

Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

We are called to love, worship and serve as we seek to make disciples of Christ!

Gum Spring United Methodist Church
35 Church Lane
Gum Spring, VA 23065
Phone: (804) 556-3494
FAX: (804) 556-7990
<http://gumspringumc.wordpress.com>
email: office@gumspringumc.org

See inside this issue for details on our fellowships, ministries, and events coming up in November and December as we thank our God for the blessings we have all benefited from this year and celebrate the greatest blessing of all - the gift of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God is in the details



Every Sunday

Come

8:45 AM Worship

9:45 AM Sunday School

9:50 AM Children's Music Practice

11 AM Worship

4 PM Youth Group

4:15 PM Youth Music Practice

4 PM Bible Study (At Parsonage - will start again in January)

Bring a Friend

Worship

Fellowship

Learn

Grow in your Faith

Friend us on Facebook

Tweet us on Twitter

Call us at (804) 556-3494

Email us at office@gumspringumc.org

FAX us at (804) 556-7990

Read the drop down screen before each worship service

Check out our blogspot at:

<http://gumspringumc.com>

The new property is now an active construction site. Due to safety and legal reasons, please avoid visits to the site. If you want a tour, please contact the church office.

Longenecker Excavation, Inc. is working hard to get the site ready for the building.

Please pray for their safety & well-being and for our continued commitment to God's will.



This hole in the ground is part of the site work preparing for pouring the basement of the new church building.

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

Hospitality Ministry Team

The Hospitality Ministry is pleased to announce a new initiative:

The GIFT Program
Growing In Fellowship Together!



GIFT is designed to match up church visitors, new members and long-time members of our congregation based on commonalities such as age, children's age, similar interests, etc.

We are looking for current members who are interested in serving as GIFT "Hosts". The Hosts will be trained in a specific step-by-step program, then will be matched up with a GIFT "Recipient" person or family who would like to participate in the program.

More details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please contact Nancy Talmage at nancy.talmage@ey.com or 556-3315 for more information.



Meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM.
Owen Taylor leads this study and can be contacted at 804-457-2216.



Prayer Shawl
ministry

Meets every other Tuesday at 7 PM.
Next meeting is February 7, 2012.
See Doris Wiltshire or call 556-3239.



From the Book Nook

by Patti Royster

The new item featured this month is the DVD movie *Courageous*, Honor Begins at Home. Follow four police officers as they juggle standing up to the worst the world can offer and accepting the responsibilities of fatherhood at home. When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. It's an example of men who step up to be the fathers and husbands that all families need. If you weren't part of the Gum Spring U. M. Men's Group who recently used this as a study & discussion resource, check it out for viewing at home with your family.

A great big "Thank You!" to the anonymous library benefactor(s) who volunteered to purchase the cataloging software for use on the computer donated by Sue Sheridan.

The software is on order and data entry will begin as soon as possible after it arrives. Thanks to all for your patience during this time of organization! Please continue to utilize the library resources for any needs it can serve.

Several DVD's are currently missing from a couple of the Video Bible Study binders. If you know the whereabouts of Discs 1 & 2 from *Beth Moore's Here & Now... There & Then - A Lecture Series on Revelation* or Disc 4 from *Beth Moore's The Beloved Disciple - Following John to the Heart of Jesus*, please return them to the library or contact Patti Royster, librarian, (556-6559) or Dale Mitchell in the church office (556-3494) to let us know where they are. Also missing are the *Leader's Guide Book for Experiencing God - Knowing and Doing the Will of God* by Henry & Richard Blackaby and Claude King and *Beth Moore's When Godly People Do Ungodly Things*. Please take a second look around if you may have borrowed any of these items and forgotten to return them. Thanks!

- On Sunday March 4, members of Gum Spring's United
- Methodist Women's group will be participating in and
- leading both the 8:45 and 11:00 AM worship services.
- At this time a fundraiser for 2012 will be introduced. We
- would like to raise at least \$1800 to provide a water well
- for a community in Africa. The UMW will be giving \$500
- towards this mission. We are asking for donations from the
- congregation to cover the remaining \$1300. A collection
- box will be placed in the narthex starting in March and
- running through September for donations for this mission
- project. We meet every month on the 1st Monday at 7PM.
- Next meeting is Feb 6. Please join us. Thank you all for
- your support.



