

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit #9
LYNCHBURG VA

THE HERITAGE CONNECTION
Heritage: Making a Difference For Christ
Vol. 13 Issue 3 March 2010

Pastor's Corner

At their last meeting, the Executive Committee adopted our 2010 Goal Priorities as a congregation. These goals are included in this month's newsletter. Looking at these goals may at first seem overwhelming. Where do we begin? Who will be in charge of helping us stay the course in fulfilling what God has placed on our hearts for the months ahead? Who will be doing what?

At present I am sharing these goals with leaders of evangelism, finance, trustees, endowments, missions, our staff, etc. with suggestions on how we can work as individual committees and together in addressing the challenges our Lord has placed before us as a congregation in 2010.

Through the year we hope to keep you updated on opportunities for your involvement in all these areas of ministry. For the present, please keep me, our staff, all our leaders, ministry teams, our entire congregation and these goals in your prayers.

I believe there is no accident that we have all been placed here to serve "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Within this context, let us remember that success is and will always be in God's hands. What He asks of us is faithfulness. May our response ever be like that of Isaiah in Isaiah 6:8: "Here I am. Send me!"

Riley

25th Anniversary Celebration
Celebrating our Past with Rev. Tom Joyce
Sunday, March 7th
Reception 9:30 - 10:45 am, Tower Room

Heritage United Methodist Church
582 Leesville Road
Lynchburg, VA 24502-2344
The Heritage Connection newsletter is provided for our church members. Friends of the church are encouraged to request their name be placed on the mailing list.

Return Service Requested

**Executive Committee
Goal Priorities for 2010**

Heritage: Making a Difference for Christ

- I) Work toward Enabling Future Ministry By:
 - A) Establishing a Vibrant Endowment Ministry
 - B) Planning for a Debt Retirement Program

- II) Grow the Church by challenging one person to bring another during the year
 - A) Emphasize this is not for our benefit but theirs while still lifting up what we have to offer as a church
 - B) Step up Evangelistic endeavors (e.g. see IV below)

- III) Be the Hands and Feet of Christ in ministry locally & globally to the Community, State, Nation and World
 - A) Become more visible than we are in the community
 - B) Increase the number of people serving and being served by:
 - 1) Hosting a Stop Hunger Now Event
 - 2) Serving at Park View Community Mission
 - 3) Partnering with other churches for a Habitat for Humanity house
 - 4) Supporting Heart Havens
 - 5) Serving Henry Fork Center

- IV) Enhance Congregational Involvement and Care
 - A) Reinvigorate Stephen Ministry
 - B) Become a more welcoming Congregation to our Visitors and explore more effective ways to follow-up after their visit(s)
 - C) Offer more intentional events so that we, too, as a congregation can get to know one another better
 - D) Explore and support ways of encouraging an ongoing Young Adult ministry
 - E) Work to encourage and offer more opportunities for involvement in the life of the church by all age groups



**Life Lighters
Bus Trip**

**Saturday,
April 10th**

**Wohlfahr Haus Dinner
Theatre**

“Sound of Music”

Bus Trip and lunch \$65.00 per person

**Contact Kitty-237-1877 or Margaret-237-0641
for further information.
Everyone is invited!**



Thank You

We would like to express our gratitude to our church family for all the support we have received during this difficult period surrounding the death of my mother. Your prayers and expressions of sympathy mean so much.
Beth McCoy and family

Church Laity for March

Jshers 11:00 service - Beth McCoy, Tom McCraw,
Ed & Louise Gant, Chris Brown, Bernard Eubank

