



# Marsh Messenger

Marsh Memorial United Methodist Church  
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October 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Many of you know my great love for music and singing. Of singing, St. Augustine said, "For he that singeth praise, not only praiseth, but only praiseth with gladness: he that singeth praise, not only singeth, but also loveth him of whom he singeth. In praise, there is the speaking forth of one confessing; in singing, the affection of one loving." That quote in time became shortened to say, "He who sings, prays twice."

A hymn I grew to love early in my ministry is "Awake, Awake to Love and Work." While attending a worship workshop at Duke University, participant gathered early in the morning in a courtyard beside the beautiful Duke Chapel. The air was cool and fresh and the gardens were wet with dew. We formed a large circle and held hands as we began our outdoor worship experience. We moved toward the middle of the circle and then back to where we started as workshop leaders sang a phrase of "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" and participants repeated the singing of each phrase. At the end of our worship experience, we were fully awake and aware of God's presence in our midst.

I believe that God is moving among us seeking to awaken us to grater love and greater service. Since my arrival at Marsh Memorial, I fell more awake and alert to God's Spirit than I

have in quite some time. I am thankful for the warmth and friendship you have extended to me and look forward to deepening the relationship God has begun in us.

I am including the lyrics for "Awake, Awake". Please find some quiet time to meditate upon those lyrics and see what the Spirit says to you.

Love in Christ,  
*Rev. Randy Harlow*

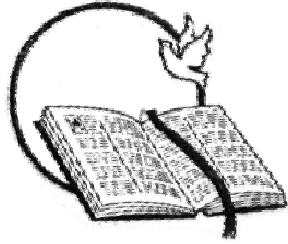
*1. Awake, awake to love and work, The lark is in the sky, The fields are wet with diamond dew, The worlds awake to cry Their blessings on the Lord of Life as He goes meekly by.*

*2. Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, Shout with the shout of praise; See how the giant sun soars up. Great Lord of years and days! So let the love of Jesus come and set the soul ablaze:*

*3. To give and give, and give again, What God hath given thee; To spend thyself nor count the cost, to serve right gloriously The God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.*

## GREEN PASTURES

Kaye Prillaman  
Coordinator of  
Spiritual Formation



### “...All My Wonders” Ex. 3:20

Recently, while taking my weekly chemo treatment, I felt God's leading to review the life and call of Moses which is in Exodus. It was interesting to ponder that Moses was born to parents from the tribe of Levi and to think about how he would have been a priest had he been raised in the Hebrew community. To save his life from the order of the Pharaoh who demanded that every Hebrew son born be cast into the river, his mother put Moses in an arc of bulrushes and placed him upon the waters. Eventually he was rescued by the Pharaoh's daughter who raised him as her own son, and as his son, Moses would have lived the life of a prince.

As an adult, Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave and, fearing for his own life, he fled to Midian where the descendants of Abraham and his second wife, Keturah, lived. Returning to his family roots, Moses retired on the backside of the desert mountain and became a shepherd. It was during this time that He encountered God Himself who appeared to him in a flame of a fire from the midst of a burning bush. It was not unusual for these types of desert bushes to catch on fire, but it was extremely unusual for them not to be consumed. While Moses was preoccupied with trying to figure out why the bush was not consumed by the fire, God spoke to Moses identifying himself as the God of Abraham who had seen the oppression of His people in Egypt and had heard their cries, knew their sorrows and bondage under the Egyptian taskmasters. Often, like Moses, we are often preoccupied by our own thoughts and understandings of situations while God is trying to speak His wisdom, plans and assignments to us! It was like that for me that day: I was trying to figure out the new reports from the tests and CT Scans with my own knowledge and understanding while God Himself wanted to speak His wisdom to me! I got the

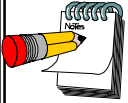
point and asked God to forgive me for leaning to my own understanding instead of hearing His voice!

