



The Webster Word

A community of faith in Havre de Grace, Maryland



Upcoming Events

Sun, August 2

10:00 AM – Communion Sunday

Sun, August 9

10:15 AM – Christian Ed “Super Sunday”

Mon, August 10

7:00 PM – Official Board Meeting

Wed, August 12

6:00 PM – Search-and-Call Committee Meeting

Sat, August 15

8:00 AM-4:00 PM – Peach Festival

Breakfast and Lunch; crafters; children's entertainment

Sat, August 22

7:00 PM – Quarter Auction, Social Hall, Food

Wed, August 26

6:00 PM – SCCW Picnic at the Helton home

Pastor's Message



It is unbearably hot as I write this. I have complained to at least three people this morning about it. Some of my complaining, I suspect, is just for the fun of it. Some of it comes from frustration and discomfort. It is too hot! Yet this morning I read in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians: *always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.* (Ephesians 5:20) For everything? Even the heat?

I tried to like the heat, so I would feel thankful. It did not work. I tried saying *It's God's will*, but that didn't make me feel thankful. I tried asking myself what good comes out of the heat. Answers: I learn to slow down. I learn patience. I enjoy swimming. None of these answers helped me rejoice in high temperatures and high humidity.

• *"... give thanks that*
• *even in tragedy*
• *God is to be found."*
•

If I cannot be thankful about high temperatures, how will I ever be able to give thanks for real tragedies like pain, suffering, war, hunger, death? Is it possible to give thanks for everything as the quote from Paul's letter suggests? I suspect it only becomes possible if I develop the awareness that all of life points toward the reign of God; that God is present in and working through all things; that God's love is the final word. This is not to claim that God wants our discomfort, suffering, and tragedy, but rather to give thanks that even in tragedy God is to be found. I am not there yet. It takes a lot for me even to try to offer thanks in the midst of this heat. But I am trying, and maybe some day I will be able to give thanks for all of my life and not just the parts I like.

Have a good rest of the summer.

Peace,
Pastor Jim

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Message from the Moderator

I was recently speaking with an old friend and catching-up on our personal news, and I happened to mention I was serving as Moderator at a Congregational Christian Church. She asked, “What the heck is a moderator of a church?” That term could reasonably sound foreign when used in the context of a spiritual organization, but here at Webster it has a clearly defined meaning. As in Webster’s Dictionary (not related), I am “one who presides over an assembly, meeting or discussion”. Our Church Constitution states that the Moderator “shall act as chief executive of the Church...”

Over the years, the duties of Moderator have some consistency to them, but they have also changed in response to the needs of the Church and congregation. I take this responsibility very seriously and try to do all that is expected, and know when and where I need to adapt to new challenges. Maybe it is a good idea for me to specify what I actually do as Moderator and for our members to examine these actions as appropriate. Should I be doing more or less? Do I assume the duties more rightfully belonging to someone else? How could I improve? Even volunteers such as I want to do a good job when asked to serve.

My chief duties currently include:

- Preparing the agenda for and presiding over Official Board meetings.
- Chairing the Pastoral Relations Committee.
- Serving ex-officio on all committees and boards of Webster Church.
- Managing all rental contracts for the Parish House and church facilities.
- Hiring and supervising the duties of paid staff (secretary; housekeeper).
- Negotiating all contracts pursuant to the business of the Church, including contracts for called Ministers.
- Assisting in the preparation of the Member Directory, Webster Word, and all official correspondence.
- Assisting with maintaining official files.
- Assisting with all fund-raising activities.
- Miscellaneous—means cleaning ovens, scrubbing table tops, supplying bathrooms with paper products, peeling peaches, and anything else that needs attention!

The above duties are required of this job, but I really enjoy working with each of you, learning of your many talents, and feeling the spirit of friendship in Christian love as we work together. These are benefits of being Moderator at Webster. Thanks for the privilege you bestow on me.

