



THE MESSENGER

LIVING AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLES WITHIN OUR HEARTS AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

March 2011

Our Mission

Living as Christ's Disciples Within Our Hearts and Beyond Our Doors

Jesus vision for his disciples is for us to live in joy and unity to the glory of God. His mission is for us to be sent into the world to proclaim God's presence and love for all of creation. Our new mission statement embodies both of Jesus' desire for his people.

The biblical principle of Beyond and Within captures the duality of Jesus desire for us. We are called to grow spiritually within so that we might be prepared to go beyond our doors as witnesses to Christ's presence in the world.

The founder of our tradition, John Wesley, also modeled these understandings of Jesus in his practice of what he called the "Means of Grace". In short, it is the practice of personal and social holiness or more specifically works of piety and works of mercy.

Works of piety are for deepening our relationship with God. They include: Prayer, Searching the Scriptures, Holy Communion, Fasting, Christian Community, and Healthy Living.

Works of mercy are for reaching out into the world. Acts like: Doing Good, Visiting the sick and prisoners, feeding

and clothing people, earning, giving, and saving all one can.

Through active participation in personal holiness and social holiness through the means of grace, we become active participants in the future that God has already created through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Our new mission statement incorporates a symbol of the trinity as a reminder that we are a part of God's ongoing story of redeeming the world, through the love of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

God blessings to you and yours in this Lenten season as you seek to grow in Christ and join in our ministry to our community and world.



Pastor John

Lenten Studies Begin March 15

Beginning 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, Pastor John will offer a six-week Lenten study. It will last about an hour.

This year's book is *Bread in the Wilderness, Spiritual Famine or Gospel Feast* by Rev. Kenneth Carter, a UM pastor in the North Carolina Conference. The book's cost is \$8; copies are available in the church office.

Join with your friends this year and journey together through the Lenten season. Please RSVP to Sandra Lowe ~ 598-4438.

Ash Wednesday Observed March 9

In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent, 40 days prior to Easter. (Sundays are not counted.) Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. Today, it is a time when Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19: "Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went." Dan 9:3: "So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes." Additional references are also found in Esther 4:1, Job 2:8 and Matthew 11:21. We will have our Ash Wednesday service on March 9 at 7:00. A pancake supper sponsored by our youth will begin at 6:00. This is a fundraiser for their summer mission trip.

Youth and Children's Ministries

by Malene Utley ~ 347-7913

Children's Church needs your help!

If you have a child or children attending Children's Church (every Sunday during the 11 o'clock worship service), please consider sharing your love and taking a turn as a Children's Church leader. If enough of us volunteer, you would only be leading the service about once every other month.

As you can see on Sunday mornings, our group is growing (Thank You, God!), and we need more helpers. Please call (347-7913) or email me: msumema@aol.com.

Kids With Purpose

March 4 ~ Deadline to register for Westview on the James Confirmation weekend on May 15-17-please see me for an application

March 13 ~ Lunch and bowling right after the 11 o'clock service. Please bring money for bowling and lunch. I will need drivers and chaperones

March 19 ~ This is a Saturday. We will be participating in the church clean-up that morning from 9:00 until noon; pizza and a short Bible study to follow. This is our mission project for the month of March.

Youth Junior and Senior High

March 9 ~ Pancake supper-fundraiser for Summer mission trip. Please be at the church by 4:30 to set up and make pancakes. *This is an all hands project!*

March 13 ~ Lunch and bowling immediately after the 11 o'clock service. Please bring money for lunch and bowling. We need chaperones and drivers!

March 19 ~ Saturday 9:00-Noon ~ Clean-up day at the church. Please bring your gloves. We will have Bible study and pizza right after the clean-up.

Preschool News

2011 Registration Is Underway!

Registration for the fall of 2011 is well under way! The preschool at Powhatan UMC will begin its 23rd year in September. How quickly time goes by when you're having fun, and we always have fun at preschool!

Registration is now open to everyone, and we hope you will help us share this news with your neighbors and friends. Children as young as 2 1/2 may enroll in a two-day-a-week class. Children who turn three by September 30 may choose a two- or three-day-a-week class.

There are several options for children turning four by September 30. Parents may choose from two classes that meet three days a week, or they may prefer a four-day-a-week class. Our five-day-a-week class is designed for older four-year-olds and young fives.

Powhatan County offers Kindergarten to children who turn five by September 30, but no child has to enroll until the fall following their sixth birthday. This gives parents who may have a very young five (perhaps turning five in June, July, August or September) the option of waiting a year to enroll their child in an all-day kindergarten program. We sincerely hope that one of our classes will meet the needs of every preschool age child.



Get to Know Us

We would love for our church family to get to know our preschool children. For the next several weeks, we will be celebrating 'Kool Kids Books.' If you have a favorite children's book that you would like to share with one of our classes, we would love to have you come and read. Please call Sharon Baltimore to set up a time (598-6090), and she will be happy to find the perfect class for you to visit.

