

# The Church Mouse



JULY-AUGUST  
2011

## Youth Making a Difference

The Stand UMC is sponsoring the "Helping Hands" mission experience here on the Petersburg District. Helping Hands is a 24-hour experience of mission exposure for your tweens. All research shows that kids at this age need to be shown at an early age how to be the hands and feet of Christ. When they are, they become empowered and passionate about living out their faith. Too often they feel like they



have to wait until later to go on a mission

trip. In many cases, Helping Hands can be a first opportunity for your younger group to travel together and be engaged as a group in "away mission." Helping Hands is a tried and true mission teaching model offered every year by our Conference. Join us this year and make a difference for the future!

**The mission event is July 29th and 30th, and the location is The Stand**

School located in Prince George, Virginia at Swaders Sports Park, which is also the current worship site for The Stand UMC. ALL REGISTRATION MUST BE DONE THROUGH THE CONFERENCE OFFICE.

During our time together, we will have one opportunity to play at the park for recreation.

Please consider this time together in building your relationship with your tweens as we work in the Petersburg District for those in need. Send any questions to: [paige@thestandumc.com](mailto:paige@thestandumc.com)

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UMVIM, SEJ Priority E-mail

**UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: Urgent need to get the word out that there are openings for groups at Urban Ministry's RUSH Center (Birmingham, AL) for the following weeks:**

July 10-15: 40 spaces  
July 17-22: 40 spaces  
July 24-29 30 spaces

Cost is 250 per youth and covers room, all meals, and all mission supplies. For every 6 youth an adult can come for free!

Groups have the opportunity to paint, work with Urban Kids, work in Community Garden, and with area ministries to the homeless. Optional evening programs are available.

For more information contact Deb Welsh, Director of RUSH Program for Urban Development. 205.781.0517 ext. 101 or email: [welshdebl@aol.com](mailto:welshdebl@aol.com)

## 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 Church Family and Friends of Gary's,

As the old saying goes; "summer is upon us once again." It's that time of the year in which family and friend plan for summer vacations. A time away from the daily routines of working, going to school and all the other things in life that keep us so busy.

Vacations are traditionally a time to relax and be refreshed from the strains and stresses of our daily pressures. We all need this type of activity (vacations) to stay healthy and sane.

Only this year the gas prices are soaring higher than the summer temperatures. A great many folk have to plan for a different type of vacation than perhaps traveling to some distant ocean front for a week or two in a rented condominium.

I certainly am in agreement that we need those special times to relax and be refreshed in body

and mind but we also have need in our busy lives to relax and be renewed in our spirits as well.

I found an ideal vacation spot that I would suggest you might want to take for renewing your spiritual life. It is free, literally, for the asking for you and your family. The bill has been paid in full and the benefits are out of this world. May I share with you this place to refresh in these hot and dry times of our lives?

Isaiah chapter fifty five is where this vacation spot is located and it promises you the following benefits if you would choose to come. I quote from the NIV travel guide.

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread; and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen,

listen to me, and eat what is good and your soul will delight in the richest of fare."

I encourage you to reserve time out of your busy schedules and needed vacations to spend time each day in the Word of God, the Bible, and receive the refreshing of the Holy Spirit's Living Waters.

I also would recommend that you spend time with your fellow travelers on the road of life at a place called Gary's UMC open for your fellowship every Sunday at 9:45 am. for Sunday School and 11 am. for worship.

Come and be refreshed and renewed in your body, mind, and spirit.

Because of His Sonship,

*Pastor Henry*



### HERE'S YOUR SIGN.....VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

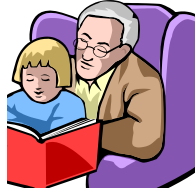


Please consider volunteering with your family by posting the messages on the church sign for a month. It's easy to do and there are 2 books in the room with the supplies for suggested messages. The responses from the community have been great and it's another way we can let our light shine at Gary's. At this point I have only received 3 responses and there are many months left to fill.

