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OPEN DOOR

*A FREDERICKSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MAGAZINE*

WORSHIP

Saturdays at 5:00 pm in the
Sanctuary

Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00
am in the Sanctuary

Sundays at 9:45 am in
Kobler hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 Adult, Youth and
Children classes

11:00 Adult class

CHURCH OFFICE

Open daily

Monday—Friday
9:00 am — 4:00 pm.
(540) 373-9021

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what has occurred amongst us and our community. As we See All The People this year, we have much to celebrate and share. We hope that you see God in the stories of this newsletter and that you find ways to connect in the opportunities that abound. Then, let us know what you think. What inspired you?

If there is a story you want to share, please email us at newsletter@fumcva.org. This is a quarterly publication, so our next deadline is June 15th with a publication date of July 1.

As I look around in this still relatively new year, I am amazed at the multitude of ways our church is carrying forth the mission of Christ. I see our preschool community teaching Jesus, and little ones responding in faithfulness. I wish you could see the joy they have on their faces when they bring their offerings of food monthly for our Food Pantry in our chapel time. Also, I see how we greet the community with love and nurture daily through the Food Pantry, from our desk volunteers, to those that connect to needed resources in our pantry, so much hospitality, so much love. It's truly beautiful. Moreover, just in this early part of the year, we have glimpsed the power of our children and youth serving and learning through Youth Ministry, Kids with a Purpose, Scouting Ministries and Upward Basketball. All these programs lend so much hope and potential to our world. This is truly a snapshot list above, yet even in short summary, I am overwhelmed. I am reminded of a song from years ago by Twila Paris, "How Beautiful," which refers to the Body of Christ in the Church. These words sing over FUMC.

*How Beautiful the radiant bride, Who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes
How Beautiful when humble hearts give, The fruit of pure lives so that others may live
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ*

God is good and certainly moving in beautiful ways at Fredericksburg UMC! As you read about ministry moments here from our first quarter together, I pray that you are inspired. May we always be like Peter responding in faithfulness and the beauty of God's Spirit to "Come, Follow Me" as Jesus calls to us all! We hope to see you in church during the reminder of our Lenten journey!

Grace and peace, *Pastor Gina*



Colossians 2:6-7

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Earlier this year we heard about what healthy relationships might look like for us in 2019. We spent time focusing on friendships, family connections, our relationship with our spouse, and even our relationship with God. When we draw closer to one another, especially in Christian relationships, we are also drawing closer to our God who is at the center of these bonds. How are these relationships going for you this year? Are you drawing closer to one another, drawing closer to God, or are you finding yourself drifting apart?

The apostle Paul writes to the Colossians that since they have received Christ, they are to continue to live their lives in him. We are also people that have received Christ! We are also called to continue to live our lives in our God who is at the center of our relationships. John Wesley calls this "staying in love with God." Wesley names some of the ways we stay in love with God are through prayer, worshipping together, searching the scriptures, and sharing in communion. Be encouraged that as we continue to move through this year together, we are still able to grow in healthy relationships with one another and with God. God gifts us the means to do so. Thanks be to God!

Till next time, Pastor Josh

First Thing

The Book of a Genesis is a book of firsts. Of all the things that God says about man in the Bible, what do you think was the first? Genesis 2:18 tells us God's first observation about man was this, "It is not good for man (people/persons) to be alone." Why? I believe it is because human beings are universally terrible at self-anything. Self-care, self-respect, self-policing, self-monitoring, self-motivating, self-whatever. We need help and God knows it! In fact, God makes this observation between two key events, the giving of the first command, and the creation of Eve. God seems to sense from the very beginning that Adam will not be able to do it alone.

God's response, creating Eve, also tells us something very important. We need each other! If we are going to live, thrive and survive we need to be there for one another, share with another, walk with one another, care for one another, laugh with one another, cry with one another, eat with one another, grieve with one another, pray with one another. It is not good for us to be alone - and that is all congregational care is about. One human being walking with another through life, not just in the hard times but the good times, as well. In the times of sickness or celebration, rest or reward - all of it is better when shared. In all these things, it is not good for us to be alone.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jim



Stephen Ministry

The Band Aid Lady by Janice Williams

While chatting with a church member before a Stephen Minister's training session, I watched as her little girl came into the room crying because she had fallen and scraped

her knee. Without thinking, I reached into my purse and pulled out a band aid. The mom surprised me by saying that I must be the "Band Aid Lady". Since then I've thought about that phrase in relation to my efforts in the Stephen Ministry program.