Powhatan United Methodist Church Ministry Team

Pastor John Briggs ~ PastorJohn@powhatanumc.us

Sandra Lowe, Administrator ~ church@powhatanumc.us

Allison Stowers, Music & Arts Director ~ musicdirector@powhatanumc.us

Malene Utley, Youth Director and Children's Coordinator ~ childrencoordinator@powhatanumc.us

Melanie Peloke ~ webservant@powhatanumc.us

Sharon Baltimore, Preschool Director * Harvey Paquette, Event/Facilities Overseer

*Deadline for the April
Messenger =
Tuesday, March 22*

2253 Rosson Road, Powhatan 23139 (804) 598-4438
Website: www.powhatanumc.us * email: church@powhatanumc.us

Seeking the Will of God

Carlo Carretto writes in his *Letters from the Desert*: “Whether you are on the sand worshipping, or at the teacher’s desk in a classroom, what does it matter as long as you are doing the will of God?”

And if the will of God urges you to seek out the poor, to give up all you possess, or to leave for distant lands, what does the rest matter? Or if it calls you to found a family, or take on a job in a city, why should you have any doubts?

“His will is our peace,” says Dante. And perhaps that is the expression which best brings into focus our deep dependence on God.

We are always talking about seeking the will of God! And most of the time when we are helping others, we feel as if we are doing the will of God. Our whole being is there to please God and to do his will. And no matter where we are, if we are in his will for our lives, we will experience his perfect peace.

We are always seeking new ways to get closer to our God. We want to know what his will is for our lives. One of the detractors is all that is going on around us. It is the daily news, the meetings that we need to attend, our family’s call upon us to help, shop and take loved ones to medical appointments. It is hard to find that quiet time to be with God.

Listen to the words of William Law from in *A Serious Call to Devout and Holy Life*. He says “The first thing that you are to do when you are upon your knees is to shut your eyes. Then with a short silence let your soul place itself in

the presence of God. That is, you are to use this or some other better method to separate yourself from all common thoughts, and make your heart as sensible as you can of the divine presence.”

We can come into the presence of God through discipline and constant prayer. And then we will know the will of God for our lives. May God bless you this day! ~ Rev.

John Crawford

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. -Matthew 5:16

PUMC Continuing to Make a Difference in Powhatan

The Coalition of Churches sent out a request for volunteers to help stock and assist clients at the Ruby Leonard Food Pantry located beside Bethesda Church on Academy Road.

Clyde Case, Jim Williams, and Cassandra Dodson answered that call from Powhatan United Methodist Church. Once a week they stock donations, greet those from Powhatan in need, and assist them with their groceries to their cars. They agree that it is such

a worthy service and that Powhatan is so blessed to be able to provide pantry items to those who are hit by hard times and truly need it. Donations are always welcome Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

On the first and third Saturdays of the month, the Chaffins family travels to Kentucky Fried Chicken where they pick up food for the Food Bank. This frozen food provides food for more families that are served by this outreach ministry.



Clyde, Cassandra and Jim at the Ruby Leonard Food Pantry

The Food Bank is in need of:

- ◆ Boxed cereal
- ◆ Sugar
- ◆ Flour.

If each household from the PUMC family brought one of these items on the **first Sunday** of the month, think how it could help. Please bring the items and let’s make a difference! Monetary donations are also very much needed and appreciated.



Music for the Seasons

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!

Call your family and invite your friends! Our Easter Cantata will blow you away!

Our choir ~ Voices of Victory ~ will present "Alleluia" on Palm Sunday, April 17 for both worship services, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

There is something for everyone – passionate classics, upbeat choruses, testimonies and triumphant celebrations! All of the music will be live – organ, piano, keyboard, harp, guitar, drums, and let's not forget to mention our incredible singers! Make your plans now to attend, call everyone you know to come along!

PUMC Methodist Men Calendar

The following is a brief summary of the many ministries the men at PUMC have planned for the first half of 2011.

Methodist Men's Meetings – **March 27, April 24, May 22 and June 26. New time 7:15!!**

March 19 – Work/Clean-Up Day at PUMC ~ 9:00-Noon

March 27 – Regular meeting at 7:15 a.m.

April 24 – Easter Breakfast – We will again provide breakfast to the congregation after the Sunrise Service. Prep starts at 6:00 a.m.

May 22 – Regular meeting at 7:15 a.m.

June 26 - Methodist Men's Summer Picnic at the Paquettes after the 11:00 service. Bring a dish, play horseshoes and bocci, and enjoy the summer fellowship. Our breakfast meeting will not be held that day.

OUTREACH – 'Beyond our doors'

Saturday mornings throughout March from 9-Noon:
Bedroom Addition for a local citizen

March 19 – Fish Fry that will include the Methodist Women's Bake Sale. 5:00 p.m.

