



The Grove Gazette

A BRIGHT SIGN!

This week, Ann and I were at the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, VA. It is a quiet sacred Trappist Monastery that includes a small retreat house. Over the years Ann and I have learned that our spiritual journey needs rejuvenation. It is a time to put the busyness of the world aside and to listen to God speaking to us through His Word. We also seek God's presence through the signs and wonders of nature that reside in the 800 acres boarding the Shenandoah River. Holy Cross Abbey is truly a holy place.

We were there to listen for the "still small voice" of God. We needed God's help to discern the next direction in Ann's treatment for Multiple Myeloma. While the critical numerical measurements of the Multiple Myeloma intensity are coming down, the Johns Hopkins doctor and us are trying to discern the next direction of infusion verses Ann's quality of life. We know that we will come to a time when additional infusions will be required, but right now additional infusions are optional. We are looking at being proactive instead of reactive to addressing the remaining few, but viable, Multiple Myeloma cells. As many of you know there are always side-effects to any medical treatment.

So we came to the Abbey seeking discernment in the serene quietness of mid-winter.

What we found was reassurance that God is with us, still, in this critical life journey.

The Wednesday storm was coming across the Shenandoah Mountains about 4:30PM – rain, bursts of thunder, lightning and much more rain. Slowly the storm moved through the valley on its march towards Washington and Baltimore.

And then the "assurance" occurred! A double rainbow that touched both sides of the valley was upon us. An amazing sight –not a partial rainbow, not a segment of a rainbow, but a double complete semi-circle rainbow – brilliant red, yellow, green and blue and bright sunlight. Ann and I were awe struck. We were sitting in a three sided glass enclosed porch sharing our thoughts and concerns about the chemo treatments, when the rainbow appeared. The porch gave us a panoramic view of the rainbow. The timing was unexplainable.



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Other Important Message Schedule Dates:

February 14—March 24

Lent

Wednesday Night Lenten Worship Services—7pm

3/2—Shiloh UMC

3/8—Mt. Zion UMC

3/16—Pleasant Grove UMC

Palm Sunday

3/20—10:30am

Maundy Thursday—7pm

3/24—Boring UMC

March 25

Good Friday

Noon—Shiloh UMC

7pm—Pleasant Grove

March 27

Easter

6:30am—Sunrise

10:30—Celebration
Worship

April 3

2nd Sunday after Easter

“The Power of Doubt”

May 8

Mother’s Day

“The Bible’s Worst
Mom!”

May 29

Memorial Sunday

June 19

Father’s Day

“The Bible’s Worst
Dad”

But there was even more – in the midst of the rainbow, a bald eagle appeared soaring on the air currents of the ebbing storm. The bold white tail and the pointed white head circled and looped for several minutes.

Not one sign – not two signs – but three signs of God’s creation timed to strike us with God’s presence.

In Genesis 9, Noah, after the flood, is hearing God’s reassuring voice that the rainbow is a sign of God’s covenant with his people. “I have made this covenant with you and I will not fail you.”

How many more signs do Ann and I need to be reassured that all is well in spite of the worry. Not Many!

Dick

Thursday February 25, 2016

“I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”
-Genesis 9:13 NIV

THE LORD’S PRAYER—THE POWER & MEANING OF JESUS’ WORDS

FEBRUARY 14TH—MARCH 13TH

Join us as we delve into this powerful prayer, line by line. We’ll discover what Jesus meant when he shared it with his disciples over 2000 years ago. We’ll learn why this prayer was actually radical and controversial in its time. And, we’ll unpack its relevance for our lives today.

THE GAMES OF LIFE

APRIL 10TH—MAY 1ST

In this sermon series we will look at some of the classic games that we have played, Monopoly, Sorry, Clue and others and see how they tie into our understanding of the games we play in contrary to God’s desires for us.

PRAYER

MAY 15 - MAY 22

In this series we will closely look at prayer as the place where pride is abandoned, hope is lifted, and appeal is made. Prayer is the place of admitting our need, of adopting humility, and claiming dependence upon God. Prayer is the needful practice of the Christian. Prayer is the exercise of faith and hope. Prayer is the privilege of touching the heart of the Father through the Son of God, Jesus our Lord.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

JUNE 26 - JULY 31

The Sermon on the Mount is by far Jesus' longest explanation of what it looks like to live as His follower and to serve as a member of God's Kingdom. In many ways, Jesus' teachings during the Sermon on the Mount represent the major ideals of the Christian life. Jesus' words are practical and concise.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED:

Ann Harden, Doris Kirkland, Brad Stevens,
Ruth Warren, Claudia Stout, Jay Warren,
Richard Yates, Sunny Adam, Donald Hale,
Vola Osborn, Dave Goldinger, Gary Bosley,
Marsha Schuster, Sean Staley, Robbie Kirkland,
April Schriefer, Danny Yellott

Homebound Members:

Georgianna Harvey, David Osborn, Ralph Walter,
Bea King



New Address

The Coffey Family
8487 Forest and Stream Club Rd
Keymar, MD 21757

VBS



KID CARNIVAL

**Wed. June 22—
Fri, June 24**

9:00am—Noon

For boys and girls 3 years
to fifth grade

You're invited to help us
plan and pull together this
Vacation Bible School
theme. We will keep you
informed about things and
help we will need.

For further information
please contact Helen at
ledbug2001@yahoo.com

CHURCH

WORK

Day

March 12th

8:00 AM

TRUSTEES REPORT

Members met on January 14, 2016 to hold the first meeting for this year. As is the case with each new year, nominations were held for someone to act as Chair of the committee for the 2016 calendar year. Margarete Arnold was re-elected for another year.

