

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

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ORGANIZATION
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Stephens City

The Messenger

June/July 2011 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

Emma Bridges,
Preschool Director
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,

A question which has been asked by those searching for faith is "Where can I find God?" My response to that question is that there are many places where one can find God. God can be found in His sanctuary during the time of worship. He can be found in the scriptures and in moments of prayer. God can be found in the laughter of a small child and He can be found when rendering aid to the hungry and dying.

God is present in our world in so many places and in so many ways. All it takes for us to recognize His presence is to make ourselves open and to be perceptive.

A distant (I mean very distant) relative of mine did not possess some of the abilities that you and I possess in that she could not hear or speak but she would not allow that to limit her ability to perceive nor did she allow those matters to obstruct her from communicating what she had experienced. She wrote the following poem to convey to others the truth that no matter our condition, no matter our situation, if we make ourselves open and are perceptive we can recognize the presence of God in our lives.

In the Garden of the Lord

*The word of God came to me,
Sitting alone among the multitudes;
And my blind eyes were touched with light.
And there was laid on my lips a flame of fire.*

*I laugh and shout for life is good,
Though my feet are set in silent ways.
In merry mood I leave the crowd
To walk in my garden. Ever as I walk
I gather fruits and flowers in my hands.
And with joyful heart I bless the sun
That kindles all the place with radiant life.*

(cont'd on next page)

*I run with playful winds that blow the scent
Of rose and jasmine in eddying whirls.
At last I come where tall lilies grow,
Lifting their faces like white saints to God.
While the lilies pray, I kneel upon the ground;
I have strayed into the holy temple of the Lord.
Helen Keller*

Yours in Christ,

Jeff



Vacation Bible School time is fast approaching! Stephens City UMC will be hosting "Backstage with the Bible" on July 17-22 from 6:00-8:30pm. Volunteers are needed for registration, crafts, snacks, recreation, Bible Study and group leaders. We also ask for your prayers that the week will go smoothly and children will make new connections with Christ.

In order for each child to be able to take home the music learned during the week, we will be asking congregation members to "sponsor" a child for \$5. This will pay for their very own Go Fish CD and concert lanyard.

Questions or to volunteer: Contact Tobye David at 540-323-1410 or tadavid@comcast.net, or speak with Carol Petrie, Dannielle Ames, Sarah Marchand or LeAnn Spangler.

We wish all the special men a wonderful and blessed Father's Day!



June Birthdays



01 Melana Humphreys	08 Deborah McKee	18 Garrett Allegra	27 Carole Baker
Jean Marchand	09 Sharon Ritenour	John Moore	Brandon Jones
Jackie Miller	Rachel Robinson	19 Shelley Drago	28 William Orndorff
02 Paige Conner	10 Alyssa Adams	John Dyke	29 Elizabeth Haymaker
Charles Hinebaugh	11 Bob Florence	Steve Kerr	30 Bonnie Myers
04 Louisa Craig	12 Cameron Baron	Julia Pipes	Rick Sandy
Tracy Hogbin	13 Kathy Coffelt	20 Mike McCormick	Benjamin Stange
Ashley Walden	14 Jackie Helsley	Anne Queensberry	
Lucas Vance	Maurice Lemley	Vickie Whitacre	
05 Sarah Bursey	15 Emily Witt	21 Lewis Boyer	
07 Doris Clem	16 Chase Ford	23 Kent Barley	
08 Mitchell Helmut	Larry North	Joyce Blevins	
Chloe Helmut	Karen Paul	25 Dolores Styers	
Gregory Kleffman	17 Stephanie Magalis	26 Ariel Place	

