

## *February Birthdays*

Jason Poe (1), Bert Duckwall (2), Frances Duncan (2), Wilfred Frederiksen (2),  
Pat Steininger (2), Carl Brundin (3), Garet Jordan (5), Ron Rhodes (8),  
Mike Bujakowski (9), Heather Dobbs (9), Brenda Harrup (9), Sally Sparks (9),  
Robert Bishop (10), Kay Rackley (11), Kay Slade (12), Kathy Bond (13),  
Dawn Williamson (13), Richard Hoagland (14), Kaitlyn Mitchell (14), Frances Myers (15),  
Dennis Foxworth (16), Gladys Lovelady (17), Luke Butterworth (20), Pat Rainey (20),  
Claire Richey (22), Connor Dobbs (23), Tori Pierce (23), Susan Denny (26),  
Connie Houser (26), Sherri McGrath (26), Ruth Carico (27), Doug Patrick (27)

## *Anniversaries*

Gus and Betty Lane Robbins (6), Ben and Kay Rackley (12),  
Gordon and Betty Bowman (16), Willard and Gladys Lesley (16),  
Doug and Tricia Patrick (23)

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**First News** is a regular publication for members and friends of First United Methodist Church. Articles for the newsletter should be submitted to the Church Office no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the Newsletter goes out.

Church Office Hours: Monday –Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Visit our website: [www.fumchopewell.org](http://www.fumchopewell.org)

Chris Andress., Senior Pastor

Warren Smith, Admin. Asst.

Dennis Foxworth, Lay Leader

Phone (804) 458-8076

Judy L. Blevins, Director of Music

Nancy Honaker, Organist

Margie E. Dowden, Nursery Attendant

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### **First News**

First United Methodist Church

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FIRST NEWS . . . *God is Love*

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First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA  
February 2016

Happy February First Church!

Well? Have you given up on your new year's resolutions yet? Pray more, eat less, exercise more... I hope you haven't given up on these things But I hope even more that you will pray this prayer with me. We are close enough to January 1st for it to make a real difference if we pray it together and live it together too. John Wesley wrote this prayer. Let's pray it together now:

**I am no longer my own, but thine.**

**Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.**

**Put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed by thee or laid aside by thee.**

**Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

**Let me be full, let me be empty.**

**Let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

**I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,**

**thou art mine, and I am thine.**

**So be it.**

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,**

**Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

That is a prayer by which we can orient our 2016. If we do, if we pray it, if we mean it, if we live it, then we might just have the best year ever! **We are First United Methodist Church and we give this year to God to do what only God can do!** All while we keep our eyes open for our opportunity to join in on what God is doing!

Remember, **We are Connecting in Christ, Growing in Faith Serving in Love, and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**I love Jesus,**

Chris

## February Stewardship

Ushers: Doug Patrick, Rocky Anderson, Jason Poe, Dave Johnson and Gary Hamilton

Altar Flowers: All dates available

The next edition of *FIRST NEWS* will be the March edition. All articles should be turned in to the church office no later than February 15.

## OUR CHURCH GREETERS THIS YEAR ARE...

### 8:45am Worship Service

Week 1 – Christy Frank

Week 2 – Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer

Week 3 – June Capron and Curly Moore

Week 4 – Margie Dowden

Week 5 – Verna Brundin

*Thank you for being a Greeter at First UMC.  
Your service is appreciated. Thanks also to  
those who serve as alternates when called  
upon.*

### 11:00am Worship Service

January – Helping Hands Circle

February – Bev Johnson and Tricia Patrick

March – Mary Hamilton and Verna Brundin

April – Carolyn Foxworth and Pat Rainey

May – Wesley Circle

June – Marian Henry and Judy Karnes

July – Donna McCoy and Carole Everts

August – Chancel Choir

September – Guilders Circle

October – Bev Johnson and Tricia Patrick

November – Linda and Wilfred

Frederiksen

December – Carol Elmore and V Brundin

Attention all church members: Read up-to-the minute FUMC notices and more information on our FUMC website at [www.fumchopewell.org](http://www.fumchopewell.org)

In case of a medical emergency a heart defibrillator (AED) has been mounted on the inside corner of the parking lot foyer. Everyone is encouraged to watch the training video on line at <http://www.heartrescuenow.com/>

## LENTEN DINNERS & BIBLE STUDY

This Lenten season Pastor Chris will lead us in a Bible Study as the program of our Wednesday night dinners. Dinner is at 6:30 PM followed by the Bible Study. The Bible Study is entitled "Adam Hamilton's study of John". All of this will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 10th, the week before Ash Wednesday, and continue every Wednesday evening through March 16th. The dinner on Feb. 10th will be a covered dish, so plan to bring your favorite prepared vegetable, salad or dessert. A schedule of who will be preparing our future dinners is still in the making and will be announced in the Sunday bulletins. Join the fellowship and meaningful time of study during this Lenten season.

## NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to say thank you for all of the well wishes, the cards, the food, the visits, and the transportation to the hospital. I especially would like to give a big thank you to the choir and to Judy for all of their help. I miss my choir family and hope to return soon. I am not done yet and still have a second round of chemo to go through so please keep me on your prayer list. Merry Christmas to all. Susan Cross

Dear friends at First Church,  
Sincere thanks for all the calls, cards, visits and prayers during my absence from Sunday School and church services.  
It all gave me much pleasure and encouragement.  
I am much better and hope to be back regularly.  
May 2016 be the best year ever for all of you!

Almentine Phipps

I wish to extend to you my heartfelt gratitude for the snacks and clothing your church has provided to the children at Patrick Copeland Elementary School. Our children enter our doors daily with so many needs and the ability to offer even the smallest kindness is a blessing. You would be amazed at the joy a strawberry Pop Tart can bring to a child. I read once that JOY stands for JESUS-OTHERS-YOU. Indeed your church is an example of putting Jesus and others before yourselves. Your gifts are the

manifestations of God's hand. Through your donations the children see true Christian love at work.

Matthew 24:40 "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."

Renee Nobles, RN  
Patrick Copeland School Nurse

### Children's Ministries News

**We are extremely excited that Pioneer Club is back for 2016!**

**What is Pioneer Club-** Children's ministry that helps teach children to put "Christ in every aspect of life." Club meetings will have a time for hands-on Bible study, verse memorization and life-application to help Children get into God's Word. Children will earn activity awards for completing skill-building activities in a noncompetitive atmosphere that fosters cooperation and teamwork. These activities help kids develop a variety of life skills, such as art, sports, music, first aid, hiking, woodworking, drama and more!

**Ages-** Children from age three through fifth grade.

**Start date-** Sunday February 7, 2016

**Time-** 4:00 to 6:00

#### **Children's Choir:**

Children are offered participation in the Children's choir during Children's church the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's and is located on the second floor of the education wing. The Children will be singing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month and this exciting ministry to lead by Cindy Altman.

#### **Children's Church:**

Children's church is provided on the 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday during the 11:00AM worship service for children age four through fifth grade and is located in the Chapel. It is a team led, and follows the Pastor's Children's Time in the Sanctuary service. All children are invited to attend Children's Church, but are also welcome to remain in the Sanctuary service.

#### **Sunday School Updates:**

The children are meeting with Cindy Altman at 9:45 on Sunday mornings for a time of song prior to going to their classes at 10:00. We will be adding a new Sunday school class for Pre-school through Kindergarten starting in March.

#### **Children's Ministry Leaders/Volunteers needed:**

I pray that you will consider volunteering your talents in this exciting ministry as we live our mission statement.

**Connecting in Christ, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love, and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ!**

Thank you for your support of the Children!

Kim Taylor (804)720-1489

### HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY

\$660 was collected from the FUMC RED BOX lose change in 2015. The Hopewell Food Pantry director, Dick Commander, assures us this generous amount was greatly appreciated to supply food to its growing numbers qualified individuals and families living in Hopewell. HFP gave food to 6474 persons between July and December, 2015.

For further information visit their website at [www.hopewellfoodpantry.com](http://www.hopewellfoodpantry.com). They are located at 212 East Broadway, Hopewell. 804-530-3546.

The Hopewell Food Pantry could use a few more volunteers on Fridays.

Staple food items for the HFP continue to be collected at the end of our main hallway. The suggested food item for February is canned spaghetti type products, preferably with a pop top.

### FUMC Youth

*Dear FUMC,*

*My wife and I are very excited to be working with the youth now. In our meetings, we plan to learn some contemporary praise and worship songs, talk about how to face the challenges of being a follower of Christ as a teenager in the world today, and hopefully have some fun in the process. We also hope to have the youth participate in the community outreach that the church is involved in.*

*We will be meeting on Sunday afternoons and will have our first youth group meeting on January 24 immediately following the lunch provided by the Boy Scouts. If you know of anyone we can reach out to and invite to join us, please let us know. We are honored to have this opportunity and look forward to being a part of the youth ministry.*

Scott and Trish Honaker



**MISSION COFFEE**



The Missions Committee is giving you the opportunity to indulge in high quality coffee at a very reasonable price. Your order entirely goes to support the small coffee farmer in developing countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru. Any additional tips you wish to add will go to our Missions Budget.

This UMCOR Coffee Project is an innovative way to reach out to small-scale farmers in the developing world while enjoying fellowship and an excellent cup of coffee. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying coffee that is fairly traded. United Methodist congregations that participate are helping small scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia earn a fairer share of income, obtain access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust, a fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

**Coffee sales will be available on the LAST Sundays in our greetings foyer.** There will be several flavors to choose from. The price of the regular flavors is \$7 and the price of decaf flavors is \$8. You will be impressed by this certified organic coffee flavor which undergoes strict regulation to ensure top quality coffee.

Please help us support these disadvantaged coffee producers. This makes the perfect gift for those who are blessed to “already have everything I need.”

