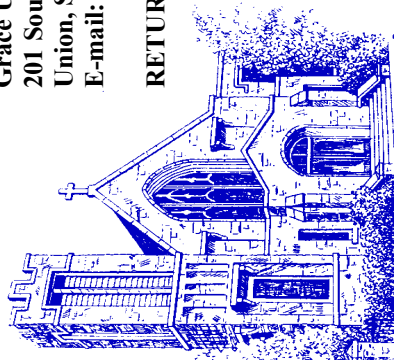


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THE GRACE MESSENGER
Grace United Methodist Church
201 South Church Street
Union, SC 29379
E-mail: mail@graceunion.org

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GUMCEP News

2014 school year has started off with a bang. Open House will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 6:00 pm. All parents are invited to attend. Sept. 8th at 9:00 am, GUMCEP will host “Grits for Grans”, to honor all our grandparents. On Sept. 26th, the 3K and 4K students will take a field trip to the Apple Orchard.

A wonderful change takes place each week this year as Ms. Della leads music and Pastor David along with our new Youth Director, Preston Morton share a Bible Story time. The children will also be collecting non-perishable foods for the Backpack Mission Project at Foster Park Elementary. Come and visit anytime!

UCCOM Meeting

Representatives from all the Union County UM Churches will meet at Grace on Sept. 25 at 7:00 PM in the parlor of the Education Building. Details will be announced about “Fun Day with the Bible” for all of the Methodist Children in the county and their friends. It is like a one-day VBS and will be held this year on Oct. 19 from 3:00—5:00 at Foster’s Chapel UMC.



THE GRACE MESSENGER

Grace United Methodist Church

Mission: To love God completely and to serve Jesus Christ unselfishly

P. O. Box 446, Union, South Carolina
Rev. David Bauknight., Pastor

Office: 427-1266
Cell Phone: 803-480-2153

From the Pastor

September 2014

We Need to Do What?

How many of us sit down and count the cost as we undertake a project? Recently, I started another new project. After visual inspection, I found two areas requiring some major work. Checklists were prepared of all that might be needed; tools, manpower, material and time. I purchased what I thought was necessary for the project. As demolition was in progress, it was apparent that I was going to have to go back to the store for more materials to complete the work. The work resumed and in haste to finish, I cut a water line. Praise the Lord...I had another opportunity to go back to the air conditioned store, purchased the necessary parts and begin putting everything back together! Isn't God extremely good?

I share this to remind us about the importance of counting the cost of what work might be ahead. I am reminded to be more carefully in task planning. How important to think, not just about starting a task, but what it will take to completely finish it! My intentions were really good, I believe, but did I consider all of the factors like time, material and the possible interruptions caused by haste? Maybe not. The result was having more to do than I originally calculated.

Jesus said in Luke 14:28, “**For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it.**” Consider the meaning as we set out on another leg of this journey called life.

Jesus is warning us through this illustration to take some steps in the beginning that will ensure the right course to the completion. As Christians, we need to take these words seriously. Consistency, perseverance, and patience strengthen character and teach us how to be wise builders, whether in our homes, work, or church activities. Jesus reminds us in the next verse that those who do not finish what is started will be mocked and scoffed at by others.

We need to realize that others are watching us and often, they are expecting our failures. The goal for us, regardless of the size and scope of the project, is to first, “sit down” and “count the cost.”

Do you have an idea for a new project? Have you considered the cost? Before jumping in head first, stop and sit down. Go to the Lord in sincere prayer asking for His guidance. Try to lay out the complete plans from start to finish and find confirmation for these plans in God's word. If we truly seek His will and plans for us, He will show us what to do and how to finish them. So often, we are in much more of a hurry than God is. But let's be prepared to wait on Him. Finishing something we started is tremendously satisfying. But knowing that the Lord has led our steps through the entire task brings both earthly and spiritual fulfillment, because the journey means as much as the destination...Letting God guide me more...

Pastor David.



Life Membership Pins Awarded

At the August 17th General UMW Meeting, three life membership pins were given to outstanding UMW members. Judy Caston and Sue Keith were recognized for their work in decorating for church activities and Nannie Rochester for buying and sending cards to those people who are sick, bereaved, or needing prayer.

The UMW of Duncan Acres presented a play about the origin of United Methodist Women. Tea and cookies were enjoyed by all. Gwen Beavans, UMW President, will be moving to Washington, DC for her new job with the Forest Service, and Sheryl Price will become UMW President.