July Birthdays



01 Anna Golladay	10 Luke Conner	18 Luke Lewis	23 Linda Petrie
Stephen Kleffman	Nancy Hollis	Jeremy Petrie	25 Joshua Lorey
02 Pat Konschak	11 Paige Dilg	Kyle Simmers	Amee Steele
Harper Lotz	David Renner	19 Scott Kerr	26 Alicia Utterback
Bob Myers	12 Marsha Childs	Caitlin Schultz	27 Donald Clem
03 Gary Steele	Ryan Coffelt	Jacob Wright	Dennis Clem
06 Haley Myers	13 Sharon Cooley	20 Ruth Barley	28 Jenny McKee
07 Flo Bryan	Amber Zollinger	Emily Costello	30 Dan Helmut
Josh Headley	14 Joan Aylor	Brian Murphy	
08 Carol Petrie	17 Mary Barley	21 Daniel Cooley	
Justin Petrie	Rebecca Utterback	22 Janet Layman	

Scripture Lessons and Sermon Titles for June and July

June 5 John 17:1-11, "Jesus Prayed for You", (Holy Communion Served)

June 12 Acts 2:1-21, Pentecost Sunday, "Holy Wind"
(Holy Communion Served)

June 19 Rev. Waverly Reames to preach

June 26 Psalm 13 & Genesis 22:1-14 "It's Only a Little Bible Story"



July 3 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 "Free to Sin, Free from Sin"

July 10 Romans 8:1-11 & Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 "Beginning to See,
Beginning to Hear"

July 17 Romans 8:12-25 & Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
"The Weedy Children of God"

July 24 Genesis 29:15-28, Romans 8:26-39 & Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
"Hear the Song and Sing"

July 31 Rev. Waverly Reames to preach

Baptisms

May 8—Alyssa Kathryn Adams, Kiari Renee Bloom, Madison Gail Wisor,
Riley Paige Keith, and Jackson Bradley Sample

May 22—Chloe Danielle Helmut, Jett Christian Helmut, and Josie Cate
Helmut

New Members

May 22—Dan & Patricia Helmut and Mitchell, Nicolas and Haley Helmut

Congratulations to all of the children who were baptized and The
Helmut Family who joined our SCUMC church family!



United Methodist Women

UMW Chairperson—Debbie Jones

UMW Summertime Activities- All Ladies Invited!!!

June 14th (Tues. @ 7pm)- Both Circles are encouraged to attend to learn more about the country of India. Joy Costello will share her experiences of her daughter's Indian wedding with us. We will also conduct our UMW Candle Burning Program and host our prayer partners from Wesley UMW.

June 29th (Wed.)- UMW Book Club will meet at 2 pm at the home of Debbie Jones to discuss this month's selection, *Heaven is For Real* by Todd Burpo, a true story of a little 4 year old boy who visits heaven during a near death experience. Please join us for fun and fellowship and refreshments too.

July 12th (Tuesday @ 6:30 pm)- Susanna Circle will host a birthday party for the residents of Winchester House. Meet at the church at 6 to carpool or 6:30 at the Winchester House. Call Gaylene @ 869-1086 for questions or to volunteer to make a cake.

July 27th (Wed.)- A High Tea is planned at the Sunflower Cottage. We will meet at the church at 11:30 to arrive at Sunflower Cottage by 12 to tour the grounds. Lunch reservations are for 12:30 at the cost of \$20. Call Pat or Debbie if you will be coming.

Looking Ahead- Our Prayer Partners from Reliance UMW have invited us to a Prayer Partner Picnic in our honor on Tuesday, August 9th at 6 pm at the Reliance UMC shelter, husbands are invited too. Please call Debbie at 869-5468 by July 10th if you are planning on attending so we can give them a count. Let's show them our appreciation by having a good attendance to this special event.

Middle and High School Youth News

THERE WILL BE NO MEETINGS in June and July.

The Middle School Youth will be serving in Winchester, VA for their mission trip this summer. **July 25-29** will be spent re-roofing the garage of the Ricky Timbrook house, building shelves in the garage for the storage of play equipment, and providing a mini-VBS in the afternoons at Ricky Timbrook Park. If you would like to participate in some or all of these activities, please let Rocky Lorey know 869-0605 or loreys@verizon.net. Adults and youth are welcome to participate.

