



Closing the Holes in Your Pockets and Maintaining the House of God

Melvin Amerson

Haggai 1: 2-6 (NIV)

² *This is what the LORD Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD's house.'"*

³ *Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai:*

⁴ *"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"*

⁵ *Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."*

Growing up, I would often hear my elders using the phrase: "You are going through money like there are holes in your pockets" or "You cannot seem to keep any money." Those two phrases have remained with me over the years. It appears to me the believers in Haggai 1:2-6, possessed similar thoughts when it came to keeping money in their pockets. Today, we struggle with the same issues about priorities, saving money, and maintaining the House of God.

Perhaps the people in the Haggai text had misguided financial priorities as do those of us today who live in and are influenced by a consumer-driven culture. Like people today, the people of that time were employed and had more than adequate incomes, but seemed unable to save any money. Setting priorities and establishing a personal budget helps us manage and focus on the things we value. What we value or treasure is often recorded in our checkbook register or credit card statements. Reviewing those documents provides a glimpse of our priorities. Have you had a check on your values and priorities lately?

The church in Haggai suffered because its members failed to make the church a priority. As a result of their neglect, the members could not manage to save and create personal financial reserves. Their failure to make the House of God a priority became their downfall. Ultimately, the House of God fell into ruins due to lack of support and misplaced priorities.

A remedy for this issue lies with a re-evaluation of personal finances. Place in your personal budget/spending plan your tithe or proportionate gift. Set aside a percentage or dollar amount for personal savings, emergencies, or retirement. This will allow you to establish priorities, help you to manage your financial resources, and "repair the holes" in your pockets and pocketbooks.

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





It is once again the time of year that we remember the saints of our lives who have gone on to glory. On Nov. 6th, we will celebrate All Saints Day at all three services. If you would like to have your loved ones' picture on the screens during the worship service, please email the picture to gbumcassociate@verizon.ent. If you are unable to email the picture, please bring it to the church office. All pictures must be received by Nov. 2nd. If you have any questions contact Rev. Allen at 482-1049.

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

Mother Teresa



Would YOU Like to Join This Church Family?

We will receive new members into the fellowship of our congregation on **Sunday, November 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, Nov., 7th at either 482-1049 or greatbridgeumc@verizon.net**. If you prefer, simply indicate your interest on your attendance slip, and someone will be in touch with you. We grow stronger in spirit and service together!

Baptisms

October 30, 2011
Isabella Louise Vermilya

With

Ray & Lisa Williams and family, loss of Ray's mother, Frances Dobbins.

Michael & Susan Everingham and family, loss of Michael's father,

Lowell Everingham.

Sympathy

Eugene & Jean Cartwright and family, loss of Eugene's sister, Mildred.

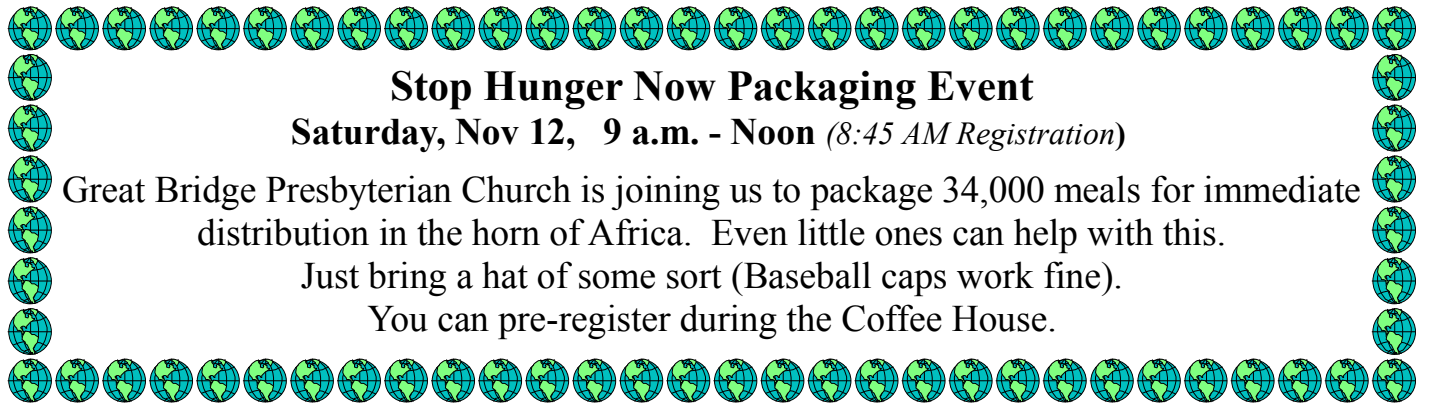
We Welcome to our staff, Les Elliott. He is our new custodian!