Due to the number of Louisa County homebound residents requesting service, Meals on Wheels Serving Central Virginia is expanding to five routes. Volunteers are needed to deliver food a minimum of once a month (Monday-Friday 10:45 - 1:00 pm). Food is distributed from the Louisa County Resource Council located at 147 Resource Lane in Louisa. All volunteers must provide a standard 38-quart sized cooler and attend orientation that is provided the morning of the first delivery. If you wish to volunteer, contact Becky Bruce at 804-314-5052.

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

In addition to everyone listed on this prayer sheet, please remember all our Saints. To put someone on the prayer list, please let the office know using one of the means listed on the front page of this newsletter.

The UMC

Our Bishop and Cabinet
UM Urban Ministries of Richmond
Our Missionaries
Spiritual Direction

Our Congregation

Mission
Building Program
Five Practices Emphasis

Our Pastor & His Family
God's Continued Guidance

Homebound/Nursing Home

Chelsea Uglow
Pat Clark's Mother
Bruce Perkins
Margie Isbell
Jean Perkins
Susie Rigsby
Gene Rigsby

Gordon Harris

Recent Prayer Concerns

Delores Hawk
Wayne Fowler
Dan & Corky Monson
Brenda Sanders
Doug Fisher

Our Nation & Our World

Our President, Congress, Courts
Everyone affected by natural disasters
All our military
Stephen Canty (Afghanistan)
Joe Canty (Afghanistan)
Rev. A. J. Gunther (Afghanistan)
Trey Ritter (Afghanistan)
Andrew Reynolds (Camp LeJeune)
Neil Saaiman (Afghanistan)

Those Who Grieve

The family of Barbara Guvernator
The family of Sam Shealy
The family of Jim McClung
The family of Joe Stanley

Hospitalized/Recovering at Home

Diane White's Father
Meredith McCcabe
Emily McCabe
Diane Blair
Cora Simmons
Nothera Goyne
Grace Davis
Riley Powers
Hazel Johnson
Louise Rowe

Those in our Church and Community

Dennis Gammon
Lizzie Martin
Louis Parrish
Mary Johnson
Meesha Joshua
Kathleen Bowman
Brenda Eddy
Frances Melton
Anthony Pellicci
Candace Barefoot

Charles Thurston
Edith & Marvin Jones
Michael Brown
George Taylor
Charles Nuckols
Art Scott
Lisa Harris
Karen Stapleton
Margaret Ford



The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church



Susan Duty	February 2
Jessie Slusher	February 2
Mark Monson	February 3
Heather Kemmerly	February 4
Jack Dunn	February 5
Benjamin McLemore	February 5
James McLemore	February 5
Jonathan Ferguson	February 6
Lee Martin	February 6
Mary Margaret Richardson	February 6
Phyllis Crow	February 7
Camille Mangiere	February 7
Estelle Pruden	February 7
CD Wilcox	February 8
Mike Yeatts	February 8
Davis Pruden	February 9
Christine Kemmerly	February 10
Fritz Kemmerly	February 10
Ryan Mangiere	February 11
Sarah Melvin	February 11
John Edwards	February 12
Melinda Oakes	February 12
Reed Hildebrand	February 13
Kathryn Rainer	February 14
Jake Richardson	February 15
Dale Brooking	February 16
Steve Jarvis	February 16
Christopher Comer	February 17
Ayden Doczi	February 17
Lucas Thrasher	February 17
Hank Knoebel	February 18
Grayson Oakes	February 19
Lawrence Clements	February 20
Adam Hall	February 20
Cathy Mangiere	February 21
Kim Haugh	February 25
Jacob Davis	February 26
Barbara Allen	February 27
Kurt Hildebrand	February 27
Sarah Wilcox	February 27
Max Newlin	February 29

Stratton, Vincent & Brittany	February 3
Mitchell, George & Dale	February 10
Brooking, Dale & Bee	February 21
Jarvis, Steve & Connie	February 24
Richardson, Jake & Christy	February 28
Stull, Ivan & Tammy	February 28



Connect the dots.

