

MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER September 2017
3035 Mount Pleasant Blvd., Roanoke, Virginia 24014
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REFLECTIONS ON CHARLOTTESVILLE - Copies of Bishop Lewis's statement on Charlottesville are available on the table in the sanctuary. Superintendent Kathleen Overby Webster says: "I urge you to follow her lead: to pray, to witness, to preach, and to combat racism by being 'vigilant in witness and peaceful in advocacy.' Mark your calendars now for the Convocation on Race and Reconciliation next year on April 14."

CHARGE CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2 - Our annual Charge Conference will be Monday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Rockingham Court UMC. Mount Pleasant and Rockingham will once again share this time together under the leadership of our district superintendent. All are welcome to attend! As part of this time together, we will have the opportunity to remember our baptisms, renouncing sin and professing our faith in the Living Lord.

THE GREAT SONG TOURNAMENT! - The winner of the Great Song Tournament was announced on Sunday, September 3. The two finalists were Because He Lives and I'll Fly Away.

LIFE GROUP AT PCC - The Wednesday morning LIFE GROUP at PCC will have another small group Bible study beginning in October. Watch for more info!

"SECOND SATURDAY" SEPTEMBER 9 - Join us at 5:30 p.m. on September 9 for "SECOND SATURDAY" community-based casual worship! The speaker will be David Watts. Thanks to all who attended in August and helped support the MPVFD fund raiser!

ONLINE MEN'S GROUP - Weekly men's study meets "online" Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m. See Pastor Robert for info about how to "log in." Video topics are available online free at the yourmove.is web site or the Your Move app. We cover the video posted ten days before the Wednesday session.

THANK YOU for letting me represent Mt. Pleasant UMC at conference this year. It was an uplifting experience with good speakers and good music. Bishop Lewis is full of enthusiasm and makes it difficult not to "catch the spirit." She said that the Holy Spirit was at work in the Virginia Conference.

Many reports were given including the number of kits collected (which was 46,443). There were ministers retiring and new ministers coming on board.

The offering collected will be sent to Cambodia, Brazil, Mozambique, Virginia Long Term Disaster Recovery, Ethnic Minority Ministers and Virginia volunteers in Mission.

Overall, the conference was very informative and inspirational.

Jane Burks

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH

OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for August

August 6	70	August 20	87
August 13	91**	August 27	67

** 8/13 includes Second Sunday

August 2017 Average 79 August 2016 Average 80

Once again August is a good month for us! Let's keep up the good habit!

OUR GIFTS

August Budget Offerings	\$ 7,963.73
Average Monthly Need	\$ 10,337.00
**Other August Income	\$ 797.00

**Other offerings/income for the month include Wonderful Wednesday & Mission (\$360), Backpack (\$231), Ghana (\$135), Memorial (\$50) and Communion (\$21).

Remember that your consistent weekly or monthly giving keeps our mission and ministries strong!

YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS! Part of our monthly budget supports UMC apportionments – "a portion" of each offering "meant" for the work of Christ around the world. We contribute our share of about \$122 monthly for Virginia Annual Conference Services. Even the administrative work of the conference is quite vital. This fund helps make possible the conference office in Glen Allen, the annual conference session each June, the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the financial work of the treasurer's office, archives and history work, and much more. You help make it happen!

OUR PRAYERS, SERVICE AND WITNESS - Thank you for your daily prayers for our ministry, for sharing your prayer requests and praise reports, for giving of your time, energy and talents, and for making a positive witness for Christ and his church!

SEPTEMBER 10 – PASTOR ROBERT ON THE ORGAN – The headline says it all. Pastor Robert will share some organ music with us as a part of our worship on Sunday, September 10. Don't miss it!

BLESSING MOB FOR PIZZA! - It's time for another BLESSING MOB – Sunday, September 17, for lunch at Domino's Pizza, 2165 Bennington! Pick up a Blessing Card at church that morning and head for Domino's after worship as we help share the love! Consider leaving a generous tip. (If you are in a cranky mood, do not leave a card with our church name on it haha!)