LAITY	03/07	03/14	03/21	03/28
Crucifer	Brandon LaReau	Dustin Brooks	Daniel Newman	Mariah Safritt
Acolyte	Brian Newman & Kelsey Comerford	Kaitlin Bost & Brian Cox	Jason Brown & Haley Meade	Madison King
Banner Bearer	Daniel Newman			
8:45 Scripture Reader	Mike Sprague	Graham Cox	Glenn Gumpman	Don Ogle
11:00 Scripture Reader	Don Smith	Jean Eberhardt	Mariah Safritt	Ed Gant
8:45 Prayer Support	Sharon Sprague	Cassie King	Jane Mitchell	Linda McConnell
11:00 Prayer Support	GINNA HARTSELL	Jean Eberhardt	Jim Stettner	Whit Eberhardt
8:45 Nursery	Gerald Bowles	Lisa Alderson	Colleen Scott	Beth Fowler
8:45 Children's Church	Deanna & Jeff Aultice	Jennifer Davenport		GINNA HARTSELL
10:00 Nursery	Jennifer Williams	Shirley DuVal	Jeff Davenport	Lucy Breeden
11:00 Nursery	Ann Archambeault	Kelly Dodgion	Lucy Breeden	Teresa Meade
11:00 Children's Church	Cindy & Rob Morse	Sonya & Crow Aultice	Karen Brown	Brian & Anissa Barley

Grief Share Program

This six-week program will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 pm beginning March 24th. The program will be held at Timberlake UMC. Contact Joycelyn Arthur at 239-0543 for further information.

from our Associate Pastor

Each year on Ash Wednesday, we hear the words, "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditation on God's Holy Word." There are many ways and disciplines that we can undertake to observe a holy Lent, and I hope that you have been in prayer to decide what your Lent will look like this year. However, I also hope that all of us will feel called to take part in our church-wide Lenten project for Stop Hunger Now. We are all invited to give up something for Lent that we typically spend money on, whether that is our cup of Starbucks in the morning, eating out for lunch, or going to the movies. We are then invited to take that money and contribute it towards our Stop Hunger Now packing event, on Saturday, March, 27.

We began this project last year as a way to help us experience tangible results from our Lenten disciplines in addition to the spiritual benefits that come from denying ourselves, focusing on God, and remember that we "do not live by bread alone." The wonderful thing about Stop Hunger Now is that anyone from small children to older adults can come together and participate in a packaging event. Last year we packed 10,000 meals for the hungry that were sent all around the world. We had a wonderful time together, and the only complaint was that there wasn't enough for everyone to do, which is a wonderful problem to have! Therefore, we have raised the number of meals we are packaging this year to 30,000, which should provide a lot more opportunities for more people to get involved. Our hope to achieve this goal is to include churches from all over the area. Perhaps as I remind all of us of the Church's call to observe a holy Lent, this season can also be an invitation to others around you at work, school, or anywhere else to observe a holy Lent by joining us in our Stop Hunger Now Lenten project. With the Holy Spirit as our guide, I know we can make the commitment and raise the money to pack 30,000 meals!

Peace, Alan

Children's Ministry

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9

Our next Rotational Sunday School adventure will begin March 7 with the unit **Symbols of Holy Week**. Our focus verse is - "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34a

Our children will be learning about the events of the Holy Week and how the symbols displayed throughout our church keeps this story with us.

Spirit Bells will present at both services on March 7. This small group is led by Eboni Jolly and assisted by Caitlin Roberts.

Spirit Drama will be presenting "The Tale of the Three Trees" on March 28, at both services.

The Children's Ministry Team will be hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We are in need of 600 filled eggs. Please drop by filled Easter Eggs to the office by Friday, March 26. Suggested fillings are small wrapped candies, small toys, sidewalk chalk, stickers, cartoon band-aids. **No chocolate, please**, as it easily melts inside the eggs.

Bring your own basket and join us on March 28 for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Singing, crafts, egg decorating and the hunt will be part of the fun. Meet us in the Fellowship Hall at 3:30pm.

We are in need of additional adult leaders for the **Wednesday Kids Clubs** K/1st and 2nd/3rd classes. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

HUMC Children's Ministry Team would love to have you join us. We discuss what works, what doesn't work, upcoming events, and opportunities to help our children learn more about Jesus. Our next team meeting will be March 22, 7pm, in the tower room.



This year's Vacation Bible School theme promises to be out of this world! Mark your calendars for the week of July 25-29. Many of the activity stations are being requested now.

Contact Lucy Breeden, Cheryl Ward-Carroll, or the church office to reserve your place in space now.

