

The Circuit Writer

Elkton United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Website: www.elktonvaumc.org

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Early Fall 2010

A new addition to our facility?

If you haven't already heard, there is some excitement among folks in our congregation about the prospect of building a new ground-level fellowship hall, kitchen and men and womens' restrooms. We were left over \$63,000 by our dear friend and long-time member, Josephine Gibbons. This would provide a start to the money needed for such an additon.

As your pastor, as we think about these things, I'd like to raise several questions that I think we need to answer as a congregation. First of all, there are the obvious questions about the money. Do we want to wait until we've paid off the money we already owe for the new roof and renovations we accomplished a year ago? And, how much of the amount needed for such an addition would we want to raise and have in hand before we even start? Those are important questions, certainly.

But, before we even get to those questions, I think there are some other more fundamental and important questions that we need to be able to answer.

Awhile back, we adopted a purpose statement for our congregation. And when we adopted it, we were serious in saying this is who we are called to be as the body of Christ. We said this statement therefore should guide *everything* we do as a church. The statement, which is posted on the wall of our sanctuary to remind us, says: "Becoming a family, we celebrate the love of God, serve the world and share the message of Christ with all who seek."

Embedded in that statement are five New Testament purposes of the church. Becoming a family...implies a particular kind of family, the family of Christ, and so it implies 1) both ministries of fellowship and support of and with our brothers and sisters and 2) it implies ministries of discipleship, of seeking to intentionally grow in following Jesus. 3) We celebrate the love of God...very simply that's worship. 4) We serve the world...we know each and every person in our community and around the world as a beloved child of God, and so, like our Lord, we exist to serve them in love for the sake of human well-being. Finally, 5) we exist to share the message of Christ with all who seek...the empowering and freeing message of the gospel that they are *indeed* God's beloved children, that their lives are holy and exist within the wonder and love of God.

So, the fundamental question we must answer is: what is our vision for how this proposed new facility will serve our purposes as a church for the community and for the world? Certainly, we know it will help us be inclusive of our current and future members in not requiring that they be able to negotiate the steep steps to be included in many of our fellowship events. That's important. Having said that, fellowship and support of one another is one of the purposes of the church that we already do pretty well. So, what is our vision for how this proposed new facility will help us grow in our spiritual journey as Christ's disciples? What is our vision for how this facility will help us serve the world, or serve our community? What is our vision for how it will help us share the message of Christ? We already have a fine worship space so I'll skip that one!

This is not to say that we shouldn't build it, or that I'm against it. It is simply to say that if we can't answer each of these questions well, and in ways that we truly want to follow through on, then we are "putting the cart before the horse." Remember: it's not about us. We're about Christ, and about how we as an organization in our community and world enable faith, enable love, and enable hope.

I sincerely hope that we will seriously try to answer these questions about our vision for this proposal. If we can really do that and mean it, then building it and raising money for it will be an exciting thing!

In Christ,
David

LAY READERS (11:00)

Sept..12...Jan Lorette
 Sept. 19...Winston Hensley
 Sept. 26...Tamlyn Ogden
 Oct. 3...Wingina Lindamood
 Oct. 10...Terri Davis
 Oct. 17...Irene Jenkins
 Oct. 24...Bob Bloomquist
 Oct. 31...Mickey Life
 Nov. 7...Sandy Cude

ACOLYTES (11:00)

Sept.12...Kevin Wedow
 Sept. 19...Travis Cabbage
 Sept. 26...Joseph Gooden
 Oct. 3...Joshua Gooden
 Oct. 10...Kevin Wedow
 Oct. 17...Travis Cabbage
 Oct. 24...Joseph Gooden
 Oct. 31...Joshua Gooden
 Nov. 7...Kevin Wedow

TOWER BELL RINGERS (11:00)

Sept.12...Travis Cabbage
 Sept. 19...Kevin Wedow
 Sept. 26...Jordan Gochenour
 Oct. 3...Hannah Gochenour
 Oct. 10...Joseph Gooden
 Oct. 17...Joshua Gooden
 Oct. 24..Travis Cabbage
 Oct. 31 ...Kevin Wedow
 Nov. 7...Jordan Gochenour

