

Stephens City U.M. Church
5291 Main Street
P.O. Box 428
Stephens City, VA 22655

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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
Permit No. 3
Stephens City

The Messenger

January 2012 Issue



Stephens City United Methodist Church
Phone: (540) 869-2348

e-mail: scumc@verizon.net
web site <http://stephenscityumc.org>

Church Staff

Rev. Jeff Butcher,
Pastor

Rev. Waverly Reames,
Minister of Visitation

Janet Moore,
Administrative Assistant

David Renner,
Director of Music

Missy Legge,
Children & Youth Choir
Director

Sharon Cooley,
Children/Youth Choir
Accompanist

Jacquetta Owen,
Bell Choir Director

Bobby Cook,
Building Superintendent

Mary Levesque,
Childcare

Preschool
869-1368

Sunday Worship

8:30a.m.
9:45a.m.
11:00a.m.

Sunday School

9:45a.m.
11:00a.m.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear friends,

“What gift has God given you for ministry and service?” So asks the Rev. J. Peter Lovell, former Superintendent of the Rockford District in the Illinois Conference.

As I survey this past year I can see where God has gifted many in our congregation for service. A number of people stepped up to teach Sunday school and to work with youth. Giftedness was on display during the children's and youth Christmas musical “Arrest These Merry Gentlemen.” I see a number of you helping with the Food Pantry and I have been inspired by the testimony of those who helped with the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS). What I've heard in that testimony was that you had known Christ as Savior but now you are really getting to know Him as Lord. It means so much to me when at the door following the worship service you have said, “This is my friend ... whom I brought with me to church today.” As I write this I have just finished my visiting for today and was able to distribute the last of the Christmas cards the Fourth Grade Sunday school class made for those who were ill, in the hospital or shut-in. It may seem like a small gift to cut out an angel, color the angel, paste it to some construction paper and write a short message but it meant everything to those who received one of those cards.

All this has transpired because our God is faithful and He does gift and empower His people. With the knowledge of God's past faithfulness I am confident that God will be faithful in the future just as He has promised. During 2012 we at Stephens City UMC will be exploring what that we can be an even more “Vital Congregation” for Christ and His Kingdom. Please be in prayer for our increased vitality and be open to ways you can participate in this effort.

(cont'd on next page)

As Rev. Lovell wrote in response to his question, "Individually and collectively, may every United Methodist discover his or her God-given for ministry. We are called to be more than a presence. We have a purpose. As we employ our gifts, may we move from survival to service, from maintenance to mission, and may all of God's children feel God's love and grace."

Yours in Christ, Jeff



SCUMC,

Thank you for all of the cards and expressions of sympathy after the passing of my mother, Mary Kerr. It is very comforting to know that your church family is thinking about you and praying for you during this tough time.

Sincerely, Steve Kerr

Thank you for the care package that you sent to me at George Mason University this fall - I really enjoyed all of the goodies!

Sincerely, Jimmy Kerr

Dear Fellow Church Members,
Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and well wishes while I was in the hospital. Also many thanks for the visits of Pastor Jeff and Pastor Waverly.

Love,
Ruth Barley

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful rose in honor of Sydney's birth. Thank you also for the prayers and well wishes. She is a blessing and we look forward to her growing up in such a caring church family.

Kristen, Jerry, Lucas and
Sydney Vance

Dear SCUMC and Pastor,
Thank you for your generous gift to World Communion Sunday. Your gifts pave the way for those who want to serve God in the world through a variety of vocations. Aspiring nurses, doctors, teachers, counselors, ministers and others receive the support of the church they love when you give to this special offering.

Sincerely,
Lisa Katzenstein
General Board of Global Ministries

January Birthdays



01 Roger Hisey	13 Godfrey Nichols	25 Holly Headley
03 Kristen Vance	15 Bob Colson	26 Diane Clawson
Anna Walton	Julee Steele	27 Jane Fitzpatrick
04 Kevin Huffman	16 Jared Dunleavy	28 Bob Jones
Susan Largent	Kim Walton	29 Diane Cook
06 Charley Moore	17 Harrison Craig	Ashley Headley
07 Susan Ryker	Lydia Craig	Joann Lantz
08 Kenneth Swain, Jr.	18 Rich Haymaker	30 Andrew Fitzpatrick
10 Josie Helmut	Jim Young	Neil Place
Sondra Strother	19 Clay Simmers	Amy Ritter
11 Nathan BeDell	20 Michele Franklin	Marissa Short
Vickie Moore	Andy Landrum	31 Tanya Armstrong
John Petrie, II	Phillip Ritter	Ben Waterman
12 Ann Colson	21 Brenda Bowman	
Jet Helmut	23 Julie Yancey	
Michael Krigbaum	24 Barry Fitzpatrick	

If you would like to have you and/or your family added to the birthday list, please contact the church office, 869-2348.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 15

Last month, several scouts helped with the annual Scouting for Food event. All of the food collected by the scouts was brought to the church's food pantry.

