



Sycamore
United Methodist Church
Growing Disciples Who Make A Difference

Sycamore News



The Newsletter of Sycamore United Methodist Church | January 2012

Sycamore United Methodist Church

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Prince George, VA 23875
sycamoreumc.com

Office Phone: 804. 541.1181

Rev. Bert Cloud, Pastor
Mobile: 804.347.9567 | pastorb@umc.com
notesalongtheway.com

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:45 AM---Traditional
Sunday 11:15 AM--- Contemporary

Sunday School:

10:15 am

Growing As Disciples...



Next Steps... Sycamore has entered into a season of discernment and planning with several new leaders on board. In addition to budget planning, we are also working on plans to develop discipleship in five key areas:

- Disciples in worship - worship attendance;
- Disciples making new disciples - number of professions of faith;
- Disciples growing in their faith - number of small groups;
- Disciples engaging in mission - number of disciples doing outreach in the community □ and the world; and

- Disciples sharing their resources for mission - amount of money given to mission.

Church Planning Sessions have been planned for 1/25 and 2/1 starting at 6 pm each night.

These are open to everyone, but we need you to let us know you are planning to come, so we can have enough materials and dinner available. Please sign up by "**Planning Session**" and the number coming on your Green Sheet or use the sign up in the hallway. You can also learn more at VitalCongregations.com

Some recent highlights from our January Church Council meeting

Sarah Williams discussed the Mission Committee's Angel Tree project and additional funds that will be shared with the UMM's mission outreach and Waverly.

New Worship Committee chair Dianne Dyer briefly discussed the interim pianist and that the committee is involved in ongoing conversations regarding strengthening Sycamore's worship.

Lisa Williams reported that the Evangelism Committee's first meeting in 2012 will be January 24th. She briefly mentioned a pancake supper for Ash Wednesday.

Nancy Fine reported on the UMW feeding the senior citizens and there was discussion about budgeting through missions and/or UMW. Nancy Fine announced that Marty Moran would co-lead our work with Mission Ministries in Waverly and described the work done in this local mission effort.

David Crawford reported on the UMM pork butt sales and that there are additional funds which could be used to support the \$500 Mission Ministries support due in May. He discussed the possibility of supporting a Scout Troop at Sycamore.

Reporting for the Bykota group, Laura Denny discussed MOPS, Mothers of Preschoolers, and the training efforts that will begin in March. She talked about partnering with the UMW to assist with slaw and baked goods for the upcoming pork butt sales.

The council also discussed the first service music director position and reported on the applications received. We also discussed second service efforts and that discussions and prayer are ongoing. SPRC are also waiting for the 2012 budget to help plan and structure the second service.

Financially, there was discussion for continuing to pay bills while the 2012 budget is not yet in place. The council directed the treasurer to pay routine expenses until March 1st when the budget should be in place. Ministry areas were directed to keep \$200 cap per month until the budget is complete, and a reminder that all expense requests should be signed by the committee chair before the treasurer will reimburse. A time limit of 30 days to submit for reimbursements was also discussed

Pastor Bert reviewed the "Vital Congregations" initiative of the United Methodist Church and the request that we develop goals to strengthen discipleship of Jesus Christ. The council agreed to participate in planning and goal setting in five target areas and to include budget considerations as part of the planning. Initial planning sessions, open to all in the church, are scheduled to start on Wednesday, January 25 at 6:00. We asked that participants pre-register so food and materials can be planned.

Trustees

Brothers, sisters, and visitors of Sycamore UMC , it is an honor and privilege to accept the position of chairman of the board of trustees. I hope that over the next year we can work together to make our place of worship a more safe, inviting, and beautiful place that will have people lined up at the door wanting to see and experience the good work that is coming from our building and grounds. It is my hope that if there are issues that need to be addressed dealing with building maintenance or needs, that these issues will be written down and passed on to our board so that we can discuss and plan how to move forward with repairs and solutions. In the near future I will be meeting separately with Fred Simmons and Pastor

Bert to brainstorm and ask a few questions and receive some guidance on past practices and also past partnerships. I would like to take this opportunity and also would hope that all of you would do the same in joining me with a BIG THANK YOU to Mr. Fred Simmons for the work that he has done for our church. Furthermore, with that said , moving forward please contact myself or your vice -chairman Lee Williams for any issues and we will do the best to resolve and address them in a timely manner, Thank you and God bless.

