

The Church Mouse



MAY-JUNE
2011

UMYF Participate in "Relay for Life"

Gary's Church United Methodist Youth Fellowship sponsored a team in Prince George County's

Relay as a whole have so far raised over \$42K.



second annual "Relay for Life" benefitting the American Cancer Society. The event was held on April 29th at Prince George High School. The youth set a goal of \$500.00 and actually raised \$1,078.00. Prince George



"Relay for Life" is a fund raising campaign supporting the American Cancer Society. Although the event in Prince George is over, the *Relay for Life* campaign runs through the end of August. If you would still like to donate to the American Cancer Society on behalf of our Church group, you can go to www.relayforlife.org/pgc, in the left tool bar select Relay Teams, and at the bottom of the team list select our team "Walkers for Hope" with team captain Cindy Thompson. From there follow the instructions to make a donation.

Thank you to everyone for your donations, your time, and your blessings in making this another successful event both for the American Cancer Society and for our youth team, "Walkers for Hope."

Cindy Thompson

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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.

The House that Gary's Built...well restored. You were asked to support the Rebuilding Petersburg; you came and did just that. Thank you for your participation in those two weekends.

Several of us learned many things, an important one that could benefit many is about the Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity Restore. Did you know not only can you donate home items, you can shop too?! Visit them at 829 Commerce Street, Petersburg. Thr, Fr 10-2, Sat 8:30-3. restore@tri-citieshabitat.org.



Sunday School
9:45
Worship Service
11:00

Dear Church Family and Friends of Gary's,

There is a saying in the Christian community that defines "evangelism" as those who are "sharing the Good News of God's Love through Jesus Christ is like one hungry beggar telling another hungry beggar where there is bread to eat."

I recently received a devotion that really spoke to my heart in a very personal way and so I pass it on as bread for your hungry heart to receive.

I pray that if you are going through one of these life's experiences the following words and thoughts will encourage you on your faith journey.

So without further comment I offer you these thoughts to ponder.

Dark days and God's delight

"You are my lamp, O Lord, who turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29

The days have been dark for you recently. You cannot make sense of your situation. **Decisions are being delayed.** People have become a problem rather than a source of your prosperity. Confusion seems to reign in your circumstances. When will it be over? Why am I going through this? What is going on? The questions continue without resolution.

Dark days are permitted by God to loosen your affections on "lesser things."

When someone or something becomes more precious to you than the Lord, darkness is no longer held back.

It invades without mercy until your heart becomes desperate for the things of God once again. This is not punishment. It is the love of the Father working on behalf of the best interests of His children.

And it lasts only as long as is needed to cleanse your heart and restore your affection for God.

It is so easy to become distracted by other people, popular pursuits or even the comfort of a desired possession. These are not wrong in themselves.

But when they divert the best of your time from your Father, occupy the primary priorities of your calendar, or detour your earnings away from God's purposes, dark days move in so that spiritual correction can take place.

It is the small, often overlooked things that over time steal your intimacy with God. You may not even notice at first.

But when excuses become a way of attempting to remove your guilt over not doing what God has called you to perform, intimacy has been lost.

When blaming others, your work, your family, or your health become popular words proceeding from your mouth in exasperation, your heart has drifted from the sweetness of God's Spirit.

When rationalizations are continually given as to why you are not as involved with God's Kingdom mission, you are no longer walking hand in hand with your Heavenly Father.

Dark clouds begin to cloud out the warmth of heaven's sun so that your heart will yearn deeply for God once more.

These days have an expiration date: it is when you abandon everything of lesser importance and pour your life back into God as first priority in all aspects of your day.

He must be Lord of your finances, your family and your future. Nothing can be held back from giving Him your first affections in every decision, each relationship and in all your commitments.

The clouds give way to the glory of the Lord's brilliance only after your heart gives way to God without excuse.

You determine the length of these days by how long you hold onto the lesser things of life.

