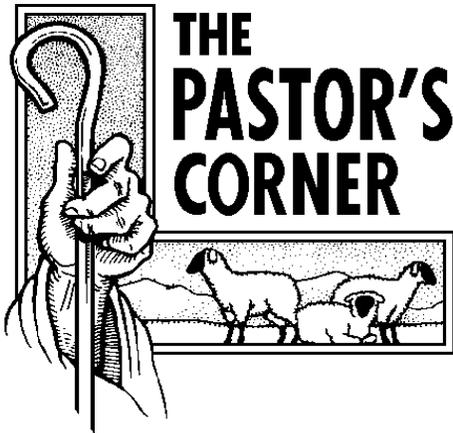




Neighborhood Gatherings

AUGUST 2017

Newsletter of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist Churches



“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will never pass away.”

— Matthew 24:35 NRSV

I find airports to be fascinating places. Whenever I get a chance, I find a seat along the long hall to sit down, and just observe people going up and down. I can see it in their faces; the different feelings they may go through at that particular moment. I can also have a very good guess of what is going on in their minds by the way they walk, by their postures and their conversations. Some are running trying to get to the gate as soon as possible. Others walk slowly talking on their cellphone, listening to music, texting or just walking or talking with their companions and often, without intention, impeding being passed by those who are in a hurry, whose faces immediately reflect frustration and discomfort. Some seemed lost trying to

find their way around. Others seemed confident as to where they are going, while others are just wandering around.

Some faces reflect sadness; perhaps they left a loved one or are returning from visiting their homeland. Others reflect happiness as they are about to begin a new adventure or a new journey or the long expected vacation or they are meeting a loved one or simply going home. Others reflect anxiety; perhaps they are going to visit a family member in the hospital or they are going to a funeral or going to solve a crisis.

Then I think that every person passing by represents a different world, a world of their own. Every person passing by has a destiny at the end of the day, at the end of their journey. Some may miss their flight and may not reach their destination. Others may get to their destination right on time. Others may be delayed in reaching their destination. But then the next day, it repeats again.

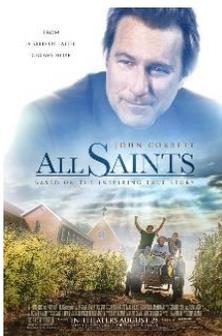
While I am still observing people walking down the halls of the airport, I ponder on the words of Jesus found in Matthew 24:35, which say: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will never pass away,” and I think about how we all are passing by up and down the halls of our life, trying to reach our own destination and trying to find meaning in our lives. Some may be delayed. Others may miss it altogether. Others may get there right on time.

The promise is that in the Word of God we find Jesus who can walk with us up and down the halls of our lives. All you have to do is invite him to walk along with you. The halls may be long, but imagine walking and talking to Jesus, the walk will be shorter and easier. After all, don't you want to reach your destination? and what a better destination and a place to be than with our Lord.

In Christ,
—Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez

Getting To
Know
You!

Mt. Olive has invited Relief to a time of fellowship and getting to know each other. Both churches are to bring a covered dish. The meat and drinks will be provided by Mt. Olive. All are welcome on Sunday, August 6th at 1:00 pm at the Shelter of Mt. Olive.



Saturday, August 26th Mt. Olive has rented one of the Alamo Movie areas (80 seats) to see the movie "All Saints". If you are interested, please contact Pastor Victor ASAP so you're sure to have a seat.

MT. OLIVE UMC NEWS

*"Where We GOT FAITH!
And so can you!"*
327 Mount Olive Road
Winchester, VA 22602

SUNDAY SERVICES AT MT. OLIVE

Adult Sunday School: 8:30 am
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22–23

The New King James Version

AUGUST COMMUNION

Tina Evans & Ann Pugh

OLIVE OYLS

Tina Evans, Carol Place
& Ann Pugh

GREETER

Carol Place

SCRIPTURE READER

Sue Dusing



Save the date: Mt. Olive is offering AED, CPR and First Aid training, Saturday, September 9th, beginning at 10:00 am. The cost is only \$5.00. Space is limited. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex and lunch will be provided.



