

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

What Are You Planting This Easter?

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business.

Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you." The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew.

Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing.

By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by -- still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however, he just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - he so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection.

Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful -- in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives.

Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!"

All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot.

(continued on page 2)

Rev. Danny J. Kesner
Senior Pastor

Rev. Janet Allen
Associate Pastor

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
757-482-1049
Fax: 757-482-0432

Email
greatbridgeumc@verizon.net

Website
www.greatbridgeumc.com

Sunday Services
Traditional
8:00 and 11:00 AM
&
Contemporary
9:30 AM



What Are You Planting This Easter?

(continued)

He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!"

Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed.

"How could he be the new CEO?" the others said.

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow.

All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

- ~ If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
- ~ If you plant goodness, you will reap friends
- ~ If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
- ~ If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
- ~ If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
- ~ If you plant hard work, you will reap success
- ~ If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation

Pastor Danny

NEW MEMBERS

Win, Karen & Chandler Culpeper
1516 Taft Rd.
Chesapeake, VA 23322
421-2187

George & Monica Blick
1301 Winfall Dr.
Chesapeake, VA 23322
546-9593

Connie Duffy
524 Shadow Brooke Dr.
Chesapeake, VA 23320
549-5242

Brad & Corey Richardson
1124 Chesslawn Circle
Chesapeake, VA 23320
286-7420

Jennifer & Sarah Williamson
1615 Prospect Dr.
Chesapeake, VA 23322
482-3643

*With
Sympathy*

*David & Kathy Stevenson, loss of David's mother, Ada
Davis & Ruth Gillespie, loss of Davis' grandmother
Alan & Margie Ives, loss of Margie's nephew, Bill
Larry & Donna Myers, loss of Donna's mother
Jeff, Jen & Colten Myers, loss of Jeff's grandmother
Fred & Brenda DeVito, loss of Brenda's mother*



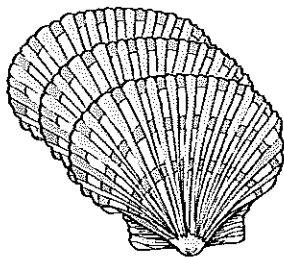
Adult Ministries

Lay Pastoral Ministers

After an intensive six weeks training program was completed, eight new Lay Pastoral Ministers were introduced and commissioned in each service on Jan. 30th. These LPMs plus the ten LPMs who have been serving in this ministry for several years, bring a wealth of diverse training and backgrounds to the ministry of

serving members of our church family who are experiencing some special need. We assist Pastor Danny & Pastor Janet in providing pastoral support to the congregation of Great Bridge United Methodist Church by making contacts or visits with members who are ill, grieving, or going through a difficult time. At the present time, we are ministering to twenty one members of our

church family on a regular basis. If someone is unable to attend church, we will bring communion to them. Our mission is to extend and support the care given by our pastors. If you know of a need that the LPMs might be able to help with; make a referral on the Prayer Request form which is found on the back of the attendance slip in your weekly bulletin or contact Rev. Janet Allen..



A Baptism seminar led by Rev. Janet Allen will be held on Sunday, April 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference room located in the office suite.

Parents of children planning for baptism are invited to attend. Please call the church office to register 482-1049.



Got questions?? Do you ever wonder what's unique about claiming the name "United Methodist?"

Do you ever wonder why this church does baptism, or communion, or even organizes ministries a particular way? Do you ever wonder how you can

get connected to the ministry and mission of Great Bridge United Methodist Church? Then you just might be an "INQUIRER!" Come, ask your questions at our next series of "Inquirers' Classes" Wednesdays, April 6, 13 & 27 at 6:45 p.m. in the Conference Room. You'll meet other folks

with questions like yours and maybe even hear a few answers! This is a great chance to meet with the pastors and other key leaders of the church in a small group. Check it out! For more info, please contact John Case at 482-4943 or the church office at 482-1049.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

*Colossians 3:15
"Let the peace of
Christ rule in your
hearts, since as
members of one
body you were
called to peace."*

Circle of Grace will meet on Tuesday, April 5th at 6:30 p.m. in room 136 for refreshments and at 7 p.m. for the business meeting. All ladies are invited to attend! You can make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth.

Upcoming Events

*District Women's Retreat - Sat., April 9, cost is \$15
"Let Go and Let God"*

Orders for plant sale in the Social Hall, April 10, 17 and May 1.

Tuesday, April 12, we will prepare lunch for the students at Old Dominion University.

Meeting Dates

Circle of Faith

2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM in room 112.

Friendship Circle

1st Monday of the month at 10 AM at various homes.

Circle of Grace

1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in room 136 or at various homes.

Circle of Light

2nd Tuesday of the month at noon in room 119.

