

crossroads circuit rider



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The Church Council publishes the Circuit Rider.

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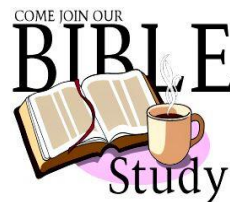
Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

March 2019 No. E-19-b



Ladies' Bible Study Update

The **Ladies Bible Study Group** had a wonderful day of study in January about Esther. They will meet again on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM in the Social Hall. They will be starting a new winter study that can be studied at home in the event of inclement weather. All you need is your Bible, a note pad and a pencil or pen. See Ruth Gilmore for more info. They have a wonderful group and would love for anyone to join in. (ruthiegilmore@hotmail.com/757-635-9203)



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Please join us for our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** on **Tuesday, March 5th**. Come between 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Along with pancakes the menu will include sausage and choice of beverage. No reservations are needed but donations will be accepted.

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. As far back as 1000 AD, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions.

Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they would certainly spoil by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do? Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in.....**pancakes**. Today, the Shrove Tuesday pancake tradition lives on in Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia.



Let us Join Together to Usher in the Season of Lent

Crossroads will hold its traditional **Ash Wednesday Service** on March 6th at 7:00 PM. At this time there will be the imposition of ashes by Pastor Lynda and this will usher in the season of Lent – the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.



Daylight Savings
Time Begins on
Sunday, March 10.

Remember to set your
clocks ahead one hour
before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9 so as
to arrive at church at the correct time!

LENTEN



STUDY GROUP

The logo for the Lenten Study Group features three square icons: a leafy branch, a bunch of grapes, and a cross on a hill.

[There will be four nights to join in for a Lenten Bible Study during the season. They are:](#)

[Tuesday, March 12th – 7:00 PM](#)

[Tuesday, March 26th – 7:00 PM](#)

[Tuesday, April 9th – 7:00 PM](#)

[Tuesday, April 16th – 7:00 PM](#)

[They will be led by Pastor Lynda. More information will be in your Sunday bulletin.](#)



Church Website Undergoing Some Changes

Our **church website** is under "new management" at this time and is undergoing some changes. Bear with us while all the kinks are ironed out.

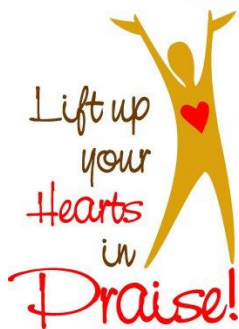


Food Pantry is Greatly Utilized

Crossroads' Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays only 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The 3rd Sunday – March 17th – is designated Food Pantry Sunday. You can bring suggested foods (listed below**) or even better, a monetary donation to help us buy food from the area Food Bank. You don't have to wait until the 3rd Sunday to bring your donation to church. You can place it in the offering plate on any Sunday, earmarked "food pantry".

Your egg cartons are not needed at this time. Thanks for saving them in the past. If this changes, the word will be put out. Please see Pat Mullins or David Lutz for more information.

Suggested Items**: breakfast cereals - hot/cold; powdered milk; canned vegetables; canned or dry beans; instant potatoes; canned meats; spaghetti; spaghetti sauce; peanut butter; crackers; diapers - child/adult.



The We Praise Band
will bring songs of
Joy & Praise to the
March 17th
Worship Service.

Sunday Schools to Hold Joint Sessions on 5th Sundays

The three adult **Sunday School Classes** are trying a new venture. On the 5th Sundays during the year they plan to meet together in the Social Hall, begin with coffee and Danish, and follow with a lesson. The classes will alternate the Sunday they will be in charge of. The first Joint Session will be Sunday, March 31 beginning at 9:45 AM. Mark it on your calendar.



Choir News

Mrs. Christine Davis continues to act as Crossroads' interim organist. She hails from Park View UMC and brings a wealth of experience with her.

All are invited to be a part of the choir. There are robes and music folders ready for everyone. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings beginning at 7:00 PM.

For current photos & news updates check us out at
[https://www.facebook.com/
CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth](https://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth)

Your Church Kitchen Has Been Cleaned

Many thanks those who came out on Monday, February 11th and helped **clean up the church kitchen**. It looks great. The counter tops were cleared, drawers organized and cleaned, cabinets organized and cleaned, table cloths organized, and things are looking good. All items will have labels on them so you will know where items are and where to put them back after they have been used.