What was God saying to Moses? God told Moses He had come down to deliver His people and to lead them into a land flowing with milk and honey, and He was going to do that by sending Moses to the Pharaoh to bring His people out of Egypt. God identified Himself to Moses as the "I Am Who I Am" - the all self-existing God who is and was and always will be! God warned Moses that the Pharaoh would not let the people go, so He would stretch out His hand and strike Egypt with "all His wonders" which would eventually cause their release! Wonders? Let's review these "wonders" - waters turned to blood, frogs, lice, flies, diseased livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of the first-born! These look more like evil plagues, but are called "wonders" in the biblical account! As I was pondering these "wonders," I thought about all the tests, procedures and treatments I had experienced in dealing with the cancer over the previous four years, and they seemed more like plagues or "necessary evils" than "wonders!" That very day, I embraced a new concept - I embraced the word "wonders" to describe the experiences which would eventually cause the enemy of cancer to let me go! I was encouraged to be reminded that God knows every battle, every affliction, every persecution and every hard place I would face in my battle of release, and He was well able to cause me to overcome every one with His wonders! It would not be done by my strength - it would be by His! I was comforted that morning to know that God would be with me just as He was with Moses and that His powerful "wonders" would be manifested on my behalf with each new skirmish! We, like the children of Israel, can be assured that our God has heard our every cry and that He has come down to rescue and deliver us into our divine, covenanted places of destiny that flow with milk and honey!

What difficult battles are you going through in your life today? What has been your "Egypt" experience? Be encouraged that God has an awesome "wonder" planned for your victory and release and, through it all, He will be with you just as He was with Moses!

*And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders... Deut. 26:8*

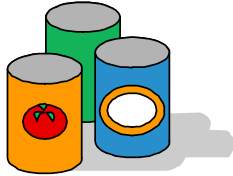
## **TEAM NOTES:** (Timberlake Emergency Assistance Ministries)



### **July FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS 82 items**



Items especially needed for the food pantry: Crackers (saltine, club, all kinds),

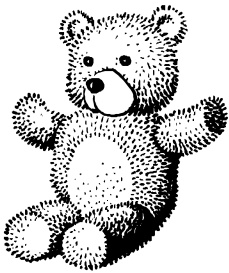


canned fruit and vegetables, sugar, small boxes of cereal, and toilet paper.



Thanks for your support of this ministry.  
God Bless you All,  
Etta Wilson

# **Bears and Wanna-be's in Ministry**

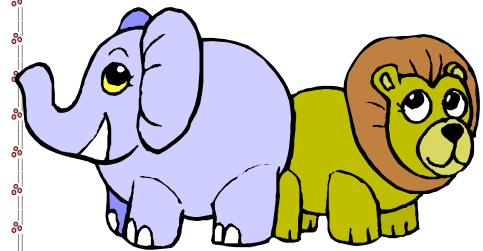


### I Want To Invite Others to Come

I guess you may be thinking,  
What I am thinking too;  
That Christians have the best life  
'cuz Christ lives in and through.

I'd really like to share it  
With everyone I meet  
But I'm just filled with stuffing  
So won't you be my feet?

The Bears and Wanna-be's of MMUMC



# **Thank You's**

I wish to thank my Marsh Family and Pastor Randy for all the prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls, during my recent illness and surgery. Your love and friendship has meant so much to my family and me.

Len Harris

Dear Randy and Members of Marsh Memorial,

Thank you for your warm welcome Sunday (July 6).

