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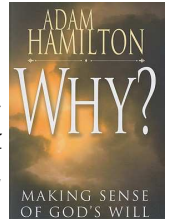
E-News

Week of
January 29

Distributed by Rev. Bruce A. Jones

Worship: Jan. 29 & Feb. 1: 'WHY?' Conclusion

This is the fourth week of my four-part series on Adam Hamilton's book, *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*. My message this week is entitled, "Why God's Love Prevails." I hope you have found this series to be thought-provoking, challenging as well as reassuring, as we all struggle with trying to make sense of the things that happen in our lives. At the 11:00 service this week, I will have the privilege of baptizing Madison Arcadipane, the first child of John & Terri Arcadipane. They are one of the couples I married early in my first year here.



Retirement Celebration at Noon - Come Say Thank You

On Sunday we will celebrate Bright Thompson's retirement and express our great thanks and appreciation to him for his service over the last eight years. Please join us for this special fellowship hour as we lift up the work he's done for us since 2003, and say thank you to him and Bonnie. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has planned a very nice event and there will be a few surprises at the reception.

Church News:

Administrative Council Hears Reports, Makes Decisions - NEW

At Tuesday's Administrative Council meeting, which was extremely well attended, the council members heard reports from the Treasurer for the end of 2011, from Finance, Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations and the Building Committee. They also heard reports from the program ministries of the church: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Missions and Witness. Here are some highlights:

- ◆ During 2011, the church received over \$504,000 against an approved budget of \$443,000 and had expenses of \$422,600.
- ◆ We ended the budget year with a surplus of \$82,000
- ◆ The council voted to put \$50,000 of that surplus against our existing mortgage on the new entry, which will bring our debt to below \$90,000
- ◆ The council also voted to set aside \$10,000 to provide support and assistance to the poor and needy of our community. The council feels we have a responsibility to use a significant portion of our blessings to serve the needy around us. The council made a similar decision two years ago.
- ◆ The SPRC asked for and was approved to create two new staff positions. One is the creation of the Hand Bell Choir Director position. Cheryl Reckeweg has agreed to serve in this role. And the second, is the addition of the services of a retired pastor to augment the pastoral visitation ministry of our church. See the article below on Rev. Chance.
- ◆ The council was asked by the Music Committee to increase the fee paid to substitute organists from \$200 to \$250 per time. We budget four weeks of vacation for our church organist. The council approved this request.
- ◆ I also provided the council with a brief "State of the Church Address" to review our accomplishments in 2011. This report will appear in the February-March issue of The Grapevine.



Building Committee Reveals Latest Developments - NEW

We have just completed the first major phase of designing our building expansion. A feasibility study was conducted by our architect, Ronald L. Litten of La Plata, to determine what codes and guidelines would impact how much we can build on our site. As part of this phase, he brought to the Building Committee three possible building layouts, and the committee selected one and made suggestions to improve that. At the conclusion of this phase we have a general site plan of where the building will sit on the property, how much parking we will have and where the playground and storm water management (SWM) ponds will go. The architect also provided us with a preliminary graphic "artists sketch" of the building from the view of a bird flying over the parking lot and looking at the building. Both the site plan and the drawing of the new building were shown to the Administrative Council, and now those charts are on display in the church entry area. Please come by and see

Vital Statistics

Worship Attendance

January 1-4	195
January 8-11	365
January 15-18	330
January 22-25	316

Church Income

January 1	\$ 6,912
January 8	\$14,980
January 15	\$ 7,362
January 22	\$ 7,094
Need weekly	\$ 8,891

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Friday, January 27

Bradley Hower

Saturday, January 28

Ellen Lewis

Kristen McCahill (19)

Rachel Martin (19)

Paul Burton (14)

Sunday, January 29

Joyce Hancock

Laurie Hamilton

Lew & Anne

Buckler (40)

Steve & Penny

Maddox (30)

Monday, January 30

Curt Snyder

Jerry Batterton

Alison Whitman

Wednesday, February 1

Angie Barnes

Friday, February 3

Betsy Radtke

Algie St. Clair

Porter Kier

Steve Hancock

Saturday, February 4

Teri Hungerford

Bill & Kathie Evans

Have I missed your birthday or anniversary? Please email me with dates or corrections: bajones15@gmail.com

them this week. A member of the Building Committee will be available before and after the Sunday services to answer questions and to receive your reactions. The Administrative Council was pleased with what they saw, and passed a motion that the Building Committee continue into the next phase of interior design, and technical engineering. The members of our Building Committee are: **Jean Glover & John Bohner** (co-chairs), **Julie Robbins, Barbara Merrick, Neil Johnson, Phil Herbert, Shawn McConnell** and the pastor.

Rev. Ed Chance Joins Pastoral Staff - NEW

Retired United Methodist pastor and regular member of our congregation, **Rev. Ed Chance**, has been invited to become a part of the pastoral staff of La Plata UMC. His role, while very part-time will be to augment the pastoral visitation that I provide as pastor. Ed will be able to drive to more distant hospitals and add another layer of local visitation as well. He will also be able to substitute preach for me when I am away on vacation and at other times as well. I am grateful for his support all these years, and I am blessed that he's now willing to come on board with us.



