

THE WITNESS



“WE PROCLAIM TO YOU WHAT WE HAVE SEEN
AND HEARD....” I JOHN 1:3

“Paying attention to
JESUS
&
making JESUS
famous”

A Publication of Toms Brook United Methodist Church/ August 2008

Pastor: Bill Fisher
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~Worship Services~
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School:
9:45 a.m.

Toms Brook UMC

3263 N. Main St.,
P.O. Box 99,
Toms Brook, VA 22660

We are on the web!
www.tomsbrookumc.org

International Missions International Missions

Russia Mission 2008

On June 21, a team of fourteen left TBUMC for mission work in Chelyabinsk, Russia. Our bags were all packed, mostly with stuff for the kids, and we were all very excited about the trip that lay ahead. I have been involved with this mission for eight years and each year the Lord leads us to encounter new and exciting situations. He makes sure we are depending on Him and not our agenda. Our Bible school this year was written by Lisa Currie, and we had about 100 children attend. We had special sessions for the teenagers and adults this year and were very surprised at their willingness to come hear the Bible stories and do the crafts. Each day it seemed the kids grew more and more excited about Bible school and could hardly wait to come listen to the stories and participate. By the end of our stay, we had all the kids at the orphanage singing “Jesus Loves Me” and saying the Lord’s Prayer. God provided us with a Christian interpreter, Irina, for Bible school. She attends a Church Of God in Chelyabinsk. She knew all the stories, songs, and prayers and helped us a great deal. She was such a blessing to us.

Russia continued on page 2

TBUMC Vacation Bible School

Grow the Fruit of the Spirit at SonHarvest County Fair VBS!

Vacation Bible School will be held on Sunday, August 10, through Thursday, August 14, from 6 – 8 p.m., for ages 3 years through 5th grade. During their time in SonHarvest County, students will try their hand at real-life farm activities like corn shucking, wheel barrow racing, making preserves, and sprouting seeds. Each day they will look forward to creating their own blue-ribbon crafts, eating farm fresh snacks and singing great songs.



Russia continued from page 1

This year we purchased much needed kitchen equipment for the cafeteria. A new commercial stove replaced an old one that only one of the six burners worked. A new commercial oven and dishwasher – their dishwasher had not worked in YEARS— helped make food prep and clean up a whole lot easier! We even had enough money to buy a freezer! We saw most of the equipment delivered before we left. You should have seen the happy faces of those ladies as the new equipment arrived!

Part of our work around the orphanage this year included planting thirty Canadian maple trees and planting flowers! This was unusual because usually the grounds of the school are quite bare. It seems since they got the lawn mower last year that they have a new outlook on landscaping! We also prepared and painted a room in one of the dorms that they will use as a relaxation room for the kids. Two additional rooms were wallpapered.

We were fortunate to have time most days and evenings to spend with the kids. We played lots of games, drew pictures on the sidewalk, painted finger nails, held lots of hands, hugged dirty faces and Scott Currie even organized a “mini Olympics.”

At the end of our mission, many of the team left to come home with tears running down their faces. We became very close to the children, and it seemed they became so very close to us. We praise God that our mission was a success, and we continue to pray that the “seeds” we planted will continue to grow. Thanks for all your support on this mission project. We will be giving a presentation to the church on September 21 during the Sunday school hour.

IT'S FAIR TIME!!!!

Can you believe the summer is slipping away and it is time to pull out our aprons and onion-scented sneakers? Yes folks, it is time for the Shenandoah County Fair, and WE NEED YOU!! It is time to sign up to work in the Toms Brook United Methodist Church Fair Booth. This year the fair will run from Friday, August 22, to Saturday, August 30.

During last year's nine-day event, 96 folks worked 310 shifts to serve our community. And serve them we did, with good food, smiling faces, and willing spirits. In addition, we “made the day” of the clients and staff of Shen-Paco Industries, who made their annual visit to spend a day at the fair and to our booth to enjoy lunch, on us.

In November of 2007, the Fair Committee gave \$12,000.00 to the church to be used to *Make Jesus Famous*. The Church Council voted to make the following donations from that generous contribution:

Free Clinic	\$1000.00
Response	\$1000.00
Shen. Alliance for Shelter	\$1000.00
Shen. Co. Animal Shelter	\$ 500.00
Shen. Pregnancy Center	\$1500.00
Shen-Paco Industries	\$1000.00
Russia Mission	\$1000.00

It is always interesting to know how we raise so much money during such a short period of time, especially when you consider that our food ranges in price from \$1.00 to \$2.50. We served 165 gallons of our world famous bean soup, 1,181 pounds of hamburger, 309 pounds of hot dogs and half smokes and 310 pounds of country ham, not to mention countless drinks and orders of french fries. And each

FAIR continued on page 7

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Yard Crawl

The Shenandoah County Yard Crawl will be held on Saturday, August 9, from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Relay for Life Team will be providing table space in the church parking lot. Each space is available for \$10. You provide your own tables and must clear everything away at the end of the day. The Relay team will not be selling baked goods or hot dogs. The Toms Brook Fire Department is going to be selling food that day as part of their major fund raiser, so we do not want to compete with them.