Advent Study

“The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem”
by Adam Hamilton



It is one of western civilization’s best-known stories: an over-crowded Inn; a manger in Bethlehem; Mary and Joseph; shepherds and wise men; King Herod. Come and explore the story of Jesus’ birth. Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. beginning *November 2nd in room 132.*



Stop Hunger Now Packaging Event

Saturday, Nov 12, 9 a.m. - Noon (8:45 AM Registration)

Great Bridge Presbyterian Church is joining us to package 34,000 meals for immediate distribution in the horn of Africa. Even little ones can help with this.

Just bring a hat of some sort (Baseball caps work fine).

You can pre-register during the Coffee House.



The Great Bridge Food Closet will be delivering Thanksgiving Baskets on Monday, Nov. 21st. You can support this ministry by donating dressing, cranberry sauce, corn, green beans Jiffy biscuit mix, mac & cheese, gravy, cookies, cake mix, icing, tea & coffee. Please place the cans and boxes in the cabinet located across from the church office labeled Food Closet.

Our annual Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend this gathering as we adopt goals, budgets, leaders and more for 2012.

Our friends from Mount Pleasant UMC will be joining us as well.

Refreshments to follow in the Social Hall

TAX OR GIFT

Appointment, itinerary, connectionalism, accountability... all words of Methodism. But no word seems to illicit the emotional response as the dreaded "apportionment." This does make sense when you consider that our 2011 Church Budget of \$746,827 contains \$145,041 for apportionment and benevolence. 26% of our Budget that is basically beyond our control.

So, in order to understand apportionment, it is important to answer the following 3 questions:

1. Where do our funds go? In last month's newsletter, we reprinted an article from the Advocate which examined some areas where our apportionments go. Many of those listed such as the World Service Fund provide for the ministries and missions of the world-wide Methodist Church. Others not listed in the article such as the Equitable Compensation Fund, help small churches that cannot pay the minimum pastor salary as required by the Discipline. Retired and active clergy's health and pension benefits are paid by apportionments and just like in the secular world, they seem to always be going up.
2. How is our share calculated? One misunderstanding is that church membership is part of the formula. It is not anymore. Simply put, it is this formula.

$$\frac{\text{The preceding years net expenses of a church}}{\text{The preceding years net expenses of the Conference}} = \text{church Conference} = \text{our church} \\ \text{decimal} \times \text{budget} \quad \text{share}$$

For the 2012, our share will be .037723% of the Virginia Conference budget and of the Elizabeth River District Budget.

3. Why do we give? Certainly the connectional nature of the Methodist Church requires us to. It takes resources to support a worldwide church and all its ministries. However, no one can make us give. A sad fact is that only 84.4% of Conference apportionments were paid in 2010. In fact, our District only paid 66% of what was asked. Happily Great Bridge, as always, paid 100% of our share.

I believe the answer to this last question is the same answer as to why we give to the local church. It is not because we have to but because we are called to. The task God left us is great. Even when we personally can't tithe or a church struggles with apportionments, we still should give generously of our time and finances. We are just serving God and repaying Him for all the blessings we receive from Him. Let's remember what Paul said about the giving practices of the Macedonian churches "...Entirely on their own they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Saints." Let us pray that is what is in our hearts also.

~John Case
Finance Chairperson

News from the Finance Committee

The people of God at Great Bridge Church will have an opportunity to bring their 2012 commitment cards to the altar @ all three worship services on Sunday, November 20. Our operating budget for 2012 will be \$15,109.62 weekly and our Building Bridges mortgage payment is \$5,609.24 monthly. As United Methodist Christians, we will need to make a sacrifice in order for our church to continue to reach others with the Good News! Please prayerfully consider your financial response to God's love and His work. May our hearts like John Wesley's be "strangely warmed" as we continue serving the King of Kings!

During the week of November 7th you will receive your packet for "Commitment Sunday."

Between the summer months and missing a Sunday due to Hurricane Irene, we find ourselves about \$25, 000 behind. Which means we have spent that much more than we have received. Together, we can overcome this challenge. Scripture tells us that the Lord loves a cheerful giver.

**Please submit
bulletin
announcements by
Wednesdays at
12 noon.**

**The deadline for the
December
newsletter is
Wednesday,
November 16th.**

Golfing for Missions

On Monday, October 17th, GBUMC held its 4th annual charity golf tournament for missions at Greenbrier Country Club. Over 85 golfers enjoyed fun and fellowship on a beautiful fall day and managed to earn approximately \$4,000 for missions.

