The monthly newsletter of the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church

Fredericksburg, Virginia

www.fumcva.org

The Open Door

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Day of Discernment

April 18

Registration 8:30-8:45
Devotion 8:45-9:00
Session One, with breaks 9:00-Noon
Lunch 12:00-12:30
Session Two, with breaks 12:30-3:00
Cost ..... $15 with lunch, $5 without lunch

Kathy Merry, one of the authors of our Lenten Study, *Does Your Church Have a Prayer: Journeying to the Promised Land,* is our facilitator on April 18th. The morning session will include a report of FUMC's historical data (membership, worship attendance, finances), demographics of our community (City of Fredericksburg), and perceptions of the congregation (report of study survey data). From this starting point, together, we will discern God's vision for FUMC. Much of our work will be in small groups in order to give greater opportunity for full participation. The Church Council will continue the work from our Day of Discernment and report back to the congregation on Pentecost, May 23-24.

Mary Jordan, our church caterer, will be nourishing us during the April 18 journey. A continental breakfast will be available when you arrive; lunch is an assortment of sandwiches and salads; and morning and afternoon snacks will be a welcome addition to our break-times. Children are encouraged to eat lunch with parents.

Please continue to keep this discernment process in your prayers. Questions? Contact Mike Cotter, Promised Land Taskforce Chair, mvcotter@comcast.net or Trish Vaughan, Promised Land Taskforce Communications Coordinator, trish_vaughan@live.com.

FREDERICKSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Holy Week Schedule

MAUNDY THURSDAY Service
April 2nd
Communion & Tenebrae Service
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY Service
April 3rd
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

EASTER EVE SERVICE
Saturday, APRIL 4th
5:30 p.m., Kobler Hall

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5th
Easter Breakfast (prepared by the Youth)
7:00 - 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
(All proceeds will go towards youth mission.)

COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE
front steps, Presbyterian Church, 7:00 a.m.

Celebrations of the Resurrection
with Brass & Timpani, Sanctuary
8:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Praise Celebration
Kobler Hall, 9:30 a.m.

308 Hanover St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-373-9021 • www.fumcva.org

Legacy Sunday ... April 26

Stephen Clark, President of the Virginia United Methodist Foundation, will preach at each of the worship services on Sunday, April 26th. Our Heritage Committee will release an updated booklet on the stained glass windows at FUMC. This is coinciding with the celebration of the refurbishment of the sanctuary's stained glass windows made possible by a generous gift from Glenna Lee in memory of her late husband, Glenn Lee. Learn more about our own Fredericksburg UMC Foundation and the ways that this ministry supports programs and missions at FUMC. A workshop for persons wanting to know more about planned giving and legacies is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. Check weekly announcements for additional information.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Easter People

On April 5th, we join Christians around the world, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! The church calendar counts 50 days, until Pentecost, as the season of Easter, but Christians celebrate "a little Easter" every Sunday. When we gather for worship, we remember ... *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* (John 3:16-17, NRSV). As Easter People, our mission is to share this Good News by witnessing to the Risen Lord.

FUMC continues in a season of prayerful discernment for God's vision of our future ministry. How are we growing in our discipleship and witnessing to the power and presence of Christ in the community? On **April 18**, you have an opportunity to participate in holy conversation, seeking the next chapter of FUMC's ministry.

Then, on **April 26**, consider how your life, even after your days on this earth are done, can continue to be a witness for Christ. That afternoon, the children of FUMC will share their joy and witness in a musical about Noah, "100% Chance of Rain".

Let us not be afraid to journey with Jesus to the cross and the grave during Holy Week. Only God can bring forth life out of death. Through Christ, we are reconciled to God, made Easter People. Let us go forth with joy.