We have plenty of plastic ware, paper plates, dessert plates, bowls, cups, napkins, coffee, tea, sugar, Sweet n Low, Splenda, Equal, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, and waxed paper. If you find we are in need of anything, there is a note pad on the freezer to leave a note to buy those items.

If you are using the Social Hall and Kitchen for a Church function, Class meeting, Circle meeting, Funeral, or group meeting, all the items are there for your use.

If you are using the Social Hall and Kitchen for a personal party, i.e. – birthdays, showers, etc., please provide your own paper products, and when the event is over please take them home with you.

There is a SIGN-IN SHEET FOR USE OF KITCHEN on a clip board in the kitchen. Please make sure to sign-in when you use the kitchen. There are also instructions on the sheet for how to leave the kitchen. Your help in keeping our kitchen clean and looking good will be appreciated.

Please don't just leave items in the refrigerator and not labeled. Our trash day is on Tuesday and someone from the Church will take the trash out on Monday, so please see that your trash makes it to the cans that are located outside the kitchen door, which is in the back of the kitchen.

Again, your assistance in helping keep things straight will be appreciated. – Nancy Clark and Kitchen Committee

The **Asbury Class** would like to thank everyone who helped with Operation Cookie. There were 6 boxes to fill – 3 military & 3 college. They are certain the recipients appreciated these.

The class continues their study, "Some Folks Feel the Rain, Others Just Get Wet", and welcome all to join in this discussion class. They are located through the double doors in the front of the Chapel building. They begin at 10:00 AM. You don't have to be a member to attend this stimulating series. They've always got a seat on the couch for you.

The Wesley Class

The **Wesley Class** their dinner meeting on February 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Social Hall. Nancy Clark and Nancy Wynne were the hostesses providing Chicken Divan and it was delicious. All our members brought delicious dishes to go with the chicken. Karen Day had our devotional program on Love and Issues of Faith. It was a really heartwarming program. We had our short business meeting reviewing our budget and other important matters for the year

Our next meeting and dinner will be Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Ruth Gilmore and Janice Melton will be the hostesses, so please come and join us. We sure hope to see you there.

We would love you to come to our Sunday School class each Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 AM. Our class is located in the Dill Chapel – ask anyone you see, they will point you in the right direction.



Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities for You:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on Wednesday, March 27. To volunteer, please see Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on Thursdays, March 28. If you would could help with this, please see Iverson Garrison.

Other Opportunities:

- There is a great need for weekly liturgists. The **2019 Liturgist calendar** is in the narthex for anyone who could help with the liturgy during a particular worship service during the year. If you have questions, please see Willie Collins, our Liturgist Coordinator.
- The **2019 Altar Flower calendar** is in the narthex for anyone who would like to honor or memorialize someone with flowers on a particular Sunday morning during the year. If you have questions, please call the church office for assistance.

The Asbury Class



World Day of Prayer Sponsored by Church Women United

Friday, March 1, 2019

10:30 AM Fellowship & 11:00 AM Celebration
Park View Christian Disciples of Christ
Corner of Western Branch Blvd. & Taylor Road
(in Churchland)

CWU Forum: Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 10:30 AM
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

SAVE THESE DATES: DETAILS TO FOLLOW

May Friendship Day – Friday, May 3, 11:00 AM

Followed by Catered Lunch

Crossroads United Methodist Church

Human Rights Day – Friday, Sept. 6

World Community Day – Friday, Nov. 1

Operation Santa Claus – Friday, Dec. 6



FROM THE PASTOR

I have become quite nostalgic lately. I think about how God has blessed me in so many ways. I could never repay the Lord for all of these blessings. Once again, I have been given the honor and the privilege of sharing a word with you, here at Crossroads UMC. As I look back on the yesterdays of my ministry and was once again wondering what to write, I found a copy of the devotionals I had written for the **Advocate**, the official magazine of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. I don't know if any of you read those devotionals then, but I would like to share them with my church family now. Note, this is not a Lenten message, per se but the messages are about Jesus Christ, whose earthly ministry has had a profound effect on me. So, I pray that something you read in these meditations will inspire you.

