

Forest Road United Methodist Church

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*February 2012*

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This past week I was thinking about what I was going to write for the February News Letter, then I received this News letter from our District Superintendent. As you may know Larry is a wonderful writer so I thought I would share a portion of his letter. I think it will give you a fresh perspective on the church.

### **Vital Congregations and Hybrid Automobiles**

I was spending way too much money for gas. So, I purchased a hybrid automobile claiming to achieve 50 miles per gallon. Great! But my journey of change was just beginning. Upon taking delivery I was informed that in order to achieve fifty miles to the gallon my driving habits would also have to change.

Feeling frustration, I was willing to change but one that would be relatively painless: drive a different car. Instead, I discovered my journey of change was just beginning and much more involved than I imagined.

The United Methodist Church, I know and love is declining. Since 1968 while our nation has grown, the United Methodist Church has declined from nearly 11 million members to 7.7 million. Membership, worship attendance and number of churches have all declined. The average American is aged 35 while the average United Methodist is aged 57. If this trend continues, within another fifteen to twenty years many of our current members will be gone.

In 2010, the Council of Bishops and other bodies of the United Methodist Church empowered a team to identify what makes a congregation vital. Why

vital? Vital is defined as: "crucial: extremely important and necessary, or indispensable to the survival or continuing effectiveness of something." Another definition: "Needed for life: required for the continuation of life as in vital body organs."

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to **"Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."** (Matt 28:18-20 & Matt 22:36-40) This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be Disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world. (From [UMVitalCongregations.org](http://UMVitalCongregations.org))

**What makes a congregation vital?** More than 32,000 congregations, small, medium and large were surveyed in order to answer that question: The report, titled "Call to Action" found several factors.

1. Inviting and Inspiring Worship.
2. Engaged disciples in mission and outreach.
3. Gifted, equipped and empowered lay leadership.
4. Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership.
5. Small groups, that include special interests, children youth and adults.

All churches have some of these characteristics but Vital Congregations have most of them and more.

In other words becoming a vital congregation can't happen with a few adjustments or a quick fix. Instead, our journey of change is just beginning and is more involved than we imagined.

Learning to drive a hybrid meant changing bad habits and I would not change easily.

Making the decision to become a more "Vital Congregation" involves difficult choices but there is help provided by the United Methodist Church and the Virginia Conference in the form of immediate feedback and there are wonderful benefits to watching the church you love become more vital. So, what do our churches need to do to become Vital Congregations?

1. Study the website: [UMVitalCongregations.org](http://UMVitalCongregations.org). Everything you need is provided for you,

2. Form a leadership team and agree to meet regularly for at least 6 to 8 months.
3. Download "The Vital Congregations Planning Guide" and the "Companion Guide" found on the website to guide your initial get-started meetings.
4. Set your goals in five areas as listed on the website: Average Weekly Worship Attendance, Professions of Faith, Small Groups, Members in Mission and Dollars Given to Mission.
5. Begin to develop strategies that will help you accomplish your goals.
6. The Virginia Conference uniquely provides help through "All Things New" a core strategy to help our churches and church leaders learn to be "faith communities where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world."

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." A future with hope reminds us that God does have a vision and a purpose for our church. Together, we are invited to set goals that will move us forward in our mission to "Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." (From the Planning Guide)

As a District Superintendent, I work with many different churches, all of them unique. But "Vital Congregations" have an attitude that distinctly separates them from the others. You can feel the energy and excitement as you enter the church.

- There is the benefit of seeing new people deepening their relationship with Christ.
- There is the benefit of seeing children and youth nurtured and strengthened in their faith.
- There is the benefit of groups going out into the community to help those who are hurting.
- There is the benefit of seeing members become disciples and disciples become leaders.

## ***FOREST ROAD NEWS ...***

· There is the benefit of a belief that God is working within your church accomplishing miracles.

One pastor said: "You know your church is a Vital Congregation when you believe your best days are ahead of you... not behind you."

Jesus said: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Mat. 28:19-20)

The greatest benefit in becoming a "**Vital Congregation**" is in doing what Jesus commanded:

- Go and make disciples of all nations.
- Baptize them in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.
- Teach them to obey all the commands we've been given.

Then as we work hard to become more vital, we trust in Jesus' promise: "Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."  
For all of us, this is the greatest benefit of all.

