

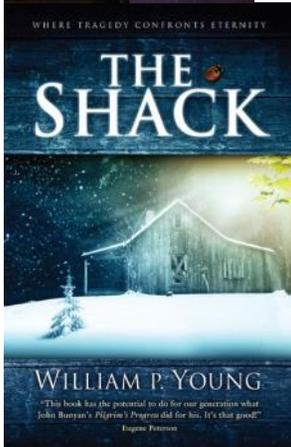
The Grapevine

February 19, 2017



Sunday: Scouting Sunday

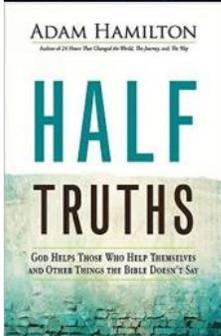
Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts who are a part of our church, both as part of our church families and those who are part of the troops and packs that meet here are invited to wear their uniforms and worship with us, at 8:30 or 11:00 on Sunday morning. At 8:30 we will be recognizing our most recent Eagle Scouts, and all those who have achieved this prestigious recognition. At 11:00 scouts will present the 'colors', lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and for all scouts, former & present, we will recite the Scout Oaths, Scout Law, and Scout Promise. We will also be blessed by Rev. Ed Chance who will bring us the message, "There's Life Beyond the Bunker."



Church News:

"The Shack" Movie Tickets are Available Now - NEW

Our Program Director, **Susan Matteson**, has made arrangements with AMC Theatres to reserve an auditorium for us to see the movie, "The Shack" on its opening night. "The Shack," is a film adaptation of *The New York Times* best-selling book by William Paul Young. The movie's opening is on Friday, March 3. Unfortunately, AMC is not bringing "The Shack" to southern Maryland after all, and so we have reserved a theater at 7:00 PM at the AMC Hoffman Center 22 in Alexandria. We will plan to car pool, but you may meet us there, if it is closer for you from work. Tickets will go on sale to our congregation in the entry of the church starting this Sunday. The cost is \$12 per ticket. You may also join the ongoing discussion class that meets on Thursday nights in the Choir Room at 7:30 PM.



Adam Hamilton's "Half Truths" is Next PMNS Class - NEW

Rev. Jones is preparing for his next Pastor's Monday Night Study (PMN) class which will be a reading of Adam Hamilton's book *Half Truths*. Adam Hamilton is pastor of the largest United Methodist congregation in America. There are so many things people say that folks think come from the Bible. There are some things in the Bible that we think we understand that many people have wrong. In this study, which begins February 27 and runs for 5 Mondays, we will look at sayings such as "God helps them that help themselves", "Everything happens for a reason" and a number of other sayings that are misunderstood. Please sign up this Sunday and next to enroll, or call the church office at 301-934-2288.

New Members to be Received on March 12 - NEW

We have not had a chance to take in new members in quite awhile and many have been asking about the next time we take in new members. Pastor Bruce & Dawn Jones will be hosting a New Members Orientation at their home on Saturday, March 11 at 6:30 PM. It will be a coffee & dessert fellowship opportunity, plus Bruce will be able to share lots of important information about membership at La Plata UMC. Please check the box "Wish to Join" on the fellowship folder, or call the church office. Rev. Jones will send directions and an invitation to those interested in church membership. Folks will then be received at both worship services on Sunday, March 12, and some on the 19th if that works better for others.



WE ARE A VITAL CONGREGATION

Worship Attendance

JAN AVG	281
Feb. 5	287
Feb. 12	313

This Past Week

8:30	111
11:00	191
Others	11
February 12	313

Church Income

February 5	\$11,480
February 12	\$12,320
Need/wk.	\$11,969

THE BUILDING FUND

\$1,204,312

has been committed to
the building project

\$1,044,247

from pledgers, plus

\$160,065

from folks who
haven't pledged yet,
And a total of

\$1,159,026

has already come in!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - 'Fat Tuesday' / Mardi Gras

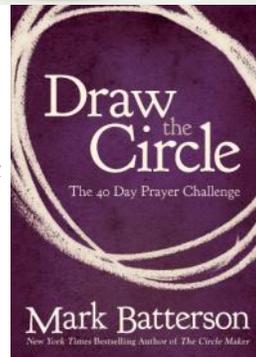
by **Corrie Roberts**, Youth Leader

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner is coming up on February 28 from 5 - 7 PM. The youth are once again hosting this event. Shrove Tuesday is also known as "Fat Tuesday" where we stuff ourselves in preparation for the 'fasting' of Lent. The menu is: pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, tater tots, applesauce and drinks. This is a free dinner, but donations to our youth are welcome. Please invite a friend and plan to join us!



