

The Church Mouse



JAN-FEB
2012

Waiting to blossom



A 1979 song called "The Rose" (written by Amanda

McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth "with the sun's love" into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

Epiphanies

"The word epiphany means to show forth. Epiphanies, both large and small, tend to be private events—yet events with great significance for the public. Trying to share the details with another of an epiphany is fraught with complications. The words are never quite right, and even the most sympathetic listener cannot fully bridge the gap between description and what it was like being there. Most of us keep our personal experiences of the Holy to ourselves. Who would believe it? And who would really understand? The irony is that epiphanies are made for sharing, even as they are impossible to communicate fully."



—Father Thomas Rosica

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February is Heart Havens Month!

Heart Havens supports men and women with intellectual disabilities by building and operating group homes throughout Virginia.

This February, help support mission in your own backyard by donating, volunteering or advocating for Heart Havens.

For more information contact us at:

812 Moorefield Park Dr #301, Richmond, VA 23236

804-237-6097, 1-877-442-8368

info@hearthavens.org, www.hearthavens.org



Don't forget this is a



Did you know...

February 29 is a date that usually occurs every four years, and is called leap day. This day is added to the calendar in leap years as a corrective measure, because the earth does not orbit around the sun in precisely 365 days.

GARY'S UMC MISSION

- To encourage every person to become a disciple for Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this community of faith that nurtures our brothers and sisters, reaches out to those in need, and witness to those without hope.

Sunday School
9:45
Worship Service
11:00

Dear Family and Friends of Gary’s,

“...Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,” Philippians 3:13 (TLB)

As we flick the calendar to a New Year, we come face to face with the fact that our days on earth are numbered. As the psalmist



wrote, “Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” No thoughtful person can approach

New Years” Day without some introspection. We are reminded of the brevity of time. We also look back over our failures, mistakes, and missed opportunities, and vow that we will make better use of time during the coming year. We should take time to be pleasant, to smile, to extend the small courtesies we often omit--to show love to our family. Psychiatrists tell us that

most people are starved for love. Take time for the good-bye kiss; we shall go to work with a sweeter spirit. Let us take time to get acquainted with our families. We are not machines. We are not robots. The secret of a happy home is that members of the family learn to give and receive love. Let us take time to express our love in a thousand ways.

We often refer to ourselves at Gary’s as the family of God and indeed we are; therefore I pray the message that came from the pen of Billy Graham will move us to love one another as Christ loves each of us.

As we begin this New Year, Lord Jesus, I pray that our walk through the days ahead will be filled with Your love for others, a love that does not count the cost.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Henry



NEW Bible Study

Have you wondered what the Bible really says about the end times? Join us for an in-depth study of what the Bible teaches about this misunderstood subject. The study will start Jan 24th at 7:00 to 8:30 PM and will last for six weeks. This study will be led by Mike Henning.



From: **The DNA Update for United Methodists**

Do You Have Resolutions or Plans for 2012?

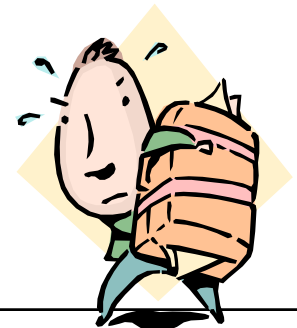
Resolutions are the things we hope will happen in the New Year – lose weight, see more people in church, strengthen our relationships, improve morale, etc. As most resolutions do not make it out of the month of January, it is clear that these are mostly wishes for what will happen – hopefully without a lot of new effort of our part.

Plans are different. They are specific new actions that we are going to take in order to produce new and desired results. Plans set priorities and push us towards a specific goal. Plans are necessary because we know that if we only make minor tweaks to what we have been doing, we are not going to see the much improved results we say we want.

Do you have resolutions or plans? Plans can push us out of our comfort zone but they can also be the key to significant improvement!

No Mercies

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging. The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV) God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord’s unceasing love.