At first I thought it might have meant that my aid was well intended, but not very important. But as I grew as a Stephen Minister I learned more and more that one doesn't have to be a surgeon to help an injured person to begin to heal. And one doesn't have to be a saint or a scholar to soothe a hurting soul.

In our training, we have learned that first and foremost we are caregivers. God is the cure-giver. But the care we give can truly begin to help the healing of each layer of the wound our care receiver is suffering. It's surely a blessing as a caregiver to see the hope and spiritual growth we both achieve when we combine our loving efforts to solve a life challenge with the help of the Lord.

All of my life I've wanted desperately to help those around me. I've independently studied psychology and philosophy. I've tried to impart what I've learned to friends who were hurting. But somehow my help didn't seem to be quite complete. Now my training and the fellowship of the other Stephen Ministers in my class, I have added an ability to strengthen the best that modern science offers with the infinite power of God's love.

CONFIDENTIALITY IS A CORNERSTONE OF STEPHEN MINISTRY BECAUSE IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING SAFE, HEALING, CARING RELATIONSHIPS.

Stephen Ministry is confidential. Stephen Ministers don't reveal what their care receivers have told them. Not to the pastors, not to the Stephen Leaders, not to their spouses or friends, and not to other Stephen Ministers.

Why? Because trust is vital for a caring relationship to be effective. Care receivers are experiencing difficulties that leave them feeling very vulnerable. Discussing their innermost feelings is an important step in the healing process. But in order to open up and discuss that which is troubling them most, care receivers need complete trust in their Stephen Minister and the assurance that what they say will not

be circulated to others and become news for gossip.

This assurance builds trust and creates a safe place where care receivers can risk revealing their most painful issues - problems they might not even discuss with close friends or family. Confidentiality helps create a relationship that promotes healing and hope.

Another aspect of confidentiality is that nobody - except the Stephen Minister, the care receiver, and the pastor or Stephen Leader who matched the two together - even knows that a care receiver has a Stephen Minister. Care receivers, of course, are free to tell others about the relationship and who their Stephen Minister is, but the Stephen Minister never tells. This means a care receiver can choose to have complete anonymity so that if he or she doesn't want people even to know that he or she has a Stephen Minister, nobody will ever know.

One final point involving confidentiality involves the Stephen Ministry model of supervision, where confidentiality is also a key element. Supervision, done monthly, is vital to Stephen Ministry so that Stephen Ministers can provide the best quality care possible to their care receivers. In supervision, the focus of discussion is on the relationship between the Stephen Minister and the care receiver, rather than the details of what is going on in a care receiver's life. By not revealing a care receiver's name or any significant details, confidentiality is maintained, and supervision becomes a place where Stephen Ministers can support and encourage one another in ministry while they provide the best quality care to their care receivers. It's a model that has enabled life-changing ministry to happen in thousands of Stephen Ministry congregations since 1975.

If you are experiencing a difficult time in your life and think you might need a Stephen Minister, or would just like to know more about the Stephen Ministry program at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, contact one of the pastors or our Stephen Ministry Leader, Barbara Simpson.



New Stephen Ministers: Bill DeWitte, Rona Costello, Fanya Morton, Trish Vaughan, Chris Silkensen, Mary McGhee-Pasternak, and Selena Kairys



In Matthew 28:19, just before the ascension, Jesus tells his Disciples *"¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"* This is known as Jesus' Great Commission and is

reflected in the mission statement of the United Methodist Church which says, "The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

While this has been our mission for many years, we have lost our focus on intentional discipleship making as we have become immersed in the many ministries and activities in our day-to-day lives in the church. This inward focus has been at the expense of our overarching mission. Recognizing this, the Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church began an initiative called "See All the People." Through this initiative, they are helping local churches, like Fredericksburg UMC, to develop discipleship systems.

In the words of Discipleship Ministries, "The most essential step for making disciples of Jesus Christ is to immerse ourselves in the lives of the people who are right outside our doors, acknowledging that God calls us to have meaningful relationships in authentic, organic and consistent ways. See All The People means having a discipleship system that begins with being in relationship with those around our churches."

