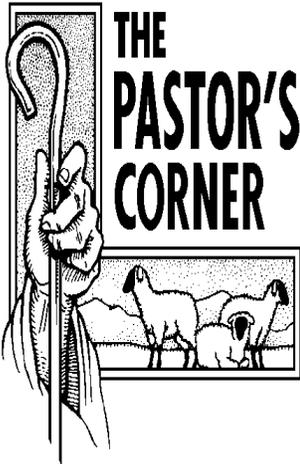




Neighborhood Gatherings November 2016

Newsletter of Relief and Hites Chapel United Methodist Churches



Giving thanks can be part of your life. Many reasons exist. Some of us are so used to thinking about problems that we fail to express our thanks to God for the many blessings of life. Certain situations bring out complaints and dejection. A

serious illness or the death of a loved one are examples of this. With some persons I know I wonder how thanks can be part of their lives because of one serious problem after another. No end is in sight. I reflect upon some of the news stories of war-torn countries and of natural disasters and think of limited reasons to give thanks.

As a disciple of Jesus many reasons exist to give thanks. The primary one is that God loves and offers me a relationship of eternal life. I did nothing to deserve this. God loved me so much that the good news was offered to me. This also applies to you. The Holy Spirit is present, guiding, encouraging, and enabling. This is a wonderful reason to give thanks to God. You have material possessions. You may wish you had

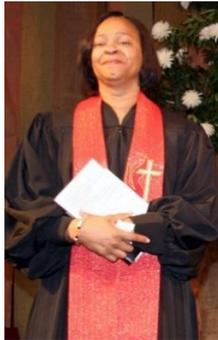
more, but you are blessed with what you do have. As you remember what you have been blessed with you can give thanks.

There are times when with what people say and with the news reports I lose focus. I only think of the problems. I need to be guided back to Jesus and allow His life to be my focus. He can guide each one of us individually and as a church community. A vision can be set so that we can use wisely what we have been given.

Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). To give thanks in all circumstances is possible with the focus on Jesus and the blessings given. You can ask for Him to refocus you. Jesus is present with you to help you along the way. Thanksgiving can be offered to God and that thanks can flow from you into the relationships you have. There will be those times in which you become overwhelmed with the problems you experience. During those times and the good times you can ask God to guide you to offer thanksgiving.

*In Christ Jesus,
—Pastor Richard*

**CHAT AND CHEW
WITH BISHOP LEWIS**



A new Bishop has been assigned to the Virginia Annual Conference of which Relief and Hites Chapel are a part. Bishop Cho has retired. The new bishop is Sharma Lewis. On Saturday, November 12th at Braddock Street United Methodist Church, a "Chat and Chew" with Bishop Lewis will be held. The schedule for that day is 9:00 am to 11:00 am Clergy only. From 11:30 am to 12:30 pm Laity and Clergy worship together. From 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm lunch and from 2:15 pm to 4:15 pm a Laity only session with Bishop Lewis. You are invited and encouraged to attend.



**THANKSGIVING EVE
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 23rd, a covered-dish meal will be held at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Relief United Methodist Church. A Thanksgiving Worship Service will be at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. As we worship we sing praises to God expressing our thanks and hear the good news of God's mighty work in our lives.

"The Church in the Corner

HITES CHAPEL NEWS

of the Woods"

150 Chapel Road (Rt. 627)
4-1/2 miles west of Middletown
Sunday Worship: 9:30 am.



- 11/07 *George Feathers*
- 11/08 *Jenny Tevalt*
- 11/09 *Elenor Horton*
- 11/17 *Eddie Fant*
- 11/15 *Jennifer Tevalt*
- 11/17 *Vonnie Orndorff*
- 11/22 *Austin Haley*
- 11/23 *Chris Orndorff*
- 11/28 *Autumn Jones*



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
9/25	15	\$ 216
10/02	18	\$ 62
10/09	22	\$ 241
10/16	<u>15</u>	<u>\$ 290</u>
Avg.	17	\$ 299

NOVEMBER LAYREADER

Rhea Orndorff



Our Hites Women's Group meets on Thursday, November 3rd at 2:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend our meetings!

Verses to Remember: "Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

—Psalm 95:1-3

O, TASTE AND SEE

I've tasted the goodness,
From God's banquet table.
I've feasted on His Word
And now it's a daily staple.

I've supped on the truth,
With my Lord and Savior
And now His Life and Way
I've come to daily savor.

I've been to the buffet,
Of God' benevolence
And now I understand
The meaning of excellence.

I've dined with my Redeemer,
My healing, Comforter
And now I know who is
My daily bread Provider.

I'm blessed beyond measure,
And I'm loving the fullness
Now that I have tasted God
I'm filled with all His goodness.