8/01 Logan Holliday
 8/05 Jessica Richard
 8/07 Emily Gonzalez
 8/12 Stephanie Streit
 8/16 Josh Heflin
 8/17 Ann Pugh
 8/19 Crystal Castro
 8/20 Tabitha Davis
 8/21 Bill Walther
 8/23 Colin Rowe
 8/24 Wade Dusing
 8/27 Matthew Artrup
 8/29 Danny Lingo
 9/01 Aleck Beeman



8/11 Mike & Georgia Saville
 8/14 Marty & Karen Racey
 8/19 Aleck & Debbie Beeman
 8/27 Kenny & Linda Gano
 8/30 Chris & Jennifer Newlin

THOUGHT: Fill the heart with the love of Christ so that only truth and purity can come out of the mouth.

—Warren Wiersbe



“THE “OLIVE BRANCHES”

Summer vacations are here but we are still going strong!

The Olive Branches have been VERY busy this summer with many wonderful events we were blessed to participate in. Quite a few of them got to participate in Missions not only in our area right here in Winchester but also in Tangier, VA. Each and every one of us had a wonderful experience and have grown spiritually. It is always a great pleasure to see our children jump in to help others and also learn along the way. They experienced God’s miracles in so many ways this summer! Bless our children and continue to help guide them on their wonderful journey.

The last week in June was pretty crazy. On June 24th, the Olive Branches had a car wash at the First Bank in Winchester. What a wonderful time of fellowship they had with each other and also everyone they crossed paths with at the wash. We raised \$335 which paid the fee for four (4) members of Mt. Olive Church to participate in a golf tournament. The monies from the tournament went towards the Isaiah 58 Project that helps those in our local community who are in need of food, shelter and a second chance in life. We would like to congratulate Jen Morell who brought home the trophy in the Women’s Division for “Longest Drive”. Great Job EVERYONE!

The youth then packed up Monday, June 26th and left for a week-long mission trip to Tangier Island. We had fourteen youth and five adults who represented not only our church and the Winchester area but God extremely well. We had a total of seven homes listed which needed tending to and with everyone's help were able to get those finished along with two more which were not on the list. A special thank you to all of you who helped to make this possible! For those of you who have not heard . . . We have a SPECIAL group of youth. Again this year, our youth performed the whole Wednesday night service while we were there. Maria Cuccio graced us with her sermon and did an outstanding job. It was really great to see our youth in action supporting each other during this. We all know how getting up in front of not just people, but strangers on top of that, can be frightening. Each youth member put forth their best effort during services and WOW, I only wish you could have heard them sing. It was very touching to everyone there and I know they left their mark in each and every one of those who attended. The youth really did an amazing job! We returned on Friday, June 30th reflecting on the memories we made. These are the times we spend together that will last a lifetime in our hearts and will reflect upon as we go forward in our lives.

On July 7th and 8th, our youth offered Disciples on Deck which was a two-day mission experience right here in Winchester. We had about forty youth/adults (five Churches represented) which participated in the missions along with all the volunteers who helped out with the food, coordinating the activities, crafts, providing music, taking pictures, setting up/cooking/serving meals and all of the other things in the background that needed to be done to make sure this went smoothly

(Debbie Rotz & Kevin Holliday). The first day we went to the retirement community on Lutheran Blvd. They split up into two groups and participated in a hymn sing. It was absolutely wonderful to see the youth & the seniors come together as a whole. It really melted our hearts to see all those who were there smiling, tapping their feet and singing along with us. It was such a great time, they invited us back! We returned to have pizza for supper, an enjoyable craft which the youth worked in pairs to complete (put together by the Einstein Family), church services with the Gomez family and afterwards a movie, campfire, hotdog roasting and popcorn. We all finished off the night sleeping on the floor in a home that belonged to one of our members who has left to be with the Lord. I know she had to be looking down on us with a HUGE smile and uncontrollably laughing at us at times! The second day there was a wonderful breakfast prepared and then off to our mission sites. There were nine mission sites that the groups were able to tend to along with two extra we were able to take care of also. I received great feedback from all residents at the mission sites. They were so appreciative to all for the hard work they did and also for the great discipleship they were able to spread throughout the community. The residents really enjoyed the company and absolutely loved talking with all who were there. Many thanks to everyone who participated and helped to make it a success!

Our youth will have their Annual Malt Shop on August 26th at 4:00–6:00 pm which has been quite a popular request. It always amazes me to see the effort the children put into everything they do.

They love to please the "Church." We cannot thank everyone enough for all your help and continued support!