Thank you,  
John Houlberg 479-0333

## Be washed by the WORD

There is a story of an old man who lived in the mountains with his young grandson. Each morning, the grandfather would sit at the kitchen table and read from his worn-out Bible. Wanting to be just like his grandfather, the young boy would imitate him by attempting to read his own.



One day, the grandson asked, "Grandfather, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it. When I do understand, I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The grandfather said, "Take this old wicker coal basket

down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, but the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather sent him back three more times and told him to move faster each time. Every time, the frustrated boy returned with an empty basket.

Finally, out of breath, the young boy said to his grandfather, "See? It's useless!"

The old man said, "Look at the basket. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it's now clean. Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not under-

stand it or remember everything you read, but when you do, it will change you from the inside out."

As believers, we must daily saturate our hearts and minds with the Word of God. It may seem like you can't retain or comprehend everything you read in the Bible, but God uses the Scripture you study each day to change you from the inside out!

### *Prayer Challenge*

Make a commitment to the Lord to study His Word faithfully each day. Pray that He will use the Scripture to cleanse you and make you more like Jesus.

*Daily Devotions from Senior Living Ministries*

## Annual Conference Report

Bishop Kammerer was ill and could not officiate so Bishop Whitaker of Florida did a superb job of directing the conference. Due to having to vote for delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences scheduled for 2012, the conference this year was four days instead of three. Even with the additional time, there were quite a few ballots which consumed quite a bit of time. Therefore, there was not enough time to take up all the resolutions. Bishop Whitaker made a valiant effort to keep us on track, but discussions on some of the resolutions took quite a bit of time. One of the more controversial resolutions was number 17 which in a nutshell was to allow openly homosexual persons to be ordained as clergy in the United Methodist Church. The resolution **did not pass**. Those that passed were resolutions #1, which had to do with the number of lay members to A/C; #3. To Fast and pray; #9 The Priority of Proclaiming Jesus Christ ; #10 the 50 anniversary of the founding of Virginia Wesleyan College; #11 To Stop Wage Theft; #12 Supporting the Visioning of an AIDS free world; #13 Effective and Constructive Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis.

We were treated to spiritually uplifting sermons by Dr. Sam Wells, Dean of Duke Chapels. Dr. Wells was born in Canada, raised and ordained in English and now of course lives in Durham, North Carolina.

The UMC supports a number of missions and we were shown evidence through video and testimony of our church's good works. Children from the Shade and Fresh Water project shared their singing and musical talents with us.

They had a sweet potato bagging this year which netted 39,500 pounds. The kits collected were as follows: Health Kits 27,148, School Kits 15,192; Layette Kits 3,723; Sewing Kits 648; Bedding Packs 62; Cleaning Buckets 854; Birthing Kits 5,243; 9,200 pounds of food was collected for the Roanoke area food banks.

Gene Mims was elected as one of the delegates to the General and Jurisdictional conferences to be held in 2012.

Submitted by Kay Mims Gary's Delegate To Annual conference



# July 2011

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Pls Note Times/Dates can change!				1	2
3	4 <i>Happy 4th!</i>	5	6 BS	7	8	9
10 UMM Mtg	11	12	13 Council Mtg.	14	15	16
17	18 District News Due	19	20 BS	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29PG Food Bank	30

- 7/6 Every Wed Night 7PM Bible Study ~ Changing the World.
- 7/10 UMM Mtg 8:30 AM
- 7/13 Council Mtg 7:30PM
- 7/29 Gary's Day to serve PG Food Bank
- SCE—Stands for Sister Church Event

## Acolyte Schedule for July through September



Date	Name	Name
July 3	Kayla Bailey	Sydney Trout
July 10	Sydney Heflin	Christie Douglas
July 17	Tyler Gibson	JP Houlberg
July 24	Thomas Valentine	Faith Valentine
July 31	Alex Snodgrass	David Butterworth
August 7	Bethany Hallowell	Josh Comer
August 14	Kayla Bailey	Sydney Trout
August 21	Tyler Gibson	JP Houlberg
August 28	Sydney Heflin	Christie Douglas
September 4	Thomas Valentine	Faith Valentine
September 11	Alex Snodgrass	David Butterworth
September 18	Kayla Bailey	Sydney Trout
September 25	Bethany Hallowell	Josh Comer