From Your Finance Committee

Last year about this same time, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, I informed you that we were facing a budget income that was forecast to be \$30,000-50,000 short of our budget for ministries in 2009. Your Executive Board decided to move forward in faith that God would provide the necessary income to support all the work that we were doing in His name. We struggled throughout the year to match expense payments with the monies we received. At the end of the year, we were about \$2,500 short of income with all expenses paid, including all of our apportionments. Overall, by careful attention to expenses, we spent approximately 4% less than we had budgeted. We received about \$13,000 income from many small groups which conducted special fund raisers to help alleviate our budget situation. We received 97% of pledged income, which was a higher percentage than the national average.

For 2010, the Executive Board has been required to show greater faith than in 2009. In spite of maintaining an increase in budget expenses of only 2.1%, we are facing a \$120,000 shortfall in budgeted income to pay for our 2010 ministry activities. Pledged income in 2010 is 90% of what was pledged in 2009. Having done so well in meeting your 2009 pledges, we were surprised that we received 10% less pledged income in 2010 than we did in 2009.

Your Executive Board has decided to let you know of our 2010 operating budget financial situation. For the next few months, we intend to be very circumspect in funding ministry activities and to observe the pledged and unpledged income received during this time. If the financial situation for 2010 does not appear as though God is leading you to provide the necessary funding for the planned ministry activities, the Executive Board will come back to you with the planned ministry reductions. If you have any questions or comments, please contact any member of the Executive Board or any member of the Finance Committee.

Rhonnie Smith

Financial News

Balance 01/01/2010:		\$0
General Fund Receipts:		\$82,067
<hr/>		
Disbursements		
Administration-Office	\$2,657	
Annual Conference	\$0	
Apportionments	\$0	
Church Staff	\$37,843	
Communications	\$233	
Congregational Care	\$290	
Mortgage	\$19,329	
Education	\$1,029	
Financial	\$0	
Program Ministries	\$2,221	
Insurance	\$2,060	
Missions Outreach	\$0	
Trustees	\$24,633	
Worship	\$964	
Total Disbursements:		\$91,259
<hr/>		
Balance in Budget 02/15/2010		-\$9,192

2010 Census

This month more than 130 million addresses across the nation will receive a 2010 Census form. The US Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives. Every person living in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. Additionally, census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments. Please complete and mail back your form and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. For more information, visit 2010census.gov.



March 24th - Prayer of Self Denial Program
6:30 pm following Wednesday Evening Meal

March 28th - Passion/Palm Sunday
8:45 & 11:00 am services - Lenten musical,
"The Tale of the Three Trees"
3:30 pm - Easter Egg Hunt

April 1st - Holy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

April 4th - Easter Day

Preschool Ministry

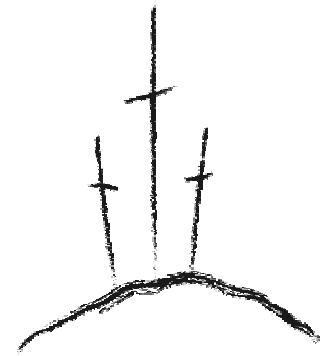
Spring is on its way at preschool! With the arrival of March comes our study of "The Farm," one of the boys' and girls' favorite units. They'll be learning all about farm animals, farm equipment, crops that are grown on the farm, and how to plant gardens of their own. Highlights of the month include field trips to two different farms where the children get to ride tractors and milk cows. March also brings with it the fun of celebrating dads of the preschool children. Our 4s and Pre-Ks enjoy "Dessert With Dad" and our 3s invite their dads to school for "Donuts With Dad." Our little ones design very special handmade ties for the dads to wear to these special events.

The preschool is presently enrolling children for Fall 2010. If you are interested in an application for your child, grandchild, or a friend, please feel free to contact the preschool office. As always, thank you for praying for this special ministry of your church to our community. We have a tremendous responsibility to these children each day - to keep them safe, to insure for them a great beginning to kindergarten, and to build a strong spiritual foundation for the rest of their lives. Through Bible stories, Bible songs, Bible verse memorization, and integrating a Christian world view in all that we teach, we are introducing the children to a God who loves them more than they can possibly imagine and wants to be their best Friend. Financial donations to our scholarship program are always appreciated.