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL will meet on September 21 at 7:00 p.m. This is the last meeting before charge conference on October 2. Please attend.

PASTOR CHATTER

It is distressing to see the flooding from Hurricane Harvey in Texas. So many people have been affected, and recovery will take a long, long time. One of my pastor friends from Houston measured over 50 inches of rain at his house in a little over 72 hours. Amazingly, his house did not take on water (though he was not able to drive out of his neighborhood for some time).

Our September Communion offering supports the specific flood relief efforts in Texas as well as all of the disaster relief work of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR works in tandem with other relief agencies, and has a specific focus on the long-term recovery efforts. The church work continues long after the emergency teams have exited the scene!

If you were unable to share in the Communion offering, you may contribute by simply marking your check for UMCOR or RELIEF. Hurting people will be blessed because of your generosity.

Pastor Robert



BISHOP'S BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

SEPT. 1-2	Ezekiel 9-15
SEPT. 3-9	Ezekiel 16-33
SEPT. 10-16	Ezekiel 34-48, Daniel 1-6
SEPT. 17-23	Daniel 7-12, Hosea, Joel, Amos
SEPT. 24-30	Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah
OCT. 1-7	Malachi, Matthew 1-14
OCT. 8-14	Matthew 15-28
OCT. 15-21	Mark 1-14
OCT. 22-28	Mark 15-16, Luke 1-11
OCT. 29-31	Luke 12-18

(The day-by-day list is available online, on the handout at church, or in the weekly worship bulletin.)

UPPER ROOMS are available in the vestibule. If you would like to help defray the cost, please put your dollars in the slot. Thanks.



FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

And just like that...it's September.

Thank you so much for your support of the Wonderful Wednesday Program this summer. In fact, we're so excited to announce that Wonderful Wednesdays will continue into the school year. Wonderful Wednesdays: The After School Edition will begin Wednesday, September 20. The program will run from 2:30 p.m. (we'll pick the kids up at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School)

and run through 5:30 p.m. We are offering this program for free to the community so that's where your help can come in. We are in need of snacks! We need 25 individually wrapped snacks (no nuts please) each week. Are you able to help with that? If you are, please see Heather! Additionally, we can ALWAYS use extra hands on Wednesdays! If you're able to volunteer, or just want to come and hang out, know that you are welcome! But I do ask that you pray for our leaders and students and their families! What a great opportunity we have to continue building relationships throughout the school year.

Youth group will begin again on Sunday, September 17. It will run from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and we are in need of help with dinner. If you're able to provide dinner or dessert (or both!) please let Heather know. They are teens and like junk food... and we typically prepare for 15. As with children's ministries, extra hands are always welcome!

And with the craziness of the return to school, Mom's Night Out is Thursday, October 19, as we head to watch Chonda Pierce (Christian Comedienne). Ticket cost is \$24 if we get a group of 10 to go! It will be a blast! Please see Heather if you're interested! (And women of all ages are invited... mom or not!)

As always, it is a pleasure to serve Mt. Pleasant UMC!

Heather St. Clair,
Director of Children, Teens, and Families



September Birthdays

(2) Kirk Gibson; (4) Jane Taylor; (6) Landon Dyess; (10) Linda Schoonover; (12) Isaac St. Clair, Betsy Stutes; (13) Jenny Basham, John Leslie; (14) Tom McCann, Kim Gembala; (16) John Cline; (18) Mike Gray, Greg Jackson, Amanda Holmes; (21) Jase Jacob Houston Beckner; (24) James Dillon, Shayna Hastings; (25) Piper Lee Lucas; (30) Brandi Smith



September Anniversaries

(9) David & Liz Mortlock;
(12) Pat & Brenda Musselwhite

DEADLINE for the October newsletter is **September 24**.

LUNCH BUNCH, Monday, September 11 - Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

THANKS to all who pitched in to help at the Back to School Picnic on August 27. More than 72 people enjoyed the event. Family Social Committee

SECOND SUNDAY, September 10, after worship. We will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries with a reception. Join us!