Circle of Love

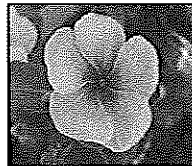
3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM in various homes.

Kay Reel Circle

3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM.

All ladies are welcome to visit any of the circles. Please call the church office to verify meeting locations. Child care can be provided if necessary.

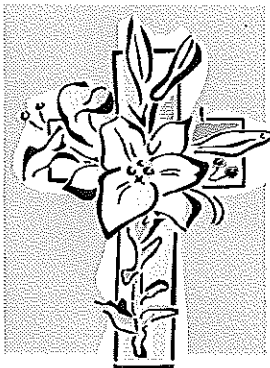
**Circle of Grace
Annual Flower Sale**



Spring is here!

Soon the days will be getting warmer. If your flower beds and gardens need a little bit of color, the Circle of Grace will be taking orders for summer annuals on April 10, 17 and May 1 in the Social Hall during Coffee House. These beautiful high quality plants come in 6" pots for \$3.50 each (\$3 each for orders of 24 or more). Order forms will also be available at the Welcome Centers or you may see any member of the Circle of Grace. The pick-up date will be Sat. May 7 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Proceeds will be used to support the mission work of the circle.

Living Easter Cross



*will be located in the
Narthex
Easter Sunday, April 24.
Sponsored by the
Circle of Love.*

Remember to bring fresh flowers to adorn the cross during all Easter services.



United Methodist Men Activities

**Sunday, April 17
6:45 a.m.**

Our regular monthly meeting. Please join us for a spiritual blessing and a great breakfast.

**Sunday, April 17
12 Noon - 2 p.m.**

“Gourmet” Soup & Salad Luncheon - Eat in or take out. Cost will be \$6 for adults & \$4 for children. Proceeds from this event will go towards the Jim Earley Scholarship Fund.

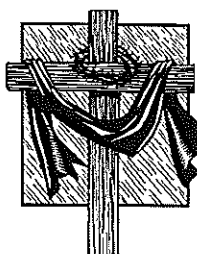
**Easter Sunday,
April 24
7 - 7:45 a.m.**

We will be providing breakfast after the Sunrise Service at Chesapeake Memorial Gardens. All donations will go towards the Jim Earley Scholarship Fund.

Remember to order your Easter lilies.
Order forms will be available Sunday, April 10th.



Music Ministries



Have you ever wondered what Jesus' friends and family might have said about Him and His life as they honored Him at a funeral?

This Good Friday, April 22nd at 7 p.m., please plan to join us as members of the GBUMC Chancel and Sonshine choirs along with Jesus' family and friends pay tribute to His life through music and heartfelt words. This original and non-traditional service will feature a diverse mix of

musical styles, and will be followed by a traditional funeral reception.

"Funeral for a Friend"
Celebrate His life ...
Remember His sacrifice ...

Bring Holy Week into your heart in this most special way.



Outreach Ministries

Relief needs in Japan and elsewhere related to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami is the focus of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which is in contact with partners in the region, according to Melissa Crutchfield, UMCOR executive for international disaster response.

The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, UMCOR's top executive, urged prayers for those affected by the disaster. "Once again, in the wake of disaster and in the face of widespread need, we rely on the ever-expansive generosity of United Methodists and all people of goodwill to help us

respond to those whose lives have suddenly been turned upside down," she said.

Donations can be made to Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317. Mark Pacific Emergency on your donations made out to GBUMC and 100% of our gifts will help those affected by the disaster!!



*"Cancer Never Takes
A Holiday"
Fri., May 6 ~
Sat., May 7*

Cancer has touched almost everyone, whether personally or through friends or loved ones. Let's team up and fight back! Please join the GBUMC team for this year's Relay for Life. Taking part in this worthwhile event is a rewarding, fun and moving experience you will not forget and there is something to do for everyone: fund raising, site decorating, walking, lighting luminaries, etc. To join team "Great Bridge UMC" please sign up in the Social Hall during

Coffee House; log on to www.relayforlife.org/chesapeake, or contact Rob or Andrew Hall at rahall5@aol.com or 482-4449. For a \$1 donation you can put a loved ones name on a holiday tag which will be displayed in the Social Hall. Please consider donating your time to help this worthy cause.

Easter Offering

On Sunday, April 24, Christians all around the globe will be celebrating Jesus' victory of death. This miracle gives us joy and

reminds us of God's powerful love. As is our tradition at GBUMC, we will be receiving a special second-mile offering which will spread God's love to many others. Our generosity will touch the lives of others letting them know that Indeed, He is Risen! Let's pass on the love of resurrection.

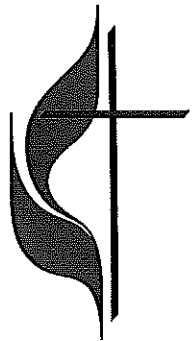




Would YOU Like to Join This Church Family?