Happy Anniversary & Happy Birthday

3/1	McInteer, Bill & Cindy	3/18	Kessler, Kenneth & Lois
3/6	Higgins, Randy & Wanda	3/23	Coghill, Cortland & Susan
3/7	Pacot Jr., George & Sue	3/25	Mays, Claude & Janet
3/11	Willard, Ray & Carol	3/26	Moss, Jerry & Teresa
3/14	Bost, W.E. & Cynthia	3/28	Scott, Rich & Iva
3/14	Smith Jr., Riley & Holly	3/31	Brooks, William & Louise
3/16	Thomasson Jr., James & Becky	3/31	Poff, Greg & Pat
03/01	White, Kenneth	03/15	Ring, Ricky
03/01	Archambeault, Joe	03/16	Aultice, Matthew
03/02	Comerford, Kelsey	03/17	Wyatt, Joanne
03/03	Higgins, Randy	03/17	Alden, Russel
03/03	Kessler, Lois	03/17	Poff, Patricia
03/03	Mitchell, Nancy	03/17	Natyzak, Jennifer
03/03	Warden, Michelle	03/17	Trent, Cameron
03/05	Baber, Shirley	03/17	Trent, Carter
03/05	Hicks, Rosemary	03/20	Williams, Troy
03/05	Lucas, Howard	03/20	Lareau, Jessica
03/06	Smith, Judy	03/21	Barnett, Mary
03/07	Smith, Doris	03/24	Hunt, Scott
03/07	Jamerson, Sheri	03/24	Rogers, Preston
03/07	Tenny, Ryan	03/24	Seipp, Sonna
03/08	Mays, Janet	03/24	Comerford, Lawrence
03/09	Dowdy, Kathy	03/24	Fowler, Lily
03/09	Newman, Andrew	03/24	Alderson, Anna
03/09	Thomas, Kathryn	03/25	Hunt, Shelby C.
03/10	Thornhill III, J. Taylor	03/25	Delauder, Marleen
03/11	White, Sharon	03/27	Spradlin, Kathy
03/11	Smith, Matthew	03/28	Burris, Maureen
03/12	Eubank, George	03/29	Brown, Karen
03/12	Ackerman, Kylie	03/29	McGuire, Sara
03/13	Mayer, Angela	03/29	Fowler, Luke
03/14	Sprinkle, Kathie	03/30	Polstra, Eric
03/14	Keen, Dale	03/30	Mackenzie, Wayne
03/14	Brewer, Peggy	03/30	Smith, Paul
03/15	Bogle, Judy	03/30	Murphy, Katie

The Marjorie Tyson Circle # 2 will meet on Tuesday, March 2nd in the Tower Room at 10 A.M. Each is asked to bring some of the following for Miriam's House: postage stamps, diapers, dish or laundry detergent, toiletries, paper towels or any paper ware and toys. Friends and visitors are welcome!



The Tale of the Three Trees

A Lenten Musical
Music by Allen Pote
Lyrics by Tom Long

Presented in Worship
by the Spirit Fire Children's Music &
Drama Ministry And Friends
Sunday Morning March 28
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

NEW BETH MOORE STUDY

We will be starting a new Beth Moore study on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 in the Genesis classroom. The study is Believing God.

Believing God: Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith by Beth Moore is based on Isaiah 43:10 and explores what it means to not only believe in God but to believe Him. Do you take God at His Word, believing what He has told you, or do you just believe in His existence and the salvation He offers? Beth Moore came face-to-face with this question well into adulthood. At first, her response to God was, "Lord, of course I believe in You. I've believed in You all my life." Over time, the Holy Spirit led her to understand He was saying, "I didn't ask you to believe in Me. I asked you to believe Me." Through studying the lives of Abraham, Moses, and others from Hebrews 11 as examples of persons who believed God, Beth encourages women to deepen their own trust in God and receive a fresh word from Him.

