

The Sweet Spirit

Olive Branch United Methodist Church

June 2016



From The Pastor's Pen,

From The Pastor's Pen:

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. John 6: 47

Life without God is.....

God without man is still God; Man without God is NOTHING!

**May your summer be blessed by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
Pastor Randy**

Oh, to have such faith!

A rare Bible from the battle of Bunker Hill will be exhibited at the Museum of the American Revolution when it opens in Philadelphia next year. The recently-acquired King James Bible is inscribed by American soldier Francis Merrifield, who thanks God for sparing his life in the bloody 1775 battle.

The museum confirmed Thursday that it purchased the Bible at a Bonham's auction in New York on April 11. The Bible sold for \$161,000, including the buyer's premium.

“This Bible is one of only two known to exist from the Battle of Bunker Hill, and is an authentic witness to one of the most iconic moments of the Revolutionary War,” R. Scott Stephenson, the Museum's vice president of collections, exhibitions, and programming, told FoxNews.com, via email. “It provides an incredible opportunity to showcase the role that religious faith played in sustaining those who were involved in the American Revolution. While historians still passionately discuss and debate this important subject, it doesn't always get a great deal of attention in museums.”

The Bible was owned by Francis Merrifield, who was born in Ipswich, Mass. in 1735. A veteran of the French and Indian War, which ran from 1754 to 1763, Merrifield joined the Ipswich militia after the Revolutionary War began in 1775. Merrifield served as a sergeant in the company of Captain Nathaniel Wade in Colonel Little's regiment at Bunker Hill.

More than 100 American troops were killed and 300 wounded in the battle on June 17, 1775. Merrifield survived heavy fighting during the battle and was one of the last to leave the field, according to the Museum of the American Revolution's Historian and Curator Philip Mead.

Merrifield wrote extensively on the front and back covers of the Bible, thanking God for his survival. On the reverse of the New Testament page, he wrote: “Cambridge, Jun 17 1775. I desire to bless God for his Kind appearance [sic] in delivering me and sparing my life in the late battle fought on Bunker's Hill. I desire to devote this spared life to his Glory and honor. In witness my hand, Francis Merrifield.” Below the inscription, Merrifield wrote a poem on his hope for divine grace.

Francis Merrifield survived the Revolutionary War. He died in 1814.

Olive Branch UMC Library

Nancy Maguire.

At all ages we can benefit from the church library. Learning should never stop. We can learn about something we never were exposed to or learn more about a subject we are interested in.

Here If You Need Me by Kate Braestrup

This book can be found in the Nurturing for Community section of our library (located between the sanctuary and social hall.

This true story is the remarkable journey from grief to faith to happiness as she holds her family together in the wake of her husband's death. It is set in Maine and Kate now works as a Chaplain for the Warden Service (Game Warden). She ponders why bad things happen to good people and, as a grieving widow, to accept that death comes for its own reasons and on its own schedule. Her story is dramatic, funny and moving. She finds God through helping others and all the small miracles that happen every day when a heart is grateful and love restored.

Check out the resources that are right here at church, you don't need to remember the hours of the library or worry about getting a parking space. Take advantage of the books that are here for all to share. When you read a book, write down a few sentences that we can share in the newsletter, or let me know and I will.

United Methodist Women

All women of the church are invited to take part in the meeting and missional activities of the UMW. The United Methodist Women have chosen for their Mission Project; school supply kits for Annual Conference. They will be collected by the Conference and distributed to children all over the world through UMCOR. We will be collecting: Paper; loose leaf, spiral or legal pads, Scissors; blunt tip only, pointed scissors will not be accepted by UMCOR, Rulers; wood or plastic, 12 inch, Erasers; 2 inch pink type. Pencil Sharpeners, Crayons (24 pack), and six Pencils. We are looking to collect enough for 100 kits. We know you all will join in this effort.

