



*Ponderings from Pastor John*

## “Without a Vision the People Will Perish”

**K**ing Solomon shares his wisdom about having a vision in Proverbs 29:18: ***“Without a Vision the People will Perish.”***

You will recall that last spring our church embarked on a journey of self awareness and study with the goal of developing a vision and mission statement to guide us on our journey of faith. We also wanted to ensure that it would be in alignment with Jesus’ vision and mission for his church. We used the high priestly prayer of Jesus in John 17 to guide us. This was the prayer he prayed the night of his arrest before his trial and crucifixion.

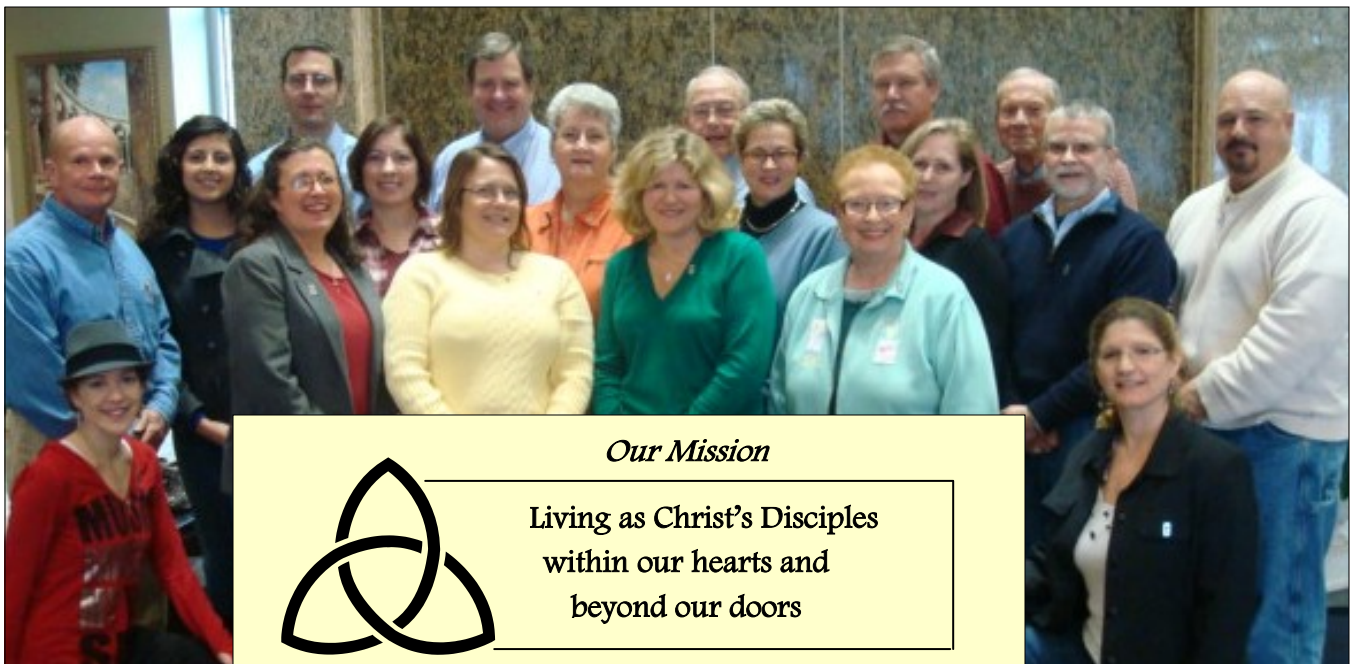
His prayer taught us that there are three key points to his vision for us as his followers. The first is the vision of our growing and being formed in the truth of God’s love as

revealed through Jesus. Jesus prays, *“Sanctify them in truth; your word is truth.” (17:17) “And for their sakes I sanctify myself [make Holy], so that they also may be sanctified [made Holy] in truth.” (19)*

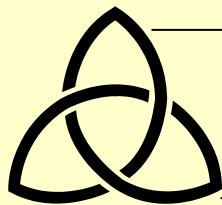
The second is a vision of Joy as we focus our lives on the love that guided Jesus, even to the cross. *“But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.”(13)*



