

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Louise Conover (6), Thurman Elmore (6), Kathy Hodson (6), Kym Richey (8), Richard Taylor (14), Elsie Mae Atkins (15), Trey Birchett (17), Curly Moore (20), Betsy Resnick (22), Diane Parr (25), Ridge Shepherd (25), Nancy Karabaich (28), George Frazier (28), Bert Rackley (29), Tina Sweger (29), Barbara Hammond (31)

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

Kevin & Christy Frank (8), Chris & Adria Andress (20), Bunn & Melva Armstrong (21)

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY -- SUNDAY, MAY 8TH**

**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. Phone (804) 458-8076  
Visit our website: [www.fumhopewell.org](http://www.fumhopewell.org)  
Chris Andress, Senior Pastor Judy L. Blevins, Director of Music  
Patti Williams, Admin. Asst. Nancy Honaker, Organist  
Dennis Foxworth, Lay Leader Margie E. Dowden, Nursery Attendant

**First News**  
First United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 636  
Hopewell, Virginia 23860-0636

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Hopewell, Virginia  
Permit No. 32

Address Service Requested



FIRST NEWS.....**Happy Mother’s Day**

First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA  
May 2016

Hello Church,

First UMC just celebrated 100 years of bearing hope, of bringing the hope of Christ to Hopewell. What a perfect time to look back to our spiritual ancestors and rededicate our lives to God! Remember, Joshua challenged Israel at Shechem to choose a wholehearted rededication to God “in sincerity and truth” (Joshua 24:14). He told them they could either choose their parents’ bad examples or their culture’s examples, but that the ultimate decision of whom they would serve remained theirs alone.

Martin Luther King Jr. said: We must remember that it’s possible to affirm the existence of God with your lips and to deny the existence of God with your life. The most dangerous form of atheism is not theoretical atheism but practical atheism.

Shechem became a place of rededication for Abraham, Jacob, Israel and the Samaritan woman—a place where the old life was abandoned in favor of following a Lord who alone was God. Shechem can represent that place for us as well. We don’t have to go to a particular place for our rededication to God. You can do it right where you are—right now. But it does help to “go back” in your mind to where you were before you knew the Lord.

As you do when you take Communion, remember how Jesus Christ saved you by grace through faith when you could never have saved yourself (Titus 3:5). Examine your life and confess any known sin—not in order to be saved—so that your fellowship with God is restored (1 John 1:9). Choose to walk with God in spite of your past—including your upbringing, your culture’s temptations, and your own inclinations. As Joshua said, “Choose today whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15). So, Who or what will it be for you? Let’s choose to rededicate ourselves to God!!

Chris

## Neighborhood Outreach

Our Vitality Team has been hard at work planning activities to help us Reach New People. **You are invited** to participate in any or all of these FREE Community Suppers/Activities, whether as a planner, a cook, an activities helper, or as an attendee. These outreach activities take the whole church, so please mark your calendars now...we don't want you to miss them.

**Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-6PM** – Hot Dog Cookout by Billy Williamson and the United Methodist Men. Corn Hole and other fun activities.

**Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-6PM** - Red, White & Blue Patriotic Theme and a decorated bicycle parade with prizes. The menu will be Beanie Weenies, rolls, and cupcakes for desert. Put on your best patriotic outfit; then, come and join the fun!

AND.....Something New This Year!

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the 11:00AM Worship Service, we will be taking a **Prayer Walk** through the community. Pastor Chris will tell us more about this in the weeks ahead.

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-6PM** – Hot Dog Cookout with S'mores for dessert. Do you have a fire pit that you can lend us for this event? Call Patti Williams at the church office at 458-8076 (M-F, 9AM-2PM) and let us know.

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-6PM** – Hot Dog Cookout and Splash Event. Fire Department being invited.

**Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-6PM** – Back to School Burger Bash Bonanza with backpack/school supplies giveaway.

We have activities planned through December and will keep you updated each month in the newsletter. Please remember...we need *YOU* if these events are to be successful! *YOU* can help, *YOU* can attend, *YOU* can invite your family and friends, and *YOU* can pray that we are successful in Reaching New People for FUMC.

### **HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY SUGGESTION FOR MAY IS CANNED SOUPS JELLO**

Any other non-perishable food items will also be appreciated. Bring your donations for the Hopewell Food Pantry with you to church and place in baskets at end of main hallway of education wing.

The Food Pantry is looking for a new location. The space needs to be 2000-2500 square feet and have a “flat” entrance and back door.  
Please call Dick Commander, 530-3546.

