

La Plata United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 2824, 3 Port Tobacco Rd.
La Plata, Maryland 20646-2824

September-October

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 10028
Waldorf, MD 20602

The Grapevine

Intertwining the church
to help it bear fruit on
The Discipleship Adventure



Worship in September

- Sept. 4 Labor Day Weekend**
Hymn Sing Rescheduled
- Sept. 7 Worship on Wednesday**
Holy Communion
"A Time of Renewal"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Sept. 11 3rd Kingdomtide**
Worship at 8:30 & 11:00
Sunday School for all 9:45
10th Anniversary of 9/11
"Ten Years Later: What
Have We Learned?"
- Sept. 14 Worship on Wednesday**
"Ten Years Later: What
Have We Learned?"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Sept. 18 4th Kingdomtide**
Luke Barrett Baptism
"A Living Wage"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Sept. 21 Worship on Wednesday**
"A Living Wage"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Sept. 25 Missions Sunday**
Tabea Muenz, speaking
- Sept. 28 Worship on Wednesday**
Guest speaker +

Church Picnic

Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, fun, and, of course, FOOD with other members of our church at the annual Church picnic now scheduled for October 9, immediately following the 11:00 AM service. There will be an inflatable fun house, bubble machine and other activities for the children. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided by the Fellowship Ministries Team. Please bring a side dish or dessert with you to Church that morning and drop off your food in the foyer. The events will take place in the parking lot and yard surrounding the Annex. In the event of inclement weather, all events will move indoors. +



Full Schedule Returns

Starting on Sunday, September 11, we return to our full / fall schedule. Once again we will have two Sunday morning worship opportunities: 8:30 & 11:00 AM. The two services are similar, with variations in soloists or choir music, and often baptisms take place at 11:00. Otherwise they are quite identical in form and content.

At 9:45 we have Sunday school for all ages. From the littlest two year olds through the oldest adults, we have classes to meet your needs and fit your age. Our three adult classes also offer a varied experience. Following a text book and studying both topical subjects and books of the Bible, Julie Robbins' class meets in the fellowship hall. Dr. Rolland "Rollie" Hower's class meets in the parlor, and often discusses recent discoveries in biblical archaeology, or he shares chapters from his upcoming book on the Dead Sea Scrolls, which he was privileged to work on.

Now on Wednesday nights we also have added a regular informal worship service called "WOW—Worship on Wednesday". The music is contemporary, and you may dress as you wish. +



Striving To Be The Hearts & Hands of the Community

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

With the amazing support of the congregation, Vacation Bible School, Lifestyles through the Maryland Food Bank, Panera Bread, Cub Scouts, Girls Scouts and other supportive groups, our food pantry is now supplying food for an average of 30 families per week. The Food Pantry, which is located in the basement of the church office building, is open to families from 2:00PM –4:00PM each Wednesday afternoon. A bag of nonperishable food is provided for every 2 people in the family along with a child's bag containing cereal, peanut butter, jelly and Mac and Cheese. This summer we have also been able to offer fresh vegetables from the gardens of generous members of our congregation and bread picked up each week from La Plata Panera Bread.



Replenishing the supply of food is a continual process. Much of it is purchased in bulk using money from the Food Pantry Fund. Donations can be made in the offering plate on any Sunday. Cereal, Peanut butter and jelly need to be replenished perpetually and can be donated by placing those items in the food pantry basket in the church entrance at any time.

Just as necessary to the supply of food are the volunteers who man the Food Pantry each Wednesday. We have been fortunate this summer to have the help of our fantastic youth. With youthful agility they pulled bags from shelves and carried them up steep steps for adult volunteers to distribute to the waiting patrons. They also managed, under the tutelage of Ralph McAfee, to keep the shelves stocked so that each week bags of food were available for distribution. We thank them for their indispensable help and wish them a wonderful school year. For the foreseeable future, we need at least 3 volunteers each Wednesday one of whom must have the ability to navigate stairs and carry bags of food to the top of the steps. If you can volunteer, please consider any of the following dates: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/27, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23 and 11/30 and contact Joyce Dean at 301-934-8095.