If you wish to donate items to the yard sale but do not want to have a table, the Relay team will have a table for your convenience. However, you must price the items before bringing them to the Relay team.

Make Music a Part of Your Life- Join the Master's Choir

The first rehearsal is Wednesday, Sept. 3, beginning with a covered dish dinner at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Marcy needs to know by August 11 if anyone would like to join so there will be enough copies of music to go around. Please contact Marcy Bauserman (436-3886).

Delightfully Restored Women's Conference

September 5-6
Ingleside Resort
Staunton, Virginia

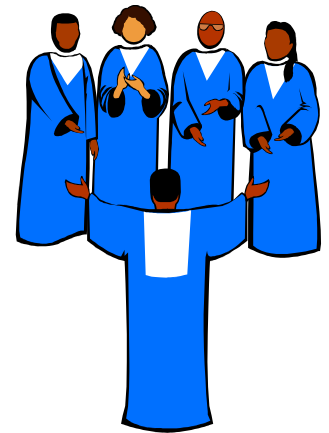
This women's conference will feature speaker Rev. Gail Thornberry with music by Sheila Lloyd. The conference will include Biblical and insightful teaching, Spirit-filled worship, and a 60 minute drama. Cost of the two day conference is \$89.00, this includes a boxed lunch on Saturday. Registration Deadline – August 8. For more information contact Dianna Wallen (459-8875) or Donna Eagle (459-2393).

Parent Support Group

A Parent Support Group will meet on Thursday, August 28, at 7 p.m., at Wesley House.

UM Men

In lieu of our regular 3rd Tuesday Methodist Men meeting, we will meet at the fair grounds building. The dates for the building preparation are August 11 & 12 (Monday and Tuesday). We will begin at 6 p.m. but come when you can.





August Birthdays

- 1 Hilda Wolfe
Renee Kronk
Christina Crawford
- 2 Carol Walden
- 3 Jennifer Burke
- 4 Charley Jackson
- 5 Colin Christensen
- 6 Marcy Bauserman
Corinne Cooper
Robert Marshall
Wyatt Peterson
Heather Walden
- 7 Pat Higginbotham
Linda Hudgins
- 9 Karen Bradfield
Kate Sowers
Linda Baker
Sam Taff
Mike Fleming
- 10 Gary Kronk
Natalie Peterson
- 12 Dee Griffey
Linda Delano
- 13 Ronnie Funk
Keely Webb

- 14 Janet Batten
- 16 Rich Church
- 17 Alexis Keller
- 18 Eva Keller
- 21 Sandi Crabill
Kim Peterson
- 22 Karen Bishop
Becky Moyer
- 23 Kay Wetzel
Shirley Keller
- 24 Tonya Hollingsworth
- 26 Lisa Currie
- 27 Mildred Crabill
Don Griffey
Jillian Lichliter
- 28 Isaac Sager
- 29 Cindy Rinker

Anniversaries

- 6 Chuck & Sharon Pilgrim
Mil & Dianna Wallen
- 8 George & Juanita
Johnson
- 13 Steve & Debbie Grant
- 18 Louis & Shelba Funk
Leo & Gloria Ryman
- 19 Mary & David Fay
- 22 Mart & Jean Bauserman

A Middle School Sunday School Teacher is needed for the fall session. If you are interested or have questions please contact Becky McClelland (540-295-8299).

Join the Toms Brook United Methodist Church Blog at MyChurch.org. All you need is an email address! Sign up at:

<http://www.mychurch.org/churches/VA/Toms-Brook/233364/Toms-Brook-United-Methodist-Church/signup>

Combined Worship Service

“God With Us”

5th Sunday

Date: August 31

Focus:

“...pondering the ears of Jesus”

Pastor’s Sunday school Class:

(in the fellowship hall)

“...in the ministry.”

