

Stephens City U.M. Church
5291 Main Street
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Stephens City, VA 22655

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The Messenger

November 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

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,

Joyce Rupp who has written so much on spiritual formation was led to share this prayer after she visited Guatemala and Liberia which she entitled: "Prayer for Those Who Have Too Much:"

While I was deciding which oat bran cereal to eat this morning,

You were searching the ground for leftover grains from a passing truck.

While I was jogging at the health center,

You were working the land under a scorching sun.

While I was choosing between diet and regular soda,

Your parched lips were yearning for the touch of clean water.

While I went to church last Sunday and felt

more than slightly bored

You looked out upon the earth and gave thanks for one more day.

Words to reflect on as we approach Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

Jeff





Dear Church Family,
 Brad, I and families have been overwhelmed by the expressions of love and kindness, cards, prayers and food given by our church friends at the loss of my beloved Mother. Your heartfelt love has made this time of grief much more bearable. A special thank you to Rev. Jeff and Rev. Waverly for their love and support during this difficult time and also, to the women of the church who prepared and served such a lovely luncheon. Thank you again.

In Christian Love,
 Joyce and Brad Largent

Pastor Butcher and Congregation,
 I would like to thank the church members for all the prayers, cards, food, and support during and following the recent death of my mother, Katherine Yancey. A special thanks to Pastor Butcher, Pastor Reames, and Pastor Battles for their caring and lovely service. Also thank you to David Renner for lending his talents.

The Thomas Yancey Family

Thank you to all the UMW ladies, especially Pala Schrader and Debbie Jones, for their hard work. And thanks to Bobby Cook for his hard work! Pastor Jeff and Pastor Waverly and our church family's presence helped make Wade's 80th birthday party a true celebration. THANK YOU AGAIN!

Adelle & Wade Gunn

A Big Thanks to Wade Gunn and all those who donated items and money to the food pantry! What a blessing Wade shared with the food pantry by designating his gifts to us. Thanks to everyone who attended his party and made a donation. Because of your generosity we received many bags of food and \$360 to help purchase needed items. It couldn't have come at a better time since we had 75 plus people this past week at the food pantry. Thanks to everyone who has made donations recently to help the food pantry get back on track during these difficult times!

Cathy Ritter, Food Pantry Coordinator

The Grief Support Group would like to thank everybody who attended and supported our Spaghetti Dinner for Blue Ridge Hospice. We raised \$414! Special thanks to Scott Taylor for helping us with cooking the food.

Grief Support Group

To all of those who helped with the college care packages, thank you! The goodies inside made a very nice Friday night snack! It is so nice to be thought of! I really love going to school in Bridgewater, but it is not the same as being home! Receiving thoughts, prayers, and a care package from my church family was a great way to end my week!

Thank you so much,
 Jessica Huffman

The Staff of SCUMC wishes everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving Holiday!



November Birthdays



02 Gary Baron	14 Anthony Moore	26 Tara Woolever
Philip McKee	Nisha Moore	27 Gary Moore
03 Gaylene Utterback	15 B.J. Largent	28 Cindy North
05 Caitlin Buchanan	Charlotte Trentham	Patrick Schrader
09 Michael Grim	Jean Turner	
10 Daniel Dunleavy	Samantha Whitacre	
Kathryn Koerner	16 Gary Brant	
Kristin Montgomery	17 Sara Ritter	
11 Beth Huffman	18 Karen Davis	
Christ Mason, Jr.	Mildred Smith	
12 Dennis Lewis	20 Betty Edwards	
Wanda Sandy	Edward Swain	
Michael Short	22 Ingrid Zimmerman	
Staci Seebold-Collins	24 Mary Walden	
14 Patrick McKee	26 David Ames	

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

United Methodist Women

UMW Chairperson—Debbie Jones



November Events for United Methodist Women

UMW is thankful for all the mission minded women of the world! Come join us in one or more of our November events.

Nov. 8th (Tues.)- UMW Executive Board will meet at 6 pm in room 200

Nov. 8th (Tues.)- Susanna Circle will meet at 7 pm in room 200. Bring sharp scissors as we will be cutting out material for school bags as our service project.

Nov. 12th (Sat.)- UMW Zone Meeting at Market Street UMC in Winchester from 9:30-noon. All UMW ladies invited to attend. Call Debbie @869-5468 to carpool.

Nov. 17th (Th)- Phoebe Circle will meet at 12:30 at the church for lunch and fellowship.

Nov. 30th (Wed.)- UMW Book Club will meet at 2 pm in room 102 to discuss *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Vincent. The novel is in the "Nurturing for Community" category or the UMW Reading Program and has high reviews from the ladies who have read it. There are several copies from the UMW Reading Program Library in circulation.

