



Varnell

United Methodist Church

OFFERING Christ While BECOMING WHOLE-HEARTED Christ Followers

The Varnell Voice
newsletter for Varnell UMC, Inc.

1 "The Living Last Supper"

1 Easter Sunrise Service

2 Long Live The King!

2 Eggstra, Eggstra

2 Youth Activities for April

3 District Laity Rally . . .

3 Confirmation Speaks

3 Got A Graduate?

3 Speak Up!!

3 Thanks from James

4 Mission Accomplished



"The Living Last Supper"

For Centuries before Jesus came to earth, the Jewish people were instructed to remember Israel's emancipation from slavery by observing the Passover. The Passover Supper is rich with beauty and symbolism; the unleavened bread represents the sinless Savior; it is broken and hidden away to represent his death and burial; it is later uncovered and eaten.

The blood of the Lamb is important during the ceremony, a reminder that the blood of a spotless lamb caused the angel of death to "pass-over" the Israelites houses during the plagues in Egypt. When John refers to Jesus as "... the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" it becomes clear that the Israelites has been presenting a picture of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection for 1500 years before his birth by celebrating Passover!

When God called twelve men to be His disciples and apostles and to establish the New Testament Church, He chose flawed individuals, people just like you and me, men who were not saints or even finished products but works in progress; men whose qualities needed to be honed, molded and channeled in positive ways.

It is my prayer that God will use this program to remind all of us that He is not yet finished with any of us, and that every one of us is guilty of denying and betraying Him. The most important lesson, however is that His love and mercy covers every contingency and His will is perfect even when it is difficult to understand. Just as these twelve exemplary men had a mission given to them to build the Church on a foundation of love and grace, we are also charged to continue that mission, to love one another and share the good news of the Messiah.

Please join us for these powerful times of worship: Palm Sunday, March 17th - Come Celebrate Jesus' Triumphant Entry where we will "lay our cloaks and coats before Him" as a remembrance and as part of the WV Missions Outreach.

Share in the Passover with the *The Living Last Supper* on Wednesday, April 20th @ 7 p.m. Most importantly, come share in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday April 24 @ 10:45!

John Demerdjian Music Minister

Easter Sunrise Service Varnell Cemetery at 7 a.m.

Come experience the breaking of Easter Day at the Easter Sunrise Service at the Varnell Cemetery at 7 a.m. Hear the story of the first Sunday as the sun silently slips over the mountains. Varnell Baptist will host the worship.

After this brief celebration, all are invited to an Easter Sunrise Breakfast hosted at Varnell UMC.

**Happy
Easter**



Children's Ministry



Long Live the King!!!

"AS HE WENT ALONG, PEOPLE SPREAD THEIR CLOAKS ON THE ROAD." LUKE 19:35

DO YOU HAVE A CLOAK (in modern terms, COAT) you would like to donate? Children's Ministry is having a coat drive. Not only will these coats be donated to Hands of Hope in West Virginia, they will be used on Palm Sunday to replicate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem!

Please help show the children here at Varnell UMC what compassion and giving are all about, and also help them understand what it was like on that memorable Palm Sunday!

Any questions, ask Ashley – ashley@varnellumc.org or 706.581.2199.



EGG-stra EGG-stra Read all about it!

Join us for VUMC's EGGtraordinary Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 23rd at 10 a.m. In order to make it EGGxiting for the kids please bring in a dozen candy filled egg per child attending. PLEASE NO candy with peanuts. Any questions call Ashley 706.581.2199. Volunteer sign-up sheet in church lobby!



Youth Activities for April

Well hello everybody, guess what? There is nothing planned for the youth in April... HA! HA! APRIL FOOLS! We have a few events planned in April.

The first of which is The *Revolution* worship service on **Saturday, April 23 at 7 p.m.** This *Revolution* is going to stand out among all the rest, because this time around my kiddies we are moving the service outside in **THE COURTYARD**. Woo I just blew you're mind right there, didn't I. Yes! We are going to set up a stage with lights and a big screen and **Praise the Lord** outside. Before the service starts we will be playing some fun games and having a little bar-b-q. MAN, I'm so stoked for this.

The second event is **OASIS 2011**, and this will start on Sunday April 17th thru April 19th with all the services starting at 7 p.m. The speaker for this year is Christian Comedian Ken Kington from Atlanta, who is super funny; with worship being led by Ben Honeycut of Rock Bridge. **OASIS** will be held at the Rock Bridge facility, and we will most likely be taking the bus, but I will let everyone for sure very soon.