Submitted by Kim Trout

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

# August 2011

- 8/3 *New Bible Study, Meet every Wed. at 7PM*
- 8/14 *UMM Mtg 8:30AM*
- *Pls Note Times and Dates Can Change.*
- *Also check out the Cluster News on Page 7 for SCE's.*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 NEW BS	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 BS	11	12	13
14 UMM Mtg	15	16	17 BS	18	19	20
21	22 District News Due	23	24 BS	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 BS			

## Graduates...

Not only did we have two high school graduates among our congregation; Tripp Hatch and Richard Bailey.



We also had several graduates of the Confirmation Classes held recently. Congratulations to Kayla Bailey, Christie Douglas, Henry Fisher, Bethany Hallowell, Paul Harper, Josh Lee, Faith Valentine, and Thomas Valentine.



SUMMER GOD, you dance in on golden sunbeams.

Like soil that must be plowed or turned over, so I must prepare to receive your warmth and the planting of your message in my heart.

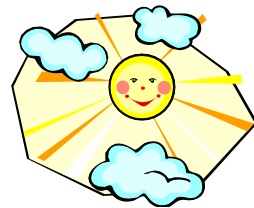
Open me to receiving the seed of hope and the promise of growth.

Plant your Spirit deep within me and make my life fruitful and bountiful.

Amen.

- Larry James Peacock

*Openings*



## Little Things Continue to Mean A Lot...

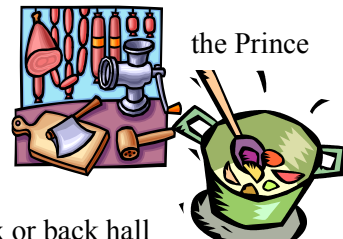
From the Little Church Who Can, Gary's UMC will continue to collect for George Food Bank. Our targeted items for the next 2 months are:

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

*August* 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 Julie Lee /Jane Lee*

## MYF ~ Youth News

### Break time...



The MYF will be on summer vacation, resuming back in the fall when school is again in session. Dates TBD. Thank you for all your participation this past year and at the picnic!

Due to the unavailability of a VBS Coordinator, Gary's UMC will **not** be hosting VBS this year. Please consider joining one of our Sister Churches for their events or consider the Stand Challenge on the first page. A wonderful local Mission opportunity for 4th-6th Graders. Thank you and may God Bless you richly!



### *Gary's Prayer Warriors request the following individuals be in your prayers...*

Lesa Roakes	Martha Wood	Chuck Ball
Jim Campbell	Pam Cox	Chad Moyer
Madison Mingloski	Jim Redmond	Peggy Wood
Cliff & Joanne Lee	Ed Wessel	Jean Koren
Bob McKinsey	Toddie Lee	Lorraine Contiois
Kim Lambert	Ben T & Hope Mitchell	Travis Rainey
Jackson Shaylor	Joe Bender	Richard Bogese
Bernadette Lafreniere	Richard Pyle	Mary Lou Nester
Deborah Romero	Edna Brockwell	Brooke Lipscomb
Patrick Crockett	Robin Pugh Yoder	Donna Estes
		Phyllis Anderson



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*

*The Need of Additional Prayer Warriors*



The Compassionate Friends Group held at Gary's UMC has ended. Thank you for all your support.

Submitted by Stacia Lee



## Gary's United Methodist Church

13501 Sunnybrook Road  
Prince George, VA 23805

Church Phone: 804-861-3201  
Email: [pastor@garysumc.org](mailto:pastor@garysumc.org)  
Rev. Dr. Henry Butler, Pastor  
804-639-7985

Visit us on the web!  
[www.garysumc.org](http://www.garysumc.org)



July—August 2011

*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!**