MP UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, Wednesday, September 13, at 3:00 p.m. We will meet at the church and go to MP Elementary to fill backpacks. After completing the packing, we will return to church for a short business meeting and refreshments. All women are invited to participate.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP, Tuesday, September 19, at noon. Lunch will be provided with social hour to follow. These meetings are open to the community. Please bring a neighbor!

HOEDOWN AT THE HERMITAGE, Saturday, September 16, rain or shine, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Music by Eastern Divide, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Luncheon tickets are \$7.00 for barbeque or a hot dog, baked beans, watermelon salad, and a drink. Children's tickets are \$3.00 for a hot dog and drink only. Please purchase tickets from Jenny Basham by September 13.

OUT AND ABOUT IN SEPTEMBER

Pastor Robert will be OUT AND ABOUT this month at these locations. Stop by for chat, coffee, or prayer! This can be an opportunity to bring a friend to "meet your pastor" in a non-threatening setting.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

East County Café (Library), 300 S. Pollard, Vinton

FRIDAY, SEPT. 15 - 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

WBHS Stadium, 2902 E. Washington

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17 - 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Domino's Pizza, 2165 Bennington

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21 - 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Mount Pleasant Library, 2918 Jae Valley

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Subway, 1724 Bennington

ACROSS THE AREA (go to roanokeumc.org or vaumc.org)

- VOLUNTEER TEAMS are needed in Virginia Beach through December for the long-term recovery from Hurricane Matthew. Housing is provided. Work includes drywall, floor, tile replacement, painting, etc. Contact Forrest White at 804-938-1026.
- CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP – fourth Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Greene Memorial UMC (344-6225).
- DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ANNUAL MEETING is Sunday, October 1, at 3:00 p.m. at Blacksburg UMC. The UMW prayer breakfast will be November 4.
- LAY SERVANT AND SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING is offered on Saturday, October 7, at Raleigh Court UMC. See the flyer on the bulletin board downstairs for more info!
- HARVEST OF HOPE November 17-19 at Alta Mons. For all ages. Participants glean crops, donating

the produce to food relief, and learn about hunger issues. See endhunger.org/hoh.

- HOLY LAND JOURNEY led by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis next year February 26 – March 7, 2018. Enjoy the opportunity to "walk where Jesus walked" with the fellowship of church friends from across Virginia! See Pastor Robert for a brochure!

NOTES OF THANKS

I want to thank my church family and friends for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and flowers that you all have sent to my mother, Joy Ann Vilcheck, over the past year and half. It meant so much to my mother and family. I would read the cards and she would say, "I'm not worthy of all that love and kindness." She was never one to bring attention to herself. She lost her battle with cancer on 8/10/2017, and now taking another wonderful journey with our Lord and Savior.

So many of her friends and family gave their testimony of how she touched their lives at her beautiful funeral service. I wish that you all could have known this amazing, beautiful woman- MY MOTHER.

I was going through some of mom's things before she passed and came across a small book. The title is "God's Heart to Yours" by Roy Lessin. God gave me the peace and calm as I read the following at my mother's funeral:

Proverbs 10:7:

The memory of the righteous will be a blessing. God wants you to be the kind of person others enjoy thinking about. Through the example of your life and the testimony of your faith, thoughts of you will bring a smile to the hearts of others. He will bless your life in such a way that a sweet remembrance of you will remain with others even after you are gone.

How great is this prayer, how rich is the meaning. How full is the gratefulness of those who say "I thank God for you!" My mother lived up to her name, she brought Joy to so many. She will be missed.

On behalf of Joy's family, thank you!
Joyce Ison

A note of thanks for being here to help us with our Back to School Night dinner. Your support and prayers are needed and appreciated.

Ellen Walton, MPES Principal

Thank you so much for giving your time and energy on Back to School Night. We could not have done it without you. Your love for the MPES community is evident and we are thrilled to be able to work alongside you – all for the good of our kids! May God bless the work of your hands.

Hannah Anderson, MPES PTA