

The Messenger

March 2011 Issue

Stephens City United Methodist Church
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From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Friends,

In a few weeks we will enter into the season of Lent. During that time we will journey with Jesus to the cross. He has extended the invitation to follow Him in the way that leads through death to life everlasting. One of the questions we must ask ourselves during this season is "Have I accepted His invitation and have I put my hand in His that He might lead me in the way?"

One who accepted that invitation and took the Master's hand was Mother Teresa of Calcutta who once said, "Pray that I not loosen my grip on the hands of Jesus even under the guise of ministering to the poor."

In commenting on these words of Mother Teresa in his book *Freedom of Simplicity*, Richard J. Foster has written "That is our first task: to grip the hands of Jesus with such tenacity that we are obliged to follow his lead to seek first His kingdom. The next step is so simple I am almost embarrassed to mention it, and yet it is so important that I must. Begin to obey him in every way you can."

As you journey to the cross, make sure you have taken these two important steps. Do so and you will be blessed.

Yours in Christ,

Jeff



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.

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

Ash Wednesday Service on March 9

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 9 and our traditional Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will read from Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. We will also receive the imposition of the ashes as we remember our mortality.



Daylight Savings Time Begins—March 13

Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD for Daylight Savings Time on March 13! Also the Spring season begins on March 20!

Attention Campers!

It's once again that time of year to start thinking about opportunities at Camp Overlook. There are programs available for children who have completed 1st - 12th grades. If you are a returning camper, you will receive a brochure in the mail; however, I also have additional brochures available. I will soon be scheduling a meeting for parents to discuss possible fund raisers to assist with the cost of camp. There is a \$10 discount per camper by registering by **May 1st**, as well as other discounts which you may be able to take advantage of. Please contact Michele Hruska at 869-4073 if you have any questions.

Lenten Study: The Easter Experience

Thursday afternoons, 1-2:30pm, room 102. Starting March 10th - April 14th. This DVD/discussion study comes highly recommended from one of our small groups that used it last year. Questions contact Jill Lorey 869-0605.

Creating Passionate Worship! Workshop

This workshop will be held at Shenandoah University on **Saturday, March 26 from 9am-3pm**. The workshop will feature the latest innovations in church worship with the following classes being offered: *Technology in Worship, Visual Environment, Building a Design Team and Music in Worship*. A continental breakfast and a buffet lunch will be offered and is included in the workshop cost of \$12. Registration forms are available in the church office or contact the Winchester District office at 662-7332.

Stamps and Labels for Children in Crisis!

The U.S. postage stamps and Campbell labels that our UMW collect go to the Henry Fork Service Center in Rocky Mount, NC. This center was created especially for children in the Rocky Mount area who are in need of help. They hope to use the proceeds to get a 15-passenger van to bring children to the center. The children posed for their "Thank You" card in 2010. We hope to help them get the van!

If you go to this website, you can find more info on the history of the center. Check it out!