Love in Christ,

Sharon and Sam Whitehall





# October Birthdays & Anniversaries



## **BIRTHDAYS**

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

- |    |                  |    |                |
|----|------------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Virginia Schmitt | 17 | Betty Arthur   |
| 7  | Jason Riddle     | 21 | Joyce Hanna    |
| 8  | Reggie Smith     | 22 | Amy Cardwell   |
|    | Molly Willse     | 24 | Walter Brooks  |
| 9  | Ricky Rexrode    |    | Joyce Kidd     |
| 11 | Lindy Collins    |    | Terry White    |
|    | Janice Schmitt   | 28 | Danny Coffman  |
| 12 | Michael Powell   |    | Taylor Maddox  |
| 13 | Kelly Schmitt    | 31 | Minnie Baldwin |
| 14 | Lewis Bowles     |    | David Saunders |
|    | Sam Hall         |    |                |
| 15 | Jonathan Hardie  |    |                |

- |    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 2  | Renee & Patrick Draney    |
|    | Kristen & Jonathan Hardie |
| 9  | Phillip & Judy Viar       |
| 10 | Lewis & Wanda Bowles      |
| 11 | Kevin & Lori Midgley      |
| 19 | Ernest & Margaret Garbee  |
| 20 | Virgil & Virginia DeRemer |



# Marsh Memorial UMC

## Servant Schedule

SUNDAY	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26	
<i>Greeters</i>	Dan and Pat Brunk	Jon and Kristen Hardie	Kelly, Jacob and Morgan Schmitt	Jim and Laurel Puckett	
<i>Ushers</i>	Ernest Garbee* Pat Draney Robert Maggi Eugene Wilson				
<i>Acolytes</i>	Ali Sherburne	Morgan Schmitt	Audrey Dalton	Carter Maggi	
<i>Crucifer</i>	Jacob Schmitt	Leah Durham	Sara Riddle	Jessica Schmitt	
<i>Nursery</i>					
<i>Sound</i>					
<i>Prayer Calendar</i>			Lillian Smith		
<i>Flowers</i>					
<i>Children's Church</i>					
<i>Meals for Bereaved</i>	Joyce Hanna Christine Campbell				
	<b>Next Administrative Council Meeting</b> <b>October 9, 7 PM</b>				

\* HEAD USHER

### COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



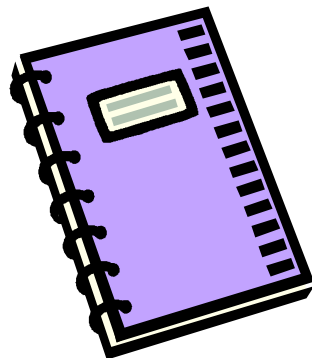
<u>THURSDAYS</u>	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
<b>MEALS ON WHEELS</b>	Jack and Lindy	Margaret & Ernest	Sam and Phyliss	Christine & Martha	Betty A. & Bettie

# Thank You

(Inadvertently omitted from previous newsletter:)

Thank you church family for the love shown to me and my family in these past weeks during the illness and death of our mother. Thank you for the cards, food, calls, and visits; and thank you for all the expression of love and especially for the prayers on our behalf. God called Mama home on May 19th. We praise Him that she is no longer suffering with so much pain. I am so grateful that we had her with us for so many years. We are blessed with many happy memories. Heaven is surely rejoicing over the homecoming of home of one of its saints.

In love and gratitude,  
Martha Prebble and Family



During the month of July we received \$265.04 from our P.O.C. offering. This money will go the Heritage Elementary School for "Homework Pack-ets"

Thanks,  
Martha Prebble

## FAITH 4 Life

Marsh Youth Messenger

The month of July was an action packed month for the Marsh youth. We started the month with a bowling trip on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and a car wash on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all of the church members who brought their cars in for us to clean. The event was a huge success raising \$334 for youth projects. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, Jim and Laurel Puckett invited the youth to their home on Smith Mountain Lake. Boat rides, swimming and Sea-dooing was enjoyed as well as a delicious lunch. Thanks Jim and Laurel! Many youth helped with VBS held on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Future events include: the sponsoring of boxes for soldiers overseas, another car wash, and a youth sponsored yard sale in the fall. There will be a Youth and Youth Parent meeting on August 14, 2008 at 7:00. Fall and winter events and service projects will be planned at this time.

Starting in September, we are reinstating the Sunday "social hour" every second Sunday of the month. Coffee and donuts will be served in the baby nursery from 10:30 to 10:50. The Joy Class will be your host for the month of September.