Our youth always put forth their best and work extremely hard. I am VERY proud of ALL of them! Our youth are growing so fast & it is an absolute pleasure to work with such great children who are willing to put their minds to the test.

It takes all and I believe our youth are great disciples! A Special THANK YOU to all the parents, grandparents and church family who volunteer and work together to help build and mold our youth! It takes a lot of hard work and dedication not only from our children but from the church to make these things happen. The youth is the future of our church — without them there would be no future!

—Brenda Newpher



Starting August 1st through September, we will be collecting school supplies. The following school items needed are: #2 pencils, notebooks, 1 inch binders, scissors, loose leaf paper, glue sticks, tissues, colored pencils, and crayons. Thanks.

Blessings in Christ,
—Angie Cuccio

SMILE: My prayer for you today is that you will feel the loving arms of God wrapped around you.

—Billy Graham

Give of your hands to serve and your hearts to love.

—Mother Teresa

He who is filled with love is filled with God Himself.

—Augustine

RELIEF UMC NEWS

"In Sharing, We Know Christ."
5275 Middle Road (Rt. 628)
Six miles SW of Valley Avenue

Sunday Services at Relief:
Sunday School, 10:00 am
Worship, 11:00 am



	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/25	12	44	\$ 1,282
7/02	14	47	\$ 2,111
7/09	14	48	\$ 1,863
7/16	<u>Picnic</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>\$ 1,205</u>
Avg.,	13	44	\$ 1,615

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 67
MAMA (Backpack Program)	\$ 201
Memorial Fund	\$ 740
Nurture	\$ 200
Shelter/Fellowship Hall Use	\$ 250
Women's Retreat	\$ 410

TREASURER'S REPORTS are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary immediately after each Administrative Board Meeting. Please feel free to pick up one. If there are none when you go to get one, please let me know.

—Elwanda Luttrell
Treasurer

AUGUST LAYREADER

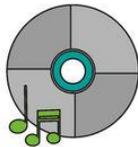
James Douglas



8/03 Mary Everhart
 8/07 Brooke Wilfong Smith
 8/13 Robin Snapp Cibroski
 8/16 Stacy Sipe
 8/19 Luke Gentry
 8/19 Sheila Snapp
 8/22 Jimmy Huffman
 8/24 Samuel Beringer
 8/25 Judy Boyd
 8/26 Susanna Lockley
 8/26 Cassi Unger
 8/30 James McGeachy



8 /21 Bobby and Denise Luttrell
 8/23 Joe and Uta Alger
 8/23 Carroll and Charlotte
 Messick
 8/25 Neal and Jeanie Painter



Allen Boyd has fulfilled a lifelong dream. He has recorded a CD with old country music featuring the songs of Hank Williams Sr., Vern Gosdin, Merle Haggard, and Ray Price. The CD features two of his own songs that he has written. A CD release party will be held at the George Washington

Hotel in the Grand Ballroom on Friday, August 4th beginning at 7:00 pm. Reservations are not required. Come by for a great evening of entertainment and fellowship.

—Judy Boyd



You are cordially invited to join us for an absolutely *free* event:

Thumbs to the Left Women's Retreat

Focus:

Prayer

When:

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Where:

Relief Church, 5275 Middle Rd,
 Winchester, VA (540) 869-5775

Time:

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Event Includes:

worship, service projects, group sessions, small group breakouts, light breakfast, full lunch, free child care

Please do the following:

Bring: A friend

Dress: Casual (nothing stuffy about this, we are going to have fun)

Register (so we can plan properly) at witnessrumc@gmail.com.

Provide: Your name, number of participating adults and children, any food allergies

Questions:

Email us at witnessrumc@gmail.com



AUGUST OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

It seems that school just let out for the summer and now it is time to think about back to school. The emphasis this month is on the MAMA (Middletown Area Mission Action) Backpack Ministry. This is a ministry effort of seven churches in the Middletown area, which provide food for families with children in the Middletown Elementary School. A backpack is filled with food and given to children identified by the school as not having food to eat when school is not in session. Each Friday a backpack is filled with food and sent home with the children — a backpack is used, so not to single out these children. Also, when school is on break, i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc., boxes of food are prepared and sent home. Also other items that might be needed by these children, are met by this group also, such as school supplies, warm clothes, etc. Relief partners with Hites Chapel Church who is a member of the MAMA group. During the closing program of this year's Vacation Bible School, Mrs. Vicky Orndorff, a member of this project spoke to the group and the offering that was received was sent to this project. The collected amount was \$ 201.03 and from the Mission budget \$300 was sent, totaling \$ 501.03.