<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/hfsc/aboutus.shtm>

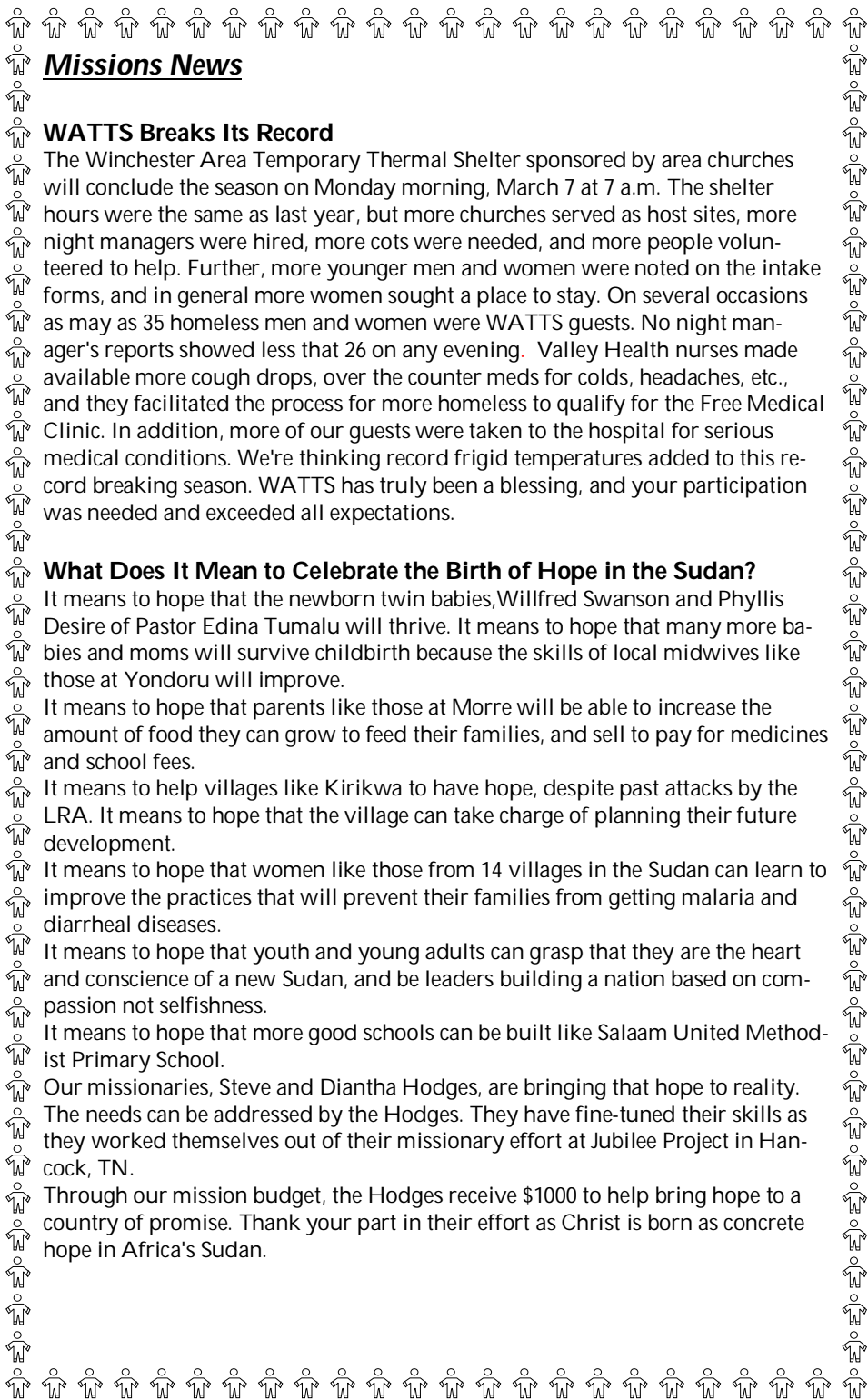


March Birthdays



01 Nancy Comer	11 Steven Ritenour	21 David Ames
Melissa Legge	12 Fred Zimmerman	David Marchand
Tambra Martin	13 Kim Craig	25 Traci Gustafson
02 Lillian Brown	Matthew Staton	26 J.D. Cooper
Jordan Petrie	14 Bob Bursey	Taylor Waterman
03 Mary Ritter	Tom Hollis	27 Jeremy Smith
04 Callie Armstrong	Sandy Staton	29 Cathy West
Tucker Armstrong	16 Mike Ewing	30 Jessica Ford
John Copenhaver	Cathy Judy	Brittany Walden
05 Dennis Queensberry	Jennifer Queensberry	31 Sherry Waddell
07 Melissa Mullinax	17 Rebecca Marchand	
08 Sarah Marchand	Scott Nellis	
Kristina Walton	Fran Norris	
09 Brittany Page	Brad Paul	
Alex Short	19 Toby Norris	
10 Tim Ritter	20 Andrea Smith	
John Petrie	Lora Wright	

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



Missions News

WATTS Breaks Its Record

The Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter sponsored by area churches will conclude the season on Monday morning, March 7 at 7 a.m. The shelter hours were the same as last year, but more churches served as host sites, more night managers were hired, more cots were needed, and more people volunteered to help. Further, more younger men and women were noted on the intake forms, and in general more women sought a place to stay. On several occasions as many as 35 homeless men and women were WATTS guests. No night manager's reports showed less than 26 on any evening. Valley Health nurses made available more cough drops, over the counter meds for colds, headaches, etc., and they facilitated the process for more homeless to qualify for the Free Medical Clinic. In addition, more of our guests were taken to the hospital for serious medical conditions. We're thinking record frigid temperatures added to this record breaking season. WATTS has truly been a blessing, and your participation was needed and exceeded all expectations.