The Troop also held their quarterly Court of Honor in November. The scouts earned 30+ merit badges and 10 scouts advanced in rank. They are currently working on the Family Life and Citizenship in the World merit badges, both of which are required to earn the rank of Eagle.

In January they will work on survival skills, attend a weekend camping trip at Rock Enon, and participate in the Winter Games competition.

Merry Christmas everybody!!!

Scripture Lessons and Sermon Titles for January 2012

January 1 (Epiphany Sunday) Matthew 2:1-12 "You Could Say They Were Starstruck"

January 8 (Baptism of the Lord Sunday) Mark 1:4-11 "Spiritual Ties"

January 15 (Second Sunday after the Epiphany) I Samuel 3:1-10 & John 1:43-51 "He Refuses to Work Alone"

January 22 (Third Sunday after the Epiphany) Jonah 3:1-5, 10 & Mark 1:14-20 "How You Know When Your Work Is Finished"

January 29 (Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany) Deuteronomy 18:15-20 & Mark 1:21-28 "Astonished by Grace"



WATTS Helps Many Guests Thanks to Volunteer Effort

As you read this, WATTS will have finished its fifth week and will be beginning its sixth week at Opequon Presbyterian. All has gone well from the point of view of the Lead Volunteers and Managers. The program has kept an average of 31 men and women out of the cold and in a safe, secure environment.

A rough count suggests that over 150 people contributed to the success of the Inn at Stephens City. There were volunteers from most of the Stephens City area churches, and also from Braddock Street, Market Street, Bethel Lutheran, Opequon Presbyterian, and Welltown United Methodist.

WATTS is a work in progress. The Board of Directors is always looking for ways to improve the plan for both our guests and the church members. If you have suggestions/concerns/ other, please contact Pat so that our church can address your ideas.

Thank you for sharing your gifts, time, labor, and prayers.

Need for Emergency Funds Continue

Several remembered "Emergency Funds" in their Alternative Giving this Christmas. It really is sad to learn of someone without heat, electricity, or water, and so wonderful to be able to help those who call the church to get restoration or to prevent a cut off. Funds are welcomed throughout the year. Your check or envelope containing money needs to note that the funds are for the church to be used for Emergency Funding.



Middle School (6th-8th grade) & Senior High (9th-12th grade)
Youth Groups

Come join us!!

Middle School

- Sun., Jan. 1**—No Meeting
- Sun., Jan. 8**—Reg. meeting, 4:30-6pm
- Sun., Jan. 15**—Reg. meeting
- Sun., Jan. 22**—Reg. meeting
- Sun., Jan. 29**—Reg. meeting

Sr. High

- Sun., Jan. 1**—Game Night
- Sun., Jan. 8**—Reg. meeting, Plan fundraisers
- Sun., Jan. 15**—Reg. meeting, Posters for Share our Mission
- Sun., Jan. 22**—Ice Skating, 1-5pm
- Sun., Jan. 29**—Reg. meeting

Any questions, contact one of the Youth group leaders:

Senior High: Rocky Lorey 869-0605 or lorey5@verizon.net.
Cathy Barley 313-4352 or mwbarley@comcast.net

Middle School: Michele Hruska 869-4073 or chel64@comcast.net
Pam Simmers 869-5032 or claysimmers@aol.com
Stephen Kleffman 868-2985 or sdkleff@gmail.com

BIRTHS!

Sydney Lee Vance was born on Thursday, Oct. 6 weighing 7lbs. 9ozs. She is the daughter of Kristen and Jerry Vance, granddaughter of Ron & Karen Paul and great-granddaughter of Betty & John Edwards,

Penelope Hochradel Jones was born Friday, Dec. 2nd in Washington, DC to Katie and Brandon Jones. She weighed in at 7 lbs 8 oz. and is the granddaughter of Debbie and Bob Jones.