Nick Williams

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Mobile # : 804-691-3691

Home # : 804-458-7794

Worship News



Sycamore is **pleased to welcome** Judy Lindquist as our first service music director. Judy and her husband, Dr. Vernon Lindquist, live at Tinsley Charter in Prince George. They come to Virginia from New England where she earned her bachelor's degree and where she played piano for choirs in Methodist and Catholic churches in Maine and Vermont. She teaches piano lessons at her home and is also the pianist for Gary's Methodist Church. She is mother of four and grandmother of five, with two daughters and families living in Virginia. Through the grace of God, recent surgery has helped her move from decades of dependency on wheelchairs to full mobility. She is delighted to be serving the faithful at Sycamore. Please be sure to welcome Judy when you see her.



We are pleased to announce that Mr. Alex Martinez and Mr. Jesse Vaughn will be serving as our Interim Worship Leaders for the second service. In addition to being musicians for the service, they will be taking on more leadership including worship planning and development.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has met and we will begin working towards preparing a budget for the current year. The first order of business, however, is to gather figures and information for submission to the District. The information we submit this year will determine our apportionments for next year. The Committee feels that if we can get through this year, our apportionments for the following years should be less. After re-creating the financial information due to a computer crash, the Committee feels that the church is in better shape than originally thought. This does not mean that each group will have a blank check, but we are certainly not on the verge of having our "lights turned off". The Committee feels that with faithful stewardship, increased membership, and fiscal awareness, Sycamore will emerge from this "bump" a stronger and healthier congregation.

Carol Crawford
Finance Chair

Making A Difference...



Here comes the bus! Here comes the bus!

HealthFair will be bringing their mobile heart-screening bus to Sycamore's parking lot on **Tuesday, February 7th, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.** An appointment is required as there are a limited number of time slots available. See flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Bykota – Women in Mission

Our first meeting for 2012 was held on January 18 and we are very excited to have several new members! Our MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) group will begin in March. Look for more information in the next few weeks.

RELAX – Let us take care of your Super Bowl grub. We are offering our very own Super Bowl "Brown Bag" to go with the "Super Butts" you've ordered from UMM. Our "Brown Bag" consists of 1 pint of homemade coleslaw, 4 delicious brownies, &

four dinner rolls. There will be an order sheet on the bulletin board in the hall or see any of the BYKOTA ladies.

If you are interested in finding out more about our group, please see Sherry Taylor or Laura Denny.

Remember to bring those coupons in: current or newly-expired. The collection box is in the narthex.

United Methodist Men (UMM)



The UMM are going to cook pork butts on **Saturday, February 4th**. This is the day before the Super Bowl. We are calling it *Super Butts Cook!* Nice way to watch the game and not have to cook...put this on your calendar now & place your order with any UMM member. Still only \$20. each.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

During the month of December the UMW did not have a regular meeting because they had the Christmas dinner on December 15th at Mim's in Hopewell. Everyone that attended had a great time!

The UMW collected and sent over 350 box tops labels to Henry Fork along with \$188.25 collected from the Brunswick stew bake sale. \$1,104.93 was given to the church expansion fund from the Brunswick stew sale. Thanks to all who came and helped & to those who bought stew & baked goods.

Over 200 people were fed at New Jerusalem Church for the Super Kids Christmas Dinner by UMW members.

During the month of January, the UMW will be feeding the Prince George Ruritans, Burrowsville Ruritans, Seniors, and the Emergency Response Training Team.

The UMW meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. All women are invited.

Around the James River District & Virginia Conference

Applications for 'Calling 21' internships due Feb. 1

"Calling 21" is a conference-wide, grass roots, congregation-based, youth-focused approach to the Virginia Conference's culture of call. During the summer, college students are placed in church internships and spend the summer immersed in the life of a local church, not their own, discerning God's call into church leadership. Calling 21 interns will both learn and lead. Calling 21 is looking for college students to apply. **Application deadline is Feb. 1.** Applicants shall be college students and interested in exploring their call to church leadership. For more info, visit vaumc.org.

United Methodist Day at the General Assembly 2012 - Change the world!

