

Pastor's Piece

Shortly after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, singer Alan Jackson wrote and released a song that asked the question: "Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?" As I recall where I was, I am sure many of you can do the same. At the time, I was serving Hopewell UMC, Port Deposit, MD. I was upstairs doing something in my bedroom and the television downstairs was not on. A parishioner came knocking at the door, and when I answered she began asking me questions. I had no clue what she was talking about until she told me to turn on the television. That is when I saw the devastation and destruction. After spending some time together, we began to do all we could to let the people of the church and community know that the church would be open that night for folks to pray.

But just as we ask each other, "Where were you?" I am sure people also asked God, "Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?" I believe God was there in the midst of this act of evil, grieving for the losses and bringing comfort to those affected.

In his sermon at the National Cathedral three days after the attacks, Rev. Billy Graham offered this response to questions about why God allows tragedy and suffering: "I have to confess that I do not know the answer. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and that He is a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering."

Rev. Graham said later in his message: "Here in this majestic National Cathedral we see all around us the symbol of the cross. For Christians, the cross tells us that God understands our sin and our suffering, for He took them upon Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ. From the cross God declares, 'I love you. I know the heartaches and the sorrows and the pain that you feel. But I love you.' The story does not end with the cross, for Easter points us beyond the tragedy of the cross to the empty tomb. It tells us that there is hope for eternal

life, for Christ has conquered evil and death and hell. Yes there is hope."

We approach the 10th anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. We remember the lives lost. But as we remember those who died, let us also remember that through Jesus Christ, we have hope for the future, for life eternal. Rev. Graham reminds us that "God can be trusted, even when life seems at its darkest." God is sovereign. God is in control. You can hold fast to Him no matter what life brings.

We will always remember. We will always have hope.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Maleia

Pastor's Pooch

Although I didn't get to make a personal appearance, I heard that the Strawberry Festival was a success. I am so glad because now Sunday School students will receive camperships for Camp Pecometh. I am also glad that Mom remembered to get one of Mr. Ron's pulled pork sandwiches. It was soooo good! Sometimes Mom and I go down to his stand in Cambridge and get one to split for lunch or dinner.

Overall this summer has been pretty laid back for me. When Mom and Pop-Pop went on vacation to Canada, I stayed at a pet resort. Unfortunately we were having those triple digit heat days. This kind of weather can be rough on dogs like me who have pushed in noses. I got overwhelmed by the heat and ended up at the vet's office. I was pretty sick for a while, but by the time word got to Mom, I was fully recovered. See, Mom turned off her cell phone in Canada, so she didn't find out about it until it was over. What was really cool was that Mom's cousin, Tara, works at my vet, so when I was well enough to leave, she took me home with her. I got to spend some time hanging out with her dogs. But, I was still really glad to see Mom when she got back.

Anyway, since I had this experience, Mom felt it would be to my benefit not to go out and do visits until it cools off some. I miss seeing all the folks in the nursing homes, but I'd rather not get that sick again.

We've had a new resident at the parsonage. We call him "Lenny." He is a lizard that seems to have taken up residence under the wooden patio in my run out back. I've seen him a couple of times, but he doesn't look like he would be very playful. Mom doesn't want him to be killed, but she would like him to go somewhere else to live. Anyone feel like trying to catch him and take him somewhere out of town? If Mom's research is right, Lenny is a Southeastern Five-line Skink. He isn't poisonous, but Mom doesn't care for critters that skitter about like Lenny does.

By the time you receive this, the churches will have taken an offering to send to UMCOR to assist those hit by floods and tornados in the US this summer. I saw pictures of the damage. It was awful. I sure hope everyone was a generous giver.

Also, please be extra careful driving now that school is back in session. I hope everyone has a safe and happy school year. I'm looking forward to going back for the reading program.

Woof! Woof!
Scamp

July 21 Administrative Council Minutes

Eight members attended.
The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
The chairman opened the meeting with prayer and scripture.

The June meeting minutes were approved.

Committees

Christian Education – Three campers went or are going to Camp Pecometh. Nancy will check about the camperships. Confirmation classes will be talked about soon.

UMW – Even though the ladies do not start meeting until September, they still deliver

flowers to shut-ins when available and visit people of the church.

Trustees – The hot water heater in Wesley Hall was fixed by Tri-Gas & Oil. The Trustees will call Mr. McCollough about an estimate for painting the board under the roof. The pest control company came to Trappe to do the yearly inspection. Maintenance has been done on the Wesley Hall air conditioning by Shaw's. The parsonage sidewalk will be fixed soon. Pastor Maleia sent an email to Mr. Turner about servicing our fire suppression system.

Emergency Fund – The committee had no requests. There are funds still available.

Church Library – It is still in process, and advertisement for the library is ongoing.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Maleia reported that there are 12 people going to the Conference Shorebirds Game. Our charge and Scotts UMC will be able to travel together on their bus. She and her dad are back from vacation. Comfort Keeper's sent a thank you note and donation for the use of Wesley Hall. We now have a new district superintendent, Rev. Gary Moore. Pastor Maleia will be making some visits soon.

Old Business

Incorporation Completion-Faith Chapel – The papers have not come back yet.

Brochure for Charge – Kristy Edwards will be willing to create this. Pastor Maleia will get in touch with her about it.

Activity at Trappetoberfest – It is going to be Saturday, October 1. Nancy is going to man the Information Booth, and she was thinking that people from our charge could help man the booth. There would be 5 shifts, so she would need about 5 volunteers. Maybe we could even serve water from the Information Booth. We will put information out about this soon.

