

**Letters of Thanks**

*Dear Friends,  
Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, calls, and visits during my recent illness. H.D. and I always appreciate your love and concern for us. Thanks and God Bless.  
Barbara Hammond*

*Dear FUMC Friends,  
Thank you! Thank you! Your response for the annual school supply collection is overwhelming! The children of Patrick Copeland and all the schools in Hopewell will benefit from your generosity, love and support!  
Angie Hildreth*

*Dear FUMC Family:  
My heartfelt thanks for the love and support you have given me these past months. Your cards and prayers helped me get through a difficult time.  
Linda Frederiksen*

*Dear First United Methodist Friends,  
Thank you for the recognition of my graduation and for the Third Day CD. It means so much to me that you all thought of me at this very important day in my life. Thank you.  
Mara Fulcher (Great Grand-daughter of Bill Crafton)*

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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 – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Phone (804) 458-8076  
Visit our website: [www.fumchopewell.org](http://www.fumchopewell.org)  
Chris Andress., Senior Pastor Nancy Honaker, Organist  
Patti Williams, Admin. Asst. Gloria Donati, Custodian  
Dennis Foxworth, Lay Leader Margie E. Dowden, Nursery Attendant  
Judy L. Blevins, Director of Music Cindy Altman , Chapel Pianist/Children’s Choir Director

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**FIRST NEWS.....Summer Vacation**

First United Methodist Church, Hopewell, VA  
September 2016

Hello First UMC!

**Where did Summer go?** It was here and now it is gone. I hope you got a chance to get away from the normal routine of life and relax. Perhaps you got out of the habit of Church this Summer. Now is the time to reengage. Get reconnected to the part of the body of Christ that meets at 8:45 and 11:00 on the corner of 6th Street and West Broadway. Start this Sunday and then continue the next Sunday until you are back in the habit of Church. Think about ways you can serve God and neighbors in Hopewell through First UMC. Our Charge Conference has been scheduled for October 3 at 7 pm. As we prayerfully prepare to elect leadership, we may discern a place for you to serve. If you recognize a place you would like to serve First UMC, let me know and your nominations team will prayerfully consider it. After all, we are called to be like Christ Jesus as a Servant:

Mark 10:45 **“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

**How will you serve the Church this year?**



**Join the Choir...**

**You'll Be Glad You Did!**

Yours in Christ,  
**Chris**

The Chancel Choir will resume weekly rehearsals at **7:00 PM** on **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. We have exciting music to

sing, but we need a few more voices! We will be rehearsing Sunday anthems, as well as music for upcoming holidays. Christmas rehearsals will begin soon, and we encourage everyone to share in this wonderful celebration in music and song! Extra Christmas rehearsals will also be scheduled on several Saturday mornings, and those dates will be announced soon. (If you cannot attend weekly rehearsals and/or sing every Sunday, talk to us about learning the Christmas music by CD and attending only Saturday rehearsals.) You will enjoy being a part of this musical celebration to be presented at **5:00 PM, on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. Sing with us!

The ability to read music is helpful but not required, as section leaders will help new singers. Every Choir member will welcome you as part of our Choir family! Choir members who have not been singing with us for a while are encouraged to return to sing again! We've missed you!

Please pray about singing in the Chancel Choir – join us, and you'll be blessed! We'll be looking for you on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM!



Volunteer(s) are needed to operate our video camera during our 11:00 AM worship services. This is a wonderful ministry to our special members who are confined at home and cannot attend services in the church as well as to anyone who experiences a brief illness or for other reasons has to miss a worship service. We have easy-to-operate equipment; we just need someone or perhaps several folks to volunteer to serve one Sunday each month. Please consider making this your contribution toward resuming this important ministry. Contact the church office or Judy Blevins for more information or to volunteer!



**LOST?** One of our wireless microphones is missing from the Sanctuary Chancel area. If you know anything about the location of this microphone (with orange windscreen), please call the church office. Thanks for helping us locate this important part of our audio equipment.



## September is Welcome Month

Growing churches promote a culture of “invitation” and September is a good time for us to practice our ‘welcoming’ skills. Here are a few ways for us to be more welcoming:

**Invite a friend to church** this month...or invite them to something our church is doing outside the church walls (i.e., Church Picnic or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Suppers).

**Attend Coffee Hour** (with juice and goodies) in the Welcoming Area beginning at 9:30AM each Sunday this month...say hello to those you know... make a special effort to greet the people you don't already know and welcome them to First UMC.

