

THE SANDY MOUNT VINE FEBRUARY 2015

From the Pastor

Lent refers to the forty days leading up to Easter. The Lenten season is set aside for self-examination, spiritual renewal, and growth. It is a time shaped by the spiritual disciplines of fasting and abstinence, repentance, prayer, acts of mercy, and the dedication of financial resources to those in need (giving alms). A powerful Lenten experience doesn't just happen, it takes preparation. Every 40 day journey is unique and requires some prayer and planning to get the most out of it. Now is the time to start giving it some thought. If you haven't figured it out already, I have no idea what I'm doing yet, which is why I'm writing this article! Nothing like a good spiritual kick in the pants!

Some questions to ponder as you prepare: How is God inviting me to grow spiritually over the next 40 days? How am I hindering the work God is trying to accomplish in me? Is there anything I need to do or stop doing? What spiritual discipline or practice would further reveal Christ in my life? Below is a list of classic spiritual disciplines to help you get started. Be realistic. Choose one or two to focus on in the coming weeks.

- prayer
- worship
- Scripture meditation
- serving
- •stewardship of time and money
- fasting
- •silence and solitude
- Journaling
- •study

The Lenten season begins February 18 with our Ash Wednesday service. You're invited to a sacred experience shaped by song, silence, prayer, ashes and communion. May you experience a Holy Lent this year.

Pastor Bob

Flash – Finance Committee Starts Capital Campaign

The Finance Committee started a 'Capital Campaign' in January to fund two urgent projects. We need to raise approximately \$35,000 to fund these projects recommended by our trustees.

The trustees presented both capital improvement projects to the Administrative Council at the December meeting. Each project is urgent in nature and both were approved by the council. The first project is the replacement of the audio system used in the sanctuary, at a cost of \$17,458. The second project involves replacement of all the overhead fluorescent light fixtures throughout the entire church complex, at a cost to the church of \$28,945. The lighting project will actually cost only \$19,290 because of a rebate program offered by BGE. The finance committee has identified the funds necessary to make the initial deposit for each project from within our current budget.

A/V Solutions of Pennsylvania has been awarded the contract for the replacement of the audio system and we estimate completion in mid-February. The new system is necessary because:

- 1. The current system is ten years old and is rapidly failing. It has already been repaired several times.
- 2. The audio system is used at both services and is an integral part of our worship experience.
- 3. The new system will be digital and wireless and eliminate the need for all the wires on the floor presently found around the altar. These wires present a tripping hazard to the members of the Praise Team, the choir or other members performing in the front of the church, the congregation during communion, and our youth when at the altar during the Children's Message.

The lighting contract has been awarded to George Klinger Electrical and will start sometime in January. The rebate offered by BGE required that we be under contract by December 31st to qualify for the program.

- 1. The lights in the older part of the church complex will be replaced because the ballast used in those fixtures contain PCB's and are a health hazard to everyone using the building.
- 2. The fixtures in the newer Educational wing will be retro fitted to match the new fixtures used in the older portion of the complex at a cost savings to us.
- 3. The new fixtures will mean a 10 to 12 percent savings in the lighting portion of our monthly electric bill.

Everyone is urged to be as generous as possible as soon as possible. All donations are tax deductible. We are also able to accept stock which the finance committee can then convert to cash. Special envelopes will be available in the bulletins or on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



February 21, 2015

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the first (in a quite a while) Men's Breakfast. From food prep to coffee making, as well as those who attended and brought guests, it was a good morning. We are hoping that the attendance will be even greater at the next one. Sign-up sheets will be up by 1/28, so talk it up, plan on attending and bring a friend.

Date: Feb. 21, 2015

Time: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Cost: \$5.00

Where: SMUMC Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Nina Christian, Director of the Salvation Army Service Center of Carroll County

Menu:

Sausage Gravy on Buttermilk Biscuits

Hard boiled eggs

Assorted donuts

Fruit

Juices, coffee, tea

Nina Christian is the Service Center Director for Westminster's SALVATION ARMY. She will be the speaker at this month's Men's Prayer Breakfast (Saturday, February 21, 7:30 to 9 AM). The Salvation Army does marvelous work: preaching the Gospel and helping the poorest of the poor. Nina will speak about the Army's history, tell us about their work in Westminster, and take questions. (Sandy Mount sponsors an "Angel Tree" each Christmas. The donated gifts are distributed by the Salvation Army to needy children.)

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Sandy Mount follows the Carroll County Snow Emergency Plan. If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect 90 minutes prior to <u>any</u> worship service or event at Sandy Mount, the service is canceled in the interest of safety.

