

Messiah United Methodist Church Taneytown, Maryland

MESSIAH'S Saddle Bags

JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2010



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We are moving into the lazy, hazy days of Summer, and many of us will go on vacation. God fortunately is always there 24/7. Let us remember to keep up our obligation and joy in worshipping him regularly in the summer and to keep up our financial giving unto the Lord as well.

We find in Psalm 84: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. O Lord of hosts, my Ruler and my God, at your altars even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!"

The bishop reappointed me as pastor again this coming year. I am ready and excited to serve you to the best of my ability in the conference year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Each year the bishop, the cabinet, and discipler guides decide where each minister is appointed. Each minister is required to go where he or she is sent in obedience to the itinerant system of ministry of United Methodism. The appointments are announced each year at the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference which was held this year June 2-4 in Baltimore.

On Sunday, June 20 we honored the following graduates during our morning worship service. May God bless all of these graduates and direct their paths in the future.

Graduate	School	Future Plans
Christine Bradley	B.A., University of MD	M.A., Maryland School of Social Work
Alexandria Caprarola	Francis Scott Key High	Mount St. Mary's College
Brandon Forney	Francis Scott Key High	
Lisa Forney		Nursing Program, Carroll Community College
Taylor Frock	Francis Scott Key High	Mount St. Mary's College
Rachel Herring	Francis Scott Key High	Lebanon Valley College
Brandon Lapp	Francis Scott Key High	Carroll Community College
Cearra Litchfield	Francis Scott Key High	
Lacey Litchfield		Nursing Program, Carroll Community College
Inez Lynott	Francis Scott Key High	
Danneka Smith	Francis Scott Key High	
David William Smith	Francis Scott Key High	McDaniel College
Holly South	Francis Scott Key High	
Robbie Weibe	Connections Academy, Harrisburg	



I returned from a trip to France (May 20–29) that was funded partially by a grant given by The Ecumenical Institute of Theology where I teach and a free VISA rewards airline ticket. I got to visit many sites connected with French saints and spiritual writers.

I went on my annual prayer and study retreat June 11–18 at Bon Secours Spiritual Center. This was a silent retreat with no talking except to one's spiritual director for forty minutes a day. The rest of the time was spent in Bible meditation and prayer. I prayed a great deal for our church and its future direction.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Father's Day Breakfast, Sunday, June 20 honoring our fathers as well as our graduates, 8–9 A.M.

Al Patterson and Joe Wood made a presentation in church on the Christmas in April mission project led by our United Methodist Men and Youth. The pastor preached, and the choir sang. We honored our graduates and presented them with a gift.

Summer Schedule Time Change

Starting on June 20th, we resume our Summer Schedule with church at 9:30 A.M., and discontinue Sunday School for the rest of the Summer. Sunday School will resume at 9:00 A.M. on September 12, Rally Day.

Special Music

During our summer months, we are blessed in our worship service with special music by individuals and/or groups. If you are interested in singing or playing a musical instrument for a Summer Sunday, please call Ann Bradley, our choir director, to indicate your selection, accompanist, and preference of date of worship. Please call Ann at 301-873-7646. Thank you.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Tuesday Night Bible Study and Prayer led by Pastor

Art Thomas and Dotty Lydard continues this Summer on most Tuesday nights at 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Night Bible Study led by Beth Shank continues on most Wednesday nights at 6:30 P.M.

Choir Practice Summer Break

Choir Practices have been discontinued during the Summer to give the Choir a break. Special thanks to Ann Bradley and Aaron Burns for leading them and blessing the congregation with their worship ministry. They have both been doing a wonderful job bringing us inspiring music.

Church Council

The Church Council will not meet in June and July on the second Tuesday. There will be a specially called meeting of the Church Council on Sunday, July 25 after church. The regularly scheduled Church Council meeting for the second Monday of August has been moved to Monday, August 16 at 7:30 P.M. The Church Council will meet on Monday, September 13 at 7:30 P.M.

