



The Messenger

South Hill United Methodist Church

February 2016



In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized youth across the country to raise more than \$71 million for people in need.

Please drop \$1 (or more) in a soup pot on **Sunday, February 6th**. In addition to money, food items will be accepted. The youth group will present the food items and money to The Bread Box.

For more information on the Souper Bowl of Caring visit tacklehunger.org. Thank you for helping our youth group with this project.

Lenten Schedule

Prayer and Reflection

The Southside Clergy Association will be having Lenten Services at various local churches beginning on Ash Wednesday. Being mindful of people's lunch hours, these brief services will begin at 12:00 PM and are followed by a light lunch at 12:30.

February 10
February 17
February 24
March 2
March 9
March 16

Host Church
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
South Hill Presbyterian Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
South Hill Church of God
Gethsemane Baptist Church
South Hill United Methodist Church

Speaker
Gerry Kaggwa
Brian Siegle
Herman Lundy
Carl Walker
Sandi Libhart
Kevin Rosenfeld



STOP HUNGER NOW.

Tuesday, February 16
at 6:30 PM

40-50 volunteers are needed. All ages may participate.

See page 3 for more details.

The Pastor's Pen: Happy New Year!

Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring. Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters. (Revelation 21:5-7)



So 2016 has begun. Now what? We are still riding on the wave of activity from the end of 2015, and that's not a bad thing. 2015 was a great year for South Hill UMC. The fall brought new activity and energy. We have the regular addition of visitors in worship, and members seem truly excited to be in church. We had an entry in the South Hill Christmas parade for the first time since the mid 1980s, and pieces of the float continued to colorfully decorate the church yard throughout the Christmas season. The children's Christmas play was so well done and told a touching story of rekindled Christmas spirit that reminded us all how special this time of year is. Our multi-church choir cantata was beautiful, with participation from South Hill UMC, South Hill Presbyterian, and Clarksville Baptist churches. We had a very well attended Christmas Eve worship that seemed to touch many people, offering the story of God's incarnation in Scripture and carols, followed by sung communion and candlelight. And on top of that, we made all of our part of shared ministry expenses for the first time in a decade. This is a great wave to ride, indeed.

But we can't live in the past. 2016 brings new hope and new opportunities for ministry. As we continue to look around with new eyes into the community, let us be increasingly attentive to where might live the intersection of our resources, our passions, and the needs of those around us. Let the gifts God has blessed us with move us to action in new and exciting ways.

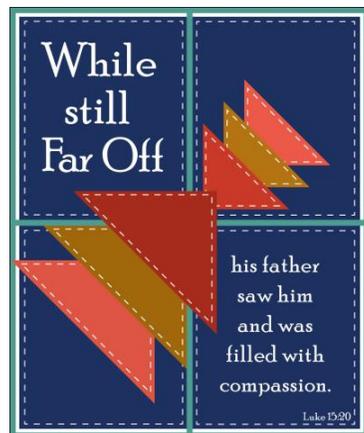
I have said many times, God keeps feeding me glimpses of what's coming. I don't have a full picture yet, but every time I catch a glance, I get so excited. God only knows where God is leading us, but I can't wait to journey with you all on the way there! May this truly be a Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian Siegle

Scripture Readings, Reflections and Prayer for the Season of Lent

In 2016, commit to a daily time of study, reflection, prayer, and giving during the season of Lent, the 40 days (plus seven Sundays) leading up to Easter, using devotional materials prepared by Society of St. Andrew.

Join with hundreds of congregations and thousands of individuals and families across the country and around the globe. Deepen your faith as you give generously to provide healthy food for our hungry brothers and sisters through the work of Society of St. Andrew during Lent, February 10 – March 24.



Traditionally, Lent is a season of penitence, a time of asking God's forgiveness for our sins, and seeking a new way of life in Christ, day by day, as we approach the death of Jesus and look forward to his resurrection.

Our 2016 title is *While Still Far Off*, recalling the story of the Prodigal Son. In the devotional booklet, you will find daily meditations and prayers that explore the theme of God's unmerited grace, reaching out to us in love even when we are not ready to receive it, written by people of deep and abiding faith: pastors and laypersons from many Christian traditions.

