

The Circuit Writer

Feeding the Spirit, Mind and Body

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARQUIS MEMORIAL UMC | APRIL 2019 – VOLUME 15

From the Pastor's Heart...

Every once in a while I come across an article that sparks my imagination, and I just have to share with all of you. The following one caught my eye with the two lead in sentences; "So much of the narrative in our culture today can be summarized as just plain mean. From the way customers behave at the corner restaurant to the dialogue of lawmakers on Capitol Hill, there is no shortage of people being nasty."

I too bemoan the current style in our world today to be unkind to others sometimes for no other reason than we don't like the way they look! I am so tired of the nastiness that characterizes the national scene, and I am truly embarrassed when nastiness finds its way into the church. What if, instead, our response to society's fixation on bad behavior was to model a different way? When one thinks of outreach and evangelism, the traditional emphasis is to invite guests who are unchurched hoping they will experience God's love within the congregation. What if, the article suggests, we bring simple acts of kindness to those outside of the walls of the church as our new approach to evangelism.

When I read these words, I thought immediately of Marquis. In the eight months I have been your pastor; it is obvious to me that you are already putting these words into action. The weekly food bank, the year round collection of materials to complete 100 health kits for conference, donating school supplies to be distributed through the food bank, the tree of warmth, opening the doors of the social hall for the Valley Mission staff to wrap the gifts for their residents,

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Church Events

- 4/3 Lenten Lunch at Noon (St. John's UMC)
- 4/7 5th Sunday in Lent Worship
- 4/9 West End Alliance 6:30 pm (Social Hall)
- 4/10 Lenten Lunch at Noon (Christ UMC)
- 4/14 Palm Sunday Worship
- 4/14 Easter Lily Order Deadline
- 4/16 Echoes 10:30 am (Social Hall)
- 4/18 Holy Thursday Service 6:30 pm (Sanctuary)
- 4/19 Good Friday Service 6:30 pm (Sanctuary)
- 4/21 'Son'rise Service & Breakfast 6:30 am (St. Paul's UMC)
- 4/21 Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- 4/22 Newsletter Deadline
- 4/23 Social Hall in Use
- Food Pantry every Wednesday at 9 am
- Choir Practice every Thursday at 6:30 pm

Trunk or Treat, the tables of iced water for the 4th of July parade and cups of hot cocoa for the Christmas parade, and the Sunday morning coffee & donut prayer tent!!

From the article by Andrew Ponder Williams: “As Christians at our best, we spend our energy decrying the cruelty of all those around us. At our worst, we fall victim to the same cruelty within the walls of our congregations. How can we model a different way?”

The power of basic kindness - I did not realize the power of basic kindness until the students I shepherded in a campus ministry at the University of California, Irvine, came up with a distinct outreach plan. Instead of having a table lined up next to all the other church groups at the student involvement fair, we decided to offer random acts of kindness to students roaming the campus between classes. We gave away cookies, wrapping each one in a napkin and including a small card inviting students to our weekly dinner.

What we learned about kindness - We experienced three types of reactions from the students. One was instant glee that there were cookies and that they were free. The second was to politely decline the cookie initially but return within approximately 30 seconds to inquire if they really were free. The third was to completely refuse the cookie out of disbelief that we were giving away cookies without a gimmick. These responses taught us something about kindness. Kindness is simple but challenging. Kindness is global. (So are cookies!) Kindness is Christian. Kindness is contagious. But some people will never believe that something desirable is free. We discovered that kindness not only attracted positive attention to our ministry, it also helped us stand out from the crowd within the Christian community on our campus.

How can kindness be a form of evangelism in your context? The most effective uses of kindness are highly visible and interpersonal. Here are some starter ideas for a variety of contexts: Brainstorm with one another ways we can live out our faith by simply being kind. I believe kindness is already central to Marquis’ mission, values and work making it a benchmark of who we are in our community and the city of Staunton. Also, offer kindness to those in crisis. Watch the local news to see where kindness is urgently needed in your community; If all else fails, pass out free cookies to strangers of any age. Those you reach will come to associate your church with kindness (and cookies). That’s evangelism at its sweetest.

Does this method truly bring persons to a saving faith in Jesus Christ? Are we making disciples? The answer to both these questions is a resounding “Absolutely, Yes!”. We **ARE** making disciples of every person in the congregation who participates in any or all of these ministries. We are teaching a whole generation of young people the importance of authenticity in matters of faith through acts of kindness. The smallest act of kindness speaks volumes about a group of people who call Marquis Memorial their Christian home.