Raegan Leann Jenkins was born Tuesday, Dec. 6th in Winchester to Kelly and Nathan Jenkins. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. and is the granddaughter of Lorraine and William Orndorff.

Congratulations to all the families of these new babies!



Winchester District
Annual Leadership Training
January 14, 2012

9am—4pm at Braddock St. UMC
(registration begins at 8am)

This seminar is designed to give local church leaders training and access to resources that will help them fulfill their responsibilities, and help our churches to become “Vital Congregations”. It gives church leaders the opportunity to learn from district and conference leaders. The sharing of ideas and thoughts will help the participants to gain a new perspective and learn to lead with passion, enthusiasm, imagination and vitality.

We encourage ALL church leaders, clergy, staff, council members, team members, and committee members to attend!

For a list of classes, cost, and other important information along with the registration form please contact the church office @ 869-2348, the Winchester District Office @ 662-7332 or you can pick up your registration packet in the Gathering Area of the church.

Due to limited space for some classes, please register as soon as possible!

2012 Flower Calendar

The 2012 flower chart is now up on the bulletin board next to the church office. If you would like to have a flower arrangement in the sanctuary for Sunday worship, please sign up for the date you would like. This can be for a birthday, anniversary, or any other special date.

Also, please remember to call the church office ahead of time if you have a special designation for your flowers to go in the Sunday bulletin.



A Devotion from the Spiritual Life Committee

Daniel Barley and Stephen Kleffman



“In Jesus’ name we pray; amen.” These words seem to be the default formula with which one brings prayers to an end; the expression is heard after virtually every communication and interaction made with God. Its constant repetition can cause it to become almost invisible to us, a second-nature phrase that we tack on almost automatically to the end of all pleas, petitions, and praises. Yet, how often do we stop to consider precisely what we are doing? What, in truth, does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus Christ, or, for that matter, in anyone’s name?

“Oh Lord, our Lord,” declares Psalm 8:1, “how majestic is Your name in all the earth!” Later on, in 148:13, “Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.” God’s name, throughout scripture, is observed to be worthy of worship in itself. This is because *name* is more than simply the moniker whereby we identify and distinguish individuals from one another. *Name* refers to the embodiment of the divine majesty of God, and consequently carries with it great power. This concept applies to everyone’s name as well.

Therefore, to act in someone’s name is more than a mere invocation of a mystical watchword; when an explorer triumphantly plants the flag of his nation and claims it “in the name of the King”, he is suggesting that the King himself has laid claim to that land. Jesus came to earth in his Father’s name, thus making the Father’s will realized on earth. Christ instructs his followers to bring all of our requests and thanksgiving before God in the name of Jesus, who is His son. “Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name” (John 16:23). Christ uses the phrase “in my name” at least sixteen times throughout the Gospels. “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me,” he says in Mark 9:37, “and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the One who sent me.” By welcoming Christ, we welcome the One in whose name he has come, because to come in someone’s name is as if that person has come themselves.

By acting in Christ’s name, we are acting on the authority of Christ. To say that we are acting in the name of Jesus is to acknowledge our lack of authority and our need for One with greater power to accomplish a task. Consider, for example, David in 1st Samuel, who defeats Goliath in 17:45 “in the name of the Lord of Hosts”. Thus to come in Christ’s name is both to come in his stead and on his authority. We are suggesting, then, that our actions are Christ acting through us; when we pray to the Father, then, we pray as those sent by His son. Because we come as sent from His son, we are restored as children of God, for we come in the name of His child, and thus are adopted into His family, and our request is granted.

To pray in the name of Jesus is to accept that we are completely unworthy of receiving God’s gifts and must come in the name of one who is. Hence, “in Jesus’ name” is not simply a phrase, but a mindset with which we enter into communication with God. Bible scholar Dr. David Reagan cautions that “this is not a secret mystery or magical way to get your way with God,” but that “the authority we have to ask requests from God is in the favor of the risen Christ.” We would well, then, to reflect carefully on just what we are saying when we close our prayers with those words.

United Methodist Women

UMW Chairperson—Debbie Jones



Happy New Year! January is a great month for new beginnings so if you have been intending to get more involved with mission work, UMW is a wonderful way to get started. Please join us for any of these following activities planned for this month.

Saturday, January 7th- Lewis Luncheon (fundraiser for UMW's budget)- Please e-mail or call Debbie @869-5468 if you are willing to help for a few hours that day.