### **Kits for Conference**

We will be making health kits to take to Annual Conference in June to be sent on to UMCOR. These kits will be sent wherever needed in the world as UMCOR has issued an urgent appeal to help with the shortage of health kits. There are specific items required in each health kit by UMCOR. If you are interested in completing a complete kit on your own, please contact the church office for a specific list. Otherwise the needed items will be purchased in bulk quantity. If you would like to make a monetary contribution towards these items, please make your check payable to the church and denote "kits" in the memo line. Deadline is Sunday, June 5th. Information will be announced as to when your help will be needed to help assemble the kits. Thank you for thinking of others and their personal hygiene.

**Pioneer Club:**

Awards ceremony will be Sunday May 22 and will be on summer break until September 12.

**New Children's Sunday School Program Starting in September 2016 for K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

**Rotation Stations**

# Deep Blue Rotation Stations

**Deep Blue Rotation Stations Curriculum**

Immerse your children in the Bible with a rotational curriculum from Cokesbury! Ideal for churches using a rotation format where children alternate between learning stations each week. Engage children in Bible stories and characters by using your volunteers' skills as artists, cooks, technicians, or fun-loving teachers!

In a rotational learning setting, the same Bible story or theme is taught for several weeks. Each week, learners rotate to a different station. The story remains the same, but children encounter it in different ways in each station. Repetition is an important part of Deep Blue!



**The 7 Deep Blue Rotation stations are:**

- Art
- Cooking
- Games
- Missions
- Science
- Spiritual Practices
- Storytelling/Drama

*We are looking to add an 8<sup>th</sup> station for Music and or praise dancing with Ms. Cindy.*

***I pray that you will consider volunteering your talents in this exciting ministry. Please contact Kim Taylor for more information.***

---

**Family Ministries**

We have a wonderful problem in the kitchen! Our kitchen is used by many people for various activities. We do however need to make sure we keep everyone safe and healthy. If your group has an event and puts items in the refrigerator or freezer, please mark the group and date the item was placed in the refrigerator or freezer. Any unmarked items will be thrown away on a bi-weekly basis.



### MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

FUMC has recently received several letters thanking us for our support. The artwork above is sent from, Clara Biswas, our missionary partner in Cambodia drawn by one of her young students. TOP (Teens Opposing Poverty) has sent us their newsletter giving updates on their recent accomplishments.

CARES (CRISES ASSISTANCE RESPONSE EMERGENCY SHELTER) acknowledged our support with a letter of their successes providing temporary shelter for homeless women and children in our area.

UMCOR is coming to Waverly to “set up shop” for the next 2-3 years for the recovery relief from recent tornados. If you would like to take this opportunity to serve on a team or be a team leader to help in Waverly you may contact the office of our District Superintendent, Rob Cowell, by email [JamesRiverDS@vaumc.org](mailto:JamesRiverDS@vaumc.org) or contact his **office**: P.O. Box JamesRiverDS@vaumc.org3413, Petersburg 23805 or call (804) 732-2538.

Your magazine donations are appreciated by our shut-ins and customers at the Shepherds Place.

The Hopewell Food Pantry thanks FUMC for your prayers and generous support especially now as they will have the expense of moving to a different location in Hopewell this summer.

The Missions Committee is in the preliminary stages of considering a community garden.

The annual baby bottle blessings collection to support the Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities will begin on Mother's Day ending on Father's Day.

Our mission's committee members continue to sell fine coffees to support the UMCOR-qualified coffee growers on the fourth Sunday of each month. The next sale will be on Sunday morning, May 22.

The Mission's Committee thanks you for your continuing generous help to fulfill our mission goals for 2016.

### Letters of Thanks



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Church Family for your donations and support for the Community Easter Egg Hunt. This event was a HUGE success and your generosity touched over 100 children.

God Bless

Kim Taylor

---

On behalf of the John Randolph Foundation board of trustees and staff, thank you for your generous gift of \$846 to be placed in the Ryan Scott Williamson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your support in assisting with establishing the Ryan Scott Williamson Memorial Scholarship Fund which will help ensure that the wonderful characteristic of who Ryan was, his love of family, animals and academics will be shared for generations to come by assisting area students in their educational endeavors.

Bonnie C .Falls, Scholarship Program Officer

---

Thank you does not begin to express how Larry, Olivia and I want to say for the love and prayers these past few weeks. My brother was a wonderful husband, father, son, brother and friend. He is missed beyond words, but we know he is at peace and no longer in pain. We are forever grateful that we were able to be with as he went home peacefully with the love of his family surrounding him.