We will receive new members into the fellowship of our congregation on *Sunday, May 1 at all 3 services.*

Please contact the church office by Tuesday, April 26 at either 482-1049 or greatbridgeumc@verizon.net.



Please submit bulletin announcements by Wednesdays at 12 noon.

The deadline for the May newsletter is Wednesday, April 20.

Believe it or not, summer is coming!

And did you know that the United Methodist Church supports 4 residential summer camps in Virginia?

If you are interested in finding out more about them, they are listed with websites that have information about programs and rates.

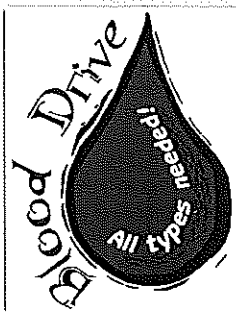
Questions? Contact Thom Kinsey in the church office.

Camp Alta Mons
Shawsville, Va
www.altamons.com

Camp Overlook
Keezletown, Va.
www.gbgm-umc.org/campoverlook

Occohannock-on-the-Bay
Belle Haven, Va.
www.ootbay.org

Westview on the James
Goochland, Va.
www.westviewonthejames.org



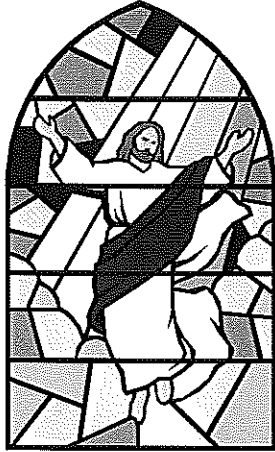
American Red Cross Blood Drive here at GBUMC Tuesday, May 3, 2 - 7 PM.



201 Stadium Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23322
www.greatbridgeumc.com

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Mailing Label



April 17 ~ Palm Sunday

April 18 - April 22

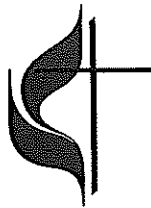
*Holy Week lunches at 12:10 PM
at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church*

April 21 *Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.*

April 22 *Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.
"Funeral for a Friend"*

April 24 *6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at
Chesapeake Memorial Gardens.
Breakfast follows the service
in our Fellowship Hall.*

April 24 *Easter Sunday Services
8:00 Traditional Service
with Communion
9:30 Connexions with Communion
11:00 Traditional Service
with Communion*



*Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors.*

Worship Services

*Traditional: 8:00 a. m. & 11:00 a. m.
Contemporary: 9:30 a. m.*

DANNY J. KESNER
Senior Minister
Home: 410-9312

JANET ALLEN
Associate Minister
Parsonage: 389-5499

Church Office: 757-482-1049

Fax: 757-482-0432

Hands of Hope

Early in March, Linda and I attended the annual Advisory Board meeting at Hands of Hope in West Virginia. I thought this would be a good time to give you an update on our progress in the support of this mission. As long as we were going to West Virginia we took another trailer load of the things you and the other churches in our district have donated. We currently have over 20% of the churches in our district helping in one way or another with support of this ministry and we are continuing to increase that number.

Kathy Case and George Williams also made a trip to the mission in late February to deliver a load of Beanie Weenies. Thanks to your support of the bag lunch program they were able to deliver this load right when it was needed. Kathy and George had enough money that you had given, after buying the Beanie Weenies to also purchase some fruit for the lunches. We thank all of you for your donations and especially Kathy Case and Angie Reinhart for keeping this program alive.

We also need to thank John Case for obtaining a fork lift truck that Hands of Hope needed in their warehouse and to Doug Ewald for getting it out there. While we were there we found that Rick, one of the missionaries, was enjoying the fork lift truck so much that he had rearranged the warehouse three times in one day.

Some of the things we learned at the Advisory Board meeting include:

- In July, the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Welch gave the church building, all of its contents, and the parsonage to Hands of Hope. The membership had become small enough that they were unable to continue paying all of their bills. They are now renting space in the church to hold their services.
- Over 400 people attended the Christmas Celebration. It was held in the Welch Outreach Center (this is the old First Presbyterian Church). During the celebration, a lady who has been a member of the church for 62 years said she had never seen so many people in the church. She was very happy about the turnout and how Hands of Hope is using the facilities.
- The Nazarene Christian Academy is going to rent space at the Outreach Center because they are having problems with the roof at their current location. The school will most likely be renamed Hope Academy.
- The Hope Chest (thrift store) in War has been closed due to lack of sales. The remaining two Hope Chests, in Iaeger and Welch, had record sales in February. They can't keep household items on the shelf and they also need good used furniture. There are over 1000 friends (customers) shopping at the Hope Chests each month. The Hope Chests have become a place where people come and ask for prayer.
- The Ladies Night Out program has 150 participants each month. They are starting to share their crafting skills with each other and are in need of supplies.
- The Common Ground Youth program has grown to 15 regular members.
- On Friday evening while we were there they held a concert to benefit a new scholarship program. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors to help them go on to college.