Sr. High — Mission Trip to Nashville, Tennessee. June 26—July 1.

If you would like to be on the Youth email list, drop a note to:
Middle Youth —loreys@verizon.net or contact Rocky Lorey @ 869-0605
We need a second adult for Middle School Youth. If you are interested in helping, please let Rocky know. If you would be available occasionally, that's great too. Just let us know when you are available.
Sr. Youth—candykleff@aol.com or contact Candy Kleffman @ 868-2985



A Devotion from the Spiritual Life Committee

Daniel Barley and Stephen Kleffman



“April showers,” says the old platitude, “bring May flowers.” After the rain and miserable greyness characteristic of the fourth month in the year, there can often be expected a period of sun and growth in the next. This year, in particular, seems to have generally adhered to this principle even better than usual. From the clouds emerges the sun; out of the dark comes the light.

And is this not fitting? After all, we worship a god who, though He may not be the architect of evil, is certainly known to turn evil to His own purposes and make something that would have otherwise been bleak and hopeless into something beautiful and inspiring. Joseph, son of Israel, was captured and sold by his brothers into slavery. Certainly, this is hardly a pleasant situation in which one might find himself. And just as things were beginning to look up for him, once again he found himself thrown in prison for a crime he did not commit. Hard times and evil acts seemed to follow him everywhere. And yet, Joseph continued to trust in God.

Ultimately, Joseph ascends to a position of power in Egypt second only to Pharaoh, and with this power he is able to save the lives not only of the Egyptians, not only of those living in the surrounding areas, but also his family—including the very brothers who first sold him away. Still, Joseph is not angry with his brothers, but instead rejoices because “it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.” Out of the evil committed by Joseph’s brothers, God brought good—not just for them, but for many hundreds if not thousands of others.

This is not just a heartwarming Hallmark story, but an illustration of God’s character and His plans for the world. That God brings good out of evil is the foundation of forgiveness: that out of our broken and sinful ways God will bring His will in spite of it and turn it into something for good. “God creates out of nothing,” says Kierkegaard. “Wonderful you say. But He does something still more wonderful: He makes saints out of sinners.” The redemptive quality of God’s grace is founded upon the fact that we can pour no rains in April that God cannot use to grow a garden in May. For this reason, let’s remember that this time of month and all of the sun and fair weather we experience arises out of a period of gloom and wet, and that just as God has brought the sun’s light out of dark clouds, He can also bring His light in dark hearts.

Prayer: *“Father, we acknowledge that You are sovereign over all things, and that there is nothing which You cannot turn to Your will. We thank You that You make good come from the world’s evil, and salvation come despite our own. Help us to remember and keep in our hearts Your Word every day and be the light that breaks through the world’s thick and many clouds. In the holy name of Your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.” Amen.*



Don't Forget Graduation Sunday!

Graduation Sunday is **June 5th**. All graduates will be recognized at all three worship services. A luncheon for all graduates and their families will immediately follow the 11:00 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

Grief Support Group

The Stephens City UMC Grief Support Group invites and encourages everyone to attend the next Grief Support Group meeting which will be **Monday, June 6 @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Guest speaker for the meeting will be Gina Caudill who is Manager of Counseling Services for Blue Ridge Hospice. Ms. Caudill will discuss grief and loss which in some way affects everyone. The meeting will begin with a covered dish supper at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Mary Levesque (540-869-1421) or Waverly Reames (540-662-4632).

Is a Good Discussion Your Cup of Tea?

Would you consider joining with the Faith Seekers Sunday School Class in Room 204 at 9:45 to talk about the Lectionary Readings as prescribed by the church for that day?

Do we have all the answers? No! Do we have interesting, diverse discussions? Yes! Do we have a chair for you? Yes!

Please consider this an invitation.

United Methodist Men's Tri-District Spiritual Retreat

Camp Overlook in Keezletown, VA is hosting a Spiritual Retreat for the UMM on Friday and Saturday, **June 10-11, 2011**. This retreat’s topic is called “Understanding Men’s Ministry” with several guest speakers. For more information and registration forms, please see bulletin boards or email at CampOverlook@gmail.com or you can call 540-2MY-CAMP.

