A family that wasn’t in the practice of going to church attended the large, formal wedding of a friend. The family’s youngest child, age three, sat perched on his father’s knee watching all the comings and goings with great interest. There came a time in the service when a hymn was to be sung, and the organist crashed confidently into the opening chords of the song, putting the “pedal to the metal” in order to make a really good show. Immediately, the little boy cringed in terror and threw his arms around his father’s neck pleading, “Daddy, make them stop the spooky music!” This story speaks volumes.

How many of you have ever been “spooked” in church? To those not familiar with the weird and wonderful ways of the church, its traditions and forms can seem not just odd, but downright threatening. We forget that what may be familiar to us can be strange and intimidating to those whose feet seldom stray into a church. The great French philosopher and skeptic, Voltaire, once said, “If you would speak with me, you first must learn my language.”

While it is true the church serves as a community for the faithful, our church mission is to seek others, offering to the lost and lonely access to the love and salvation awaiting them in Jesus Christ. As Christ-followers we are called to reach those outside the church, but do it in the way Jesus instructed us. His instruction to the church is not ‘come and hear’ but we are to ‘go and tell.’ We are not to bring the lost to the gospel but take the gospel to the lost. Jesus wants us to go and witness and not merely go and invite.

Just think of all the opportunities you have each day to ‘share your own story’ in talking with others. That’s the first step I think in sharing our faith and leading others to Christ. We go where they are. We may know the people who live next door or down the street, across the back lot and around the corner, but do they know us?

Pastor Lee

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th. Have a blessed celebration.

Community Thanksgiving Worship

Sunday
November 20
7 PM
Community
UMC
Sanctuary
FROM JULIE CHAPMAN
Treasurer treasurer@cumcvb.org

My thanks to all who submitted pledges for the 2017 year! Your action is helping your Finance Committee work towards drafting a budget that realistically addresses the costs of our various ministries. If you did not already do so but would like to, it is never too late! Drop it in the offering plate, submit online, or email treasurer@cumcvb.org.

The month of September saw Operating Revenue receipts of $68,794, while expenses were $79,454, for a deficit of $10,660. Our year-to-date financial status is a negative $35,597 which has been pulled from cash reserves. We are eagerly anticipating the “annual contribution” folks to help us balance out for this calendar year.

If you have any questions, please review the copies of the information provided. (A labeled folder is kept on the small table just inside the office door.) Feel free to also email me or give me a call.

Julie Manly Chapman
treasurer@cumcvb.org
phone 495-1021 Monday thru Friday

YOU CAN HELP

BROWN BAG SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20th

Community will continue our ‘hands on’ ministry by helping families enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. Please bring your brown bags to the church tower on Sunday, November 20th filled with canned goods and other non-perishable items. Bags will be delivered to St. Columba Ministries in Norfolk that afternoon. Thank you for your generous support to help families in need!

The following food items are suggested:

FROZEN turkeys (10-12 pounds)
1 pound dried beans
1 pound rice
1 pound dried beans
1 pound rice
1 pound dried beans
1 pound rice
1 pound dried beans
1 pound rice
canned vegetables
white potatoes
canned vegetables
white potatoes
canned vegetables
white potatoes
turkey dressing
canned fruit
turkey dressing
canned fruit
canned yams
sweet potatoes
canned yams
sweet potatoes
cranberry sauce
desserts
cranberry sauce
desserts
2 pounds sugar
turkey dressing
desserts
cranberry sauce
desserts
2 pounds sugar
2 pounds sugar
2 pounds flour
2 pounds sugar
2 pounds flour

The Heart of a Congregation's Ministry

Caring for people in need is at the heart of a congregation's ministry. At some points in life everyone faces periods of crisis, transition or difficulty, so the need for care is great. Many pastors and congregations exhaust themselves trying to meet these needs, but their best efforts often fall short for a variety of reasons.

Stephen Ministry is a vital caring resource at CUMC, but we urgently need more Stephen Ministers (both men and women). A new training class is being formed to begin on Wednesday, January 11, 6:30-9:00 p.m., and end in May. Candidates must complete an application and meet with our Stephen Leaders, so they can fully understand the ministry and know it’s a good fit for them. Training equips Stephen Ministers to provide consistent, quality one-to-one Christian care to people with a wide variety of caring needs. They faithfully listen, empathize, and encourage their care receivers with Christ's love and care, but don't give advice or try to fix problems. They are care givers. God is the cure giver.