What about leading people to Christ?? Each witness to the love of Jesus Christ through acts of kindness has a more far reaching effect than anything you or I can say. There is an oft quoted phrase mistakenly attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, **“Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary!”** Even though St. Francis never spoke these words, they seem quite fitting to an evangelistic style of acts of kindness. I know, for it was through many acts of kindness and love that led me to make a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

I encourage you whole heartedly to continue your ministries of kindness, for in doing so, you are living into the words of Matthew 25:34-35 – “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” ~ You are loved! Pastor Tizzy



Holy Week Activities



Palm Sunday • April 14th • 10:30 am • Sanctuary

Holy Thursday • April 18th • 6:30 pm • Sanctuary

Good Friday • April 19th • 6:30 pm • Sanctuary

“Son”rise Service • April 21st • 6:30 am • St. Paul’s UMC
breakfast following service prepared by men of St. Paul’s

Easter Sunday • April 21st • 10:30 am • Sanctuary

We still need 4 male volunteers to help with our Holy Thursday Tenebrae Service. Each participant will be seated around a table at the altar, dressed as a disciple and will have a short speaking part. Please contact Caryn or Pastor Tizzy if you are interested in volunteering.

Lily Order Form

Caryn will be placing an initial order at noon on Monday, April 1st. Please let her know how many lilies you would like to order. Final order will be placed on Monday, April 15th. Plan to pick up the lilies following our Easter Service on April 21st.

IN MEMORY OF

Name: _____

Given by: _____

Name: _____

Given by: _____

IN HONOR OF

Name: _____

Given by: _____

Name: _____

Given by: _____

Total # of Lilies _____ X \$7.50 = \$ _____

ECHOES

Echoes will not meet in April but will meet on Tuesday, May 21st at 11:00 a.m. at Country Cookin' for a dutch treat lunch. All are invited to join us.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

As we head into April and closer to Easter, let's tell someone what Jesus means to us. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is living in you. Romans 8:11

SMILE NEWS

Avery Ziegler was awarded a good citizenship award at school. It said she is always kind and respectful, has a positive attitude and loves school. She was also recognized for her perfect attendance so far this year.

HOMEBOUND | ASSISTED LIVING | NURSING HOME

Peggy Barkley - 886-7796
316 Sharon Ln
Staunton, VA 24401

Fern Moran - 885-9500
1900 Hillsmere Ln #124B
Staunton, VA 24401

Elizabeth Poe - 941-5457
1221 Rosser Ave #224A
Waynesboro, VA 22980

Nellie Demastus - 949-8665
339 Westminister Dr #305
Fishersville, VA 22939

Ann Perry - 248-1380
1410 N. Augusta St #3025
Staunton, VA 24401

Mary Smith - 886-5180
503 B St
Staunton, VA 24401

Marcella Landram
1900 Hillsmere Ln #121
Staunton, VA 24401

Phyllis Pilson - 885-2871
94 Mountain Vista Dr #100
Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

Leta Wimer
54 Imperial Dr. Room N1
Staunton, VA 24401

MISSION COMMITTEE

Health kit update: Only a couple months left to collect for health kits. We don't have an exact figure, but we should be on track to get our goal of 100. Thanks to all who have donated items to make this possible. With floods raging in our country and many disasters around the world, these will certainly be in demand.

Thanks to everyone who donated items for Easter baskets, these are certainly a blessing to our food pantry clients.

Earlier this year we heard an update on the food pantry. We learned of the new technology that was put in place and also new freezers added. While this is important, I want to thank

all the individuals who devote their time every week to make this important mission of our church work. If you can volunteer some time to help out in the food pantry I'm sure it would be appreciated.

Thanks for all your support of the mission here at Marquis Memorial.

The Mission Committee

Food Pantry Needs

We still have a lot of meat including hamburger and pork tenderloins so we need mixes and sides such as hamburger helper, sloppy joe mix, instant potatoes, stuffing, pasta sides, etc.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Peggy Barkley	Penny Walker Reen
Betty Barnhardt	Jim Rohr
Dave Botkin	Kim Rohr
Kelly Botkin	Peggy Rohr
Phil Carletti	George Sanderson
Ron Carletti	Katherine Sheets
John Clatterbaugh	Faye Shifflett
Carmen Collins	Leta Wimer
Fitz Fairfield	Estelle Wade
Jonathan Gillette	Tommy Wood
Jerry Harman	Those in the Armed Services
Wendy Harman	The United Methodist Church
Scott Hearn	Our Local United Methodist Churches
Marcella Landram	Our Community
William Lawhorne	Our Nation
Skip Low	
Fern Moran	
Elizabeth Poe	

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Vern and Pastor Tizzy Walker following the death of Vern's sister, Judy Walker Deming on Sunday, March 3rd.