Christ is Risen,

Brenda

REV. DR. BRENDA BILER

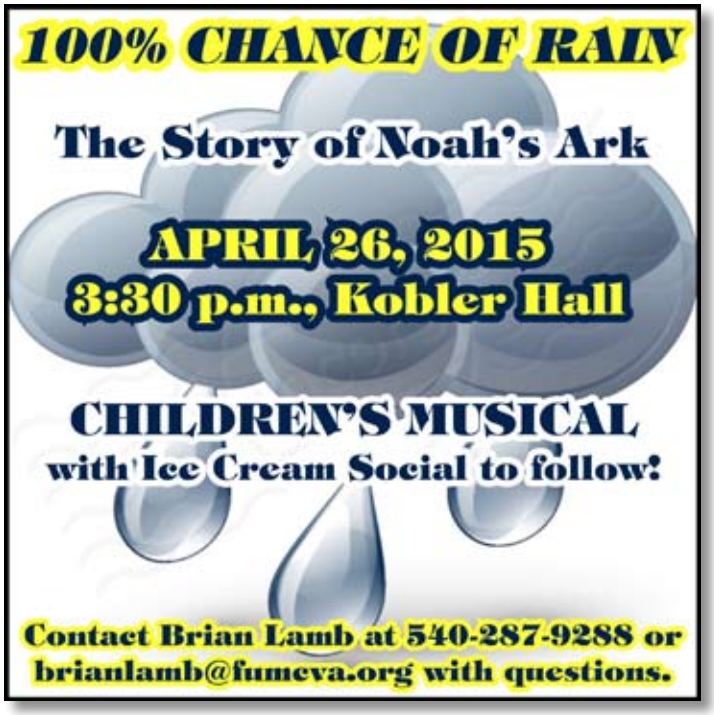
A new publication is coming!

On Sunday, April 26, as we celebrate Legacy Sunday and the restoration of the sanctuary stained glass windows, a second edition of John J. (Jack) Johnson's booklet, ***Who's in the Window***, will be available. With the support of the Memorials Committee, the Heritage Committee has updated the book to include the Cross and Flame sculpture outside Kobler Hall as well as other new or restored stained glass art.

For the first time, a book with color photos will show the beauty of all stained glass art work in the church. A limited supply of the books will be available beginning April 26. Envelopes may be used for voluntary contributions to help defray costs and to support future projects of the Heritage Committee. Please mark your envelope or check "Heritage Committee." If you think you may be away on April 26 and would like to reserve a copy, contact Margaret Mock, 540-371-3740 or church.archives@fumcva.org.

TAKE YOUR BURDENS TO THE CROSS ...

Don't forget to bring fresh-cut flowers to the courtyard. Cover the cross and your burdens with flowers as a symbol of resurrection and hope.



A Go-To List for Readers

EVERYONE FROM THE CHURCH is invited to enjoy the books from the United Methodist Woman's Reading Program found on a special bookcase in the church library. You will find books to make you cry, make you laugh and make you think about the whole world. Directions for checking out a book are on the red box you will find on the shelf. There is also a list of all of the books on the Reading Program which you may have to use as a reference. For further information call Charlotte Edge at 371-1967.

(Dates are birthdays unless otherwise indicated.)

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." — Gal 6:10

April 9

Minor & Joyce Armstrong (anniversary)
24 Jefferson St., F'burg, VA 22405

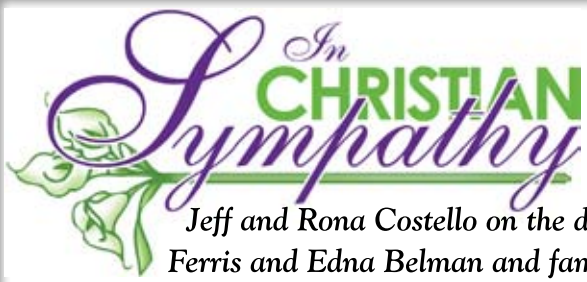
April 16

Bobby & Frances McNutt (anniversary)
38 Pendleton Rd., F'burg, VA 22405

April 16 — *Fred Ross*
803 Littlepage St., F'burg, VA 22401

April 16 — *Shirley Allen*

April 29 — *Pastor Won Lee*



Our FUMC family expresses sympathy and love to...