If you would like to participate, please call the church office or Linda McConnell (385-6292 or seeker2@jetbroadband.com)

Youth Ministry

We had stalled in attendance at the beginning of the Fall. I am happy to report that we are gaining momentum as we have worked through all of this white stuff that continues to fall on our weekends. I have to reiterate one of my beliefs about ministry from the beginning after making that statement.

It has never been, nor will it ever be, about how many people are coming. Our goal and purpose is to reach everyone who comes to youth group, and help to lead everyone to a closer walk with Christ Jesus. A fact that can't be missed with that goal in mind is that everyone who is not coming out is missing that opportunity. For every person who doesn't come out, also takes away an opportunity for them to bring someone with them, maybe a church member or a first-time visitor. Our Youth Ministry is littered with teenagers who are "regulars" now who are not members but were invited by our members.

There are a lot of exciting things going on in our Sunday Night meetings; just recently everyone who was there learned how to share their faith with others, and where to find verses in the Bible that can be used to invite others into a relationship with Christ Jesus. As of writing this article, four of those attending used the methods learned to talk to family members about their faith. Sword drills were introduced for what will most likely become a regular event for us. Sword drills are a competition of being the first to find specific Scriptures in the Bible. It is a lot of fun and was well received by everyone! Wednesday nights is still our Sports Night with devotions and prayer requests to end the night. If you have not been involved in all that our Youth Ministry has to offer, and we have members that do not; it is ALWAYS a great time to jump in! I look forward to learning, growing and worshipping the GREAT God that we serve, together! As we move forward, I remain, In His Grip!

Randy

Life Lighter Monthly Meeting

Join our Monthly Gathering - Tuesday, **March 16th**

Arnold and Geri Polk, Missionaries to Africa

Program at 11:00 a.m., Heritage UMC Fellowship Hall with a potluck luncheon to follow. Bring your favorite dish and a friend!

♪ Music Ministry Notes ♪

Dana Ballard kdballard@verizon.net

Calling all Singers! The Spirit Fire Children's Music and Drama Ministry will be presenting a Lenten musical, The Tale of the Three Trees, on Palm Sunday, March 28. For a portion of the story, I would like to ask any adults or teens interested to join them in singing. If you don't have time for a long commitment but would like to participate for a short time, this is the opportunity for you! We will have two rehearsals to learn the parts, Wednesday, March 10 and 17, from 8 to 9 p.m., and a dress rehearsal with the children on Saturday, March 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. CDs will be available to take home, so that you can learn the music on your own as well. If you are a teen or adult who might be interested in this unique opportunity to join our children in worship, we would LOVE to have you! Please call Dana Ballard at 610-8647 or leave a message with the church office if you would like to participate. Thanks! Dana

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS

Sandra Matthes, matthesjs@msn.com

ü Special Music to celebrate Lent

- ü **March 7** - rescheduled service from January 31; Spirit Bells
- ü **April 1** – Holy Thursday – Tenebrae Service: the ancient service of darkness, symbolic of the forsaking of Christ by His disciples, presented by narrators, clarinet and choir
- ü **April 4** – Easter: orchestra, choir and handbells
- ü **April 11** – Piano and organ Recital rescheduled – 3:00PM
- ü **April 18** – 25th Anniversary Celebration
 - o Commissioned anthem for choir, organ and handbells by Mark Merritt, who served as choir director at Brookville United Methodist Church in the 1970's
 - o Choir, handbells and orchestra
 - o Roger Dowdy, former Minister of Music, will be our guest
 - o Concert presented by the Music Ministry – time TBA

MAKE MUSIC A PART OF YOUR LIFE – JOIN WITH US AND HELP US MAKE MUSIC

1. **Choir** – we rehearse Thursday evenings 7:00-8:30PM and sing in weekly worship services.
2. **Handbell Choir** – we rehearse Thursday 5:30-6:30PM and play in the worship services once each month.
3. **Orchestra** – we accompany hymns in the 11:00AM worship service on the last Sunday of each month, Easter and special events. Our orchestra includes: brass, woodwind and string instruments. Parts can be provided for almost any instrument. We rehearse at 10:15AM, prior to the service, earlier, if there is special music.

