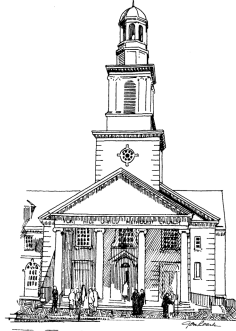


From the Hill



Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone (434) 847-1251

Corner of Memorial and Oakridge
Website: www.FortHillUMC.org
Since 1908

Volume 46, No. 5

May 2011

Samaritan Offering Will Start on Mother's Day

The annual drive for support of the Virginia United Methodist Homes through the Samaritan Offering will begin on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8, and end on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19. Please consider giving a gift to this fund in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. You may designate which home you wish to support. Make checks payable to FHUMC for credit on your giving record.

Graduate Information Needed



Every spring, Fort Hill UMC likes to honor its graduates. If you are a high school, college, or vocational school graduate this year, please call the church office (847-1251) and let us know what school you will be graduating from and what your future plans are. We would like to include that information in an upcoming newsletter and bulletin.

McPherson Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted

It is a great privilege to offer scholarships from the McPherson Scholarship Endowment again this year. Applications can be picked up in the church office starting May 16 and must be returned no later than June 15. All 2011 high school graduates and current college students, who are members of Fort Hill UMC, are encouraged to apply. Scholarship awards will be made in July.

Annual Lynchburg District Clergy/Laity Banquet Planned

Make plans to attend this annual banquet on Sunday, May 22, at Timberlake UMC. Conference Lay Leader, Shirley Cauffman, will be the guest speaker.

Christian fellowship begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m. Good food and fellowship, special music and message - all for \$10 per person. Tickets are available from Carolyn Maness, Lay Leader (239-6657) and Fred Fauber, District Lay Leader (384-5637). Reservations must be in by May 17.

Church Council Meeting Dates Changed

In order to have better communication and keep abreast of the constantly changing schedules at FHUMC, it was suggested and approved at the Church Council meeting in April to begin monthly Council meetings. The meetings will still be held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. On the Tuesdays that the Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m., Council meeting time will be changed to 7:30 p.m. Confusing? Be sure to watch the church calendar in the bulletin and newsletter for dates and times.

UMW Day at Ferrum College June 4, 2011

Opening Worship will begin at 9:45 a.m. in Vaughan Chapel. A boxed lunch will be served in the Franklin Dining hall. The play this year will be *Radio Gals* by Mike Craver and Mark Hardwick. This lively, cheery musical keeps old-fashioned tunes, country humor, and romance coming fast enough to charm the ear.

The cost for the day is only \$15. Checks should be made payable to Ferrum College and mailed to: Ferrum College UMW Day, 622 Ferrum Mountain Rd., Ferrum, VA 24088. **Reservations must be received by May 26, 2011.**

A Word From Our Pastor

Of Wood, Nails and Colored Eggs

Wood: Something like an eternity ago, human beings got all caught up in the illusion that being human is a relatively unimportant sort of proposition. Here today - gone tomorrow. A vale of tears - that sort of foolishness.

What's more tragic, or course, is that in the wake of this basic error, there quickly followed the idea that human beings are expendable, which easily degenerated into the proposition that some human beings are expendable. Really bad guys are expendable. Guys with low I.Q.'s are expendable. Anyone who disagrees with me is expendable. A long time ago, human beings got all caught up in the illusion that being human is a relatively unimportant sort of proposition.

Well, that's not true. It's wrong. All wrong. And it has always been wrong. From the creation of the heavens and the earth, it has been . . . wrong. There's nothing more important than being human. Our lives have eternal significance. And no one - absolutely no one - is expendable.

Nails: Jesus was dead. He was dead and buried. It was expedient that he should be dead and buried. Caiaphas had explained that to himself and to others over and over again. It was expedient, he said, that one man should die for the sake of the people. Jesus is expendable. Caiaphas suffered from the illusion that being human is relatively unimportant. And so Jesus was dead.

What happened then wasn't so remarkable, really. God simply raised Jesus from the dead. He merely walked into the tomb that we call insignificance and absurdity, and meaninglessness, and other such names as that - he merely walked into this tomb and raised Jesus from the dead.