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

Mission Moments from the Upper Elementary Class:

by Nancy Gregory

A box has been placed in the Fellowship Hall for the ongoing collection of approved items for the young men incarcerated at Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center. Instead of making a once-a-year drive for items, we will be collecting the following items and delivering them periodically through the year:

Stationary	Assorted Candies
Post Cards	Board Games
All Occasion Cards	Puzzles
Stamps	Soccer Balls
Writing Tablets (no wires binding)	Basketballs
Shampoo	Movies (PG-13)
Deodorant (non spray)	
Brushes (no handles)	
Body Wash	
Toothpaste	
Chap Stick	
Hand/Body Lotion	
Puzzles Books	
Comic Books	
Books	
White crew or tube socks	
White T-shirts (2XL - 3 XL)	



Reminder

The UMW continues to collect **inkjet** cartridges, used **eyeglasses** for the Lion's Club, soda can **pop tops** for the Ronald McDonald House, and **Campbell's labels** and **Box Tops for Education** for the Red Bird Mission School. We no longer collect used cell phones. The collection container is located in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks.
Connie Jarvis, President.

New Sunday School Class

Cultivators

Families with Young Children

Come try us out

Top of the Stairs at the back of the Fellowship Hall

“Boundaries With Kids”

taught by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haugh
Study is by Townsend & Cloud
(two well-respected Christian psychologists).

Mixture of video & discussions.

Jeff says, “It is my hope that this class becomes a source of guidance for raising healthy children and building strong families, making disciples to go and transform the world.”



2012

GSUMC Chili Cookoff

February 4, 2012

5:00 PM

\$7

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

Sunday	February 5, 2012	Sunday	February 26, 2012
8:45 Greeters	Steve Eaton & Deb Black	8:45 Greeters	Russ & Helen Robertson
8:45 Nursery	Gail Anderson	8:45 Nursery	Jodi Elrod
Acolytes	R. J. Jones & Abby Harris	Acolytes	Alyssa Ferguson & Lydia Talmage
11:00 Greeters	Phyllis Crow & Susan Doczi	11:00 Greeters	Edie Hall & Marsha Harding
11:00 Nursery	Courtney Rowe	11:00 Nursery	Marcia Powers
Tellers	Ed Talmage & George Mitchell	Tellers	Joanne Wilcox & Nancy Gregory
Visitors	Sharon Yago & Dottie Reynolds	Visitors	Jack & Gail Anderson
Children's Church	Betty Rowe	Children's Church	Sheryl Flory
Youth Dinner	Lizzie's Girls	Youth Dinner	Steve & Denise O'Meara
Sanctuary Flowers	None	Sanctuary Flowers	TBD

Sunday	February 12, 2012	Sunday	March 4, 2012
8:45 Greeters	Jack & Brenda Dunn	8:45 Greeters	Doris Wiltshire & Jean Wiltshire
8:45 Nursery	Helen Robertson	8:45 Nursery	Julie Dauksys
Acolytes	J. T. & Jacob Massey	Acolytes	Maddie Holcomb & Sydney Hawk
11:00 Greeters	Sheryl Flory & Norma Rowe	11:00 Greeters	Dwayne McGraw & Beth Hildebrand
11:00 Nursery	Riley Allison	11:00 Nursery	Sheryl Flory
Tellers	Dottie Reynolds & June Taylor	Tellers	Richard Allison & Sharon Yago
Visitors	Nancy Talmage & Becky Bruce	Visitors	Sharon Yago & Margaret Allison
Children's Church	David Holcomb	Children's Church	Norma Rowe
Youth Dinner	Dale & Delores Hawk	Youth Dinner	David & Nancy Ashley
Sanctuary Flowers	Jean Harris	Sanctuary Flowers	TBD