Last year, Fredericksburg UMC formed a "See All the People" Taskforce to lead our church through the development and implementation of a discipleship system. To date, the Taskforce has met a number of times to work on this system, there have been discussions with the Church Council, and the Lenten sermon series and small group discussions on the life of Peter called "Come, Follow Me" have been in support of this effort.

Over the next months, and likely years, you will see and hear more information on See All The People. During

this time, please know that you are doing great things for Christ and that Fredericksburg UMC has most, if not all, of the pieces of discipleship making through the many, many wonderful ministries within our church, our community, and around the world. Our hope is that the See All The People initiative will provide the glue to bring our focus to the main thing, and that is "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World".

The See All the People Taskforce consists of Pastor Gina and Pastor Josh, as well as David Berry, Mike Cotter, Mark Earnesty (Church Council Chair), Denise Gates, John Mann, Bob Pickett, and Larry Tubbs. We would love to hear your thoughts on See All the People and on discipleship making at Fredericksburg UMC.

#seefumc

Tailgate food, Super Bowl game and fellowship....



At a recent SEEK Team meeting, a member of the team boldly said "Let's do a Super Bowl party and invite congregation as well as our Community Dinner friends." From this small spark of energy and desire to share,

an amazing outreach occurred. Approximately 15 of our Community Dinner friends, as well as another 35 FUMC folks gathered for the First Annual Souper Bowl. Cans of soup were collected for the FUMC pantry, laughs were shared, but most importantly the love of Christ as neighbors and friends was strongly present. The crowd was made up of all ages from preschool to seniors- all sharing in a bond of fellowship. How amazing to see the desire of one person's heart to grow into such a great beginning to "See all the People." Stay tuned for more similar events-and if you have a "spark" to share, contact one of the SEEK Team chairs (Denise Gates or Larry Tubbs).





In February, our students enjoyed a visit from Jackson, a local therapy dog! Jackson impressed us with his reading and spelling skills! We are looking forward to Jackson visiting us again in April!

One of our main focuses this school year has been increasing the safety and security of our students and staff during preschool hours. As a result, we have implemented new

security measures within the preschool area of the church. A monitor linked to the church security cameras has been set up in the preschool office. In April, the preschool will be funding the cost to install a blue strobe light alert system in each of the preschool classrooms, the preschool office, the church nursery, Kobler Hall, and the reception desk area. Wireless alert buttons can be used to trigger the lights in case of a security emergency within the building. This system will also be available for use by the Children's Ministry Coordinator on Sundays during church activities. This investment will benefit the preschool and the church as a whole.

As always, we are so thankful for our senior volunteers: Don Swanlund, Don and Mary Grace Becker, and Rona Costello. They provide valuable assistance to our teachers, and our students love the connections they have made with our volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in the preschool, please contact Preschool Director, Becky Patrick, at preschool@fumcva.org or 540-899-3172.



Kids With Purpose - "Serve one another humbly in love." Galatians 5:13

FUMC's Kids With Purpose program met for eight weeks



this winter from January to March. KWP is a mission-based children's program for kids in grades Kindergarten - 5th, which focuses on serving others, either locally or globally.

Each week was a fun adventure, with a different theme, Bible verse and project. Some of the favorite projects included: a visit from Amos the SPCA therapy dog, helping the UMM pack flood buckets for UMCOR, and making posters for the Upward basketball players with some students from REACH.

Jesus spent his entire life serving others, and taught us to do the same. All it takes to serve is a little time and energy. We witnessed that small acts



can have a HUGE impact. Over the course of the eight weeks, our Kids With Purpose children helped roughly 1,000 people! Thank you to the kids and parents who participated!

Sunday School - Digging into Discipleship

We took a leap of faith in the fall and began a new format and curriculum series called: Dig In - "Digging Into the Heart of God." This curriculum brings a fresh approach to teaching kids what it means to become disciples of Jesus, and how to reflect God's love for us in their everyday lives. Each weekly scriptural reference contains a theme and real-life application, which is reinforced through object lessons, videos, games and crafts. Quarters One and Two have taken us on a journey beginning with Genesis, through Daniel. We've met Moses, Samuel, David, Saul, Mephibosheth, Elijah, Elisha, Nehemiah, and Daniel.