Community's vision is (to be) “a loving extended family with a passion for knowing and following God, in a caring interactive community open to all.” Stephen Ministry is a way for our church to fully be the body of Christ, by inviting us to recognize our spirit-given gifts and put those gifts to use. We invite you to prayerfully reflect on all that God has given you, and if you could be a messenger of Christ's love as a Stephen Minister. If yes or maybe, please contact Sue Elliker at selliker@cox.net or 575-1749 for a class application or more information. Experience the joy and blessing of seeing God working through you to bring hope and healing to a hurting world.

Office Volunteers: Carol and Fred Abbott, Jan Hurd, Frank Kleen, Margaret Knight, Rockie McKee, Robin Meekins, and Laurel Trego.

A Personal Reflection on the Impact of our Teachers

I received some sad news that one of my beloved seminary professors, Dr Laurence Hull Stookey, had died. For years Dr. Stookey had been the worship professor at Wesley Theological Seminary. There were those who considered him a frustrated high church Episcopalian because he loved liturgy and pomp. But if that was what you thought of him you missed the essence of who he was.

In many ways he was a Renaissance man. Whenever he planned worship for events at school his signature was all over the event, not in a self-aggrandizing way, but as a glorious worship experience. Larry worked behind the scenes in the United Methodist Church to change worship using early Christian worship as a model for how we should be worshiping now. He was also a lover of the arts and felt that worship should be a tactile experience, not simply auditory. He encouraged his students to think of all space as worship space and how it should be utilized to include art, music, dance, touch and smell. Whenever I plan special services Larry is in the room with me. His legacy is that he has changed all of our experience with worship, by making sure his students understood the reasoning of the past and incorporating the creativity of the present. [We use The Great Thanksgiving, in part, because of Larry.]

The seminary’s graduation service was Larry’s crown jewel of worship. He always planned the processional and the recessional so he would be the first person in the sanctuary and the last person out. And when he came through the doors of the church at the end of the service, it was then, and only then, that he would allow himself to smile. Thank you for teaching us how to celebrate God’s living presence and how to share that sense of awe with the people of God’s Church. Larry, I know you are smiling for a life well lived in Christ’s service. Amen.

The idea of Elbow Activities seems difficult for some. People in business get it. I have recently lost some weight – alot of weight. I was not able to do it on my own, so I found help at a medical clinic. This medical practice sponsors monthly gatherings they call “Meet Ups.” On a Saturday morning workers, patients and friends gather at different places: the oceanfront, Mount Trashmore, the Dismal Swamp Hiking Trail, etc. to do something healthy – they walk.

Like an Elbow Activity, you have a group of individuals with a problem. They cannot “fix” the problem themselves, so they found help. As they experience success they get excited and share their success with their friends. At these Meet Ups they invite friends to join them. Friends meet others in the program and experience their enthusiasm. When they feel comfortable and less intimidated they decide to check it out. Some of them then enroll in the program.

Questions we should ask ourselves are: Are you excited about your salvation? If not, why not? It should be the single most important thing in your life! Are you enthusiastic about the ministries and programs at our church? Again, if not, why not? Why not share your hobbies and special interests with friends not in church? Share your faith and your love for Community Church. They will be less intimidated about checking out the activities at Community for themselves. That’s what Elbow Activities are all about.

In Christ’s service, Johnnie Draughon
HELP US FIND the members listed below. We have no current address for them. If you know their correct street address, please provide it to the church office as these names are being considered for removal by Charge Conference Action.

Adams, Sarah Irene
Albert, Mr. Douglas Michael
Bailey, Jordan
Byers, Arianna Joy
Byers, Bradley James
Cunniff, Shelby Alexandra
Cunniff, Tyler Lee
Farmer, Ian Henry
Fink, Tyler Wayne
Green Jr., Mr. Fred Louis
Hall, Andrea Lee
Hall, Nicole Marie
Hatcher, Mr. Jason Russell
Hatcher, Reaghan Taylor
Jenkins, Zachary Allen
Jordan, William Christopher
Kelly, Cameron Forbes
Kramer, Lee Garrett
Lenhart, Abigail Grace
Lenhart, Mr. Michael Allen
Lenhart, Patrick Michael
Lenhart, Mrs. Rebecca Sandra
Lund, Colin Peter
Lund, Philip Clive
Marshall, Anyika Saran
McLaughlin, Seana Tully
Michels, Charles John
Parsons, Addam Jon-Richard
Parsons, Shianne Mikayla-Lyn
Pingal, Michael Lee
Pingal, Steven Patrick
Powell, Kiel William Kristofer
Ramsey, Daniel Joshua
Rice, Abigail Beverly
Rice, Michael Everett
Rice, Pearson Pritchett
Salton, Aaron Eugene
Salton, Andrea Rose
Salton, Gail Elaine
Schomp, Elizabeth Marie
Schomp, Katherine Alaire
Schomp, William Blake
Serbas, Jeanette Noveras
Smith, Mrs. Jennifer Powell
Thomas, Mr. Paul Everette
Wells, Piper Ann
West, Brittany Clarice
Yetter, Nicole Francis

CHARGE CONFERENCE is Monday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the CHAPEL.

