

SEPTEMBER 2021

THE CHIMES

Official Newsletter of Chester United Methodist Church—www.chesterumc.org



Sunday, September 12

Join us immediately following our 11:00 AM worship service as we kick off our Fall season of church activities. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share AND your lawn chairs to dine and fellowship together on the Parsonage Lawn. Food will be set up in the Fellowship Hall along with a few tables for those who choose not to go outside. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, or the Church Office for more information.



The Bridge Southern Gospel Worship Service makes a soft return on *Sunday, September 19, at 10:00 AM!* With toe-tapping, soulful songs led by our Bridge Band, this service will lift your spirits as we encounter God together. Join us in the Sanctuary each Sunday for this unique worship experience. We will be discerning the viability of this service for a few weeks.

CHESTERFEST SHUTTLE

Are you attending ChesterFest on Saturday, September 25? We will be offering satellite parking here in our lot with complimentary shuttle service across Route 10 to the festival site. Pastor Nathan, Pastor Chad, and Joshua Wortham will be your chauffeurs throughout the day! Passengers will be dropped off and picked up in front of the Busy Bea. Let your friends and neighbors know about this easy parking option!



A Community in Christ
Chester United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Contemporary Worship
Davis Fellowship Hall
8:30 AM

Southern Gospel Worship
Sanctuary (begins Sept. 19)
10:00 AM

Online Worship
Facebook & YouTube
10:00 AM

Traditional Worship
Sanctuary
11:00 AM

Worship By Phone
804-768-9594
Anytime

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A CALL FOR A COMEBACK

by Pastor Nathan Decker

“Comeback is a good word, man!” -Mickey Rourke

“No one makes a comeback like Jesus; Church, it’s time to come back.” I said these words in my yard in front of the camera recording as a way of communicating the new health safety plan for our church. As soon as I said them, I felt overwhelmed with the joy of the Spirit. We, as a people, love stories of comebacks, last minute saves, and amazing grit in the face of overwhelming odds. Church, this is our moment.



2020 was the year of Covid’s Cancel, and 2021 seemed to start out as the year of setbacks. Each time we made a first down, it seemed like something would push us backwards. We have vaccines, but there are questions and hesitations (and not all of them unfounded). We don’t have mask mandates, but now there are variants more contagious and deadly. We have church in person again, but how will it be in the “new normal?”

Hear me clearly: Christ is the King of Comebacks. When they beat him down, he got back up. When they mocked him with a crown of thorns, he held his head up with humility. When they pushed him down and nailed him on the cross, he said all humanity would come to him as he was lifted up. When they buried him in death, rolling a stone over the entrance to seal his fate, he rose. Church, he’s still rising.

Christ is the King of Comebacks. When we feel our hearts sinking into the mire of depression, Jesus offers us a hand to help us walk upon the waters. When the storms of division and dissension punch conflict and bully us with fear, Jesus stands up with authority and says, “Peace, be still.” When we feel like the world has gone to hell in a handbasket and sin rules where death hasn’t already destroyed, Christ rises.

Christ is the King of Comebacks; Church, it’s time for us to come back. Come back with faithful worship. Come back with devoted small groups. Come back in prayer-filled hymns and praise. Come back to radical community outreach and intentional connective missions. Come back to experiencing Christ in Church. ***Covid-19 never stood a chance against our Savior.***

I’m officially declaring September 12 “Come Back Sunday.” We’re going to have a picnic with food, games, fellowship, and the love of God in each smile. No one makes a comeback like Jesus; Church, we’re called to come back. Amen.

“I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers.” -Romans 8:38 CEB

MUSIC NOTES

Let’s get back into the SING of things! As the season of fall approaches, let’s fall back into some good rehearsal habits as our music groups prepare to lead in worship.

Faith On Fire—Our Children and Youth Choir will rehearse on Sundays (beginning September 12) in Davis Fellowship Hall under the direction of Carrie Coyner. Watch for more info.

The Joy Singers—Our choir for retired folks will rehearse on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the Music Suite. Rehearsals begin September 21. Singers of all skill levels are encouraged to participate.

Chancel Choir—This choir for singers in 9th grade to 99 years old rehearses on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Singers of all skill levels are encouraged to participate.

Cantata Choir—Not ready to commit full-time to the Chancel Choir? Join us as we prepare our seasonal worship concerts! We will begin Christmas rehearsals with a workshop on **Saturday, October 2, at 9:30 AM**. Weekly rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, followed by Chancel Choir rehearsal.

“Sing”-cerely,
Joshua Wortham



STEPHEN MINISTRY MOMENT—We Need You!

By now, you all know that CUMC is blessed to have an active Stephen Ministry Team. But did you know that YOU, our congregation, can make an important difference in someone's life by letting them know we have trained caregivers called Stephen Ministers who come alongside people during difficult times?