Save Your Empty Ink Cartridges

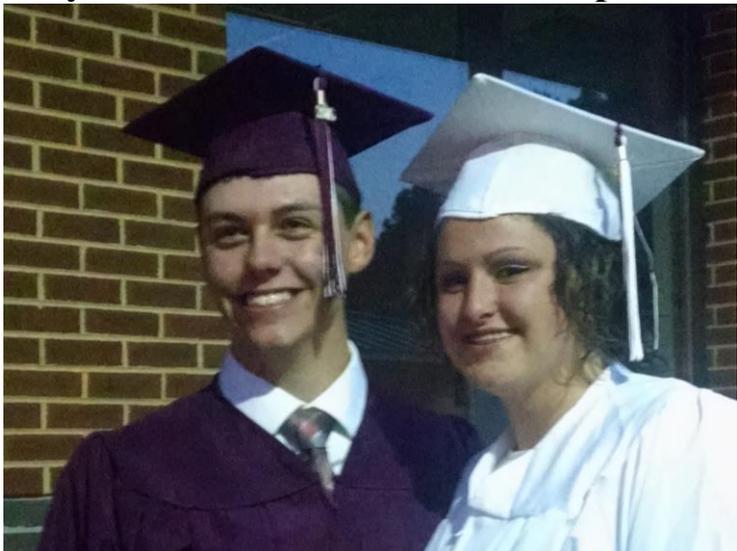
A continuing mission project headed by Catherine and Robert Moore is to gather empty ink cartridges and send them away. The company that they are sent to then sends the church a check. Sooo, please save them and put them in the box in the fellowship hall. All funds go to continuing our outreach. Thank you Catherine and Robert for your helping.

Message from the Council Chair – Jane DiStefano

The Church Administrative Council meets every other month on the second Monday at 7:00 PM. Our next meeting will be on June 13th. Anyone interested in the business of the church is invited to attend. It is always an open meeting, although voting is limited to committee members.

May has been an exciting month. It appears that attendance has increased and we have had several projects happening. Mother's Day was celebrated with flowers for each woman present and a beautiful Mother's Day song, sung by Carol Abernathy. We also saw two of our young people graduate from Brunswick Academy High School – Makayla Clary & Tyler Baird. Many blessings received and passed on!!

If you have any items that need to be discussed at council, please feel free to come to a meeting or contact me or Pastor Randy. Remember that this is everyone's church and what is important to you, is important to us.



Worship Committee

Nancy Williams, Chairperson

Upcoming worship activities and ministries:

The “Prayer Square” ministry is well underway and being graciously received by the recipients of the squares. A big thank you to everyone who has made this ministry possible.

On Father’s Day, June 19th, there will be a special time of recognition during the worship service for the men in our lives.

Outreach

Backpack program: We are participating with other area churches to provide meals for the weekends for school children at Meherrin-Powellton Elementary. This month we were involved in the purchasing, picking up and packaging of 65 meals a week. The food is stored at our sister church, Rock UMC. Once a week we gathered to pack backpacks with enough food to get the children thru the weekend. Volunteers for this program may talk with Pastor.

Lisa’s Great Give Away will take place on Saturday, August 27th. If you have something taking up space in your, basement, garage or closets and are looking for a place to donate them (We are collecting clothing and small household items), bring them to church before the 27th. Each of the past years have been a great success as we help those in our community who need these items. There is no charge for the items – We, just give them away!

Please don't forget our Church pantry! Our brothers and sisters in the greater community are suffering and need help. We are blessed that Food Lion is willing to provide us with meats, vegetables, fruits, and baked goods but, it is up to us to fill out the dietary needs of the families we serve. Help keep our pantry stocked with your donations. I know you will open your hearts. Also, one of our biggest needs is meat. So if you are able, pick up an extra package of meat to help out one of our families. A big “thank you!” to those who take the time to help with the deliveries and each of you who donate to the Food Bank. Thanks again for all you do.