Or at least Virginia's corner of it. Celebrate 20 years of faith and justice with us by attending United Methodist Day at the General Assembly 2012 on **February 2nd**. The day begins at 7:30 am at Bon Air UMC with a United Methodist Men's full course, hot, delicious breakfast. Then travel with us to the General Assembly to meet with legislators and attend committee meetings. We have also invited Governor McDonnell to meet with us and are awaiting confirmation from his office. In the afternoon, we return to Bon Air for a tasty lunch, singing, and special guest speakers, our own Bishop Kammerer and Rev. Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. In addition to sharing their thoughts on how our faith informs our advocacy, they will also help us lead a discussion about bringing UM Day back to our home churches in terms of education, awareness, and action. Register soon by visiting the Conference web site <http://www.vaumc.org> ; click on EVENTS. *Early bird pricing (\$20/person) ends on January 20th* and we are limited to 300 participants. Forms are also available online if you prefer to mail your registration. We look forward to seeing an even greater than usual turnout this year. We hope that turnout includes you and your fellow church members!

Lay Servants Academy to be Feb. 24-26 at Blackstone

All laity are invited to the Lay Servants Academy to

be held at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center **Feb. 24-26**. The Academy will include the 35th Annual Conference Lay Speakers Training; however, you do not need to be on track to become a Local Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Speaker to attend. Every chairperson, committee member, teacher or congregational leader is encouraged to take the introductory Lay Speaking course and overview of United Methodism. The information and skills you will be introduced to will serve you well within your local congregations. A variety of 10-hour courses will be offered for Advanced Lay Speaking. New in 2012 will be the offering of introductory 2-hour classes. Visit vaumc.org for more information and brochure.

Older Adult retreat set for April 20-21

"ReFirement: A Creative Spark," a retreat sponsored by the conference Older Adult Council, will be held **April 20-21** at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center. The retreat will focus on fostering the spark of creativity to enrich the lives of older adults and enhance the ministries of the church. A variety of workshop sessions including watercolor and acrylic painting, music, liturgical movement and knitting/crocheting as well as fellowship opportunities will be available. Visit vaumc.org for more information.

HONOR FLIGHT INVITES WWII VETERANS ON TRIP TO DC MEMORIALS IN APRIL

(For more information on this, please contact Tammy Rotzoll at (757) 810-9946 . This can be for anyone in the congregation or someone they know. It can also be members of the congregation who would like to go as guardians.)

The Honor Flight Historic Triangle Virginia (HFHTVA) is inviting WWII veterans to experience the next Honor Flight trip, a day of tribute to them, scheduled for **Saturday, April 28, 2012**. This is a marvelous opportunity to say thank you to the "Greatest Generation" and to make sure that they visit the magnificent National World War II Memorial that has been built in their honor.

The local Honor Flight Chapter will be on its seventh trip. The goal of the Chapter is to assure every World War II veteran from the Hampton Roads, Richmond or northeastern North Carolina area that is able and that has not visited the National World War II Memorial gets the

opportunity to see it in person. Additionally, veterans visit the Arlington National Cemetery, other military monuments as time permits and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. **There is no charge for the veterans.** The veterans are accompanied by a paramedic staff and each is assigned to a trained volunteer guardian, who will assist the veteran for the entire day.

Veterans interested in participating in the all expenses paid trip must submit an application as soon as possible but at least prior to April 1. Individuals that are interested in serving as a guardian may also submit an application and are expected to make a donation to HFHTVA of at least \$75.00 to cover their cost. Veterans or guardians can access the application forms at www.honorflightHTVA.org or by calling toll-free at 1-877-424-VETS.

Residents from our area that have a relative that is a WWII veteran that has not seen the WWII Memorial and does not live in the Washington, D.C. or surrounding area can consider inviting them to come here for a visit and to participate in our trip.

HFHTVA is part of the national Honor Flight Network. By the end of 2009, Honor Flight has taken almost 100,000 veterans to their memorial. There are almost 100 chapters of Honor Flight across the country.

Tax deductible donations to support this local program are needed, which can be done at our website, www.honorflightHTVA.org. There is a great sense of urgency in pursuing this program because we are losing our WWII veterans at the rate of 1200 a day.



