



# The Mount Pleasant Messenger

November 2021

*From Pastor Robert ...*

Betsy and I are grateful for your kindness in recognizing Clergy Appreciation Month. It is hard to believe that we are now in our ninth year together. No one could have expected what these last two years would have brought to the faith communities of our world. We have been stressed, but there have been many signs of God's grace.

Now the holiday season is upon us. I hope we will all be perceptive for God at work. It is so easy to miss the small signs of divine activity when we get preoccupied. I also hope we will look hard for people who need a special touch of love and attention. Even in "normal" times there are many folks who are living in a virtual desert, in deep need of God's care. Let's remember that the ministry of the church includes our everyday interactions. This is part of our faithful response to God. Go be the church!

--Pastor Robert Stutes

## OLD TESTAMENT SERIES CONTINUES

We continue to look at great themes of the Old Testament. During November we will cover chapters 11-13 of *We Make the Road By Walking*. Follow these Scriptures each week to prepare for worship:

- NOV. 7 Deuteronomy 7:1-11; Psalm 137:1-9; 149:1-9; Matthew 15:21-39
- NOV. 14 2 Kings 2:1-15; Psalm 23; Acts 1:1-11
- NOV. 21 Isaiah 1:1-2:5; Romans 15:1-13; Matthew 9:10-17

## NOVEMBER 7 - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We will join with many Christians in observing the first Sunday of November as ALL SAINTS SUNDAY. On this day we give special thanks to those of our church family who have completed their earthly journey during the past twelve months - Jim Brabham, Cecil Blankenship, Tom McCann, Pat Tabor, James Dillon, and June Lavelle. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones." (Psalm 116:15)

## CHURCH CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Church Conference is Sunday, November 7 at 12 noon immediately following worship. We will take action on a special item. Our PRG (Post-Covid Re-Entry Group) recommends the adoption of a new "single board" structure for MPUMC beginning in 2022. Four administrative groups - Council, Trustees, Finance and Staff-Parish - are combined into a single Leadership Board. Please make every effort to be present. All church members have a voice and a vote at a Church Conference! A pizza lunch will be served following the business of the conference!



- 7 Church Conference and Pizza Lunch
- 9 UMW meeting
- 23 UMW Fellowship
- 25 Happy Thanksgiving
- 28 First Sunday Advent

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

- 1 Grace St.Clair
- 4 Charles Grant
- 5 Dean Shell
- 8 Josette McMillan
- 16 Winky McCann
- 17 Danny Dyess
- 20 Judy Gibson
- 23 Walter Heath
- 29 Beth Whitehead

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 Mike & Denise Gray
- 6 Wakter & Deb Heath
- 16 Jan & Janet McMillan
- 17 Mike & Kim Gembala
- 18 Rick and Terry Beck

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Robert Stutes, Pastor  
Krae Heath, AV & Media  
Outreach Coordinator  
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

## Meet Karen Tate!



Transplanted to Roanoke from Lewisburg, West Virginia, Karen and her husband Jim joined our church family about 15 years ago.

Sadly, Jim passed in 2015, and Karen, along with her daughter Sarah and her family, continue to be an active part of our church family. Karen is in her third year as Chair of our Finance Committee. She is also Chair of our Family/Social Committee AND the Outreach Committee. She is President of the United Methodist Women and recently, joined the work of the Post-Covid Reentry Group which is also the group that has been leading the charge as we consider changing to a new structure for our church leadership. Whew! Where does she find the time!

Karen is a gracious host and alongside her furry friend Ferdy, she often opens her home to many of us to gather for fellowship.

When asked what she loves most about our church, she responded, "The welcoming feeling you get the minute you step inside the front door." When Karen talks about the future of our church, she said she wants us to continue to be "a meeting place for ALL people of ALL generations." Karen ... thank you for your service and friendship to all of us! You are loved and appreciated!



Our UMW will meet on Tuesday, November 7 at 1:30 in the church Fellowship Hall. Jenny Basham will present our program, "Pledge and World Thanks." Women of all ages are welcome!

## *From Hope's Heart ...*

*Hope Patsel is a lifelong member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and dearly loved by all.*



Have you seen the beautiful moon that's been shining for several nights?

I've heard it called the "Harvest Moon." And have you noticed how the leaves are changing colors – red, yellow, orange? Days are getting shorter too. We're in for a changing season ... Fall is here!

Change comes not only to nature, but into our lives also. Some we welcome; some we would rather not deal with. But we must remember that God is unchanging. He is *always* with us and He will see us through.