2012 Leadership Training Sessions

FARMVILLE & JAMES RIVER DISTRICTS

Jan 22, at VUMAC, 2:30pm- 5:30 pm

All sessions begin promptly at 2:30

****You have the opportunity to attend one of these sessions****

Staff Parish Relations Committee – led by The Rev. Dr. John Vest, James River District Superintendent and the Rev. Bob Parks, Farmville District Superintendent.

Church Finances: Treasurers' Responsibilities and Statistics, led by Mr. David Domnisse, Conference Treasurer.

Rethink Church, led by Mrs. Linda Rhodes, Conference Director of Communications. What if we Rethink church? Not in terms of what it is but what it could be....What if our churches were vibrant, active places where people wanted to be ~~ not just on Sundays, but all week long?

Transformational Approaches to Ministry with Young People, led by the new Conference Director of Children's, Youth, Young Adult and Higher Education Ministries. Church has struggled to understand and implement vital ministries with young people, congregations have often made the mistake of treating the symptoms rather than curing the disease....This workshop will explore the fundamental and foundational changes that need to take place in the church in order to ensure fruitfulness and transform our ministries with young people. This class will also include a component of youth leader training.

Spiritual Formation, led by the Rev. Donna Mott. This class will focus on S.F. practices with emphasis on contemplative prayer. Come and review Christian practices, which will bring you closer to Christ. Enjoy a time of solitude in prayer as you have an opportunity to walk the labyrinth.

UMW Officer Training, led by Mrs. Sue Mayo, President of the Farmville District UMW and the Farmville District Mission Team. This is training for local unit UMW officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) and

mission coordinators (spiritual growth; social action; education and interpretation; membership, nurture and outreach; etc.)

******* OR *******

You can attend any two of the following sessions at our „Idea Expo“. The 1st session from 2:30 – 3:45, followed by a 30 min. break, 2nd session from 4:15–5:30

Idea Expo

Conspiracy of Kindness: A Refreshing New Approach to Sharing the Love of Jesus, led by the Rev. Robb Almy. Your kindness can change the world! The "conspiracy of kindness" operates on a simple premise: loving deeds done by unassuming Christians convince more people of the love of God than all the words in the world. If evangelism doesn't seem to be your gift or you're burned out on trying to share the gospel, try Servant Evangelism. It works!!

Bible Study 101 For Small Groups, led by Mrs. Carol Sanger. "The goal of small groups is to connect people to Christ and connect people to each other." "You can't grow larger as a church unless you grow smaller. Otherwise people feel just like a face in the crowd." Come to this class for helpful ideas and suggestions on how to lead a small group Bible study, even if the thought terrifies you.

Online Social Networking and Blogging for Today's Church, led by The Rev. Stan Hargraves. How does the church express the gospel in the 21st century? Technology and communication advancements are dramatically changing the ways we communicate with one another. For the church, new modes of communication represent new ways of sharing the gospel. This seminar will explore the possibilities and tensions of online social networking and blogging as a means of deepening Christian community and ministry in the digital world.

VIM 101, led by Mr. Glenn Rowley. This is a class for individuals and churches considering service as Volunteers in Mission. WE will look at how to promote and organize a volunteer in mission trip as well as consider "why we go in VIM trips?" We will also look at what options are available for those who wish to consider serving as individual volunteers in mission.

A Future With Hope, led by the Rev. and Mrs. Mike Davis. Join a conversation about revitalization of our churches with leadership from our newest faith community – Journey UMC. God can do all things and it's up to us to have the dream. Our dreams must be large enough to require God's involvement.

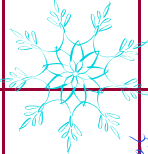
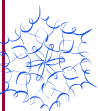
Fabric Arts as Mission and Ministry, led by Mrs. Joyce Skeens. If you love needlework and want to see how your talents can translate into mission and ministry, come to this workshop. We will share patterns and ideas and show some examples of how knitted, crocheted, quilted or sewn projects can share the love of God with others. If you are currently working on a project, bring it with you!

Converting a Congregation's Financial Assets into Tomorrow's Dreams: Gifts that transform lives to the glory and honor of God, led by Mr. Deal Tompkins. Do you want to know how a church can start a planned giving program and/or endowment? Learn how to tap into congregational resources to generate the energy and excitement of creating a legacy of making more and better disciples for Jesus Christ.