Lucy Lee Shuler Circle Update

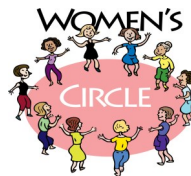
The Lucy Lee Shuler Circle invites their spouses to the Wednesday, Sept. 10th meeting at 6:00 PM for a light supper. After the meal, the men will gather in Clyburn/Whitener classroom for a devotion and fellowship time with Pastor David. Circle members need to let Sheryl Price know by Monday, Sept. 8 if their spouse can attend.

Circle Corner

Circle of Hope – 10:00, Sept. 8 - Toccoa Switzer, Jeanette Galloway, hostesses

Johnnie Sanders Cir. - 10:00, Sept. 8, Clyburn/Whitener Classroom

Lucy Lee Shuler Cir. – 6:00, Sept. 10



Directory Additions/ Corrections

Thomas Bishop—507 W. South Street, Union 864-427-3134 or cell 426-2648

Raye Hellams—225 Belvue Drive Union - 864-427-7592

Preston Morton—1212 S. Pinckney St. Union 843-457-3902

On the submitted photo page change Betty Jo Rogers to Mary Jo Rogers. If you notice any other corrections, please contact the church office.

Welcome to Grace!

On Sunday, Aug. 17th, we had four families join the fellowship of Grace. We welcome them and look forward to getting to know them better as we all grow in faith together.

Joshua Ham

662 Oakland Road
Union, SC - 864-427-4589

Tommy & Caroline Lawson

Hazel (Baby Baptism)
222 Church Street
Buffalo, SC 29321
864-466-6633 (Tommy)
864-237-5536 (Caroline)

Norman Patterson

107 Cornwall Street
Union, SC 29379
864-427-4275

Kris & Michael Zimmerman

Keldin & Kameron
3890 Whitmire Hwy.
Union, SC 29379
864-424-9293



Welcome
Our New
Members



Epworth is Our Ministry

Open Doors for Children in Need. In just one day this summer, Epworth Children's Home received 24 referrals for children in need of care. These children experienced abuse, neglect and tragedy and needed a place to care for them and help them in their time of need. We, the United Methodist Church of SC, refuse to let these kinds of tragedies define childhood for our neighbors. We stand with these children and promise to transform their future. Through the ministry of Epworth Children's Home we open our doors to these children, surround them with comprehensive care and provide them with the opportunity to transform their lives. Care at Epworth goes above and beyond just food and shelter. They provide children with tutoring, counseling, health care, fun activities, and the spiritual formation they need to heal and belong.

Family Night Supper 4th Wednesday

Every month an amazing meal is shared in the Fellowship Hall with our church family. Everyone brings a dish of a vegetable, meat, salad or dessert. We begin with a short devotional led by a member of the host class. The next Family Night Supper will be September 24th at 6:30 hosted by the Upper Room class. Come and savor a great meal with your church family.



Bash a Great Success!



The back to School Bash hosted by Grace UMC and First Baptist was held on August 16th and had a great turn out with 106 people attending with 2 accepting Christ. The Church of God youth group also joined the fun. Our guest speaker Pierre Salmon delivered a great message and the band, Mad Music LLC, played worship and original music throughout the bash.

The youth had several games to choose from including whiffle ball, flag-football, and horseshoes, but the most popular were volley ball and corn-hole.

The night ended with a 6 foot bonfire, and Graces Youth Director, Preston Morton, being drenched in ice water by both youth groups. The Bash was a great success, and we're already planning next year's event.

Preston Morton, Youth Director

Upcoming Workshop:
Basic Church Administration; Creating and Keeping Important Records and Legal Requirements in the Local Church. Sat., Sept. 13th, 9:30-3:30.

administration
SEMINAR

This seminar is designed to provide church officers, pastors, church secretaries, financial secretaries, treasurers, and business administrators the information they need to keep proper records for the administration of the church in accordance with the *Discipline* and Federal and State laws. Cost is \$25 which covers refreshments, lunch and all materials. For more info contact Pastor David – 864-427-1266.