**Add a fish decal to your car window.** This is another form of invitation – it says **Worship With Us!** The decals will be available during the Coffee Hour each week this month or you can pick one up the church office at any time.



**Wear a Name Tag** at church or at church events. It is an easy way to promote fellowship and conversation. You can request a name tag by calling Patti Williams at the Church Office at 458-8076.

**SEPTEMBER - STEWARDSHIP**

Ushers: B. Henry, J. Dye, E. Henry, III, B. Rackley, T. Tench

Greeters:

8:45 a.m. Worship Service

September 4 - Christy Frank

September 11 - Joyce Purr and Ben Farmer

September 18 - June Capron and Curly Moore

September 25 - Margie Dowden

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Guilders Circle

Altar Flowers: All dates available

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Ron Cahoon (1), Marjorie Dixon (1), Alex Kaufman (4), Emma Blaney (7), Bill Crafton (8), Bill Garvin (8), Donnie Parr (10), Randy Sealey (11), Jean Rigney (12), Tony Sherrill (13), Verna Brundin (14), Ed Daley (16), Lee Bujakowski (17), Frank Cuffe (17), Willard Lesley (19), Margie Dowden (20), Bunn Armstrong (21), Truman Tench (21), Joe Hudson (22), Dennis Lipke (22), Wendell McCallister (22), Scott Jones (28), Laura Poe (29)

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

H.D. & Barbara Hammond (6), Bob & Mary Tinker (19), Carl & Verna Brundin (21), Jarrod & Kayla Pandel (21), Harold & Diana Zavislak (28)

**Treasurer's Report for month ending June 30, 2016:**

Operating fund:

Beginning balance as of 5/31/16.....	\$16,635.34
Income for June .....	19,631.56
Expenses for June .....	(20,564.89)
Balance as of 6/30/16 .....	15,702.01

Designated Funds Balance .....	37,857.96
Money Market Balance .....	55,392.78
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account) .....	500.00

**Treasurer's Report for month ending July 31, 2016:**

Operating fund:

Beginning balance as of 6/30/16.....	\$15,702.01
Income for July .....	21,819.81
Adjustment .....	144.00
Expenses for July .....	(22,489.44)
Balance as of 7/31/16 .....	15,176.38

Designated Funds Balance .....	42,173.49
Money Market Balance .....	55,392.78
Love & Needy (Separate Checking Account) .....	500.00

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**



First UMC is once again participating in Operation Christmas Child, a mission that sends gift-filled shoeboxes to needy

children (ages 2-14) around the world. In addition to the toys, dolls, and other fun items that all children enjoy, we especially need regular-sized bars of soap, washcloths, toothbrushes and large tubes of toothpaste. Monetary donations are always appreciated to cover the shipping costs of the shoeboxes that we assemble as a church. Please make checks payable to First UMC; note OCC on the memo line.

Thank you for your support! The deadline is **November 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### CHILI COOK OFF

Calling all chili cooks! Think you have the best chili around? We will be sponsoring a Chili Cook Off on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The proceeds will benefit Family Ministries. There will be a \$10 entry fee for each participant. Watch your Sunday bulletin for more information and registration forms.

### DAYS FOR GIRLS

### **Please remember our project for girls!! We could still use your help!!**

In many countries young girls miss up to 6 days of school every month because of the lack of feminine hygiene products, due to financial constraints and/or the unavailability of such products. There is an organization called Days for Girls that undertakes to supply reusable feminine hygiene kits to girls in remote areas. The women of First UMC are going to assist this worthy cause by participating in the making of these kits. If you can help us in this endeavor by sewing, (we especially need someone with a serger), donating items for the kits, or monetary contributions (make check payable to FUMC with notation of "Days for Girls") to enable us to purchase the necessary supplies, we and the many young girls would be most appreciative. Each kit can last up to three years. If you would like to join us in this effort, please contact Dale Lipke by email at [dlipke@yahoo.com](mailto:dlipke@yahoo.com), by phone at 804-840-8250 or speak to Verna Brundin. If you would like more information on this, you can go to their website at [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org). Some of the items needed for the kits are as follows:

- Girls colorful panties (sizes 10 – 14 in colors because of staining) staining)
- A washcloth
- A new unwrapped bar of soap
- One-gallon sized Ziploc Freezer Bags

### COMMUNITY SUPPER

Don't forget our Community Supper on **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Our youth will be in charge of the event. Can't wait to see what they have planned!