Sunday	February 19, 2012	Ushers	February 2012
8:45 Greeters	Connie Jarvis & Julie Daukeys	8:45 Service	<i>Rhu & Peggy Harris</i>
8:45 Nursery	Jackie Knoebel	11:00 Service	<i>RJ Jones & Steve O'Meara</i>
Acolytes	Isabelle O'Meara & Elizabeth Powers	Liturgists	February 2012
11:00 Greeters	Linda Rowe & Ricky Rowe	8:45 Service	<i>Patty Melvin</i>
11:00 Nursery	Mary Simonsen	11:00 Service	<i>Mark Monson</i>
Tellers	Rick Rowe & Bob Dewar	March Ushers	March Liturgists
Visitors	Denise O'Meara & Linda Dewar	8:45 Service	8:45 Service
Children's Church	Jamie Beatty	<i>Doris & Jean Wiltshire</i>	<i>Steve Eaton</i>
Youth Dinner	Brenda Ragland	11:00 Service	11:00 Service
Sanctuary Flowers	TBD	<i>Tucker Hill & Frankie Jones</i>	<i>Dwayne McGraw</i>

January Communion Stewards - ***Frank & Jeanne Howarth***

Servant Workers
February 2012
Thanks for all you do!!

February Calendar

◀ January		~ February 2012 ~						March ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
			1 9 AM Yoga 10 AM Walking 6:45 PM Bells 8:00 PM Adult Choir	2 6:30 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Walking 7PM Building committee	3	4 5 PM Chili Cookoff			
5 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sun School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Youth 4:00 Bible Study	6 7 PM UMW	7 7 PM Prayer Shawl 7 PM Men's Group	8 9 AM Yoga 10 AM Walking 6:45 PM Bells 8:00 PM Adult Choir	9 6:30 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Walking 7PM Building committee	10	11			
12 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sun School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Youth 4:00 Bible Study 7 PM Youth Council	13 7 PM Finance Committee	14	15 9 AM Yoga 10 AM Walking 6:45 PM Bells 8:00 PM Adult Choir	16 6:30 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Walking 7PM Building committee	17	18			
19 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sun School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Youth 4:00 Bible Study	20	21 7 PM Prayer Shawl	22 9 AM Yoga 10 AM Walking 7:30 Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:30 pm Yoga 7:30 pm Walking 7PM Building committee	24	25 5 PM Youth All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner			
26 8:45 Worship 9:45 Sun School 11:00 Worship 4:00 Youth 4:00 Bible Study	27	28	29 9 AM Yoga 10 AM Walking 6 PM Feast & Faith 6:30 PM Bible Study & Activities 6:45 PM Bells 8:00 PM Adult Choir	Notes: 7:30 PM March 1 – Trustees meeting. Possible Youth Dinner on March 3. March 10 – Yates Class BBQ					

Reminder

All scheduling must be done through the church office.

If your event is not on the above calendar please call 804-556-3494 or e-mail office@gumspringumc.org.

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

Beginning My Lenten Patterns

“Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over, and over again, expecting different results.”

This saying, commonly used in 12 Step programs, reveals a real wisdom. It can be a good beginning reflection as we examine the choices we will make in the days ahead. It is very simple. Our Lord is calling us to a “change of heart.” And, we know from experience, that nothing will change, unless we change our patterns. To expect different results is insanity.

So, what needs changing?

We start to come to know that by asking for help. “Lord, help me to know what needs changing.” It is often said, “Be careful about what you ask for.” This is one of those requests that God must surely want to answer.

Then, we have to listen. With a little bit of reflection, most of us will just begin to “name” things that make up our ordinary habits and ways of being who we are, that we aren’t very proud of. Things we do and things we never get around to doing. We can “feel” the call to change our attitudes, our self-absorption, or our way of interacting with others. Perhaps a spouse, a loved one, a friend, a family member, a co-worker has told me something about myself that gets in the way of communication, that makes relating to them difficult. Maybe I don’t take God very seriously. I go to Church on Sunday, and contribute my share, but I don’t really take time to deal with my relationship with God. Perhaps I’ve let my mind and fantasy get cluttered with escapist litter. I might begin to name a number of self-indulgent habits. I may realize I rarely, if ever, hear the cry of the poor, and can’t remember when I’ve answered that cry. It could be that dishonesty on all kinds of levels has become a way of life. One of the road-blocks in my relationship with God and others may be deep wounds or resentments from the past, things I continue to hold against others or myself.