Copies are available at the church entrances and the church office.

Administrative Board Highlights

We just had our January Administrative Board meeting and here are some highlights:

- A. First of all I want to welcome our new board members. Thank you for answering the call to participate in the business aspect of our church.
- B. Financially we are very sound as per our Treasurer's Report from Rick Carroll. However, we do have some costly projects ahead.
- C. Our Property Committee Chairman Stuart Taylor gave a report on some major repair projects. These include leaking roofs, paving parking lots and other matters. Stuart will have a more detailed cost estimate to present at our March meeting. We have a very large facility to maintain and it is a constant process.
- D. There was no official youth report but let me assure you they are busy. How do we know? Because they were at the church working Sunday night.
- E. Missions is growing unbelievably. Thanks to all the volunteers and their dedication.
- F. The pastor reported on the fact that many things are going on in our church community. Please read your newsletter, church bulletin and visit our website to keep up to date on all the happenings. He also stated how amazed he is at the dedication of our members and how we strive to get things done. Praise God!

I also want to thank you members for your dedication and participation in our church activities. I can't possibly name all the activities you are involved in throughout the church but you know who you are and I thank God for you. See you in church. God Bless. *Glenn Barbour, Chair*

Missions: Opportunities for Service STOP HUNGER NOW



The South Hill United Methodist Church Missions team is hosting a STOP HUNGER NOW event on **Tuesday February 16th**. This is a real opportunity for hands-on missions to the less fortunate. We need approximately **40-50 volunteers** to set up the assembly lines. All ages are welcomed and are encouraged to have children and youth participate.

The food will be brought in by Stop Hunger in bulk cases. Our volunteers will assemble the food into packages by a prescribed formula established by Stop Hunger facilitators and support team. We will need several strong individuals that will carry the 50 pound completed boxed meals to the Stop Hunger van parked close by. A cart dolly will be provided. We plan to start packaging at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The church sponsored a similar event several years ago and it went real well. We should be completed with the majority of the packing within 1.5-2 hours.

This event is open to the general public as well and we would appreciate participation from all persons. **Sign-up sheets will be available in the Sunday School annex and church sanctuary. You may also call the church office at 447-4761.** Please join us in this worthwhile project of fun and fellowship! Refreshments will be available. The \$2900 cost is underwritten by the Missions team but donations are welcomed. To learn more about Stop Hunger Now go to their website www.stophungernow.org.



THE UPPER ROOM MINISTRY

Every month in The Upper Room is busy but December has really brought on extra ministry. We prepared 110 boxes for children who would not have gotten anything. The boxes include hygiene items, school supplies, clothes, toys, candy, and we always include a Christian book or Bible appropriate for their age. This gives us the opportunity to share our Father's love.

In addition to our regular work days and sale days, we helped two families who were burned out and lost everything. One was a family of five and one was a family of three. In the family of three was a young boy in the ninth grade. We were able to meet him and give him his Christmas box. He was so excited and his mother was in tears. She couldn't believe anyone would do something so nice for them. We were so blessed to be able to help these families. God is so faithful in blessing this ministry!

We are so grateful to our volunteers who give so freely of themselves and their time and for all the donations we receive.

Rick Carroll and Brenda Child, Missions Co-Chairs

A Financial Moment

Our church has completed the year with all our financial commitments met. I am encouraged by the increased giving and new faces we are seeing at the church. As reported to the church Administrative Board our tithes and offerings were up 10% over 2014. For the first time in 10 years we met all our apportionments to the Virginia Conference for the furthering of God's kingdom throughout this state, country, and abroad. For a copy of the final December 2015 Treasurer's Report or the 2016 approved budget see me or call the church office. Thanks for all your support to finish the year in such good standing. If you desire to have tithe envelopes you can call the church office or sign up in the church vestibule. *Rick Carroll, Treasurer*

Youth Group

Youth shopped for a family in crisis this Christmas. They also served hot chocolate at the Christmas Parade and received unsolicited donations, which were donated to the Bread Box. We look forward to many fun and faith filled upcoming events, including two retreats and a Super Bowl party at the parsonage. For the New Year, we each picked One Word to focus on during the year to see what God reveals to us through that word. Want to pick a word for yourself? Ask a Youth member! Finally, thank you, Pizza Fairy for the special delivery!