### CHURCH PICNIC

Mark your calendars for **October 16th** and the annual church picnic! We will continue our celebration of 100 years of ministry in Hopewell with a church picnic. Join us after the late service in the church parking! Bring your favorite

picnic dish to share! The church will provide hot dogs, drinks and a special dessert to celebrate our centennial year!

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS**

The United Methodist Women will host a special Lasagna Lunch on **October 2nd** after the 11:00 church service. Join us as we kick off our Fall with homemade Lasagna, salad, bread and of course desserts!

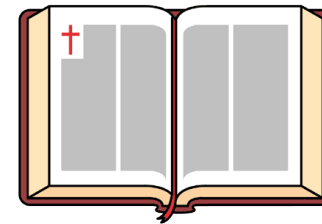
The annual Yard and Bake Sale will be **November 19th** at First United Methodist Church. Items may be brought to the church the week prior. Please see your Circle Chair if you have any questions.

### **THE MILTON MARTIN CLASS**

The Milton Martin Class will resume on 10 a.m. Sunday School Class on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The class welcomes adults seeking to learn about their relationship with God in everyday life. Members are a diverse group of all ages. We discuss the Word of God primarily from the Bible directly. The class meets in the Martin classroom on the second floor of the education wing. The book of Romans will be our focus for September. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- September 24<sup>th</sup> - Community Supper sponsored by our Youth Group
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lasagna Lunch sponsored by UMW
- October 16<sup>th</sup> - Church Picnic
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Trunk or Treat
- November 5<sup>th</sup> - Chili Cook Off
- November 19<sup>th</sup> - Annual Yard and Bake Sale
- November 26<sup>th</sup> - Soup & Sandwiches with Brunswick Stew or Pilgrim Soup



### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR SEPTEMBER**

*"He made the stars also."* Genesis 1:16

God created our universe. It contains more than 100 billion galaxies. Each galaxy may have more than 100 million stars. Praise God. His power is unlimited. When you see problems all around, look up instead to focus on His power "throughout the universe displayed." Know undoubtedly His power is with you always. Be still and listen for His loving direction to you. If you are interested in astronomy you can see a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe each day, along with a brief

explanation written by a professional astronomer. Go to Astronomy Picture of the Day at <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>.

### **God's Mysterious Ways**

Have you ever had an unusual sign from nature or an animal that seemed to be communicating the love of a departed one? The FUMC October newsletter will feature some of your signs of comfort. Please contact Beverly Johnson or leave your note in her church mailbox if you would like to share your or your friend's experience [before Sept. 10](#).

In our efforts to increase our community outreach the Missions Committee is planning to place a Little Free Neighborhood Library bin outside our church for our neighbors' use. There will be a lower section for children's books. Each book donated from our congregation will be labeled with our church name and with the invitation to "Pass it on". This is an exciting way we can connect with all ages in our neighborhood.

There are nearly 40,000 LITTLE FREE LIBRARY book exchanges around the world, bringing curbside literacy home and sharing millions of books annually. For more information go to their website at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>

Beginning in October your donated books may be left at the end of the main hall near the Kelly Class. Our Little Free Library will be continually restocked so this will be an ongoing mission project.

## **FUMC COMMUNITY BOOK SHARING THIS FALL**



### **HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY**

Good news! The Hopewell Food Pantry has moved to its brand new facility at 903 W. City Point Rd., across the street from Vergera Dry Cleaning. Food donations and surplus home grown vegetables may be brought to this address at the side door on Memorial St. Donations by check may be mailed to P.O. Box 1532, Hopewell, VA 23860. Dick Commander, director of the HFP, wishes to thank FUMC for being one of the major contributors of the area churches. Under his efficient leadership, the last fiscal year reports to have fed over 11,000 individuals meals at a cost of 32 cents per meal. That's pretty amazing!

### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

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.

Camp Rainbow Connection acknowledged our support with a thank you note.

We received thank you notes for our support from CCHASM, Samaritan Program and the Reach Out Center.

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

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, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

### ***Children's Ministries***

During the summer, the Children's Council has been evaluating the Children's educational activities and we are excited to announce the following changes starting Sunday September 11, 2016.