United Methodist Men

A Stew was held on the 15th & 16th of April. After spending many hours over the two days picking stirring it was complete and delicious. A big thank you to all the men of the church who joined us in preparing the stew and all the members of the church to help us sell it and buy it.

The men are planning on a weekly golf event. As we get more information we will post it and invite all those who would like to join us to do so. You don't have be good to join this group! We are a bunch of duffers!

We have applied to Va.DOT to take responsibility to clean up Ankum Road from Route 46 to Gasburg. Once we get the okay we will be scheduling a Saturday to take on this effort. We invite the church to join us as we try to help our community keep looking good. The State will be supplying all the equipment and apparel we need plus a sign advertising to the area the people who are doing this project.

A note to all the men of the church: the UMM meets on the third Saturday of each month. We invite all men of the church to join us for a time of fellowship, breakfast, and devotion. We welcome our sister church, Rock, as we would gladly have them join us for breakfast. Our next meeting will be June 25th. At 8:00 AM. Breakfast will be provided.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Celebrating birthdays this month:

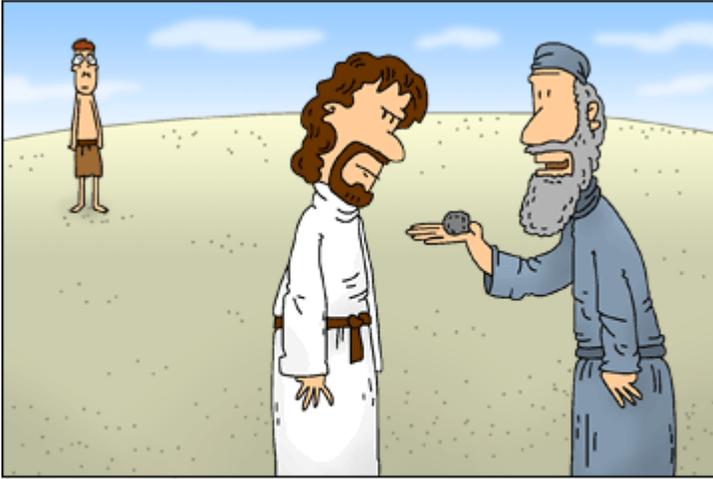
**Frank Wright - 3 Carlton Wright – 10 Cindi Cestaro – 15 Pam King – 16
Leland Williams – 20 Ann Wright – 20 Tom King – 27**

Choir Makes a Joyful Noise

And our choir does just that. We practice on Wednesday's at 7:00 PM. We are 14 strong at this time. If you feel that you would like to make a joyful noise, please come join us. It should be an exciting time for us and the church! Let us all come together to praise the Lord in song at our worship services.

Who sinned first?

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(See John 8:1-11)

06-05-2015

IT HAS THE SAME PROPERTIES AS STONE
BUT TECHNICALLY IT'S A MINERAL ... OK
TO CAST?

Upcoming Events:

Wed June 8th – 2pm – UMW Meeting

Sun June 12th Second Sunday Luncheon - After Services

Mon June 13 – Administrative Council Meeting – 7:00 PM Outreach at 6:00 PM

Sat June 18th – 8:00 am – UMM Breakfast and Meeting

This is our newsletter. It is meant to be a way to communicate what your church is doing and what all the organizations are doing both in the congregation and the community. I am sending this electronically via email and copies will be made available for those who need a printed copy.

There are many organizations within our church and I hope they would like to have their achievements, plans, and meetings made known to the entire church. It is my hope that they will ask one of their members to drop a short note as to what they doing each month. The line of communication in the church needs to be open and full of what we are doing at Olive Branch to make disciples in our area. If you would like to send us something, please bring it to church or send me an email (revedumc@yahoo.com) and we will see that it gets published. We need all information by the 24th of each month for the following month. Please, let's keep our church informed on what we are doing. See you at church and all our activities! God bless. Ed DiStefano