*Continued on page 3*



### *Our Mission*



Living as Christ’s Disciples  
within our hearts and  
beyond our doors

Twenty-one leaders participated in the January 22 PUMC Leadership Retreat at St. Francis Hospital. Front row, l to r: Allison Stowers (music), Sandra Lowe (office manager), Ellen Bondurant (Nurture), Barb Otte (Christian Education), Sally Marchand (Monday Night Circle) and Vicki Abel (Council chair). Second row: Frank Armistead (SPR), Evelyn Lugo (Youth), Mary Bradstock (treasurer), Sandy Lineweaver (Worship), Betty Bowman (Finance), Joanne Anderton (Lay Leadership), Joe Bowman (Council co-chair) and Anthony Abel (Trustees). Back row: Eddie Peloke (Communications), Pastor John Briggs, Charles Cassell (Outreach & Buildings/Grounds), David Anderton (Stewardship) and Ron Marchand (Ushers/UMM). Not pictured: India Cox (Council secretary/Communications) and Malene Utley (Youth/Children’s Ministry).

## Youth and Children's Ministries

by Malene Utley ~ 347-7913

Inviting all children ages 4-10 to **Children's Church** every Sunday during the 11:00 service. We are currently meeting in the Christian Life Center, where your child can be picked up after the service. Join us for all the fun ~ hope to see you there! Parents, if you would like to take a turn and work with the kids during this time, I would love to have you share your time and love with the children of our church. Any questions, please call me.

### Kids With Purpose

February 13 ~ 12:00-2:00 p.m. ~ We will be studying the love of God for his son Jesus and sharing that love with our church community by baking cookies and sharing them with Meals On Wheels clients. If you are in grades 4-6 and haven't given Kids with Purpose a try, please join us! Bring a bag lunch and a canned good for this meeting; I will furnish the drinks.

February 27 ~ 12:00-2:00 p.m. ~ Movie and homemade pizza Sunday! See you at the Parsonage!

### Junior and Senior High Youth

February 13 ~ 5:00-7:00 p.m. ~ Regular meeting. Please bring ingredients for Sub sandwiches to share with the group. I have a list to chose from and will post them via email closer to the event. Drinks and chips will be furnished. Bring your ideas for new mission projects to be shared with the group.

February 17 ~ 5:30-7:00 p.m. ~ Ruritan Dinner ~ Need volunteers to serve and clean up. This is one of our fundraising projects for our summer mission trip. Please support the youth and help with this project.

February 27 ~ 5:00-7:00 p.m. ~ Meet at church for a progressive dinner! We will end up at the Parsonage for Wii games or board games. Hope to see you there!

### Children's Message Volunteers Needed

Please contact Darren and Coya Bird ~ 598-2122 ~ if you would like to share a short message with the children of our church during the 11:00 worship service.



### District Love Offering for Jim Tongue

Our District Superintendent for the past eight years, Rev. Jim Tongue, is retiring June 30. District leadership has requested the churches of the district make a love offering to purchase a parting gift for Jim and Judy. If you would like to make a contribution, please mark your envelope or check "District Love Offering."

## Preschool News

It is time once again to look forward to the fall of 2011. Registration for our preschool will take place this month. Church members and currently enrolled families always receive a 'priority registration' time before others in the community are enrolled. Please watch for dates in the church bulletin, or call or email the preschool to have registration materials mailed to you. If you have never toured the preschool, please call Sharon Baltimore to set up a time to visit. [pumcpre@gmail.com](mailto:pumcpre@gmail.com) / 598-6090

## Welcome New PUMC Members!

Bill and Sarah Barnes  
Children: Tanner and Parker  
3915 S Fairway Dr. 598-4573

## Thank You!

On behalf of the Ruby Leonard Food Pantry, we would like to thank you for your \$100 donation. This money will go far in helping many who are in need. We have several volunteers from PUMC who are so valuable to us. Your members are caring people, and our county is blessed by each and everyone of them. ~ Glory to God, Coalition of Powhatan Churches

## Powhatan United Methodist Church Ministry Team

**Pastor John Briggs** ~ [PastorJohn@powhatanumc.us](mailto:PastorJohn@powhatanumc.us)  
**Sandra Lowe, Administrator** ~ [church@powhatanumc.us](mailto:church@powhatanumc.us)  
**Allison Stowers, Music & Arts Director** ~ [musicdirector@powhatanumc.us](mailto:musicdirector@powhatanumc.us)  
**Malene Utley, Youth Director and Children's Coordinator** ~ [childrengoordinator@powhatanumc.us](mailto:childrengoordinator@powhatanumc.us)  
**Melanie Peloke** ~ [webservant@powhatanumc.us](mailto:webservant@powhatanumc.us)  
Sharon Baltimore, Preschool Director \* Harvey Paquette, Event/Facilities Overseer