A number of us are feeling better now. Many have returned to church, our choir is singing, and we are seeing friends and family. But not all of us are there yet. There is still a big worry about the Delta variant that is contributing to increased COVID infections. Many are juggling work, childcare, and schooling. Financial strain is still present for many families, and most of us still have uncertainty about the future. Some of us are struggling with the loss of loved ones along with other personal challenges. This is where our Stephen Ministers step in. No one has to face these life events alone. We are here to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. It's high-quality care – and completely confidential.

Look around you. Are there people you sit with at our Sunday services, people in your Sunday school class, or maybe someone who doesn't go to our church who would benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister? We need you to be our **Lookouts**. While Stephen Ministers are well trained to reach out and help others, unless we know that someone is hurting, we can't be there to help. And this is where YOU, our congregation, can be of help to us, to Pastor Nathan, and to Pastor Chad. When you encounter someone who is struggling with life's challenges, you want to listen to them in a caring way. Then explain a little about how Stephen Ministry works (we have brochures if you need one). Before doing anything else, you want to get their permission to connect them with one of our Pastors, Stephen Leaders, or Stephen Ministers. If that person agrees, then quickly pass the information along (see below). If that person says no, just give them time to think about it and ask again. Avoid promising someone a Stephen Minister, as all cases have to be considered appropriate for this ministry.

By being a **Lookout**, each one of you can be a vital part of this process. You will be paving the way to help our Stephen Ministry Team assist in meeting needs for care in both our congregation and community.

Who to contact:

CUMC Stephen Leaders are Vince D'Agostino, Beth Stewart, and Beth Powner

CUMC Stephen Ministers are Ginger Chadwick, Dale Clark, Linda D'Agostino Dennis Janderwski, Martha Miles, Claudia Nagy, Steve Osborne, and Tim Stewart. Their contact information is in our online church directory (www.chesterumc.org) or you may call the office at 804-748-6006.

DINNER FOR SIX/EIGHT

Gathering together for a meal is a way to fellowship with other people in the church and get to know them. Couples and singles gather once a month September - November and January - May at a host home (who provides the meat and beverage)...others bring an appetizer (optional), bread, salad, vegetables, or dessert. Each month, someone else in the group hosts. Don't be shy...it may be 2 couples and 2 singles or 3 couples or a combination of up to 8 people.

The sign-up sheet is in the Sunday pew pad (or contact Mary Musselwhite). Please indicate if you are willing to host and include your email address and phone number. We will group everyone and let you know when the first dinner will be held and where. The hostess will contact you to decide what everyone will bring that compliments the meal.

This is a great opportunity to get to know fellow church-goers that you have not met—or perhaps they attend a different service. You do not have to be a member of CUMC. *Sign up...it is a lot of fun!* POC Mary Musselwhite at 804-330-0014.



MISSIONS

Mission opportunities are all around us.

CUMC Missions Team Chair, Eric Houglan

Pastor Nathan shared in a recent sermon that he had a conversation with a woman at a blood drive because she was wearing a "Battle 22" t-shirt. Nathan was aware of the movement and struck up a conversation with the woman. A basic conversation with someone who wears a t-shirt that draws our interest is just one way to be in relationship with one of God's children.

Another way to be in relationship is to volunteer at community events. This type of mission work means different things for different people. We are not all called to the same ministry – and that's OK. What's important is to answer the call that God puts on your heart.

Recently, several adults and youth answered the call to serve the Greenleigh community. On August 26, there was a ceremony to recognize Comcast for donating equipment and services to provide internet at the YMCA Cottage (aka the Y trailer). The internet service will provide the opportunity for students to work on their school work and other programs that the Y provides at the Cottage after school. This service will fill a big gap in what the Y has been able to provide to the students in Greenleigh.

After the ceremony, there was a community celebration to lift up the residents in the community. The celebration included games for the kids, free popsicles & water, and a Chesterfield Fire Truck was on site. The day also included having a mobile COVID vaccination clinic on site, as well as the DMV to provide ID cards.

There are many mission opportunities available around us if we seek them out. It might be helping high schoolers with homework at REST STOP, donating groceries for the Backpack Ministry, or providing supplies for the Christmas Shoeboxes, or school supplies for Broad Rock Elementary.

Please contact CUMC Missions Team Chair at 804-212-7857 or ehouglan88@gmail.com if you'd like more information for how you can serve in a mission opportunity.

1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

Fuel your soul at the "REST STOP"

by Maureen Coker

Did you know that CUMC has a community ministry assisting youth who are struggling to receive a quality education due to food insecurity, unstable housing, poverty and other extraordinary issues? REST STOP's mission is to build community while fostering new relationships with these high schoolers; providing support, care and LOVE.

REST STOP has supported many kids over the past four years, but five students who were "regulars" have recently graduated. The time they spent at REST STOP was a factor in their success. Now it's time to support a new group of students.