Missionaries on Furlough in States

Diantha and Steve Hodges, our missionaries in the Southern Sudan are currently in the U.S. for six weeks. They are scheduled to speak and show slides about their mission work in Africa in addition to getting a little R and R.

The closest location for seeing their program is at Wesley UMC, 711 Spring Street SE, Vienna, VA @ 7 p.m. on June 26. On subsequent nights they will be in Virginia Beach, Knoxville, TN and Kingsport, TN.

For more information, contact Pat @ 869-1384. She is going to attend the program in Vienna, and welcomes others to go with her.

Important Information from Conference

4 Cans 4 Annual Conference – It is a goal of the Virginia Annual Conference to have a mission impact on whatever city Annual Conference is held rather than limiting ourselves to just staying in that city's motels and eating in its' restaurants. Every year the Annual Conference receives an offering of canned foods for the local Food Bank which this year is the Roanoke Area Food Bank. A donation container has been placed in the Gathering Area under the window to the Church Office for you to place your donated canned goods.

The Special Offering for Annual Conference for this year will go to support ministries in Brazil, Mozambique, Agape Christian Children's Center on the Eastern Shore, and Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries in Roanoke. The Conference goal is \$200,000. Please make your check out to Stephens City UMC and mark the memo box "Annual Conference Special Offering" and Fred Fonville, Lay Leader, and Rev. Butcher will carry one check to the Annual Conference session in Roanoke.

All Things New—We thank those who have indicated their support for the *All Things New* campaign. It is a goal of the Virginia Annual Conference to begin 250 new faith communities in the next 30 years. We are undertaking this campaign as one means for being faithful to the Great Commission. Since *All Things New* was approved in 2008 the Virginia Annual Conference has started 14 new faith communities. Brochures are in the Gathering Area that contain a tear-off sheet you can fill out and place in the offering plate or leave in the office if you would like to indicate your commitment to this evangelism effort.

We Need You!

To volunteer to help with SINGG (Sing God's Glory), a choir and creative arts camp for rising 2-8th graders. Adult and youth teachers and teaching assistants are needed for two 30 minute sessions per day for the following electives: **knitting, beading, scrapbooking, fabric decorating (T-shirts/baseball caps); creative movement and dance.** Also, help is needed in the kitchen to prepare simple snacks. The camp will be at Braddock St. UMC, **August 1-5 from 9am-12:30pm.** For more information, contact Jacquetta Owen (Stephens City) or Judy Connelly (Braddock St.)

SINGGG registration forms are available in the Gathering Area or in the church office.



My Dearest Church Family,

Thank you so much for your cards, call and well wishes. But most of all, I thank you for your prayers. It is so reassuring to know that my family of believers holds my concerns up to the Lord. Thanks also to Waverly, who visited and prayed with me in the hospital; and to Jeff who called and prayed with me on the phone. I am coming along slowly. I miss you all and look forward to being back at church.

Your Sister in Christ,
Carol Hitaffer

Pastor Jeff and Congregation,

Thank you very much for your prayer and good wishes as I slowly recover from my open heart surgery. Jesse and I miss Stephens City and our place at church. We have not found a place of worship down here yet that quite matches SCUMC! Still searching!

Thank you!
Pam Fox

Dear Rev. Butcher,

Thank you and your congregation at Stephens City UMC for your generous donation to Heart Havens. We really appreciate your ongoing support of Heart Havens and the Winchester Home. Thanks to support like yours, the men and women living in our homes have the opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, and live in a Christian home. Thank you for your generosity.

Pat Maehr

Church Members,

Thank you for the beautiful table planter you sent us in memory of our dad. He was a wonderful man who found peace within himself through the constant prayers and support he received here at this very special church.