*Deadline for the March  
Messenger =  
Tuesday, February 15*

2253 Rosson Road, Powhatan 23139 (804) 598-4438  
Website: [www.powhatanumc.us](http://www.powhatanumc.us) \* email: [church@powhatanumc.us](mailto:church@powhatanumc.us)

Last is his vision of Unity as we are united in God's love as revealed through Jesus. *"I ask not only on behalf of these [disciples of his earthly ministry], but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, [us, the disciples of his resurrected ministry] that they may all be one."* (20-21)

Jesus' vision for us is to live in joy and unity to the glory of God.

His prayer also provides our mission. We are to live as followers of Jesus sent into the world, and we glorify God through our faith in Jesus. *"As you have sent me, so I have sent them into the world. (18)* Second, we are to live as witnesses to the presence and power of God's love as revealed through Jesus.

Jesus defines a Promised Land of Discipleship that is available to us now as we journey in faith. And, he prayed that we would enter into his Promised Land ... the land of living in Joy and Unity to the glory of God and being missionaries sent into the world.

Understanding our call beyond self leads us to why the church exists, and the reason we gather as Christ's church is captured in two familiar scriptures. In the Great Commission, Jesus tells us to make *"disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."* In Acts 1 we have the "Great Promise" where we learn that Jesus teaches the purpose of power from the Holy Spirit is for Jesus' followers *"to be witnesses in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."*

So with these understandings, we began our process of defining our individual and our church's mission. We formed a Promised Land Task Force to lead us through this process. We began by organizing a group of Bible study groups and more than 80 people participated. For those who did not participate, I preached sermons that reflected the week's teaching.

This was a unique Bible study as it asked the participants questions relevant to that week's study. This information was used to give the team a snapshot of who we are as a congregation, and it gave insights about our values and possible future ministries.

Here are the results to some of the questions.

- ◆ 99.9 % felt that we are a praying church.
- ◆ 86% of the participants recognize there are many new ministries at PUMC.
- ◆ 84% believe our church makes intentional choices about its ministries and mission.
- ◆ When asked about murmuring (an Old Testament word

for grumbling) in the church 57% felt it was not, or was minimally detrimental. 32% believed murmuring was somewhat detrimental but only 11% believed it to be significantly detrimental.

- ◆ 71% saw our church's ministry to be beyond its doors.
- ◆ 85% believe current ministries invite people to see beyond self-focused concerns.

In sum, the results indicate that we have a healthy church. It shows that over the past years, the church has nurtured its leadership and its members in spiritual principles and actions. Many faith lessons have been learned and that enables us to be a light on a hill and relative to our community and world. PUMC is a good place to experience God and witness the presence and power of God's love as revealed through Jesus ... and that's what we are called to do.

We have a community of faith that can be, that is poised, to be a significant witness to the love and grace of God to our community. Our church is a Spirit-filled, grace-filled body of Christ. Jesus calls us to share this blessing beyond our doors. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is very clear when he said, *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* Matt 5:14-16

The mission statement developed and approved by our church council is: "Living as Christ's disciples within our hearts and beyond our doors." It beautifully reflects the vision and mission of Jesus.

Living as Christ's disciples within our hearts means we will live in joy and unity to the glory of God. Living as Christ's disciples beyond our doors means we will go into the world as disciples of Jesus and be witnesses to the presence and power of God's love through Christ.

It is intentionally short and easy to remember because it forms the direction of our church and its future ministries. It is a mission statement we can all remember and use so that it can undergird our every action.

I invite everyone to be a part of our church's future by Living as Christ's disciples within our hearts and beyond our doors. It is what Jesus prayed for us to do and it is why we exist.

Grace upon grace,  
*Pastor John*



## Music for the Seasons

by Allison Stowers  
651-5488 / acstowers@hotmail.com

### "Alleluia!"

The word "Alleluia" or "Halleluiah" is translated as "Praise Yahweh" or "Praise God!" And that is exactly what our choir ~ Voices of Victory ~ is doing each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

We will rehearse for our Easter Cantata, "Alleluia," on Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 7:45 p.m., and everyone is invited!!! You do not need to have experience in choral or church music, nor do you need to know how to read music.