"Words to Live By" - 3 John

It was the greeting of John the Elder to his friend Gaius that caught my attention and gave me pause for thought. The Elder writes to his friend, "My dear friend, I pray that everything may go well with you and that you may be in good health – as I know you are well in spirit." (3 John: 2, Good News Bible) I pondered over this line and it reminded me of the importance of self-care in our Christian life and service. Too often we are so busy doing church work that we neglect our health, not realizing that poor health keeps us from giving our very best service to God.

As a diabetic I am constantly reminded of the need to eat responsibly, to exercise regularly and take all of my medicines in order to stay healthy. When you and I neglect ourselves physically (mentally and emotionally I might add) what message are we sending to our co-laborers in the mission field, and more importantly, what are we sending to the people God is sending us out to reach? Doesn't scripture tell us that the "body is the temple of God"? How can we preach, teach and serve God while mistreating the temple? John prayed for his friend's good health: we should do the same for the people that we love, as well.

If we know someone who is not taking care of him or herself, it would help to not only pray for him or her, but give that person the encouragement and motivation that is needed to take better care of him or herself. Let's say, for instance, that a loved one or friend would benefit from an exercise program, consider going to the gym together or become walking or jogging partners, let the person know that he or she is not alone. I know when I was first diagnosed with diabetes; members of my congregation gave me diabetic cook books and encouraged me to watch what I ate whenever we had covered dish suppers. Now I do the same when I learn that someone else now has the disease. Like the Elder, pray for another person's good health, but try your best to put your prayer into action.

"I Can Do That!" - 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their particular service." (12: 4-6, Good News Bible) People who know me in my service to the church know that I have a passion for teaching about the gifts of the Holy Spirit to Christians of all denominations

Our congregations are full of gifted people who don't know that they are. When the subject comes up about Spiritual gifts invariably there is someone who will say, "I don't think that I have a spiritual gift" or another might say "I must not have a spiritual gift because I don't speak in tongues"? In today's text, the Apostle Paul writes to members of the Corinthian church to address the questions and concerns of the congregation in the first century that serve to help us understand the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the twenty first century.

This Corinthian passage opened up a whole new world for me. It stirred a passion in me to teach church members about the gifts of the Holy Spirit for Paul convinced me that the church is always at its best when the members of the church can identify and exercise the gift(s) that the Holy Spirit has given them. It gives me joy to see the excitement in someone's face or in their voice when he or she first discovers his or her gift.

God has a purpose and a place for everyone in the church and that means you. There is plenty of work to do and the church will benefit and be blessed by the service that you give. Paul gives in this passage a list of spiritual gifts and there are other spiritual gifts listed in other books. The writers give these lists simply to point out the wide range of opportunities for members to be a part of the church.

On a recent visit to the home of one of the members of the church I serve, I couldn't help but notice and admire the art work on her walls and was drawn to this lampshade in one of the rooms. When I mentioned them, the member told me that she drew the pictures herself and had decorated an old lampshade to give it that distinctive look. I told her that we needed someone with her talent to decorate the altar for special occasions and she expressed surprise that I would ask her. I told her and I will tell anyone, when God blesses you with a gift or talent, what better way to use it than to use it in and for the church.

Every one of you is blessed with a gift from God – how will you use your gift?

"Colaborando Juntas" - 1 Corinthians 12:14-31

In today's lesson, Paul is continuing his discussion of spiritual gifts with the members of the Corinthian church. In this lesson, Paul uses the analogy of the human body and the relationship of each part of the body to the whole to point out the fact that each part of the body is important. While they each have a different function, they are an integral part of the whole. In using this analogy, Paul drives home the point that just because others can't see all of someone's body doesn't mean that what is visible is more important than those parts that are covered. He goes on to say that each part of the body plays a vital role in the physical health of a person's body.

Years ago, when I served as the associate pastor of Ramsey Memorial UMC, I was part of an event held at the church called "Colaborando Juntas", which is Spanish for "working together". Attending this event were educators, health care providers, government workers, employment agencies, social workers and clergy who met out of a common concern regarding the needs of the City's growing immigrant community. During the event attendees got a chance to learn more about this "new face" in our community and talked about the work that their agency or church was doing to be a more welcoming and affirming presence to the immigrant community. During these events, attendees got a chance to talk with persons from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds and there was a realization that, in spite of our differences, what we had in common was our belief in the respect, worth and dignity for all people, regardless of

who they were, what language they spoke or from where they came.