40-Days of Lent - Make it Meaningful

This year, the entire congregation is being invited to read a 40-day devotional book called, "Draw the Circle" by Mark Batterson, the author of a book that was studied here a few years ago by some of us called, "The Circle Maker". This will be a profoundly moving and inspiring journey through the 40 days of Lent. You will be amazed at what you learn. We are asking folks to order your own books, either from Amazon.com or some other bookseller. At Amazon, both the paperback and the Kindle versions are under \$10. Lent begins March 1, so order your book today.



United Methodist Women are Looking for You - NEW

by **Melissa Lauber**

Are you interested in joining a group of dedicated women who serve God while serving their community? Come and check out one of our circles or attend one of our general UMW meetings. The ABR Circle meets the first Thursday of every month in the parlor at 10:00 AM and will be discussing genealogy at their March meeting. The Evening Circle meets the first Tuesday evening of every month at 7:00 PM in the parlor and is currently studying the book, *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Our UMW general meetings take place every other month on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Movies, speakers and other programs make for an entertaining evening. Every other Tuesday morning is the UMW Book Club which meets in the parlor at 10:00 AM. The next meeting of this group is Feb. 28. There is also a craft circle that meets to work on crafts to sell at our Annual Holiday Shoppe. For more information about these groups contact **Carolyn Rodgers** for ABR circle, Book Club and general membership, or contact **Julie Robbins** about Evening Circle.



Upcoming Events:

Lions Spaghetti Dinner - NEW

by **Margie Knowland**

The La Plata Lions Club will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner in our Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 24 from 4:00 until 8:00 PM. Tickets are available at the door; adults are \$10.00, children 6-10 are \$5.00 and children 5 and under are admitted free. There will be door prizes, live entertainment, and all proceeds are used for local projects. Please consider joining the Lions for an enjoyable evening.



Ash Wednesday Service Planned - NEW

With our not presently having a Wednesday night service, the Worship Committee decided to hold an Ash Wednesday Service, March 1, at 7:00 PM in our sanctuary. In addition to Pastor Bruce sharing an Ash Wednesday message, we will share in a meaningful time of prayer and the imposition of ashes will be available to all who desire it.

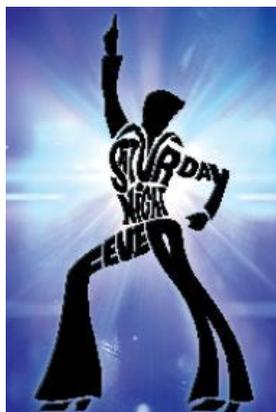


BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Saturday Night Fever - The Musical - Join Us

by Julie Robbins, Fellowship Team

The Fellowship Ministries Team is once again sponsoring a trip to a local dinner theater. This time we will be traveling to Fredericksburg to The Riverside Center for the Performing Arts to see "Saturday Night Fever — The Musical!" We will be going on Saturday evening, May 6. Here is a description of what the show is about: It is based on the 1977 hit movie



that featured and popularized the disco music of The Bee Gees. This stage version focuses on talented, streetwise Tony Manero, a nineteen-year-old Brooklyn youth who attempts to escape the tensions of his seemingly meaningless life through disco dancing. Displaying his dance prowess during a weekend at the local discotheque, he luxuriates in the admiration of the crowd, nurtures a growing relationship with Stephanie, his dance partner, and temporarily forgets the realities of his life: a less-than-engaging day job in a paint store, clashes with his abusive and overbearing parents, racial tensions in the local community, and his gang of macho-but-deadbeat friends. Eventually Tony and Stephanie discover that they both wish to make more of their lives, and they resolve to help each other start afresh.

The cost for the bus, dinner and show will be \$75 per person. You will choose from four entrees, multiple sides and two desserts once seated, and there will be no need to decide ahead what to eat. Please call the church office, 301-934-2288 and reserve your spot with **Karen** or call the preschool office, 301-934-2289 and reserve your spot with me, Julie Robbins. The deadline to order and pay for your tickets is March 22.

Another Choir Coming, Hosts Needed - Coming in May



We had such a good experience two years ago with the French Boys Choir, that when we were contacted by the Central Methodist University Choir, we decided we would try hosting again. The choir of college students from Missouri is coming to the DC area in mid-May. We have booked them to come here on Wednesday, May 17. They will arrive here about 4 or 4:30, have a warm-up rehearsal at 5, then join us for a church-wide pot-luck supper at 6:00. Then folks will be invited to go upstairs for their concert in our sanctuary. Then the students will

go to their host families for the night. Hosts will feed them breakfast in the morning, and have them back at the church on Thursday morning. If you'd be interested, please mark your calendar. A number of host families will be needed, and students will be distributed in pairs. Call the church office, if you'd like to be a host.



Our People:

Losses in Our Extended Family:

Karen Hamner's brother-in-law, Ed Wilson, died early on Monday morning after a long illness. Karen's sister, Gussie, surrounded by family and loved ones, will hold a memorial service for Ed on Saturday, February 18 at Davis United Methodist Church in Davis, WV. Please keep Gussie and Karen, and all their family in your prayers.