We are thankful for the members of our congregation who support the Food Pantry regularly with donations of food or money or as volunteers. We encourage others to become involved. +

UMW/ MISSIONS SUNDAY



The United Methodist Women and the Missions Committee are preparing for our annual Mission Sunday to be held on Sunday, September 25. Tabea Muenz, the 25 year old Missioner -in-resident at Wesley Seminary, will speak at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Ms Muenz's home is in Stuttgart, Germany where both her grandfather and father are Methodist ministers. As the oldest of 7 children, she loves working with young children in Sunday school and is involved with youth work and different music projects in her home church. She earned her Bachelors of Theology at the School of Theology in Reutlingen, Germany. Currently, she is working on a masters degree at Wesley and is a part-time German pastor in the United Church, the only German-speaking Protestant congregation in D.C. Ms Muenz is the recipient of the Epworth House scholarship sponsored by the Washington East and Greater Washington Districts United Methodist Women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference

At each service you will also be given an opportunity to join "THE MISSION 100", a annual request to support a Covenant Relationship with our conference missionary, Suzanne Porter. After each service, there will be a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at which there will be displays of the outreach projects supported by various groups in our church.

Hopefully, you will join us for this celebration of our church's involvement in both global and local mission. +



Mission



Moment

MISSION MOMENT

By Judy Hall, Mission Committee

HAITI RECOVERY

More than 3000 families will soon have transitional upgradeable or permanent housing thanks to collaborative efforts between UMCOR and 3 different humanitarian organizations. In March, UMCOR approved projects with BRAC, an international relief and development agency, Habitat for Humanity, and International Relief and Development (IRD) to provide housing which will benefit 16,000 individuals in three separate locations.

Issues related to land tenure and to housing those who rent have been significant challenges to progress. However, the partnerships are providing a way forward in meeting shelter needs. Given Habitat's team on the ground and UMCOR's resources, much can be accomplished. As of March 31st work has been completed on 829 transitional shelters and 394 upgradeable ones, serving 1,221 families.

BRAC, partnering with UMCOR, is working to increase food security, income, and farming capacity for 400 Haitian families in 5 locations. They also have agreed to complete 55 permanent shelters.+

"CHANGE THE WORLD" WEEKEND

The Missions Committee is working to establish a number of project sites for folks of our church to work on during the conference's "Change The World" Day on October 8. We will be going to the homes of elderly folks in our congregation and community and helping to do tasks that they cannot do for themselves. We will be going to Maples to help some of the residents there as well. From yard work to painting, to a thorough cleaning, to clearing gutters or fixing things, there will be something for everyone to do.

The goal of the conference is to enlist 15,000 United Methodists from all over our area to be engaged in service, all during this one weekend. We are pleased that there will be four or five sites we can offer to folks to help pitch in and "change the world". Some jobs will only take a few hours, others will take half a day (four hours), and a few might require 5 or 6 hours to get done. You don't have to be a great handyman or woman to pitch in. Please reserve Saturday, October 8 for this great challenge.+

UMCOR RELIEF SUPPLY NETWORK

The UMCOR RSN is comprised of 7 depots. Congregations can send or drop off kits and supplies and be assured their donations will be accounted for and distributed by UMCOR. The network also offers a means to respond to disasters from depots located closest to the affected areas. Depots are located in Terrell, NC, Chatham, IL, Newcastle, PA, Goldsboro, NC, Mechanicsburg, PA, Salt Lake City, UT, and Baldwin, LA.

The director of the depots reports that due to faithful giving of health and other kits by UM congregations and coordinated efforts with Japan's authorities; UMCOR is prepared to send thousands of health kits to Japan as soon as they receive them.

UMCOR NOTEBOOK - Check out the UMCOR blog to see what volunteers, administrators, and others see and do first hand in the name of Jesus to help those in need:

Mediagbgmumcorg.blogspot.com.+



**CHANGE
THE WORLD**

Through The



Mail Slot



Dear LPUMC,

To all of my friends at LUMC , I want to say thank you for being my friend and sharing your love & faith. It held me in good stead through some tough times & made me remember how good life really is w/our Lord always there to catch me when I falter.

Never forget how much I love each & every one of you. Thank you for being my friends. God go with you always.