- Ann Helton

A Note from the Deaconate

Greetings to everyone! The deaconate did not meet in July or August because of so many of us being out of town. I hope everyone is doing well; the next big thing is the Vacation Bible School which will be over by the time you read this Webster Word. I know that a lot of hard work went into this program by many people in the church. I would like to especially thank all the Sunday School teachers that helped in putting this program together. I am sure it was a great success and the children learned a lot and had a great time.

I hope everyone is having a great summer and you all are enjoying the great weather we have been blessed with. The vegetable gardens are going crazy because of all the rain we had in May and June; God will always provide for us!

It won't be long and we will be facing another September and the Advent season will be following close behind. That is the way the Church year always seems to go. I am looking forward to another great church year!!

- Gary Lyttle
Chair of the Deaconate



Christian Ed

We had a wonderful week of singing, learning, praying, playing, eating, supporting important missions, fun, and friendship at Vacation Bible School. Webster Church was turned into a Wildwood Forest, complete with (artificial) trees and woodland creatures. Once again, we came together with our friends at Hopewell Church and Wesleyan Chapel and provided a special VBS for over 70 children. Thanks so much to Ms. Heidi, who did an amazing job preparing for and implementing VBS this year. Thanks, also, to the many, many volunteers who fed us, taught the children, led crafts and games, and helped in a variety of ways. We also want to thank Pastor Jim for his presence and prayers at VBS each night. And of course, we are so grateful to our children who made this another successful VBS.

Remember that we will not have formal Sunday School until Rally Day in September, but parents are welcome to use the nursery during services. Also, we will have a SUPER SUNDAY on August 9 where the Sunday School children and youth will come together after Children's Time for a special project and/or games. Please plan to bring your children to church on August 9 (and it is probably best to let them dress casually that day).

- Susan Cohen

August Music Plans

The Music Committee would once again like to thank Auggie Somers for filling in for Neil while he's away at music camp. It's wonderful to have one of our own willing to step in and substitute for us this way. We're very lucky to have you Auggie. :^)

We'd like to encourage everyone to attend the August 16 service and bring a friend or two to hear Nan Taylor. Nan will be singing and playing the harp for us. She joins us from Grace Methodist Church in Havre de Grace, where she is a member and sings in the choir.

Of course, everyone will want to be here on August 23 for Mt. Zion's Men's Chorus. They always provide a rousing gospel music service for us, so come and sing along. Be prepared to stay a few minutes longer on that day as we generally get started a little later than 10 AM in order to get the whole group together.

And just a reminder - Choir season will begin again on September 6 with rehearsal at 9:30 AM and the service at 11:00 AM. If you like to sing, come out and join us. Even if you can only sing once or twice a month, we'd love to have you. Reading music is not a requirement. We'll teach you what you need to know. I'd especially like to encourage you men who enjoy singing to come and join Gary in the back row.

August Guest Musicians

August 2 - Jocelyn Merkle

August 9 - Gary Lyttle

August 16 - Nan Taylor, harpist

August 23 - Mt. Zion Baptist's Men's Chorus

August 30 - Gwen Stolzenbach

- Gwen Stolzenbach
Webster Music Committee



Trustee's Report

Thankfully, the only thing to report is that we won \$25.00 from an Abitibi Paper Retriever promotion.

- Graham Silsby
Chair, Board of Trustees

Village News

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all those celebrating this month. Also this is back to school month. Sorry kids. Congratulations to all those fourth term students who made honor roll in middle and high school. It was printed in the school news section of the Aegis dated 07/15/09. And to the college students who silently receive those accolades and elementary students who don't get mentioned in the paper. And to a special young man who works at Burger King and is in the Science and Math Academy.

Concerns are for the Cheek family once again. Bob lost another brother recently. They have had three deaths within the last two months - their daughter Angie, and a brother two weeks later and now another one. His mother is still among us going strong in her mid 90's.

