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February 2008

**Walmsley Boulevard United Methodist Church
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Richmond, VA 23234**

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The Reverend John A. Bright, Pastor

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To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During Lent, I will be presenting a sermon series entitled "Beatitudes of Promise." As we take a closer look at Jesus' well known words that begin His Sermon on the Mount, we will find that God's promises are vastly different than the promises our world offers today.

In Matthew 5:3 we read "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." In this verse Jesus confronts the Pharisee in all of us. He challenges the promise of our world that values self-reliance and big bank accounts. In the church, we see this promise of the world lived out in the lives of those who are self-righteous. We can end up sounding like the Pharisee in Luke 18:11—"Thank God I'm not like those people!"

On the other hand, the one who is "poor in spirit" has nothing of his own to offer God. This results in a complete and utter dependence upon God. It is God's desire that we should come to Him—not with a list of accomplishments (tithing and prayer) — but rather with a broken and contrite heart. (Ps. 51:17).

If we are to be "poor in spirit" we must acknowledge our need for a Savior. There have been times, as a pastor, that I have wanted to shake some sense into good church folks who thought they would get into heaven because of perfect Sunday attendance, helping others, or generous giving. If we are counting on these to get us into heaven, there are going to be lots of confused Methodists in hell. There is no balance in your spiritual bank account that pays the debt for your sin.

We have to admit our inability to pay the debt (being poor in spirit) and allow Jesus Christ to mark the bill as "paid in full." Look closely and you will see it written in red—the blood shed on Calvary for you and for me.

(cont'd)

It's that simple—admit you can't do it on your own. This is the price of a promise. The promise is eternal life that begins here and continues in heaven. Let us seek this promise throughout Lent.

Be sure to use your daily devotional, "Your Nail," and hold your nail as you do. Let it be the focus of your Lenten meditations. May you each have a Holy Lent!

In His Grace & Grip,

Pastor John

Message from the Lay Leader

I was recently informed that the special work project I've been assigned to for the past few years will be closed out and I will be going back to my former position. Among other things this means I'm taking a hard hit in the pocketbook as it concerns my annual salary. I was sharing my tale of woe to a Christian sister and she asked me "Is God sufficient enough for you?" As you can imagine, this caused me to do some self-examination as I pondered that very important question. What about you? Is He sufficient enough for you? Do you really believe in your heart that He will meet all your needs? I pray that your conclusion is the same as mine as I claimed the promise in Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Thank the Father *right now* for meeting all your needs so abundantly.

Love in Christ,

Gloria

I wanted to thank every one for their continued support and encouragement. A lot of days are a challenge but we take it one day at a time. It means so much to me that many of you take so much time with Jaxon. He loves coming to Sunday School and Children's Church. So again, thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers.



Love, *Kathey Thore*

Cars to Work

Richmond Community Action Plan has a donated car program called Cars to Work which is unique in that the donated cars are made available to persons who have been in the welfare system but who are now employed. The recipients of the cars are persons referred to RCAP by the local Social Services Departments and are persons who are now employed and need a car to maintain their employment. Often the local Social Services Department will pay for the cost of repairs or the first six months of auto insurance for the recipients. Car donors to RCAP receive an income tax deduction for their donated vehicles which can be used on the federal and state income tax forms. RCAP staff either pick up the car or have it towed. Car owners must provide a title and in return receive their donor form. Call Bob Cook at RCAP at 788-0050, extension 18 to make your donation.



Servant Academy

The Board of Laity will hold the Academy of Servant Leadership at Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center of February 29-March 2 and March 2-4. The Academy is open to clergy and laity. The Academy will be led by Dr. Evelyn Laycock. Each session is limited to 50 people. For registration information see <www.vaumc.org> or call 521-1153.

There are brochures for this event available in the narthex.

Lay Speaking Training

The conference is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Virginia Conference Lay Speaker training at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone, February 22-24. A wide variety of classes will be offered that may not be offered on the district level. A complete course outline and registration form are available at <www.vaumc.org> or call (434) 292-5308.



The Bulletin Board

- **The Mabel Farrar Circle will meet on Monday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. All Ladies are encouraged to attend.**
- **The Josephine Day Circle will meet on Thursday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m.**
- **The UMM Spaghetti Dinner will be on Saturday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. Donations will benefit the Scholarship Fund.**
- **The Finance and Education Committees will meet on Sunday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m.**
- **The Administrative Council will meet on Sunday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **The Youth Group would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in sponsoring the t-shirts.**

Restoring Methodism

A landmark event will take place February 24-25, at Discovery UMC, 13000 Gayton Road. Dr. James B. Scott and Dr. Molly Davis Scott, elders in the Arkansas Annual Conference UMC, and authors of Restoring Methodism, "the book that is becoming a movement," will lead The Restoring Methodism Event, a study for pastors and laity. This study has been recommended by Bishop Tim Whitaker; Bishop Richard J. Wills, Jr.; Bishop Robert E. Hayes Jr.; Bishop Charles N. Crutchfeld; Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr.; Adam Hamilton; and Dr. William Abraham. Hours of the event are Sunday, February 24, 7:30-9:00 p.m. and Monday, February 25, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Great Food and hospitality are included in the cost of \$45. Call 360-4442 for registration information. Pastor John would like to encourage everyone to attend the Sunday evening session.