There was nothing very spectacular or remarkable about this. God revealed himself to be the same God who created the heavens and the earth

and called his creation good; the same God who led his people out of Egypt to be a light to the nations; the same God who affirmed David in his weakness; who called forth the prophets; who kindled the heart of John the Baptist; and who reached out to touch his tiny children in the person of Jesus Christ.

God raised Jesus from the dead to the end that we should be clear—once and for all—that there is nothing more important than being human. And no one - absolutely no one - is expendable.

Colored Eggs: Some human beings are fortunate enough to be able to color eggs on Easter. If you have a pair of hands to hold the eggs, or if you're fortunate enough to be able to see the brilliant colors, then you're twice blessed.

This Easter some of us weren't able to hold Easter Eggs, others of us were unable to see the colors, many of us are unable to move at all - and so it will be necessary to color eggs in our heart.

This Easter there was a hydrocephalic child lying very still in a hospital somewhere with a head the size of his pillow and vacant, unmoving eyes, and he was not able to color Easter eggs, and he will not be able to color Easter eggs in his heart, and so God will have to color eggs for him.

And God will color eggs for him. You can bet your life and the life of the created universe on that.

At the cross of Calvary God re-consecrated and sanctified wood and nails and absurdity and helplessness to be continuing vehicles of his love. And then he simply raised Jesus from the dead. And they went home and colored eggs.

Peace,
Philip

Music Ministry

Worship Participation for 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Announced

May 1	Sanctuary Choir
May 8	Sanctuary Choir
May 15	Sanctuary Choir, Celebration Ringers & Instrumental Ensemble
May 22	Beulah UMC (Richmond) Youth Choir
May 29	Sanctuary Choir

Bells of the Blue Ridge in Concert

The spring schedule of performances by this amazing group is:

Monday, May 9, 7:00 p.m. at Valley View Retirement Center

Sunday, May 15, 2:30 p.m. at the Cancer Awareness Garden

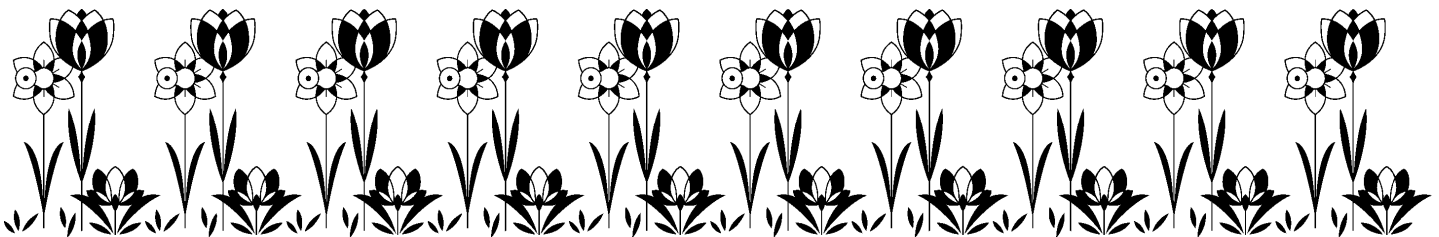
Sunday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. at Crozet UMC

Tuesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. at Schewel Hall, Lynchburg College

For more information, please contact Janet Hawkins at 847-1251.

A Musical Extravaganza of Dynamic Keyboard Duos Sunday, May 8 at 3:00 p.m. Fort Hill UMC Sanctuary

It's coming! Those Dynamic Duos are up to it again. Make this a very special Mother's Day treat for your mother, grandmother or spouse by bringing her to this concert of musical talent featuring musicians: Cathy Armes, Dee Booth, Jean Fielding, Janet Hawkins, Daryl Knott, Mary Murphy, June Plunkett, Andy Poindexter, Carol Dee Robertson and Nancy VanZant. Mark your calendars now to come hear music from classical to spiritual to over-the-top-playing. This is great family entertainment! Free and open to the public. A love offering will be received.



SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT FHUMC

JUNE 26-30

June 25

VBS Decorating Day

June 26 - VBS Kick-Off Sunday:

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

5:00 p.m. cookout & Family Activities

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. VBS Fun

June 27-30:

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. VBS Fun

Ages 3 and up - Parents and other adults are welcome!