*"And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20*

## **STAFF NEWS!**

Beginning in November, Krae Heath will have a new staff responsibility at MPUMC, focusing his efforts on helping our church strengthen our online and social media presence (with a reduction of hours to one-quarter time – 10 hrs a week)! This can expand our reach to all age groups. This decision was made with prayerful consultation between Pastor Robert, Krae, the Staff-Parish Committee, and the PRG (Post-Covid Reentry Group)!

We all believe that this is a better use of Krae's gifts and skills for this time. Many are seeking creative opportunities for growing as disciples through social media and online resources. Churches of all sizes are finding ways to broaden their reach using these tools. Pastor Robert and our church leaders will be working hard to focus our efforts in ministries with youth, children and their families. We would love to hear from you if you have thoughts about how we can be more effective in this work. Please keep our ministries with all ages in your prayers. And please share any thoughts or concerns with Pastor Robert or Kim Gembala (SPR chair).



**GIFT CARD OUTREACH GETS ATTENTION**

Our gift card outreach to teachers and staff at Mount Pleasant Elementary was recognized recently in special news articles. The Virginia Conference circulated this feature story, and then it was also shared with the international United Methodist News Service! The story has also been shared with the Vinton Messenger, and should appear in print this first week of November. If you haven't yet done so, be sure and stop by Chris's Coffee and Custard on Ninth Street. This business provides employment for special needs adults. The gift cards helped show thanks to our school neighbors as well as provide support for Chris's shop!

**SOCKTOBER WAS A SUCCESS!**

We had a marvelous response to the sock drive during October, to be shared through the ministry of Samaritan Inn. Over 200 pairs of socks were collected. Continue to keep the work of Samaritan Inn in your prayers!

**SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIRST RESPONDERS**



On October 14<sup>th</sup>, ladies of the church provided a meal for the firefighters, EMTs and volunteers at the Mt. Pleasant Fire Station and also to Roanoke City's Station 11. Crockpots of Ranch Chicken, chips and home-baked Apple Pies were delivered to express appreciation for their service to our community. Thank you Joyce Ison for coordinating this! On Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup>, following worship, Joyce and Jenny delivered individual Halloween treat boxes to these faithful first responders.



**CARE PACKAGES MAILED**

Krae and Collen Heath assembled Care Packages and mailed them to our young people away at college and those in the Military: Jackson Honaker and Ryan Krawczyk at Virginia Tech, Isaac St. Clair (Navy) and Kollin Slusher (Marines).

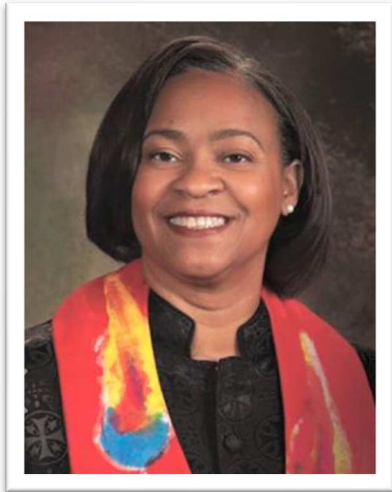
The blue themed packages, filled with blue snack items, included the note:

A little something out of the blue  
To remind you we're thinking of you!





## **NOVEMBER 28 WORSHIP FEATURES BISHOP LEWIS**



Bishop Sharma Lewis has prepared a special sermon to be used throughout the churches of our conference. This worship experience was designed to allow clergy to take off an additional Sunday for rest and renewal. This message will be included in our worship on Sunday, Nov. 28, and Pastor

Robert and Betsy will be using this weekend to take a few additional days following Thanksgiving time with family in Texas! Bishop Lewis and the district superintendents are so thankful for all the ways that the clergy of the conference have led during the pandemic, and they are excited to connect with churches through this worship opportunity!

### **DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

This year's District Conference is a virtual event by Zoom. It includes inspiring worship along with necessary annual business, including approval of the district budget and election of district leadership. The conference will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, **November 7**. You may find registration information at the district web site ([roanokeumc.org](http://roanokeumc.org)) or by calling the office at 540-989-3335.

### **CONFERENCE YOUTH RALLY**

A conference-wide youth rally is set for Saturday, **December 4**, and we hope to have some teens who are able to attend. This is our first in-person district or conference youth event in many months! We will be sharing information about this event for youth in grades 6-12. See Krae or Pastor Robert as soon as possible if you are interested in attending!

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR WINTER CAMP AT ALTA MONS**

More information will be available soon about Winter Camp, December 17-19 at Alta Mons. All are also welcome to attend the Alta Mons annual meeting on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m.

### **Welcome Beau Alexander Heath!**



Born October 4<sup>th</sup> Beau is about to celebrate his one-month birthday! Proud parents are Krae and Colleen Heath. Krae tells us Mom and baby are both doing well, although all (including him!) are really tired thanks to the "every two hours" feeding rule.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

