

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

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Stephens City

# The Messenger

May 2011 Issue

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

e-mail: [scumc@verizon.net](mailto: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,

The author Theodore White has written "If you press a block of pure gold against a block of silver, any good chemist can show you that atoms of silver have entered the gold and vice versa." White goes on to point out that it is the same with people you come in contact with. Part of you enters them and part of them enters you.

For Christians this means two things: 1) Our lives are blessed, enriched and empowered through our encounters with our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ and 2) As his disciples we are to press up against the pains and sorrows of a fallen world so that the world and its citizens can rise up in His grace.

May we recognize what the Risen Christ is doing for us and may we feel compelled to carry His Spirit into a needy world.

Yours in Christ,

Jeff





**May 8 is Native American Ministries Sunday**

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of the United Methodist Special Sundays with offering, The offering provides scholarships through the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology and other schools approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church. As a result of one of these scholarships, a former medical supplies sales manager, the 50-something Rev. David Dunson will earn a master's degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma this year. He says through his education he has learned other perspectives on faith, ministry and culture, but that he's also learning ways to bridge the gap between Christianity and Native history and traditions. Dunson serves Okmulgee's Newtown United Methodist Church, one of the oldest churches in Oklahoma.

As assistant to a deputy chief of the 70,000-member Muscogee Creek Nation, Dunson responds to many tribal concerns, from troubled families and at-risk youths, to illiteracy and unemployment, to increased substance abuse. Dunson sees his scholarship as "a gift from God, an answered prayer."

"I could have given up this dream because I didn't have the money," Dunson says. "Not many of our pastors have gone to seminary. But now I can bring the message of hope through education to encourage my people."

**Blessings to all the wonderful women on this very special Mother's Day!**

*"Her children arise and call her blessed..."  
Proverbs 31:28*



# May Birthdays



01 Meghan Fitzpatrick	10 June Whitacre	22 Stanley Carbaugh
Pat Long	11 Pala Schrader	Donald Robinson
Brent Nellis	12 Kathleen Adams	23 Diane Ragaller
Richard Sandy	Lewis Boyer, Jr.	Sandra Whipple
02 Ian Adams	Scott Taylor	25 Lauren Moore
Robert Walden	13 Ashley Baker	Pam Simmers
03 Ruth Rinker	Adam Clawson	26 Morgan Catalano
Keith Ryker	Libby Haymaker	27 Larry Carbaugh
04 Mike Hitaffer	15 Melanie Mullinax	John Edwards
Zach Mullinax	17 Leslie Carper	Jessica Huffman
05 Debra Carbaugh	Jodie Dyke	David Taliaferro
Carly West	John Trentham	28 Scott Schultz
08 Bobby Cook	Allison Waterman	31 Garrett Franklin
Pam Wisor	19 David Craig	
09 Chris Wright	Ann Grim	
10 Kimberly Brown	Travis Woolever	
Doris Montgomery	20 Madilyn Woolever	

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

## Scripture Lessons and Sermon Titles for May

**May 1** – Acts 2:14a, 22-32 “When Did Jesus Become More Than a Name to You?”

**May 8** – Luke 24:13-35 “Mothers Pray for Their Children to Walk with Jesus”

**May 15** – Genesis 9:8-17 & Acts 2:42-47 “Living in Covenant”

**May 22** – Acts 7:55-60 & John 14:1-14 “Room in God’s Life”

**May 29** – I Peter 3:13-22 & John 14:15-21 “Go Between God”

### Confirmation Sunday

The Confirmation Class of 2011 celebrated their confirmation on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011. They are as follows:

David Ames  
Kyle Armistead  
Jacob Bush  
Anthony Damico  
Ben Gustafson  
Nicholas Hruska  
Justin Petrie  
Russell Simmers



### Baptisms

**April 10**—Jordan Marie Largent. She is the daughter of Bradley and Susan Largent; Grandparents are Brad and Joyce Largent and Gerald and Kathryn Carroll. Proud Great Grandparents are Katherine Yancey, Mildred Largent and Mary Patterson.