The Committee looked at pending projects and prioritized them in the order in which we felt they could be accomplished, and necessity. The following order was agreed on: Tracey Building—upgrade both bathrooms, painting walls and ceilings with mold proof paint, repairing or replacing stall walls, replacing spigots, possibly installing electric hand dryers and removing current sinks and replacing with cabinet units to provide storage. We will begin in the ladies room.

Secondly, the Social Hall—there is great need to repair the basement walls inside and out. Additionally, paint and caulk in existing bathroom and will look into the logistics of adding a second bathroom. There is also a need to looking into an option to handle the backflow water and basement drainage on-to Pleasant Grove Road. Remove existing bathroom in basement and clean out the basement, as well as remove the hand sink in the kitchen.

Spring Workday is scheduled for **March 12th at 8:00am**, at which time, we will be cleaning up the cemetery for spring mowing and other outside sprucing up around the buildings. A rain date of March 19th was agreed on.

There are many other small projects that we will tackle throughout the year. Plastering and painting the ceiling and walls in the dining hall of the Social Hall will be put on hold, as it will be a major financial project.

The Trustees meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. All meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.

Margarete Arnold,
Trustee Committee Chair

FINANCE REPORT

Year 2015 has come and gone. Just as each of you is putting together their 2015 tax information for the government the church must report year end statistics to the Baltimore Washington Conference; only Conference information was due January 20th. Conference reviews the figures from 2015 and applies a formula approved by General Conference to determine what each Church should contribute toward apportionments paid to Conference in a future year (2017).

Our yearly budget falls into two groupings. The first is for programs, office operating, salaries and compensations, and Conference apportionments. We expect all of these items to be paid from our weekly offerings. The second group is buildings and grounds maintenance and these are paid from our Perpetual Care funds which have been invested.

For 2015 we estimated the programs, operations and salaries at \$84,047 and actual expenditures were \$78,240. **Unfortunately, our weekly collections only came to \$67,066; we had to draw money from our Discretionary fund to pay the 2015 Apportionments (\$11,174).** We estimated building and maintenance at \$21,608 and actual expenditures were \$11,619. These expenditures are covered under our Perpetual Care Funds.

Our 2016 Budget has been submitted and approved by the Administrative Council and we have included a copy in this newsletter for your information. The Program/Office Operating Expenses/Salaries and Apportionments is estimated to be \$85,850. (Based on the figures submitted to Conference in 2014 we will pay apportionments of \$12,358 in 2016). The Buildings and Grounds portion of the 2016 year is estimated at \$20,833; our total estimated budget for 2016 is \$106,683.

Remember, if you are on vacation, or Church is cancelled because of inclement weather, we still need you to faithfully submit your tithes so we can pay our bills. Just like your home expenses, we have to pay fuel, phone and electric bills every month. We try to be diligent in our use of funds but we cannot exist without the support of each and every member.

Sharon Osborn,

Finance Committee Chair



A new prayer chain calling tree has been made. If you have any questions or would like to have your name added please call the church at 410-429-5080 and leave a message for the secretary, Jennifer.

MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAYS

March

- 11 - Sally Fuller
- 11 - Pat Collins
- 13 - Tim Harvey
- 20 - Barbara Oliver
- 24 - April Schriefer
- 27 - Sharon Osborn

April

- 1 - Tim Kemp
- 2 - Sarah Sterling
- 4 - Taylor Coffey
- 5 - Eleni Karanikolis
- 7 - John "Ed" Lambert
- 10 - Christopher Clatterbuck
- 21 - Vola Osborn
- 26 - Joan Prall
- 30 - Miranda Albee

PARISH NURSE WORKSHOP

Join us in the Tracey Building from 10:00am—noon for our parish nurse workshops.

Upcoming workshops:

- Stroke: Recognizing the Signs, Treatment and Rehab - March 23rd
- Save the Date - April 20th and May 18th

Check your email or the bulletin board outside of the Sunday School room for more information.



Face drooping.

Arm weakness.

Speech difficulty.

Time to call 911.

Spot a stroke **F.A.S.T.**

Ad Council StrokeAssociation.org American Heart Association American Stroke Association Together to End Stroke®

SPRING BUS TRIP

The United Methodist Women will be headed New York City on **May 10—May 11, 2016.**

This trip will include sightseeing visits to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and the 9/11 Museum and Memorial.

Price per person:

\$325—Double Occupancy

\$387—Single Occupancy



For more information contact Vola Osborn at 410-429-3922

UMW NEWS

UMW packed and delivered 32 hygiene bags to Shepherds Staff in Westminster. The bags included a washcloth, soap, shampoo, conditioner and lotion. They have also put together 12 school bags for UMCOR and completed 30 plus dresses for Haiti.

March 1— A lunch meeting will be held at Barbara Oliver's home

March 3—11:30—Social Hall—Casseroles for Our Daily Bread

April 5—Meeting at 7:00pm at Fran Ball's home

REBUILDING TOGETHER BALTIMORE

APRIL 30, 2016

Rebuilding Together Baltimore strengthens the lives of people in our most vulnerable communities by providing low-income homeowners with critical home repairs, accessibility modifications and energy-efficient upgrades. We believe that everyone deserves to live in a safe and healthy home.

For more information about our Repair Ministry please contact Ed Lambert at 410-429-4000.