POWRful Worship: *Transforming Worship Planning and Leadership*

Join the 5 Talent Academy on Tuesday, March 8 for POWRful Worship: Transforming Worship Planning and Leadership. At this event we will worship together and then the Rev. Barbara Day Miller, the Associate Dean for Worship and Music at Candler School of Theology, will guide us through reflection on worship using the POWR model, a conversational model of worship planning and leadership. This pattern of planning engages hearts, minds and senses around the biblical texts, a process that deepens the worship experience and the spiritual life of the congregation.

Who Should Come? This event is designed for all who desire to plan and experience powerful worship. We suggest you bring those who assist in the planning, leading, and implementation of worship. We encourage you to bring a team from your church so that together you can experience the event and can take the information and new ideas back to your church together.

How much does it cost? This event costs \$25/person and lunch is provided. For this event we continue to offer discount pricing. If your church registers four attendees, you may register a fifth attendee for FREE. So, you can bring a team of five and will only be charged the price of four (\$100). This offer is only good at the time of registration—all 5 attendees must be registered together at one time. 0.5 CEU available for participation.

Learn more about this event and the 5 Talent Academy at vaumc.org/5talent.

Thy Will Be Done

Happy New Year! May the grace and peace from our risen Lord be with you.

The season of Christmas has passed, and we have welcomed a new year. God has given us a brand new opportunity to live for the glory of God. I pray this year will be filled with joy, peace and God's many blessings.

During this year, we will have many joys and celebrations, but also face many challenges and difficulties. We do not know our future, but we know who will lead us. We are not alone in our journey! Our risen Lord, who is faithful to keep his promises, is and will be with us. Therefore, we are very excited about the future our Lord will lead us into.

One of the important events on our schedules this year will be our General Conference (GC) which will be held in Portland, Ore., from May 10-20. Delegates representing The United Methodist Church from around the world will get together to celebrate our mission and ministries, to envision the upcoming years, to consider petitions and to make changes in the Book of Discipline, if the church discerns it necessary.

My prayer and hope is that GC will faithfully and prayerfully discern the will of God and reflect God's will in making all its decisions. If GC becomes only a battleground for political agendas, it will be a great shame not only to the whole United Methodist Church, but also to our Lord who is the head of our denomination. All of us need humility, open-mindedness and a willingness to follow our Good Shepherd who leads us today.

The Council of Bishops has invited each Annual Conference to designate a day for a 24-hour prayer vigil for GC. These prayer vigils will be held for 131 days from Jan. 1, 2016, to the opening day of GC, May 10. Interestingly, The United Methodist Church has 131 annual conferences throughout the world. The Virginia Conference chose April 10 as our day for a prayer vigil. It will be a conference-wide day of prayer, especially for GC. The detailed plan on how we will organize our 24-hour prayer vigil will be announced later.

I believe a new future will dawn for us if we go back to the Lord and join the movement to restore a biblical, authentic and vital church. A reactive plan to save our denomination will not work. Introducing a couple of new initiatives or programs may help our churches to some degree, but this would be like putting on bandages and will not bring a new future. For the past 40 years, we have tried this many times, but we have not seen much fruit.

What does it mean to restore a biblical, authentic and vital church? We may discuss this question from many perspectives, but I think the most important thing is to truly honor and respect the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our mission and ministries. It means to switch gears from my vision to Christ's vision and from my ministry to sharing in Christ's ministry.

We United Methodists often perceive ourselves to be too capable to humbly honor the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to seek the Lord's will. We try to do all our planning by ourselves and ask God's blessing in the end on our finalized plan. We are not used to seeking and discerning the Lord's will from the beginning to the end of our planning processes. So churches are busy doing many activities, but we do not plan or align our activities following God's will or God's vision for us. We may not have the spiritual depth to go in this direction.