**April 24**—Jacob Kenneth Bush. He is the son of Jason and Wendy Bush.



## United Methodist Women

*UMW Chairperson—Debbie Jones*

### **Lots of Wonderful UMW Things to Do in May.**

Check over the events below and please join us!

**May 8th (Sun.)-** Happy Mother's Day! UMW will hand out tokens of appreciation at each service to all ladies who love children.

**May 10th (Tues.)-** At 7 pm in room 200, Susanna Circle will sponsor an informative program on parenting using the "Love and Logic" model. School kits items will be collected. Sign up sheets can be found on the two church bulletin boards for items needed.

**May 19th (Thurs.)-** Phoebe Circle will meet at 12:30 for lunch and to assemble birthing kits.

**May 19th-** UMW will provide dinner for the Amor-Y-Paz children at 2:30. Call Debbie @869-5468 if you can help.

**May 28th (Sat.)-** Bake Sale at Newtown Festival 11am-3pm. Call Jean Turner @ 868-8516 if you can help.

### Middle and High School Youth News

**Jr. High—(meets in Fellowship Hall, 4:30-6pm)**

Sun May 8—No Meeting - Mother's Day

**Sat** May 14— Fall Planning Potluck (Middle & High School)

@ Lorey's Home, 5:30-8:30pm

Sun May 15—Regular Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm

Sun May 29—No Meeting - Memorial Day

**Sr. High—(meets in Rm. 102, 4:30-6pm)**

Sun., May 1—Apple Blossom, no meeting

Sun., May 8—Mother's Day, no meeting

Sun., May 15—Reg. Meeting

Sun., May 22—Reg. Meeting

Sun., May 29—Memorial Day, no meeting

JUNE 5: Graduation Luncheon!

If you would like to be on the Youth email list, drop a note to: Middle Youth —[loreys5@verizon.net](mailto:loreys5@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](mailto:candykleff@aol.com) or contact Candy Kleffman @ 868-2985



## A Devotion from the Spiritual Life Committee

Daniel Barley and Stephen Kleffman



*Two hundred billion:* (200,000,000,000). This is the number of galaxies estimated to exist in the universe. *Three hundred sextillion:* (300,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000). This is the number of stars currently estimated to exist in the universe. And that's just the number that we can see in the illuminated universe, but space expands faster than light, so there is still much more to which no human telescope can yet bear witness. And each and every single one of these items is completely, utterly unique; no two, in the entire, incalculable, unfathomable vastness, are identical.

In a single supercell thunderhead, there lies, locked inside, an energy equal to that of a thousand nuclear bombs. Each rumble of thunder that resounds in your ears is the sound of air being ionized to a temperature thrice that of the surface of the sun, following the stroke of a five hundred million-joule lighting bolt. Consider, feeble humans, for just a moment, the movement of three hundred and twenty-six *million trillion* gallons of water across the surface of planet Earth *constantly*, all revolving on one axis. Ponder, now, the magnificent, symphonic harmony with which a trillion cells must operate in order to orchestrate the simple act of observing all of these things with wide-eyed wonder!

Behold, in these and so many, many other ways, the almighty God. "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?" He demands of Job. "Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? ...Hath the rain a father? Or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? And the ancient frost of heaven—who hath gendered it?" (Job 38:4-5 & 28-29). We are subject, utterly subject, to the will of an immeasurable entity. The fish of the sea understand this, and the birds of the air are not without understanding in this regard. The lilies of the field lay themselves down in total dependence upon Him, and yet, somehow, *we* refuse?

Are we not supposedly the mighty and *intelligent* human race? Are we not imbued with brains and insight far greater than that of animals? Perhaps more importantly, and even more troubling, are we, in this room, not Christians, who have sworn ourselves to Christ, the Son of this almighty god? Why, then, do we insist, do we *dare*, to withhold even an ounce of ourselves from Him? Why is even the minutest mote of our being kept from His control? Do we think ourselves somehow smarter than God? Perhaps we are more powerful than He? Space itself grows, even now, rushing, racing, accelerating toward the farthest reaches of the aether beyond, and we mortals are but breathless, bewildered stragglers behind it. Are we of greater wisdom than the One who choreographs this cosmic dance? What then must we do?

The answer, we think, should be fairly obvious.