**8:35 Connection
Hospitality Teams**

Team1	Team2	Team3
Sandy Cude	Sandy Cabbage	Linda Adams
Don Cude	Kenny Cabbage	Andy East
Winston Hensley	Travis Cabbage	Dick Lorette
Carol Hensley	Joe Diggle	Pat East
Tanlyn Ogden	Shirley Diggle	Diane Lowman
Kevin Wedow	Jerri MacLennan	Jan Lorette
Teri Davis	Ed Turner	
	Michelle Turner	
	Brian Kriel	

The upcoming schedule is as follows:

Sept.12 – Team 2
 Sept. 19 – Team 2
 Sept.26 – Team 3
 Oct. 3 – Team 3
 Oct. 10 -- Team 1
 Oct. 17 – Team 1
 Oct. 24 – Team 2
 Oct. 31 – Team 2
 Nov. 7 – Team 3

NURSERY WORKERS (11:00)

Sept. 12...Jerri MacLennan
Sept.19...Terri Davis
Sept. 26...Anna Campbell
Oct. 3...Carol Hensley
Oct. 10...Loretta Miller
Oct. 17...Jerri MacLennan
Oct. 24...Terri Davis
Oct. 31...Anna Campbell
Nov. 7...Carol Hensley

GREETERS (11:00)

Sept. 12..Don & Kathleen Grimes
Sept. 19...Dick & Jan Lorette
Sept. 26...Ted & Anna Campbell
Oct. 3...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Oct. 10...Marie Frey & Pat Fitzwater
Oct. 17...Marvin & Neil Hillsman
Oct. 24...Lews & Wingina Lindamood
Oct. 31...Terri Davis & Irene Jenkins
Nov. 7...Carolyn Gooden & Lisa Gooden

USHERS (11:00)

Sept. 12...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cabbage
Bob Bloomquist, Alan Thompson
Sept. 19...Ed & Michelle Turner
Mickey & Patty Life
Sept. 26...Winston & Carol Hensley
Lewis & Wingina Lindamood
Oct. 3...Ted & Anna Campbell
Alda Powell, Jerri MacLennan
Oct. 10...Sam & Virginia Gentry
Don & Sandy Cude
Oct. 17...Irene Reynolds, Carolyn Akers
M.J. Christophel, Sandy Cude
Oct. 24...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Don & Kathleen Grimes
Oct. 31...Wingina Lindamood, Paula Rhodes
Betty Tavenner, Pat Fitzwater
Nov. 7...Mike Jenkins, Kenny Cabbage
Dick Lorette, Alan Thompson

We have Sunday School for all ages...

Why not make Sunday School a part of your journey of faith?? It meets every Sunday at 9:45 AM. Join us!

Sign up for Wednesday Walkers

Wednesday Walkers is our after-school tutoring ministry for at-risk 1st and 2nd graders from Elkton Elementary. Through one-on-one care and attention, we have been making a difference in children's lives. There is a place for YOU in this vital ministry. Every year there are more at-risk children that teachers want to send us than we have tutor/mentors for. It's just one afternoon a week, Wednesdays from 3:20 – 4:30. If you can help, or think you might like to but need more information, please call Marie Frey at 298-1770. You'll be glad you did!

Elkton UMC to send a team to Leadership Institute

In addition to David and Charlette Reynolds, Don & Sandy Cude, M.J. Christophel and our Music Director, Lynn Atkins will all be attending the Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, Oct. 7th and 8th. The theme is "Preparing for a Future with Hope." Keep them in your prayers!

News from the Elkton United Methodist Women

The MAD HATTERS' TEA was a great success. We had 22 women in attendance, all wearing their favorite hat!

DESSERT BOOTH!! We will be sponsoring a Dessert Booth at Elkton Autumn Days, Oct. 16 & 17. Each church family is asked to be generous in baking something to sell and/or making a contribution. This is the United Methodist Women's major fundraiser for the year.

For more information on how to help, contact Marie Frey (298-1770)

We invite new participants in our church family to come to a circle meeting. Join us for fellowship and service.