Keep in Mind: There is a box in the vestibule for items for C-CAP. Each month, any offering that is left on the altar during communion is sent to C-CAP. Also there is a box in the back office for used eyeglasses and hearing aids.

If you have plastic grocery bags and don't know what to do with them, bring them to me, and I will take them to a local animal daycare/boarding center. They loved getting all the bags from the Yard Sale.

Start thinking about Christmas Cards for the Troops, Blankets, and Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse). Now is the time to get school items for the shoeboxes.

—*Elwanda Luttrell*
Outreach Chair
(540) 869-7198
elwand@verizon.net

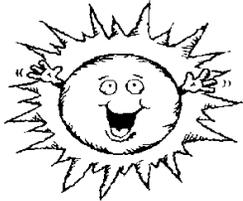
Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

—*John 8:31-32*

Reminder

Earl Luttrell asks us to please, when we leave the elevator, to make sure both the gate inside the door and the door (test them) are completely closed!

The only way it can be summoned empty from one level to the other is if both gate and door are closed as required to ride with someone in it. Thank you for honoring this request.



SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH

Some people say “I don’t know this person—why should I sign a card for them?” I can tell you from personal experience (once when an auto accident left me with a 30% chance of survival, once when breast cancer left me with a 50% chance of survival and again when Gary had his catastrophic accident) that many cards came from strangers and brought lots of joy, inspiration and support!

Thank you to those who supported our card ministry by signing the cards on July 09th. Signatures were: Margaret Douglas, Herb Earnshaw, Donald Graff, Lucille Hughes, Eunice Musser, Jeanie Painter, Ruth Snapp, Sheila Snapp and yours truly. May God richly bless the signers and receivers and all those who contribute in other important ways!

A total of 41 cards were sent: thinking of you, missionaries’ birthday cards (AI, NC, NY), sympathy and get-well cards.

In August, we’ll be sending mostly thinking of you cards. Also, a few special ones will be sent.

I’ll do my best to have the cards available early in the Fellowship Hall for those of you who like to sign before church.

Please let me know of anyone to whom you would like a card sent. Also, if you know of anyone who needs to be removed from our list. Let me know by phone at (540) 869-0220 or send me an email: ruthearnshaw@yahoo.com

Helen Ruckman: In a thank you card to Eunice Musser who gave us Helen’s name, she wrote “Thanks so much to you and your church group for the very nice cards! I really appreciate them so much. (Helen has lung cancer.)”

Irmgard and Jimmy Dick: In a beautiful computer generated card they say “At this time we want to thank you for the wonderful cards. Also for being so considerate and caring for others. Please pass the thanks. We’ve been wanting to send a card for some time but never got to it as the situation isn’t real good with all the tiresome health problems. We both wish you and families are doing good. Will sign off and we really appreciate the caring.”

Nat Painter: In a card sent, in reference to the newsletter, “I missed seeing and reading the Hites’ names and news. However I look forward to seeing the attendance grow at Relief and I believe it will. I pray that the change is a giant step forward...I’m doing okay and hanging in there. I’m sending much love to all my Church Family. Nat”

—Ruth Earnshaw

FYI**Mt. Olive Mailing address:**

327 Mt. Olive Road

Winchester, VA 22602-1685

Mt. Olive Church: (540) 877-3424

Website: www.mtoliveumc.org

Facebook: Mount Olive UMC

Relief Mailing address:

5275 Middle Road

Winchester, VA 22602-2788

Relief UMC: (540) 869-5775

Website: Reliefumc.com**Email:** VictorGomez@vaumc.org**Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez' Cell Phone:**

1-202-285-5767

Newsletter

The deadline for our September 2017 Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, August 25th. The September Newsletter will be available Sunday, September 3rd.

Please make an effort to put your church information in the newsletter. The newsletter will be on both churches Websites. If you have any suggestions, etc., please feel free to let me know.

Call the Relief Office at 869-5775, home (540) 465-4515 or email me at home amitch@shentel.net

—Brenda



If you have new information on your current address, phone or email, please let me know. You may call the Relief office at 869-5775, leave a note on the desk in the office or email me at amitch@shentel.net. Thank you for helping to keep our data current!

—Brenda