Beverly Long



I thank you all for the fine foods that you all have giving to me when I enter this wonderful church on Wednesdays. When I am in La Plata, MD, I love this town because I went too school here, and all my old time friends went too school with me at La Plata Senior High Oak Avenue graduated in 1968. That has been a many years ago. I am 62 years old. God will always bless you all for your kindness towards me and others and all God's churches in the United States of America. I thank you all for wonderful kindness too we all. Amen. Peace, love and happiness will always be with you all. I love you all.

Paul Price
8821 Oliver Place
Nanjemoy, MD 20662



Feb 24, 2011

Dear La Plata United Methodist Church,

LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc. would like to thank you for your donation in the amount of 526.82. We continue to be amazed with the love and support we have received from the community, and know that your giving is truly a blessing to us and the people we serve.

It is primarily because of the love from this community that we are able to accomplish the many successes over the past thirteen years. Your support of our organization has allowed many families to benefit. That is truly a blessing!

We thank you again, and look forward to continuing to work with you and many of our other partners in the future.

Sincerely,
Sandy O. Washington
Executive Director





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Heartfelt thanks to all who expressed their love and support for me and my family on the loss of my Mother, Della Domchick.

Your kindnesses were much appreciated.

April 25, 2011

Dear La Plata United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your donation of the Easter Baskets to our organization. These Easter Baskets went to children of our community. Help from people who care like you has made it possible for LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc. to continue our "Safe Night's Program", Senior Rides and the "Job Ready" Transit program. We continue to be amazed with the love and support we have received from the community, and know that your giving is truly a blessing to us and the people we serve.

It is primarily because of the love from this community that we are able to accomplish the many successes over the past thirteen years. Your support of our organization has allowed many families to benefit. That is truly a blessing!

This letter will serve as your receipt for tax purposes

and certify that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for your donation. Thanks you again for caring and helping when your neighbors need your help the most.



Sincerely,
Sandy O. Washington
Executive Director



Dec. 27, 2010

Dear La Plata UMC Church Family:

LifeStyles, Inc. wants to thank you for your donation of \$500. We are a non-profit organization founded in 1998 whose goal is to provide affordable, accessible service, activities and goods to support and encourage individuals, families and community development. Since its inception, our organization has been dedicated to issues relative to health, human services and economic growth in the community. We connect individuals to resources by assessing their needs, determining their eligibility and implementing necessary services.

With the growing economic crisis, the need is great in our community and your support helped us in assisting more families. We always appreciate your continual support of our organization. Thank you and have a prosperous New Year.



LifeStyles, Inc.

Sincerely,
Sandy Washington, Executive Director





The La Plata United Methodist Women

The La Plata United Methodist Women unit of our church will be starting up their new meeting season on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We extend a welcome back to our current members, as well as to those women who might be interested in joining or learning more about our organization.

The PURPOSE of our United Methodist Women organization is to get members to know God, to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative and supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Our church currently has 66 UMW members. Some of the activities that the members sponsor include an annual Holiday bazaar and bake sale, flea market, annual nursing home visits for Mothers' Day Tea, Christmas luncheon and mission related activities. Members meet through circles, which offer opportunities to make new friends, nourish old friendships, grow in your relationship with the Lord, and support and pray for one another.



There is an ABR Circle which meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 AM in the Parlor, (contact: Carolyn Rogers, 301-934-3157) an Evening Circle which meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in members' homes (contact: Julie Robbins, 301-392-0218). We also have a book study club which generally meets every other Tuesday at 9 AM in the Parlor (contact: Carolyn Rogers,

301-934-3157).

The UMW also holds general meetings which are program oriented and include guest-speakers, activities and refreshments that are held in the Fellowship Hall on the third Tuesday in January, March, May, September and November.