Scripture Lessons and Sermon Titles for November

November 6 – All Saints Sunday Matthew 23:1-12 “We Don’t Know a Tenth, Why We Don’t Know a Sixth” Holy Communion served

November 13 – Laity Sunday Matthew 25:14-30 “The Parable of the Talents”

November 20 – Christ the King Sunday Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 & Matthew 25:31-46 “I Can Do That”

November 27 – The First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 64:1-9 & Mark 13:24-37 “Tomorrow Borders on Forever”

Thanksgiving Community Worship Service

The Stephens City Community Thanksgiving Service will be hosted this year by Deliverance Ministries Pentecostal Community Church on Sunday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. This is a change from our normal time to gather as a community but that is what suits our host pastor, Elder Bill Palmer. Bill has invited the Rev. Jim Musser of Stephens City Mennonite Church to bring the message. Please come and bring a friend.

Student Day

On Sunday, Nov. 27 we will have a special offering for United Methodist Student Day. This offering provides scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. An envelope will be included in that Sunday’s bulletin.



Read All About the Society of St. Andrews

There's a copy of the SOSA Newsletter on both bulletin boards. Why not pause a bit, and take a peek?

Turnip Festival on Nov. 5 from 10 to 12

Harvesting turnips and apples is the goal for the morning. It's grand family or individual fun, and it feeds others. Both the bulletin boards and the Nov. Newsletter tell more. Children get prizes for the biggest turnip found and freed. A King and Queen for the day are chosen. The website tells more. gleaningworks@yahoo.com

Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter News

WATTS lead volunteers, Night Managers, Nurses and members of the Bd. of Directors are gathering for a training session on Oct. 29 at Rubbermaid on Valley Avenue. Thus, the season is officially started. Homeless will be sheltered from Nov. 28 through Mar. 11.

Travel size deodorant is needed for the toiletry kits. We have been blessed with many other items. Many thanks for those essentials, and your help in putting the kits together. Please let Pat know if you have an hour or so to help assemble the kits not completed. Further, if you are aware of free time that you will have during Christmas week, do give Pat a call. The traditional sign up calendar will be posted beginning Nov. 19.

WATTS Shelter @ SCUMC Opens Dec. 19

“...O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for thee...” The INN at Stephens United Methodist Church welcomes the homeless on Christmas Week. We are blessed with a wonderful congregation that loves God, and chooses to show it through commitment to others. In addition, area churches are supporting this ministry. Thus far, the S.C. Mennonite Church have pledged Christmas Dinner, Ridings Chapel UMC brings supper on the 23rd and a box of snack bags to be used in bag lunches, Grace UMC will provide toiletry items and bag lunches for two days, and Greenway Spirit and Word Church is looking forward to serving breakfast on Tuesday morning.

Internally, the Lion Club, UMM (2x), UMW, and the Steele family are making breakfast. Deborah Phillips had agreed to lead the Intake procedure each night, and Candy Kleffman and Donna Stewart will be our overnighters on Christmas night.

You will be learning more as the weeks progress, and no effort will be turned down. Many hands make labor light.

Alternative Giving

Alternative Giving is a relatively new concept. It began when a gift giver began to realize that some of her family and friends didn't need anymore "stuff" for Christmas or at other times of the year. But, these same folks often had favorite charities and some were projects being supported by the church. If you are of the same mind, would you to consider making a gift to one or more of the following efforts in honor or in memory of a loved one, or friend this Christmas? Suggestions are: Society of St. Andrew, Heifer Project, SCUMC Emergency Fund, SCUMC Food Pantry, SCUMC Mortgage Fund?

Please give this idea some thought. More information will be provided in the Sunday bulletins in November.



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

Come join us!!

Middle School

Sun., Nov. 6—Reg. meeting, 4:30-6pm

Sat., Nov. 12—Night in a Box, Sat @ 6pm– Sun @ 8:30am

Sun., Nov. 13—No Meeting

Sun., Nov. 20—Deliver food to Homeless in DC, 12:15-6pm

Sun., Nov. 27—No Meeting THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Sr. High

Sun., Nov. 6—Reg. meeting, 4:30-6pm

Sat., Nov. 12—Night in a Box, Sat @ 6pm– Sun @ 8:30am

Sun., Nov. 13—No Meeting

Sun., Nov. 20—Deliver food to Homeless in DC, 12:15-6pm

Sun., Nov. 27—No Meeting THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

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



Upcoming Advent Study –
The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Rev. Butcher will be offering two sessions of an Advent Study by Adam Hamilton, Pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, that is entitled *The Journey*. Hamilton has written a study book to go with his DVD so that each week students will read about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and then see the actual sites on the DVD along with Dr. Hamilton's commentary of what this journey means for us as Christians. The evening group will begin Monday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. and then meet on November 28, and December 5, 12 and 19. The day-time group will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 22 and then meet on November 29, and December 6, 13 and 20. We will meet in Room 102. Cost of the book is \$14. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards. Please sign-up by November 10 so books can be ordered and delivered in time.