February Birthdays

- 1 Tyler Thore
- 1 Diana White
- 2 Wayne Bruce
- 2 Nancy Bruce
- 2 Sarah Jean Flournot
- 3 Mary Leis
- 3 Christine Williams
- 4 Nore Donner
- 4 Alma S. Larson
- 5 Jim Malone
- 7 Melissa Patterson
- 8 Diane Pearson
- 9 Susan Oliver
- 10 Michael Campbell
- 10 Jessica Feltner
- 11 Pam McLaughlin
- 11 Kristie Morris
- 12 Jimmy Mays
- 14 Kevin Ellington
- 14 Keith Ellington
- 15 Mickey Atkins
- 15 Lee Donner
- 15 Jack Nelson
- 16 Doris Robertson
- 17 Justin Jenkins
- 17 Jim Smith
- 19 Buck Husband
- 21 Lynn Bright
- 21 Mabel Hyler
- 22 Dejon Jasper
- 22 Deja Jasper

- 23 Debbie Detrick
- 23 Tabitha Walker
- 25 Reta Hobbs
- 25 Anthony Scott Kidwell
- 25 Marian Moody
- 25 Ronda Scott
- 26 Ed Hanshaw
- 26 Harold Johnson
- 28 Cerena Griffith

February Anniversaries

- 2 Rebecca & Frank Jenkins
- 20 Kathy&Claude "Sonny" Mitchell
- 23 Rose & Bill Woods
- 26 Mary & Mac Tyler

First Week in March Birthdays

- 1 Sean Rasnake
- 2 Denise Burgess
- 2 Donna Daniel
- 2 Brian Dodson
- 2 Ramona Morrow
- 3 Will Adams
- 4 Diane Thompson
- 5 Sam Flournoy
- 5 Dennis Parker

First Week in February Anniversaries

- 6 Pam & Neil McLaughlin



Greeters

- 3 Warren Ackiss & Virginia McConnell
- 10 Jackie Matze & Iris Jackson
- 17 Ernest & Jane Mackey
- 24 Betty Dalton & Mozelle Seay

Acolytes

- 3 Samantha Bright & Jacob Thore
- 10 Haley Tyree & CJ Tyree
- 17 Christopher Campbell & Tyler Thore
- 24 Tyler Thore & Jacob Thore

Nursery

- 3 Shannon Hancock
- 10 Robert Swinson
- 17 volunteer needed
- 24 volunteer needed

Sunday School Nursery

- 3 volunteer needed
- 10 volunteer needed
- 17 Shirley Thore
- 24 Volunteer needed

Directory Changes

Rev. and Mrs. John Bright
 4801 S. Melody Road
 Richmond, VA 23234



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2950 Walmsley Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23234

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**W.O.R.M....is
coming!**

Workshop Rotation
Model Sunday School will
begin in the spring. We
are very excited about
being able to offer this
experience to the children of the church and
consider it a great opportunity to reach lots of kids
outside of Walmsley and grow our Sunday School.

We will be collecting supplies to use in our
program. The collection box will be in the Sunday
School narthex by the desk. Just drop your items in
anytime.

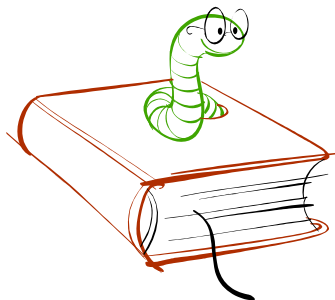
Cereal boxes—please flatten

Cardboard toilet paper and paper towels rolls

Snap-on caps from milk containers

Metal ends to frozen juice or biscuit cans

Paint stirrers—clean



Tuna fish cans—clean

Margarine and cool whip containers

Buttons

Old shirts for paint smocks (button down)

2 liter soda bottles—tops only

Used Christmas cards

Used greeting cards

Peanut cans

Coffee cans

Pringles potato chip cans

8 oz. water bottles

Scrap tissue paper

Scrap wrapping paper

Shoe boxes

Thanks for collecting and donating these items!