Jeff and Rona Costello on the death of Florence Costello, Jeff's granny (103), on March 26.
Ferris and Edna Belman and family on the death of his sister, Margaret Belman, on March 18.
the family and friends of Lucillle Williams who passed away March 16.
John Kai-Tonga on the death of his sister.
Scott Carmine and family on the death of his mother, Pat Carmine, on March 8.
the family and friends of Lucille Williams who passed away on March 8.
Christine and Tony Schroth on the death of her sister, Carolyn Wisenauer.
Ed and Becky Resio and their daughter, Penny Resio Curtis, on the death of their friend and family member, Tommy Curtis.
Carol and Bob LaChance on the death of her uncle, Sam Compton (South Boston).

Holy Communion to our Shut-ins

Holy Communion is a sacrament of the United Methodist Church. It is a means of grace and a vital part of the worship experience for believers in Jesus as the Christ. The Membership, Care, and Nurture Ministry wants to provide Holy Communion to those who are not able to attend worship on a regular basis due to life and health concerns.

If you have previously received lay-communion-server training and have been serving the shut-ins, wewwant to provide a refresher orientation and new communion sets. Or, if you sense a strong desire to be a new lay-communion servant, taking communion to those confined to their home, nursing/retirement home, or hospital room, contact the Pastor of Congregational Care, Rev. Henry "Hank" McCaslin, 540-373-9021, ext. 22, or email at henrymccaslin@fumcva.org.

Bazaar Notes

Workshops are progressing well on the 2nd and 4th Mondays 9:30 – 11:30 of each month with projects being worked on by dedicated crafters for the BAZAAR ON NOVEMBER 7TH 2015. In April we will work on paper and button projects and painting of items that have been made by our participating male woodworkers and in June we will help with sewing projects. Many hands are needed to make this the success it usually is, so we hope if you can't come for the workshops that you are busy using your talents at home.

A few items needed are ALTOID TINS and OLD JEWELRY – just put them in the Bazaar basket in Mission Control room. Thanks for all the prayers and help. Call Sharon Bradshaw (373-8245) if you have any questions or ideas to help with the BAZAAR.

FUMC Preschool News

Spring is in the air! During March, we celebrated our annual Father's Nights! We learned about dental health during a presentation from the staff of one of our Preschool parent's dental office and also explored nature while on a field trip to Motts Run Reservoir.

This month in our Preschool classrooms, we are anxiously watching our caterpillars as they grow and change into butterflies! We will enjoy storytime presented by the "Grow a Reader" Librarian from the public library. Pastor Won will lead our Preschool Chapel on April 1 and 2, and our Bible story of the month is the Resurrection of Jesus. In addition, we are looking forward to another Preschool parent leading a presentation about safety, and he is bringing his police car for us to see!

Preschool registration for next year is ongoing, and we have openings in our 2s and 4s classes for next year. Please contact Becky Patrick, Preschool Director, in the Preschool Office (540-899-3172) for more information about our exciting program!

Opportunity for Advocacy

The City of Fredericksburg is looking to add a social service use definition to its zoning ordinance. The proposed definition would single out any agency helping "people with limited ability for self-care, such as persons in need of employment, persons in need of housing services or persons with personal or behavioral disabilities." This includes anyone offering food distribution, free or reduced cost meal service, clothing distribution, bathing and personal care facilities, training, counseling, case management or related services.

If the amendment is adopted as proposed, agencies that meet this definition, non-profit or for-profit, will be required to go through a public hearing process every time they seek to expand or relocate their programs in city limits. Asking all social services to go through a public process every time they want to move takes valuable time and money away from the people these agencies set out to help. It is a highly political process, which will encourage social service agencies to stay where they are and not evolve to meet the needs of the people they serve.