What Does It Mean to Celebrate the Birth of Hope in the Sudan?

It means to hope that the newborn twin babies, Willfred Swanson and Phyllis Desire of Pastor Edina Tumulal will thrive. It means to hope that many more babies and moms will survive childbirth because the skills of local midwives like those at Yondoru will improve.

It means to hope that parents like those at Morre will be able to increase the amount of food they can grow to feed their families, and sell to pay for medicines and school fees.

It means to help villages like Kirikwa to have hope, despite past attacks by the LRA. It means to hope that the village can take charge of planning their future development.

It means to hope that women like those from 14 villages in the Sudan can learn to improve the practices that will prevent their families from getting malaria and diarrheal diseases.

It means to hope that youth and young adults can grasp that they are the heart and conscience of a new Sudan, and be leaders building a nation based on compassion not selfishness.

It means to hope that more good schools can be built like Salaam United Methodist Primary School.

Our missionaries, Steve and Diantha Hodges, are bringing that hope to reality. The needs can be addressed by the Hodges. They have fine-tuned their skills as they worked themselves out of their missionary effort at Jubilee Project in Hancock, TN.

Through our mission budget, the Hodges receive \$1000 to help bring hope to a country of promise. Thank your part in their effort as Christ is born as concrete hope in Africa's Sudan.



United Methodist Women

UMW Chairperson—Debbie Jones

UMW News for March

During lent, the UMW will be concentrating on activities involving our Spiritual Growth, both as individuals and as a community of faith and mission. Please join with us in one or more of the March UMW activities.

March 5th (Saturday)- 9 am- District Prayer Breakfast at Lee Jackson. Meet in the parking lot of Bowman Library at 8:15 for car pooling. Questions, call Debbie Jones at 869-5468.

March 8th (Tuesday)- 6 pm- Executive Board Meeting in the Gathering Area-

March 8th (Tuesday)- 7 pm Susanna Circle in the Gathering Area and Sanctuary- Program- *A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial: Give the Gift of Love*- Special activities planned to help us grow in spirit and prepare for the Lenten Season.

March 17th (Thursday)- UMW will be preparing a meal to take to the Amor-Y-Paz after school program. Call Pala @ 869-6840 if you can help by donating, preparing or transporting.

March 17th (Thursday)- Phoebe Circle will meet at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The Book Club's March and April selection is *The Centurion's Wife* by Davis Bunn and Janet Oke- A UMW Reading Program Book in the Spiritual Growth category. Also check out *The Response Magazine*. Copies are available in the UMW mini-library located in room 204.

Middle and High School Youth News

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

- Sun Mar 6** Regular Meeting
- Sun Mar 13** Regular Meeting
- Sun Mar 20** Mission Activity, 4:30-6pm
- Sat Mar 26** Wallyball 4-5pm

Sr. High—(meets in Rm. 102, 4:30-6pm)

- Sun March 6** Reg. Meeting
- Sun March 13** Reg. Meeting
- Sun March 20** Reg. Meeting
- Sun March 27** Reg. Meeting

If you would like to be on the Youth email list, drop a note to:
Middle Youth —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 or contact Candy Kleffman @ 868-2985



A Devotion from the Spiritual Life Committee

Daniel Barley and Stephen Kleffman



Lent. Why do people do it? What is its purpose? Of what value is this institution to the Christian life? In the general world, Lent is perceived as a sort of a game, a kind of religious version of testosterone-driven playground games in which the participants attempt to see who can endure discomfort the longest. It's as if people can rack up points by missing out on something bigger than their friends did. They even invent silly rules for the game, such as the "only on weekdays" rule, or the "don't-give-something-up-but-do-something-good" rule. The contestants are scored on the basis of how much inconvenience they had to sustain, and who sustained it the longest. In short, Lent becomes simply about "giving up stuff".

Popular things to give up include chocolate, soda, and television. These are relatively easy and rather insubstantial items without which one can get on well enough without experiencing an egregious interruption in their life. When criticized for not having given up something more "meaningful", the common response is to simply escalate the discomfort: giving up chocolate turns into giving up all sweets; going without television turns into depriving oneself of all non-work-related computer access; going without soda turns into getting through the week *sans* junk food. The problem, however, lies in the fact that they are missing the forest for the trees. They could give up positively everything, but if the sacrifice is not done in the proper spirit, it is of no use to God.