Do you have a special gift to share with these youth or just an abundant amount of LOVE to give? Starting its 5th year, "REST STOP" is welcoming a new group of students and we welcome your *time, talents, and resources* for this vital ministry. A small team is assembled to support this ministry, but you are encouraged to join the effort!

Having worked with these young persons I can tell you that you will leave "Rest Stop" with a joyful heart, receiving more than you gave! Please prayerfully consider how you can help.

Contact **REST STOP** Team Leader Bobby Henderson (804-241-2191, rhen6020@gmail.com) or the Church Office for more information or to volunteer on the REST STOP Team.



MISSIONS

What's in a Backpack?

by Carolyn Landis

With the start of the new school year, CUMC will again bless, out of our abundance, those children facing food insecurity from Curtis and CC Wells Elementary Schools. Historically, we have provided about 50 bags of food each weekend (each bag is designed to feed two children). We include mostly shelf stable, nonperishable items such as: peanut butter, canned pasta (like ravioli), soup, boxed mac and cheese, canned fruit, Tuna Helper, canned meats (tuna, Spam, etc.), toaster pastries, oatmeal, fruit chews, and peanut butter crackers. These bags provide more than just food – they provide care, love, and support. As always, I am thankful for those who have contributed to this mission.



As we begin a new school year, please consider contributing to this ministry. Contact **Backpack Ministry** Team Leader Carolyn Landis (804-551-6563, landisfamily05@gmail.com) to see how you can help.

Community Christmas Shoebox Project

Kickoff Date: Sunday September 26

Again this year, CUMC will serve the local Greenleigh Mobile Home Community by providing Christmas gift boxes to approximately 180 children in need. The age groups we will focus on are boys and girls ages 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Age-appropriate small toys can be put in each box. Examples are dolls, balls, stuffed animals, puzzles, yoyos, bubbles, cars, etc. Also hair accessories, brush, comb, toothbrush, ChapStick, toiletries, school supplies, socks, and jewelry may be added. **DO NOT INCLUDE CANDY, GUM, OR TOY WEAPONS.**



HOW TO DO IT:

1. GET a shoebox to pack. Wrap top and bottom with gift wrap.
2. After preparing your gift box, return it to church **LABELLED GIRL OR BOY AND AGE GROUP**, either 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, or 10-12. Large rubber bands will be available to secure the lid. Please do not seal box.

Deadline for boxes is November 14.

POC: Linda D'Agostino, lindabella@comcast.net

School Supplies for Broad Rock Elementary

The UMW normally collects school supplies for kits for UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief). They cannot receive supplies due to COVID restrictions and have asked us to contribute to a local entity. Broad Rock Elementary is the southern most City of Richmond Public Schools. In a building built for 500, they are now serving 1000, mostly low income, transient students, many of whom come to school without supplies. Help us help these most needy students begin a successful year. Pick up your "assignment ticket" from the display in the Atrium, and return the assigned items to the collection bin marked "UMW School Supplies" in the Mission Closet next to Pastor Nathan's office ASAP but no later than 12 noon on Sunday, September 5. Thanks for your generosity in making this project an outstanding success! Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.



SMALL GROUPS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

We offer a wide variety of study groups for every age and every phase of your spiritual journey. Here is a list of our current offerings. Prayerfully discern which class you want to join as you grow in your walk with Christ. Or, perhaps you're feeling led to start a new class! Contact the Church Office, or one of the leaders listed below, for more information.

SUNDAY

ROAD (*Reaching Out Across Darkness*) Crew Walking Group

9:30 AM, Bible/Book Study at the Annex, followed by a walk

POC: Natalie Galarza (familygalarza05@gmail.com)

Fresh Start Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 205

Beginning September 12, "*If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk*" by John Pavlovitz.

POC: Susan Petrey (susanmpetrey@gmail.com)

Journey Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Annex and Google Meet (*hybrid class*)

POC: Eric Houglund (ehouglund88@gmail.com)

Seekers Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Room 226

POC: Barbara MacIntyre (telluwhatbarbara@aim.com)

Senior Singles Sunday School Class

9:45 AM, Parlor

POC: Cynthia Corley (cacorley@ctsi.net)

Joy Unspeakable Small Group

6:00 PM, Room 226-resumes August 29

POC: Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

Book: *Who Will Be a Witness: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance*

WEDNESDAY

Joy Unspeakable Small Group

12:00 PM, Google Meet (*virtual*), resumes September 8

POC: Chad Beck (chadbeck@chesterumc.org)

Book: *Who Will Be a Witness: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance*

THURSDAY

Morning Men's Group

7:30 AM, First Watch Restaurant (9949 Iron Bridge Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832)

POC: Vann Stanfield (vannstan34@gmail.com)

FRESH START SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Join the Fresh Start Sunday School Class in Study, Fellowship and Service:

Beginning Sunday, September 12— Join us as we study "*If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk*" by John Pavlovitz. Thou Shalt Not be Horrible—Imagine if people of faith aspired to this mantra and daily challenged ourselves to live a faith that simply made us better humans. This book explores how we can embody a kinder spirituality where we humbly examine our beliefs to understand how our beliefs might compel us to act in less-than-loving ways toward others.