Youth Hit the Alleys - NEW



Our re-energized youth group will have its first fun outing on Saturday, February 4. They will be going bowling at the AMF lanes in Waldorf. The students will meet at the church at 12:45 PM, will car pool (adult drivers) to Waldorf, enjoy two hours of bowling, fellowship, snacks and fun, then return about 4:00 PM. The cost to the students is only \$10 each. Adult volunteers are welcome to call **Corrie Roberts**, our new youth leader, and come along too.

Talent Show - Coming February 4

The Fellowship Ministries Team is hosting the 3rd Annual Talent Show on Saturday, February 4 at 7:00 PM. Please plan to come and support and affirm the wonderful talent we have in our church. We have young people whom the church should encourage, and grown adults with talent too. All are deserving of our applause. Admission is some food for our Food Pantry.

They are still open to a having few more acts. Sunday is the deadline to indicate you want in. You can even sign up for the talent show on our web site. So no matter your talents please contact Pat Brennan at patbrennan@prodigy.net or 301-934-0334.

Souper Bowl of Caring - NEW

Our brand new youth fellowship will be participating once more in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" which is a national youth effort to collect funds and support local food ministries. Our youth will be in the entry area after worship at WOW on February 1 and after both services on February 5, the day of the big football game. (The NFL doesn't allow us to use the term "___ Bowl" as it is a copyrighted and licensed phrase). Your donations will go to support our own food pantry with funds so we can buy the kinds of foods that don't often get donated.



BIG GAME 46 Party - NEW

It has become a bit of a tradition, but again this year, Joyce Dean will be hosting another "Big Game" Party at her home on Sunday afternoon, February 5, beginning around 5:30 PM. Joyce has a large projection TV in her family room and lots of seating. If you don't have anywhere to go to watch the game, then come to Joyce's. Bring some food or snacks to share, and a large beverage bottle, then sit back and enjoy cheering and crying together with the gang. Please call Joyce to RSVP your desire to come at 301-934-8095. She'll give you directions.

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Women Offer Five Camperships - **NEW**

Our organization of The United Methodist Women voted to set aside \$500 to create five \$100 camperships in order to encourage families in our church to send their kids to one of our two United Methodist camps in the area. West River Camp sits on the shores of the West River just south of Annapolis, and is a wonderful camp. It has been modernized over the past several years and has new cabins, a brand new dining hall, swimming pool, nature trails, rock-climbing wall, zip lines and much more. At Manidokan, where our youth love to have retreats, they have a full summer of week-long camps. It too has a pool, dining hall, modern cabins, and overlooks historic Harper's Ferry. The hiking, canoeing and learning opportunities are great. Go to the conference web site to see the schedule and to register.

Hand Bell Ringers Have First Meeting - **NEW**

Cheryl Reckeweg met with a hand-full of volunteers and folks interested in being a part of our new Hand Bell Choir. They met last night at the church and began planning for rehearsal times and when performances might be. Cheryl is willing to teach folks how to ring the bells properly and how to read the special hand bell music. Many people are able to handle four different bells at once, after they've had some practice. If you might be interested but missed the meeting, please call her at 240-249-6342.

Upcoming Opportunities:

The DiVinity Code - **Registration is Open**

My Pastor's Monday Night Study in February is one of my recurring classes called, "The DiVinity Code". This class is especially helpful to new members, but helps anyone who has not yet discovered their gifts and God-given talents or figured out how God has wired them. Have you ever asked yourself, "What am I good at?" or "Why did God make me this way?" This class helps you work through a variety of forms and surveys, along with my explanations to help you understand better why God created you and gifted you, the way he did. You can sign up for this class by writing "DiVinity Code" on the fellowship folder, or by calling or emailing the church office. Now you can also register online at our web site.

Birthday Party for Everyone - **NEW**

The Hospitality Team, led by Kathy Cox, is organizing our annual "Birthday Party for Everyone" which is set for Sunday, February 12 after the 11:00 service. This event — to which so many look forward — is a kind of extravagant fellowship hour, in which tables are set up and decorated to represent each of the months of the year. Members are asked to sit at the tables of their birth month, rather than in families. Volunteers decorate the tables of their month, and some get pretty creative and elaborate. Just walking around the many tables can be fun. But it is a different way to fellowship and meet different people. We need volunteers to decorate the 12-plus tables, so please call Kathy Cox to sign up at 301-385-5789.

Our People:

Arrival:

Ed and Donna McKenzie welcomed a new grandson early Friday morning at 6:49 AM. Canton Ray Shaw was born to their daughter Tricia. Canton weighted 8 pounds exactly and was 21 inches long.

Prayer Requests:

Theodore "Chick" Richardson has been on a waiting list for many months as he has needed to have a kidney replacement. He's been on dialysis for many years with some difficulty. He and his wife, **Lesia**, got the phone call on Tuesday night, and on Wednesday he was in surgery to get his new kidney. The surgery was at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore in their transplant unit. Please pray for his full and rapid recovery and that this will enable him to get stronger and feel better. Chick is a new member of the Finance Committee.

Danny Stone was taken to Southern Maryland Hospital with a blood clot in his leg, and another in his lung. He is being treated with blood thinners until the clots break up. Please keep Danny and his wife, Lisa, and family in your prayers.

Please continue praying for **Lisa Gandee Joson** who spent much of this week at Civista Hospital. Josh is spending as much time with her as he can, while still having his jewelry store in town. So please keep Lisa and **Josh**, her husband; **Larry & Pam Gandee**, her parents; and **Noida Joson**, Josh's mother, in your prayers too. All these are members of our church.