UMW Picnic, Wednesday, July 28, 6:00 P.M.

United Methodist Women's Picnic, Wednesday, July 28, 6:00 P.M. at the home of Jimmy Lou Gardiner.

Trustees, July 5, 7:00 P.M.

The Trustees will meet on Monday, July 5 at 7:00 P.M.

Vacation Bible School, August 9–13, 6:30–8:30 P.M.

This is a community Bible School sponsored by the Caring and Sharing Ministries at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, running August 9–13, 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. The Program is "Renews: The Green VBS from Sparkhouse." It is centered in the Parable of the Sower. For information, please contact Kelly Stitely.



Please save the following items:

- Paper towel and gift-wrap tubes
- 1/2 gallon orange juice/soy milk cartons
(well rinsed, paper or plastic)
- Empty Yogurt cups (washed)
- Empty coffee cans (rinsed)
- Rocks (4–6 inch in diameter)

Please leave the items on the pew in the narthex for Kelly.

UMM, Monday, August 30, 7:00 P.M.

United Methodist Men will not meet in July, but they will meet on Monday, August 30 at 7:00 P.M.

Rally Day, Sunday, September 12

Light breakfast and Sunday School at 9:00 A.M. and return to our normal morning worship at 10:15 A.M., with the church picnic afterwards.



The Circuit Ryder Band News

The Circuit Ryder Praise Band will be coming this Summer or Fall to lead us in some worship. The date has not yet been set.

September Events to Come

Watch the bulletin for other events in September. These have not been scheduled as yet.



A Course on the Healing Ministry

We are exploring doing a six week course on the healing ministry using videos produced by Christian Healing Ministries, as taught by Francis and Judith MacNutt. This would equip people to pray for healing in our worship services, and when doing hospital visitations. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Art Thomas.

What I Did On My Summer Vacation

Back in the old days, this was the first topic to write about or give a speech on in the Fall at school. I hated it because I never had a topic—we never went on a summer vacation. I played in the back yard during the day, we went swimming in the local lake in the early evening, and without air conditioning, we played card games and drank pop on the front porch to catch a breeze until bedtime. I never knew we were poor because I felt so rich in love until I heard the other kids talk about their vacation trips.

My father worked 24/7 at his service station where he pumped gas for other people who were driving somewhere important, worked on engines that stained his hands, and rescued people whose car left them stranded.

I give this background story for 3 reasons:

1. Happy belated Father's Day to all of our men. I think my story reveals your importance to the lives of others, and how you reflect God's love to others without realizing it. Thank you for your dedication and service. And thank you for the traditional Father Day's Breakfast. My children, even though they are teenagers, look forward to inviting their dad to the breakfast and truly enjoy the opportunity you give them to share with their father.

2. Thank you to Messiah Church and Pastor Art because you are my service station, and I pray that many folks find that to be true. We get filled up with God's love through worship and fellowship, we get our engines cleaned and in good working order from being taught His word, and we are rescued from our sins and set anew on the road again.

3. Even though I hate the topic, I thought it might be enjoyable to view vacation shots or memorabilia in the display case for August to see the various interests of folks in our congregation. You can put pictures in my mailbox under Staff /Parish. Thank you.

—CHRISTIE PIAVIS

A Letter from Leslie

Leslie Gabler, our former music director, sent the letter below to the SPRC and to the Congregation.

*L. Leslie Gabler
2728 Leppo Lane
Finksburg, MD 21048
(410) 876-9181*

*To the SPRC and Congregation
of Messiah United Methodist Church*

Thank you for allowing me to take the time to search my heart regarding the position of Music Director at Messiah. The last few months have given me the opportunity to seek and find a way to fulfill my spiritual needs. I have also accepted a managerial position with Staples that requires a fifty hour work week. This would not allow me to put forth the time and preparation necessary to fill the position. Therefore, I will not be requesting to return to Messiah as Music Director. I do, however, still offer my services should an occasion such as a wedding or funeral arise.

