived it before!

"This is the day that the LORD had made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Prayer: Eternal God, thank you for the air I breathe, the sun that rises and sets each day, the moon and the stars, and for the promise of a new day! May I live faithfully today and every day! Amen.