The Fresh Start Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 in room 205 (across the hall from the church library). Visitors and new members are always welcome. Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, for more information.

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

The building was closed, but the Church wasn't!

by Bryon and Josefa Wall

It's no secret that dealing with COVID-19 has been and continues to be challenging. While the global pandemic changed the way we worship, and how we show our love for one another and our community, and how we give, it didn't change our core of being the body of Christ. For that, we say thank you to everyone. Thank you for enduring the tough times. Thank you for tuning in on Sunday mornings. Thank you for continuing to tithe. And thank you for being great disciples and supporting our varied ministries. Through your generosity, CUMC was able help families struggling to make ends meet with our Good Samaritan Fund. We provided food through our Backpack Ministry, food pantry, and donations to CCHASM. We provided health kits for distribution to those in need after a disaster. We held virtual VBS for over 100 children. We held blood drives in partnership with the American Red Cross. The list goes on.



We'd like to give a special thank you to the SPRC and the Finance Committee for their leadership in making tough and uncomfortable decisions. And as we pray for and prepare to remember significant events that have occurred, we thank the many men and women who are first responders, educators, counselors, military, clergy, and so many others. Peace be with you.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Congregational Finance update through July 31, 2021

General operating fund checking account balance is **\$147,142.55**

Projected giving for our 2021 budget based on first 30 weeks contributions is \$769,922.19



The church and preschool PPP loan totaling \$85,190.40 has been forgiven as of August 16, 2021. This was our second grant from the Small Business Administration and has been vital to maintaining our financial liquidity throughout Covid.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

CUMCPS wants to thank everyone who donated to the school supply drive! Thanks to you, we have all the needed supplies for the children. Our school year has begun and we are very blessed. We currently have more students and teachers than we had last year, so the rebuilding has started. With each passing year we are praying for more children to come to not only prepare for school but to learn of the love God has for them.



We are also excited about having Pastor Nathan and Pastor Chad participating in our Chapel lessons with the children this year. It is going to be so much fun!

BLOOD DRIVE—Book Your Appointment Today!

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

11:00 AM—4:00 PM

Davis Fellowship Hall



The need is great! Book your appointment today at www.redcrossblood.org.

Donations from our last drive have been sent to save lives at Sentara Virginia Beach General and Riverside Hospital.

At our drive on August 11, we registered 32 donors, 2 of which were first time donors, and we collected 29 units!

OUR UPCOMING 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Our Church will be celebrating our 150th Anniversary in 2023! Seems like a long time in the future...but it isn't! If anyone has any memorabilia, artifacts from our Church, photos of events—old and recent—the History Committee would be delighted to receive them to display. If you want us to scan and return your photos, please place them in an envelope with your name and that you would like for them to be returned. There is a History mail slot on the top row of the mailboxes in the hallway adjoining the Davis Fellowship Hall.

Does anyone have a pew/bench from the 1927 Sanctuary that they would be willing to give to the Church? It would be wonderful to display that artifact in our Narthex. If you have questions, please call Mary Musselwhite at 804-330-0014.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

At the eleven o'clock service one Sunday in January 1955, Mrs. E. Thomas Hatcher was honored for having completed 47 years of service in the Church and Sunday School. A lovely silver vase inscribed with her name and number of years of service was presented to her. Mrs. Hatcher had held many offices in addition to having inaugurated a Cradle Roll Department in 1913 and a Home Life Department for shut-ins soon after. More than 200 babies were enrolled and recognized annually on their respective birthdays until the Cradle Roll ceased. Louise Ruffin Goodwyn (Bill Goodwyn's mother) was the first baby to be enrolled. There are several current members of our Church who were in the Cradle Roll: Kitty Lipscomb, Tam Moody, Carolyn Maxwell, Pat Jones, Daphne Curtis, Marian Curtis Perkinson, Mary Musselwhite, and others.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women (UMW) is to “be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

- The **Jean Craig Fellowship** will meet on Monday, September 13, 7:00 PM at church in Room 205. We will continue to sort supplies and pack school kits for Broad Rock Elementary. We welcome any women who are looking for an evening circle. Call Susan Petrey for details.
- The **Ada Mae Bookman Fellowship** will meet on Thursday, September 16, at 10:00 AM in Davis Fellowship Hall. Call Martha Miles, 748-5476, for more information.
- **Sunday, October 10, noon—Salad Luncheon—All Women of the Church** are invited to a luncheon meeting of the UMW immediately following 11 o'clock worship. Rev. Marg Kutz, retired, will join us to present her recently published book “Nevertheless She Preached” about early female ministers in the Methodist Church. The Jean Craig Fellowship will host. Bring a salad or dessert to share.

Call Susan Petrey, 938-5396, to learn more about UMW, our two participating fellowships, and how you can become involved.