God Bless,
The Hruska Family

I would like to thank all the members of our church family for the support offered to me and my family following the recent death of my mother, Norma Jean Magalis. Your prayers, cards, support, food, (even lawn service) were greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Jeff and Waverly for being there for us the entire week. Also a special thanks to David Renner and Scott Taylor for lending their talents to my mother's memorial service. Once again, thank you all.

Kelly Magalis

Thank You Notes from the SCUMC Staff

Thank You! The staff would like to thank the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and the members of the church for the Staff Appreciation Picnic last Sunday. We deeply appreciate it and it is a joy to serve this wonderful church!

I greatly appreciate the Staff Appreciation Picnic on Sunday, May 22. The food, fellowship and kind remarks made for a great day. Chris Wright, chairman, and all of the Staff-Parish Relations committee members are to be commended! Thank-you, David



MISSIONS

Church Budget Helps to Support Mission Project in TN

From the “get-go, the main focus of Jubilee Project in Hancock County, TN has been to empower the people in that poverty stricken area to lift themselves up by finding an outlet for goods they could produce. This movement continues and the Jubilee Team leads wage earners and youth groups in and around Hancock County to continue to be problem solvers so that they gain the tools and the assets to be economically self-sufficient.

Efforts with youth are thought to be a viable solution for perpetuating a climate for independence and a way out of poverty. Young people are encouraged to participate in classes that build self esteem, problem solving ability, and leadership know-how.

Area farmers sell their produce and other goods to schools and hospitals nearby instead of planting tobacco. Through Jubilee’s assistance, training is available that encourages micro-enterprises, marketing strategies, and ways to have successful loan experiences.

Improving housing for at least one family a year through work teams is an additional thrust. The end of May saw the first work group of the season begin its labors to restore a deck, and they did multiple repairs on another house.

Friday nights are a time when a number of local youth seek to complete the requirements of a cooking class with a local chef. Others have tasks that aid the micro-enterprises to make a good presentation in the building provided for area crafters and farmers for selling their commodities.

To keep themselves on track, the Jubilee Project Team have a list of **Outcomes** deemed necessary as well as a list of **Indicators** so that each year progress can be proved.

Thank you, members of Stephens City United Methodist Church, for helping with \$500 for this special mission project.

No Auctioneer Needed

Items are for sale in the Gathering Area - books and stuff! Do come and take a gander. You might find a goose. You choose the price for the item selected. Proceeds go to help people with utility bills, rent, etc.

Boy Scout Troop 15

We continue to grow as we welcome four new scouts to our Troop. In April, the new scouts attended the WEBELOS Cross-over Weekend where they learned the basics of Scouting. During the camp, they learned the Scout Oath and Law, the scout handshake and sign, proper flag etiquette, how to build a fire, identifying poisonous plants, and how to tie some of the basic knots. More importantly, we received about two inches of rain during the weekend trip, so they learned the meaning of the scout motto, which is “BE PREPARED.”

This month, we will be traveling to Harpers Ferry, WV to work on some camping skills, hike up Maryland Heights, and continue to work on rank advancements. Former Scoutmaster Lewis Boyer and Assistant Scoutmaster Bob Wells have been teaching the Wood Carving Merit Badge during our May Troop meetings. June’s camping trip will be to Trout Pond Recreation Area near Wardensville, WV.

Several scouts helped with the church’s workday on Saturday, May 14th. Thank you Quintin, Skylar, David, and Justin for spending time on a Saturday morning to serve the church.

The Scouts (and adults ☺) are really looking forward to Summer Resident Camp in July! Camp Rock Enon boasts an outstanding first year camper program where boys will learn about knife and ax safety, outdoor cooking, and much more. In addition, the first year campers will earn their swimming and first-aid merit badges which are required to become and Eagle Scout. The older returning scouts will spend most of the week working on Merit Badges and advancing their scouting skills. Some of the merit badges they will be working on are: Indian Lore, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Environmental Science, Space Exploration, Pioneering, Personal Fitness, and Fishing.