Today, dark days are designed to turn you back to the delights of God

Sharing with you His Bread,

Pastor Henry

CHANGE THE WORLD ~ RECOVERING THE MESSAGE AND MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST

A six week study that will take you deep in waters of faith. If the challenge below excites you, come aboard, sign on and let's launch out. We will begin this study Wednesday June 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Something is not working. Despite the church's place of prominence in American culture and the ubiquity (means presence everywhere) of the church in every American town, misconceptions about the faith of Jesus Christ run rampant today. Christians are known more for exclusivity than for love, more for potlucks than for solving world hunger.

It's time for churches to get over the cruise-ship mentality of being a program provider, and reconnect with the true message and mission of Jesus: to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed.

Pastor Mike Slaughter challenges us to look at the future of our congregations and make tough but necessary choices. 1) Will you send the church out into the world? 2) Will you focus on building disciples or tallying decisions? 3) Will you multiply your impact or expand your facilities? 4) Will you step out in courage or comply w/ the status quo?

Answers to these and other questions determine how your church will focus its time, energy, and budget to work for real change in a hurting world.

Get on Your Knees and Fight

Question. In today's political/social climate, should Christians stand up to the changes our society is forcing upon us, or should we sit back and accept it?

Matt Friedeman, host of In the Fight Fellowship from the Wesley Biblical Seminary, suggests we should be engaged in the culture battle. Matt lists 7 things we, as Christians, should commit to if we want to be engaged in our children's future:



1. **Devotional life:** Have a daily quiet time of prayer and the Word.
2. **Church:** Go to church regularly and tithe to that church.
3. **Small group:** Be in a small

group of 3-12 people that takes, among other things, prayerful support of an InTheFight lifestyle seriously.

4. **In/Out Ministry:** Participate in a weekly hands-on ministry **inside** the church, building up the Body of Christ, as well as in a weekly hands-on ministry **outside** the church compassionately touching lives for the Gospel. Recruit people to go along with you. ("Hands-on" ministry does not include committees, board participation or giving money, etc.)

5. **Evangelize:** Make sure to bring your unchurched friends, relatives, associates and neighbors to church so that they will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ

and you can help usher them into the Kingdom.

6. **Political confrontation:** Have your legislators on "speed-dial" and call them frequently on issues of importance.

7. **Vote:** Vote in every local, state and federal election.

How are you doing? Take a moment and look at it, cut the list out and put it somewhere where you will see it. Most importantly, pray over the direction God would want you to go.

Submitted by J Houlberg

Outreach Update (NOW Team)



Upcoming Guest Speaker: Coming up this month, during the Sunday morning service on **May 29th**, we will welcome Dr. John Keene who has volunteered at Red Bird Mission in Appalachia. Our church has supported Red Bird for

many years and it will be good to meet one of their volunteers and see how our donations are put to use for the glory of God.

I would like to collect again for a **military care package** to send to Matthew Baumgarten and his comrades in Kuwait beginning on May 29th and finishing on **June 5th**. Any goodies, games, personal care items, or snacks will be greatly appreciated. Of course, if you baking homemade goodies, wait until the 5th to bring them. I will get them in the mail to our troops. We thank God for these men and women who leave their families for our protection.



I tried to regularly update the **website**, like everyone, I get behind. If you have any new ideas or pictures you'd like to see on the website, get with me. I could always use some assistance in that area. This website is very user friendly. I had never created a website before this one, so that tells you how much I know of website design.

Every summer, kids from our community look forward to **Vacation Bible School** at Gary's Church. About half of the children that attend, only come during that time of fun and learning about God, so this is an important outreach to our community. Each year, we rely on a **Volunteer Coordinator** to choose and orchestrate Bible school. It's a big job but one with great reward. If you are willing to step forward and lead this year, please let Karen Bailey or myself know as soon as possible.

Julie Lee, Outreach Coordinator

May 2011

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

- 5/1 SCE-Blandford Outdoor concert and auction
- 5/4- Every Wed Night 7PM Bible Study ~ Philippians.
- 5/8 UMM Mtg 8:30 AM
- 5/11 Council Mtg 7:30PM
- 5/17 UMW Mtg 7 PM
- 5/26 Compassionate Friends Mtg 7PM
- 5/27 Gary's Day to serve PG Food Bank
- SCE—Stands for Sister Church Event

GARY'S PRAYER GROUP

As you may have noticed in the last couple of newsletters, the Prayer Group has been seriously looking for people to join this group. It was stated the day and time could even be changed if Wednesday morning was not convenient. I've personally talked to several people and encouraged them to come, even if they feel uncomfortable praying aloud, to come and give me their spiritual support. I've changed the time from 9:30 am to 9:00 to help out.