We have SO much fun and welcome anyone who is interested. Please feel free to come by, or contact me if you have any questions.

### Ba-da Bop-ba-Ba I'm Lovin' It!

I love spending time with the kids during the 11:00 service once a month! If your child is aged 4-10, make sure they attend Children's Church at the 11:00 service usually on the fourth Sunday. I work with the children on a song, and they return to the sanctuary at the end of the service and present the song for the congregation. Who doesn't love watching them sing and dance? As always, please feel free to contact me for questions regarding schedule, times or other concerns.

### Five-Week Study on Islam

The Friendship Class is hosting a five-week study on Islam Sunday, February 6, through Sunday, March 6, between services (9:45-10:45) in the Christian Life Center. Brian Griffen will lead it.

The class will cover a brief history of Islam and Muslim beliefs. Students will also explore the similarities and differences of Islam and Christianity.

The purpose of the class is to help the congregation understand Islam so we can promote a spirit of understanding by learning about the third religion included in Abraham's offspring.

### Lenten Devotional

The Friendship Class will begin a Lenten Devotional on March 13. Everyone is welcome to attend the Lenten series as well.

Here's a great daily devotional website:

<http://www.d365.org>

### UM101 Class Begins February 13

This three-week study of our UM tradition will be led by Pastor John and held between our worship services in the sanctuary. Whether you are new to PUMC or to the United Methodist tradition or a lifelong UM, you will find this class a fun way to learn about our history, beliefs and structure as a connectional church.

### Faith Lessons Bible Study

"On the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah" is a 10-week video-based study that was filmed in the Middle East and illuminates the historical, geographical and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. It focuses on the last week of Jesus' life, his death and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit's visit on Pentecost. The class is led by Jeanette Hatcher and resumes with Class 3 on February 10 at 6:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in The Commons.

### We're Having a Baby Shower To Benefit Our New Nursery



When: February 12 at 2:00 pm

Where: The Commons

What to Bring: Our nursery theme is Noah's Ark and the colors are yellow, green and blue. Items should be for children 3 and younger. We have found the needed items at Target so Target gift cards and cash contributions are welcome.

We Need: Hand soap, disinfecting cleaner/wipes, disposable hand towels, tissues, burp pads, toys (no stuffed animals per health regulations), disposable diapers sizes small - large, plug protectors, standard crib sheets, Exer Saucer, New Born Lounger, storage bins or tubs.

Sponsored by the Dorcas Ministry  
For additional information, contact Boni Simmons or Jane Rager

***We're Registered at Target;  
Boni is the 'mother'!***

# From the Finance Committee

PUMC ended the year on a very positive note. The general fund checking account balance on December 31, 2010 was \$26,506. This amount was a great improvement from the balance on December 31, 2009 ~ \$1,813. The church was able to make full payments on all of its obligated contracts and to both the conference and district apportionments. While the 2010 budget did not include a staff salary increase, it maintained budgeted salary commitments and added an additional nursery coordinator in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. This wonderful financial news is to the glory of God enabling us to continue to be a meaningful witness for Christ in our community and world. The Finance Committee continues to be grateful for the value our members place on being good stewards of God's abundant blessings and for their financial commitments.

The following is a breakdown of the income received and expenditures paid in 2010:

**Income:**

Tithes & Known Givers	\$256,732
"Loose Plate Offerings"	27,157
Sunday School Offering	1,214
Building Use Revenue	5,610
Misc Offering	167
Parsonage Rental Fee	10,800
Pre-School Contribution	7,000
Other Income	<u>2,045</u>
Total General Fund Income	\$310,725

Budgeted Income Anticipated for 2010 \$292,000

**Expenses:**

Nurture	
Children's Ministry*	\$ 1,883
Choir & Music	1,999
Copyright Fee	367
Education *	1,354
Stephen Ministry	248
Stewardship	85
Worship*	1,943
Youth – Jr & Sr	2,400
Outreach*	1,800
Witness	170
Administration*	7,321
Church Property*	82,772
Staff Support	140,108
Conference Apportionments	39,793
District Apportionments	<u>6,823</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	\$289,066