HAVE YOU MOVED?
If your address, phone number or e-mail address has changed, please notify the church office at 757-495-1021 or cumc@cumcvb.org. Thanks!

WEBSITE UPDATE
Our website has undergone reconstruction during October with the goal of creating a more user-friendly, inviting site for visitors. Visit us online at www.cumcvb.org to check out the changes!

UMW General Meeting
Mark your calendar for United Methodist Women’s December General Meeting on Thursday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. This will be the Installation of UMW Officers and our Holiday Program. Our Men’s Choir will be singing musical selections. Refreshments will follow afterwards in the library.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater Outreach
On behalf of the United Methodist Women, I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations you gave on Sunday, September 18th to the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater. It was just another outstanding example of how Community United Methodist Church reaches out to others beyond our doors who are in need.

Linda Rowland
It has been a month of floods and any weakness in our water defenses became apparent. We had the usual pooling in the back parking lot, a function of the water table which cannot take deluges. While it was raining I toured the outside of the building and observed that some of the downspouts were not draining proper amounts of water. Once we were dry again, I checked them out from the flat roofs and found that several were blocked by debris and cleaned them.

The most significant water penetration, most likely from the steeple, damaged the ceiling of the balcony. I ordered repair of the ceiling. We also lost a couple of branches from the front oak. Some kind people cut off the smaller pieces and piled them at the road for the city to pick up.

As the days have gotten shorter I had to adjust all of the manual controls for the outside lights. The two floodlights above the chapel were not on the correct time for a while, but now are fixed.

Mother’s Day Out’s (MDO) open house was a great success. They installed a dinosaur previously located behind the elementary wing in the playground. They have moved their music program to the small side of Room 117, which means the movable wall is usually shut, and have turned Room 119 into a regular classroom, promising to set it up for Sunday school and tear it down for the class. Walter is setting up Room 120 for Sunday school and I am tearing it down. So far, the arrangement is working.

Pastor Brian recommended a Dominion program using a subcontractor to inspect HVAC ductwork for leaks at no cost to the church. They spent several days going over and sealing our systems and discovered a significant problem in Rooms 112 and 113. Originally the rooms had plaster ceilings but many years ago a suspended ceiling had been installed. The vents were different, not lined up, and had never been regularly connected so that the conditioned air went into the area above the ceiling first and only after a while did it enter the occupied area. Basically the first heat/cool affected the area closest to the roof. Our HVAC firm corrected the situation which will result in much more efficient temperature control. The Dominion program also encouraged the use of LED lights. As a consequence, they replaced all of our outside door lights with LED, again at no charge.

The volleyball net in the field was removed and a new net was installed, coordinated with the Acredale Civic Association. Lawson checked out all six furnaces in preparation for cooler weather and will come back to check the boiler as it is turned off for the summer.

With all of the activity, I have not done the monthly cleaning of the kitchen grease trap for a couple of months. (I have city certification.) I did not observe major accumulations, a tribute to the cooking practices of our kitchen volunteers.

An electrician installed light ballasts in Room 120. I inquired how to work with the bright social hall lights, several of which are out. He suggested replacement of all of the metal halide 250 watt bulbs with 40 watt LED’s, but at significant cost. Choices are under review.

Park

WOMEN’S FAITH FOCUS ADVENT BIBLE STUDY
Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here
Tuesdays, November 22nd-December 13th, 9:45-11:15 a.m., Room 207

In this four-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing for us. He experienced hunger and thirst. He was taught to walk, stand, and wash his face. He was completely and genuinely human. Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record...just grace. We have the promise that God is always near us, always for us, always within us—and that we have a friend and Savior in heaven. Long after the holiday season is over, these promises endure.

Study guides are available online. Childcare is available on request.
Advent Family Activity - Watch for more information about daily food pantry donations.

Angel Trees - Choose an angel from one of our trees and replace it with socks, gloves or hats to be donated to families in need. The gift designated on your angel should be returned under a tree by December 11th. Return cash donations to the offering plates on Sundays. Your gifts will help a number of ministries supported by our church.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Sign up on the Elbow Ministry bulletin board outside the narthex to ring in two-hour shifts on Black Friday, all the Saturdays in December leading up to Christmas and Christmas Eve at the Kroger in Providence Square shopping center, or call Andrew Kissell at 839-0790 for a time slot.

Student Ministry Christmas Party. All youth are invited to celebrate the season with food, fun and fellowship. Watch for more information.