For Sunday worship:

<u>Contemporary Service</u>: If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect at 7:30AM, then worship and Sunday School are canceled; <u>Traditional Service</u>: If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect at 9:45AM, then worship is canceled.

You may find out if the Carroll County Snow Emergency Plan is in effect by Going to the Maryland Department of Transportation website: http://www.chart.state.md.us/StormInfo/snow_emergency_plans.asp

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Mark your calendars for our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

> Tuesday February 17, 2015 5:30 – 7:00 PM

\$5 per person, no more than \$12 per family

All proceeds go to fund the Imagine No Malaria Campaign of the UMC.

Price includes all you can eat/drink beverages, pancakes, sausage and applesauce

Are you feeling blah????

Is the cold weather keeping you inside?????

Have you turned into a couch potato???

We have just the answer!!!

Winter Walking

Shake off the winter doldrums walking
YES walking!

The church will be open every other Friday from

7 - 9 pm.

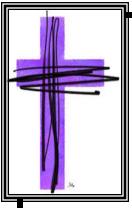
All doors will be open and you can create your own walking path.

Dress appropriately - there will be no heat.

Beginning Jan 9th and ending

March 20th.

Come out and join us! Your Fellowship Team



Lent Begins!

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th

Om Wednesday February 18 the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. There will be a worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It will include the marking of attendees with ashes.

Save the Dates

Sunday, March 15*** Sunday, March 22***
Sunday, March 29

Multi-Church "Three Sundays in Lent"

5:30 pm Meal

6:15 pm Classes

Sandy Mount United Methodist Church
Watch for further Information

EACH PERSON MUST COMPLETE A FORM

REGISTRATION FOR March 15, 2015 - THREE SUNDAYS IN LENT

Location: Sandy Mount UMC, 2101 Old Westminster Pike, Finksburg, MD 21048

5:00 p.m. Supper - 6:15 p.m. Class

Registration is due in the church office by Monday, March 9, 2015

This initial registration enables us to know how much food to prepare and which size room to assign to each class.

MEALS		CHECK BOX IF YOU WANT SUPPER. SUPPER \$5.00 - Includes homemade soup/sandwich/	'dessert/drink
CLASSES	(Pleas	e choose one class and place a check mark in the box)	
		The Women Jesus Knew - Reverend Pat Dols	
		A Still More Excellent Way - Faith, Hope, Love – Rev	vs. Bill Boyer & Lou Piel
		The Lord's Prayer - Reverend Bob Wellman, Revere	nd Ken Humbert
CHILDCARE	E	Check here if you need Childcare.	

It is time to order your Easter Flowers!

We will be ordering Easter flowers from the list below.

Please complete the order form then place your Order Form, Dedication and payment in an envelope marked "Easter flowers" in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to SMUMC.

For any questions please call Belinda VonGunten or Helen Kemp in the church office.

DEADLINE - Sunday, March 1st 2015.

No orders may be accepted after this date.							
Indicate below the quantity you want of each item.							
6" Mums \$8.29							
4.5" Daffodils-Mini \$3.69							
6" Daffodils \$7.29							
6" Tulips \$7.29							
8" Tulips \$12.89							
4.5" Mini Roses \$8.49							
4.5" Gerbera Daisies \$4.59							
8x16 Mixed Planters \$22.99							
\$5.50 per Cut Flower Mum bunch for the outside Cross.							
Total cost of your order \$							
Your name							

DEDICATIONS

The Easter Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and given							
In honor of: (living person or persons)							
In honor of:							
In honor of							
In honor of:							
DEDICATIONS							
The Easter Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and given							
In memory of: (deceased person or persons.)							
In mamous of							
In memory of:							
In memory of:							



MNM 2015 (MEMBERS IN NEED) Easter Baskets

On Sunday, April 6, 2014 we will assembling approximately 10 Easter baskets for our shut-in church members.

Donations of **Cookies, Candy** and **Fruit, small gifts, toiletries, treats** and **notes** would be appreciated.

A basket will be set up in the church hallway for your donations which are needed not later than 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 6th.

Contact Peachy Caple at 410-848-3365 If you have any questions.

