Dear Friends,

For me I truly enjoyed the joint Bible Study with Scott’s and Trappe churches each Wednesday evening on the Gospel of John. It was very encouraging to see so many people come out each night. I am amazed at how well Adam Hamilton developed the study on such a long book into a six-week study. We need each other to help us better understand the ways of God. I thank God for him.

I am looking forward to the April events in the life of the Charge. Being new, it is all NEW to me!

During the month of May there are two very important days in the life of our church and nation: Mother’s Day and Memorial Day. You may want to use these days as an opportunity to invite a mother or a veteran to the Lord’s House.

See You in Church!
Rev. Gary L. Moore

Jobs Well Done!

Dan Gustafson, Nancy Dunn and all who helped honor St. Patrick through a delicious Irish Dinner on March 17.

Nancy Dunn, Sarah Sewell, Elizabeth Myers, and all who helped them in creating a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt Experience.
PRAYERS FOR APRIL AND MAY

A Prayer for Trust in God When Sick

O God, source of all health: So fill my heart with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy I may make room for your power to possess me, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Very Short Prayer

Henri Nouwen tells of a monk who did not speak for 20 years but only prayed this prayer as he walked from place to place. Rev. Moore has found this very short prayer meaningful in the midst of a busy day:

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy.”

TECHNOLOGY IN THE SANCTUARY by Cathy Sewell

Since 2011 I have not been able to attend church because of mobility problems. How I have missed the fellowship, the music, the stained glass windows, and the Word. Sunday mornings were times of isolation for me. Then Rev. Moore (and APPLE) came up with a solution: FaceTime.

Each Sunday Rev. Moore sets up his iPhone near the altar and gives me a call. My iPad “jingles” cheerfully, and I press the green telephone icon in FaceTime to answer. Voilà! We are connected. It almost seems like magic to me. I can see the congregation, the choir, the lay reader, and Rev. Moore, depending on where the phone is “looking.” Rev. Moore kindly adjusts the phone to follow the movements during the service.

I see our church family’s smiling faces, watch my grandson light the altar candles, and feel like I am once again “walking in” with the choir. I feel included.

Best of all, I hear the music—Bo on the piano before the service, Jane and Dottie playing the organ, and the anthem and the hymns as they are sung—and I experience the Word as the Scripture is read and the message is given. Rev. Moore has a gift for preaching direct, easy to follow messages carrying complex ideas that keep me pondering all week long. For example, I always wondered why the dishonest manager won his master’s praise in Luke 16. I learned from the sermon that the message is generosity. Who is more generous than our God? Rev. Moore pointed out that generosity is a mark of good health, and when the Church is generous, we are reflecting God’s generosity to the world. That made me think of all the shoe boxes, bags of food, cookies, and other supplies that have been placed on our altar and distributed over the years. I felt blessed to be a part of that generosity.

And certainly I am blessed to be with you all once again on Sunday mornings. So if you wonder why Rev. Moore is fooling around with his phone before the service, he’s not just Twittering or reading his email or checking on the weather. He is preparing to see that the members his flock are “well-fed,” even the ones out in the fields!

Technology has a place in the Sanctuary. It can connect us and enhance the worship service.
Six months ago I wrote about the newest member of Faith Chapel. Today I talked with the two members with the longest membership. Sisters Rosemary Cole and Shirley Adams are two of eleven children in their family who attended Faith Chapel as children. Rosemary tells me that every Sunday they were dressed in their Sunday outfits and walked to church whether it was sunshine, rain, or snow, unless the snow was too deep. Sunday School was carried out in the three corners of the church. There was a class for the toddlers and children who had learned to read, a class for school-aged children, and an adult class. She recalls her first teacher was Mrs. Watts, and when they entered the school aged class, the teacher was Mrs. Mullikin. Returning home, they changed and their outfits were put away for the next Sunday as they had everyday clothes, school clothes, and the one Sunday outfit that had to be taken care of and not soiled.

Mothers Day, Children’s Day, Easter, and Christmas all require a “program” to be held where the children recited parts that sometimes were Bible verses. The Christmas program was the best because after the parts were recited, Santa came and each child was given a colorful box of hard candy and an orange. (I remember that from my childhood Sunday School days up in Monkton, Maryland.)

Rosemary was enamored by a lady who always knelt in prayer upon entering and leaving the church. That picture is planted firmly in her memory.

The first minister Rosemary recalls was named Prettyman with many to follow over the years. She evens recalls one man who chewed tobacco regularly.

Shirley says Rosemary has a better memory, but she also told me about the classes being held in the corners of the church. No separations, but they learned their lessons well. When Shirley married, she left Faith to become a member of the Wesleyan Church where her husband Donovan attended. After his death, she returned to Faith and sits faithfully with Rosemary in the same pew every Sunday.

Rosemary is the calendar keeper and alerts Bobby at the organ if there is a birthday or anniversary that week. Shirley has headed up the church yard sale since the beginnings in 1998. Rosemary was her right hand woman until her health has kept her home more. Shirley continues to chair the yard sale responsible for many dollars that support our churches and also now Shirley shops for the breakfasts. She had lots of practice with this because for many years she planned, shopped, cooked, and served the Lions Club dinners once a month with other ladies of the church.

I shall never forget Pastor Hank Charlton paying a visit to our home and telling us about the four Ladies of Faith. Two of those ladies were Shirley and Rosemary. He asked Paul and I if we would consider coming there to help support this little chapel. We have never looked back because we were welcomed graciously by these two ladies as well as the other two “Ladies of Faith.” Now these two ladies are still with us, and how thankful we are for Rosemary and Shirley. They are truly children of God.