One of the favorite lessons was learning how God is mysterious, where the kids were led on a Clue-style hunt to solve a mystery! We are so appreciative of the parental feedback we've received thus far. The kids are really enjoying this new format!

I have a dream...of basketball?

Did you know that when Kobler Hall was designed, part of the dream was that it would be a place for kids to play basketball? But WHAT does basketball have to do with Jesus and the work of our



church? Ask those who participated in FUMC Upward's basketball in any capacity over the last 7 years and they can tell you!

Upward Sports is a nation-wide

organization whose mission is to promote the discovery of Jesus through sports. Upward can be found in 2,600 churches across 46 states. Sports range from basketball to flag football to soccer to cheerleading to baseball/softball.

Mark Earnesty brought Upward's basketball to FUMC 7 years ago, running the league with 50 kids ranging in age from Kindergarten to 6th grade. Adam Sutton joined forces with him and they tripled the league in size. This year, 200 kids placed! Basketball teams practice once a week and you'll hear the sound of dribbling, shooting and laughter Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30pm – 8:30pm in Kobler Hall. Games take place Saturdays from 8:30am – 4:30pm and FUMC is busting with those 200 kids and their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends all coming to watch them play!

But wait, what is the connection to Jesus?? Kids may come for the basketball, but they are exposed both directly and indirectly to the message of our Lord and Savior. After each practice, coaches lead kids in a short devotion. This year's devotional themes were Honor, Endurance and Faith.

At half-time of each game, Mike Cotter and his team of volunteers (FUMC youth and respected community leaders) lead a devotional. This year's theme was the "I AM" statements of Jesus. (As in, "I am the bread of life.") Check out the signs on the wall of Kobler Hall!

A safe, loving environment is provided for the kids to learn the game of basketball. Equal playing time, sportsmanship and team play are emphasized. Respect of coaches, referees and other players is practiced and preached.

Upwards basketball, competitive? Absolutely. You can't find a more intense game than some of the 5th/6th grade games that we've watched this season. Ties, buzzer beaters, you name it. It was awesome! BUT, the highlights for many of us are the moments

when a kindergartner shoots his first shot and the whole crowd celebrates with him/her. Or when a player falls, and his/her opponent stops and helps them up. Ask any of the 70+ volunteers and we will each have a story (or 10) to tell you about our favorite Upward moments.



Additional highlights this year included: An Upwards food drive that brought in over 400 pounds of food; the Youth group's weekly concession sales that helps support their summer mission trips; and Upward Sunday where, yes parking may have been challenging, but we overflowed Kobler Hall for the 9:45 service, enjoyed a reception and then celebrated with a highly entertaining magic show and season-highlight slideshow.

The 2019 Upward Season may have drawn to a close, but the memories (and the lessons) will stay with those of us who were blessed to participate in it for a long time

Youth Sabbath

What do puzzle pieces and broken spoons have in common? Youth of FUMC came together to share the message entitled "Beautiful" during the last weekend of February. Five of our graduating seniors stepped up to the pulpit to share their stories of how God is and has worked in their lives so far. Members of the FUMC youth group and Sunday School Classes assisted with serving our congregation by serving communion, praying, ushering and so much more. To some, broken spoons may be trash, but our youth made them into something beautiful just as God is doing in our lives.

Members of FUMC youth would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to everyone who helps support us. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support that helps us to learn more about God's love and share it with others.





Better Health

Lent is a time for serious self-reflection. We examine our relationship with Jesus Christ and use those 40 days to think about the sacrifice Jesus made for us. What an appropriate time to think about the lifestyle choices we make. Did you know that about 40% of chronic diseases are due to how we chose to live? From the foods we eat, our sleep habits and how we socialize, we are responsible for our bodies and it is an act of submission to honor our bodies and care for them in ways that are pleasing to God.

The goal of the Better Health Ministry is to support church members in all aspects of health: in Body, Mind, Spirit, Socially, and Emotionally.