My thanks again to our Superintendent Larry Davies

On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, our communion offering will be given to the "Super Bowl of Caring" for Meals on Wheels. Our communion offering normally goes to the Good Sam Fund. Please help by giving a little extra on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not already obtained your Church Officers 2012 booklet, they are still available in the Vestibule.

Anyone who is interested in taking part in an evening Bible Study of the Book of Revelation, is invited to meet at the church Thursday evening, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Before we begin our study, we will decide on a regular meeting night based on the wishes and requirements of those attending. The plan is to meet once a week for approximately an hour to an hour and a half. It will probably take about 8 to 10 weeks to complete the study of all 22 chapters in Revelation. If you are interested in learning more about the very important and mysterious last book of the Bible, please bring your knowledge, ideas and questions and join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like more information, please call Ed Anderson at 237-2764.

THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER is scheduled for Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00 PM until. More detailed information is forthcoming.

For those of you that have brought serving bowls, dishes, etc. to our covered dish luncheons and or dinners and have not picked them up, please do so. They are available on the kitchen counter.

***CONTRIBUTIONS GIVEN***

**CONTINGENCY FUND**

***In Memory of Vera Feagans***

Given by the following:

Mrs. Virginia Hayden  
Charles Walker  
David and Jane Widgeon  
Bobby and Judy Bondurant  
Ms. Josephine Griffin  
Clarence and Ruby Sanderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Carwile  
Ms. Helen Massie

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***The following donations were inadvertently left off the list in  
the November, December and January Newsletter  
(our apologies to the donors)***

***CONTINGENCY FUND***

**In Memory of George A. Sprouse**

Given by:

Edith Barley  
Benjamin and Helen Benford  
David and Jane Widgeon  
John W. Butler, Jr. (Jack Butler Insurance Agency)  
Lewis and Jeanette Scott  
Phyllis Moody  
Richard and Joyce Starr  
Danny and Delores Perdue  
Virginia Hayden  
James and Rebeck Whitt

***GENERAL FUND***

Jane Spouse

***CONTINGENCY FUND***

**In Memory of Christine Padgett**

Given by:

Ruby J. North  
Edith Barley  
David and Jane Widgeon  
Elaine Allen  
Virginia Hayden  
Danny and Delores Perdue

**In Memory of Vera L. Feagans**

Given by:

Virginia Hayden  
Charles Walker  
David and Jane Widgeon  
Bobby and Judy Bondurant  
Josephine Griffin and Ellen Stinnett  
Clarence and Ruby Sanderson  
Claude and Eleanor Carwile  
Helen Massie  
Paul Wailes, III  
John Feagans  
Benjamin and Joan Smith

**"HOW TO CONTACT YOUR PASTOR"**

**Rev. John H. Kinnard**  
**1058 High Grove Lane**  
**Forest, VA 24551**

**Home # 434-534-6141**  
**Cell # 434-258-4752**



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

[www.forestroadumc.org](http://www.forestroadumc.org)

FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS



**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS  
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

4	Worship Team Meeting	5:30 PM
2	Bible Study	6:00 PM
11	United Methodist Women Meeting	1:00 PM

**ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING OVER  
THE PAST MONTH**

		December 25, 2011	
Attendance:	52		Offering: \$2,745.00
		January 1, 2012	
Attendance:	38		Offering: \$2,423.00
		January 8, 2012	
Attendance:	48		Offering: \$2,850.00
		January 15, 2012	
Attendance:	50		Offering: \$1,128.00
		January 22, 2012	
Attendance:	43		Offering: \$1,238.37

*The January 29<sup>th</sup> Attendance and Offering  
will be posted in March's Newsletter*



**LAITY PARTICIPATING IN FEBRUARY  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**USHERS**

**Bill Arrington - Captain**

Charles Adams	Paul Callahan	Marvin Owen
George P. Sax		Owen Tomlinson

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

5	Jean Pratt
12	Delores Perdue
19	Katherine Duncan
26	LaVaughn Phillips

## Prayer List for Members

Charles Walker  
June Denson Peters  
Elizabeth Howard  
Edith Barley  
Paul Callahan  
Roberta Adams  
Howard Campbell  
Sharon Gorton  
Pete Walker

Virginia Hayden  
Ed & Christine Ruble  
George Sax  
David Widgeon  
Donna Kinnard  
Debbie Thompson  
Estelle Howard  
Shirley Hopper



