



Marsh Messenger

Marsh Memorial United Methodist Church
20348 Leesville Road Lynchburg, VA 24502

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September 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

I am excited at being at Marsh Memorial and sharing our facility with the Lynchburg District Office. While that arrangement does not necessarily give us the advantage over others, I'm happy to be so close to the pulse of our district where great things are happening. From my office, I can see the parade of persons heading upstairs to discuss some vision for ministry. I am also pleased when someone visits my office to offer our members an opportunity to put their faith into action. When I realize their proposal is not only good for us but for others on the district, I escort or send them upstairs to share their story as well.

Mark Tinsley, local National Guard Chaplain, stopped by recently to seek support for his soldiers and their families. I assured Mark that the members of Marsh Memorial are solidly behind our soldiers and would do what we can to support them and their families. I escorted him to Larry Davies' office to make an appointment. As it was, Larry had an opening in his schedule and a beneficial meeting took place there was well. I will get back with you in the near future to let you know ways in which we can do our part.

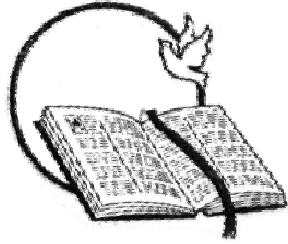
Another wonderful opportunity for ministry has come to my attention recently. As you know, recovery in the Gulf Coast is ongoing and will be for sometime. Our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is doing everything it can to assist in recovery. One of our Lynchburg District Churches, Bethlehem at Moneta, has shared a vision with the District to assist one of UMCOR's applicants in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Jeanie Lowery is a 52 year old who is disabled. Since the hurricane, she has been living in a FEMA cottage because her home has been condemned and must be demolished. She will lose her cottage April 1, 2009 when FEMA removes it from the site. United Methodists in Mississippi are raising half the amount needed to purchase materials to build Ms. Lowery a new home prior to April 1.

There are those of us on the Lynchburg District who feel that we are blessed to be given an opportunity to assist Ms. Lowery. At our District Conference at Parkview UMC on Oct. 5, we will hear more about this mission opportunity and how we can support it with our prayers, our contributions to help purchase materials, and even to go as members of work teams. We don't have to wait until Oct. 5 to decide what we will do as individuals and as a church. As you pray for this effort, let me know what God is leading you to do or what you think we should do as a church.

In Christian Love, Rev. Randy Harlow

GREEN PASTURES

Kaye Prillaman
Coordinator of
Spiritual Formation



ARE YOU BEING SIFTED LIKE WHEAT?

In Luke 22, we read where Jesus informed Peter: "Simon, Simon, behold Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you like wheat: but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail, and when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." How many of us feel that we are being sifted like a farmer sifts wheat by the many difficult challenges and situations we are dealing with and going through in our lives? How many of us can also hear Jesus' comforting words in this scripture that He is praying for us? Had you considered that Jesus Himself is praying for you? Hebrews 7:25 says that Jesus ever lives to intercede for us!

Is it not amazing that the Son of God was physically there with Peter in his time of testing, yet Jesus did not "fix" this situation for Peter in a way perhaps he may have wanted. Jesus simply says that He will pray for him. Had we been in Peter's situation, we might have expected much more from Jesus - after all, He is the Son of God -- the miracle-working Messiah -- come to help and to save. We might have asked Jesus, "Can't you do more than just pray? Can't you work a miracle and keep me from being sifted?" Sometimes our own expectations can keep us from really hearing the solution that the Lord has for us! Jesus' prayer for Peter identified the solution and that is what Jesus prayed for on behalf of Peter - that Peter's faith would not fail. Yes, Jesus had faith to perform miracles and move mountains, but Jesus was wisely allowing Peter the opportunity to exercise his own faith so he could

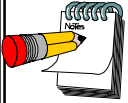
know, believe and stand on the measure of faith given to him by the Lord. Soon, Jesus would be returning to the Father in heaven, and Jesus wanted Peter to know how to use his faith to overcome the siftings of Satan and the world. Jesus wants the same thing for us - He wants us to know that faith works when it is worked! The Bible says that God has given unto every man the measure of faith, and Jesus taught that even tiny amounts of faith will move great mountains! Further, faith is required of every believer as "it is impossible to please God without faith." Yes, Jesus is well able to stop Satan's siftings, but then so are we! How? The same way Jesus stopped them when He walked and lived upon the earth as the Son of man - BY FAITH! Faith is believing and acting upon what the Word of God says! Jesus encouraged Peter that after his faith worked and things turned around, he would then help and strengthen others!

If you are being sifted like wheat lately, know that Jesus is praying for you just as He prayed for Peter! What is He praying? - that your faith not fail you, and He is encouraging you also that, after your faith holds and the good result comes forth, you will then be of great use to help others! Wherever you are in this process, know that, as a believer, God has given you faith that will work ... faith that will hold ... faith that will overcome anything Satan can do - YOUR FAITH IS GREATER THAN SATAN'S SIFTINGS! So don't give up and let go of your faith - and, having done all, keep on holding on!