Celebrating Birthdays in February

February 1 Cindy Martin

February 1 Clinton Martin

February 2 Emily VonGunten

February 4 Frances Fisher

February 9 Dot Furney

February 9 Jeff Frattali

February 9 John Thornton

February 10 Lois DeGroff

February 12 Ashley Houseknecht

February 13 Conrad Vollmerhausen

February 14 Russ Clarke

February 14 Ted Wilson

February 16 Bill Yanke

February 19 Linda Palmer

February 20 Jim Goge

February 22 Betty Green

February 27 Steve Boyle

February 27 Harvey Tesch





The Adult Sunday School class (which meets under the old sanctuary each Sunday at 9:45 AM) is in for a special treat this month.

On the first two Sundays, February 1 & 8, Dr. Robert Boyer ("Bob") will teach on William Shakespeare v. the English Reformation.

Shakespeare lived and wrote during a turbulent time in England. The long battle between Catholic and Protestant was raging. Artists, poets and playwrights had to walk "a fine line." How did Shakespeare manage that?

On the last two Sundays of the month, Bill Boyer will lead a discussion on changes in the Roman Catholic Church and the new pope, Francis.

Relay For Life 2015!!

We are looking for Relayer's to join His Hands and Feet in the fight against cancer!

The event will be held Friday, May 15 at 7:30 through Saturday, May 16 at 5:30 am at the Ag Center in Westminster, MD.

Whether you can help a little or help a lot, you CAN make a difference!! ONE person can make a difference!

This year is the 30th Anniversary of Relay For Life. Relay For Life started with ONE person and look where Relay is now.

You can join online at www.relayforlife.org or you can join through the mail. See Melissa Brooks if you have any questions or need any help signing up.



Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus by joining us in this fight





BOY SCOUT TROOP 395 SPAGHETTI DINNER

& Silent Auction

Saturday March 14, 2015

4:00 PM - 7:30 PM

⊕ ALL YOU CAN EAT **●**

Adults - \$9.00 Seniors - \$6.00 Children 5-11 years - \$5.00 Children 4 years and under - Free

Carry-Out Available
BAKED GOODS FOR SALE

SANDY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2101 Old Westminster Pike Finksburg, Maryland

For information call 443-854-5333

SUPPORT YOUR BOY SCOUTS TODAY!



SANDY MOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEMBER

Present this coupon at the Y Chipmunk Preschool program and get \$50. off

Church Directory – Important News

By now hopefully everyone is aware that our Church Directory is being produced "in-house" utilizing software called *Instant Church Directory*. The *Directory Administrator is Kara Urban*, and questions regarding the use of the program can be directed to her. While this has been a slow transition, it offers us a lot more flexibility than the previous method of scheduling professional photos, and receiving the hard copy directory as part of the process. Updates can be made as needed, and are instantly available. And...access to the directory has just become even easier. No more files to download. Instead members can have direct access to the online member directory. Additionally, the mobile app still offers access through your smartphone and other mobile devices.

1. Via Computer

- through your browser, go to Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com
- for your initial visit, click on the words "create a login now" and follow the directions. Note: the email address that you use, must be one that you have provided to us for publication in the directory this is how you are verified as an authorized user. If the email address doesn't match, no verification link will be sent.
- after you click "request login", you will receive an email confirmation with a link to click on which will bring you back to the website.
- enter your email address and password that you created, and click "sign in"
- for future visits, just sign in using this same password.
- 2. <u>Via Mobile App</u> If you have a smartphone, ipad, Kindle Fire, etc. you can view the directory through the mobile device.
 - Under your "applications" icon, search for "Instant Church Directory".
 - Download the app it's free.
 - You will then be prompted for your email address (which, as specified above, must be one that you have given us to list in the directory this is how the directory remains secure so that only church members can access it).
 - You will receive an email containing a password (a random combination of letters and numbers).
 - Return to the mobile app, and enter this password.
 - The directory will now be an icon on your device and will automatically update whenever changes are made by the administrator. **Note**: If you "sign out", you will have to go through this process again. You can close the icon without "signing out" though, in which case you just click on it to open again.
- Hard Copy Directory We realize that some people may not have access to a computer and/or mobile device, or they may just simply prefer a hard copy directory. It is still our intent to offer a printed directory (for a small fee – just enough to cover the cost), but first, we NEED YOUR HELP TO GET OUR PHOTOS UPDATED.

Many families never had their photos taken for the directory when we started this process, and the photos we do have are several years old at this point. We realize that some people aren't really fond of having their photo taken, but we ask that you PLEASE provide one anyway. People look to the directory to match names and faces. Pastor Bob, in particular, has requested updated photos. To make this happen, over coming weeks members of the Directory team will be available to snap photos of your family as you attend church on Sunday mornings. If you'd prefer, you can submit your own photo by emailing it to Kara at kdurban@comcast.net. AND.....anytime you want to update your photo, all you have to do is send a new one to Kara. Also, please send her any address, phone, and/or email changes as they occur.