The congregation of Messiah has been supportive over the years and I have come to regard many of you as friends and family. I wish you all the best in the future and will miss you.

Leslie

Homecoming Social This Fall

As Coffee Hour Coordinator and a member of the Records and History Committee, I would like to host a Homecoming Social after a Sunday Worship in October. September 12 is Rally Day and the church picnic. In June, we had a social for our graduates, and I wish to thank those who brought treats to be shared with everyone.

At the Father's Day breakfast, I was delighted to see several families that I have missed talking with. This prompted me to think about an idea where we could invite some of our friends whom we have been missing to join us for a special time—homecoming. If anyone has ideas to share with how to make this time successful and worthwhile, please contact me.

—CHRISTIE PIAVIS, COFFEE HOUR COORDINATOR

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

God made us to be relational people. He also made us as unique individuals so that we can appreciate each other and honor our differences. However, sometimes it is difficult to accept our differences. And when that problem happens in a Methodist Church, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee is the unit in the local church that works together to focus on the mission of the church. SPRC is the bridge between the differences.

“Conflict is simply two different ideas in the same place at the same time. Conflict is normal in families... bring those conflicts out into the open where they can be clarified.... If the conflict is handled properly, a strengthened church can result,” from the Guidelines book.

We ask that you bring any conflict or any rumor or any question “out into the open” in writing and signed with your name. Please give it to one of the members of our committee: Pastor Art, Dick Lowry, Ray Copenhagen, Linda Warehime, Donna Smith, Diane Kicas, Joyce Green, Christie Piavis, Paul Lynch, Andy Herring, Miki Wilson, and Mary Buzby. We will discuss the matter under our covenant of confidentiality. We will communicate with you openly and honestly. We will also

provide feedback to the congregation if we feel it would be helpful. For example, the decision about special music in this newsletter resulted from a confidential concern.

“SPRC operates under God's leadership to bring together staff and congregational interests, which includes dealing with both the celebrations and the disappointments inherent in any human family and church.”

If you are interested in reading a story about a congregation dealing with conflict, please read Acts 15. There were differences between Paul, James, and Barnabas. If there were differences between these holy men, why are we surprised when we have them? A welcoming letter to the Gentile believers was the result. And we are happy for that result!

Our primary responsibility is to work with the Pastor and the staff so that the mission of the church is realized. Check out Romans 12:4–8. We are trying to build one-on-one relationships to provide support, affirmation, and communication with various church leaders. It is our desire “to Barney Fife it”—nip it! nip it! nip it! Meaning, nip a problem in the bud before it can take root. As SPRC Chair, my partner is Pastor Art. Miki is working closely regarding music worship with Ann and Aaron. Linda is paired with our Sexton, Marilyn. Donna is working with Worship Chair, Lois Ann. Andy is working with Education Chair, Kelly. SPRC member Pastor Art is working with Ray, as the Lay Leader. SPRC member Ray is working with Trustees, Bill and Ray. Mary is working with Church Secretary, Brenda. Paul is working with Church Treasurer, Ed. Diane is working with Finance Chair, Brenda Clapsaddle. Joyce is communicating with Council President, Mary. And Mary is working with Jeff, the Coordinator of Youth Activities.

Your SPRC members are committed to using our passions, gifts, time, and abilities to help our staff and our congregation in realizing the mission of Messiah Church, to honor and glorify Jesus Christ.

—CHRISTIE PIAVIS,
STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR



Messiah Education Notes

As Sunday School has come to an end for the 2009–2010 year, a sincere thank you goes out to all those involved with teaching classes, Jr. Church, and the Puppet Ministries.

Children's Sunday School

The children's classes had 21 registered students. The children worked hard and presented wonderful Christmas and Easter programs to the congregation. The second half of the year the students were challenged with memorizing verses, The Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. During Sunday school they were given an opportunity to showcase their memorization skills, and prizes were awarded to many for their efforts.