Becoming a part of the United Methodist Women unit of our church provides an opportunity to share your talents, your spiritual gifts, and yourself with others. We look forward to seeing many of you at our next general meeting on September 20. +

Doris White,
Membership & Nurture Committee
(301-934-0999)



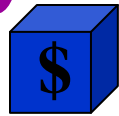
An Invitation to Join the Caring Committee

Currently our Caring Committee is organized into 6 teams of 6 members who are available to prepare and serve funeral receptions during an assigned two month period. Two team leaders from each team serve as liaisons for Bruce and the family of the deceased to inform other members of the team about the requests of the family. The six-member team plans, prepares and serves the meal with help from Auxiliary Members who asked to prepare a dish or help serve the meal. There is a special need for additional team members in the two-month periods of March & April, May & June and November & December. If you would like to join one of the teams or can serve as an auxiliary person, please call Joyce Dean at 301-934-8095 and indicate the two-month period in which you can help. We often feel helpless when trying to determine ways to support our friends when they are grieving. The Caring Committee offers an avenue to provide comfort when families need it most. Please join us if you can. +

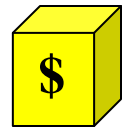
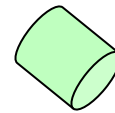
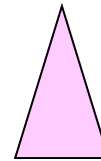


ITEMS FOR SALE

Jean C. Manders is selling her piano. It is a 30 year old Chickering, walnut grain and in very good condition, that only needs tuning. The purchase price was almost \$9,000, but Jean is selling it for \$4,000. The funds will go towards Bob's funeral expenses. It comes with a piano bench, a Metronome, piano lamp, and two figures of children [the first figure is of a boy playing a sax and the other is a girl with hands over her ears]. Also for sale is a beautiful, slightly worn, white & yellow gold wedding band set. The cost for the set is \$400, though the original price was almost \$600. Please let me know if anyone is interested. +



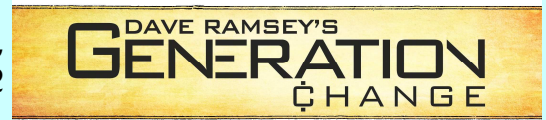
The Building Blocks for Financial Freedom



Give teens the skills to live wisely—for life!

Sadly, few teenagers are prepared for the realities of personal finance. Only 51% know how to write a check, and only 34% can balance a checkbook. The result? The next generation spends money they don't have to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't even like. [It's time for a change.](#)

Dave Ramsey's Life Changing class, Generation Change, is being offered to teens and young adults from 9th grade to 22 years of age. Class will begin on Sunday, September 18, 2011 during Sunday School from 9:45-10:45AM. The students do not need to be regular attendees of La Plata United Methodist Church. This class is open to anyone in the above age range.



Pre-registration is not required, but since each student needs a personalized kit, we are asking for registration forms by August 20, 2011. This will allow for time to order and receive the kits. Students can register at the first class, but will just have to wait to receive their kit. Please see the attached flyer and registration form. Turn in your registration form to John Hastings, Carrie Summers, or Cheryl Smith. If you have any questions, please contact John Hastings at 301-934-5295 or ccso355@yahoo.com. +



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Financial Peace University: Live Like No One Else!

Financial Peace University (FPU) is Dave Ramsey's life-changing program that teaches you how to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. More than 1 million families have attended FPU with amazing results. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever!

Financial Peace University consists of a 13-week video curriculum—taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey—that incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. Financial Peace University is highly entertaining for everyone, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice, and biblical messages. For those unfamiliar with Dave Ramsey, you can find further information at DaveRamsey.com.



John and Sherri Hastings have been so inspired and rewarded by implementing the spiritually guided teachings of Dave Ramsey in their personal lives and finances that they are going to be coordinating the FPU class starting in February. They know you will be changed and rewarded by attending the class. The Church's 2nd class just graduated and, in the process, 21 families collectively paid off \$150,000 worth of debt, saved \$40,000, and avoided spending \$46,000 in just 91 days! To date, the Church's classes have collectively paid off \$275,000 worth of debt, saved \$67,000, and avoided spending \$120,000 just during the 91 days that each group was actively in their class.

There will be a free preview on Sunday, August 28 at 11:10 AM at the La Plata UMC for anyone interested. The preview is approximately 30 minutes long. "This is just a preview event ... it does not in any way lock you into the course." It will be a 25-minute video giving an overview for the upcoming class. Classes will begin on September 18 from 6:00-8:00 PM through December 11. Cost is \$100.00 per family unit including teenagers still living at home. If you have any questions before then, please contact John or Sherri Hastings at 301-934-5295 or ccso355@yahoo.com. Come join us and learn to "live like no one else, so that later, you can live like no one else!" +

Did you Hear About This ?