Bits and Pieces



Recent History

In memory of Jesse Lee Bobbitt, Sr.

Members of the Forrest Oglesby Class were shocked to learn of the recent death of their friend, Jesse Bobbitt. He had come into our lives so quietly, and for many months had only sat and observed our class from the very back of the room. Gradually, he became part of us. He signed up to have our devotions once a month. He was shy, and it was hard for him, but he did it. Then, he began helping out with the Java Stop each Sunday. We used to have to lift two coffee urns filled with water and carry them to the Parlor - an impossible task without his help. Also, in our class, he always helped take up the collection each Sunday.

As time went on, we learned that he played in a band. His instrument was a kind of guitar called a dobro. At some point, he brought his dobro and played hymns for us. Later on, his friend, Juanita, came with her guitar, and they sang duets together. As Richard Hawkins, who often joined in, will tell you - Jesse really could play that dobro. If only we had gotten to know him sooner.

As quietly as he came into our lives, he left us, making it richer. We really miss him. May you rest in peace, Jesse.

*-Jo Griffin, Historian
Janie Jessee History Room*

May Communion Offering to Benefit Society of St. Andrew



One half of the communion offering at Fort Hill United Methodist Church, received on the first Sunday of May, will be given to the Society of St. Andrew to help feed the hungry. The other half of the offering will go to our own Local Relief Fund which is sent to Interfaith Outreach Association to help those in need of rental or utility assistance, etc.

Please give generously! Every gift will help to feed the hungry in our area or assist someone in need in other areas of their lives.

May Prayer Focus is Family

Our congregational prayer focus for May is Family. Let us join our hearts and minds together as we talk with our loving Heavenly Father about families. Pray for your own family, for families in need, for our church "family", and for new friends among us. Thank God for the joys, blessings, support, and challenges of family life. Ask God to guide you into the paths God wants you to follow.

UMW Circle Meeting Dates

Judy Matheny - Tuesday, May 3, 12:00 Noon in Oxford Hall. Bring a bag lunch & enjoy Rev. Ron Litten of Indian Hill UMC, who will enlighten us on the mission of which the LaHoya mission is a part.



Diantha Hodges - Tuesday, May 3, 1:00 p.m. in the church Library

Genesis - Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ann Vincent, 2086 Founding Way Rd., Bedford

Pat Light - Monday, May 23, 6:30 p.m., place TBA

UMW Spiritual Life Retreat to be Held May 13-15 in Blackstone

"Blessed to be a Blessing" is this year's retreat theme. The Retreat program begins officially on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and ends with lunch on Sunday. You have the option of coming Friday afternoon or evening. An offering will be taken Sunday.

Rev. Tammy Estep will be the Retreat Leader. She has served as the District Superintendent of the Eastern Shore since July, 2006. She has also served four Virginia Conference churches since her ordination in June, 1984. She is a well-know retreat leader and keynote speaker. The Retreat Music Leader will be Joy Tinsley.

Registration deadline is May 6, 2011. Brochures with registration form and costs are in each Circle Leader's mailbox or can be picked up in the church office.

Lunch Out Group to Meet in May

The next meeting of the Lunch Out Group will be on May 29, at Red Lobster, 3425 Candler's Mountain Road, immediately following the 10:30 a. m. service. Please join them for good fellowship and food. No reservations are necessary - just show up! Dutch treat, of course. Questions? Call Becky Spangler at 586-6009.



May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 6:00 Senior Roast & Toast	2	3 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 J. Matheny Circle 1:00 D. Hodges Circle 7:00 Genesis Circle 7:00 Dist. Common Table	4 7:00 Men's Group 6:00 Wed. Night Supper 6:45 <i>Christian Believer</i> study	5 Nat'l Day of Prayer 8 AM - 7 PM 5:45 Celebration Ringers 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	6	7
8 Happy Mother's Day New Member Sunday Children's Church 3:00 Dynamic Duos Concert	9	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Church Council	11 7:00 Men's Group 6:00 Wed. Night Supper 6:45 <i>Christian Believer</i> study	12 5:45 Celebration Ringers 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	13	14
15 Newsletter Deadline Youth Ministry in Park	16	17 10:00 Staff Meeting	18 7:00 Men's Group 6:00 Wed. Night Supper 6:45 <i>Christian Believer</i> study	19 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	20	21
22 Beulah UMC Youth from Richmond Children's Church 7:00 Bells of Blue Ridge at Crozet	23	24 1:30 Staff Meeting 7:30 Bells of Blue Ridge @ Lybg. College	25 7:00 Men's Group 6:00 Wed. Night Supper 6:45 <i>Christian Believer</i> study	26 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	27	28
29	30 Church Office Closed Have a safe Memorial Day	31 10:00 Staff Meeting	SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 8:30 a.m. Worship in Chapel with Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary		YOUTH ACTIVITIES UMY (United Methodist Youth) 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. each Sunday	