Our year came to a close with a celebration honoring all children's birthdays. We started the celebration with singing, followed by prayer and breakfast. After breakfast we gave the children an opportunity to answer some questions in relationship to the things we learned about during the year, and to earn some fun prizes. The final test was to stand in front of their peers and recite The Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. Many great efforts were made, and we did have some children who recited both and received a choice of gift card to McDonald's or Dunkin' Donuts. Congratulations to Max, Sam, Dylan and Matthew—way to go!!

The new Sunday School season will begin in September. If you are interested in teaching the 4th–6th grade or the 7th–12th grade classes, please contact Kelly Stitely. We need to fill these positions before the new season begins. Teaching materials are provided for both classes. Thank you to the congregation for all your support throughout the year, and looking forward to seeing you in the fall!

—KELLY STITELY, EDUCATION CHAIR



"Very truly,
I tell you,
whoever
keeps my
WORD will
never see
DEATH."
John 8:51, NRSV



Answered Prayers

My daughter Megan Piavis was on the prayer list for her trip to Salt Lake City to play rugby in a National Tournament with the top 10 teams in the United States. Meg's team earned 6th place! Thank you for your prayers—she had no injuries, was safe, and had fun with her dad and her teammates. The most important event to share with you was that her team cheered for the Amazon team that defeated them when the Amazons were in the final round for #1 placement. I believe that type of sportsmanship is not taught on the field but in the Bible; and I am thankful for the training Megan has received at Messiah. Thank you for holding Megan up in prayers.

—CHRISTIE PIAVIS

United Methodist Women

The Messiah United Methodist Women had another wonderful year of fellowship and service. The women have taken a break for the months of June, July and August. We will be having our annual year-end picnic at Jimmie Lou Gardiner's home at the end of July. The women will start meeting again in September, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. At this first meeting, we will hold the election of officers. We invite all women to attend.

The UMW held several special activities, and also provided for many throughout the year. This year we tried something new—a soup and sandwich social, which was a success. The women then met for their annual Christmas party and had great food and fellowship. After dinner, we wrapped gifts for the families we adopted. In the early spring, the women got together and went to tea in PA. We also provided the men with lunch for their Christmas in April project. We concluded our year with the Mother/Child Banquet held in May.

These are just a few highlights of the various things the womens' group at Messiah does throughout the year. This group provides support to not only those in need in the community, but to other groups within our church. We encourage all women to get involved and hope to see you September!

—KELLY STITELY



United Methodist Men

Messiah UMM would like to thank all men, women, and youth who participated in our Christmas in April home project, Saturday, April 24.

On Sunday, June 20, UMM hosted the annual Father's Day Breakfast, featuring delicious food and good fellowship. Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and clean-up. We were also pleased to honor this year's graduates at the breakfast.

At the worship service on Father's Day, the men of our church were honored and presented with a gift. In addition, on behalf of the UMM, Al Patterson and Joe Wood presented a "Moment for Stewardship."

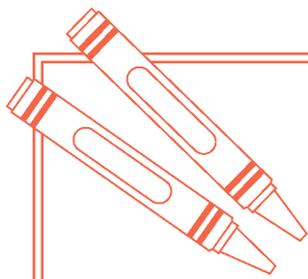
We will not meet during July and August. Our regularly scheduled meetings are held the first Monday of each month. This year, due to the Labor Day holiday, our September meeting will be held Monday, August 30, 7:00 P.M. All men are invited.

—ED MILLER, UMM PRESIDENT

Decision from the Staff/Parish Relations Committee in May

During our summer months, we are blessed in our worship service with special music by individuals and groups. If you are interested in singing or playing a musical instrument for a summer Sunday, please call Ann Bradley, our choir director, to indicate your selection, accompanist, and preference date of worship. Please call Ann at 301-873-7646. Thank you.