Micah Ministries is suggesting that the following changes would reduce the impact that the proposed social service use definition threatens to have on the good work happening for people in need in our community.

1. **If we have to have a social service use definition, it should be defined by the services these agencies offer, not the people it serves.** Current language that singles out agencies who serve "people with limited ability for self care, such as persons in need of employment, persons in need of housing services, or persons with personal or behavioral disabilities" is discriminatory.

2. **Allow social service uses "by right" in designated commercial and industrial zoning districts.** Social service agencies should be allowed at least somewhere without a public process, and it should not be limited to industrial districts, where there is limited access and transportation. Agencies serving people in need should be easily found and in locations that are close to transportation.

Our community social services need your help expressing these concerns to representatives on the planning commission and city council. The amendment will go before the planning commission for public hearing on April 8, and they will forward a recommendation to the city council for final action. We encourage letters to the editor, calls and/or emails to your city representatives, and eventually speaking to the issue at the upcoming hearings.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES at FUMC

MONDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY

The Monday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room 210 on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month (unless the church is closed). Every week is a fresh lesson, so join in whenever you can! On Monday, March 2nd, we will meet HERODIAS. To order a book, arrange for babysitting or if you have further questions, call Ann Braz at 710-6588.

The Wesley Forum Sunday school class has recently completed the following studies:

1. **"Confronting the Controversies".** This is a study of contemporary controversies confronting the Church based on a series of sermons by Adam Hamilton, Lead Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Ks. We have Adam's book, DVD, class leader guide and a guide for the clergy.

2. **"Not a Silent Night".** This is a study of the life of Jesus from his Mother Mary's perspective. It begins with the crucifixion and works it way back to the birth of the Savior. This study is also based on a series of sermons by Adam Hamilton. We have the books and DVD for this study as well.

If any Sunday school classes, small groups or individuals are interested in these two excellent studies, please contact George Long at glong@meicompany.com or 540-809-6764.

Christian Art Show

An art festival will be held Friday, June 5, through June 28 to benefit Micah Ecumenical Ministries. It will begin with a First Friday reception on June 5 in the newly renovated Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, at 810 Princess Anne St. The show is open to all local artists, but all works must have a theme consistent with the Christian experience.

A curator will review entries (size limit, 36" x 48"). All pieces must be framed. A $10 entry fee for each piece displayed and a 25% commission will be collected on all sales, as a donation to Micah Ministries. The entry deadline is May 20, with delivery on May 31 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Contact David Johnson (tomten46@msn.com) for more information.

United Methodist Women

Every woman of the church is invited to become a member of United Methodist Women because when women come together for missions, amazing things can happen. The theme for 2015 is ***"Welcomed by God, Welcoming All."***

UMW PROGRAMS & DATES

April 2
Gladys Cocke Circle — No meeting because of April 11 Spiritual Growth Retreat

April 8
6:00 p.m. **ACTS Circle** — Unclutter Your Soul by Bill Hybels
Contact Christina Shipley (shipleyshome@gmail.com or 540-604-0948)

April 9
7:30 p.m. **Mary Ellen Stephenson Circle**, Parlor
Program: School Dressing Days
Leader: Jean Himmel

April 11
8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. **Spiritual Growth Retreat**, Kobler Hall
Leader: Karen Petersen
Cost: $15 (includes lunch)
Registration Deadline: Wed., April 8

April 16
Wesleyan Circle — No meeting because of April 11 Spiritual Growth Retreat

April 18
Fredericksburg District UMW Mission Event, Henderson UMC

April 22
6:00 p.m. **ACTS Circle** (See April 8)

April 23
7:00 p.m. **Mission Team Meeting**, Library

May 1-3
Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Blackstone
Theme: Fill My Cup
Leader: Rev. Dr. Marva Usher-Kerr

Check out the United Methodist Women bulletin board next to the Parlor!