May Birthdays



This Month's Birthdays

5/1 Wayne Tilley
 5/1 Evan Meese
 5/2 Ellen Hill
 5/2 Max Wilmer
 5/2 Bob Staton
 5/3 Jim Kiger
 5/4 Pauline Taylor
 5/4 Golda Winnagle
 5/5 David Winnagle
 5/5 Claudia Gillispie
 5/5 Lauren Lee
 5/6 Robert Tippett
 5/6 Gardner Blanks
 5/6 Charlie Tucker
 5/6 Chinky Wilmer

5/6 Ricky Sutor
 5/6 Nikki Burrington
 5/7 Brenda Glass
 5/8 Gladys Sale
 5/8 Gregory Hale
 5/9 Thomas Robertson
 5/10 Betty Zieger
 5/10 Jean Thomas
 5/10 John Saville
 5/11 Jane Peters
 5/11 Ciara Hudson
 5/11 Sophie Minnick
 5/12 John Wood
 5/12 Cindy Castaldo
 5/12 Christy Miller
 5/12 Olivia Beverly
 5/13 Nell Boswell
 5/13 Charlie Sumpster
 5/13 Bubba Humphries

5/13 Shelia Drinkard
 5/13 David Reid
 5/14 Kenneth Hunt
 5/14 John Ripley
 5/15 Dorothy Hagen
 5/15 George Erbacher
 5/15 Andrew Jenks
 5/15 Tyler Perrow
 5/16 Janet Murphy
 5/17 Jeff Gay
 5/18 Yvonne Tackett
 5/19 Peggy McFaden
 5/20 Kerry Wilkinson
 5/21 Ken Layne
 5/22 Lucile Dillard
 5/22 Zachary Wiley
 5/23 Carolyn Green
 5/23 George Armes
 5/24 Daryl Knott

5/24 Justus Hamilton
 5/26 Fred Fauber
 5/26 Allie Lovell
 5/27 Carol Dee Robertson
 5/27 Martha Blanks
 5/27 Stacey Lowe
 5/27 Lynn Gittleman
 5/28 Richard Hawkins
 5/28 Sallie Johnson
 5/28 Jennifer Neighbors
 5/29 Nancy Zehmer
 5/29 Madeline Willis
 5/29 Shelia Bourguignon
 5/29 Karl Lowe
 5/30 Gayle Phipps
 5/30 John Scott
 5/30 Erin Lineberry
 5/30 Duncan Daugherty
 5/31 Brooksie Blanks

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, it may be because we do not have the date in our data base. Please call the church office at 847-1251 with your information.

May Wedding Anniversaries

5/2 Rick & Robin Poindexter	30 years	5/23 Frank & Carolyn Coleman	47 years
5/12 Charlie & Anne Tucker	58 years	5/24 Fred & Dodie Fauber	53 years
5/15 George & Cathy Armes	18 years	5/28 Roscoe & Gladys Sale	51 years
5/23 Mike & Alisha Decker	19 years	5/29 Lawrence & Doris Thompson	63 years
5/31 Bob & Jackie Bliss	14 years		



Thank you to the Fort Hill congregation for their calls, prayers and cards during the illness of my husband/my father, Earl Almond, and especially at the time of his death. We especially appreciate the calls and visits from Rev. Janet Hawkins during those times. Your outreach to us during this difficult time was so meaningful to us and we truly feel blessed by being a part of this wonderful congregation.
-In Christian love, Jeanette Almond & Carolyn Phelps

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Vincent Mistretta (Brittany Conner) upon their marriage at Fort Hill UMC on April 16.