County Fair Food Booth

Fair week is September 15-18. Already nearly 100 people have signed up to take a shift or two during these four days. If you'd like to help us in the Food Booth at the fair, we'd love to have your help. Just call Margie Knowland at 301-392-0656. If you are going to be at the fair, please stop by our booth on the midway for your breakfast, lunch or dinner. This year our Kid's Meals will include a special toy prize. +



Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions

"It couldn't be much easier." That's the goal that LifeTouch has set when it comes to church directories and photography. Their goal is to make the process enjoyable, painless and without a ton of sales pressure. LifeTouch has done our Blessed Lambs Preschool for years, and they actually photograph most of the school children in America. All you have to do to register for a photo session, is go on our church web site, click on the link, and pick a date and time.

Then when you get to church, "all gussied up" for your pictures, the process will go smoothly with a minimum of waiting around. We want to have everyone in the congregation have their picture in our new directory, which should be out before Christmas. Please make every effort to get photographed with your family and even your pets if you want. Also please make sure you fill out one of our basic Information forms at church so we have your latest information. +

The Top Ten Hymns & Songs of 2011

Voting took place from the last Sunday of July through August 21 and the results for the Top Ten Hymns and Songs for 2011 are in. The list ends up a little different each year but many of the best loved hymns remain staples at the top of the list. Here is your list for 2011:

- 10 – The Battle Hymn of the Republic
- 9 – Hymn of Promise
- 8 – I Love to Tell the Story
- 7 – Blessed Assurance
- 6 – Pass It On
- 5 – He Touched Me
- 4 – Here I Am, Lord
- 3 – How Great Thou Art
- 2 – In the Garden
- 1 – Amazing Grace



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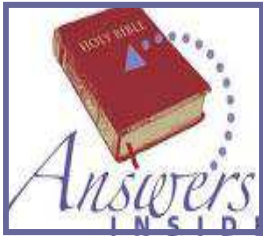
There were two songs from The Faith We Sing songbooks that also got a number of votes but not enough to crack the top ten. They were: Awesome God, and I'll Fly Away.

Mississippi Work Team

Rev. Jones will again help lead a team of workers to Mississippi in partnership with the members of many other churches, principally in Linthicum Heights, MD. Originally formed and led by people from the Linthicum Heights United Methodist Church, Bruce joined them when he was serving in his last church. In the four falls that he has been with us at La Plata UMC, he has taken members of our church along with him and the folks from Linthicum Heights to help rebuild parts of Mississippi that were devastated in the twin hurricanes of Katrina and Rita. This year Eugene Bradford is returning with him, and new member Jean Manders will also be joining the team. Jean will be helping prepare the meals for the team, while Eugene and Bruce will be doing construction work. +



Increasing Faith Through Knowledge



Pastor's Monday Night Study Series Classes

Rev. Bruce Jones is again launching another school year full of fascinating classes. Each class is short-term and you can pick and choose which ones you'd like to attend. He is starting with a study of The Book of Revelation. This last book of the Bible is often one of the most confusing of all the books. During this five week study, he hopes to peel back some of the mystery so people can feel more comfortable reading it and will understand its symbolism and message.

Later in November, he will lead a three-week class on the identities of the gospel writers and what made them unique. Why is each gospel so different? Who were these men, and what was the purpose they had in mind when they were writing?

As in past years, he will be doing another Advent Study. During the four weeks of Advent, he will be leading a book study of a wonderful new Advent resource called, "Christmas Gifts That Won't Break." This class is limited to the first 24 who sign up because of the text book which has already been purchased.

In the New Year, Bruce will then turn his attention to one of the most challenging topics of all: How do we understand God's will. So many things happen in our lives that are negative and painful. We all have asked ourselves at some point, "Why?" and actually we are asking God. Using a brilliant book by Adam Hamilton entitled, *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*, Pastor Bruce will help us unpack and understand how to interpret and cope with the difficulties we face in life. +

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES

By Bright Thompson, Program Director

The Disciple Bible study program will resume in September with even more opportunities for adult Bible study! We will be offering three courses on Thursday evening for those who wish to begin or continue their study of the Bible.