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5: 4.5

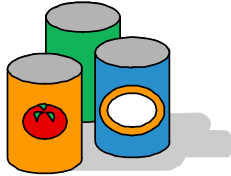
TEAM NOTES: (Timberlake Emergency Assistance Ministries)



August FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS 42 items

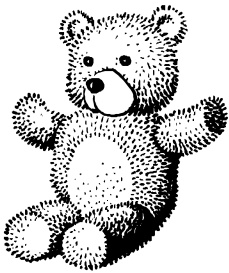
Items especially needed for the food pantry: Crackers (saltine, club, all kinds),

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

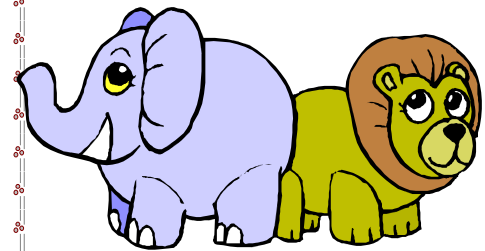


I Want To Invite Others to Come

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

We wish to thank Pastor Randy and our church friends for all the prayers, visits, cards and phone calls during Keith's surgery and recovery. Also for all the cards and calls after the loss of my brother, William.

May God continue to bless each of you and our church.

Keith & Adreanna

We want to thank our Christian friends for your thoughtfulness and concern in the death of Ernest's brother, William T. Garbee. The many cards and prayers were appreciated.

Love in Christ.



September Birthdays & Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
3	Chanie D. Davis Cathy Maggi	19	Dan Dancey Kristen Hardie
4	Debbie Reese	20	Jackie Keen
5	Gail Ballowe	21	Jeff Dawson Darlene Maddox Kenneth Smith
6	Susan Stewart	22	Helena Saunders
7	Louise Adams Terry Marsh	24	Robin Powell Louise Noel Jason Hardie
10	Alice Childress Leonard Harris Danny Woodard	25	Fay Harris
11	Jerry Childress	26	Virginia Brown
12	Justin Cardwell		April Leuci
13	Larry Leuci	28	Martha Prebble Allen Puckett Brian Ragland
14	Denver Dancey	29	Mary G. Hines
16	Parker Garbee	30	Chris Millner
17	Page Grubbs		

Marsh Memorial UMC

Servant Schedule

SUNDAY	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28	
<i>Greeters</i>	Buford & Joyce Hanna	Margaret Proehl & Dixie Holt	Wendy & Meghan Collins	Christine Camp- bell	
<i>Ushers</i>	Jon Hardie* Kenley Hahn Aubrey Schmitt Ralph Blair				
<i>Acolytes</i>	Carter Maggi	Morgan Schmitt	Audrey Dalton	Jessica Schmitt	
<i>Crucifer</i>	Meghan Collins	Leah Durham	Sara Riddle	Jaimee Meekins	
<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>	Mary Bondurant		Ann Hicks		
	Next Administrative Council Meeting September 11—7 P.M. PLEASE NOTE NEW DAY				

* HEAD USHER

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



<u>THURSDAYS</u>	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25	
<i>MEALS ON WHEELS</i>	Sam & Phyliss Hall	Christine & Martha	Betty & Bettie	Etta & Eugene	

Sedalia Country Fair

Saturday, September 13

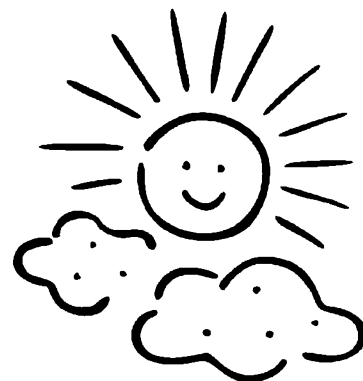
Sedalia Center, 1108 Sedalia School Rd, Big Island, Virginia

Admission: \$5.00

Children under 12 Free!

Activities, Displays, and Demonstrations for the whole family:

Floral Arrangement Competition, Mule Jumping, Sheep Herding,
Petting Zoo, Bee Keeping, Parade of Horses, Butter Churning
Demonstration, Produce and Food Competition, Wood Working,
Quilting, Unique Trick Mule



Parenting Classes

Marsh Memorial

8 weeks beginning Tuesday,
Sept. 30 5:30-7:30 PM

Sponsored by the Alliance for
Families and Children

To register, call Nadine Dunton
at 845-5944, Ext. 261

Anger Compassion Workshop

Marsh Memorial

12 weeks beginning Monday, October 6

Sponsored by Christian Counseling Service of Forest, VA

For more information, call 434-525-9006

Prayer Request Book

A prayer request book is now available on the table in the sanctuary. You may write prayer requests at any time and they will be lifted up during Worship on Sunday, as well as other times. Please include the person or circumstance for which you request prayer, and your name and telephone number, in the event more information is needed.



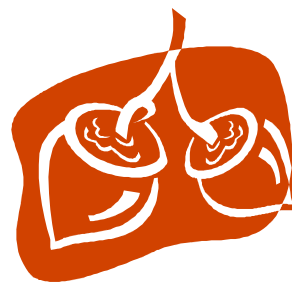
September 14th, the Joy Class will host a “social hour” of coffee and donuts from 10:30- 10:50 in the baby nursery.

Surviving the Loss of a Spouse

Heritage UMC

6 weeks beginning Wednesday, September 3, 7-9 PM

For more information, call Joanne at 385-6334



ADULT MINISTRIES

“Let’s Get Healthy”

Come on out for Chair Aerobics!

Where: Marsh Memorial Fellowship Hall

Time: 9:00- 10:00 AM

When: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays starting September 15th

Bring: a towel

MEN & WOMEN

Don’t be shy- it’s fun and good for you!

Any questions contact Laurel Puckett at 821-7524

Other Upcoming Events:

October 6th- Book Club

October 25th- Halloween Fest



Youth yard and bake sale Saturday September 27th. If you wish to sell, tables can be rented for \$8 for church members, \$10 for non-members, and a baked good. Please call Kelly Schmitt at 369-5481 for more information.