

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The people of The United Methodist Church

Sycamore News

The Newsletter of Sycamore United Methodist Church

June 2011



Sycamore United Methodist Church
9710 Old Stage Road
Prince George, VA 23875
Website - sycamoreumc.com

Office Phone: (804) 541-1181

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:45 AM---Traditional Service

Sunday 11:15 AM---New Leaf Contemporary Service

Sunday School:

10:15 AM



From the Pastor

Dear Sycamore Friends:

Happy Birthday! I know this may not be your personal birthday, but we have a big group birthday coming up this month. This is one that we share together with people around the world and puts us about 2000 years old, depending on how you count the years.

Of course, I am talking about Pentecost, which the Church considers to be our "birthday." Look at Acts 2:1-31 to find the account of how God's Spirit came to those who were gathered as a community of faith and made them into something new. This is a great story, and we will remember and celebrate this on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th. I hope you will join us for that. We'll have cake!

This story is full of remembering. Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. That alone makes it a big deal. In Acts the story gets even better. But, the story of Pentecost also reminds us of who we are called to be as a people believing in Jesus, and it also remembers who Jesus is among us.

"All that Jesus said and did in the Bible, he continues

to say and do today." These words from a sermon I once heard have always stuck with me (not many sermons do that). The preacher, a friend and teacher named Don Saliers, offered these words with such conviction that he challenged us to name how Jesus was actually doing that work now. Trying to name this current work of God helps me see with new eyes. What might it do for you?

Eugene Peterson tells pastors like me that a big part of the job is to be a "person placed in the community to pay attention and call attention to "what is going on right now" between men and women, with one another and with God – this Kingdom of God that is primarily local, relentlessly personal and prayerful 'without ceasing.' " (from *The Pastor*, Harper Collins 2011).

This witnessing to God's work is part of what we do on Sundays, in several different ways, but particularly I have been thinking about this in our sharing of joys and concerns before prayer. In the next few weeks, we are going to rearrange the order we do things in worship. Part of my goal is to lift up this time for our community to witness to God's work among us. Look for more on that soon.

Please plan on wearing something red on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th. You won't be sorry. And please keep your eyes open for "what is going on right now." Tell me about it, tell your neighbors, and give thanks to God who is never changing but always at work.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bert, 804.347.9567
pastorbert@sycamoreumc.com

Choir News

All are welcome each Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. (New Leaf praise team) and 6:30 p.m. (first service sanctuary choir) to help the choir praise God through song!

Treasurer

We have finished paying for the new additions, Sunday School Rooms and Fellowship Hall, and they are very nice. Thank God for the talented people who worked tirelessly on this project. We need to set as our new goal to pay off the mortgage on the parsonage. Our givings vary from high to low and we continue to have the money to pay the bills as they are presented.

In all things give God the glory and thanks for supplying our needs.

Jean Elder
Treasurer

Evangelism

Thanks to everyone for your participation and help in making the brunch a success! Several people said it was really nice and they were looking forward to the next one. There was plenty of food and fellowship! We need to remember to invite friends and family.

We are in the process of ordering T-shirts and possibly hats with our church information imprinted and we will share the details in the near future.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m.** We welcome any ideas or suggestions.

May God Bless You!

Susan Bishop and Lisa Williams

Mission Report**Looking for A Way to Make A Difference???****How About Joining our 2011 Red Bird Mission Team?**

Open to all ages and skill levels, our team will serve August 21 - 27 in the Eastern Kentucky Mountains at

a United Methodist Mission that has been serving the people of the region for almost 90 years.

What do you do?

Work will include home repair and renovation for families in need. This can include work plumbing, guttering, roofing, simple repairs, and major overhauls. There are trained and skilled crew leaders to guide and help.

Housing?

Group cabins are the general accommodations, but some private rooms are available for an extra fee. Food is plentiful and included except for travel and our day off.

Benefits?

Making a difference in the lives of other people. Loving God and Neighbor in ways that will change the way you look at your world. Great stories and pictures. Maybe a Cool T-Shirt.

Cost?

\$175 for Adult Sycamore Members and Staff (the full cost is \$350 per adult but is supplemented by the church). This includes materials for construction, housing, and most meals, and supplemental insurance while serving. Additional costs include some meals, incidentals and souvenirs, and possibly transportation. There is limited space on the church van, but private transportation is also possible.

Sycamore Children and Youth are at no or reduced cost, but must be accompanied by an adult family member.

Folks from other churches are welcome to join Sycamore's team, but we ask that they be responsible for the full cost. Many churches consider supporting their members for such mission projects and we will be happy to provide information to the church for fundraising.

So What Do I Do Next?

1. Pray about this opportunity. Is God calling you to serve in this way?
2. Fill out a Missioner Profile Application available at church. Minors will need to fill out an

additional form. Turn this form in to the mission mail slot or to Nancy Chesser ASAP.

This gets you on our first come, first serve list. There are only 30 spots at present.

3. Pay 1/2 or all of your fees by June 9th. Pay the other half by July 1. A completed application and paid fees reserve your place. Due to our obligation to Redbird, we can not refund after July 1.
4. Plan on being present at all of the following:
 - Team Meeting: July 10th @ 7pm
 - Team Meeting: August 9th @ 7:30 pm
 - Missioner Commissioning: August 14th @ 8:45 or 11:15 Services
 - Van Loading: August 20th @ 6:30 pm
 - Gathering and Departure: August 21 @ 5:30 am

Questions?

See Pastor Bert (804.347.9567 or pastorbert@sycamoreumc.com) or Sarah Williams (804-458-7794 or Nikansarah21@comcast.net) for more information.

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? - 1 John 3:17, NRSV

MISSION MINISTRIES

We are continuing to work toward our **June 11** workday. ***Please sign up on the bulletin board in the back hallway to go to Waverly to work the food pantry.*** We will need to be there by 12 to be ready to open at 1 PM. This is a great way to help people in need. The gratification for helping someone have a better day is unbelievable!

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS are still available at a cost of \$5.00 each. Quantities are limited but this is an ideal way to see the growth not only of our church but other churches in Prince George. Complete with pictures, this is a real bargain. Please see Nancy Fine (541-3562) or Nancy Chesser (church secretary) to get your copy.



Bykota Women in Mission

Our next meeting will be **Tues, Jun 7 at 6:30**. Bring a covered dish and plan to help assemble the birthing kits we will be sending to Conference. If you have never attended a BYKOTA meeting, this would be a great opportunity to get to know its members and jump right into a mission project.

Couponing for a Cause is doing well. Thanks to all who have been bringing in coupons. So far we have 3 boxes of health & beauty items and 2 boxes of food items. This is a fast growing effort and a wonderful thing!

Grace & Peace,
Sherry

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The members of the UMM are excited to continue their local mission work by offering a new program to both our Sycamore family and others needing help in the surrounding community. If you know anyone who needs assistance and/ or help in either completing projects that they are no longer able to do, or someone who needs man power to accomplish a "Honey do" project (for example painting, repair work, and yard work), please contact Dave Crawford, president of United Methodist Men or any UMM member.

Grace and Peace from the UMM.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

UMW district meeting will be held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 12, 2011. This special meeting will be at Waverly UMC for the purpose of approving guidelines and making decisions as we begin our James River District UMW. All are invited to attend. Please see or call Nancy Fine (541-3562) if you have questions.

Sycamore **UMW will meet Tuesday, June 7th** at 7:30 PM. All are invited to attend. The program will be given by Carolyn Cregar.

KITS FOR CONFERENCE

Health Kits: 1 hand towel (15"x25" up to 17"x27", no kitchen towels); 1 washcloth; 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized); 1 metal nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers); 1 bath-sized bar of soap (3 oz. and up); 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes); 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages (Band-Aids). **(NOTE: DONOT INCLUDE TOOTHPASTE! UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)** Seal all items in a 1-gallon plastic bag.

School Kits: 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip); 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2"x11" ruled paper (approx. 250 sheets total); 1 30-centimeter ruler; 1 hand-held pencil sharpener; 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers; 1 large eraser, 2 1/2"; 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24). Prepare a 14"x16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and one of these three closures (Velcro, snap or button) and place items in the bag. <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/media/reliefsupplypdfsimages/schoolbagpattern.gif>

Baby/Layette Kits: 6 cloth diapers; 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits; 2 baby washcloths; 2 gowns or sleepers; 2 diaper pins; 1 sweater open in the front; 2 receiving blankets. Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

Birthing Kits: 1 hotel-size bar of soap (1 oz. and up); 1 pair of clean latex gloves; 1 square yard of clear 4 mil plastic sheeting; 3 pieces of clean string each 12" long; 1 clean single use razor blade (carefully wrap the blade in paper or plastic to protect it and keep it from causing injury); 2 flannelette receiving blankets, each 1 square yard. Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

IMPORTANT Packing Instructions: All items included in kits must be NEW items. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the

greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items — nothing more. **Do NOT include** any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be removed and will delay the shipment. Kits should be packed in boxes with only one type of kit in each box, with the contents clearly written on the outside of the box.

Monetary donations include: \$1 per kit for processing and shipping; \$1 for UMCOR to purchase toothpaste for health kits.

If you prefer UMCOR to provide kits for you, include: \$12 for UMCOR to provide a health kit; \$11 for UMCOR to provide a school kit; \$35 for UMCOR to provide a baby/layette kit; \$8 for UMCOR to provide a birthing kit.

IF your church has already collected other kits not mentioned here, they will be accepted.



Acolytes Serving in June

June 5th – Trae Cloud
June 12th – Danielle Cloud
June 19th – Angelica Martinez
June 26th – Amanda Newman



June Birthdays

7th Dave Shelton
11th Ben Bonnell
21st Brooke Stanley
25th Jeri Harlow
26th Gene Longfield
30th Susan Bishop

June Anniversaries

6th Rich & Mary Jane Murphy
9th Bert & Gina Cloud
10th Frank & Teri Williams
12th Casey & Susan Bishop
14th Al & Floraine Story
15th Keith & Martha King
16th Jack & Dalphna Williams
24th Quinton & Debra Parker
27th Tommy & Pam Land

Remember to e-mail items for the next newsletter to Nancy Chesser at secretary@sycamoreumc.com by June 28th.

June Calendar

- 6/7 – 6:30 pm Bykota
7:30 pm UMW
- 6/11 – Noon – 3:30 pm Mission Ministries food bank (Waverly)**
- 6/12 – 4:30 pm Healing & Wholeness service
6:30 pm Youth to CiCi's Pizza (last mtg.)
- 6/13 – VBS decoration night**
- 6/14 – 6:30 pm Evangelism
7:30 pm SPRC meeting
- 6/15-6/19 Annual Conference
- 6/20-6/24 Vacation Bible School
- 6/27 – 6:30 pm last Disciple I class
- 6/28 – Newsletter deadline
- 6/29 – 7:00 pm Church Council meeting



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