Thank you for listening to me going off on rabbit trails, as always. Everything is rock'n'rolling in the Youth Factory, so stay tuned in because God's got a whole lot more planned. If you have any questions about these events, please call or email me at 706-537-3582 or kurt@varnellumc.org. Thanks. *Kurt Baron Youthy Guy*

District Laity Rally Thank You!



Greetings Varnell Servants,
Thank you so much for helping VUMC host the District Lay Rally this past Sunday. The food and hospitality were outstanding in both quantity and quality. The only problem was y'all did such a good job that VUMC might get asked to host these events more often. For all who prayed, gave, brought, or showed up, I praise God. You blessed many through your faith-filled support. I am blessed to serve with you at Varnell UMC.

Your servant in Christ,
James R Gwin

Got A Graduate?

It's that special time of year again when students are graduating from high school, college or a post-graduate program! Congratulations! Varnell UMC wants to share your excitement with the entire congregation. Please email the church office at office@varnellumc.org with the following information about your special graduate:



- Full name of the student
- Name of the school from which he/she will be graduating
- Degree earned
- Special honors, recognitions, awards, etc.
- Future plans (college attending, employment)

The above information must be into the church office by Monday, May 9, 2011.

Graduation Sunday is set for Sunday, May 22, 2011. Still have questions, call Kurt Baron in the church office 706.694.8023.

Speak Up!!!

May 14 & 15th, 2011 at Ringgold UMC

Does the still, small voice of God sometimes nudge you to preach/teach? Ever sat through a sermon and thought "I could do that."

This class is the place for you. The Basic Lay Speaker's Course offered by the United Methodist Church is a great way to grow your faith and use your gifts.

This one Friday evening & one Saturday class will help prepare and certify you to preach at Varnell UMC or other surrounding churches that may be in need of a blessing.

To know more, email Randy Wilcox (randywx@gmail.com) or James Gwin (james@varnellumc.org). Romans 10 "How can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Call today. The deadline is soon.

Confirmation Speaks!

Quotes from Confirmation Retreat Participants

"It was a great spiritual experience and a lot of fun. I got to know all of my fellow confirmation classmates." stated Jessica Burek.

Nicholas Gwin said, "I learned a lot. The Confirmation Retreat was awesome, because our feet were washed and we were able to watch some clips from *"The Passion of The Christ."*

Please be in prayer for the last retreat of this Confirmation Class beginning Friday, May 13. The Confirmation Class 2011 will be confirmed into Varnell UMC's membership on Sunday, May 15, 2011 at the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service.

The confirmands are: Brianna Krystal Guerrero, Jessica Alice Burek, Anna Marie Dickie, Nicholas Ilya Gwin, Davis Pearson Minor, Garrett Michael Ford, Nathaniel Davis Wolfe and Robert Kenneth Sheppard, Jr.

Thanks from James

Rev. James Gwin sends a double thank you to the Men's Sunday Night Bible Study and the VUMC Staff Parish Relations Team – who took pity on me and chipped in to purchase a new cell phone. The new Blackberry 9800 and I are getting to know each other. I can almost utilize some of its functions.

More Gwinly thanks to the Wednesday night Bible Study (Michael Hicks, Daisie Bruce, Letha Whitfield, and Billy Brown.)

Missional Thanks

A shout-out to the adult Sunday School Classes for their help with the food pantry! Every week the Senior Adults are shopping for toilet paper; the Covenant Class – deodorant; the Linda Pope Class – diapers; the Open Door Class – peanut butter; and the Holy Rollers – shampoo. What a Blessing!!!!

Mission Accomplished

The last week of March, seven saintly souls slipped away from Georgia to serve through Hands of Hope Ministries. HOHM is a mission outreach to those in need in rural sections of McDowell County, WV. Started ten years ago, Varnell UMC was one of the first churches to partner with HOHM.

These faith filled servants traveled up on Thursday, March 27th to paint the community center and Jack Boyd's pants. In addition, Ann and Sandy worked with Diane through the Hope Chest and all attended worship Saturday night at the Hope Fellowship.

Interested? Two more trips are currently planned. A roofing crew is tentatively scheduled to go in late June. Contact Don Detar ((706) 264-1937) to know more. The VUMC Youth are also going in June to do Vacation Bible School and other projects. Contact Kurt Baron to help ((706) 537-3582).



The Missions group that worked at *Hands of Hope* in West Virginia pause for a moment in their labors to smile for the cameras. From left to right: Dan Harrell, Kermit McManus, Kirk Satterfield, Jack Boyd, Ann Boyd, Sandy Detar and Don Detar.



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