Stewardship Report



Offering Report as of	August 24, 2014
2014 Budget	\$358,819.48
Needed to Meet Budget Y-T-D	234,983.96
Budget Rec'd Y-T-D	220,456.78
Budget Surplus/Deficit Y-T-D	-14,527.18
Weekly Offering Needed	6,900.37
Offering Rec'd Last Week	3,821.00
Expenses Y-T-D	219,139.79
Unbudgeted Fund Bal. Y-T-D	78,555.32
Unbudgeted Expenses Y-T-D	41,986.38



Join the Choir!

The Chancel Choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. If you are interested in participating in this important worship ministry with great fellowship, please contact Tommy Bishop!

If anyone has choir music at home that belongs to the church, please return it to the choir room. Thanks!

Ring a Bell!

Bells will begin practice on Sept. 7 at 5:45 PM. If you would like to ring a bell. Buddy Wilkes invites you to join the fun.



MUSIC



MINISTRY

Choir Rehearsals:

7:30 pm Each Wednesday, in September

Bells of Grace:

5:45 pm Each Sunday in September

Children's Programs Begin Sept. 7

On September 7, at 5:00 PM, the Methodist Children's Fellowship (grades 3– 5) and the Sonshiners (4K to Grade 2) and their families are invited to a cook-out in Mark's Park. There will be a "slip-n-slide", volleyball and corn-hole games. Children should wear a swimsuit and bring a T-shirt and towel.

Jane Wilkes and her crew will be serving hot dogs and dessert for all! In case of rain, no problem; we will still "slip-n-slide". Games and food will be set up inside. Watch for an email asking how many from your family and friends are coming. Please respond as soon as possible so enough food can be prepared.

Each Sunday after this, MCF and Sonshiners will meet from 5:00 - 6:30 PM with fun activities including Bible fun, games, crafts, snazzy music (find out about the "Hymn and M Club"), and a snack supper.

This year we will partner with the GUMCEP kids in a Backpack Mission Project. Each week they should bring kid-friendly non-perishable food to be distributed to needy children at Foster Park Elementary School.

Food suggestions are canned goods with pop-tops like ravioli, spaghetti-o's, instant macaroni-n-cheese, instant mashed potatoes, juice boxes, individual cereals, and crackers.

Officials at the school will fill the backpacks, determine who receives them, send them home Friday, and the children will return the backpacks on Monday morning.



Because We Care

Eden Terrace, Spbg: Mary Hodge
 Providence Place, PA: Catherine Cooksey
 Savannah Grace-Palms, of Mt. Pleasant: Judith Eversman
 NHC, Laurens: Cornelia Huggins
 Easley, SC: Eleanor Hawkins
 Arbor Terrace, Asheville, NC: Ann Gilliam
 Heartland Residential: Ruth Gregory,
 Betty Lidkea & Mary Jo Rogers
 Heartland Nursing: Lib Ruff
 Ellen Sagar Nursing: Neely Beaty
 Lib Johns



YAH September Luncheon at Andy's

The Young at Heart group continues to grow as we enjoy eating together at Andy's Restaurant. We get to know each other better and find out who needs our prayers. Visitors are always welcome.

Come a little before 12:00 on Sept. 10th to Andy's and get your blood pressure taken. We celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. If you are retired, you qualify as a Young-at-Heart!.

Grace Brochure Coming Soon

A Grace brochure, created by Sheryl Price and Mary Jane Cunningham, in connection with the new directory will be coming soon. It is a handout with all the available activities and opportunities available at Grace. A Grace postcard will also be arriving. These were both a courtesy of the directory company.

Visit our Web Site for Information

Dale Goff is constantly updating our website, so please visit the site often to keep up with the news and events.. If you have suggestions or information to share, please email her at goffd@bellsouth.net.



Get Ready MCF and Sonshiners! "What's in the Bible?" is coming your way!

Yea, that's right! Get ready to experience the WHOLE story of the Bible through the creative genius of Phil Vischer, creator of the much beloved Veggie Tales. More than just the greatest hits or most popular Bible stories, the "What's in the Bible?" series is designed to engage you in the whole narrative of God's Word.

The Bible is not a book of rules, but a book of rescue – the beautiful story of the Father who longs to be in relationship with every one of us, and who went to extraordinary measures to bring us into His Kingdom! We are not only beginning a journey through the Bible, but the lifelong journey of a relationship with the Living God. This 13-volume (52-week curriculum) takes us through the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation! Come to MCF and Sonshiners every week to learn "What's in the Bible". Friends are always welcome.!