—CHRISTIE PIAVIS,
STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR



Just for **KIDS**

The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.



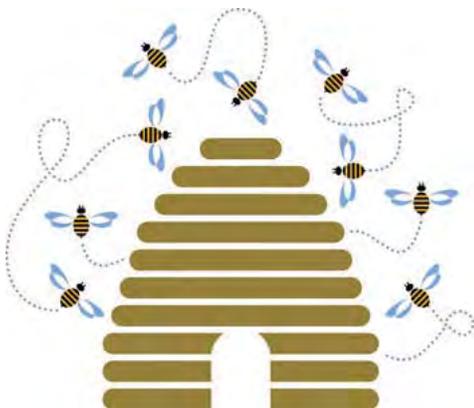
“↓ _____ ; _____

_____ .

_____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, NIV

Answer: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.”

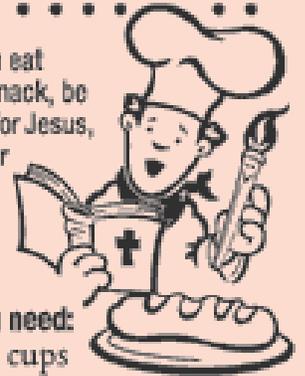


+ Christian Symbols + **Beehive**

This modern symbol represents the church and its many, varied “workers.” A multitude of people, each with different tasks and gifts, works to build up the body of Christ. Often, nine bees are pictured near the hive to represent the nine fruits of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22–23).

BREAD painting

When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.



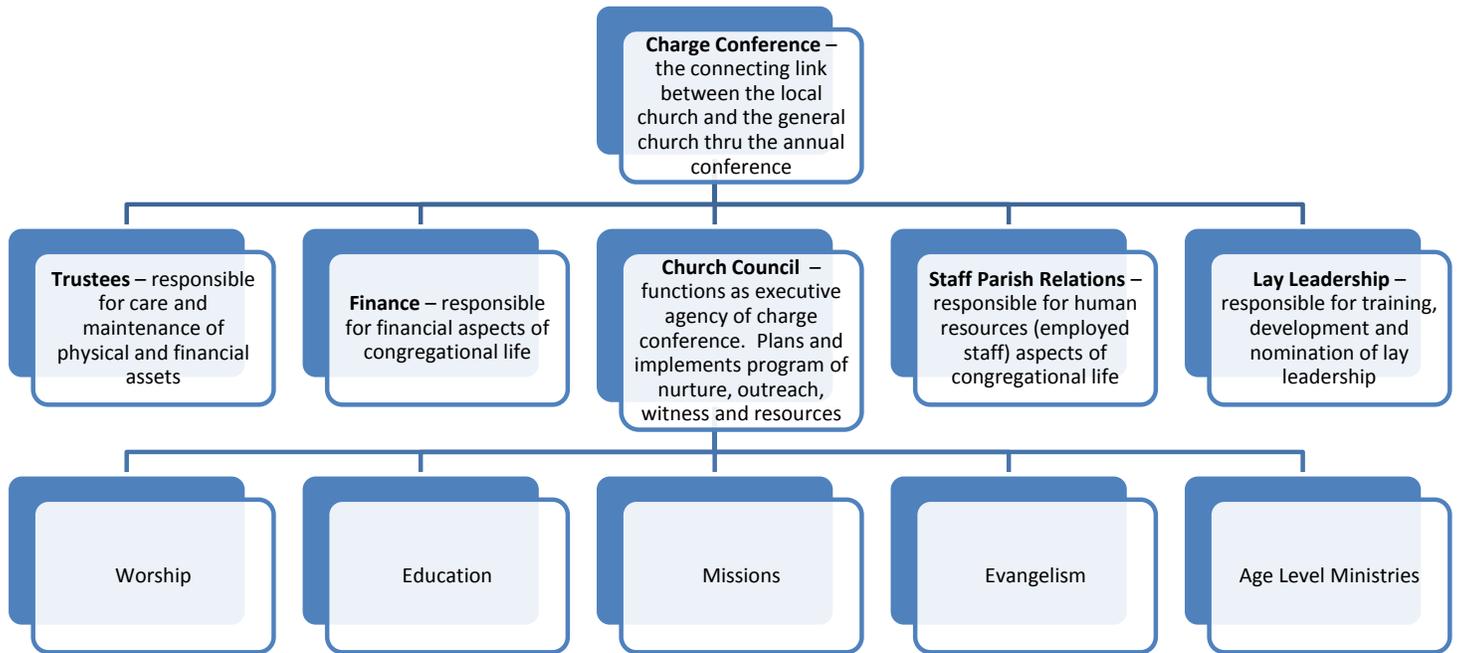
What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean artist brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter (optional)