All Saints Day

On **November 6**, we will celebrate All Saints' Day. You are encouraged to bring a picture or some memento of a loved one who has passed on to glory. The person you are remembering does not need to have died within the past year. Please attach your name and the name of your loved one to whatever you bring. That will help the rest of us make connections as we view the item you brought as well as helping us to make sure it is returned to you. You may drop your items off in the office.

Hunters for the Hungry

The 2010–2011 hunting season had over 407,796 pounds of venison donated and distributed to the needy. Since 1991 over 4 million pounds of venison has been given to those in need. The goal for 2011-12 is 400,000 pounds.

It takes a \$40.00 contribution for the processing of one deer. If you would like to make a contribution to this worthwhile project, please place it in the offering plate and earmark it for "Hunters for the Hungry". For additional information, contact John Petrie, Sr. at 869-0187.

Winchester District Conference

The Winchester District Conference will be held **Sunday, November 13, at 3:00 p.m. at Front Royal United Methodist Church**. The Conference will consist of worship with Holy Communion and a celebration of mission and ministry of the Winchester District. District Officers and At-Large Members of the 2012 Annual Conference will be elected. The guest preacher will be Mr. Brent Levy who serves as Worship Leader for RISE in Harrisonburg, Virginia - a new United Methodist Faith Community that seeks to connect young adults (primarily JMU students) in ministry to the hurts and needs of the world. The offering will be shared equally between RISE and Amor y Paz UMC, a Hispanic Congregation on the Winchester District. (Checks should be made payable to Winchester District UMC). Canned goods brought to District Conference will go to the Blue Ridge Food Bank. A time will fellowship with light refreshments will follow afterwards.

Charge Conference

Our annual Charge Conference will be **Sunday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. The Rev. Larry Thompson, District Superintendent, will be presiding. All officers of the church are encouraged to be in attendance.

Helping Others with a Thanksgiving Meal

To help others with a Thanksgiving meal, the Food Pantry suggest donating canned hams, instant mashed potatoes, canned corn, pumpkin pie mix, stuffing mix, gravy mix, pie crust mix, and condensed milk. Or you might want to contribute \$15. Checks can be written out to SCUMC, but you will need to make a notation "Food Pantry Thanksgiving"

A Devotion from the Spiritual Life Committee

Daniel Barley and Stephen Kleffman



Our God is unreasonable. He does not make simple requests. Nowhere in the scriptures does it appear to be recorded that God ever asked anyone for a glass of water, or for directions, or for a haircut. Indeed, God apparently never even issues simple demands for our moral conduct: Where is it written that God ever admonished anyone to simply be “a nice fella”? On what ancient tablets has God etched the words: “Thou shalt be a generally swell guy”? Our Lord has not and does not demand for us, and we must never be satisfied with being basically decent folks.

Rather, quite the opposite would appear to be the case. Jesus approached the brothers Simon and Andrew and told them to join him and become “fishers of men”. He didn’t say to join him next year, or tomorrow, or even later this evening; he made no provision whereby they might have supper with their families and let them know what they were doing. Instead, Christ expected them to literally drop *everything* and follow him. He made the same request of the sons of Zebedee, demanding that they “immediately leave their boat and their father”. God asked for these men to walk away from *everything*, their possessions and even their loved ones in that very moment.

In the same way, much earlier, God approached a shepherd tending to his father-in-law’s flock, a man “slow of speech and tongue”, and ordered him to inform the hard-hearted leader of the known world to immediately divest himself of his labor force—and then to lead said people for forty years through the desert. Earlier still, God appeared to a seventy-five year old man and demanded of him, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household.” His order was immediate and unequivocal, and God was not done with making unreasonable requests of Abraham; later God would demand of his servant to place his own son on an altar and sacrifice him.

Certainly, this isn’t “reasonable”. Certainly, this is not the kind of thing we as members of the civilized human race would consider to be acceptable. And yet, the Bible is filled with examples of God asking everyday people not just to do good things, not even just to do *hard* things—God asks people to do *ridiculous* things. When one’s cloak is stolen, the reasonable thing to do would be to sue the man who stole it and demand it back. Yet, this is not what we as Christians are told to do. A reasonable Buddhist might be taught to allow his cloak to be stolen, since he shouldn’t care about the theft in the first place. Still, Jesus teaches us to go even farther than that. When stolen from, we are to give to the one who stole from us our shirt also. What’s more, God has told us to do so *cheerfully!* God is *not* reasonable!