It is for this reason that I emphasize that we need to open ourselves to God through deep prayer. This is the reason I say that we need to humbly seek the guidance of our Lord for our new future. We need to trust that God's plan is far better than our plan, and God's wisdom is far better than our wisdom. Do we truly believe that Jesus Christ is the head of our church? Do we truly believe that the foolishness of God is wiser than our wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than our strength (I Cor. 1:25)?

Seeking God's way will always be the best way for our lives and for the church, although God's way is not always a highway. So, when we pray, especially for GC, we need to pray that God's will be done in our GC as it is in heaven. I love this hymn:

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou are the potter, I am the clay mold me and make me after thy will while I am waiting yielded and still.

In our Lord,

Young Jin Cho,





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Feb. 1	Steven Doyle	Feb. 8	Brenda Child	Feb. 18	Judy Shepherd
Feb. 1	Lisa Graham	Feb. 8	Sally Adams	Feb. 18	Jessie Snead
Feb. 1	Rodney Niblett	Feb. 9	Katie Hayes	Feb. 25	Bill Johnson
Feb. 2	Gallion Taylor	Feb. 9	Marion Thompson	Feb. 25	Dan Wilson
Feb. 3	Cheyenne Facchina	Feb. 9	Adam Dugger	Feb. 25	Elizabeth Taylor
Feb. 6	Jane Binford	Feb. 10	Lisa Gwaltney	Feb. 27	Donna Glasgow
		Feb. 10	Barbara Hudson	Feb. 27	Michael Creamer
		Feb. 15	Rafferty Lee	Feb. 28	Jerry Reynolds
		Feb. 16	Kathy Reese		
		Feb. 16	Kari Tuck		

If your birthday is missing, please notify the church office so we can add it to our records.

*Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of
Leland "Lee" Nicholson on December 24th*

*Congratulations to Abby and Brandon Spence on the birth of their
daughters Ruby and Claire on January 14th*



Lead Me

By Lisa E. Clary © December 2015

It is time to take God's hand and let him take the lead, the way;
Time to be strong as I take a new path on a new day.
Time to believe that he has a plan for me;
I just need to use patience to wait and see.
I need to reaffirm my faith that it will be alright;
I need to regain my footing and stand for the fight.
I can't let fear of the unknown keep me so afraid:
Must move forward and listen for answers to the prayers I have prayed.
I have to hear with my soul, mind and heart:
And know I am giving my all and doing my part.
I have to see that I have moved forward and left the past behind;
Go forth in faith and look toward the good things I may find.
Truth, love, peace and a heart full of love;
To honor my heavenly father as he watches from above.
Holding on to my beliefs as we are walking side by side:
He knows my grief and has felt my pain in the tears I have cried.
But he has a plan and I may not now understand
But I am putting my trust him as we walk hand and hand.
Hold me in your grasp so I do not stumble and fall;
Show me the answers Lord, as your name is the one I call.
Ease the pain that I feel as I start a different journey now:
On my own, but with a new strength, as you guide me and show me how.
I will be stronger at the end of each new day;
No matter the trials and tribulations that may get in my way.
I will walk with God and follow his footsteps no matter where they may lead.
Because in the end, God's love never ceases and fills our every need.
I have been searching to find my way as I have felt lost.
But today I give it to Jesus and lay it all at the foot of the cross.

Health & Welfare Committee

WHAT IS HEART DISEASE

There are many types of heart and blood vessel diseases, yet many types of heart disease may be prevented. The keys are to stop smoking, lower your blood pressure, eat a healthy diet, be physically active and get regular medical checkups.

Heart and blood pressure problems develop over time, when arteries that supply the heart or brain with blood slowly become clogged from a buildup of cells, fat and cholesterol. This buildup is called plaque. When the blood flow gets blocked, you could have a heart attack or stroke.

What are some types of heart and blood vessel diseases?

HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES or atherosclerosis is when the inner walls of the arteries become more narrow due to a buildup of plaque. Blood clots form, so less blood can get through. This can cause heart attacks and/or strokes.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, also called hypertension, means the pressure in your arteries is consistently above the normal range. Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against blood vessel walls. It is written as two numbers, such as 120/70. The top, systolic number is the pressure when the heart beats. The bottom, diastolic number is the pressure when the heart is at rest. High blood pressure is a consistently elevated pressure. The great danger is that you usually can't tell you have high blood pressure. There are no signs, so you must see your doctor at least yearly. High blood pressure can lead to hardened arteries, stroke or heart attack.

HEART ATTACKS occur when the blood flow to a part of the heart is blocked, often by a blood clot. If this clot cuts off the blood flow completely, the part of the heart muscle supplied by that artery begins to die. Get help fast if you feel any of these warning signs of heart attack, Uncomfortable heavy feeling, pressure, pain or squeezing in the center of your chest that lasts more than a few minutes. Pain that goes to your shoulders, neck or arms. Discomfort in your chest along with a light head, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

HEART FAILURE means that your heart isn't pumping blood as well as it should. It keeps working, but the body doesn't get all the blood and oxygen that it needs. See a doctor if you notice swelling in the feet, ankles and legs, this is called edema, and/or a fluid buildup in the lungs, called pulmonary congestion.

Shirley Wetherbee

Spring Planting is a calling for all men to participate in the planting of loving seeds in the good, rich soil of Christian Men who are devoted to Christ and committed to serving men at churches across the Virginia Conference.

Come! Meet new brothers, strengthen old friendships and grow together as we explore how God will use our minds, hearts and wills to strengthen our U.M. Men organizations. Come! Feel and see the Holy Spirit at work as He helps us to more effectively serve the cause of Christ while building up men in their walk with Him.

This event is an ideal time to motivate the men of your church, especially those who may not have ever experienced such a gathering, or those men that haven't been seen around for a while! Saturday, March 12, is the day for you to recharge your spiritual batteries, and for MIAs to hear more about the United Methodist Men movement, grow in Servant Leadership, and to join together on the pathway of Spiritual maturity as men of faith in service to God.

REGISTER TODAY! Crenshaw United Methodist Church - Blackstone 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

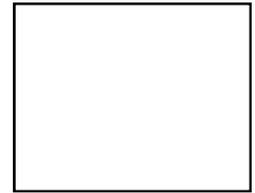
Have questions or need registration assistance? Please contact: Jim Butts, Vice President, Development & Training Virginia Conference U.M. Men. Cell: (757) 421-0161 charlesdog1@cox.net



VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN
2016 Spring Planting
Saturday, March 12, 2016

The Messenger

South Hill United Methodist Church
105 Franklin Street
South Hill, Virginia 23970
434-447-4761
office@southhillumc.com
pastor@southhillumc.com
www.southhillumc.org



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Rev. Brian Siegle	Pastor
Jimmie Crowder, Jr.	Music Director/Organist
DeAnne Irving	Administrative Assistant
Carolyn Black	Sexton

Worship Services: Sundays at
8:45 a.m. (in the chapel) **and 11:00 a.m.** (in the sanctuary)
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Mon., Feb. 1	10:00 AM	U.M. Women Circle at Jean Holmes'
Sun., Feb. 7		Souper Bowl of Caring
Sun., Feb. 7	12:15 PM	Evangelism Committee
Sun., Feb. 7	6:00 PM	Youth Super Bowl Party at the Parsonage
Feb. 9 & 23	6:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wed., Feb. 10	12:00 PM	Lenten Service at Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Sun., Feb. 14	12:15 PM	Board of Trustees
Tue., Feb. 16	6:30 PM	Stop Hunger Now
Sun., Feb. 21	8:00 AM	U.M. Men's Breakfast
Feb. 26-28		Fusion Youth Retreat
Sun., March 6		One Great Hour of Sharing
Sun., March 6	12:15 PM	Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Tue., March 8	5:30 PM	Finance Committee
Sun., March 13	12:15 PM	Worship Committee
Tue., March 15	5:00 PM	Missions Committee
Thu., March 17	7:00 PM	Endowment Committee
Sun., March 20	6:00 PM	Council on Ministries
Sun., March 20	7:00 PM	Administrative Board
Thu., March 24	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
Sun., March 27		Easter