Special Musical Guests:

The Chosen Vessels

(From Woodlawn UMC)

Alexandria, Virginia

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

12:00 Lunch

LAY MINISTRY FOR AUGUST

8:30 a.m. Service and Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Service

GREETERS For the Month

Aug.—Eva & Eli Keller

Sept.—Hal, Lois, & Abby Morrison

NURSERY WORKERS

Aug. 3—Kim Peterson

10—Debbie Funkhouser

17—Jennifer Funkhouser

24—Lorraine Shelton

31—Combined Service

Sep. 7—Chris Sager

ACOLYTES

Aug. 3—No acolyte

10—Jimmy Peterson

17—Mil Wallen

24—Elise Sager

31—Combined Service

Sep. 7—No acolyte

USHERS

Bob Bauserman

Gary Keller

Mac McClanahan

Becky McClanahan

PARKING LOT GREETER

Lorraine Shelton

S.S. PARKING LOT GREETER

Deby Pugh

DEVOTION LEADERS & PIANISTS

Aug. 3—Shirley Keller/Becky Moyer

10—Renee Kronk/Debbie Grant

17—John Easto/Marcy Bauserman

24—Debbie French/Mary Fay

31—Gary Holler/Mary Fay

Coordinator: Gary Holler: 436-3692

GREETERS For the Month

Aug.—Chuck & Donna Eagle

Sept.—Kay Cornell & Jenny Holler

NURSERY WORKERS

Aug. 3—Cheri Funk & Cora Funk

10—Sharon McCarthy & Sarah Maynard

17—Buddy & Linda Hudgins

24—Elizabeth Keller, Holly Taff

31—Kay Crawford

Sep. 7—Cheri Funk & Cora Funk

ACOLYTES

Aug. 3—No acolyte

10—Ryan Davis

17—Mike Cockrell

24—Sully Eagle

31—Adam Bodkin

Sep. 7—No acolyte

USHERS

Gary Holler

Bob Lively

Bill Menges

Judy Menges

4th Sunday—Youth

PARKING LOT GREETERS

Barbara Fisher & Scott Currie

4th Sunday—Youth

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Aug. 3—Cathy Brennan

10—Linda Hudgins

17—Sarah & Kathleen Maynard

24—Elizabeth Davis

31—No Children's Church

Sep. 7—Lisa Keller

Note: Please try to find a substitute if you are unable to be present on a Sunday when you are scheduled to serve. If you can not find a substitute, call the church office at 436-9312 by Thursday of that week. Devotion leaders should contact the coordinator at the number provided.

CALENDAR

Check out our most up-to-date
calendar on the
main page
of this
web-site.

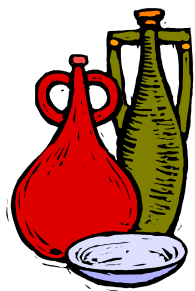
Click calendar
and it will
take you
to the
most
recent
one.



“**F**or it is God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;...”

~ II Corinthians 4:6-9



What If?

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow
Because we didn't follow Him today?

What if we never saw another flower bloom
Because we grumbled when God sent the rain?

What if God didn't walk with us today
Because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow
Because we would not read it today?

What if God took away His message
Because we failed to listen to the messenger?

What if God didn't send His only begotten Son
Because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for
sin?

What if the door of the church was closed
Because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if God stopped loving and caring for us
Because we failed to love and care for others?

What if God would not hear us today
Because we would not listen to Him?

What if God answered our prayers
The way we answer His call to service?

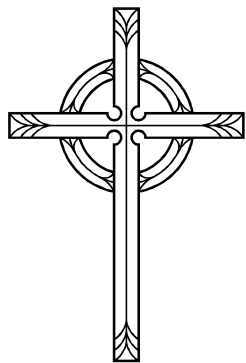
What if God met our needs
The way we give Him our lives?

Author Unknown

~Quote~

Many years ago,
the great theologian
Oswald Chambers
stated,

"All heaven is
interested in the
cross of Christ, all
hell terribly afraid of
it, while men are the
only beings who
more or less ignore
its meaning."



REFLECTIONS

*"And you also will bear witness,
because you have been with me from the beginning."*

John 15:27

When Jesus began His public ministry, he gathered around himself twelve people to observe and learn what it means to be Christian. For three years, they followed him daily. They got a head start on everyone else. So have many of you.

From the day you drew your first breath, you have been surrounded by people who knew and loved Jesus. You have enjoyed the spiritual benefits of their nurturing, their guidance, their prayers, their Bible, and their church. In a very real sense, you have been with Jesus "...from the beginning."

Be careful. Do not get stuck in the familiar. It is so easy to squeeze discipleship into predictable and boring routines. I hope and pray following Jesus never becomes commonplace to you.

The adventure is not over. There are so many exciting things to see, do, and experience. He's still leading.

This is good.

~Pastor Bill

TOMS BROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Witness

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Toms Brook, VA 22660**

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