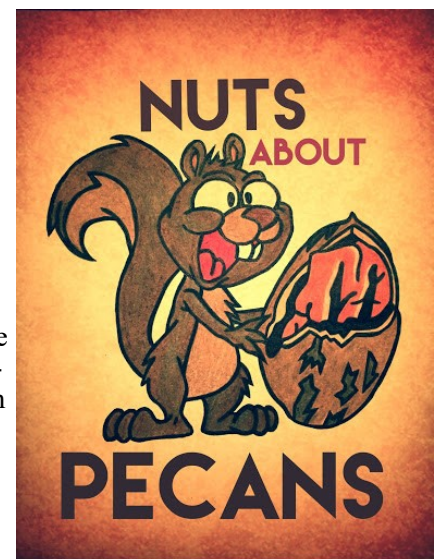
United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

WHALEY PECANS FOR SALE

Ladies of Faith Fellowship 2021—Pre-Order (Sale)

Whaley Pecan Company will be sending us their new crop of pecans in early November, as usual. Even though some of us were “shuttered in” last year, you placed your orders and made those pecan pies for Thanksgiving and Spiced Pecans for Christmas gift giving. Just like last year, we will only be taking pre-orders in September and October. You can place your orders by calling the numbers below or signing up in the pew pad on Sunday morning. The cost remains at \$12.00 per pound for halves or medium pieces. Most of you have purchased these pecans before and know the taste of freshness is outstanding. Please contact Betty Labin (804-400-4223; 804-748-3516; bjlabin@hotmail.com) or Lorraine Young (804-748-6852) with your pre-orders and specify if you want halves or pieces. We will contact you in early November when the pecans arrive. Thank you for supporting this fellowship and your church via this project.



R.O.A.D. CREW WALKING GROUP

R.O.A.D Crew begins another trip through Brian McLaren's, "We make the Road by Walking" book. This year-long spiritual formation, reorientation, and activation group will read passages along with short chapters from McLaren's book each week and then meet on Sundays after the 8:30 service to walk and talk about what we have read. We will begin meeting at the picnic tables at the church Annex at 9:30 AM on Sunday, August 22. We will talk for the first 10-20 minutes and then go on a group walk each week. Some weeks we will "walk" a "Service ROAD" (Reaching Out Across Darkness) as we become aware of needs in our community or if the weather keeps us from our regular walk. McLaren indicates that he hopes his book leads to "grassroots learning circles that exclude NO ONE!" So, children make sure to bring your grownups, and grownups feel free to bring your friends even if they are not a part of our church family. ALL are welcome! POC: Natalie Galarza familygalarza05@gmail.com.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOMETHING NEW?

Warning: it may be considered "tacky" by some!

Have you seen Pastor Nathan's Better Together videos yet? Recently, I heard him encourage us to explore our faith and get out of our comfort zone! He said, "No plan, no goal, no grow." He also asked me to lead the Chester United Methodist Church Tacky Lights Run/Walk team! So what do you think? Will YOU join us? All ages and abilities are welcome to join our Chester UMC-Better Together Elf Crew on December 11 to walk or run the Sports Backers Tacky Light Run. You can register to run or walk here: <https://www.sportsbackers.org/events/tacky-light-run/pricing-schedule/>. **Please note: registration will re-open on October 5.**

Make sure to sign up to join the Chester UMC- Better Together Elf Crew!
POC: Natalie Galarza (familygalarza05@gmail.com).

FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE

Just a reminder that I am available from 9:00 AM to 10:45 AM on Sunday mornings in Room 111. I am also available during the week by phone, 804-748-5314, to help you with medical questions or to obtain medical equipment from the church. Since my return, I have had only a few of you stopping by. Not only can I check your blood pressure, I can also check your home machine with a manual reading if you have concerns that it is not working properly. Maybe you had a visit with your doctor and you don't quite understand something they said or a medication they prescribed. I have up to date information I can share with you. Also, if you develop a headache while you are here or maybe indigestion from the doughnuts, I have a variety of over-the-counter medications available. If you are diabetic and have a hypoglycemic episode, I have glucose tablets and gel on hand. I am happy to serve you in any way I can.

Regarding the Medical Lending Closet, we are getting short of equipment. If you have borrowed equipment you no longer need please return it. We also accept donations. The items most needed at this time are rollators, walkers, knee scooters, and shower benches that extend outside the tub.

I look forward to seeing you!
Cindy Webb, RN, MSN



CATHY CHASE—STATE FAIR

Our own Cathy Chase, owner of The Busy Bea, has been asked to speak and teach on quilting at the Virginia State Fair this year!

“Quilts of the Past” - Chesterfield County Museum (6813 Mimms Loop, Chesterfield, VA 23832) A Special Exhibit featuring quilts from the 1850's to the 1970's is on display now through December 31. Call www.chesterfieldhistory.com for more information.