Acolytes Serving in January

January 22nd – Logan Powers
January 29th – Alyssa Williams

January Birthdays

1st Nancy Fine
2nd Tommy Land & Paige Williams
5th Gordon Kinch
7th Holly Stables
9th Jackie White
16th Gayle Ragland
18th Casey Bishop
22rd Bobby Gregory & Bettie Rhodes

27th Jordan & Ryan Amick
30th Lauren Peade

January Anniversaries

30th Pete & Betty Lucy

Make Use of Our Prayer List

You can subscribe or change by using our convenient green sheets on Sunday or calling Nancy at the church office (541-1181).

Email Prayer requests need to be sent to: prayer@sycamoreumc.com.

You can also find a link to submit prayer requests by clicking the "Prayer request link" on our webpage. sycamoreumc.com.

Prevent Conflicts! Get it On The Calendar

If you would like to schedule a meeting or other event at the church, please make sure to check the church calendar (bulletin board and online), and call the church secretary, Nancy, to ensure it is put on the calendars.

Upcoming Events

1/9 – 7:00 pm SPRC meeting
1/10 – 7:00 pm Church Council mtg. (rm. 22)
1/11 – 6:00 pm Trustees mtg.
7:00 pm Finance Committee mtg.
1/16 – Registr. deadline for ERT training
1/18 – Noon Seniors' lunch
1/21 – 9 am-5 pm ERT training
1/22 – 2:30-5:30 pm JR district Leadersh.
Training @ VUMAC
1/23 – 6:30 pm Finance Committee
1/24 – 6:30 pm Evangelism
1/25 – 6:00 pm Church planning session

Remember to e-mail items for the next newsletter to Nancy Chesser at secretary@sycamoreumc.com by January 31st.

2012 Leaders and Structure

CHURCH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON*	KAREN PERRY
LAY LEADER	DAVID CRAWFORD
VICE-CHAIR/RECORDING SECRETARY*	MARTHA HORNE
CHURCH TREASURER	TARA JONES
LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE	BOB DYER
PRESIDENT OF UMM	ELECTED BY UMM
PRESIDENT OF UMW	ELECTED BY UMW
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE*	ANGELICA MARTINEZ
MINISTRY AREAS -----	
ADULT FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR*	HOMER GARR
YOUTH/TWEEN FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR*	TBA
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR*	LAURA DENNY
EVANGELISM COORDINATOR*	LISA WILLIAMS
MISSION COORDINATOR*	SARAH & NICK WILLIAMS
WORSHIP COORDINATOR*	DIANNE DYER
STEWARDSHIP AREAS -----	
STAFF PARISH RELATIONS CHAIRPERSON*	TBA
FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON*	CAROL CRAWFORD
TRUSTEES CHAIRPERSON*	NICK WILLIAMS
PASTOR	BERT CLOUD

*IN JANUARY 2012 SYCAMORE WILL IMPLEMENT 3 YEAR CLASS STRUCTURE FOR DESIGNATED LEADERS AS ESTABLISHED BY LOT PER DECISION OF 2007 CHARGE CONFERENCE. TRUSTEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DIVIDED INTO CLASSES.

STAFF, NON-APPOINTED

CHURCH SECRETARY & BOOKKEEPER: NANCY CHESSEY
 MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR FIRST SERVICE: TBA
 MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR SECOND SERVICE: TBA

CLERGY LEADERSHIP

BISHOP: Charlene Kammerer
 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: JOHN VEST
 PASTOR: BERT CLOUD

MINISTRY AREAS

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY AREA

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:
 COORDINATOR: HOMER GARR
 TEAM: ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS, DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY TEACHERS, SMALL GROUP LEADERS, OTHER SERVANTS CALLED BY GOD

YOUTH/TWEEN FAITH FORMATION:

COORDINATOR: TBA
 TEAM: YOUTH AND PARENTS, YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, OTHER SERVANTS CALLED BY GOD

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION:

COORDINATOR: LAURA DENNY
 TEAM: CHILDREN AND PARENTS, CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, VBS COORDINATOR, OTHER SERVANTS CALLED BY GOD

MISSION MINISTRY AREA

COORDINATOR		SARAH AND NICK WILLIAMS (CO)	
LOCAL ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS		TBA	
HARTLEY GROSS	FRANK WILLIAMS	MARY JANE MURPHY	
RICH MURPHY	SHERRY TAYLOR	FRANK SNELLINGS	
KITTIE BALLY	NANCY FINE	MARTY MORAN	
SHIRLEY MCFETTERS	AL STORY	BYKOTA LEADER	
PRESIDENT OF UMW OR DESIGNEES	PRESIDENT OF UMM DESIGNEES	OF OR	OTHER SERVANTS CALLED BY GOD