#### ***Sunday Morning Education at 11:00AM***

##### ***Age 3-grade K***

This group will be utilizing the Deep Blue Curriculum which includes adventure, exciting stories, science experiments, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games-all combined into a living-faith experience that will help children of this age group discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today!

### ***Grade 1- 5***

#### ***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!



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

Children's Choir with Cindy Altman will be offered on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:00AM for those who would like to participate. The children will be singing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

### ***Pioneer Club***

We are planning to have our Fall Session starting Sunday October 2 through Sunday October 23 for ages 3 through grade 5 from 4:00PM to 6:00 PM.

### ***Volunteers are needed for the rotation stations during 11:00AM:***

September 11

September 18

September 25

October 16  
November 20

October 23  
November 27

October 30  
November 27

***Volunteers are needed for Pioneer Club :***

***We pray that you will consider volunteering your talents one Sunday during the year for this exciting ministry.***

***Any questions or additional information for volunteering please contact Kim Taylor.***



### **GETTING TO KNOW SUE LILLY MCCOOL**

In 1948, Sue's parents, Dan and Vera Lilly, bought the Western Auto Store in downtown Hopewell and moved here from Maryland with their three children Sue, Harry and Sherman. The first visitor to welcome them to Hopewell was Rev. Owen T. Kelly, pastor of FUMC, and the family soon became members. Sue was 13 and soon became close friends with Reverend Kelly's daughter, Mary Page. The two girls attended MYF together and sang in the Junior Choir at Sunday evening

services, sometimes singing duets together. Sue's parents were both avid golfers at Jordan Point. They continued to be very active in the church and community.

After graduating from HHS in 1953, Sue married and had two children, Vera Anne James (Barber) and Allen James. The family moved several times before coming back the Richmond area.

In 1983, Sue married Dick McCool at the home her parents had built in Prince George. Walter Whitehurst, then Pastor of FUMC performed the ceremony. Sue's daughter, Vera Barber and her husband, Mike have since bought the home. When Dick passed away in 2008, Sue moved from her home in Henrico County in 2012 to live with Vera and Mike.

The Methodist Church has been a part of Sue's life as long as she can remember. At 9 years old Sue was baptized in Beaver, WV. The small clapboard church was not large enough to have its own minister, so the pulpit was shared on alternating Sundays by a Methodist and a Baptist preacher. Sue chose to be baptized as a Methodist because she perceived the Methodist minister spoke of love but the Baptist minister frightened her with talk of "hell fire and damnation." Her baptism took place in the local "swimmin' hole" in November and there was a thin layer of ice on the water which had to be broken as the minister entered the water. It was a cold beginning to Sue's faith journey!

In 1990 Sue was especially thankful for the United Methodist Church when her only grandchild, Tony Barber, came into the family through the Methodist Family Services Adoption Program. After months of classes (some even including Sue and her late husband, Dick), home studies and research, Sue's daughter, Vera and her husband, Mike, were matched with 6 year old Tony. The family felt the hand of God working through this program and will always pray for and support UMFS and the wonderful services they provide.

Just last year Sue experienced an event that strengthened her faith as she underwent hip replacement surgery. She woke with the doctor telling her she was in the recovery room and the operation went well.

"I murmured 'OK' and immediately thought that now I could go to sleep - sinking into a black peacefulness where I was surrounded by round glowing "walls" which looked like giant sheets of ancient parchment paper on which were written large musical scores. (Music has always been a big part of my faith experience). Feeling warmth and peace, I was content to stay there, but was drawn back to the recovery



room by voices calling my name and telling me to breathe while hearing an alarm sounding. (You know, it's the alarm you hear in TV dramas when someone stops breathing and the medical staff starts feverishly working to "bring them back to life"). I did take a breath and then thought it was OK for me to go "back". Again I was called awake by the alarm and people calling me and telling me to "breathe" and "stay with us". This happened over and over – it seemed to me maybe 20 or 30 times or more, but I don't know. I was later told that I was in the recovery room for 4 hours while the medical team worked to keep me breathing and to stabilize my blood pressure. In the end, giving me blood transfusions eventually restored my blood pressure to normal.

I was changed in a very real way by this experience, but will never be able to fully explain it and don't feel the need to – not even to myself. I don't fear dying, as I know it is not sad or frightening. It is simply blessed peacefulness and somehow - an extension of life."

Although she has and continues to face some physical challenges, Sue feels her faith is stronger than ever and is grateful to God for every new sunrise.