Tuesdays, November 22nd-December 13th, 9:45-11:15 a.m. - Women’s Faith Focus Advent Study, Max Lucado’s Because of Bethlehem, Room 207 led by Sandi Granger and Alice Konchuba. Childcare available. Bible study guide available online.

Sundays, November 27th-December 18th—Narnia Advent Study led by Jannette Clavez.

Sunday, November 27th, 10:30 a.m. - Hanging of the Greens Combined Service. Begin Advent with joy and celebration as we decorate the sanctuary to prepare for Christ’s birth.

Wednesdays, November 30th-December 21st, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - Isaiah the Prophet Advent Study, Conference Room led by Pastor Brian.

Thursday, December 1st, 7:00 p.m. - United Methodist Women’s Officer Installation and Holiday Program, Chapel. All women are invited to the installation of the 2017 UMW Board followed by a musical celebration of the Christmas season with our Men’s Choir. Refreshments will be served in the library.

Saturday, December 3rd, 5:30-8:00 p.m. - Snow Ball, Social Hall. Annual Christmas party for our intellectually challenged friends in the Agape Sunday school class, Heart Havens’ residents, and others. To help with set up, food, or just hang out with our guests, please contact Sandi Granger, 757-479-6955 or grangr5@cox.net. Or if you would like to bake cupcakes, please contact Sheryl Ghiloni, Johnandsheryl@cox.net. The party is 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. with preparation all afternoon.

Cards for our Homebound - Through December 4th bring a bundle of 24 signed cards in blank envelopes and place them in the box in the office. They will be given to our homebound members of the church.

Friday, December 9th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.— Narnia Night, Social Hall. Watch for more information.

Saturday, December 10th, 8:00 a.m. - United Methodist Men’s Installation Breakfast, Social Hall. All men are invited to join the UMM as they fellowship together and install the 2017 officers.

Sunday, December 11th, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Cantata, Sanctuary - Invitation to a Miracle presented by the choirs and orchestra of CUMC.

Sunday, December 18th, 3:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service, Chapel. A worship service for those who don’t see joy in the holidays led by our Stephen Ministers followed by refreshments in the parlor.

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. - A service of lessons and carols.
9:00 p.m. – Modern service with 9:45 Worship Band.
11:00 p.m. – Traditional liturgical service. Holy Communion to be offered at all services. Nursery provided at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day Combined Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
Like the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Association, the United Brethren did not set out to become a new Church. Although William Otterbein cannot be designated as the founder of the Church of The United Brethren in Christ, his name is forever connected with the denomination. A pastor of the German Evangelical Reformed Church, he was called to America in 1752 to lead the Reformed Church. The first in a series of events that gave rise to the United Brethren as a denomination was the meeting of Otterbein and Martin Boehm. Boehm was a Mennonite preacher of the radical reformation who believed in adult baptism only (Anabaptist). When the university-trained Otterbein met the full bearded Mennonite farmer, Boehm, he immediately stated "we are brothers". Another major influence was when William Otterbein and Francis Asbury became connected, becoming fast friends. Otterbein was there to lay hands of ordination on Asbury in December 1784 when the Methodist Episcopal Church was born. Boehm came under the influence of the Methodist movement and broke from the Mennonite Church and accepted the spirit of the Evangelical revival.

In the late 1700s, an evangelistic movement was spreading among the Germans of Pennsylvania under the leadership of Otterbein and Boehm. This group organized in 1800 and called themselves The United Brethren in Christ. In September 1800, the first of the annual conferences that marked a major step in them becoming a denomination was held. The final step in organizing into a Church came in 1815 with the first General Conference. A discipline was prepared that showed a direct influence of the Methodist Discipline.
**Community Information**

Sunday Worship .......................... 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School ............................. 9:40 & 11:00 a.m.
Church Office Hours ................. Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Church Telephone ............................. (757) 495-1021
Prayer E-mail ................................ prayermail@cumcvb.org
Church Website ................................. www.cumcvb.org

The ministers are available for counseling and home visitation when requested, as well as hospital visits when informed.

Ministers........................................... Pastor Lee Seibert
.................................................. Pastor Brian Boettcher

Director of Music .......................... Dr. Martha Springstead
Organist/Orchestra ............................ Mary Letson
Worship Leader ............................... Cody Froelich
Director of Christian Education .......... Jannette Clavez
Treasurer/Admin. Assoc. ............... Julie Chapman
Church Office Manager/Membership Sec. ....... Ruth Pfeil
Secretary/Vine Editor/Website ............ Rita Waldeck
Facilities Manager ............................. Park Allen
Custodian ........................................ Walter Dozier

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**The Vine**

Community United Methodist Church
1072 Old Kempsville Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Return Service Requested

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**November 2016**

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