Every Wednesday from September through mid-May, health care professionals give a presentation from 6:30pm to 7:30pm followed by questions and answers. Some of our featured speakers this year have been, Dr. Mark McClannahan, endocrinologist, Dr. Pascal Ngongmon, sleep specialist, Dr. Kristen Park, Physical Therapist, Dr. John Cook, podiatrist, Dr. Yvonne Villarreal, integrative medicine, Dr. Kash Eagleton, Physical Therapist, Dr. Craig Henzler, chiropractor, and Donna Hetrick, certified clinical nutritionist and a blood chemistry analyst just to name a few. When have you been able to ask a health care professional just about anything you can imagine at no cost! These professionals have been selfless with their time and talents and are amazing!

The Better Health Ministry Health Topics are a

wonderful opportunity for you to invite your friends and neighbors to attend FUMC. It's a great way to share one of the great things our church has to offer.

If you can't make it to the session, (and with the permission of the presenter) you may attend by way of ZOOM or FaceTime. As part of the CHATI ministry (Connecting Hearts Across The Internet) you can be virtually transported from your living room into room 236, the Infant Comfort room, and see the presentation in real time. If you have an email, you have a seat in the class! Just email Betterhealth@fumcva.org to be connected and to find out more!

Upcoming topics

April 3, Mark P. Eid, Dermatologist

April 10: Dr. V. Gupta. Sleep Specialist

APRIL 17TH NO BETTER HEALTH PROGRAM (NO DINNER)

April 24th. CPR and AED training for everyone (know what to do in a crisis!)

Better Health is a choice!

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As you post pictures of events and discipleship



opportunities this year, tag then as [#seeFUMC](#). During your Easter Celebrations, and pictures at the cross, tag [#EasterInTheBurg](#) so we can all see and celebrate our Christian family traditions and moments.



## Staff Parrish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Our staff has grown and changed in the first quarter of 2019. We welcomed *Robert Baird* into a full-time status, with his hiring into the Financial Administrator role. Adding this to his position as our Organist, allowed us to have him full time! We are so excited and blessed to have Robert sharing his musical and financial talents with our church. Robert may be reached by email at [robertbaird@fumcva.org](mailto:robertbaird@fumcva.org) or by phone at 540-373-9021 x 102.



We also are so blessed to have *Rev. Dr. Jim Ginther* on staff as our Associate Pastor of Congregational Care. Pastor Jim brings a wealth of experience and knowledge, paired with a caring heart which will be a true gift to our congregation. If you would like to reach out to Pastor Jim, his email is [pastorjim@fumcva.org](mailto:pastorjim@fumcva.org) or you can reach him on the church line at 540-373-9021 x 111 or the Care Line 540-388-0012.



The Boy Scouts of America annually celebrates its founding of the program started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907. Boy Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the middle 1940's and is celebrated the Sunday preceding February 8th by most denominations. The Annual United Methodist observance of Boy Scout Sunday is the second Sunday in February each year.

The Boy Scout Sunday tradition was started to bring awareness of Scouting and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

This year, Fredericksburg United Methodist Church celebrated Boy Scout Sunday on February 10th with grand participation from 32 of our Scouting youth! Members of FUMC Cub Scout Pack 170, Cub Scout Pack 57, BSA Troop 165, BSA Troop 179, and BSA Troop 1404 served in the three Sunday services. All of the Scouts led the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Promise and Scout Law.

Pastor Gina and Pastor Josh were instrumental in working with Scouting Coordinator Marci Dishman, to incorporate the boys roles in the services. Scout service duties included acolyting, greeting and ushering, communion serving, call to worship, scripture reading and leading prayer. Boy Scouts Sam Snead and Jack Valasko each gave a personal presentation of "Why Scouting is Important to Me."

The UMM charters three Scouting Units at FUMC, Cub Scout Pack 170, Boy Scout Troop 170 and Girl Scout Troop 263. Together, these units member around 160 Scouts. Boy Scout Sunday is just one way that our Scouts are able to give back to our chartering organization and loving congregation at FUMC. Scouting units also participate in the annual Scouting For Food food drive each fall, UMM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Girl Scout Sunday in March, and many other service opportunities throughout the year! Thank you FUMC for supporting our Scouting ministries!

To learn more about becoming a Cub Scout or earning religious recognitions through Scouting, visit [www.cubpack-170.com](http://www.cubpack-170.com). For any Scouting inquiries contact Marci Dishman, [marciadishman@me.com](mailto:marciadishman@me.com).