The church is called to be the leader of any efforts to assure the quality life of all peoples as we all are children of God. As the body of Christ called the Church, we have been given a charge by God to take care of this body. The good news is that we don't have to come up with our own ways of doing this – the Holy Spirit has equipped and empowered each of us with spiritual gifts that are to be used, not against each other, but **with** each other for the edification of the church. The church grows and is much healthier when all our gifts are used for the cause of Jesus Christ.

"Mass Communication" - Acts 2: 1-21; 1 Corinthians 14: 1-25

In 2015, when I first wrote this article, there was commercial for a national cell phone company that reminded us that the way we communicate then is much different than when we did 10, 20, 30 or more years ago. In this commercial the father is sitting with his teenage daughter and he tells her that he had just purchased this particular phone. The teen is so excited and starts talking about all the things that you can do using that phone. The expression on the father's face is priceless – you can almost see a big question mark on his face as he listens to her and he finally says something like, "I don't know what you just said, but you can do it on your own phone."

I can only imagine that on Pentecost Day, as recorded in the Acts text, that when the crowd outside of that upper room heard the persons in that room speaking, the expression on their faces was similar to that father's. It would not be surprising if the persons in the upper room didn't have similar expressions on their own faces. You could almost hear the puzzlement in their voices when some of them asked in verse 12b: "What does this mean?" (Common English Bible) For the first time in their lives these men and women were experiencing the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit was working in them in a way that they had never known before.

This is a lesson for us today. When we are around other Christians, we have a tendency to use terms that are familiar to other Christians because it's natural for us. However, when we talk about grace, or salvation, or the Trinity or the Body of Christ to persons who are not Christian and have never heard those terms, we might as well be speaking in a strange tongue. Similarly, terms that are commonplace for us United Methodists, like apportionments or the Wesleyan Quadrilateral are equally as strange to some people. Remember that we are the mouthpieces for Jesus Christ and are called to share the Gospel with others. How can we reach others if they don't know what we're talking about? Friendly reminder – whenever we communicate the Christian message, let us speak in a language that our hearers will understand.

"More Than a Four-Letter Word" - Corinthians 13

Our lesson for this month ends with the "Love chapter". What a wonderful word that is – love, it has such a good sound to it. When Paul uses this term in today's text and you read it or hear it read, it kind of gives you that good feeling. "Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but is with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things." (Verses 4-7, Common English Bible). Let's face it, who wouldn't want that kind of love? It almost seems idyllic, doesn't it? Yet, Paul is writing to the church about a love that is available to all; is attainable and doable for all Christians.

The love that Paul describes in this text is a gift from God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and manifested by Jesus Christ. This kind of love would eradicate all of those "isms" that adversely affect the lives of others – sexism, ageism, racism, to name a few. How can we discriminate against someone or some group of people; how can we abuse another; how can we turn our backs on persons who are in need if we look at them through the lenses of love as Paul describes it? We can't because the love that comes from God won't let us.

Let's go back to the body analogy that Paul used in one of the previous lessons: Paul talked about the church as the Body of Christ and that the use of the spiritual gifts was analogous to members of the body, with no one member being important than another and all parts of the body had to work together if the body was to function properly. Loving your body assures that you will do all that you can to make sure that the body is well and functioning properly.

The Body of Christ called the Church was conceived and shaped by God's love. We honor God and show our love for God when we love one another as God loves us. Christian love is what moves us to be all that we can be for the cause of Christ.

->As we enter the Lenten season, let us not forget the lessons that God has given us to live by through scripture. Lent is that season of the Christian year where we reflect on, not just about what Jesus has done, but on our personal relationship with him. Just as Jesus prepared those first disciples for his death and the changes that would happen because of all that he went through, may these meditations prepare you for living the life that Jesus has already prepared for you.

*God bless you.
Pastor Lynda*



Crossroads United Methodist Women held its February meeting along with a potluck lunch on the 23rd. It was the Call to Prayer and Self Denial program. This was something different and it is hoped all enjoyed the change.

There will be a Tri-District Mini Mission Encounter 150th Celebration at High Street UMW – 31164 Camp Parkway, Courtland VA on March 23rd from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Cost is \$5.00. Please bring your own sandwich, and cake and drinks will be provided. Registration deadline is March 12th.