The overall program has four separate courses that provide a unique in-depth study of the Bible. Each course is divided equally between the Old Testament and the New Testament:

*Disciple I, "Becoming Disciples through Bible Study", is a 34 week course that moves from Genesis to Revelation and covers over 70% of the Bible. It emphasizes the personal faith journey and spiritual gifts of the individual. Disciple I will be led by Tammy Gausman. ***This course is a prerequisite for the other courses.*** (The three advanced courses can be taken in any order.)

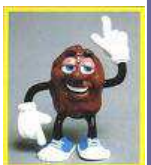
*Disciple II, "Into the Word, Into the World", is a 32 week course that concentrates on the Old Testament books of Genesis & Exodus and the New Testament books of Luke & Acts. ***This course is not being offered this fall.***

*Disciple III, "Remember Who You Are", is a 32 week course that focuses on the books of the Prophets in the first semester and the Letters of Paul in the second semester. ***This course is not being offered this fall.***

*Disciple IV, "Under the Tree of Life", is a 32 week course that concentrates on the "Writings" of the Old Testaments i.e. Ruth, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, etc. In the New Testament it studies the Gospel of John, the books of John and Revelation. Disciple IV will be led by Bright Thompson.

Disciple is an inspiring, challenging program that requires no former Bible study experience. The classes meet for 2 ½ hours a week and all Disciple classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 9:30 PM. The studies will begin with orientation on September 9. If you would like to register for any of the courses, please call the church office; e-mail Bright at bthompson30@verizon.net; contact Tammy at 301-934-8247 or Angie at 301-934-7063. +

DISCIPLE
BECOMING DISCIPLES
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY





- Oct. 2 World Communion Sun.**
Holy Communion
"Yours, Mine & God's"
Bruce Jones, preaching
4:00 "Blessing of the Pets"
- Oct. 5 Worship on Wednesday**
"Yours, Mine & God's"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Oct. 9 Children's Sabbath**
Stancliff Baptism
Work Team Dedication
Bob Kells, preaching
12:00 Church Picnic
- Oct. 12 Worship on Weds.**
Bob Kells, preaching
- Oct. 16 Laity Sunday**
Corrie Roberts, preaching
- Oct. 19 Worship on Weds.**
Corrie Roberts, preaching
- Oct. 23 9th Kingdomtide**
"Without Ulterior Motives"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Oct. 26 Worship on Weds.**
"Without Ulterior Motives"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Oct. 30 10th Kingdomtide**
"How Very Different"
Bruce Jones, preaching
- Nov. 2 Worship on Weds.**
"How Very Different"
Bruce Jones, preaching +



World Communion Sunday

October 2 is World Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday has been celebrated for decades as a way for all Christian communities and congregations to demonstrate our oneness by sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion on the same day. Please join us at either the 8:30 or 11:00 service that day, or on that Wednesday night, October 5.+



Children's Sabbath



Sunday, October 9, is "Children's Sabbath." This is a nationally-recognized day that Methodist churches have celebrated for many decades now. We will highlight the presence of children, the Cherub Choir will sing for the first time this fall, and the whole service will be centered on the joy, innocence and faith of children. Please plan to join us that day, as Bob Kells shares the message.+

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Pets are important parts of our families. If you've ever had pets, you know that their unconditional love for us, and their joy at seeing us, often lift our spirits and bring us sanity. On Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 PM in our church parking lot, we are inviting anyone in the community with a pet to come for our first ever "Blessing of the Pets". The service will be brief but will be a great way to acknowledge that animals are gifts from God and are a part of his wonderful creation. Celebrating our pets is a great way to come together as a community. Please bring your pets to the church that afternoon, and please invite any other pet owners and animal lovers to come with you.+



BIBLE VS. CELL PHONE

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

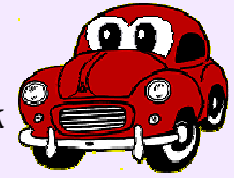


This is something to make you go....hmm... where is my Bible? Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities? And no dropped calls! When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you! +

Just something to think about...

YOU TOOK MY PLACE AT CHURCH



One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near him. The driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down.

A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, he just moved and said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."