What you do:

1. Decide how many colors you want to use, and set aside one cup for each color.
2. Pour about 1/4 cup of milk into each cup.
3. Add drops of food coloring until you get a bright color.
4. Using a brush, paint a picture or write words (such as a Bible verse) on the slice of bread. Make sure not to get the bread too soaked.
5. When you're finished painting, toast your bread. You can top it with a bit of butter. Enjoy!

Messiah UMC Committees

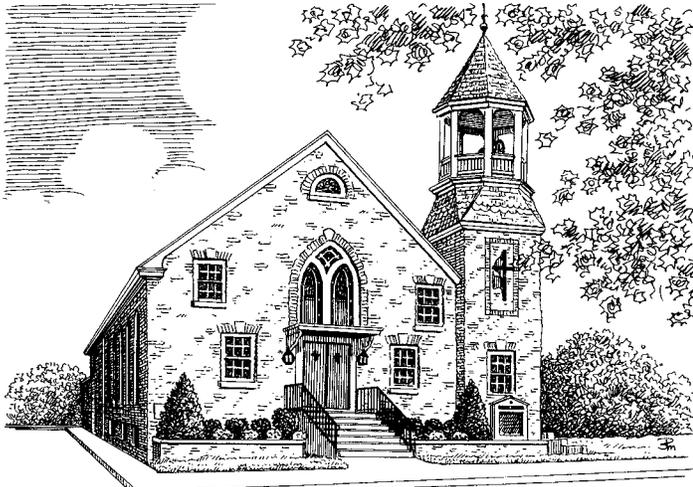


I have received several questions on which committee does what, and how various committees interact with each other. I thought an organizational chart would be helpful. The following chart is based on the Book of Discipline, very much simplified as to the list of activities for which each committee is responsible. The charge conference meets at least annually, reporting to the Annual Conference on various aspects of congregational life and making decisions regarding the church for the coming year. The second level of the chart is comprised of the administrative committees. The administrative committees work hand-in-hand with each other to develop and maintain the assets and resources needed to promote congregation life and growth. The third level is comprised of program committees which work through the Council to develop and carry out the various programs, such as Sunday School, worship services, support of missions, etc. which enable us to fulfill our calling as Christians.

Again, this is a very simplified picture that leaves out a great deal of detail. However, I hope it will be helpful.

—MARY BUZBY, CHAIR, CHURCH COUNCIL

MESSIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
25 Middle Street
Taneytown, MD 21787



Messiah United Methodist Church

Taneytown, Maryland

JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2010

MESSIAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Office Phone: 410-756-6085

Pastor's Study: 410-756-6092

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SUMMER SCHEDULE
Worship at 9:30 A.M

REGULAR SCHEDULE (resumes Sept 12)

Sunday School for All Ages

9:00 A.M.

Worship at 10:15 A.M

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.emmitsburg.net/messiah>



or
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athomas@qis.net

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or

Put in the newsletter box in the church narthex.
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preceding the next quarterly newsletter.