As of this date, one of my prayer partners is unable to attend due to the declining health of her husband. My other prayer partner has now gone back to work and has little free time due to her family obligations. Sadly, that leaves only one person committed to lifting up the prayer concerns of Gary's Church members on a committed basis (not counting Pastor Henry and Shirley). I've reached the point where this burden is getting exceedingly heavy to carry. After prayerful thought and consideration, it is with great sadness that I feel it necessary to disband Gary's weekly Prayer Group unless someone steps up and joins this group. We like to brag about Gary's being a prayerful church, but are we really!

Please pray about this and give consideration to supporting this ministry. If God leads you to it, he'll lead you through it. Believe me, you'll get more out of being involved in this ministry than you'll give. If you're interested in being a member, even now and then, please contact me at 732-6900 or pgecmom@aol.com or see me at church.

Submitted by Carole Lee

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 2011

- 6/1 NEW Bible Study, "Changing the World" 7PM
- 6/12 UMM Mtg 8:30AM
- 6/23 Compassionate Friends 7PM
- 6/24 Gary's Day to serve PG Food Bank
- 6/25 BS Troop 902 Yard Sale
- Pls Note Times and Dates Can Change.
- Also check out the Cluster News on Page 7 for SCE's.
- Choir Ea Thurs 7:30PM

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NEW BS	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 BS	9	10	11 PG Graduation
12 UMM Mtg	13	14 UMW Mtg	15 BS	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 BS	23 CF 7PM	24 PG Food Bank	25 Trp 902 Yard Sale
26	27	28	29 BS	30		

United Methodist Men's (UMM) Group

We will be having a "Chicken-N-Fixins" dinner on Saturday, May 21. The proceeds will be going to Gary's Girl Scouts to help fund their trip this summer to Savannah, GA. Please plan to attend and enjoy the fellowship, while supporting the Girls in their efforts.



All men invited to join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 8:30 for fellowship breakfast.

Strengthening all men through Christ,
Steve Snodgrass, UMM President

United Methodist Women's (UMW) Group

The UMW enjoyed a night out at Pleasure Island as a end of year wrap up. Music and meal enjoyed by all. We will take a summer hiatus and rejoin the 3rd Tuesday in September. (9/20)

Thank you for your support this past year and please continue to collect the Campbell's soup labels.



*Submitted by Jean Janeka
UMW President*

Yes, the UMW continue to collect these labels, thank you for your support.

Little Things Continue to Mean A Lot...

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

- May Bottled or canned juices and cereals
- June Instant potatoes and rice



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

MYF ~ Youth News

**We celebrate
the PRAY
Award**

Recipients...

Pictured here along with Pastor Henry and their parents, are Tyler Gibson, Alex Snodgrass, Ben Bonnell and

Henry (Hank) Fisher. Well done guys! Be sure to congratulate them when you see them.



Boy Scout Troop 902 will be having a yard sale in the church yard on Saturday, June 25th. This fundraising effort is being conducted in a couple of ways. Anyone can purchase a table for \$10 and sell their own goods. The Troop will also be accepting donations for sale to profit the Troop. More information will be forthcoming as the event gets closer. Please contact Steve Snodgrass with any questions.

Steve Snodgrass



**WE ALSO
CELEBRATE THE**



CLASS OF 2011,

May your roads be loaded with good choices and good memories.

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Lesla Roakes | Martha Wood | Clint Lanier |
| 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 |
| Juanita Carwile | Joe Bender | Richard Bogese |
| Bernadette Lafreniere | Melinda Layden | Mary Lou Nester |
| Deborah Romero | Edna Brockwell | Brooke Lipscomb |
| Patrick Crockett | Robin Pugh Yoder | Donna Estes |



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
The Least, the Last and the Lost
The Need of Additional Prayer Warriors*

Gary's United Methodist Church

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

Visit us on the web!
www.garysumc.org



May—June 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!