—Deborah Ann

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>
10/02	13	37	\$ 2,387
10/09	7	33	\$ 1,490
10/16	<u>14</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>\$ 1,459</u>
Avg.	11	36	\$ 1,778

Also received:

C-CAP	\$ 126
Mission	\$ 100
Witness	\$ 720



- 11/08 Bruce and Alexis Swing
- 11/19 James B. Douglas
and Dana Russell
- 11/23 Ken and Robin Cibroski
- 11/24 Stephen and Leslie Lobell



11/01 Hannah Snapp
 11/06 Jacob Goldsmith
 11/08 Katie Wisecarver
 11/11 Dave Holliday
 11/13 Mary Hughes
 11/13 Linda Michael
 11/14 Carter Painter
 11/17 Sydney Beringer
 11/17 Dale Sours
 11/22 Duane Goss
 11/22 Selma Harter
 11/23 Sara Boyd Frey
 11/23 Neal Watten
 11/24 Charlie Roy
 11/26 Douglas Hughes
 11/27 Adele McGeachy
 11/30 Natalie McGeachy

NOVEMBER LAYREADER

Linda Michael



NOVEMBER OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

A special thanks to all who have filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child and/or given money for shipping. To date, we have twenty-seven filled shoeboxes. These will be delivered to a local church which has been designated by Samaritan's Purse as a drop-off location. I know that each box and the shipping cost will be greatly appreciated, especially to all the children who receive one of the boxes.

For the month of November and December, we will be collecting blankets, pillows, and sleeping bags (all sizes). All **MUST** be new. These will be distributed to C-CAP, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, and possibly other local agencies. Please put the items in the office in the back of the Sanctuary. The due date is no later than Sunday, December 18th.

- We are still collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids. These can be placed in the box on top of the wardrobe cabinet in the office at the back of the Sanctuary. These are given to the Local Lions Clubs.
- I am still in need of one-gallon and one-and-a-half-gallon bleach bottles. Please save any of these for an Easter project with Our Family.
- The December project will be the United Methodist Family Services. A special offering will be collected, on

Sunday, December 19th, at the close of the worship service.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 540 869-7198 or email: elwand@verizon.net

—Elwanda Luttrell
Outreach Chair

Dates to Remember

November 5th

STOP HUNGER NOW will be packing meals at the Stonewall Ruritan Building at 10:00 am. The goal is to pack 20,000 meals. Why not come out and join them? There is a job for everyone, regardless of age or ability.

December 4th

Sherando Choir performs at Relief UMC at 3:00 pm.

December 10th

Wayside Cheer and Carols Event (More information to follow)

December 17th

Christmas Caroling Relief Church at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come sing! Food will be served afterwards.

December 24th

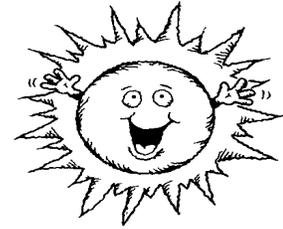
Charge Christmas Eve Worship at Hites Chapel at 7:00 pm.

The following people are members at Relief UMC and I do not have a correct address for them. If you know a current address, please let me know. You may call the church office at 869-5775, leave a note on the desk in the office or email me at amitch@shentel.net. Thank you to those who gave me correct addresses for last month's people!!

—Brenda

Jeffery & Wilma Boyce
Ellen Parker

Bobby Vorous



SUNSHINE CARD SIGNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 2016

I pray a lot of people will take time to sign this month and bring joy to those who receive our caring wishes! God bless those who make the effort! I do my best to have the cards in the Fellowship Hall by early Sunday morning for those who like to sign before worship. Please tell me if you know of someone who would like to have a card. You can phone me at 869-0220 or email ruthearnshaw@yahoo.com. I thank all who sign and also all who help in other important ways!

Kimmy Orndorff & Family: “Thank you all very much for my card of loving thoughts! It means a lot to know I am in your prayers. Love, Kimmy and Family”

Nat Painter sent an inspirational message taken from one of his devotionals: “They huddled inside the storm door, two children in ragged, oversized coats. ‘Any old papers, lady?’ I was busy. I wanted to say no until I saw their feet. Little sandals sopped with sleet. ‘Come in and I’ll make you some hot cocoa.’ There was no conversation. Their soggy sandals left marks on the hearth stone. I served them toast and jam to fortify them against the chill outside. Then I went back to the kitchen to work on my household budget. The silence in the front room struck me. I looked in. The little girl held the empty cup in her hands and looked at it. The boy asked ‘Lady, are you rich?’ I looked at my shabby slip covers. ‘Am I rich? Mercy, no!’

The girl put the cup in its saucer carefully. 'Your cups match your saucers.' Her voice was old with hunger not of the stomach. They then left, holding their bundles of paper against the wind. They hadn't said thank you. They didn't need to, they'd done more than that, much more. Plain blue pottery cups and saucers, but they matched. Potatoes in brown gravy, a roof over our heads; my husband with a good steady job—these things match, too. I moved the chairs back from the fire and tidied the living room. The muddy prints of small sandals were still on my wet hearth. I let them be. I want them there in case I ever forget how rich I am." Nat says "Don't forget to thank God." Love, Nat



We decided at our meeting on Tuesday, October 11th, with Susanna Lockley presiding and Pastor Richard, Margaret Douglas, and Yours Truly present, to have the UMW become inactive at Relief. We've enjoyed our active years. We thank you for supporting us with our focus in many areas on MISSION.