You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins.
Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt. - Psalm 51

Dates to Remember February & March 2012

Black History Month - February
St. Valentine’s Day - Feb 14
Transfiguration Sunday - Feb. 19
Ash Wednesday - Feb. 22
First Sunday in Lent - Feb. 26
Lent - Feb. 22 - Apr. 7
Daylight Savings Time - March 11
One Great Hour of Sharing - March 18
St Patrick’s Day - March 17.
Women’s History Month - March
Spring Begins - March 20

**FEAST & FAITH
BEGINS ON
FEBRUARY 29, 2012
WITH DINNER
AT 6 PM**

**LET US BREAK
BREAD TOGETHER**

Administrative Council
will begin meeting monthly on
February 20.

The format for the odd-numbered months does not change.
The format for the even numbered months
will be short updates to Council from the ministry teams
with breakout sessions for each ministry area
following.

The minutes of our last meeting
are on our blogspot
www.gumspringumc.com

Don’t know who your servant leaders
are for 2012?

Pick up a book in the narthex or ask a Greeter for a copy.

**Sunday School
Director needed for
2012.
Call the office for
details.**

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

2011 Financial Highlights

Dear Fellow Members,

Here are the highlights of the church's finances for the past year.

Income and Expenses:

o Receipts were \$220,934, while expenses totaled \$240,940. Compared to 2010, total giving was \$602 lower and expenses were \$19,876 higher. As we let this news soak in, it is important to remember that God is our provider and to pray for His direction as He leads us through this challenge.

o The \$20,006 deficit for the year depleted cash in our General Fund account and the account has been replenished from funds held in the General Fund Reserve, which accumulated over the past few years. The new balance in the reserve is \$22,818.

New Construction:

o At year-end, \$194,199 had been spent of the \$1,251,600 approved by the congregation in November 2010 for constructing the new facility. \$100,000 was paid to purchase the steel beams and the \$94,199 was spent for miscellaneous items necessary to support the Building Committee's activities to date.

o Second Capital Campaign giving since 11/7/2010 reached \$152,346, which is on track versus the campaign's overall three-year goal. At current rates, this is equivalent to 10 months of interest payments at prime rate during construction and nearly 9 months of mortgage payments after the new facility opens.

o The balance in the New Construction Account, including contributions to the Second Capital Campaign, was \$1,238,712.

On behalf of the Finance Committee and Administrative Council, we once again thank all who have contributed to the church's many active ministries this past year as well as those who have stretched even further to support the dream of the new facility that's now taking shape before our very eyes. If you have any questions, I will be pleased to address them.

Blessings to all,

Darryl Smutz
Finance Chair

Hospitality Team Update

The Hospitality Ministry Team had its first meeting of 2012 with a brunch at the Smutz's house on January 21st. There were eight members present at the very productive meeting. We continued to work on topics regarding the Homebound Organizer and Visitation procedures. We made great headway on selecting our goals for the year and the annual Calendar of events. Finances for 2012 were discussed and our plans for making good use of the money that members give for our activities.