Remember all ladies of the Church are invited to come out and join one of the Circle meetings. The Circle of Ruth and Circle of Grace meet on the second Wednesdays at 1:30 and 7:00 PM respectively and the Circle of Friends on the first Tuesday at 6:30 PM every other month. Their next meeting will be March 5th.

PS - Dear Ladies of the UMW, Ruth Gilmore is looking for volunteers to help with the UMW Sunday program scheduled for April 28th. Please contact her either at church or by email at ruthiegilmore@hotmail.com if you are willing to be on the committee.



**Daily Devotion Publication
Available in Narthex**

The March/April issue of *The Upper Room* daily devotional booklet is located in our narthex. Don't forget to get your copy! If you have not been using *The Upper Room*, why not try reading the wonderful devotions this spring. Many will truly touch your heart in special ways. Small print booklets are 75¢ and large print booklets will be \$1.25.

MARCH

OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1 Fri. Church Women United – 10:30 AM
- 2 Sat. Ballet Dance practice* – 1:00 PM
Children's Community Choir* – 2:00 PM
[=every Saturday]*
- 3 Sun. Sunday School - Adults* – 9:45 AM
Sunday School - Children* – 11:00 AM
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM
Conference Call Worship* – 4:00 PM
[=every Sunday]*
- 4 Mon. Trustees Meet – 7:00 PM
We Praise Practice* - 7:00 PM
[=every Monday except 18th]*
- 5 Tues. Prayer Team Meets – 10:00 AM
Food Pantry Open* – 10:00 AM – noon
[=every Tuesday]*
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner – 5-7 PM
Circle of Friends – 6:30 PM
- 6 Wed. **Ash Wednesday**
Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 PM
- 7 Thurs. Chancel Choir Practice* – 7:00 PM
[=every Thursday]*
- 10 Sun. **1st Sunday in Lent**
Daylight Savings Time Begins
World Hunger Offering Received
- 12 Tues. Lenten Study – 7:00 PM
- 13 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 1:30
Circle of Grace – 7:00 PM
Men's Bible Study* - 7:00 PM
[=every Wednesday]*
- 16 Sat. Prayer Shawl Committee Meets – 10:00 AM
- 17 Sun. **2nd Sunday in Lent**
"We Praise" @ worship
Food Pantry Sunday – Offering Received
Newsletter Deadline for April
- 18 Mon. Finance Committee Meets – 7:00 PM
- 19 Tues. Council Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 24 Sun. **3rd Sunday in Lent**
Men's Fellowship breakfast meeting – 8:00 AM
Missionary Support Offering Received
- 26 Tues. Lenten Study – 7:00 PM
- 27 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 28 Thurs. Oasis Breakfast – 6:00 AM
- 31 Sun. **4th Sunday in Lent**
Sunday Schools Hold Joint Session – 9:45 AM
Ballet Troop during Worship – 11:00 AM

Crossroads United Methodist Church Endowment Program

– Adam Goldblatt –

Crossroads United Methodist Church is in the process of starting an **Endowment Program** for the purpose of creating a legacy for Estate gifts and other large designated gifts. Our Nominations Committee is currently looking to nominate 4 at-large members to the 7 member committee, which will be done in the next 2 weeks. Once that is complete, we will approve the Endowment Program and our Endowment Guidelines/Investment Policy at our March Church Council meeting. A Charge Conference will be set up for final approval in late March to the middle of April. Once that is all done, we will have our first formal Endowment Committee meeting to elect our officers, and the Investment Advisors.

Going forward, we will provide more information about the benefits of Endowments, and how they work. In addition, we plan to communicate some details of the designated funds earmarked for the Endowment. Stay tuned.

Stewardship Corner

–submitted by Georgia Garrison–

What Is Ministry

- If you're doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job.*
- If you're doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.*
- If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job.*
- If you're committed to staying with it, even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.*
- If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a job.*
- If you stay with it even when no one seems to notice, it's a ministry.*
- If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done, it's a job.*
- If you do it because you are convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.*
- It's hard to get excited about a job.*
- It's impossible not to get excited about a ministry.*
- People may say "well done" when you do your job.*
- The Lord will say "well done" when you complete your ministry.*

Author Unknown

The next **newsletter deadline is **Sunday, March 17th**. At this time all news for **April** will be due. You can e-mail your articles to queenbeez@cox.net or give them to Susan Cohen.