Tuesday, January 10th- UMW Executive Board meeting at 6 pm in room 200

Tuesday, Jan. 10th- Susanna Circle will meet at 7 pm in room 200. We will prepare recycled Christmas Cards to send to St. Jude's Ranch and help with decorations for February's Tea.

Thursday, Jan. 18th- Phoebe Circle will meet at 12:30 for lunch and fellowship.

Wednesday, January 25th- UMW Book Club will meet at 2 pm in room 102 to discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This is a 2012 UMW Reading Program selection and can be found in the Bowman Library.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Winter Wonderland Ladies Tea will be held on Saturday, February 11th at noon in the Orrick Fellowship Hall. Shirley Ryder from Fellowship Bible Church will be our guest speaker. Shirley has spoken at Christian Women gatherings for 30 years and always has an inspiring message. Lunch will include tasty finger sandwiches, fruit, dessert and of course tea. Invite your lady friends and family members as this is an event not to miss. Tickets are \$5 and will be on sale beginning in mid-January. Please see Debbie Jones to purchase a ticket.





2011 Fall (September—December) Schedule



Choir Rehearsals on Wednesday Nights

Primary Praise/Wesley Singers/Youth Choir Director, Missy Legge
Rehearse in Rm. 200

5:30-6:00pm, Primary Praise Choir (K-Grade 2)
6:00-6:45pm, Youth Singers (Grades 6-12)
6:45-7:15pm, Wesley Singers (Grades 3-5)

Hand Bells Director, Jacquetta Owen
Rehearse in Rm. 212

5:30-6:15pm, Stephens City Ringers (2+ years exp.)
6:15-6:45pm, Wesley Ringers (Grades 2-5)
6:45-7:30pm, Youth Ringers (Grades 6-12)

Director of Music, David Renner
7-8:30pm, Chancel Choir (Adults, rehearsal in the Sanctuary)

JANUARY 2012 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- January 01 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
8:30 Stephens City Ringers
11:00 Stephens City Ringers, Chancel Choir
- January 08 - BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
8:30 Worship leader
11:00 Primary Praise, Chancel Choir
- January 15 - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
8:30 Worship leader
11:00 Wesley Singers, Chancel Choir
- January 22 - THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
8:30 Worship leader
11:00 Youth Ringers, Youth Singers,
Chancel Choir
- January 29 - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
8:30 Worship leader
11:00 Chancel Choir

Join a choir today! Contact: Missy Legge, Jacquetta Owen or David Renner

**If you would like to make a donation for special music, checks can be made to:
SCUMC, c/o Music Performance**

SCUMC INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL CHOIRS 2011-2012

Wesley Ringers—A bell choir for children, 2nd grade-5th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring occasionally at the 8:30 or 11am morning worship, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Youth Ringers—A bell choir for youth, 6th grade-12th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring every 4th Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am morning worship, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Joyful Ringers—A bell choir for adults with 0-2 years experience. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the 8:30 and 11am worship services, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Stephens City Ringers—A bell choir for adults with over 2 years experience. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 212. The choir will ring on the 1st Sunday of the month at the 8:30 and 11am worship services, September-May. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Primary Praise—A vocal choir for children, K-2nd grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 200. The choir will sing every 2nd Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am worship, September-May. They will have an Advent/Christmas program and lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Wesley Singers—A vocal choir for children, 3rd-5th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 200. The choir will sing every 3rd Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am worship, September-May. They will have an Advent/Christmas program and lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Youth Choir—A vocal choir for youth, 6th-12th grade. Rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night in room 200. The choir will sing every 4th Sunday at the 8:30 or 11am worship, September-May. They will have an Advent/Christmas program and lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Chancel Choir—A vocal choir for adults (18 yrs. and beyond) that read 4 part choral music-soprano, alto, tenor and bass. They rehearse from September-May every Wednesday night., 7-8:30pm in the sanctuary. The choir sings every Sunday at the 11am worship service. They will lead worship on Christmas Eve.

Youth Participation Policy—In fairness to all, musical participants will sing or play in their own age/grade level ensembles unless invited by a director to ring bells or sing in a different choir. If invited by the director to join an additional ensemble, the musician's primary responsibility is to ring or sing in his/her age/grade level ensemble.

Soloists—Soloists and small groups who sing throughout the year are regular committed members of a choir.