

# NEWSLETTER

Pearisburg, Virginia 24134 [921-1021]

May 2018

Dr. Brian Burch, Pastor

## Mary's Gift

Many of you may remember Mary Bowles. She and her husband Ernest lived in Ripplemead for years. They were part of our church for many decades. In the summer of 2012 they moved to a retirement facility in Salem. Mary was easy to find; she was the one talking about her church and her favorite pastor Fred Austin. Ernest passed away soon after their move. Mary Bowles passed away and a significant number of gifts arrived in her memory. In the discussion with her family, a dream began to form. Mary loved coming to church; but she liked it to be a comfortable place. If we could improve the heat and add air conditioning to the small fellowship hall and parlor; they wanted to support that dream. This became the start of a fund that enabled this project to be completed this month. Mary, thank you for your dreams and commitment to Christ. Church, thank you for your donations to the capital fund that enabled us to have a place for all to feel welcome in body and spirit.

## Draw the Circle

Nineteen families in our church are currently reading this daily devotional. As leaders in our church, they are preparing for our May 17 Church Council meeting. Daily they are being reminded to pray for their personal dreams; dreams for this church and our community. Start anticipating your next newsletter when some of those dreams will be shared. Would you join them in praying that God will continue to use us to invite people to Christ, to serve our community and the world, and grow in our faith? May "inviting...serving...growing" be more than a statement on the bulletin; may it be a true description of what the Holy Spirit is enabling us to do for the Kingdom.

## Ladies' Tea



~ Calling ladies of all ages ~

Please come join us in the fellowship hall after church on **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**! Everyone is welcome, including your family and friends! An assortment of **hot and cold teas, along with lemonade**, will be served. **Please bring a finger food to share!** We will play some get-to-know you games and have door prizes, too. Feel free to wear a party hat! Bring a teacup or coffee mug (previously loved or brand-new) for an exchange!



- May 2 – Men's Prayer Breakfast - 8am
- May 2 – Take TWO – 3:30pm
- May 2 – Worship Committee Meeting- 6pm
- May 6 – Ladies' Tea – 12 pm
- May 9 – Lydia-Susanna Circle – 10am
- May 9 – Final Take TWO-Treasure Island
- May 10 – New Friendship Circle – 7pm
- May 15 – Prime Timers Dinner – 6pm
- May 17 – Young at Heart Lunch – 12pm
- May 17 – Church Council – 6pm
- May 24 – Preschool Graduation - 6pm
- May 28 – Office Closed

### Every Wednesday:

Handbell Ringers – 6 pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 7 pm

## Lights

Granted it is doubtful any one is going to profess faith in Jesus Christ because our church has new lights. However, a church with half of its lights burned out presents an image as being worn out and unloved. That is not true for us! Thank you to all those who made possible the conversion of the 300 lightbulbs to LED. The cost savings in electricity will have a long-term impact. We rejoice that Appalachian Power is giving us a partial rebate on this project. The May 14 meeting of the trustees takes place on the second floor of our education wing; so we can begin looking at what is the best way to maintain this space.

## Water You Doing in June?

The VBS team is searching for volunteers! We have opportunities for service before and during the week of VBS, June 10-15.

We are in need of:

- ~ Registration Table Helpers
- ~ Recreation Leader
- ~ Missions Leader
- ~ Crew Leaders (will work with a small group of children during the week at each station)
- ~ Media Leaders
- ~ Decoration Crew (can help make decorations before VBS and help with setup Friday and Saturday)



And, what is VBS without children? All children aged preschool-rising 6th graders are invited to attend a week filled with the Holy Spirit, fellowship, and fun. If your children will be attending, please let either Kim, Emily, or Sherry know so we can plan accordingly.

Thank you for your support of VBS!

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Were given this month in loving memory of:

*Peggy Barnett  
George Mann  
Ethel Ann Perkins  
Teresa Showalter  
Pat Stone*

### Stewardship Report-Budget

Received April a year ago.....	\$ 23,022.67
Received April .....	\$ 22,104.00
Received Y-T-D a year ago .....	\$ 80,902.53
Received Y-T-D .....	\$ 71,853.50

Ann Stafford's New Contact Information  
Virginia's Residential Care and Assisted Living

[1205 Moorman Ave NW](#)  
[Roanoke, VA 24017](#)

540-343-3330

(Ask for Ann Stafford and they  
will get her to the phone.)

### **School kits for Liberia**

Fifty-nine schools in Liberia carry the Methodist label. For years our conference has been supporting the schools making a difference in the lives of their youth. Thanks to your generous donations it appears that we have at least 20 school kits ready for our children to assemble on May 27. If you would like to increase the number of kits; your donations of money or supplies will continue to be accepted until May 21.

- 1 - 12" ruler
- 1 coloring book
- 1 small solar powered calculator (we have 48)
- 1 dictionary (we have 20)
- 1 - 10 or 12 pack pens (blue or black)
- 1- 10 or 12 pack pencils
- 1 pack erasers
- 1 box 24 count crayons
- 3 spiral notebooks (70 sheet count)
- 1 pair flip flops
- 1 poncho
- 1 pack 100-150 sheet notebook paper (wide ruled)

## **Camp in the Community**

God is supplying in tremendous ways. Our dream is to reach 60 elementary age children who do not come to church and allow them to experience the joys of summer day camp at no cost for them. We needed several things for this to take place. First, the pastors of our 19 sister Methodist churches agreed we were in this together. Then, we had to get the conference to agree to come to Giles. They agreed, and will be here the week of July 16-20. Then we needed to raise \$3,000. Two thousand dollars is in the bank; and the other thousand dollars is pledged. We needed 8 local high school students to serve as junior counselors. Ten signed up! An outdoor location with restrooms and water was needed. The Town of Narrows allowed us to use Camp Success. Daily lunch for the participants had to be provided. The County schools will provide a bus to pick up the kids and take them to lunch and bring them back at no charge. We needed area churches to provide a morning and afternoon snack. Our day is Wednesday, July 18. Housing for the 8 college counselors was needed. Our parsonage has room, so they have a home for the week. If you would like to provide supper one evening for the group, please contact DeAnne Burch.

So, what's left? We need to invite the kids and more importantly we need to pray. In those communities that had this event last year: 98% of those children involved experienced a closer relationship to God.

### **National Day of Prayer**

Take a stand for Christ! Declare you believe God can make a difference in our country. Join fellow believers Thursday, May 3 at 6 pm inside the Courthouse in Pearisburg. Our focus is prayer; prayer for our local government, prayer for our state government, prayer for our national government; prayer that God will show his favor, blessings and grace upon our land. Those taking part in the service include Giles Community Singers, Donald Swift, Phillip Steele, Pam Sutherland, Richard Chidester and the American Heritage Girls.

**Don't Forget Mother's Day**  
**Sunday, May 13**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

401 Hale Street  
PO Box 400  
Pearisburg, VA 24134

First United Methodist Church

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 37  
Pearisburg, VA  
24134