

The Circuit Writer

Elkton United Methodist Church

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Website: www.elktonvaumc.org

The Rev. David T. Reynolds, Pastor

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Winter 2011

Moving Toward Spring

Easter comes late this year (April 24), but there is much that is going on now and in the months ahead. Take time to read through this newsletter and see what we have been doing and what is planned. There is a real desire among us to keep moving ahead in doing the mission and ministry of the church and in trying new ways to reach out and meet the real needs of people in our community for Christ! It's an exciting and challenging time. We continue to pray for God's spirit in us and for God to show us the people in our community who are excluded from fullness of life in some way, and open the doors for us to minister to them and include them in Christ's love in tangible ways.

To do that, we must keep growing in our own faith. There are a couple of things coming up that speak to that end. One is Confirmation classes for our middle-school aged youth. Classes will begin on Thursday, February 24 and will invite participants on a journey of exploring the Christian faith through understanding the eight core Biblical stories: God's Call, The Exodus, The Sinai Covenant, Promised Land, The Davidic Rule, Jesus' Life, The Cross, and Resurrection Life. We have five or six youth who will be participating! Please keep them in your prayers, that they might be moved to take this step to make a commitment to Christ for themselves.

Also, as has been our custom, you will have the opportunity to deepen and grow in your journey in these weeks leading up to Easter. There will again be a Lenten Study, beginning March 16 and running for six weeks. The subject of the study has not yet been finalized, but watch for further details and plan to be part of it. It is always a good time to grow in your faith!

In Christ,

David

LAY READERS (11:00)

Feb. 13...Irene Jenkins
Feb. 20...Mickey Life
Feb. 27...Sandy Cude
March 6...Ed Turner
March 13...Andy East
March 20...Harvey Gasser
March 27...Lewis Lindamood
April 3...Betty Tavenner

ACOLYTES (11:00)

Feb. 13...Joseph Gooden
Feb. 20...Joshua Gooden
Feb. 27...Kevin Wedow
March 6...Travis Cabbage
March 13...Joseph Gooden
March 20...Joshua Gooden
April 3...Kevin Wedow

TOWER BELL RINGERS (11:00)

Feb. 13...Joseph Gooden
Feb. 20...Joshua Gooden
Feb. 27...Travis Cabbage
March 6...Kevin Wedow
March 13...Jordan Gochenour
March 20...Hannah Gochenour
March 27...Joseph Gooden
April 3...Joshua Gooden

8:35 Connection Hospitality Teams schedule JAN – JUL 2011

TEAM I

FEB 13 & 20
MAR 27 & APR 3
MAY 8 & 15
JUN 19 & 26

TEAM II

FEB 27 & MAR 6
APR 10 & 17
MAY 22 & 29
JUL 3 & 10

TEAM III

MAR 13 & 20
APR 24 & MAY 1
JUN 5 & 12
JUL 17 & 24

NURSERY WORKERS (11:00)

Feb. 13...Anna Campbell
Feb. 20... Carol Hensley
Feb. 27...Loretta Miller
March 6...Jerri MacLennan
March 13...Terri Davis
March 20...Anna Campbell
March 27...Carol Hensley
April 3...Loretta Miller

GREETERS (11:00)

Feb. 13...Marie Frey & Irene Jenkins
Feb. 20...Ted & Anna Campbell
Feb. 27...Carolyn Gooden & Alda Powell
Mar. 6...Lewis & Wingina Lindamood
Mar. 13...Mac & Paula Rhodes
Mar. 20...Don & Kathleen Grimes
Mar. 27...Allen & Kitty Young
April 3...Marvin & Neil Hillsman

USHERS (11:00)

Feb. 13...Ed & Michelle Turner
Mickey & Patty Life
Feb. 20...Ditman Flory, Kenny Cabbage
Bob Bloomquist, Alan Thompson
Feb. 27...Winston & Carol Hensley
Lewis & Wingina Lindamood
March 3...Ted & Anna Campbell
Alda Powell, Jerri MacLennan
March 13...Sam & Virginia Gentry
Don & Sandy Cude
March 20...Irene Reynolds, Carolyn Akers
M.J. Christophel, Sandy Cude
March 27...Harvey & Sharon Gasser
Don & Kathleen Grimes
April 3...Wingina Lindamood, Paula Rhodes
Betty Tavenner, Pat Fitzwater

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!

“BECOMING A FAMILY.....”

This is the beginning of our PURPOSE STATEMENT and it also describes our Adult Sunday School Class. We are studying how best to live out our Purpose Statement, reach the community and grow the church by spreading the gospel message. Come -- be a part of God's plan for you and His church TODAY!

Meeting in Fellowship Room each Sunday
9:45-10:30 AM

BINGO!

Back by popular demand, Bingo will return on Saturday, February 26, 3:00 – 4:00 PM. Please bring wrapped White Elephant gifts (for prizes) now. A box has been placed in the entry for collecting these gifts. Also featured: CHERRY COBBLER AND ICE CREAM!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL RETREAT

The Council spent a weekend studying “Selling Swim Suits in the Arctic” on January 21-22. This analogy was very helpful in discovering “How Best to Reach our Community for Christ.” The council members are now following up with new ideas within the five ministry groups that were developed last Fall. Become a part of active ministry by speaking to the chairperson:

DISCIPLESHIP & GROWTH IN FAITH

Don & Sandy Cude

FELLOWSHIP & BELONGING

Sandy Cabbage

WORSHIP

Winston Hensley

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Winging Lindamood

EVANGELISM & SHARING

Jan Lorette

News from the Elkton United Methodist Women

- 1) The Elkton UMW would like to thank everyone for the support given during 2010. We fell that many of our goals were met. We are looking forward to an exciting 2011.
- 2) Thanks to Alice Hensley for hostessing our Christmas Brunch.
- 3) Floe Koontz was the honoree of our UMW mission pin for 2010, for the outstanding work she does with helping to make lap robes and supporting the women's work. A donation is sent to mission in her honor.
- 4) We are still making lap robes. We had a work day at church and just completed 9 lap robes. If you have any material to donate, please bring it to the church.