Wesleyan Circle: 1st Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM.
Amanda Kite Circle: 1st Monday nights at 7:00 PM.

Elsie Cover Circle: 2nd Thursday afternoons at 1:30 PM.

Continue to remember the shut-ins by your visits, cards, and calls.

Elkton UMC Charge Conference

Our annual Charge Conference will be held Sunday evening, October 31st at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited. All Administrative Council members are voting members of Charge Conference and their attendance is expected. This is a yearly conference that every United Methodist charge has to take care of yearly business. It includes reports that highlight our church's ministries over the past year and sets the budget, direction of ministries and elects the church officers for the coming year.

Project Crossroads

Our Project Crossroads mission work-team had some very challenging, but ultimately quite rewarding experiences in hands-on mission helping folks in southwest Virginia. Thanks to them for representing us in Christ's

ministry so well, and thanks to all the congregation for their financial, prayer and other support!

We continue to be a church that serves the world!

Fall Retreats with Blue Ridge Ministries

Sept. 25 – Prayer & Poetry:

Bushwackin our way to glory
(Gloria Denver)

Oct. 30 – Stepping into Silence: A Solitude
retreat (Sheryl Shenk)

Dec. 4 – The Advent Story through the eyes
of Theophilus (Kevin Clark)

For more info: call 540-560-1605

Help Us Recycle at Church

A quick note to remind people (AND to thank those who have been there and done that...) There is a box in the Assembly Room (right next to the Campbells Soup Labels box) in which you can place your printer's empty inkjet and toner cartridges for recycling. We turn these in at Staples for store credit. Not only does this keep them out of the landfill, but it helps out with some church expenses. So far we have used the credits to purchase envelopes and labels for the Stewardship campaign, folders for the choir, bottles of hand sanitizer for the pews and bottles of water for the Living Waters distribution ministry.

Also, on the topic of recycling, please remember there is a box in the rear of the sanctuary for paper in which you can put your bulletins and inserts if you do not wish to take them home. We also added a small metal trash can near the water cooler in the Assembly Room which is marked for plastic bottles.

Thank you for your support.

Thanks!

Many thanks go to M.J. Christophel, our Family/Fellowship Ministries coordinator, and all those on her team for the great Church Picnic! We had a great turnout and a great time together!

VBS a Great Success!

Thanks to some amazing efforts by a whole lot of people sharing their time and gifts our "Galactic Blast" VBS was a universal, out-of-this-world success!! Special thanks to Sandy Cude our Director!

Prayer Concerns...

(as known)

Edward Turner, Sr.

Mary E. Kite

Jenna Turner

Bud Fitzwater

Bill & Jean Madren

Bill & June DeNeale

Anita McGregor

Ed Turner

Jim Conger

The 8:35 Connection

We're excited about what's happening with our new Contemporary Worship service! The praise band continues to have added a member (Shirley Diggle) and continues to improve and inspire us. We continue to have new people coming to check us out. The spirit often moves in a powerful way in that new style of worship, as is evidenced by how our total worship attendance is up 30% since beginning the new service on Easter! Tell your friends and neighbors about it, even if it's not the service you attend, and if it is, invite them and bring them with you!

Other Opportunities

... **Bazaar & Luncheon** at the Roanoke United Methodist Home (1009 Old Country Club Rd., Roanoke... 540-767-6800)

Thursday, Oct. 7

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Lunch: 11:30 AM -- 1:00 PM

Featuring: Books Attic Treasures, Furniture, Antiques, Jewelry, Crafts, Decorations, Plants, Bake Sale, etc.

Lunch tickets \$8.00

(reservations required)

... **Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction** is a program offered by RMH. It guides participants through the intensive application of mindfulness meditation and its applications for coping with stress, pain and other life challenges.

Wednesdays, Sept. 29 – Nov. 17, 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Call 433-4580 for details and to register

Robin Martin, RMH chaplain says this is an educational and experiential class designed to teach you several types of meditation, mindful stretching and very gentle Yoga. It has no religious affiliation, but is compatible with individuals of any religious faith. It has been found to be beneficial for those who suffer with chronic conditions, including pain, insomnia, anxiety and panic, headaches, and high blood pressure.