There are many ways you can help support this ministry. They include:

- Continuing to support the bag lunch program with donations of Beanie Weenies
- Donations of household items like large and small appliances, all types of linens, good used furniture, and any other type of household items plus clothing
- Go with us on the next mission trip, the first week of May, we will be doing home repair projects and all level of skills are needed
- Donate craft supplies to the Ladies Night Out program. These include quilt making supplies and the tools needed to make them, knitting and crocheting supplies, and fleece to make blankets with.

Thanks to Donna Geiger and a member of Oak Grove UMC, we have some storage for the things we are collecting, so if you have anything you can donate, bring it to church or give me a call and we can come and get it.

Thanks for all of your time and support,
Alex Frye - 485-7667
Mission Committee Chairperson

GBUMC Youth

April 2011

Want detailed info?

MS & HS emails go out every week. Please email gbumcyouth@verizon.net

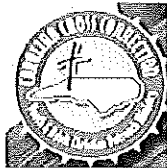
Like text messages better? Go to www.greatbridgeumc.com/youth and click on the link!

Because of our students' fundraising for the **30 Hour Famine**, they raised over \$3,000! Thanks to the church for supporting this mission!

Weekly Schedule!

Mission Trips!

HSers are joining Carolina Cross Connection!
July 2 – 9



The Jeremiah Project
MS Mission is full!
Join the waiting list today!
July 24 – 30

During Spring Break...

I'll be in town towards the middle of the week and would love to shoot pool, play manhunt, throw the Frisbee...

HS Prayer Breakfasts!

April 1st @ Erin Clark's
912 Meadow Trail Rd.

April 15th @ Addy Hawkins'
317 Cheshire Forest Dr.

April 29th @ Erin Clark's
912 Meadow Trail Rd.

Middle School

Wednesday Night Youth!

6:30 – 8 PM in Room 105*

*Ending time/location changes are in emails/texts/bulletin

*No Middle School WNY on April 20th

High School

Refuge!

Girls' Wednesdays 7-8 pm Room 111

Guys' Thursdays 7-8 AM City Deli

*No High School Refuge on April 20th or 21st

High School

Sunday Night Youth!

6:30 – 8 PM in Room 105*

*Ending time/location changes are in emails/texts/bulletin

*No High School SNY on April 17th or 24th

Special Events!

HS's Receipt Scavenger Hunt – Sunday,
April 10th -- 6:30 – 8:30

MS's Cookie Mission Impossible –
Wednesday, May 4th -- 6:30 – 8:30 PM

With No Boundaries, It's Impossible to Go Too Far

Al Menconi at www.TheSource4Parents.com

A short while ago, I received a call from a panicked father. He had been in his daughter's bedroom and found half a dozen CDs that were obviously immoral. "What can you tell me about them?" he pleaded.

He didn't get offended when I asked personal questions regarding his family, because a child's poor entertainment choices are often a reflection of a deeper need. He couldn't understand why his daughter had such awful albums. What should he do about them? Let me share my answer.

Have you set guidelines for what is acceptable in your home? Is it fair game to listen to secular music? Do you allow only certain kinds of secular music? How about concerts? Posters on the wall? What television programs, videos, games, and movies are acceptable? In other words, have you developed—or even discussed—entertainment guidelines with your children?

- Without question, your children will always go to the limit of any rule you set. If your limits are confusing, it's no wonder your children may have gone "too far." You never told them what too far is!
- Children behave irresponsibly because they are children. Most children are irresponsible unless they have been taught how to be responsible. You teach someone to be responsible when you give them guidelines and then give them the freedom to exercise their judgment within your guidelines.

If you are setting guidelines for teens who have never lived with guidelines, proceed with caution. There is something worse than your children listening to the wrong kind of music and playing the wrong games—and that is your inability to communicate the love of Jesus to them.

You could impose your will on your child, but what will be the end result? A child who wants to live for Jesus? Or one who fights your every move?

- You must realize the negative influence of secular entertainment is not a worldly problem that can be corrected with clever solutions or manipulations. Correcting improper influences on your children should be seen as a spiritual problem with a spiritual solution.
- Don't panic. Tell your child you are praying about what to do with the offending entertainment. If you believe it is openly an affront to your values, you may want to ask your child to eliminate or put a hold on the questionable entertainment while you pray for wisdom for 30 days.
- Make certain this discussion takes place with a spirit of love and respect, not a punitive attitude. If you can't speak to them in love, say nothing at all.