# The Life of Reverend James W. Smith Jr.

By Olivia Brooks

## What did he do for FUMC?

This article about Reverend James W. Smith, Jr. was written as part of my Girl Scout Gold Award. The goal of my project is to inform the

church community about what the archives committee does by doing an oral history from beginning to end and turning it into an article that could be shared with the church. For this piece, I interviewed Mrs. Charlotte Edge, who is the daughter of Reverend Smith, and transcribed it into a document that will be kept in the archives for Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. The transcription of the interview, along with the oral histories of many other members of our church are preserved in the archives for current and future members of FUMC. Personally, I hope that this article leaves you more aware of how Fredericksburg United Methodist Church came to be what it is to today and that it inspires you to learn more about the history of one of the oldest churches in Fredericksburg.

## Who was Reverend James W. Smith Jr.?

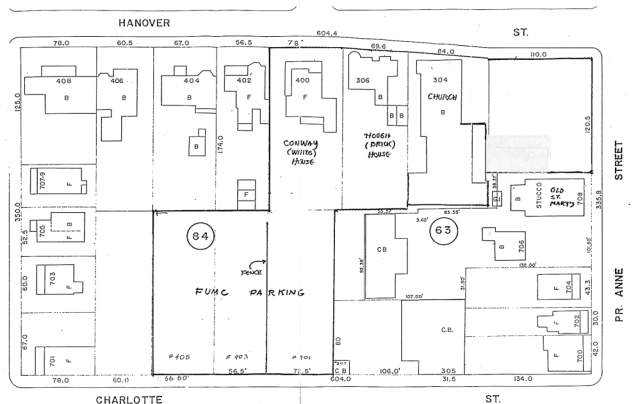
Reverend Smith was the pastor at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church for 8 years, from 1954 to 1962, and during his tenure, he made significant impacts on the church. First and foremost, the most notable contribution of his included the acquisition of several properties around what was the church at that time. The properties are now the Methodist Green, Sunday school rooms, and the church parking lots by Kobler Hall.

The first property acquired during Reverend Smith's tenure was the Coleman House, which is now known as the Conway House. The house was purchased for \$19,700 in January of 1955 as one of Reverend Smith's first major changes since he started his position in October 1954. Later, in 1958, the Van Valzah House was purchased for \$20,000. This property was located between the Coleman House and the Church, and its land, coupled with the land behind the Coleman House, was used for the parking lot we have today. Furthermore, the Van Valzah House, also known as the Hough house, was utilized for Sunday school classrooms, and today, it holds that same purpose in addition to housing the library and pastoral offices. Lastly, one of the most important acquisitions that may be attributed to Reverend Smith and the church community was the Forbes House, which was purchased for \$36,000 after much encouragement from Reverend Smith. You may be wondering what this house is today. The property is located on the corner of Hanover and Princess Anne Streets, but there is no house to be found there. The house on the property was quite old at the time of the procurement and so the sellers salvaged what they could and the building was torn down. Afterwards, the church seeded the land and now the area is known as the Methodist Green. Without the foresight of Reverend Smith to purchase these three properties in particular, "this church would have had to move the church - move someplace else so they could expand," according to Charlotte Edge. It is for that reason that Reverend Smith's time at the church was a vital period in preparing the church for what it could be - what it is today.



## FUMC property on Hanover, Princess Anne, and Charlotte Streets

In addition to the properties, Mr. Smith had oth-



er impacts on the church and the community. In regards to the church, imagine the sanctuary with its architectural ceiling. It is all painted white today, but that is because of a very close vote during Reverend Smith's tenure. Additionally, Reverend Smith engaged with the community with gestures such as hosting parties for high-schoolers after football games. Originally, the

gatherings for teenagers were part of a program occurring only in the summer, but Rev. Smith was the one who proposed that the Methodist Church expand it into the school year so that students would have a safe place to go on Friday nights. Charlotte Edge also noted that her father was "mission minded," which was quite evident as during his tenure, FUMC sponsored its first missionaries.