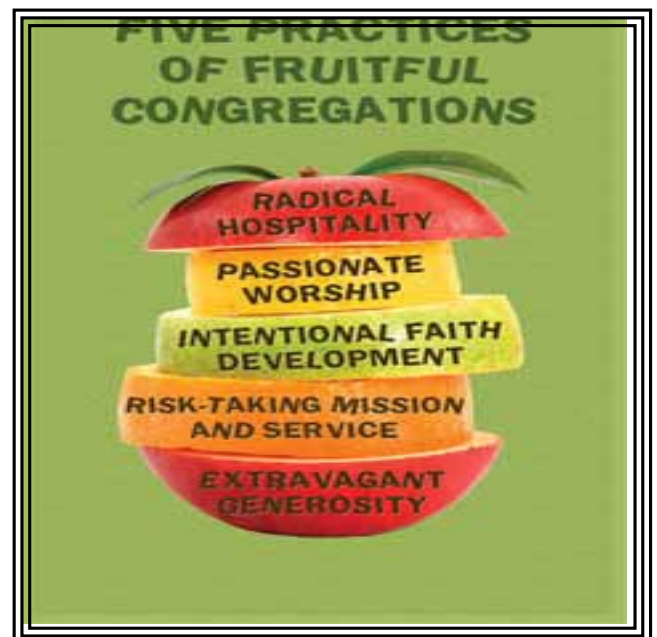
If you have a passion for welcoming others, greeting and ushering, fellowship activities for singles and seniors as well as Church-wide activities, preparing and serving meals, caring for children in the nursery or visiting the homebound.....join the Hospitality Team!!

You are always welcome. Our next meeting is February 18th at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall at the church. There are plenty of opportunities for services and fresh ideas!

Contact: Jolene Smutz

Jolenes45@comcast.net

804-556-4383



The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

Vital Congregations Are:

Spirit-filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that welcome all people (Gal.3:28)

Places where Disciples of Jesus Christ are made through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:18-20)

Communities that serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries. (Micah 6:8, Luke 4:17-21)

A Vital Congregation Has:

Inviting & Inspiring Worship
Engaged Disciples in mission & outreach
Gifted, Empowered & Equipped Lay
Leadership
Effective, Equipped & Inspired Clergy
Leadership
Small Group Ministries

A Disciple of Jesus Christ:

Matthew 22:36-40

worships regularly
helps make new disciples
is engaged in growing in their faith
is engaged in mission
shares by giving in mission



2012

Fitness Revolution Resolution

Schedule

Wednesday Morning - January 18, 2012

9 AM - Yoga

9:30 AM - Walking

Thursday Evening - January 19, 2012

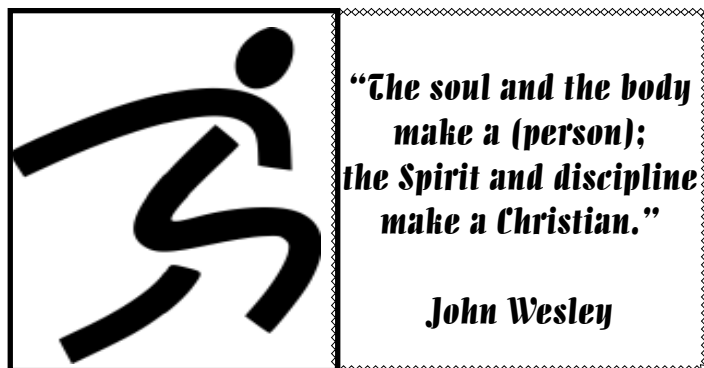
6 PM - Yoga

6:30 PM - Walking

E-mail Jodi Elrod at cap1talsgrl@aol.com or phone at 804-457-2125 for more information.

Join the fun and fellowship.

\$15 per person



Singles

Happy New Year to Everyone! If you are a divorcee, widow or widower and need some people that understand your situation, we have open arms for you with fun and laughter. We meet once a month at different locations to eat and fellowship with each other. Please come and join us. Need more information call Jean Wiltshire 556-3349

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

Simplifying Life in 2012

A recent Facebook poll gathered these responses as to how many folks resolve to simplify their lives in 2012. This comes from an article from Diana Dunlap-Berg, a United Methodist Internal Content Editor with the United Methodist News Service in Nashville, TN.