The Graduate Connection

Staying Connected with our Youth

With students returning to school for the spring semester, it seemed a good time to remind everyone about one of our Congregational Care Ministries - the *Graduate Connection*. If you have a student already participating in this program, please be sure to provide any mailing address changes to Kara and/or their "letter-writer". If you have a college student who isn't already participating in this program, but would like to, please provide Kara with their mailing address and your child will be matched up with a "letter-writer". Please Note: there is NO obligation on the student's part to correspond in return, although they are certainly welcome to if desired. You are signing them up to be a recipient of this program. Read on for a description of what *Graduate Connection* offers to our college-age youth.

Graduate Connection is one of the Congregational Care Ministries. As a church family, we want to stay "connected" with our youth who have graduated from high school and are now living away from home as they pursue higher education. Often-times youth who have been very active in their church programs find themselves drifting away from their religious foundation when they are living away from home and are unable to attend church regularly. We want our students to know that they are still a valuable part the Sandy Mount church family, and that we are thinking about, and praying for, them.

What better way to accomplish this, than to send these students cards or letters several times during the school year, offering them encouragement in their studies, letting them know what's going on around church, and reminding them of Christ's love for them...and that they are missed at Sandy Mount. It's always exciting to get mail.

If you are able to send a note or letter a few times a year to one of our "away-from-home" graduates, we would be most appreciative. (This is an especially nice opportunity for some of our older church members who may be unable to participate in more physically demanding ministries, but would still like to be actively involved — plus what a wonderful way to foster connections between generations in Sandy Mount.) We would ask that you commit to sending at least 3-4 cards or letters a year. Suggested times are: September as school begins, Thanksgiving, Christmas, May/December as finals approach. Be sure to include information on events occurring at church during the holidays and encourage the student to attend while they are home on break.

Please provide Kara Urban (kdurban@comcast.net) with your child's current college address if you'd like them to be matched up with a "letter-writer" from the congregation. Also let Kara know if you'd be willing to volunteer as a "letter writer". Thank you.

OUTREACH NEWS FEBRUARY 2015

The January Sock Drive for the Cold Weather Shelter was a success and very timely given the extremely cold weather we have been experiencing.

Our newest ministry, visiting the Country Acres Assisting Living Home, has been a big hit. The youth visit one Sunday evening a month and play Bingo with the residents. A group visits the 3rd Thursday of each month to bring a message, singing and snacks. If you would like to go with the group on a Thursday, call Audrey Boyle.

We promised to address the concerns that were brought to our attention in the surveys and this month we will discuss the American Cancer Society. Some of the concerns were that this is a secular organization, that solicitation for participating and/or supporting the Relay for Life is too lengthy, and support should not overshadow other projects.

The Outreach Team has carefully and prayerfully considered these concerns and reached the following decisions:

The Relay for Life event will be held in May 2015. Efforts to solicit for team members and team support will begin in January. If we cannot put together a 10 person team by the end of March, the church will not have a team.

We do realize that this is a non-religious organization but Melissa Brooks, who leads this effort, has given us some very powerful information supporting her enthusiasm for this event and ways in which each of us experience the dreaded "C" word.

This project will in no way overshadow other projects. That is the purpose of the Outreach Team - "to work together to organize the outreach activities of our church so that conflicts are avoided and each activity has the opportunity to be a success".

Melissa will be heading up Relay for Life. Please consider her request to be a member of the team. This is one night of your life that may mean "many nights" to a cancer patient.

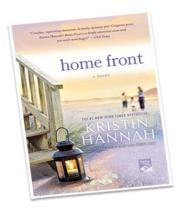
Thanks to everyone for another fun filled Holiday Party at Safe Haven!

On December 22, Sandy Mount United Methodist Church gathered with the residents of Safe Haven for their annual Holiday Party. We all had such a great time - we played games, were led in song by Connie Clarke and were led in prayer by a Safe Haven resident.

Thanks to your generosity we also enjoyed great food and every resident received gifts from their wish list. It is such a blessing to be able to provide them with some hope and love during the holiday season. As always, there were so very thankful and appreciative. One resident was brought to tears with a gift of a homemade blanket and another said that he couldn't believe he received everything on his list.

Thanks to all who came that day, provided food, gifts or donations for gifts. We couldn't provide this special day without all of your help.