The tournament started off with a BANG at 9 a.m. sharp when ceremonial starter Maxine Earley began the day's festivities with a real (thankfully unloaded) shotgun. The field was made up of a wide range of participants, from church regulars to local golf enthusiasts, including 6 women. (To date, our largest turn out for the ladies.) Whether they were out there to win it all or just spend a nice day in the sun, the golfers all had one thing in common; a winning heart for charity.

This year's missions, Crop Walk, Heart Havens, and the Jim Earley Memorial Scholarship Fund, will benefit greatly by the money raised. Many thanks go out to those who supported by playing, the volunteers who organized the tournament and the members of the local business community who so graciously donated the money and prizes which made this event a great success.



On Sunday, Oct. 16, 7 churches came together at Chesapeake City Hall to help stop world hunger. We had 115 people who walked for the mission and about \$5,800 was raised.



Finding Peace

Meeting Dates

Upcoming Events

~ Sat., Dec. 10 the UMW will host the Prayer Breakfast from 8:30 - 11 a.m.

Thank you to our church family for donating your treasures to the UMW yard sale. Our profits exceeded our expectations. Now we can make a difference in the lives of so many women, children, and youth. Check out the yard sale pictures on the church website, www.greatbridgeumc.com.



Circle of Faith

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

Mission Project: Women's Division of the Salvation Army

Friendship Circle

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

Mission Project: BabyCare

Circle of Grace

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

Mission Project: CHIP for first time MOMs

Circle of Light

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

Mission Project: Lighting the Way to Education at Linden Elementary in Norfolk

Circle of Love

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

Mission Project: Great Bridge Food Closet

Kay Reel Circle

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

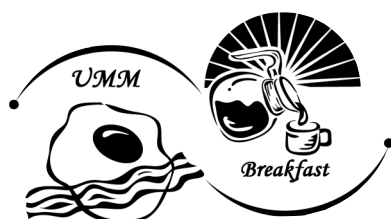
Mission Project: Angel's Soldiers

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.



Could you use a "few hours off" to take care of all your Christmas errands? The Circle of Love is sponsoring Camp Christmas on Sat., Dec. 3rd for children 4 years old through 5th grade. We are planning some fun, Christmas-themed activities for your kids so you can take care of your errands. Look out for more

information and registration at Coffee House in November!



Sunday, Nov. 20 at 6:45 AM

Come out enjoy breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Looking Ahead

Join us on Sunday morning, December 4th at both 9:30 am or 11:00 am in the social hall as we conclude our study on How to Love the Lord Your God. This final session focuses on loving the Lord through our strength. All adults, whether in a Sunday school class or not, are encouraged to participate in this exciting time of study exploring how to have a life transformed through a loving relationship with the Lord our God! Come join us!

Friday, Dec. 2

7 p.m.

Master's Men "Living Christmas Tree"

Sunday, Dec. 11

6 p.m.

Children's Musical "Angels Aware"

Sunday, Dec. 18 - Cantata

8 & 11 a.m.

Festival of Carols by Joseph Martin

Presented by Chancel, Sonshine & Alpha & Omega Choirs



Mark Your Calendar!

A faithful, righteous prophet of God...suddenly disobeys and runs away! As a result he encounters a terrible storm, an enormous fish, a tiny worm, a mighty wind, a blazing sun, a wicked empire and the greatest revival in history.

Join Pastor Danny & other church members to see Sight & Sound Theatre's newest production, "Jonah" in Lancaster, Pa. on March 23, 2012.



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Visit www.greatbridgeumc.com & enter your email
address in the "join mailing list."
Give us a call at 482-1049.

**Mount Pleasant Mennonite Church and
Great Bridge United Methodist Church**

will join together to celebrate Thanksgiving
*at Mount Pleasant Mennonite Church,
2041 Mount Pleasant Rd.*

Wednesday, November 23 @ 7 p.m.

Come join the celebration, as we give thanks



THANKSGIVING
SERVICE

to God, share
communion
and hear music from
combined choirs.

Invite a friend!



Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

Worship Service

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

DANNY J. KESNER
Senior Pastor
Home: 410-9312

JANET ALLEN
Associate Pastor
Parsonage: 389-5499

Church Office: 757-482-1049

Fax: 757-482-0432

GBUMC Youth

November 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!

High School Prayer Breakfast every other Friday, 7 – 8 AM!

November 4 @ Erin Clark's
912 Meadow Trail Rd.