BOOK REVIEW:

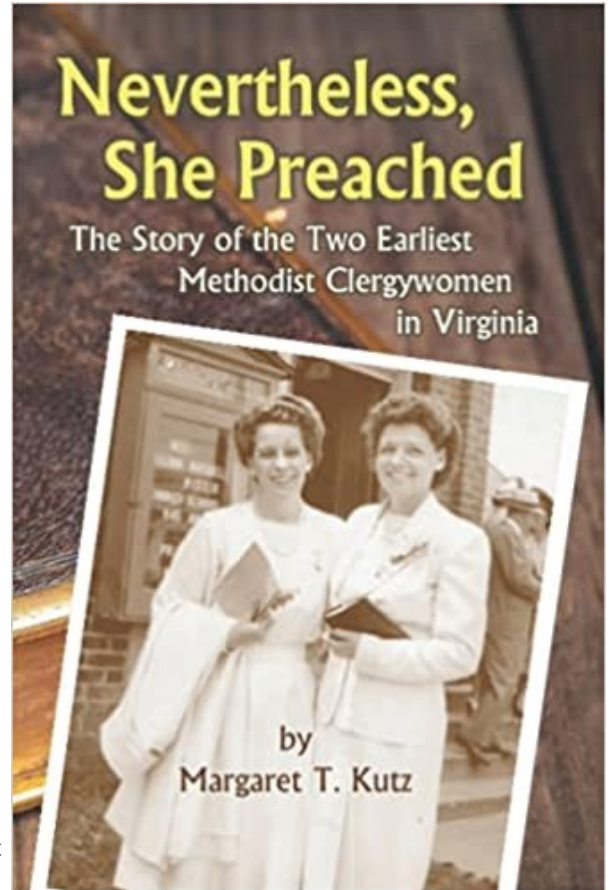
“Nevertheless She Preached” by Rev. Dr. Marg Kutz

by Lisa Stanfield, Spiritual Growth Committee Chair

Even though I am not a literary critic, I offered to review Marg’s book for the church friends who enjoy reading. If you think it’s just for clergy, or just for history buffs, you are wrong. I’d never heard of Lillian Russell or Mildred Long, nor did I care much about the history of United Methodists in Virginia, honestly. But now that I’ve read the book, I see how very relevant it is today. Are we not again debating who can be a pastor? What is God’s will, when it comes to leading believers?

Marg researched and interviewed many people. She succeeded in bringing to life two women, Lillian and Mildred, who responded to God’s call. I enjoyed hearing about Danville, Virginia’s boom with the textile industry, and many sites and familiar names from Richmond and Petersburg. Our own Cynthia Corley is in the book too. I was also reminded how far women have come in the workplace. It never occurred to me that I could not meet with my boss about a business matter behind closed doors. But for Lillian and Mildred to meet with their district superintendent, his wife needed to sit inside the room as well, for propriety’s sake. There are many instances when you might laugh at the absurdity, by today’s standards, of decisions they had to make while breaking ground for future leaders. I’d recommend the book to anyone who appreciates seeing God clearly at work in people’s lives.

Visit <https://www.neverthelessshepreached.net/> for more information and a gallery of photos. Order your copy in paperback or for Kindle at smile.amazon.com, pick up a copy at a book signing event, or contact Marg directly (804-305-6100, margkutz72@gmail.com).



Marg will speak at the United Methodist Women’s Salad Luncheon on Sunday, October 10, at 12:15 PM in Davis Fellowship Hall.



October 10 —Sound System Benefit Concert featuring Joshua Wortham at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Donations will go toward replacing our existing sound system and adding video equipment to enhance our online ministry.

October 31—Trunk or Treat

December 11—Tacky Light Run

December 12 & 14—Christmas Musical featuring the Chancel Choir

January 30—Allison Speer leads in all three worship services

VBS 2021 FLASHBACK



We give God thanks for the 50 children who attended our Discovery on Adventure Island this year! A team of 85 volunteers (which included 30 youth!) stepped up to help serve in a variety of ways so that many lives would be blessed by the love of God.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please contact the POC listed, the Church Office, or register in the pew pad on Sunday.

Nursery Volunteers Needed: Our Sunday morning nursery will be open for wee customers beginning September 12! Please volunteer to serve with our paid nursery professional on a rotation schedule at the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services and at 9:45 AM for Sunday school. All volunteers will be background checked. POC: Pastor Chad Beck

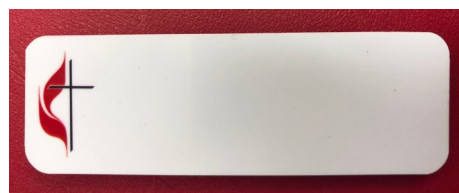
Ushers and Greeters: Sundays//8:15 AM – 8:30 AM; 9:30-45 AM; 10:45 – 11:00 AM//
POCs: Ginger Chadwick for greeting (gchad32@gmail.com) or Gordon Jones for ushering (jonesgj215@gmail.com / 804.243.3513)

Fresh Start Breakfast: Responsibilities include picking up the donuts, coffee prep, minor setup of beverages, and simple clean up. You will be scheduled to serve monthly, and will need to arrive by 8:00 AM. POC: Jeanne Shelburne (271-8210).