Reverend James W. Smith Jr., however, was just one of many people who had an influence on Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Others like him, who made a difference in Fredericksburg and in our church, should never be forgotten or their impacts overlooked. For that reason, this article is hopefully the first of several features on historical aspects of FUMC.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE MISSION OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE, CONTACT MARGARET MOCK AT [church.archives@fumcva.org](mailto:church.archives@fumcva.org)

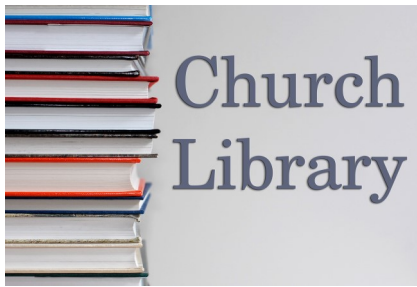
## Blessing re-defined.....

Community Dinner is hosted by FUMC on the second Saturday of each month. Faithful servants of all ages take part in preparing food, serving food, washing dishes, cleaning tables, offering beverages, and taking time to pray and offer words of encouragement to our guests. Our guests come from diverse backgrounds and life situations. Some are homeless, some are Micah clients, and some are just folks looking for a time of fellowship and sharing with friends.

But on one particular snowy Saturday, I was reminded of another aspect of Community Dinner that caused me to re-define the blessings that occur at this monthly event. One guest was leaving for the night, bundled in a warm ski suit, hat, sturdy boots and gloves with a large backpack of belongings. Many of us hugged and bid this guest to be careful in the snow covered streets. This guest blessed many of us by saying "you all be careful driving home...it's getting bad out there." The radiant smile on her face as she offered her concern for us was a blessing to many of us who had come to serve. Truly I can speak for others who were blessed in a way words can't describe. It was a reminder that our guests come not only for food, but for much more.....to give and receive God's love in some unusual and genuine ways!!!



## COMMUNITY DINNER



Yes, FUMC does have a library. It's on the left side of the hallway, next to the last room before the doors to the outside and almost across from Carol's office. It's a work in progress but I will soon have the larger groups of books labeled.

Book check-out is simple. Borrow the book you are interested in, read it, return it in a timely manner so that others can enjoy it also. **Please respect** the Sunday School material at the far end of the shelves and the UMW books on the separate bookshelf between the Sunday School section and the mantel. Both of these book selections

have a check-out system.

1. The Sunday School books are listed on the clipboard - check out is usually for the purpose of book selection for Sunday School study material. You may contact Jean Himmel, [jhimmel41@gmail.com](mailto:jhimmel41@gmail.com), and she will get the book out of storage for you, then you can sign it out on the back page of the clipboard. If you are returning Sunday School books, please put them down in this labeled section so that they do not become mixed up with the books being donated. Cross your name off the clipboard sheet.

2. The UMW selection is open to the entire church but requires that you sign your name and phone number on the card paperclipped to the book and insert that card behind the appropriate letter (first letter of title) in the recipe box. Then when you return the book put the card back under the paper clip and put it back on the UMW shelf. If you don't mind - fill out a reading sheet, found in notebook on a lower shelf and put that under the alpha letter that matches your last name.

#### Book Exchange/Giveaway Opportunity

Due to the number of books being donated to the library and the limited shelf space, the FUMC library is hosting a book exchange/giveaway table in the Gathering Space during the month of May. This is how it will work.

1. If you have some religious-content books you'd like to make available to others, just bring them in and spread them out on the table. Feel free to take a couple for yourself.
2. If you don't have any books you want to move on to others feel free to look over the ones there and adopt one or more - no questions asked, no donations requested.
3. Any books left on the table at the end of the month will be donated to either the library or one of our second-hand stores for resale.

Thanks for participating!

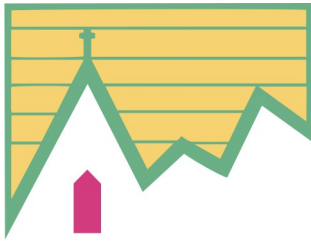


The Bazaar Committee is excited to announce that we have started working on the Biennial FUMC BAZAAR. This successful event has taken place since 1983 and has allowed us to contribute thousands of dollars back to our FUMC Family. The committee members cordially invite you to join us as we create items for the Bazaar. All are welcome and encouraged. We have planned workshops in the Fellowship Hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. If you are unable to attend a work-

shop, but are interested in finding how you can support this ministry with your time or talent, please reach out to Sharon Bradshaw, 540-373-8245. (Please leave a message if Sharon does not answer on the first call. She will call you back.) SAVE THE EVENT DATES: Friday and Saturday, November 1&2 - MORE TO COME!