Prayer: *Almighty Father, what can we say? What can we possibly say to You? We can do nothing but acknowledge and worship Your majesty and Your power. And we beg that Your spirit would enter us and fill us entirely and help us to relinquish every fiber of our being to Your will. In Your Son's holy name, we pray. Amen.*



### What Do You Know About Hospice, Specifically Blue Ridge Hospice?

Do you picture Hospice only as an organization that serves the dying? Do you know that they also serve the living? During 2010 Blue Ridge Hospice served 1,132 patients plus their families. Blue Ridge Hospice serves not only Winchester but eight counties as well.

Stephens City UMC's Grief Support Group invites everyone to attend their next meeting which will be on **Monday, May 2**. Guest speaker for the meeting will be Ernie Carnvale who is President and CEO of Blue Ridge Hospice. He will talk about the ministry and mission of Hospice. The meeting will begin with a covered dish supper at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

### Parent Workshop

**Attention parents, grandparents, teachers, SS teachers, youth leaders, aunts, and anyone who loves children:** We have an opportunity for you to learn how to bring out the best in kids and teenagers by doing what is best for them! The UMW Susanna Circle is sponsoring a workshop on **Tuesday, May 10th at 7 pm** in room 200 titled, *How to be a C.O.O.L. Parent in a Hot Situation*. The workshop will be conducted by Nancy Whitehouse and Lori DeZorn, both experienced guidance counselors for Frederick County Schools. Come join us to learn more about this important topic. Refreshments too! If childcare is needed, please call Debbie Jones @869-5468 by May 8th.

### Staff Appreciation Picnic

Come One, Come All to our Staff Appreciation Picnic scheduled for **Sunday, May 22 at 1 pm at the Sandy Shelter in Sherando Park**. Hamburgers, hotdogs, buns and drinks will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. Be sure to bring plenty so we can show our appreciation to our wonderful staff and their families and we will all have plenty to share. So mark your calendar, and picnic with our remarkable church staff and friends on Sunday, May 22. The Staff Parish Relations Committee

### Graduation Sunday

Graduation Sunday has been set for **June 5th**. If you know of a graduate who attends or is a member of our church and will be graduating from preschool, high school, or college please submit a photo along with name, school they are graduating from, and degree obtained. You may send this via email to [scumc@verizon.net](mailto:scumc@verizon.net) or drop off in the church office. Please have your photos and information in by **May 15**. Any questions, please contact Mary Levesque at 869-1421.

## CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER

In order to cut down on the cost of paper for the office and church budget it has been decided to combine the next two editions of *The Messenger*. Instead of separate newsletters for the months of June, July, August and September (a total of four newsletters) there will be two newsletters. This can be accomplished by combining the June and July newsletters and then combining the August and September newsletters. If you have items that need publicized for June or July please submit those articles to the office by May 20. Articles for August and September should be submitted by July 31. The August/September newsletter will be published and mailed (email and snail mail) around August 15. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

Don't forget if you would like to receive the newsletter via email, you can sign up by sending your email address to the church or fill out a request form located in the Gathering Area. Jeff also sends out a "Pastor's Notes" email news piece with all the weekly church events and meetings, prayer lists, and other church news. If you would like to receive either of these sources of information via email, just send email address to the church office at [scumc@verizon.net](mailto:scumc@verizon.net). Thank you!

### Reminders from the Education Committee:

We very much appreciate all of our Children's Church volunteers! Please remember that there will be no Children's Church on a given Sunday if the volunteers are unable to fulfill their assigned date and a replacement cannot be found. Also, we are in need of snacks for Children's Church. Pre-packaged are preferred but we will gladly accept all donations. They can be dropped off in the church office.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry of our church!



### IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



The Finance Committee, at our recent monthly meeting, reviewed our current year to date situation as it relates to both income and expenses. With the first quarter of the year complete, it gives good chance to pause, analyze, and project. On such a positive note, we as a congregation are providing income levels that are in line with our past. This does speak well of our commitment and generosity. The challenge though is this; our expenses have increased. Of course utilities, general maintenance and upkeep have risen but these changes were conservatively budgeted for in this year's annual budget and any additional expense over budget can generally be absorbed into the mix. Significant though to our increase is our monthly commitment to the building fund. Late last year we began to again pay down our principal. We originally began paying down the principal some time back but were granted a two year break by the bank. The increased payment translates to a \$3k per month increase in our commitments. While this was budgeted for on the expense side, it continues to offer challenge to fully fund. We are currently operating behind needed income levels and annualizing of expenses and income offers a significant shortfall.

While times are not dire, we need to recognize the importance of making good on each and every opportunity that we have as members in this faith community to provide the financial resources needed to continue our ministries and properly fund what we are so blessed to call our church home. Through a combination of renewed giving discipline and continued fiscal stewardship and management, we can make good on our obligations.



### Parish House Clean-up

The Parish House has become a depository for everything from a radial tire to outdated and non-functioning computers and everything in-between. It is almost impossible to walk from room to room, much less find anything. The present storage arrangement is not suitable.

The Trustees have made an inventory of everything presently stored throughout the house. Presently, only the Evangelism and Worship committees have stored items label.

If you have items stored in the Parish House please contact Chuck Henkle ([chenkle@comcast.net](mailto:chenkle@comcast.net) or 869-4910) to let him know what items you have stored, the reason they are being stored, are they really needed, or have they been abandoned in place.

Plans are being made to assign a designated area to each individual or groups that require storage of items for future use. The term 'useful items' will be interpreted to mean that stored items are to be used and not just stacked for some possible future use. Management and neatness of assigned areas will be the responsibility of the using party under the oversight of the Trustees.

Items that are not needed or deemed not to be of any future use will be disposed of quickly and humanely.

The Board of Trustees



### Music Notes



Psalm 144:9 "I will sing a new song unto Thee, O God, upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto Thee."

Psalm 150:3-6 "Praise Him with the sound of trumpet: praise Him with psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Choir Appreciation Sundays began April 10, 2011. Following in May, each choir will be recognized during the 11:00 am service on the Sundays in which they lead worship.

### 2010-11 Hand Bell Choirs

*Director, Jacquetta Owen*

<u>Wesley Ringers</u>	<u>Youth Ringers</u>	<u>Joyful Ringers</u>	<u>S.C. Ringers</u>
Jonathan Ames	David Ames	Tracy Robinson	Kim DeGroot
Justin Bush	Carolyn Taylor	Danielle Ames	Paula Levesque
Jeremy Petrie	Allison Taylor	Jerome Ames	Loretta Short
Brent Allegra	Justin Petrie	Sandy Staton	Michael Short
Rachael Stange	Jacob Bush	Beth Huffman	Paul Levesque
Sydney Damico	Shelby Franklin	John Moore	Kristen Hoelen
Maddy Woolever	Jessica Huffman	Libby Haymaker	Deborah Elias
Skylar DeGroot	Jeremy Huffman	Candy Kleffman	Tobeye David
Marah Humphries	Stephen Kleffman	Emma Bridges	Gaylene Utterback
Riley David	Quintin DeGroot	Deborah Elias	
Jeremiah David	Victoria Fielder	Kim DeGroot	
Abby Walker	Ryan Robinson		
Kevin Walker	Daniel Barley		
	Lizzy Lahners		

### 2010-11 Children's and Youth Choirs

*Director-Missy Allegra Accompanist-Sharon Cooley*

<u>Primary Praise</u>	<u>Wesley Singers</u>	<u>Youth Choir</u>
Carson Allegra	Brent Allegra	Garrett Allegra
Kyra Fieo	Sydney Damico	Taylor Bush
Ally David	Jonathan Ames	Luke Conner
Jeremiah David	Paige Conner	Chalyn Drago
Alyssa Litzler	Riley David	Devyn Drago
Mabree Humphreys	Skylar DeGroot	Quintin DeGroot
Hunter Legge	Marah Humphreys	Jessica Huffman
Emily Woolever	CeCe Trojanowski	Daniel Barley
Linley Spanger	Kevin Walker	Stephen Kleffman
	Abby Walker	Shelby Franklin
		Ryan Magalis
		Sam Mowery
		Carolyn Taylor