Tina von Gunten



BOOK CLUB

Is Back!

Resumes meeting on Feb. 9, 2015 at Noon.

Please note that all Book club meetings will be held at Noon from now on.



You're invited to join us!

Feb. 9, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor and on Feb. 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor

We will be making crocheted and knitted prayer shawls. Experienced and new stitcher's are welcome. We always appreciate donations of yarn. If you have questions contact:

Sherri Wahlgren 410-861-8443

ALTAR FLOWERS FEB. 2015

The Altar Flower signup list for February is as follows:

February 1, 2015 - Belinda VonGunten

February 8, 2015 - Steve Boyle

February 15, 2015 - Mary & Bill Boyer

February 22, 2015 - Kathy Klinger

Remember to submit your dedication to Helen by the Tuesday of the week they will be on the altar. Please return any glass vases taken home to the church

An announcement for the God's Servants Choir

God's Servant's Choir Rehearses at 11:00 in the choir room.

There is plenty of room for everyone in elementary and middle school! We will rehearse the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. We will sing the first Sunday of the EVEN months (Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, June) during the offertory of the Praise service.

Contact:
Robyn Gilden, binkibbb@hotmail.com



FEBRUARY 2015



.M.				The same of the sa			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 GS Trp 1584 6:30-7:45 pm BS Trp. 395 7 - 8:30 pm	3 GS Troop 586 6 - 7:30 p.m. BS Trp. 395 7 - 8:30 pm	4 Mtg. for Lenten Lessons Noon - 2 p.m. (Church Parlor) Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm BS Trp. 395 7-8 pm	Safe Haven 5:30-7 pm	6 Live Wires 5-8 pm (FH) and RR) WINTER WALKING 7-9 pm (FH)	7	
8 Boy Scout Sunday	9 Prayer Shawls 10 AM (CP) Book Club at Noon In the Church Parlor BS Trp. 395 7 - 8:30 pm	10 SERRV Lv. 8 am Return 3 pm GS Troop 586 6 - 7:30 p.m. BS Trp. 395 7 - 8:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm BS Trp. 395 7-8 pm	12 Safe Haven 5:30 - 7 PM	13	Saint Valentine's Day	
15 Church Conference 10:15 am UMYF Mtg. followed by Bingo at Country Acres 5-7:15 pm	16 Presidents Day Church Office Closed GS Trp 1584 6:30-7:45 pm BS Trp. 395 7 - 8:30 pm	17 Shrove Tuesday Supper 5:30-7:00 pm GS Troop 586 6-7:30 p.m. BS Trp. 395 7-8:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM BS Trp. 395 7-8 pm	19 Country Acres Visitation 6:00 pm Safe Haven 5:30 - 7 PM	20 Vine Items due! WINTER WALKING 7-9 pm (FH)	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM (OFH)	
22	Prayer Shawls 7:00 pm (CP) BS Trp. 395 7 - 8:30 pm	24 GS Troop 586 6 - 7:30 p.m. BS Trp. 395 7 - 8:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm BS Trp. 395 7-8 pm	26 Safe Haven 5:30 - 7 PM	UMYF Lock-in begins 5:30 pm (Choir room, RR & Youth office)	28 UMYF Lock-in ends 9:00 am (Choir room, RR & Youth office)	



Worship Schedule February 2015

Praise Service. 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Traditional Service. 11:00 AM



Traditional Service

• Ushers: * selected from counting team

2/01 Tina VonGunten, David Caple and Marie Wilson

2/08 Jeff Tesch, Steve Boyle and Russ Clarke

2/15 Tom Poe, Cindy Blob and Anita Myers

2/22 Kara Urban, Sally Wilson and Doris Edwards

Church Opener/Closers: 2/1 George Pittinger 2/8 Rob Barone 2/15 George Pittinger 2/22 Katie McDonough

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

President's Day 2/16 - Church Office closed

Pastor: Rev. Robert T. Wellman Church Phone: 410-861-5788 Office Manager: Helen Kemp

Email: Sandymtumc@comcast.net Website: sandymountumc.com

February 2015

Church Staff
Pastor: Rev. Robert T. Wellman
Praise Team Leader: Mrs. Lynne Hasenei
Choir Director/Organist: Mrs. Connie Clarke
Asst. Organist: Carolyn Dinst
Office Manager: Mrs. Helen Kemp



The mission of Sandy Mount UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (Matthew 22:37-39; 28:19-20)

Mission Statement

Sandy Mount United Methodist Church 2101 Old Westminster Pike Finksburg, MD 21048