Thanks to all who worked on and attended the St. Patrick’s Day dinner. There was no food left, but $650 was raised for UMW ministries!
A GREAT BIG THANKS by Jane Brooks

Do you believe in fairies, elves, or leprechauns? Well, I’m not sure, but I do know how clean and nice the sanctuary is looking. So if you don’t think that the “wee folks” are doing the work, could it be angels?

The cleaning is a blessing, especially since we lost our long-time faithful cleaner, Earlene Foster. Not only is the church cleaned but also Wesley Hall. That’s why a great big thank you needs to be expressed to the angels who are making sure everything is sparkling for the Sunday services and other activities happening at Trappe. We appreciate the efforts and hope to have an old-fashioned church-wide “spring cleaning” soon. Volunteers will be quite welcome for that event!

Jane would like to start a Thank You Box which will be placed in the church. Drop your suggestions in the box, and the thank yous will be delivered through the newsletter. See Jane for more details.

THE MAGIC OF HOSPITALITY – THANK YOU, NANCY DUNN

Nancy Dunn is a born organizer who derives great pleasure from helping others and that contributes to us having an active, social church. She can routinely be seen helping with the Country Church Breakfasts, but she also does a lot of its purchasing and prep work behind the scenes.

Nancy and Sarah Sewell run the Youth Sunday School and manage a unique and tasty Red and Green Fellowship each December along with an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday.

March brings St. Patrick’s Day and our annual dinner to celebrate the Wearing of The Green – because of Nancy and her gathering of people, food, decorations, and good cheer to make it happen. Nancy especially enjoys chatting with a variety of people at events making them feel especially welcome, and sometimes she gets them helping, too.

She is also behind or involved with many other church and community projects that keep her very busy and often raise money to benefit our church and others.

Hospitality stands as a centerpiece of the church, and Nancy is instrumental in seeing that this is one of our church’s most significant outreach characteristics. Hospitality is given a place of great importance in the teachings of the Bible, and our Trappe/Bruceville Charge is very lucky to have Nancy Dunn working for the benefit of our community.

Nancy ready for St Patrick’s Day!
LIBRARY NEWS by Charlotte Edwards

There are some very nice Easter books in our church library and the Little Free Library. Please visit, peruse the shelves, make your selections and enjoy.

A new addition to our library is Letters from War by Mark Shultz written with Travis Thrasher. Mr. Shultz is a widely acclaimed singer-songwriter. He has touched millions with his song, “Letters from War.” This book takes you deeper into that story. It is a story of the love a family has for their soldier who is missing in action. Their emotions are expressed through prayer and shared letters as they attempt to maintain a normal life. It certainly exemplifies how Faith sustains us through the darkest of circumstances. A great read.

On a lighter note, another addition is Through the Bible in High Heels by Alice Hellstrom Anderson. "You will learn, laugh and cry with the women of the Bible from Eve to Priscilla." Miss Anderson has taken some liberties to make these women real and relevant to the lives of women today, but she does assure us that she has not taken theological liberties to make these stories better. Reading about these women is fun, educational and inspiring. Happy Reading.

SECOND SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

There is a sign up sheet for our 2nd Sunday Fellowships in the back of the church. Please do get together with a friend or two or three - in or out of the church - and volunteer to provide refreshments. New ideas are ... refreshing. It is not difficult and provides a time for us to spend more fellowship together - which is always a good thing. If you need more information and don’t know who to ask, ask the person nearest to you. If they don’t know, they will point out someone who will know - unless the church is empty.

Leona, Estelle, and Elena serving up goodies at a Second Sunday Fellowship
GREETERS AND USHERS

I want to thank Drake and Elizabeth for taking my place while I was in the hospital. The schedule is

April
Jane Geist and Debby Howard
Libby Slaughter and Charmel Hickman

May
Thank you and God Bless.
Ellen Whitby

Welcome Back
Ellen!
We missed you!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday names and dates are not included in the on-line edition of
The Tidings to protect the privacy of our members and friends.

Happy Birthday!
Happy Anniversary!

Tidings

Next deadline for articles, etc., is May 15.
Next issue for June/July/August available at the end of May.
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

These Highlights are from the March 10, 2016 meeting:

- Please send Cathy Sewell any announcements, events, etc. that pertain to the Charge for distribution
- Proceeds for St. Patrick’s dinner will go to the charge UMW for their missions
- The parsonage rental will be managed by The Diamondback Real Estate Services
- TUMC garden clean-up will be held on April 16 from 9 am-12 noon
- Parsonage yard clean-up Saturday, April 2, 9am to 12 noon. Please bring any yard tools with you
- Next meeting May 19, 2016

⇒ UMW and UMM resuming Bible Study and meetings the second Wednesday in April.
⇒ UMW Tea rescheduled for April 2 from 2 to 4 pm
⇒ Everybody's Birthday set for April 17 at 4:30 pm

BELLS OF THE BAY RETURNING WITH AMERIICANA PROGRAM

Mark your calendars for
June 12 at 4:00 pm.

That’s when the Bells of the Bay will return to Trappe United Methodist Church for their second performance, this time featuring Americana music. The Trappe Volunteer Fire Department will be honored during the program. Plan to attend, enjoy beautiful music, and recognize the people who serve our community so faithfully through the Fire Department.

MARTHA’S CLOSET

Trappe: $72,976.40
Faith : $68,752.50
Total 1998 to present $141,728.90

Tidings is also available (and in color) on line at http://www.tfcumc.org/