WEAR YOUR CUMC NAMETAGS!

Help Pastor Nathan and his family learn names by wearing your CUMC nametag!

Need a nametag? Contact Terry in the Church Office (804.748.6006, cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org), indicate how you want your name to appear on the tag, and drop a check in the offering plate (\$10 per nametag, payable to CUMC, Memo: Nametag).



SHOP AMAZON SMILE

Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com and a portion of your purchase price will be donated to the church at no additional cost to you!



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Kroger recently awarded CUMC a quarterly check for **\$705.68**. Thank you to the 104 households in our church who shopped at Kroger between March 1 and May 31, 2021! The Kroger Community Rewards Program makes fundraising easy...all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Program participants may only participate in the program at one Kroger location. *Enroll, verify that your enrollment is still active, or update where you shop by visiting www.krogercommunityrewards.com.* **The organization number for CUMC is NQ698.** Feel free to contact the Church Office if you need assistance.



SHARING BIN

In case you didn't know, the **SHARING BIN** is in the drive-through loop in the church parking lot. We use it for picking up and dropping off items. Currently, you will find the September-October issue of *The Upper Room* there.

MEMORIALS

In Honor of June Gilliam's Birthday (May 13)

Robert J. Godston

In Memory of Doris Crowell

Anna C. Alexander, to the Music Fund.
Paul Alexander
Joyce Battle
Jean Bohn
James and Anita Casto
James and Katherine Dageforde
Ted and Carol Dahlstrom
Cathy D'Amelo and Mike, to the Music Fund.
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Henry, III, to the Music Fund.
Sara and Carl Ledbetter
Bill and Mary McFadden
Ken and Lynne Mohorn
George and Deane Nolde, III
Barry and Deborah Owens
Mr. and Mrs. Elton Parker
Mary and Gary Potter to the Music Fund.
Mark and Donna Shaw to the Music Fund.
Janet Spohn
Stone Manor Village Condo Association
Wells School Pod, C.C. Wells Elementary School

CUMC FAMILY NEWS

DEATHS:

Stanley David Wood, April 24, 1928—August 14, 2021

Katherine Elizabeth Kelley Ewalt, August 18, 1980—August 17, 2021

RECEIVED INTO CHRISTIAN MEMBERSHIP:

August 29, 2021: *Andy* and *Eileen Steck*

9/11 ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

Chesterfield County Public Schools will hold a *20th Anniversary of 9/11 Ceremony* on **Friday, September 10**, at 8:30 AM in the Conference Center at Chesterfield Career and Technical Center @ Hull (13900 Hull Street Rd, Midlothian, VA 23112). During the ceremony, we will unveil our new Freedom Flag Foundation display.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

2021 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the Atrium.



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear CUMC,

We want to thank everyone for their love and support since Gerry's passing. Your calls, cards, prayers, food, and visits were appreciated beyond words. Gerry loved Chester and it loved him back! He has joined the cloud of witnesses that will be watching over all of us and smiling. The celebration of his life at the church was so beautiful, heartwarming, and comforting. We especially want to recognize and send a huge thank you to all who made the service possible. The fellowship and food after the service was enjoyed by all! Seeing so many friends that we hadn't seen for a while along with all those wonderful, much needed hugs was amazing! Thanks for giving us some peace and closure. I will be thanking folks for a long time. God bless you all! You all are truly disciples for Christ.

~Love, Chris Miller & family

Dear CUMC,

Thank you for your messages, your cards, and your calls of love and support during my mom's hospitalization and then passing. It is difficult to put into words how much it has meant to me and to my family. You have made me feel like a part of the Chester UMC family and I love you all for it. As many of you know, caring for my mom was a big part of my everyday life and I am lost without her. But I know she is with our Lord and Savior and is free from the earthly body that confined her. Thank you again for helping me during this difficult time.

~Love, Julie E Jones (CUMC Financial Specialist)

CUMC friends,

We are so grateful for your many thoughts, prayers, phone calls, visits, notes & cards, and for the delicious (and healthy!) meals that you so generously shared with us following Beth's recent heart surgery. Wow! Don't for a minute think that your expression of God's love goes unnoticed or unappreciated. God is working through each and everyone of you as you bless others. Thank you for reaching out to us in such a caring manner.

~Beth & Tim Stewart

Thank you Medical Lending Closet,

Thanks so much for helping my daughter and my daughter-in-law this summer with the short term (4 month) use of wheelchairs, walkers, and a knee roller after they both broke their left legs. Thank you also to the generous church member (I'll let you remain anonymous) who provided the second knee roller when I put out a request on the Prayer Chain. What a summer it has been! Both will soon be in to walking boots.