Is it your birthday?

Well, if it is, it is time for you to support The Scholarship Fund for Christian Service!



We extend our deepest sympathy to Carolyn Simmons and family upon the death of her nephew, Aaron Horton and his wife, Rachael, on April 8; to Jeanette Almond and Carolyn Phelps upon the death of her husband/her father, Earl Almond, on April 10; and to the family of Georgia Car-wile upon her death on April 16.



As you give \$1 for each year you have to celebrate, we are able to support persons who are preparing to engage in full-time Christian ministry. What a gift! What a help it will be to those seeking to follow God into places and paths where he calls. Thank you for your generosity!

Miscellaneous

THE BOX SCORE

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1

Average worship attendance in 2010 — 167
Average worship attendance as of
April 17, 2011— 196

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . And put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10

SUMMARY BRIEF OPERATING FUND REPORT

Your first line of giving — mission and ministry!

Budget for 2011 as approved by the Church Council is:
\$482,225.00

We need an average of \$9,273.56 per week to meet
this budget.

As of 16 weeks, our weekly receipts
have averaged \$9,282.37

**Thank you for your support of the mission
and ministry of your church!**

Spring Awards Recital

Students of Dee Booth

Baroque ~ Classical

Romantic ~ Contemporary

Solo Duet Concerto

May 20, 2011

7:30 pm

Sanctuary of Fort Hill

United Methodist Church

Reception in Oxford Hall

Fort Hill Congregation is cordially invited!

Prayer Walking Planned Again For this Summer

Stay tuned for more information about our kick-off for prayer walking this summer. On Sunday, June 5, plans, instructions, and route maps will be provided. Plan now to get into the action.

From the Hill

is a publication of Fort Hill United Methodist Church,
106 Oakridge Boulevard, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1308

Phone: 434-847-1251

Fax: 434-847-2536

Web: www.FortHillUMC.org

Times of Worship

8:30 a.m. Traditional; in the Chapel

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Staffed nursery provided from 9:15 a.m.- 12:00 Noon

Susan Zenz, Nursery Attendant

Rev. Philip M. Waltz, Pastor

Philip@forthillumc.org

Rev. Janet Hawkins, Minister of Music &

Congregational Care

Janet@FortHillUMC.org

Kendra Toney, Dir. of Youth & Children's Ministries

Kendra@FortHillUMC.org

Jeanette Seale, Administrative Assistant

secretary@FortHillUMC.org

Fort Hill is located on the Lynchburg District

Rev. Larry E. Davies, District Superintendent

Phone: 434-832-0401

Fort Hill is one of 1,299 congregations of the Virginia
Conference of the United Methodist Church

337,641 Virginia United Methodists engaged in
ministry to others on behalf of Christ

Rev. Charlene Kammerer, Bishop

Richmond, VA

Phone: 1-800-768-6040

"Fort Hill United Methodist Church
reaches out and welcomes ALL people
by sharing God's LOVE through
care, worship, education, and service."

-Fort Hill UMC Vision Statement

theParentLinkSM

For important parent information about Youth and Children's Ministries, please visit www.forthillumc.org. Go to the children's or youth pages and click on the ParentLink logo. You may also contact Kendra Toney at 847-1251 or 546-0576 or kendra@forthillumc.org.



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Rev. Philip M. Waltz
Pastor

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Music & Congregational Care

Worship Times:
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service in the Chapel
10:30 a.m. Traditional Service in the
Sanctuary

Sunday School for All Ages: 9:15 a.m.

**Staffed nursery provided for
all services and Sunday School**



**SPOT-
LIGHT
ON...**

May 5
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

A tent will be set up on the corner of Memorial Avenue and Oakridge Blvd. during these hours for passers-by to stop and pray with one of our volunteers or to request prayer. Volunteers are needed to be on hand to greet and pray with those who stop by. Last year we had some wonderful experiences with those who came for prayer.

Come pray with us and bring friends and their friends! Everyone is invited. We all need prayers! The world needs our prayers! Please contact Sylvia Morgan, 239-6845, to let her know of your willingness to help. You will be blessed, and you will be a blessing. See you on the lawn!