Budget Expenses Anticipated for 2010 \$303,379

**Designated Funds \*\***

Income Received	\$ 47,594
Expenses Paid	\$ 35,356

- \***Children's Ministry** – Kids w/ Purpose, Vacation Bible School, Children's Church & Events
- \***Education** – Choir & Music, Sunday School, Bible Study
- \***Worship** – Supplies for communion, Advent and Easter services, etc.
- \***Outreach** – Local Missions (Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Coalition of Churches, Stop Hunger Now, Supper Table)
- \***Administration** – Copier expenses, communication, annual conference delegates, postage, office supplies
- \***Church Property** – Floor cleaning, insurance, janitorial supplies, lawn care, mortgage payments, parsonage expenses, pest control, and utilities

\*\* Income received from any donation that was specifically earmarked for specific program, project or designated need. All expenses in this category are paid from designated income. Some examples are Capital Improvement Fund, Children's Ministries, Day in the Country, Dorcas, Memorial Fund, O. W. Ball Scholarship Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Vacation Bible School and Youth Missions.

If you have any questions or would like to have further details of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [bettybowman@verizon.net](mailto:bettybowman@verizon.net) or 272-0648.

Betty Bowman  
Finance Committee Chair

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Mark your calendars! We have the dates for our quarterly workday breakfasts for 2011. We will be meeting from 9:00 a.m. until noon on the following Saturdays:

**February 19 ~ May 21 ~ August 20 ~ November 19**

Come with your current Prayer Shawl ministry project or ideas, and we will get to work on them. If you would just like to come and socialize or brush up on your skills, you can do that, too. Or learn to knit, crochet or quilt ~ we can teach you!

Bring a pot luck breakfast dish to share. If you hate to cook and would like to bring paper plates, napkins or beverages, just let us know.



Monday Night Circle ladies baked cookies and other sweets for the Hermitage residents to purchase. The proceeds were then donated to the Hermitage to purchase personal items for residents who cannot afford to buy such items on their own. MNC also baked cakes which they served during coffee hour. Those attending were (l to r) Sylvia Tibbs, Betsy Combs, Mary Bradstock, Sandy Lineweaver, Frances Wiatt, Marsha Damewood and Marie DeHart.

## Meetings

The **Circle of Friends** will meet February 7, 10:30 a.m. with a social time to begin at 10:00. We welcome all the ladies at PUMC and friends. We will be making bags for school kits and getting World Service Kits ready for Conference along with other projects. For more information, call Linda Babb ~ 794-7140 ~ or Phyllis Sciarrone ~ 403-3443.



**JOY** – Look what you are missing the second Wednesday of every month! A JOYful get together for the over-55 folks in our Church. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of good food and great fellowship. February 9 Dick Baltimore will enlighten us with our church's history. Bring a favorite dish to share. We start at 11:30 a.m. in The Commons. Need a ride? call Sally Marchand ~ 598-8178



**Monday Night Circle** will meet February 28, 7:00 p.m., at Mary Bradstock's. Sally Marchand is the dessert hostess. For more information, call Sally ~ 598-8178.

## The Gift of Communications!

Looking for a way to serve the church, but don't have much time? The Communications Committee would appreciate volunteers to help get the news and message of the church out to the membership and community. No special computer or marketing skills required.

We also need a creative individual to continue the monthly newsletter. Currently done in Publisher, it takes approximately four hours per month, and our current editor will get you started and be your backup!

If you are interested in joining the Communications Committee and / or assisting with the newsletter, or want to know more, email [epeloke@yahoo.com](mailto:epeloke@yahoo.com) or call Melanie Peloke at 598-5104.



## Welcome Dana Netherland, PUMC's New Nursery Coordinator

After three and a half years of dedication, Tina James has handed the role and responsibility of Nursery

Coordinator to Mrs. Dana Netherland. Dana has two children and has worked for years in the Powhatan School System.

Just like Tina, she needs volunteers! Two responsible individuals must be in the Nursery at all times when children are present. Volunteer once a month or once every two months ~ six times a year! You can do this! Please volunteer an hour (or more) so our infants to four-year-olds will have a comfortable place to stay during both Sunday services and during Sunday School. A successful nursery equates to a growing PUMC! Stop by the nursery and introduce yourself to Dana.

We are still looking for a second Nursery Coordinator who would share in this ministry. Please call Frank Armistead ~ 598-1071 ~ or email him at [farmistead1@verizon.net](mailto:farmistead1@verizon.net) if interested.

***Volunteer for Nursery Duty ~***

***It's Important!***

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." ~ John Wesley