In the months ahead, please put these activities on your calendar:

Saturday, June 4-Ice Cream Social, 2 – 4 PM
Saturday, July 9 – Mad Hatters' Tea, 1:00 PM.

We love having guests at our circle meetings!
Come join us in 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.

Have You Considered Planned Giving?

Jim Bergdoll, Executive Director of the United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference, makes listening to a presentation about planned giving to the church easy on the ears. Really! Although I had talked to him on the phone, I had never met him until Sunday, November 14, when I attended his session at the District Conference workshops.

Jim explained how the Foundation can assist local church committees charged with accepting and administering gifts and endowments and answered a lot of questions from the attendees.

First take-away thought: The Foundation is positioned to give expert advice and assistance, including making all the arrangements for planned giving—and can uniquely do this for a donor who wants to give to his or her local church, but doesn't want his or her local church members involved. So instead of your financial adviser or you calling up the Trustees or the chair of finance of Elkton United Methodist Church, contact the Foundation. Peace of mind? Sounds like a plan!

To tell the truth, if someone comes to me wishing to arrange a large gift to our church, be it in the form of property, a charitable gift annuity, or the church as a contingent beneficiary, I am comfortable knowing I have the United Methodist Foundation as a resource.

My second take-away thought was, *Wow, I didn't know there were so many options to include the church as part of estate planning, that don't require me to die first.* There ARE some neat alternatives—not to my dying (!), but to leaving a sum to the church in my will: life income gifts, insurance beneficiary designate, deferred gifts . . . and the list goes on. Although Jim Bergdoll is retiring this spring, the Foundation will continue to provide timely help with planned giving.

Harvey Gasser, Chair of Finance
David or myself welcome questions about this article, or contact the United Methodist Foundation of the Virginia Conference at 1-800-768-6040.

Prayer Concerns...

(as known)
Edward Turner, Sr.
Mary E. Kite
Jenna Turner
Bud & Pat Fitzwater
Bill & Jean Madren
June DeNeale
Anita McGregor
Ed Turner
Virginia Gentry

Recycling Ink Cartridges

We got \$280 of credit at Staples last year by recycling ink cartridges.

We have used that credit to purchase CASES of water for the the Monday Living Water outreach, an electric pencil sharpener for the choir, some folders for the choir, some markers and such for Sunday school, some envelopes and paper for the copier.

We continue to recycle the bulletins and other papers on a regular basis, plastic bottles, cans and cardboard boxes. I have even had some of the women save me tin cans and the aluminum foil from food at some of our fellowship dinners. KEEP UP THE GOOD EFFORTS, every little bit adds to the bigger whole.

--Lewis Lindamood

“SOUPER BOWL” SUPER SUCCESS!

This marks the third consecutive year that EUMC has participated in ‘Souper Bowl of Caring’ – a national organization that raises awareness of hunger and motivates youth to actively tackle hunger in their own community.

The mission of the organization is simple: “Utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities”.

That simplicity translates to **\$6,420,683** generated by 6,920 groups across America during this 2011 campaign! EUMC congregation really came together to ‘be the defense against hunger’ by contributing 418 food items and \$1485! WOW! Now that’s a way to exceed our goals of 400 items and \$500!

Our Continued EAUS emphasis

We reach out to those in our community through support of the EAUS Food Pantry. All of the money and food items collected were donated to the Food Pantry. The need here in Elkton is greater than you might imagine. In January, 211 boxes were distributed, reaching 504 individuals. Of those people, 146 are children and 78 are senior citizens.

In keeping with our Advent Conspiracy that began at Christmas to give our time, talent and share God’s love in a tangible way, we will continue this outreach mission through the coming year by regular giving to the Food Pantry. Collection boxes will remain by our doors. **We are doing a ‘paper drive’ – toilet paper and tissues – during February, March and April.** These are items that are truly needed yet seldom donated. Let’s see if we can gather 215 rolls and 215 boxes for the April 15th pantry!

8:35 Hospitality Teams Roster

Team I

Sandy Cude – Team leader & Door Greeter
Don Cude – Parking Greeter
Winston Hensley – Parking Greeter
Kevin Wedow – Parking Greeter
Tamlyn Ogden – Door Greeter
Carol Hensley – Hostess
Terri Davis – Nursery

Team II

Sandy Cabbage – Team Leader & Door Greeter
Kenny Cabbage – Parking Greeter
Travis Cabbage – Parking Greeter
Mary Ripley – Door Greeter
Jerri MacLennan – Hostess
Brian or Lisa Kriel – Nursery

Team III

Pat East – Team Leader & Door Greeter
Andy East – Parking Greeter
Jan Lorette – Door Greeter
Paula Rhodes – Hostess
Mary Ripley - Nursery