EVANGELISM & CHURCH ACTIVITIES MINISTRY AREA

COORDINATOR		LISA WILLIAMS	
PAM LAND	KAREN PERRY	MARTY MORAN	
KERRY KANAK	TARA JONES	LAURA DENNY	
LISA RUSNAK	OTHER SERVANTS CALLED BY GOD		

WORSHIP MINISTRY AREA

COORDINATOR	DIANNE DYER
MUSIC DIRECTOR, 1ST SERVICE	JUDY LINDQUIST
WORSHIP LEADER, 2ND SERVICE	TBA
COORDINATOR, NEW LEAF	LORETTA MONEYMAKER
VISUAL ARTS AND FLOWERS	SHERI TAYLOR
COMMUNION STEWARDS	BOB AND PAT CLARK
ACOLYTE COORDINATOR	CHARLOTTE SEIBERT
GREETERS/USHERS	TOMMY CREGGAR, JESSE ELDER, DAVID STUART, CASEY BISHOP
MEDIA MINISTRY	TBA
OTHER	OTHER SERVANTS CALLED BY GOD

STEWARDSHIP AREAS

THE STAFF - PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (258.2)

CHAIR:		TBA	
EX OFFICIO		LAY LEADER, LAY DELEGATE	
CLASS OF 2012	CLASS OF 2013	CLASS OF 2014	
SUSAN BISHOP	FRANK WILLIAMS	HOMER GARR	
PAT CLARK	BROOKE HEIMBUCH	LAURA DENNY	
JOAN JONES			

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (¶258.4)

THE TREASURER WILL BE ASSISTED BY NANCY CHESSEY, WHO WILL SERVE AS OUR BOOKKEEPER. SHE WILL HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVE AND DATA ENTRY TASKS AND THIS WORK WOULD BE OVERSEEN BY THE TREASURER.

CHAIR	CAROL CRAWFORD
CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR	KAREN PERRY
LAY LEADER	DAVID CRAWFORD
LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE	BOB DYER (EX OFFICIO)
SPRC CHAIR OR DESIGNEE	PAT CLARK
STEWARDSHIP CHAIR	TBA
TRUSTEE CHAIR OR DESIGNEE	ELECTED BY TRUSTEES ANNUALLY
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	BOB DYER
TREASURER	TARA JONES
PASTOR	BERT CLOUD
AT LARGE MEMBERS	ALICE CUNNINGHAM, TIM WILLIAMS

THE NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (¶258.1)

CHAIR:		BERT CLOUD	
EX OFFICIO		LAY LEADER	
CLASS OF 2012	CLASS OF 2013	CLASS OF 2014	
CASEY BISHOP	SANDRA GARR	TOMMY LAND	
TARA JONES	MARY JANE MURPHY	DIANE DYER	
		MARTY MORAN	

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (¶258.3; ¶2524-2550)

CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY:		CHAIR: NICK WILLIAMS	
CLASS OF 2012	CLASS OF 2013	CLASS OF 2014	
CHARLOTTE GARRETT	NICK WILLIAMS	MARY ELDER	
GWYN WILLIAMS		RICK DENNY	
CAROL CRAWFORD		LEE WILLIAMS	

AD HOC CHURCH INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM
COORDINATOR APPOINTED BY CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR WITH MEMBERSHIP COMING FROM VOLUNTEERS.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES:

FIVE TALENT ACADEMY:	DAVID CRAWFORD & BERT CLOUD
LOCAL CHURCH DISASTER RESPONSE:	DAVID CRAWFORD
LAY MEMBER DISTRICT BOARD OF MISSIONS	GWYN WILLIAMS
DISTRICT DELEGATE:	DIANNE DYER
HERMITAGE GUILD	JEAN ELDER
VIRGINIA ADVOCATE	ALMA LEE MESSER
CHURCH HISTORIAN	NANCY FINE

LOCAL CHURCH AND CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKERS

DAVID CRAWFORD (CLS)	DAVID SHELTON (LCLS)
BOBBY DYER (LCLS)	DIANNE DYER (LCLS)