Converting Today's Challenges into Tomorrow's Opportunities: A Comprehensive Approach to Fundraising, led by Mr. Deal Tompkins. This workshop teaches you how to organize and run a capital campaign – for renovations, retiring debt, and building new. You will be guided through the process from strategic planning to implementation.

January 2012

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Years	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7
8 UMM Mtg. MYF Mtg. Jesus Bap-	9	10	11 Council Mtg 7pm	12	13	14
15 Chili/Soup Cook-off	16 MLK Jr 's Bday	17 UMW Mtg	18 SCE	19	20	21
22	23 District News Due	24 New BS 7-8:30	25	26	27	28
29 SCE	30	31 BS	Pls Note Times/Dates Can Change			

- 1/1 New Year's Day
 - 1/6 Epiphany
 - 1/8 UMM Mtg 8:30
 - 1/8 MYF Mtg and Bible Study
 - 1/11 Council Mtg
 - 1/17 UMW Mtg. 7pm
 - 1/18 -2/15 Blandford Bible Study-Simple Life 5:30
 - 1/24 New Bible Study 7-8:30 Runs 6 weeks.
 - 1/29 Game Day @ Blandford, bring your fav board/card game
- SCE—Stands for Sister Church Event

TRANSFIGURATION

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

--Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*



St. Valentine's Sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.



First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 2012

- 2/7-28 Bible Study
- 2/10-12 MYF Winter Retreat
- 2/124 UMM Mtg 8:30am
- 2/20 Mouse News Due
- 2/21 UMW Shrove Tues/Pancake Supper 5-7pm
- 2/22 Blandford Ash Wed Service 5:30
- 2/26 Blandford Movie Matinee-Dolphin Tale
- 2/29 Blandford Bible Study, Final Words thru 3/28

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 BS 7-8:30	8	9	10 MYF Retreat Blackstone	11
12 UMM Mtg	13	14 BS 	15	16	17	18
19	20 Mouse News Due President's	21 Shrove Tues. 5-7 BS	22 Ash Wed./ SCE	23	24	25
26 1st Sunday in Lent SCE	27	28 BS	29 SCE			

Walking with God



The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. Its' about walking with the Lord through thick and thin an pressing on through every heart-ache and trial that happens to come our way. - Greg Laurie

Little Things...

Welcome to a New Year and another wonderful start to filling the Prince George Food Bank cupboards. Our targeted items for the next 2 months are:

January Canned Meats (ham, tuna, chicken, spam, corned beef, etc.)

February Soups, Ravioli, Spaghetti, Beef/Brunswick Stew

Please continue to place donations in one of the two collection areas (Narthex or back hall way).

Should you wish to physically help, they are open on Tues & Fri from 10-2. Gary's UMC volunteers the 4th Friday of each month.

Submitted by Shirley Butler /Jane Lee

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments—think kind thoughts.

Give up worry—trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement—be full of hope.

Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred—return good for evil.

Give up anger—be more patient.

Give up pettiness –become mature.

Give up jealousy—pray for trust.

Give up gossiping—control your tongue.

Give up sin—turn to virtue.

Give up giving up—preserve.

Author Unknown.

Youth Retreat



MYF ~ Youth News

The time is almost here for Winter Retreat. The weekend is February 10-

12th and the cost is \$130 per person this year (only \$5 up from last year). Keynote Speaker is Kim Parker and house band is Stereoreel.

VERY IMPORTANT:

There will be an **MYF** meeting and Bible Study next Sunday, **January 8th at 3:00.**



The following Sunday, **January 15th** is your annual **chilli cook-off and soup luncheon** to raise

money to help cover the cost of your weekend.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND RETREAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING, BIBLE STUDY AND THE CHILLI COOKOFF.

Also parents, I have decided to chaperone the retreat this year since it is Jamie's last year but because we have so many boys in our group we do need another male chaperone.