~Ginger Chadwick

Dear Bereavement Committee,

Your kindness and support to our family for Doris Crowell's memorial service and reception was very special to us. We appreciate your time and assistance with the funeral guest book, the beautiful table settings, and the buffet for the congregation following the service. Many thanks to all who prepared and served the food. Your efforts helped our family to honor our mother with the celebration of her faith, her life, and her accomplishments.

~Sincerely, Deane & George Nolde, Sandy & Rick Messer, Bob & Stacey Crowell



DAILY NEWS

Do you receive our daily news via email? Subscribe today!

Click here: <http://eepurl.com/bIV9Tv>

CUMC STAFF

Pastor Rev. Nathan A. Decker: nathandecker@chesterumc.org
Associate Pastor..... Rev. Chad T. Beck: chadbeck@chesterumc.org
Director of Music/Office Assistant..... Joshua Wortham: music@chesterumc.org
Preschool Director Jen Barnes: preschool@chesterumc.org
Office Manager Terry Wisegarver: cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org
Financial Specialist..... Julie Jones: finance@chesterumc.org

September Birthdays

September 1

Nathaniel Anderson
Wayne Ewalt
Megan Matthews
Jeffery Slaasted

September 2

Douglas Alexander
Samantha Black
David Costner
Joan Pugh
Henry Williams

September 3

Ryan Burnette
Piper Pospahala
Ginny Virag

September 4

Peter Walls
Carter Williams

September 5

Anna Arnold
April Buchanan
Eric McHugh
Lisa Sharpe
Sharon Wilson

September 6

Anne Burkhardt
Shannon McCotter
Katie Seitz
Gerald Stewart
Esmay Stone
Harry Trimble

September 7

Joan Dick
Miranda Lojek
Elizabeth McLendon
John Sharpe
Wesley Taylor
James Thomas

September 8

Cory Chatham
Gretchen Hodell
Patricia Jones

September 9

Gary Coutts
David Ford
Cynthia Hall
Susan Nixon
Spencer Seyb

September 10

Danika Bala
Savannah Dizon
Robin Dougherty
Gordon McConnell
Joanna McVicker
Stephanie Potvin

September 11

Stephen Osborne
Mildred Spinner
Janet Spohn

September 12

Jordan Lee
Anne Mann

September 13

Jeanne Shelburne
Earl Tankard

September 14

Daniel Dutton
Bernard McCoy
Grace Verghese

September 15

Jim Dyson
John Ryan Irvin
Mark Lewis
Beckett Matthews
Richard Noblitt
Lois Slaasted
Melissa Taylor
Tommy Vilak

September 16

Mikhail Browning
Gail Feind
Jonathan Ridout

September 17

Deborah Birk
Linda Cooper

September 18

Charles Green
Louise Jones
Janice Lewis
Bill Lloyd, Jr.
Hannah Verghese

September 19

Matthew Ellis
Shelby Koch
Joseph Manna
Karen Nash
Marian Perkinson

September 20

Sherie Orton
Brion Seward

September 21

Sandra Drees
Steven Freed
Paul Ireland
Jo Kiser
Keith Mottley
Caitlyn Partin
Andrew Whiteside

September 22

Richard Chitwood
Walter Daniels
Lee Ann Hill
Bradley Munchel
Walter Stone

September 23

Blake Arpin
Madison Beckner
Mark Ferrer
Ella Westbrook

September 24

Ashish Bala
Erica Radford

September 25

Brian Akom
Delaney Bradley
Tracey Kellam

September 26

Chloe Lerch
Tom Roper
Joseph Welchel

September 27

Kathy Fox
Natalie Mauro

September 28

Samuel Bennett
David Ellis
Tori Gray
Sammy McKnight
Katelyn Talley

September 29

Ryan Bowman
Jan Cyphers
Mark Freed

September 30

Maria Awalt
Mary Comeaux
Leola Dicks
Brady Dyson
Abbie Edmonds
Madison Keffer
Madelyn Martinko





A Community in Christ
Chester United Methodist Church

Chester United Methodist Church
12132 Percival Street
Chester, VA 23831

CHIMES articles may be submitted to communication@chesterumc.org.

The deadline for submission to the **October Chimes is Wednesday, September 15.**

CHESTER UMC ONLINE RESOURCES

Website: www.chesterumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChesterUnitedMethodistChurch/>

Facebook Closed Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterUMC/>

Daily Email News: Visit <http://eepurl.com/bIV9Tv> to subscribe.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ChesterUMC>

Prayer Chain Email: Submit your name and email address to cumcsecretary@chesterumc.org with "Prayer Chain" in the subject line to subscribe.

CUMC Library Catalog: <https://16538.rmwebopac.com> (password: CUMC).

Search for titles, peruse our inventory, and much more. POC: Ron Dombrowski (rmachachi@aol.com)

Call the Church Office, 748-6006, for more information.