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MISSION MOMENT

Evangelism, Social Justice and Mission

(from a UM Church Mission Study titled "Joy to the World" by Dana L. Robert)

The hallmark of Methodist mission has been its creative combination of personal evangelism—telling the story of Jesus and calling people to follow him; and of social holiness—working in disciplined community to make the world a better place. In Methodist tradition, evangelism and social justice are inseparable.

In practice it can be very difficult to keep the two interconnected. On one hand, there is a tendency to concentrate on the call to follow Jesus so that it has few social responsibilities. On the other hand, it is often easier for us to stay busy working for social justice than to share our faith in Christ. We find it difficult to state the spiritual reasons behind such good works as founding soup kitchens or aiding the homeless. Tensions about the proper balance between evangelism and social justice become politicized whenever evangelism is targeted as "conservative" and social justice is termed "liberal." Because we are human, it is hard to do both equally well.

Sometimes evangelism is limited to personal testimony while social transformation is seen as a synonym for "mission." The "cultural" mandate of "love your neighbor as yourself" is pitted against the "evangelical" mandate of "therefore go and make disciples of all nations".

A metaphor about the relationship of evangelism to mission is that of the heart to the body. Mission is the body. It walks and moves in different directions and reacts to changing circumstances and conditions. Its actions differ depending on the needs of the day, sometimes using the arms or the legs or the eyes. But always the heart beats, keeping the body alive. Evangelism is the heart; it is the pump that circulates the life force and is the seat of the emotions. Without the emotional fervor of the heart, the love of Christ and the desire to make him known, mission dies. To take evangelism out of mission is to cut the life out of it. At the same time, a heart pumping for itself, unconnected to a body at work in the world, is not very useful. +

Tribute to Pat Knowland

As most of you know, we lost a dear and precious member of our church on Saturday evening, August 27. Pat Knowland was more than the “nice man who greeted folks on the steps and held the door for people.” Pat was more than our church’s Web Master. For very many of us, including our pastor, he was a very good friend and a dear Christian man. Pat embodied the gentleness of Christ. Pat was motivated toward getting people to come to our church, to feel comfortable here, and to be unified in our love for Christ and our love for each other. His loss is a big blow to our whole church.

Pat came to know Christ less than ten years ago. His life was transformed into the saintly life we observed nearly every Sunday. But he was also a Patriot. His work as an Intelligence Analyst and Cryptographer was vital to national security, and he cared about every sailor, every Marine, every soldier, airman or guardian. He worked hard to protect the people of America in ways that we will never know. From the remarks at the funeral and reception, it was obvious that Pat’s work was vital because of the way they spoke about what he did. We will miss him greatly. We shall continue to surround his family with our love. And we will continue his many ministries, although it will likely take eight or ten people to do all that he did for us.

Pat is in heaven, and when it is our turn to go home, we will get to see Pat and all our other loved ones again. +



Dear Reverend Jones:

I want to thank you and the congregation of the La Plata UMC for the beautiful memorial service for my brother, Pat Knowland. Pat was a good man; he stood strongly on his principles and was a hero in so many ways. He lived a complicated life that I doubt many could have handled as well as he did.

His finding your Church, and the Congregation that clearly loved and admired Pat was a gift from God to Pat that he treasured. I want, no, I need, to thank you and the entire Congregation that welcomed Pat, Margie and Holly into your Home of Worship. It was not just a House to him, but a true home, one that helped him

complete himself.

The grace of God works in many ways (as you know) and I want to thank you all again, from the bottom of my heart for taking care of my brother and his family.

Sincerely,
Mike Knowland

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Study of the Gospel Writers

How much do we really know about the four gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John? Well, from their writings, and from the reports of the early church fathers, we can know quite a bit. Knowing something about the writers, gives us insight as to the purpose and power of their view of Jesus, and the Jesus they wanted to project.

In early November, Rev. Bruce Jones will teach a new class in his Pastor’s Monday Night Study Series called, **“The Gospel Writers: Who Were They?”** This will be more than a look at the content of the four gospels, it will be a chance for us to get behind the pages of the text and learn what made these four men tick. In what ways were they similar, and what makes each one’s perspective unique? Which gospel was written first and who had access to the others’ work when writing theirs? Sign up for this class will begin in mid-October. The class will run the three Monday nights of November before Thanksgiving (Nov. 7, 14 and 21). +