Church Usage Policy – Tabled. Pastor Maleia will set up a meeting with the committee soon.

Church Picnic – It will be at Charlotte and Bill's house on Sun. August 28th from 2pm-5pm. People will need to bring chairs and covered dishes. If it rains, it will be at Wesley Hall.

Community Services on Sept. 11 – Nothing new to report yet. The pastors will meet soon to discuss the plans.

Brown Bag Collection – There will be a monetary collection in August to send to UMCOR for the victims of the U.S. spring storms.

New Business

Fellowship time for Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. – September's Fellowship will be the Community Service. December will be the Red and Green Fellowship. We will ask people to volunteer. New Plaque for Chime Box – A donor wants to make sure that there are plaques on the various things donated. The plaque on the chime box may need to be replaced because it is unreadable. We also may need to put a plaque on the front doors. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to ask the Trustees to look into replacing the chime box plaque.

Tidings Leadership – Mary Rae is stepping down from being the editor of the newsletter. Cathy will be the new editor and is asking the committee to help her. This should be a committee effort. We thank Mary Rae wholeheartedly for all her hard work as editor from 1996 – 2011.

Fuel Contracts for upcoming winter season – Rose has gotten the contract for fuel oil. Rose, Jane, and Pastor Maleia will work on creating and sending out this year's fuel letter.

Gaither Homecoming – This will be coming to the Wicomico Civic Center on Fri., Sept. 9 at 7pm. Pastor Maleia will let the charge know about this opportunity.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Thurs., August 18, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm with prayer provided by Pastor Maleia.

A Salute to a Fine Editor

The newsletter, *Tidings*, has been an inspiring form of communication for the church for quite

a few years now. That's because an editor with a willing heart has kept it moving on.

She chased down important stories, had patience with articles coming in after deadlines, and checked and rechecked to see that dates, names, and titles were correct. Not one issue was ever been delayed or cancelled. She worked with any challenges to meet the first-of-the-month deadlines.

In case you haven't figured out who this fine editor is, she's Mary Rae, and as she steps down from the editorship (but continues on the committee), let's salute her for all her work and dedication by saying, "Well Done!"

Church Library

The plan for the library is to have all books labeled and shelved by the time Sunday School starts. The loan process will be simple. Just remove the borrower's card from the back pocket and leave it in the designated area. There will also be a basket with small tracts or inspirational materials that you may take to give to others as you visit them or as needed. Ongoing book donations are always welcome and can be picked up as needed. The library will always be a work in progress and suggestions are welcome. Please visit, study, and especially enjoy!

Yard Sale

Thanks to all who donate (and shop!!)

United Methodist Women

All women of Faith Chapel and Trappe UMC are urged to attend the United Methodist Women's meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 14. We will make plans for the coming year as to how we can best serve our church and world missions.

The Prayer Line: Prayer in Action

Our church has supported an active Prayer Line for many years. One of our members has described it as prayer in action. So far this year we have received 24 prayer requests. Other years we received 65 or more requests. Members of the Prayer Line include these requests in our daily prayers. Many times we will receive follow-up calls indicating that our prayers have helped the lives of others. Prayer in Action!

The members of the Prayer Line are cognizant of the power of prayer and the importance of praying for the needs of others. We know that God hears all prayers, and prayers are answered. We realize that the answer may not always be what we ask for, but God knows the needs of each individual. We feel blessed to have the opportunity to intercede for others through prayer. We take this responsibility seriously and respect the confidence of others.

Members and friends of the church are part of our prayer in action. Your prayer requests take the form of prayer for healing, protection, compassion, and prayers of thanksgiving, to name a few. Requests are important to us whatever the reason. Many requests are for persons in distant places. Our concern is universal. You may place your requests by calling 410-822-5095. If requested, the name will be added to the Prayer List printed in the bulletin. Prayer requests are sent to all Prayer Line members as soon as possible. This allows your requests to be quickly put into action.

Jesus teaches us how to pray in Matthew 6: 4-15.

Trust in the Lord with
all your heart.

Proverbs 3:5

Fellowship Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 13, 2011. Plan to come to the 11:00 service at Trappe United Methodist Church as friends and visitors are invited to this service time together.

Immediately following will be a covered dish in Wesley Hall with time for fellowship for all.

Head Usher and Head Greeter Reports

I want to thank all the ushers and greeters for June, July and August. They all did a very good job. Thank you again and God bless all of you.

A Word from the New Editor

If you started at the beginning and read to this point, you know that Mary Rae is stepping down as editor of *Tidings*—I am very grateful that she is willing to continue on the committee because her expertise will be invaluable! I also want to thank Jane Brooks, Pastor Maleia Rust, and Ida Hickman who met and helped plan this edition of *Tidings*. They write articles, help track down news items, and do much more to bring you a lively newsletter.

Ida is the one who gets the newsletter physically ready to go, from having it run off to folding, sealing, and mailing. What would we do without all this cooperation?!

In the next few editions, I will be experimenting with layout, so let me know what you like and don't like. I have big shoes to fill, and I will need everyone's support to keep the communication flowing. Once more, thank you to everyone who helps get the newsletter together!

THE POWER OF FAITH

Count your blessings, instead of your crosses.
Count your gains, instead of your losses.
Count the yes's, instead of the no's.
Count your friends, instead of your foes.
Count your full years, instead of your lean.
Count your health, instead of your wealth.
And count on God, instead of yourself.

Source Unknown