But that, it would seem, is entirely the point. Of what value would our faith in Christ be if we were told to simply be “reasonable”? Any godless fool can do as much as that. Is this world not filled with ordinary, unbelieving folks who have proven themselves quite capable of being “reasonable”? We are taught not to be “decent”, which would be the reasonable goal—no, we are taught to be “Perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect”. This is what is to make us different, and this is purpose of faith. This command is ridiculous, and yet, simultaneously, is it not fitting? Everything in this world, when stood against the awesome and sovereign Lord, is utterly and absolutely trivial, and God demands that we let no human ideas of “reasonable” behavior prevent us from surrendering to Him even our closest loved ones. The disciple asked Jesus to let him “First bury my dead father”, but Christ would not even give him this: “Follow me,” he said, “and let the dead bury their own dead.”

SCUMC Food Pantry Goings On

Food Pantry Volunteers

The Many Volunteers that make the food pantry possible are: Brian Boyd, Charles Kerr, Jane Young, Wendy Maines, Marcos Gibraldi, Carol Hitaffer, Cookie Riggleman, Max Hasenfluck, Jane Hisey, David Smith, Cathy Ritter, Marshall Carper, Bruce Ryker, Wade and Adelle Gunn, John Petrie, Peggy & Maurice Ramey, Kim DeGroot, Chuck Henkle, Ron & Karen Paul, Betty & Andy Landrum, Brenda Wunder, Kathy & Amy Adams, Bobby Chestnut, LeAnn Spangler, Debra Carbaugh, Cathy Judy, Missy Steele, Bob and Pat Florence, Ginny Miller, Eddie Swain, Connie Compton, Linda Taliaferro, Gary Adams, Diane Clawson, Linda Taliaferro, Gary Adams, Jean Marchand, Bob and June Adams, Melissa Marchand, Jill Lorey, Tim Teates, Gayle Ritter, Betty and Cecil Heishman, Stanley Carbaugh, and Mary Levesque.



Sources of Income

SCUMC Mission Budget - \$2,000.

SCUMC - pledges for Adopt a Family Meat Program.

Rufuge, Fairview, Salem, Reliance, Ridings Chapel, other churches collect special offerings.

Lions Club contributes \$500.

When five volunteers from the “Kohl’s Cares Program” work for 3 hours a \$500 grant is given. These volunteers help throughout the year and the pantry receives about \$3000 yearly. A few generous individual donors contribute. Occasional birthday, anniversary, or reunions designate giving toward the food pantry.

Sources of Food

The Lord Fairfax Food Bank provides USDA items free of charge, other items are 50% off if 50 are served. Fresh fruit and vegetables are available because of the Society of St. Andrew Local Gleaning effort. SCUMC members respond regularly to requests for certain items. The Pantry director buys hygiene/cleaning products and canned meats @ Dollar Tree, Wal-Mart & Costco from income received. Refuge UMC and Ridings Chapel UMC do several food drives a yr. “Curves” does a yearly food drive. The Boy Scouts do a food drive.

Other Food Sources

Day old bakery items are picked up from Martins and Food Lion on a weekly basis. Any extras are given to the seniors at the Senior Center. This includes breads and sweets. Very popular!

What Clients Can Expect to Receive

Menu provided for choices of certain items:

Pick 2 from the cleaning/hygiene items. May receive an extra item if they bring a reusable bag.

Pick 2 from a frozen or canned meat.

Amts. of canned veg., cereal, and easier to obtain items vary depending on available food from the food bank and how many there are to be served.

USDA recently cut back on amounts to be given as well as our purchased items in an effort to stretch resources. Even the Blue Ridge Food Bank has gone through a dry period and had very limited items to choose from

Facilities/Equipment/Services Available

Bathrooms, Waiting Area - videos, sign in forms, magazines, toys for children, Bibles. Registration & paperwork area. Storage area for food - shelves, refrigerator, freezer. Van to pick up donated/purchased food. Copier, Computers. Clients are treated to coffee, tea, snacks and reading materials while waiting. Many clients volunteer or are asked to help with separating and organizing items. Carts are used to move items to client’s car. Ground floor handicapped accessible entrance. Help in loading car for those who need it. Frederick Co. Senior Center housed at SCUMC. Assist clients if they want to apply for food stamps.

****Items Always Needed**—Powdered milk, laundry detergent, jelly, sugar, rice, canned fruit feminine needs, hygiene items.**



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 Joyful 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)

NOVEMBER 2011 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Nov. 06 - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
8:30 Stephens City Joyful Ringers
11:00 Stephens City Joyful Ringers, Chancel Choir
- Nov. 13 - LAITY SUNDAY**
8:30 Primary Praise
11:00 Chancel Choir
- Nov. 20 - CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**
8:30 Wesley Ringers, Wesley Singers
11:00 Chancel Choir
- Nov. 27 - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
8:30 Youth Ringers, Youth Singers
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.