

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

It's That Time Again

Seasons come and go. Yesterday it was in the 40's and today it's in the 70's. Hurry spring hurry, I want to go outside and play some tennis and rake the last of the leaves in my yard. Before you know it, summer will be here and we'll want to see the temperatures in the 40's again. That's the way life is—a cycle of recurring events.

For Christians, the season of Lent is upon us again! On Tuesday, March 8, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. join the church family for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. Enjoy all the pancakes and sausage you desire to eat as we participate in the tradition of ridding all of the fat from the kitchen in order to get ready for Lent. The United Methodist Men will be preparing the dinner. There's no charge for the meal, however, if you desire to leave a donation it will support the Jim Earley Memorial Scholarship Fund for 2011.

Following dinner, Cindy Cadieux will be leading us in a Bible Study in the Sanctuary. Join us as we

study, worship and pray. The focus of the evening will be on how God transforms us as Christians—a perfect message for us as we begin Lent and our journey to the cross.

On Wednesday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. our Ash Wednesday Service will be held in the Sanctuary. A time to confront our own mortality and a time to confess our sin before God within this community of faith, known as Great Bridge United Methodist Church. We will have a time to reflect upon our past and be reminded of God's precious love which sets us free.

As this season of Lent is upon us, may God prepare us for the journey ahead? A time of denial and betrayal, as well as, hope and resurrection. Open your hearts and be ready to change/be transformed since you are a follower of Jesus Christ. What does God have in store for you this Lenten season?

See you this Sunday in worship!

Pastor Danny

Rev. Danny J. Kesner
Senior Pastor

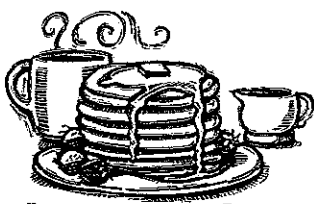
Rev. Janet Allen
Associate Pastor

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

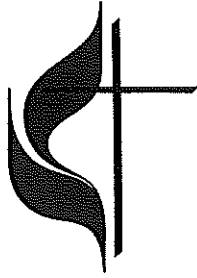
Email
greatbridgeumc@verizon.net

Website
www.greatbridgeumc.com

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



SHROVE TUESDAY



Would YOU Like to Join This Church Family?

We will receive new members into the fellowship of our congregation on *Sunday, March 13* at all 3 services. If you would like to join in the ministry and mission of this church as a member, please contact the church office by Monday, March 7, at either 482-1049 or greatbridgeumc@verizon.net. If you prefer, simply indicate your interest on your attendance slip next Sunday, and someone will be in touch with you. We grow stronger in spirit and service together!

Baptisms

*January 30, 2011
Aiden Ryan Kerlin*

*February 27, 2011
Colten Ryan Myers*

With

Kelly Gunning and family, passing of Kelly's mom, Kathy Rhodes.

Donna & Alyssa Buttry, passing of their loved one, Linda Francis.

Sympathy

Roger, Jamie & Lily Tomlinson, passing of their loved one.



Adult Ministries

Lenten Bible Studies

Join us for an exciting start to the Lenten season, first with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, March 8th, at 6 p.m. followed by a time of worship, study and prayer

at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our focus will be on how to have a life transformed as we approach the resurrection of Jesus Christ and a personal relationship

with Him. Feed your body and soul all in one evening!



Still feeling spiritually hungry? Then join us on Sunday, March 13th at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, as adults gather to further explore how to have

a life transformed through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ during this Lenten season.

are encouraged to participate in this exciting time of study!

All adults, whether in a Sunday School class or not

Remembering Your Story: Creating Your Own Spiritual Autobiography

By Richard L. Morgan

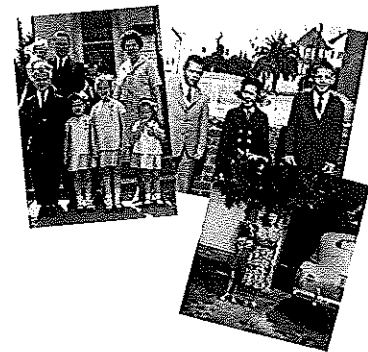
This is a 4 session study beginning Wed., March 16, 7 - 9 p.m. in room 136.

Join us on a journey of self-reflection and self-discovery.