Looking forward to it. Thanks everyone. God Bless! C. Thompson



From the District News:

The Jeremiah Project

Want to get your middle school students involved in mission next summer? The Jeremiah Project specializes in providing weeklong mission trips for middle school students. Their summer camps are located in Winchester, VA; Richmond, VA; and Romney, WV. Check out their website for more information on these life-changing mission trips:

www.jeremiahproject.org

Gary's Prayer Warriors

request the following individuals be in your prayers...

Jim Campbell

Cliff & Joanne Lee

Bernadette Lafreniere

Deborah Romero

Jim Redmond

Ed Wessel

Robin Pugh Yoder

Chuck Ball

Lorraine Contois

Brooke Lipscomb

Charles Barnes

Mary Lou Welch

Sue Powell

Kelly Thorn

Edna Brockwell

Belinda Lane

Michelle Dugan

Leo Contois

Deborah Newman

Linda Yezzi

Manfred Salzmann

Robert Homer



Also please REMEMBER our Shut-Ins: Elsie Beck, Lola Lane, Catherine Price, Kathleen Barnes

~
Pastor Henry and Shirley Butler

~
Our youth and families.

Those serving in the Armed Forces especially the Dark horse 3rd Battalion Marines

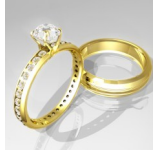
*The Least, the Last and the Lost
Prayer Warriors*



40 This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

Happy Birthday to You!

<i>January</i>		<i>February</i>	
★ Stephen Wilcox	3	★ Lori Heflin	1
★ Bill King	4	★ John William Tyrcha	1
★ Shel Douglas	4	★ JonRyan Campbell	4
★ Karen Sadler	4	★ David Sadler	6
★ Stacy Sadler	4	★ Peggy Wood	12
★ Willene Simmons	10	★ Mickey Lee	15
★ Horace Moore	12	★ Terry Driskill	17
★ Tracey Allen	13	★ Martha Wood	18
★ Brian Harris	15	★ Patsy Newman	19
★ Darelene Stevens	15	★ Cindy Thompson	20
★ Blake Bogese	17	★ Diana Hanegan	23
★ Tommie Dingas	17	★ Kate Bridgeman	25
★ Tom Wood	18	★ James Hanegan	26
★ Kristen White	21	★ Sandra Bogese	26
★ Deanie Wessell	22	★ Ryan Tew	26
★ June Heath	24	★ Jason King	28
★ Tom Telle	24		
★ Tripp Hatch	25		
★ Ricky Rhodes	28		
★ Lewis Heath	29		
★ Billy Wood	29		
★ Elsie Beck	29		



Happy Anniversary to You!

<i>January</i>	
None	
<i>February</i>	
★ Milan and Jean Janeka	7
★ Curtis and Darlene Stevens	8
★ Billy and Martha Wood	8
★ David and Jean Barnes	11
★ George and Aileen Zahradka	17
★ Michael and Julie Lee	19
★ Dwayne and Karen Bailey	22
★ John and Inez Tyrcha	24

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

— Frederick Buechner



United Methodist Women's (UMW) Group

The United Methodist Women held their December outing with a wonderful turn-out of 20 people, members and Church Family. The "Walk Through Bethlehem" at First Baptist Church was quite an experience, the sights, sounds and smells of Bethlehem.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 17, at 7:00pm** in the social hall.

February 21, will be the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 12 and under. We will be serving from 5:00-7:00pm.

Please continue to provide us with your Campbell Soup Label's, as we are still collecting them.

All Ladies are welcome to attend our meetings, come and enjoy the fellowship.

Jean Janeka, UMW President



Gary's United Methodist Church

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Prince George, VA 23805

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Rev. Dr. Henry Butler, Pastor
804-639-7985

Visit us on the web!
www.garysumc.org



January—February 2012

Join us!
Sunday School 9:45
Worship Service 11:00

Gary's Thanks God for
YOU!



GARY'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (UMC) MISSION

- *To encourage every person to become a disciple for Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this community of faith that nurtures our brothers and sisters, reaches out to those in need, and witness to those without hope.*

MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU!