



Sycamore
United Methodist Church
Growing Disciples Who Make A Difference

Sycamore News



The Newsletter of Sycamore United Methodist Church | November 2011

Theme for November: Thankful for My Family- A Celebration of Baptismal Connections.



Welcome to God's Family

Church Conference is November 9th at 7:30.

Conference gives us an opportunity to celebrate, learn from the past year, renew our connections and work on plans for the future. Ministry area leaders are encouraged to be working with your groups to put together the necessary reports and planning for the 2011 year. All reports were due on Wednesday, November 2nd at noon. You can find links to reports and other CC information on our webpage, sycamoreumc.com under "ministry resources" Unlike last year, we will NOT have a joint conference with another church. This will offer an opportunity for our new District Superintendent, Dr. Vest to get to know us.

Sycamore United Methodist Church

9710 Old Stage Road
Prince George, VA 23875
sycamoreumc.com

Office Phone: 804. 541.1181

Rev. Bert Cloud, Pastor
Mobile: 804.347.9567 | pastorbert@sycamoreumc.com
notesalongtheway.com

Worship Services:

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

Sunday School:

10:15 am

Christian Community

Post Thanksgiving Celebration Starts Conversation about our Next Steps

Sycamore will hold its first Church Celebration & Christian Conferencing Night on Sunday November 27th. We will gather together for a reception at 6pm followed by a short but long-overdue service of blessing for our building expansion and renovation. At 7pm we will host a "Christian Conference" which will be a town-hall style meeting for folks to share ideas, ask questions, and learn about where we are and where we are going as a church. We will review financial information and start a conversation about our future goals. Make plans to join us on this important night.



Sycamore's annual Brunswick stew sale will be Sat., Nov. 12th. Cost: \$6. /qt. Please call

Alma Lee Messer (458-8675) with orders. Put some in the freezer for later!

A Celebration of Baptismal Connections

By Pastor Bert Cloud

I was baptized around 12 years of age. I had watched my father go down in the water of the same baptismal just a few months before, and it so deeply impressed and inspired my young spirit that I wanted to be part of what God was doing. We shouldn't forget that as much as the dreaded 'peer pressure' is at work, our children still take a lot of their cues from the significant adults in their life. My dad's baptism was a wonderful moment in his life, but it was also a means of Grace in which God was calling me to a deeper relationship. And I am thankful that my parents took my spiritual development seriously enough to welcome me to that moment and focus my thoughts on what was happening that day.

Just as we did in October with Communion, in November we will spend time in worship celebrating God's work in Baptism and our connection as family. In addition to celebrating baptisms, we'll also rejoice in our connections with each other as members of the family of God in the local church and in the universal church. We'll be reflecting on what our Methodist church believes and teaches about our baptismal connections, and I hope we'll learn to renew and live out our baptism every day.

So, our family reunion is set for each Sunday in November. Someone once said that 'family shows up for each other,' so come as you are and however you feel. We have a strong, compassionate Father who loves his children (Luke 15:11-32), who adopts orphans (Romans 8:15-18), and who loves building on more rooms (John 14:12) for His family.

Join in the conversation by visiting Pastor Bert's blog, notesalongtheway.com. You can also contact Pastor Bert at 804.347.9567, or by email at pastorbert@sycamoreumc.com,

Pastor Bert Continues Special Elementary Age Class.

During November, Pastor Bert will continue a very special experience for the children in our elementary class. Called Touch the water, Taste the Bread, Bert will help our kids learn about Baptism and Communion. The lessons on baptism will introduce children to the sacraments and to the Bible story about Jesus' baptism. The lessons on Communion will introduce children to the sacraments and to the Bible story about the Last Supper. Children will encounter the Bible story in terms of the meal, the love of friends, and the memories that were made. All early school age kids are welcome.



We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards, and concern for our family and Ryan. We appreciate your caring and love during this difficult time.

*Steve, Becky, Ty, and
Charlotte Seibert*

Making A Difference...

Bykota

Thanks to everyone who supported our sale of homemade coleslaw and baked goods. It was a great success!

We will not have our regular meeting in November. Instead we will be attending a MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) meeting at another church to gather information on what is involved in bringing this program to Sycamore. We will share this information with the congregation, as this will be a church-sponsored program with a tentative start date of January 2012.

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



Evangelism Team

The **Prince George Christmas Parade** is Saturday, December 3 @ 3PM. We are looking for volunteers to help decorate the float and also walk along side the float handing out flyers etc. Work night for preparations to the float will be announced at a later date.

The **Live Nativity** is Monday, December 12th from 6pm-8pm. We need volunteers for 1 hour shifts to play roles in the Nativity (9 roles per shift). Children can participate as angels or shepherds. Also we have a night of festivities planned that includes Christmas music, ornament making and dinner for the onlookers. We need volunteers to bring chili, cornbread, cookies and brownies. The Evangelism Committee will provide hot chocolate and tea.

Please use your green sheets to sign up and make sure you specify what you plan to do for either or both events.

We are always open to suggestions; please feel free to let us know of any great ideas you may have or if you would like to join us.

- Susan Bishop & Lisa Williams

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Sycamore's annual Brunswick stew sale is this Sat., Nov. 12th. We need helpers at our work night (Fri., Nov. 11th) at 6:00 p.m. at the church. We are also having a bake sale in conjunction with the stew sale, so please bring delicious baked goods to the kitchen Saturday morning. All proceeds from the bake sale will go to the Henry Fork Center. See Alma Lee for more details or information.

The UMW fed the Burrowsville Ruritans in the month of October. Also, a recognition brunch was held for Mary Cummings since she will be leaving the immediate area. Mary and her sons were

very thankful for the event. One of our upcoming events for November will be the Brunswick stew on November 12, 2011. The stew is \$6.00 a quart and you may place your order with Alma Lee Messer at 458-8675. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

The UMW will also be helping with the church mission project of feeding the seniors on Wednesday, November 16th. Please feel free to come help; it is a wonderful experience!

Sign up now for the annual Christmas dinner! It will be **Thursday, December 15th** at 7:00 p.m. at Mim's in Hopewell. The cost is \$17.50 for adults, \$2.25 for children under 10 (meal may be ordered from kids' menu). ***Please let Charlotte Seibert know by December 4th if you would like to go.***

All women are invited to our monthly meetings, which are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

United Methodist Men (UMM)



Thanks to all who helped with the pork butt sale. We sold them all!

ERT Training to Be Rescheduled.

The Early Responder Team training which was scheduled for this Saturday, Nov. 5th has been **Postponed**. The person who was going to do the training was not able to complete *his* training in W. Virginia last weekend because of the bad weather there. It will be rescheduled, and you will be notified of the new date as soon as it is decided upon.

[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!

Community Opportunities

Mission Ministries

It's time again for the **Mission Ministries annual community give-away** in Waverly, on **Saturday, November 12th**. Thank you in advance for helping in this important outreach mission.

Crater Community Hospice is holding the **3rd Annual 5 K Angel Walk** on **Saturday, Nov 12** at 10 a.m. at Petersburg National Battlefield Park. T-shirts are available for \$15 if you register before Nov 2. Register at www.cratercommunityhospice.org.

Around the James River District & Virginia Conference

The District Conference/Board of Missions meeting will be held at Bermuda Hundred UMC at 5:00 pm on Sunday, November 20th.

All Prince George County Churches are invited to a **Community Thanksgiving Service** at Trinity Church in Disputanta on **Sunday, November 20, at 7 pm**. We have a lot to be thankful for in our church, county, and nation. We're eager to celebrate with a thankful community and join as brothers and sisters in prayer on the 20th. Area pastors from several denominations will participate. A reception will be offered in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to stop by on your way home from District Conference!

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Acolytes Serving in November



November 6th — Daniel Blackmon
November 13th — Riley Shank
November 20th — Logan Powers
November 27th — Alyssa Williams

November Birthdays

2nd Dalphna Williams
5th Trae Cloud, Robin Harlow, Rich Murphy
8th Cadence Jones
11th Lori Gregory
16th Tommy Cregar
17th Raven Williams
18th Katie Harlow
19th Marty Moran, Joy Oliver
22nd Joan Jones
23rd Ashley Moran
26th Linda Newman
28th John Harlow
30th Aaron Vogt

November Anniversaries

7th Danny & Holly Stables
14th Dave & Gloria Shelton
21st Dave & Amber Shank
26th Terry & Erika Hahn
28th Axel & Janice Martinez;
Gordon & Janice Kinch

Make Use of Our Prayer List

Thanks to all who have subscribed to the various ways we communicate at Sycamore. Nancy has been working hard to get it all worked out, but we are still taking new subscriptions and changes. You can do so by using our convenient green sheets on Sunday, or calling Nancy at the church office.

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. Please do not use the sycamorepg@yahoo.com from this point forward.



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

11/1 – 7:30 pm UMW
 11/2 – Charge Conf. forms due by noon today
 6:30 pm Church Council meeting
 7:30 pm UMM
 11/6 – FALL BACK ONE HOUR – **DST ends!** ☺
11/9 – 7:30 pm Charge Conference
 11/10 – 6:00 pm PG Ruritans – dinner
 11/12 – noon Brunswick stew sale
 9:00 am Mission Ministr. Community give-
 11/16 – noon Seniors' lunch
 11/20 – 5:00 pm JR District conference

6:30 pm Commun. Thanksg. Service @
 Trinity UMC (Disputanta)

11/24 –Thanksgiving Day

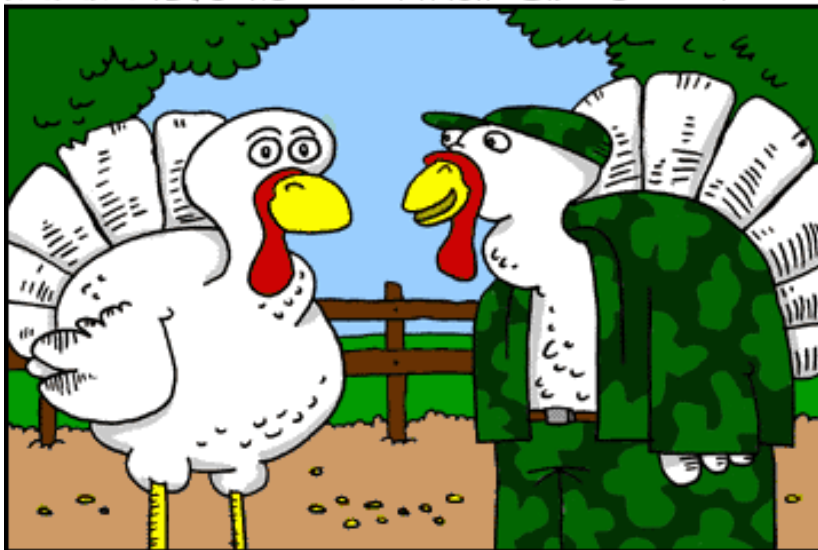
11/27 – 6:00 pm Church Celebration & Sycamore
 Town Hall Meeting

Our secretary Nancy will be away from the office from Nov. 5th – Nov. 20th for vacation and a family celebration. Please pray for traveling mercies for her and her family.

[Remember to e-mail items for the next newsletter to Nancy Chesser at secretary@sycamoreumc.com by Nov.29th.](#)

away (Waverly)

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11-21-2000

FOR THANKSGIVING THIS YEAR I AM THANKFUL
 FOR MY NEW CAMOUFLAGE GEAR