Remembering Your Story invites readers to connect their faith stories with others & with God's story as revealed in scripture.

Participants of ALL ages are invited. For more information & to sign-up, contact Cindy Cadieux at 482-9284 or email at

drcadu@verizon.net. Participant books are \$14.



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 pastor 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, March 1st at 6:30 p.m. in room 106 for refreshments and at 7 p.m. for the business meeting. Our program will be on Prayer and Self-Denial. Remember your directory and the orange folder. All ladies are welcome!

Upcoming Events

District Prayer Breakfast - Sat., March 26 at 9 a.m.
District Women's Retreat - Sat., April 9, cost is \$15

Prayer Requests

Ladies, please email your prayer requests for you, your family, and our church family to maltwalker@verizon.net. We as a unit are connected electronically and our prayers will be honored by God who loves to hear from us as we pray for one another. Prayers are powerful. Amen.

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.

The Circle of Love will be attending their 14th Annual Retreat to Nags Head on March 18 - 20. Nineteen members will be participating. The activities include fellowship, jewelry making, and devotional programs throughout the weekend.

Attention Middle & High School Students

Remember to apply for the UMW Ralph & Margaret Nichols Scholarships. Applications are available at the youth table and the Welcome Centers.

Application deadline is Friday, April 1st.



Music Ministries

“Funeral For A Friend”

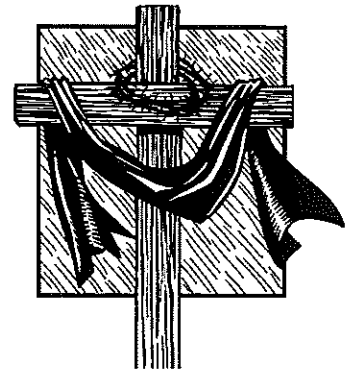
Good Friday, April 22

7 p.m.

Celebrate His life...
remember His sacrifice!

*Presented by
GBUMC Music Ministries*

Funeral Reception to follow.



Outreach Ministries

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 1

2 - 7 p.m.

Communications Committee

Have we been making full use of the most conspicuous, easily used teaching devices available in our Church? That hallway bulletin board, often unattractive, cluttered with random pictures, notices, etc., has a great potential as an attractive, significant message carrier about our church's ministries and activities. How can you creatively use the bulletin boards to suit the particular needs of our Church? Let's think about some ideas for skillful use of these boards, remembering as we do that our objective is to educate and motivate the children and

adults with enthusiasm and excitement about God's teachings. What do our bulletin boards say about our church? If you have any questions please contact either Ned Harrelson at 482-7596 or Janet Allen at 482-1049.





Outreach Ministries

Transportation Ministry

“Do You Have Gas in the Tank but No Place to Go?”

The church would like to organize a transportation group that would provide rides for church members [and friends of the church]

who don't have vehicles or can't afford "for hire" transportation. We have a growing number of people who need rides to: the grocery store, doctor's appointments, the bank and/or to Sunday school and worship.

We are looking for volunteers to organize a transportation ministry and develop a pool of individuals willing to provide rides for others. If you are interested in helping out, contact Thom Kinsey at 482-1049.

**Please submit
bulletin
announcements by
Wednesdays at
12 noon.**
**The deadline for the
April
newsletter is
Wednesday,
March 23.**

College Ministry

Debbie Maccagnan, the Higher Education Coordinator for GBUMC, would like to verify names and addresses for all of our college students – even if they are living at home. The committee is making preparations for a mailing this Spring. Please send this information to Debbie at maccagnan@hotmail.com or Thom at gbumcprograms@verizon.net.

The committee has some ideas on how we can support and encourage our students, but we would love to hear some of yours! Please let me know any thoughts that you may have and/or if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

The church will be recognizing students who are graduating this Spring. Let us know the names of those graduating

and from what school.

The Committee on Higher Education has formed a group, **Praying Moms for College Kids**. They are a group of Moms that get together a couple times each month to pray for our students. Any Mom with a child in college is welcome to join the group. Contact Debbie for more information.