**WINTER HATS AND GLOVES NEEDED**

Winter hats and gloves are now being collected for the children at Patrick Copeland Elementary School in Hopewell. A bin for the donations is now available at the end of the main hallway near the Crib Room.



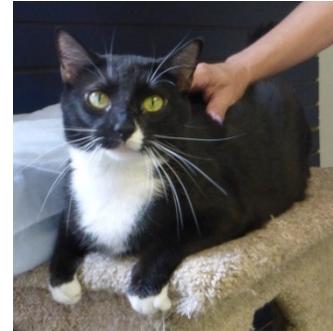
**PRAYER BOX**



Would you like prayers for yourself or for someone you know? For your convenience you may submit your prayer request into our PRAYER BOX located near the parking lot entry lobby. For confidentiality, names are not required; God knows who you are.



**HOPEWELL HUMANE SOCIETY**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Remember this no-kill facility is supported only by interested individuals and local civic minded organizations. Please consider contributing a few hours a week to this worthwhile organization.

The Hopewell Humane Society greatly appreciates the many supplies that have been donated by the generous members of FUMC. The collection basket is located at the end of the main hallway. Some of the supplies needed: canned or dried cat or kitten food, paper towels, peroxide, bleach, old cell phones or used ink cartridges.

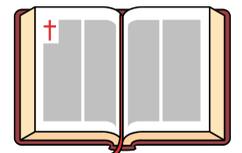
For further information call the office at 458-7303. Information as well as photos of some of the cats can be found on their website:

[hopewellhumanesociety.weebly.com](http://hopewellhumanesociety.weebly.com) and on Facebook. The street address is 3412 Oaklawn Blvd, Hopewell, VA 23860, across from the Dollar General.

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR FEBRUARY**

*“God created man in his own image,”* Genesis 1:27.

To see a photo of still water perfectly reflecting the shoreline reminds us of our relationship to God and His Kingdom. But sometimes our ripples or waves of impurities distort the image, even though the Kingdom is here and now and always will be. *“Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’”* (Mark 4:39). Ask Jesus to



cast out your storms of self-centeredness, anger, lust, dishonesty, and fear from your life. *“Be still and know that I am God,”* (Psalm 46:10). Reflect about God, His promises and His blessings. Read about God, talk to God, and strive to serve God and live God’s way. Let the Holy Spirit help you to fill your mind full and overflowing with God until the still water lets His Kingdom shine on you.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH ACTIVITY**

#### **FREE Community Supper**

**Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm to 6:30pm**

As you know, we are inviting our neighbors to come inside (during the colder months) to enjoy a free meal in the warmth of our Fellowship Hall. While we will always have pancakes on the menu, several have suggested that we offer soup or chili. This would be a wonderful addition to our menu for these Saturday Suppers. If you would like to bring a pot of soup or chili to one of these suppers, please contact either Carol Elmore or Verna Brundin to schedule a date so we don’t have too much at one time.

Volunteers to setup/cook/serve/cleanup are needed for each event, along with folks to welcome and chat with our neighbors. Hope to see you on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Setup begins at 4:00pm.

#### **WANTED: 4-BURNER GAS GRILL**

Spring is when we will resume the Hot Dog Cookouts and we could sure use a 4-burner gas grill. In October, we cooked 140 hot dogs on a small table-top grill. It was quite a challenge and created a long line of folks waiting for a hot dog. Although we never know whether we will have 25, 50, or 100 folks stopping

by, we need to be prepared.

If you have a nearly-new 4-burner grill that you are no longer using and would like to donate it to the church -- *or if you would like to contribute to our Neighborhood Outreach Activity funds so we can purchase a grill* -- it would be greatly appreciated. Please notify the church office if you have a grill you would like to donate and you will be contacted to discuss it.

As you may have heard reported, we have had a positive response from the neighborhood to these Free Community Suppers on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month and we have already scheduled them for the remainder of this year. Funding for these events is not included in the church budget; we are dependent on our volunteers and donations to keep them going. THANK YOU to everyone who



volunteered their time and/or supported these outreach events financially. It is because of your participation and support that we can continue. Please mark your calendars for these 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Community Suppers and join us as often as you can.

# FUMC

## Celebrating 100 Years! 1916-2016

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
& Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**First United Methodist Church  
is 100 Years Old this year,  
and that calls for a Grand Celebration!**

Details are being developed - plans will be announced soon!

**MEMORIES WANTED!**

Celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is the perfect time to reflect and to share special memories of FUMC. Please share your memories of favorite events, hymns, teachers and members in our past as well as family histories, weddings, and baptisms. If you have pictures to share, be sure to identify those in the pictures as well as to whom the pictures should be returned. Turn in your notes and pictures to the church office **by February 14, or as soon thereafter as possible.** Let’s share and keep these wonderful memories alive for our church history and for generations to come.

Planning meetings will be ongoing; watch for dates and times to be announced.  
Everyone is welcome to attend and participate!