Wellness concerns are sent to my Aunt Marge in Baltimore who successfully had cataract surgery done. Now she can really see what my Uncle Bob is up to. Also to Betty Knight who has some eye concerns and will address them in the near future. Plus my husband managed to get an eye injury while mowing. It flew into his eye and we made an emergency trip to my doctor. Found out it was a bug wing and it had scratched his eye ball. Now he is on drops. Me - the specialist in Severna Park did a culture and it came back positive. So those little buggers are still active, and I must exercise caution in being around anyone who has not had chicken pox.

Concerns are sent to my brother-in-law's sister, Janet living in Colorado who has shingles (age 58) around her waist, and my sister's boss, Donna who has shingles on her back (age late 40's). What is wrong with you guys? Don't you want them too?

Lily enjoyed the 4th with watching the sparklers and announcing, "Happy New Year." The loud noises frightened her so we avoided the fireworks.

Hope everyone is enjoying their fresh vegetables from their own gardens and fruit stands. Take advantage of this wonderful bounty from above.

In September comes Grandparents Day. "The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent." -Sam Levenson

- Carol Gallion



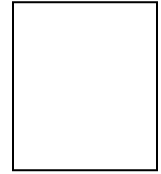
Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Acolyte	Reader
August 2	Marie Wehland Vilma Duffy	Jim Duffy Gabe Capasso	Lindsey C.	
August 9	Doris Lyttle Genevieve Snodgrass	Ken Joel Bruce Ashman	Margaret A.	
August 16	Mary Muir Bruce Ashman	Tom Kutscher Jim Gorham	Jamie G.	
August 23	Doris Lyttle Gary Lyttle	Janet Cohen Graham Silsby	Julie P.	
August 30	Vilma Duffy Doris Lyttle	Jim Duffy Jeff Meiselwitz	Mac M.	

Please note: If you are unable to fill any of these dates, please call Gary or Doris Lyttle at 410-939-9637.



Webster Congregational Christian Church
of the United Church of Christ
 4100 Webster Road
 Havre de Grace, MD 21078
 410-939-1884
websterucc@comcast.net
www.websterucc.org



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



The Peach Festival

...will be on Saturday, August 15, 2009, from 8 AM to 4 PM. There will be an all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8 to 10:30 AM. The lunch menu includes: hot dogs, sloppy Joes, sloppy dogs, peach pie a la mode, peach sundaes, and drinks.

We will need helpers to help with the following: let everyone know about the Peach Festival, post flyers at places in your neighborhood, work by peeling and cutting up peaches and make pies the week before August 15, help serve and clean up on August 15, and bake items for our bake table. We would like people to bake items for the bake table, with or without peaches. We get requests for pies other than peach. If you need a peach recipe, let Doris know.

We will meet on the afternoon of Thursday, August 13 to peel peaches for the ice cream sundaes and for the peach pies. We will bake pies and finish peeling peaches all day on Friday, August 14. If you can help, give Doris Lyttle, Bessie Bowman, or Ann Helton a call. We look forward to what ever help you can give us and hope to see you at the Peach Festival.

Crafters are welcome. If you or someone you know is interested in bringing their craft, contact Doris Lyttle. Don't forget to order your peach pies on the Webster UCC website.

- Fund Raising Committee

Clerk's Report

Deaths

Irving Chidsey – June 11, 2009

Things Happening at Webster Church

- The church website is changed in the church office. Items for the website are to be submitted to Jo Ann.
- Pastor Jim proposed doing a Bible study on line.
- The Search and Call Committee continues to work on the church profile.
- The Official Board is reviewing the budget shortfall the church is facing.

SCCW

SCCW will hold their annual summer picnic on August 26 at 6 PM at the Helton home for all the ladies of the church. Husbands or significant others are welcome to attend the picnic for a cookout and fellowship. The meat will be provided, but we will need other picnic items. Please RSVP to Ann Helton by Monday, August 24 as to how many are attending and what you will bring. Ann's number is 410-734-7206.

- Doris Lyttle



Please send articles, photos, news, and corrections by the 15th to the editor (shawna.ashman@comcast.net) or church office (websterucc@comcast.net).