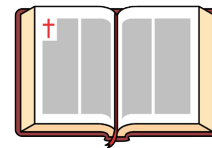
May God bless you all.

Angie Hildreth

**Upper Room**

The "Upper Room" devotional and "Alive Now" devotional magazine are purchased by the church and are available for anyone to take. Do you take one and use it for your devotional study for the two month period? Do you take "Alive Now"? At the end of every two months, there seems to be a large number of each which have not been taken by anyone. In trying to be good financial stewards, the program planning committee is considering ordering less copies of the "Upper Room" and not ordering any of the "Alive Now" in the near future. Will you please take a few minutes and respond if you take a copy of either for your personal use? Please contact Patti Williams in the church office or Carol Elmore if you have not already done so. If you would like to give a monetary donation toward the purchase of these devotionals to help defray the costs, please denote your envelope or check with "Upper Room". Thank you.

---



#### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR MAY

*And ye know that (Jesus) was manifested to take away our sins. 1 John 3:5.*

At no charge, Jesus will take away your garbage (sin) day or night if you ask Him to. And in addition, He will even replace it with the free gift to live in harmony with God. We can be grateful by keeping on God's righteous path and by reflecting God's generous and unconditional love. So stop wondering why your life stinks and take out your garbage often.

Recommended reading: Psalm 103:12.

**United Methodist Women**

The month of May brings warmer weather, flowers in full bloom and the opportunity to further help others through missions! United Methodist Women have been busy in this Spring with the annual bake sale and pancake breakfast. Thank you to all for the support of both projects, without your support UMW could not be successful!

The annual candle burning will take place May 23rd. UMW may donate in honor of or in memory of anyone. Donations are due Sunday, May 15th. Wesley Circle will provide refreshments.

The annual Salad Luncheon will take place on June 12th. Come and enjoy a refreshing lunch and fellowship all the while supporting missions! A free will offering will be collected with all profits going to missions! Looking for a good book to read this Spring? 13 new books have been ordered for the UMW Reading Program! They will soon be available for check out! How many can you read?

Quick Look at upcoming events:

May 15- Information and money due for Candle Burning

May 23- General Meeting and Candle Burning

June 12- Salad Luncheon immediately after 11:00 service.

### **United Methodist Men**

Spaghetti Dinner, Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Ticket price is \$7.00 – kids under 10 eat free

### **COMMUNITY SINGSPIRATION COMES TO FUMC MAY 1<sup>st</sup>**



Mark your calendar now for Sunday afternoon, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 o'clock, when we will host the May "Community Singspiration!"

Since last September, members and friends of Hopewell churches have been enjoying monthly "Singspirations!"

These song services provide opportunities for everyone to sing old as well as new favorite hymns and choruses. It is also a time to meet old and new friends who attend other churches in the City.

Gather your family and friends and join others for this exciting time of worship in song. Service lasts exactly one hour, and you will leave uplifted and inspired!

Previous "Singspirations" have been very well attended by host church members, so let's have a good representation of FUMC as we welcome guests to our church.

Come and sing for joy!

*Judy Blevins*

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending March 31, 2016

Operating fund:

Beginning balance as of 2/29/16.....	11,459.85
Income for March.....	23,367.56
Expenses for March.....	(21,475.53)
Balance as of 3/31/16.....	13,351.88
Designated Funds Balance.....	38,089.97
Money Market Balance .....	55,381.74
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account).....	500.00

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

Be sure to bookmark our website [www.fumchopewell.org](http://www.fumchopewell.org) so you can visit often to view pictures and videos of exciting events happening at First UMC! As you know, things can change from day to day so to get the most current information on meetings and worship services, check the website calendar. It is updated frequently throughout the month. You can also easily email the office from there with prayer requests, address changes, etc.

**May Stewardship**

Ushers:

8:45 a.m. Jason Miles  
11:00 a.m. Bill Henry, Jim Dye, Eddy Henry, Ben Rackley and Truman Tench

Greeters:

8:45 a.m. Worship Service

May 1 – Christy Frank  
May 8 – Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer  
May 15 – June Capron and Curly Moore  
May 22 – Margie Dowden  
May 29 – Verna Brundin

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wesley Circle

Altar Flowers:

Dates in May are still available. Please consider providing the altar flowers to honor a special person/event or in memory of a loved one. The cost varies depending on what you choose to order from the florist. Contact the church office (458-8076) if you have any questions.