Mere self-deprivation is not godliness. What Lent is intended to foster is the setting aside of *distractions* for the purpose of making time to communicate with God. In short, Lent is an expression of love toward God. It is a way of saying "See, here is something that I do instead of talking to You. I am going to use the time that I would spend on that with You." The value of Lent lies in the extent to which the hole that is left by that distraction's absence is filled in with God. It is a way of physical fasting in order to be spiritually nourished. Simply going without something is spiritually worthless if from it no spiritual growth emerges.

This time can be filled with prayer, reading and studying God's word, or spending time in service to God. This Ash Wednesday, do not allow the simple act of doing without something to dominate your plans for Lent. Rather, put aside those things which keep you from fully reveling in God's glory and attending to His will for you. Let this be a time of spiritual refreshment, not misguided asceticism for its own sake. When an ashen cross is marked on your forehead, know that you have entered a time for renewal. In preparation for the day on which we celebrate the glorious day of our Lord's resurrection.

SCUMC INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL CHOIRS 2011

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 perform 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.



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)
7:30-8:15pm, Joyful Ringers (0-2 years exp.)

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January—May 2011, Youth, Children choirs and Bell Groups will lead worship at the 11:00am services as follows:

1st Sunday—SCR (8:30 & 11am worship services)
2nd Sunday—Joyful Ringers (8:30 & 11am worship services)
2nd Sunday—Primary Praise (11:00am)
3rd Sunday—Wesley Singers and Wesley Ringers (11:00am)
(some alternating months for Wesley Ringers)
4th Sunday—Youth Singers and Youth Ringers (11:00am)

Chancel Choir leads worship each Sunday, September thru May at the 11am service.

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**



To Stephens City UMC,

The family of Geneva Paugh are grateful for the beautiful flowers, the expressions of sympathy, the assistance of Rev. Jef, Rev. Waverly, David Renner, The Church Staff and the ladies who prepared the lunch for the memorial service. This church has been a source of strength during our period of grief.

Joe Paugh and Family

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express how much your cards, calls, and prayers meant to me and Dot on the loss of my mother. A day has not gone by since she left us that someone has not sent a card or called to offer words of comfort. Each and every card carried a personal message of comfort. Thank you for your continuing concern and prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Dot & Chuck Henkle

Dear Pastor Butcher,

Thank you and the congregation's generous gift for Heart Havens. Your support enables Heart Havens to continue to provide residential services to our brothers and sisters with intellectual disabilities throughout the Virginia Conference. Thank you for your kind gift.

Most Sincerely,
Jennifer Boyden-Barrett
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Stephens City UMC,

Thank you! We received your donation in participation with UMFS Offering, *Give, Pray, Spread the Word*. Your gift will touch lives and create futures for children in Virginia that have suffered abuse, neglect, crisis, and trauma. UMFS reaches over 5,000 individuals each year but without your support this would not be possible. Thank you on behalf of the children and families we serve.

With Great Gratitude,
Bethanie Constant, Manager

Dear Stephens City UMC,

Please extend the appreciation of the Virginia Conference for your offering to the *Initiatives of Hope—Mozambique*. This offering will affect the lives of many people in Mozambique who daily face a lack of life-sustaining, pure, healthy water. By supporting the ministry of the *Initiatives of Hope-Mozambique* the members of SCUMC are bringing hope for a future of disease and illness to the people of that country.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Rev. Glenn Rowley

Dear Friends,

One of you wrote that when life brings events that are hard to bear, there are those who care. So many of you cared when my sister and nephew passed on to their spiritual life and then when I was hospitalized. Your cards, call and visits were what I needed. I am always grateful for the church family of which I am a part. I also know that you respond to anyone who experiences hard times. God has blessed our church family in so many ways with caring friends and our pastors, Jeff and Waverly. Thank you and God bless you every one.

Joy Costello

Dear Church Friends,

Thanks so much for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits while I was in the hospital and during recovery at home. A big thank you also to those who brought me meals which were really appreciated til I felt up to cooking again. I'm well on the road to recovery and looking forward to being back at church and seeing everybody—I missed you all!

In Christian Love,
Nancy Comer