Please call Carol Kuty at 540-898-0256 or Pat Blosser at 540-373-0593 if you have questions about our supportive community of women.

PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ...

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of Mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

UMW NOTECARDS FOR SALE ...

Another way for you to support missions is to purchase and use FUMC notecards. Packages of 10 notecards with envelopes, featuring a pen and ink drawing of our church by Jack Burnette, are on sale for $5.00 each. The cards are located in a basket at the Charlotte Street entrance. Place cash or a check in the envelope provided in the basket. Money from the sale of FUMC notecards is used for missions — the heart of a United Methodist Woman!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the Parlor on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, from 12:30 til 2:30. We share patterns and helpful hints to improve our knitting. Please bring your current project and join us.

Starting a new shawl? Please consider selecting a nice color for men, and knit a rectangular shawl which measures 30"x 64", not counting fringe. If you haven't used your talents (knit and/or crochet) in some time, and would like to refresh those skills, please gather your project and join us.

If you wish to give a prayer shawl, you may pick up a request form, which is located in Mona Lamb's office.

The following Thank You Note was received from a Prayer Shawl recipient:

To the Prayer Shawl Ministry,
Thank you for the beautiful shawl. I was touched by this kind and thoughtful gift which I will use continually. The Prayer Shawl Ministry demonstrates the faith and love of those who are of part of it. They are a wonderful example of the following words in John 13:35. "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another".
Blessings in Christ,

If you would like to be removed from the Prayer Shawl e-mailing list or if you know someone who would like to be added, please let Margaret Filler know (540-850-6293).

UNITED METHODIST MEN

UMM OFFICERS:

Larry Julihn, President • Bob LaChance, Vice President
Bryan Kitchens, Treasurer • Bob Pickett, Devotional Leader

All men are invited to join the UMM on the second Saturday of each month for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We adjourn to the Chapel at 8:45 a.m. for our devotional. Come and join your brothers in Christ for food and fellowship.

APRIL 25, 2015

Rebuilding Together®

We need volunteers with carpentry experience to repair rotting around windows, installation of insulation, and other minor repairs to a chosen house. Carpenters may need to use their own tools.

For more information, contact Charlie Vernon at 540-373-9475 or thevernons1@verizon.net.

News from the Merry Makers ...

Travel to Richmond to the beautiful, historic Wilton House on April 23rd. The cost is $10.00. Lunch details are not complete but will be an additional cost. Contact Ronda Worcester at rondaworcester@yahoo.com with questions. Send check to Ronda at 701 Cobblestone Blvd. #102, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. We will leave the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

"Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." —Proverbs 22:6

VBS 2015 – HOMETOWN NAZARETH: WHERE JESUS WAS A KID!

The dates are set! VBS 2015 will happen here at FUMC from June 22 through June 26. Mark your calendars now! We will travel back in time and see what life was like when Jesus was a little boy. In doing so, we will see so many ways that He was JUST LIKE US. Every day we will meet with his mother Mary to learn about his life, explore the bustling marketplace, and join one of the 12 tribes of Israel for games, music, craft, fun, and Bible study. The planning has already started and we need you to prayerfully consider HOW you will participate this year. We cannot do this without adult volunteers and leadership. Positions needed include:

- Director
- Marketplace Coordinator
- Music Leader
- Games Leader
- Storytelliner
- Food Coordinator
- Tribe Leaders
- Synagogue School Rabbi
- Carpentry Shop
- Bead Bazzar Shop
- Dye Shop
- Wool Shop
- Olive Oil Shop
- Farmer's Field
- Farm Animal Supervisor (and people with animals)

MEET FUMC'S KIDS

NORAH IONA SUTTON

Age – 11

Grade – 5th

School – Falmouth Elementary School

Norah is the daughter of Adam and Leigh Sutton and big sister to 8 year old Aidan. She is an active member of FUMC and worships at the 8:30 service on Sundays. She also enjoys participating in our children's choir and musicals, Vacation Bible School, Rotation Sunday School, Girl Scout troop 263 as a Junior Girl Scout, and Upward Basketball. Norah also enjoys swimming, biking, running, arts and crafts, singing, and reading. Her favorite book is Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Her favorite Bible verse is John 3:16. When she grows up, Norah would like to be a teacher. She helped out younger children and FUMC by using her Girl Scout Bronze Award project to create new activity bags for children to use during worship. This is her favorite memory from FUMC.