November 18 @ Addy Hawkins'
317 Cheshire Forest Dr.

High School Special Events

November 11-13
HS Retreat @ Camp Willow Run

Sunday Nights!!

Middle School Youth
4:30 – 6 PM

Feeding Frenzy for MS & HS
6 – 6:30 PM (Cost: \$1)

High School Youth
6:30 – 8 PM

**Changes this month:*

No MS or HS Youth

November 13 – HS Retreat weekend

November 27 - Thanksgiving

Middle School Special Events

- MS Retreat @ Triple R Ranch
- December 9 - 11
- Sign-up with a retreat form on the Youth Table.
- Great leaders, *HSers and Kelly*, great fun, *rockclimbing wall, all sorts of sports*, campfire, and a great place to be!

Operation Christmas Child

Pack a Shoebox Night,
November 20th during HS & MS Youth!



Shoebox items can be brought by Room 105
National Collection Week is November 14 - 21

Items needed for boys or girls, ages 2- 14:

- SHOEBOXES** - with a removable top
- TOYS** - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos

Supplies (cont.)

- SCHOOL SUPPLIES** - pens, pencils & sharpener, crayons, calculators
- HYGIENE ITEMS** - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb
- OTHER** - T-shirts, socks, ball caps, watches, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry,
- A PERSONAL NOTE** - In a separate envelope; note to the child and a photo. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

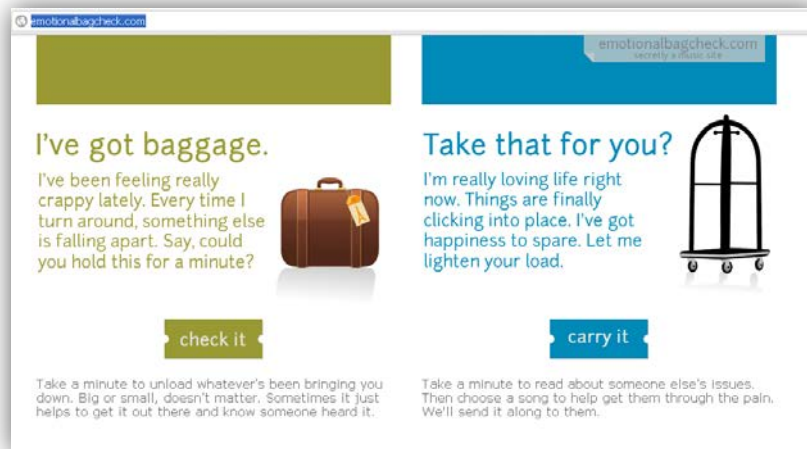
DO NOT INCLUDE: Used stuff animals, used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items

Let Me Help - Here's My iPod

How Kids Use and are Influenced by Music

Emotional Bag Check website

An interactive web service recently launched that allows users to employ music to help others. At Emotional Bag Check (www.emotionalbagcheck.com), users who are going through a tough time can “check” their bags (the online equivalent of airing their problems, struggles, worries, and fears). At the same time, other users who are in a better frame of mind can “carry” someone’s bag; they do that by suggesting a song they think might help the other user.



The Language of the Day

Saying that music is everywhere is only a slight exaggeration. Teens listen to it through their portable media devices, in lunchroom cafeterias, in retail stores, at athletic events, in restaurants, and tons of other places they spend their time. Music even has a huge place inside the confines of other media platforms such as the internet and television. Just think about it: how many TV shows are there that focus on music? *The X Factor*, *American Idol*, *The Voice*, and even *America's Got Talent*, in large part, center their programming on music.

But teenagers' great love of music doesn't start the day they hit puberty. Music is a constant companion to them when they are kids (easily evidenced by the bands that play on networks like Nick Jr., Disney, and Disney XD). And by the way “kids” mean those between the ages of 2 and 14. They further report that half of these kids have purchased some form of digital media by the ripe old age of 7.

Peer-to-Peer Therapy

Most users on *Emotional Bag Check* are young, and the site's Top 25 recommended artists further reveals that these young people suggest music that's produced by young artists. For example, Taylor Swift is the site's most frequently suggested artist. The tunes of Lady Gaga and Katy Perry are also recommended to teens who find themselves in a funk.

The brunt of Billboard's list is fairly innocuous – artists like Selena Gomez, Demi Lovato, and Justin Bieber are scattered here and there. But resting at the #2 spot is Tyler, The Creator...the young man behind some of the most blatant, vulgarity-filled hip hop available...who also went on an expletive-laden rant (directed at kids) at the 2011 VMAs on MTV.