## Prayer List for Friends

Jim Tucker  
Lloyd Stinnett  
Sonny Johnson  
Monroe Hopper  
Gary Gardner  
Kimmie Haner  
Brian Paris  
Amy Markham- Boozer  
Dawn Marie Cervanpes  
Donna Kinnard's Father  
Kenny and Brenda Landrum  
Mark T. McGovern (in Afghanistan)  
Lisa Phillips and Family  
All Soldiers and Our Nations Leaders

Shirley Hawkins  
Donnie Bush  
Joan Cogar  
June Weeks  
Johnny Walker  
Melody Cox  
Jean Keys  
Stanley Dean  
Iris and Tom Avery  
Dave Lewis  
Doug Jones  
Paula Day  
Susan Walton



## Those that are Shut-in's and in Nursing Homes:

Dorothy Ashworth      Medical Care Center (Room 324A)  
Evelyn Bradley        The Carrington

## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

2      Eleanor Carwile  
6      Robert Pratt  
8      Linda McGovern  
9      Rose Tengstrand  
11     Laura Powell  
13     Elaine Allen  
20     Jim Wilson  
22     Pastor John Kinnard  
23     Dorothy Ashworth  
24     Stratton Childress  
       Nicholas West  
26     Elizabeth Creger

## *Upcoming Birthdays in March ...*

4      Susan White  
       David Phillips  
8      Charles Adams

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6      Earl and Flora Driskill  
11     Owen and Peggy Tomlinson  
22     Skeeter and LaVaughn Phillips  
       Dallas and Tina Stanley

# REFLECTIONS



*By Sherry*

## Roses for Rose

Red roses were her favorites, her name was also Rose. And every year her husband sent them, tied with pretty bows. The year he died, the roses were delivered to her door. The card said, "Be my Valentine," like all the years before.

Each year he sent her roses, and the note would always say, "I love you even more this year, than last year on this day." "My love for you will always grow, with every passing year." She knew this was the last time that the roses would appear.

She thought, he ordered roses in advance before this day. Her loving husband did not know, that he would pass away. He always liked to do things early, way before the time. Then, if he got too busy, everything would work out fine.

She trimmed the stems, and placed them in a very special vase. Then, sat the vase beside the portrait of his smiling face. She would sit for hours, in her husband's favorite chair. While staring at his picture, and the roses sitting there.

A year went by, and it was hard to live without her mate. With loneliness and solitude, that had become her fate. Then, the very hour, as on Valentines before,

The doorbell rang, and there were roses, sitting by her door.

She brought the roses in, and then just looked at them in shock. Then, went to get the telephone, to call the florist shop. The owner answered, and she asked him, if he would explain, Why would someone do this to her, causing her such pain?

"I know your husband passed away, more than a year ago," The owner said, "I knew you'd call, and you would want to know." "The flowers you received today, were paid for in advance." "Your husband always planned ahead, he left nothing to chance."

"There is a standing order, that I have on file down here, And he has paid, well in advance, you'll get them every year. There also is another thing, that I think you should know, He wrote a special little card...he did this years ago."

"Then, should ever, I find out that he's no longer here, That's the card...that should be sent, to you the following year." She thanked him and hung up the phone, her tears now flowing hard. Her fingers shaking, as she slowly reached to get the card.

Inside the card, she saw that he had written her a note. Then, as she stared in total silence, this is what he wrote... "Hello my love, I know it's been a year since I've been gone, I hope it hasn't been too hard for you to overcome."

"I know it must be lonely, and the pain is very real. For if it was the other way, I know how I would feel. The love we shared made everything so beautiful in life. I loved you more than words can say, you were the perfect wife."

"You were my friend and lover, you fulfilled my every need. I know it's only been a year, but please try not to grieve. I want you to be happy, even when you shed your tears. That is why the roses will be sent to you for years."

"When you get these roses, think of all the happiness, That we had together, and how both of us were blessed. I have always loved you and I know I always will. But, my love, you must go on, you have some living still."

"Please...try to find happiness, while living out your days.  
I know it is not easy, but I hope you find some ways.  
The roses will come every year, and they will only stop,  
When your door's not answered, when the florist stops to knock."

"He will come five times that day, in case you have gone out.  
But after his last visit, he will know without a doubt,  
To take the roses to the place, where I've instructed him,  
And place the roses where we are, together once again."