EASTER EGG HUNTS

On Easter Sunday, bring your Easter baskets – and cameras – with you to church. We will have an Easter egg hunt for children after every service. Children will meet on the Methodist Green after the 8:00 service, on the playground after the 9:30 service, and on the Methodist Green after the 11:00 service. If you would like to donate eggs for the hunt, please fill them with small treats (no nut products), tape them shut, and place them in the children's ministry boxes in Mission Control.

FUMC CHILDREN'S RUNNING CLUB

Have you ever seen the excitement of Fredericksburg's annual Great Train Race? It is held on the first Sunday of May each year and usually fills our church with happy, sweaty children proudly sporting their new medal. This year we are looking at the possibility of having a group representing FUMC. We would meet on Wednesday nights before the race for a devotion and then have children and adult partners run the race course. On the Saturday before the race, we will worship together as a group and then on race day, we will proudly wear our FUMC shirts and cheer each other on. We would also like to pass out water or other items to draw attention to FUMC and our offerings for families. If you – child or adult – is interested in this idea, please call Shannon Bolick.

OUTREACH Pantry

by Ed Sielski, Outreach Coordinator

The FUMC Outreach Food Pantry is presently focusing on food products only. Our present inventory is in need of, cereals, canned peas, canned fruit, canned soups, canned meat, pancake syrup and bread. Please place these items in the appropriate container in Mission Control. Since we now have an adequate supply, we do not need peanut butter, jelly, mashed potatoes and pasta. Monetary donations may also be made by writing "Food Pantry" in the memo section of your check. Contact Ed Sielski with questions. (540-786-8515)

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Each second Saturday, FUMC hosts a Community Dinner prepared in the Fellowship Hall downstairs ... free for the community. There are currently dinners EVERY Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. at our church. When renovations are completed at Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church, they will once again host dinners as well. Preparation for dinner begins from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. with set-up to follow and then dinner served at 4. What a great mission this is!!! Libby Wasem is the organizer for FUMC and can be reached at lawasem@cox.net if you would like to help with this effort.

Chapel Prayer Group continues to seek updates on military members

Every Wednesday at 11:00 the Chapel Prayer Group meets to pray for FUMC members/families/friends with health or other concerns (or praises!). We always include prayers for our military members. Through time, we have lost contact with some of our military and would very much like to have an update on them. If you have any information on any of our military members, please contact Pastor Hank McCaslin at 540-373-9021 or henrymccaslin@fumcva.org. Join us for prayer on Wednesdays in the second floor chapel!

Join your friends for yummy food and a chance to meet new friends in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. The first step is to sign up each week BY MONDAY on the bulletin board outside the church work room, in the Gathering Space or by contacting Lisa Earnesty learnesty@verizon.net. Standing reservations will be accepted. If your plans change, please call the office and cancel your reservation so that we can maintain an accurate count for food shopping and preparation. When you decide that you don't want the evening to end, stay and help clean up!