Joyce Dean's brother-in-law, Conley W. Stewart died last Wednesday, Feb. 8. There will be a service here at our church Friday (Feb. 17). The viewing is at 6:00 PM and the Memorial Service will be at 7:00 PM. Rev. Ed Chance is conducting the service.

Brenda Rollins Newman's son, Michael Shayne Rollins, died unexpectedly on Saturday, February 11 in North Carolina. Brenda is the daughter of Anna & Jimmy P. Rollins. Services are still in the planning stage.

Thursday, February 16

Chris Rogers

Friday, February 17

Tom Grace

Sherrí McCahill

Paul Badgley

Jim & Betty Risley-38

Saturday, February 18

Christine Stonestreet

Michael Blaine

Jon & Tammy

Gausman-22

Sunday, February 19

Lenny Giannini

Monday, February 20

Clint & Kristy Pierce-7

Tuesday, February 21

Edwin Scott

Carmen Zygmunt

Cameron & Melanie

Hower-2

Wednesday, February 22

Mason Hebner-12

Thursday, February 23

Jana Moody

Anna Skinner

David Puhalski-19

Friday, February 24

Jessica Tompkins

Olivia Skinner

Saturday, February 25

Gary Davis

Susanne Wills

Abbey Barber

Ashley Barber

Sunday, February 26

Jim Beaston

Tammy Gausman

A Note From Carolyn Woodside

"I've been surrounded by loving and caring people. Friends and neighbors here have been very kind. I miss my friends in Maryland and appreciate all their support. My address in Florida is: 4987 Laurel Hill Drive, Venice, FL 34293. I would welcome communication."

Carolyn



Prayer Requests:

Jean Manders suffered another major stroke, on the other side of her brain and is not doing well. They are in the process of moving her to Charles County Hospice House in Waldorf. Please keep Jean and her daughter, **Carrie Manders** in your prayers.

Jim Dent, the father of our organist, **Linda Dent Mitchell**, was taken to the hospital from their home in Florida. We don't have a lot of details, but Linda and her husband, **Steve**, flew down to be with her father and mother, **Joan Dent**.

Don Purdy's brother, Steve Purdy, who lives in Atlanta, has a growth on his brain and doctors are preparing to remove as much of it as they can. This is a difficult time for his family. Please keep all the Purdys in your prayers.

Anne Buckler called the church office to update us on Pat Buckler and Jason Morrison. Jason received a 2nd opinion and after several chemo treatments, there is no evidence of the cancer. Pat Buckler is doing well and able to get out more and do the grocery shopping.

Progress Report:

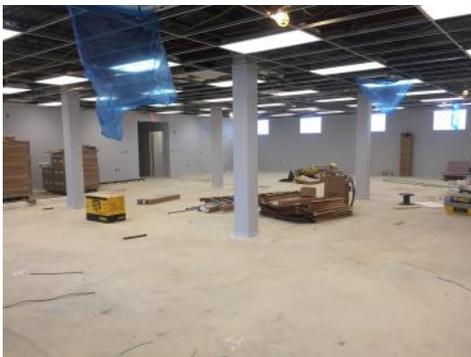
(We have been asked to remind all church people not to cross the yellow "CAUTION" tape lines, even if you can get around them. Yes, we are all excited to watch the progress, but a construction site is often dangerous. Please do not enter the construction site..)



Since last report (two weeks ago) much more progress has been made on our construction site. On the outside, two out of the three arches have been created with brick and now join three of the four columns of the bell tower. The third arch should be completed early next week. Then the upper section will be completed. Many have asked about when the bell will be hoisted into place. So when we know what day they will hang the bell will be, we will let everyone know, and if you have time or interest, you may come with your video cameras and your still cameras or cell phones and record the moment for posterity. We won't ring it that day, but we plan to have it ringing for the Dedication Service to be held in June.



Inside, the light fixtures, all of which are LEDs, have all be hung and are wired, and most rooms are now lit when the light switch is turned on. The ceiling tiles are beginning to be put into place, and we should have fully enclosed ceilings in the next week or so. There are even lights in the hallways, and in the big fellowship space. Perhaps this picture (below) will give you an idea of how large this space feels.



Speaking of the fellowship space, the big double doors from the new fellowship area into the stairwell are now hung, and the automatic closers are working. In the current fellowship hall, a new wall where the old Coke machine and supplies used to be kept has been replaced and it now encloses a brand new storage area. It has double doors and enters right next to the kitchen. The large double doors that mirror the new fellowship space's double doors are also



in place and the closers are functioning on that set of doors too.

The two bathrooms on the lower level for Men and Women are coming very close to completion. The partitions between stalls in the Ladies' Room are up, and they were erecting the partitions in the Men's Room. The tilework is done, and soon they will be hanging the sinks, counters and setting the toilets.