Tim and Pat Hanger and their family following the death of Tim's mom, Dorothy Hanger on Thursday, March 7th.

Marion and Lindy Gough following the death of Marion's brother, Donald Gough on Friday, March 15th.

The family and friends of Sandra Allen following her death on Friday, March 22nd.

THANK YOU

Thanks for all the calls, cards, and prayers during the passing of my Mother. A special thanks to all who helped with nice meal following the service and Pastor Tizzy for her visits. ~ Tim Hanger and Family

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and expressions of love following Donnie's death. Also thank you to all who helped with the reception following the burial. It allowed his son and family from Oregon to spend time with family and friends they would not have been able to visit with otherwise. ~ Marion & Lindy

BIBLE READING PLAN

In 2019 we'll be reading the Bible from start to finish, from Genesis to Revelation.

Mon, 4/1	1 Samuel 18-20
Tue, 4/2	1 Samuel 21-24
Wed, 4/3	1 Samuel 25-27
Thu, 4/4	1 Samuel 28-31
Fri, 4/5	2 Samuel 1-3
Sat, 4/6	2 Samuel 4-7
Sun, 4/7	2 Samuel 8-12
Mon, 4/8	2 Samuel 13-15
Tue, 4/9	2 Samuel 16-18
Wed, 4/10	2 Samuel 19-21
Thu, 4/11	2 Samuel 22-24
Fri, 4/12	1 Kings 1-2
Sat, 4/13	1 Kings 3-5
Sun, 4/14	1 Kings 6-7
Mon, 4/15	1 Kings 8-9
Tue, 4/16	1 Kings 10-11
Wed, 4/17	1 Kings 12-14
Thu, 4/18	1 Kings 15-17
Fri, 4/19	1 Kings 18-20
Sat, 4/20	1 Kings 21-22
Sun, 4/21	2 Kings 1-3
Mon, 4/22	2 Kings 4-5
Tue, 4/23	2 Kings 6-8
Wed, 4/24	2 Kings 9-11
Thu, 4/25	2 Kings 12-14
Fri, 4/26	2 Kings 15-17
Sat, 4/27	2 Kings 18-19
Sun, 4/28	2 Kings 20-22
Mon, 4/29	2 Kings 23-25
Tue, 4/30	1 Chronicles 1-2

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4 Ashley Rohr Lail	17 Bill Heizer
5 Travis Viel	Vern Walker
6 Connor Stewart	20 Jason Hulvey
Wade Stewart	Natasha James
11 Tara Knapp	22 Jeff Guffey
13 Frances Thornton	25 Josh Ziegler
14 Matthew Viel	26 Greg Sellers
15 Amy Stewart	28 Marge Sharp
16 John Stover, Sr.	30 Phil Carletti

WEAVER SERVING AS INTERIM BISHOP

Bishop Peter (Pete) D. Weaver began his duties as interim bishop of the Virginia Conference on March 7, 2019, as Bishop Sharma D. Lewis began a six-month medical leave. Weaver was born into a parsonage family in Greenville, Pa. Following education at W. Va. Wesleyan (BA), Drew University (MDiv) and Boston University (ThD) he served United Methodist churches in Pittsburgh, Pa. for 25 years focusing on making disciples through ministries with youth, young adults, older adults, the homeless, industrial workers and executives and with weekly radio broadcasts. He was a founder of “Bethlehem Haven” for homeless women and “One Voice Against Racism.” In 1996, he was elected a bishop and served the Philadelphia Area (1996-2004) and Boston Area (2004-2012). From 2012-2016 Bishop Weaver served in Washington, DC as Executive Secretary of the United Methodist Council of Bishops and now serves as Bishop-in-Residence at Drew University Theological School. Pete (as he prefers to be called) and his spouse Linda now live in Williamsburg, Va. and have eight grown daughters and twelve grandchildren. Along with enjoying family, Pete plays the trombone, does woodworking, water sports, and helping with ministry with persons who are homeless. His “life verse” is: “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!” (II Cor. 5:17) Please pray for Bishop Lewis and for Bishop Weaver.



WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE?

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.” Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don't know.” “You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?” The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of affection. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. I know my Master is there and that is enough.”

~ Author Unknown