April 30/May 1 – Coalition of Churches Antique Power Show – We will again cook hamburgers and hot dogs.

June 3 – Relay For Life Fish Fry at Powhatan Junior High School. 4:00 p.m.

UMM's Mowing Ministry

Allen Minter is designing his 'grass cutting' teams for the upcoming spring and summer. If you wish to help, please contact Allen at: 357-0853.

PUMC On the Move

Circle of Friends Meets March 7

The Circle of Friends meet the first Monday of each month. Its next meeting will be March 7. All ladies in the church are welcome to come at 10:00 a.m. for a social gathering before the meeting at 10:30. Co-leaders are Linda Babb (794-7140) and Phyllis Sciarrone (403-3443).



JOY Luncheon Set for March 9

Gail Timberlake will discuss her book *The Rescue of the Lady's Slipper* and share her history with the James River Batteau Festival at the next JOY (Just Older Youth) meeting March 9. Bring a dish to share starting at 11:30 in The Commons. Contact Linda Babb (794-7140) or Peggy Case (598-9169) for more information.



Primetimers On the Go March 13

Join the Primetimers Sunday, March 13 following the 11:00 service for a carpool to Joe's Inn for its fantastic Brunch only \$5.99 for Seniors. If you are interested, call Pat Williams (598-6813) or Phyllis Hartman (598-3193).



Monday Night Circle Gathers March 28

Monday Night Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m., March 28, at the home of Margaret Ball with Margaret and Betty Bowman as hostesses. Betsy Combs is the dessert hostess. For more information, Contact Sally Marchand ~ 598-8178.



UMCOR World Service Kits

School, Health, Baby Layette, Birthing and Flood Bucket Kits are assembled each year to send to Conference in June. Last year, PUMC sent 204! This is whole-church project in which everyone participates. A list of items will be in the bulletin. Please help by purchasing one or more items. (Sewing and Bedding pack kits can be made; if you are interested, contact Phyllis Sciarrone [403-3443].)

Clarification: In the February *Messenger*, the caption appearing on page 6 for the Hermitage Bake Sale should have read: PUMC groups and friends baked cookies and other sweets for the Hermitage residents to purchase. The proceeds were then donated back to the Hermitage for the purchase of personal items for residents who cannot afford to buy such on their own. PUMC cakes were also served during coffee hour. *Our church in action!*

From the Finance Committee

As reported in the January newsletter, the church ended the year with \$26,506 in its general fund checking account. At our January 10 meeting the Committee voted unanimously to transfer \$15,000 from this balance to establish two savings accounts; 1st) \$12,000 for an Operating Reserve account for obligated expenditures should income not be sufficient to pay these type of expenses (example: payroll and utilities), and 2nd) \$3,000 for a Capital Reserve account for handling expenses for non-budgeted items such as repairs or replacement on the HVAC system or non-budgeted building repairs. The committee felt this action would place the church's financial obligations in a more secure position. Throughout the year, the finance committee will continue to monitor our offerings in conjunction with our budget needs.

As of January 31, 2011 the church's financial records report the following:

Tithes & Offering Received to Date	\$32,095
Pre-School Contribution	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total General Fund Tithes/Offering/Contribution	\$35,095
2011 Estimated Tithes & Offering (budgeted)	\$308,266
General Fund Expenses Paid to Date	\$26,452
2011 General Fund Budget	\$313,225

Betty Bowman
Chair, Finance Committee

Dorcas Ministry Sows

The Dorcas Ministry has been busy working on the next set of banners. The "Ask, Seek and Knock" banners with scripture from the Book of Mathew will be used during Ordinary Times in our church calendar year.

Thanks to Marie Forden for sewing the banners and to Bonnie Schulkers, Kim Bradham, Debby Dunn and Carter Cosgrove for pitching in to cut the lettering.

We sincerely hope the banners will inspire you as you worship in the sanctuary. If you'd like to join us, contact Boni Simmons ~ 598-1231. You do not need to know how to sew to participate. We meet on an as-needed basis.



Marie Forden, Debby Dunn and Carter Cosgrove (left to right) work on one of the "Ask, Seek, Knock" banners.

**Church Clean-Up Day Is
Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m.**

Allen Minter is the mastermind behind this effort. Come lend a hand ~ it's "a-good-time-was-had-by-all" kind of morning! Remember: Many hands make light work! Rain date is March 26.

Thank You PUMC

Dear Fellow PUMC members, Thank you for all your prayers and cards during my father's illness and passing. It took only two phone calls to secure the use of the facility for his celebration of life, and that meant the world to me and my family. For those of you who sent food that day, an added thank you. ~ Polly Mullins

**New Members joining February 13 at
the 11:00 service:**

NYMAN, Robert & Connie
2261 Walnut Tree Blvd
492-3268

**Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday March 13
*Spring Forward!***