- Allow God to guide my way. Trust God fully. Focus on God's priorities. Don't sweat the small stuff.
- Ask God for discernment about how to simplify.
- Be more faithful in daily devotions.
- Do what I need to do when I need to do it. Embark on ambitions I actually know I will accomplish.
- Forgive and forget.
- Get rid of clutter — both physical and psychological. Decide what is non-essential and donate it to bless others.
- Give my best gifts — time and attention — to the people and tasks that matter the most.
- Have more family time.
- Listen and do God's will. Listen to my conscience.
- Love others.
- Make church my focal point.
- Praise, pray, practice my faith.
- Re-evaluate my commitments. Am I doing tasks to make myself look good or to answer God's call?
- Serve more in my church and community.
- Spend more time on <http://www.prayface.com>. It's an online social community for people who want to pray for others or need prayer in their lives.
- Study the Bible. Read the Bible from cover to cover.
- Tithe.
- Work for peace.
- Worship passionately.
- Zap worry from my life.

Ms Dunlap Berg goes on to further say - "Every response appeared carefully thought out — even the tongue-in-cheek one from Jon Schuetzeberg of Los Angeles. "All the same colored socks!"

But the response from Kareen Acap of the Philippines was, perhaps, my favorite.

"Live simple, think less, love more and submit everything to God."



February is Heart Havens Month

Heart Havens provides for the residential needs of adults with intellectual disabilities through the development and operation of group homes throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This is accomplished by:

Establishing and promoting a Conference-wide effort to address the needs of individuals with these disabilities;

Encouraging the individual's involvement in the life of the local community and its resources;

Respecting and nurturing the individual's uniqueness, dignity, and worth;

Ministering to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each individual;

Understanding and addressing the concerns and needs of each individual's family;

Involving local churches and Heart Havens in affirming God's love and care for all His children;

Involving individuals in activities of local churches



**Pastor's
Corner**

I know I'm dating myself, but when I was in high school and college, I had quite a record collection. Being a packrat, I have kept it all these years, but haven't had a means to play them for some time. Some of the albums have wonderful music on them that I still recall every once in a while. Over the past few years, I have either bought the CD version or downloaded favorite tunes. Still, many of those "classics" (to me, at least) were missing from my collection. So I recently bought a USB turntable. It connects to my computer and I can record the albums. The software will even split each side into the individual tracks, so my music is just as accessible as if it were on a CD or mp3 file.

One thing I noticed, though, was the difference in sound quality. CDs (and mp3s) are digitally recorded; the process generates almost no additional noise. Records, on the other hand, have a background hiss and numerous cracks and pops as they play. Of course, when I remember the songs, I don't remember the noise, I just remember the music. The software I bought can remove some of the noise so I can actually have a better quality music experience than I did when the records were new. Plus, because the songs are now digitized, I have access to them in far more places – no need to carry a record player in my car.

So now I have my old favorites again. I'm enjoying the music, but I had forgotten the downside of record albums: the background noise. It's funny how that works with us – we remember the good things but quickly forget that things weren't as great as we remember.

We have to be careful of this in the church (or any institution, for that matter). Certainly we can remember and celebrate the good things in the past, but let's not forget the good things of today, even if they are different. As I look at all the activities going on during the week here at church, I think back to when I arrived in 2004 – a weekly bible study was about it. Now we have to remind people to check the church calendar before they schedule events so we don't have collisions. We offer nursery at the early service because we have families with small children at that service. The church had talked about increasing the facility but hadn't had much progress – now we're moving dirt because you have made a leap of faith to build.

I was a part of the Hospitality Ministry Area's January meeting, and we looked at the calendar for all the church activities that are already planned for this year. It's really amazing to me how many different ways we, the church, are involved in ministry – not just for us, but in the community for the glory of the Kingdom.

Now that's something worth remembering – Let's go and build the Kingdom of God together!

Thanks be to God See ya Sunday! Jeff



Pastor's Hours:
9am-1pm Tues - Fri
or by Appointment
Office Hours:
9am-2pm Mon - Fri

The Good News of Gum Spring United Methodist Church

Gum Spring United Methodist Church
35 Church Lane
Gum Spring, VA 23065
Phone: (804) 556-3494
FAX: (804) 556-7990
<http://gumspringumc.com>



BULK RATE
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Gum Spring, VA
PERMIT NO. 2

Visit us on
the Web

Return Service Requested