Adults - $6, Children - $3 for 3-12, Under 3 is free, Families - $25 *(Tickets will be sold for take-out meals)*

April 1, 2015
Meatloaf • Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans • Salad • Fruit
*No Dessert Served

April 8, 2015 ... Easter Week – No Dinner

April 15, 2015
Fried Chicken • Parsley Potatoes • Mixed Vegetables • Salad
Fruit • Dessert

April 22, 2015
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce and Meatless Sauce • Garlic Bread
Salad • Fruit • Desert

April 29, 2015
Hamburgers • Hot Dogs • Baked Beans • Potato Salad
Cole Slaw • Fruit • Dessert

Hospital Visits

Planning a hospital stay? Are you headed to surgery? Want to have prayer and someone from the clergy staff to visit? Tell us when you are in the hospital. If surgery is scheduled, tell us the day, time and place where a Pastor can locate you. Our Pastors can serve you best when they know your schedule. They can meet you at the health facility prior to surgery. They can have prayer and support you and your loved ones. Hospitals no longer notify churches when members are hospitalized. If you wish to have a Pastor visit, you or a family member will need to notify the church.

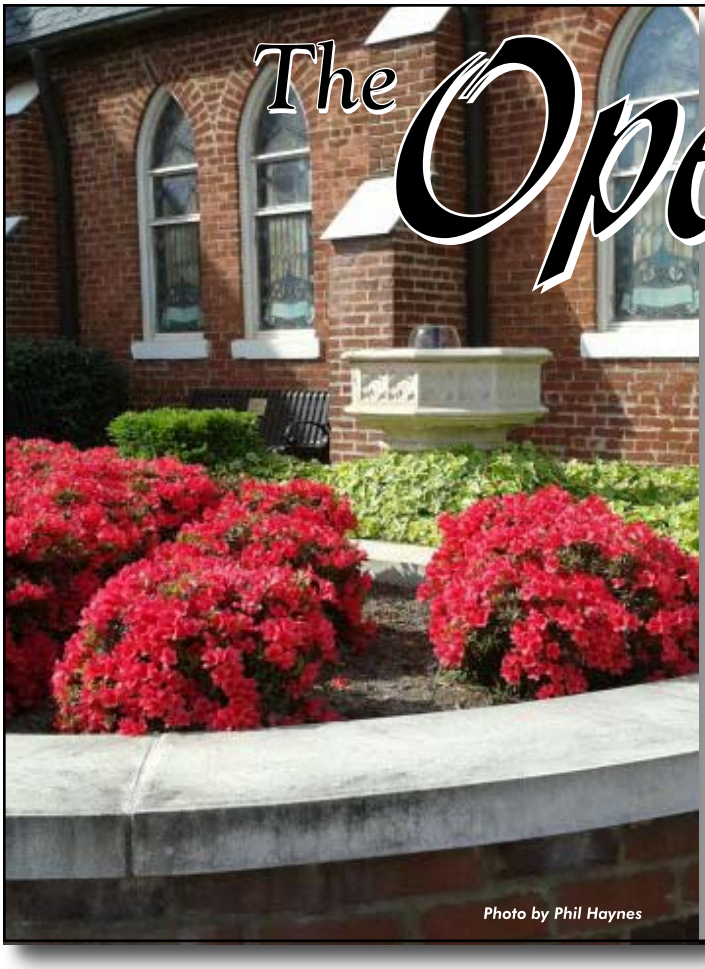


Photo by Phil Haynes

The Open Door

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of the
Fredericksburg United Methodist Church
www.fumcva.org

APRIL • Vol. 31, No. 4

A STEPHEN MINISTRY *Congregation*

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Rev. Won Lee, Associate Pastor (wonlee@fumcva.org) • Rev. Henry "Hank" McCaslin, Pastor of Congregational Care (henrymccaslin@fumcva.org)
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Becky Patrick, Preschool Director (beckypatrick@fumcva.org) • Shannon Bolick, Director of Children's Ministry (shannonbolick@fumcva.org) • Joe Dean, Custodian
Fredericksburg District Office: (804) 448-8326 • Ted Smith (fredburgds@gmail.com) • Lynn Manley (fredericksburgdistrict@vaumc.org)

Please send an email to michellecooper@fumcva.org if you have an address change or if you do not wish to receive a newsletter.

Fredericksburg United Methodist Church
308 Hanover Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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