2010 Giving

Your faithful, generous and sacrificial giving to the Operating Budget in conjunction with the work areas good stewardship gave us over an \$11,000 surplus for the year. The Church Council divided this amount among the following:

- \$ 1,000 – Missions
- \$ 1,200 – Thirty Hour Famine
- \$ 1,200 – Computer Replacement
- \$ 5,000 – Building Enhancement
(painting the sanctuary and carpet for social hall)
- \$ 1,354 – Operating Reserve
- \$ 1,354 – Building Bridges
(principal only)

- The Finance Committee



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

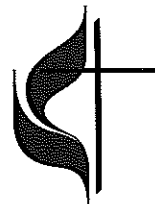
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Mailing Label



March 9th
7 PM



*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

GBUMC Youth

March 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 , !

Oops, we just had it on February 25th & 26th so please check the bulletin on March 6th to see the total!

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

Applebee's Pancake Breakfast

Fundraiser on March 12th has been *cancelled* due to a change in their menu.

However, we raised over \$1000 between the January and February breakfasts!

HS Prayer Breakfasts!

March 4th @ The Mullaney's
132 Avonlea Dr.

March 18th @ Addy Hawkins'
317 Cheshire Forest Dr.

Weekly Schedule!

Middle School

Wednesday Night Youth!

6:30 – 8 PM in Room 105*

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

High School

Refuge!

Girls' Wednesdays 7-8 pm Room 111
Guys' Thursdays 7-8 AM City Deli

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 March 27th



The Amazing Race!

Sunday, March 13th for High School
Wednesday, March 16th for Middle School

Born This Way

The Theological, Moral, and Scientific Revelations of Lady Gaga's New Song

Lady Gaga's a bit mysterious: wearing dresses made of meat, hanging herself during live performances, and leaving her eyelashes on the pillows of her lovers. But "mystery" has left the building with her brand new song, *Born This Way*. When it comes to Gaga's views on homosexuality, the only way to describe her is "crystal clear."

Lady Gaga is an international superstar, but she doesn't have a single fan. Instead, she has "monsters" (fans) and refers to herself as "The Mother Monster."

A Clear Message (That's Clearly Flawed)

If we were to sum up this song's message, we'd say, "Lady Gaga believes homosexuals are born that way, so let them live that lifestyle because they cannot help it." As lovingly and respectfully as we can, we must say, there's a lot about this song, and its message, that's intrinsically wrong and internally incongruent. Just take a look at some of the key lyrics in this song to see for yourself.

For starters, Lady Gaga encourages her listeners to "*just love yourself and you're set.*" Unfortunately, it's not as easy as that. Honestly, we sometimes wish it was! But it's simply not. If a guy goes around shooting other people – *but loves himself* – is he "set" by cultural standards? Just ask anybody impacted by the actions of Jared Loughner. You'll get a resounding "no!"

Is the woman who displays wrathful anger to everyone a perfectly capable benchmark for civility...so long as she loves herself? Is the kid who steals from others off the hook because he loves himself? Nope and nope.

Although a healthy self esteem is a good thing, I'm not "set" just because I happen to love me. Neither are you. Neither is Lady Gaga.

Furthermore, as followers of Christ, our identities and our value must come from who we are "in Christ." Consider the words of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 4:5 when he said, "We don't preach ourselves, we preach Christ the Lord." As believers, our value flows from what Jesus did for us.

What should we as parents and youth leaders do with her song?

In all things, model the love of Christ. The Bible records no instance of an interaction between Jesus and a homosexual. However, many stories are shared about Jesus' interactions with sinners, including a woman who was caught having an extramarital affair (John 8). Jesus always spoke in loving ways to people caught up in sexual sin, while also sharing with them an uncompromising truth. So, whether you're discussing the issue/song with someone, or teaching a lesson on it, or trying to take a stand, remember to do it the way Jesus did it: with love.

Be prepared to discuss this issue/song (at length). My prediction is, this song will be big. Not only is there a name like Lady Gaga behind it, but it's been discussed and anticipated for months. But even if the song tanks and never threatens the top of the charts, it will still make plenty of waves (which is almost as good as far as Lady Gaga is concerned). So, be prepared to have residual conversations about this.

Don't be afraid to quote the Bible in your discussions. Granted, there are plenty of reasons to reject homosexuality that have nothing to do with the Bible, but since Lady Gaga has invited God into the conversation via her song's lyrics, feel free to (lovingly) use His Word to let Him weigh in on the subject. Again, the key is "love." Our responsibility is to present a well-crafted, loving, life-redeeming response.