The Committee is also pleased to confirm we will be having the FESTIVAL OF WREATHS this Fall. This fun Silent Auction style event is open to EVERYONE. More to come, but interested people are invited to call Sharon Bradshaw, 540-373-8245. Fall will be an exciting time for our Committee and the ministry opportunities we will be able to provide for requests that aren't already included in the operating budget. We look forward to your participation.





## Hello Fellow Members!

A quick update on our financial status through March 2019.

- Due to (1) a reduction of expenditures in 2018, and (2) generous end of year offerings by all of YOU – a balance of \$105,155.09 was brought forward to 2019. Our 2019 budget was approved with a deficit of \$80,053.40, so the positive rollover into 2019 stands at +\$25,101.69. The finance committee has elected to not expand the 2019 budget and treat the surplus as rainy day capital.

## Church FINANCES.

Your 20/20 giving has allowed us to reduce the principal on Kobler Hall by \$40,000, bringing the remaining balance down to \$1,022,855.76.

- All apportionments (\$43,278.75) have been paid to date.
- Regarding this quarter's giving, your tithes and offerings have contributed to an income balance of \$316,141.61, which is slightly below our budgeted target of \$337,479.88.

Thank you for giving to Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. ALL of what WE do would not be possible if it were not for YOUR generosity!

Regards, *David Bertauski*

Finance Committee Chairman

We hope you're enjoying the **Generosity Moments** in the worship services. The Generosity Committee, based on feedback after the fall stewardship campaign, felt it was important for all of us to understand the various ministries our church supports. In a large church, there are a lot of ministries! You can expect to hear different messages each week throughout this year. And if you have feedback about these moments, we'd love to hear from you!

THANK YOU for your gifts to Fredericksburg United Methodist Church!

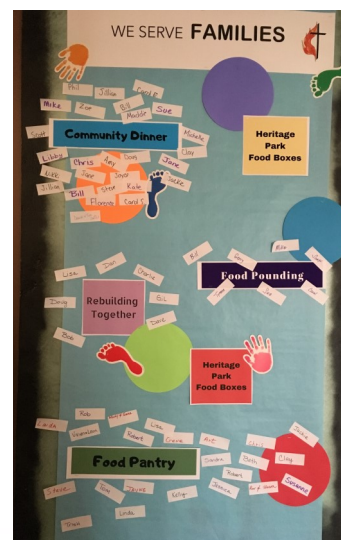
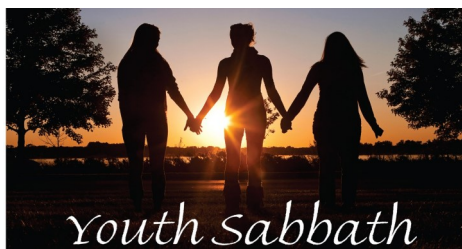


## Special Handicapped Seating in Sanctuary

The Board of Trustees at FUMC is very cognizant of the handicapped needs of our church and is very pleased to have recently completed a project in our church Sanctuary that has been overlooked for awhile. The addition of three handicapped seating areas has been added to accommodate wheel chairs, rollators, walkers and other necessary seating requirements. You may have noticed the three areas in the center aisle where the pews have been shortened. These seating areas have been reserved for those who may need special seating, and we want to encourage everyone who may have need of these special seating areas to please use them. We also want to encourage our members to assist anyone who may need this assistance to locate the seating and to also request that these areas not be used for any other purposes.



The funding for this project was provided by a memorial gift and is intended to provide greater comfort for many of our members while they enjoy our worship services and other Sanctuary activities. The Board of Trustees would like to thank Kurt Nordstrom and Bill Evans who helped make this special project happen. The Board also thanks everyone for making sure that this seating is available for everyone who may need it.



## Join us for Holy Week and Easter



April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 18 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 PM

April 19 - Good Friday Service, 7:30 PM

April 20 - Holy Saturday Service, 5:00 PM

April 21 - Easter Breakfast, 7:00 - 11:00 AM

April 21 - Easter Egg Hunt, after each service

### Easter Sunday Services

8:00 AM - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

9:30 AM - Contemporary Service with our Praise Band in Kobler Hall

11:00 AM - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

[EasterInTheBurg.com](http://EasterInTheBurg.com)