Our UMW Unit has made a big difference in the lives of many and the welfare of numerous organizations, some being The Shelter for Abused Women (now The Laurel Center), The Salvation Army, ABBA, C-Cap, Henderson Settlement, Red Bird Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and Amor-y-paz.

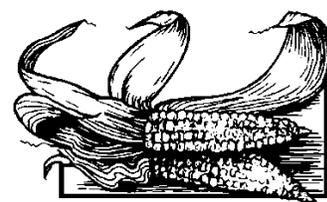
We've done Kits for Conference, Yard Parties, Yard Sales, Staci Painter's special Applesauce Cake Sale, Easter Bake Sale, Programs with skits for Thanksgiving, World-Thank Offering, Tea Parties for shut-ins,

Care Packages for our Military, Christmas Dinner and Program (not the main Christmas Program), Gift Wrapping at Apple Blossom Mall for charities, quarterly Hymn Sings for Nursing Homes, including Christmas Caroling, and giving special recognition to members and friends of our congregation by honoring them with Gifts to Mission. We've made and donated dozens of Prayer Shawls and Turbans to those who needed them.

We established a nice library with books from the Reading Program.

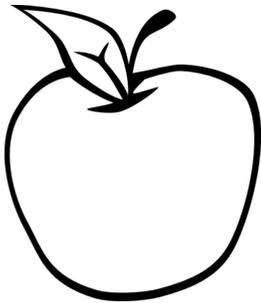
Last, but not least, years ago we began to send birthday cards to those missionaries we found in the Prayer Calendar who had birthdays on our meeting night. It grew to include homebound people and those in nursing homes or had special needs. I had been in a Sunshine Club as a child and we made scrapbooks for people in nursing homes; hence the name Sunshine paired with Cards. I will continue to prepare and send them.

If you know of any interesting thing about UMW, please feel free to either write it and send it in for the next *Neighborhood Gatherings* or let me know, so I can include it. If I don't hear anything, this will be the last column.



SoSA

This month, an additional \$6.00 has been contributed to The Society of St. Andrew bringing the total contributed through October to \$109.60. I'm happy to accept donations any time. It will be used for local gleaning and will go a long way toward feeding those less fortunate than we!



**AN APPLE A DAY
KEEPS HUNGER AWAY
CROSS COUNTRY 5K RACE**

NOVEMBER 12, 2016

9:00 AM

Woodbine Farm Market
5199 John Marshall Hwy
Strasburg, VA

Benefits the Society of Saint Andrew
Betty Heishman will be there!



The 16th Annual Turnip Harvest and Festival will be Saturday, November 5th at the Marker-Miller Farm, 3035 Cedar Creek Grade in Winchester from 10 am until 12 noon. You and your family are invited to come out and spend several hours harvesting food to help those at risk of hunger. Dress for the weather. Adults, bring a knife. Children will pull up the turnips. There is a free lunch after the harvest. Fun for everyone. Prize for the largest turnip. Ring a friend and help make a difference in our community. For information, email gleaningworks@gmail.com

— *Ruth Earnshaw*

ALL SAINTS DAY

United Methodists believe in saints, but not in the same manner as the Catholic Church.

We recognize Matthew, Paul, John, Luke and other early followers of Jesus as saints, and countless numbers of United Methodist churches are named after these saints.

We also recognize and celebrate All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and "all the saints who from their labors rest." All Saints' Day is a time to remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully and shared their faith with us. On All Saints' Day, many churches read the names of their members who died in the past year.

However, our denomination does not have any system whereby people are elected to sainthood. We do not pray to saints, nor do we believe they serve as mediators to God. United Methodists believe "... there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human who gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5-6a).

United Methodists call people "saints" because they exemplified the Christian life. In this sense, every Christian can be considered a saint.

John Wesley believed we have much to learn from the saints, but he did not encourage anyone to worship them. He expressed concern about the Church of England's focus on saints' days and said that "most of the holy days were at present answering no valuable end."

Wesley's focus was entirely on the saving grace of Jesus Christ.



The deadline for our November Neighborhood Gatherings Newsletter is Friday, October 21st. The November Newsletter will be available Sunday, October 30th.

It would be nice to have articles and information from your committee or group to let our congregation know what's going on in the church.

The Monthly Newsletters are now on both church Websites. I hope you like the new format and if you have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know.

*Relief and Hites Chapel
United Methodist Churches
5275 Middle Road
Winchester, VA 22602-2788*

Call the charge office at 869-5775 or email me at home: amitch@shentel.net

Thank you, Brenda

FYI

Mailing address:

5275 Middle Road

Winchester, VA 22602-2788

Charge Office Phone: 869-5775

Pastor Richard's Cell Phone:

1-434-989-1772

Email: pastorrichard80@gmail.com

Websites: Reliefumc.com

Hiteschapelumc.com