

UMW NEWS:



Winchester District Prayer Breakfast was held on **Saturday, March 5th** at the **Lee Jackson Banquet Room @9:00 AM**. We car pooled from the church leaving at 8:00 AM. The breakfast buffet was delicious, as always. About 15 ladies attended from Front Royal and 5 from Limeton UMC, with a total attendance of about 365 people. The Rev. Larry Thompson, former pastor of FRUMC, now District Superintendent of Winchester District attended and warmly greeted his former parishioners.

The **Deborah's Prayer Breakfast** was held on **March 19th @ 9:00 AM** in the **Fellowship Hall** with the **Rev. Dee Pendley** as guest speaker.

COMING EVENTS:

A **General UMW Meeting April 17th** to be held in the **Fellowship Hall** at 1 PM with Sarah's as hostesses serving a light lunch followed by a meeting and program on "Membership" by Dicey Beverage. All ladies are invited.

The **Winchester District Special Event** will be held at **Refuge UMC**, 717 Refuge Road, Stephens City on **April 23rd 9:30AM -12Noon**. The theme will be on Child Hunger. We will carpool from the church at 8:30 AM. Please call Jean Brown (631-9185) if you are going and/or have a car available.

UMW Executive Committee Meeting is to be held on **Tuesday, April 24th** in the **LFK room** at **7:00 PM**. All officers and circle leaders are to attend. If you are not able to come, please ask a substitute and call Jean Brown (631-9185) President.

The **annual VA Conference Spiritual Life Retreat** will be held **May 1st to MAY 3rd** at **VUMAC in Blackstone, VA**. The speaker will be the **Rev Dr Marva Usher-Kerr**. We will car-pool from the church. Please contact Jacque Bowman (635-4948) for further information and reservations. This will be our last trip to Blackstone, as the

We are very excited to begin transitioning our Tower Notes to an electronic format. This will help us to be better stewards of God's gifts to us by saving trees as well as money. The Tower Notes are always available on our website <http://www.frumc.org> or can be emailed to you where you would be able to read them and/or print them off yourself. On our website, you can also sign up for our weekly e-note that has a word from Pastor Alan as well as reminders and updates for the coming weeks. We will continue to print some copies that will be available for pick-up in the annex, and we will continue to mail out the newsletter to our homebound members and to anyone who does not have computer access. Please notify the church office if you still need to have the newsletter mailed to you.

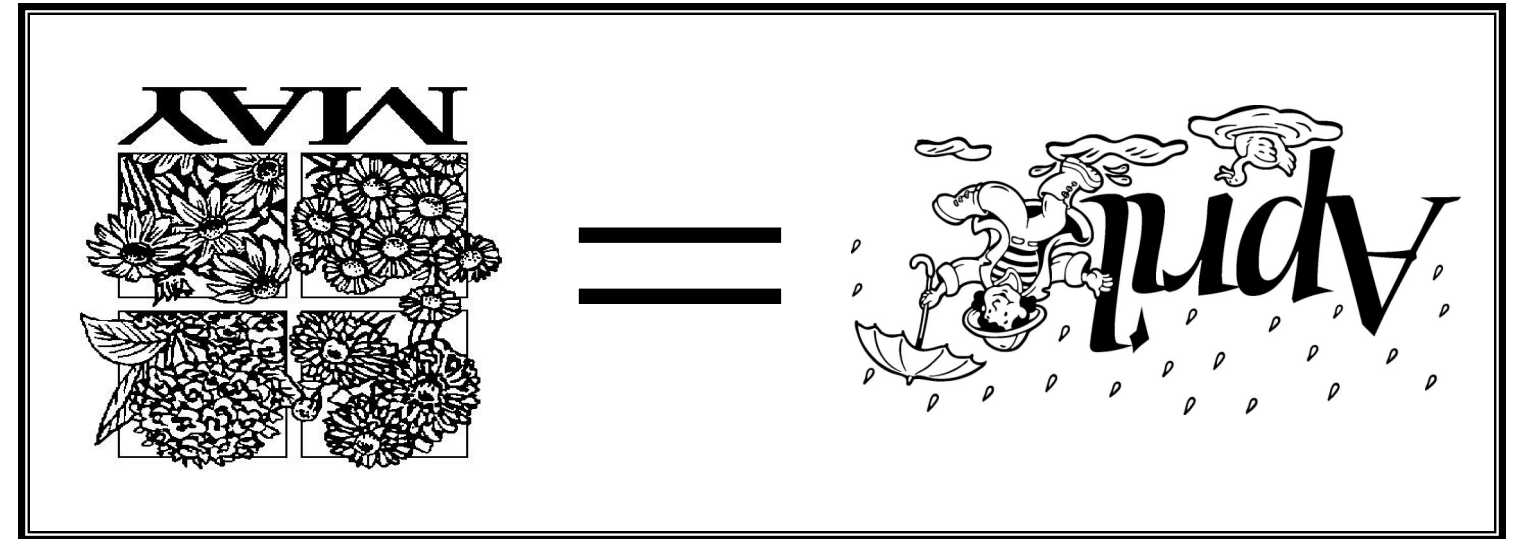
Gas Guzzling Free Spirits Go

A busload of vibrant Free Spirits sped to Fredericksburg's Riverside Theater on **March 30** to spend a pleasant afternoon with Professor Henry Higgins and his protégé, Eliza Doolittle. Following a sumptuous brunch, we enjoyed the nostalgic hit songs of Lerner and Loewe in the classic musical "My Fair Lady."

April 27th marks our return to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico. The Museum has been closed through March 30th, while new exhibits were installed. After viewing an introductory film, we'll proceed on a guided tour led by a veteran Marine and end up with a Dutch-Treat lunch at Tun Tavern. A number of new displays have been added since our last trip four years ago. Where else can you experience so much history—for **FREE!**

Gunston Hall, the beautifully preserved plantation of founding father George Mason, is the target for our May 25th excursion. Mason authored the Virginia Declaration of Rights, fathered the U. S. Bill of Rights, and was a framer of the U S. Constitution.

Topping off the first half of the year is our Annual Picnic on June 22nd. We'll welcome your suggestions for future events. Seniors Helping Seniors is our theme—and we need your participation!



Front Royal United Methodist Church

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Alan Combs, Pastor
Rhonda Thompsen, Office Manager
Melissa Chavez, PhD, Minister of Music
and Worship Arts
Joan Chadwell, Interim Director EBS/CDC
Barbara Robinson, Facilities Manager
Donna Quarton, Business Manager
Patti Henson, Housekeeper

Office Hours: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Monday through Friday

**Methodist Men
Take A Hike - Go to
the dogs!**

A record crowd of Methodist men - and interested women - took a virtual reality trip alongside John Huttar as we hiked the entire 2,170 miles of the Appalachian Trail, at our regular second Monday dinner meeting March 14. Aided by Technical Advisor Hugh Martin, we viewed some 50 fascinating photos of scenes along John's six and a half month trek.

As usual, our hard-working chefs provided a sumptuous baked pork chop feast. And we voted to donate \$300 to Don and Katelyn Thompson's Haiti mission, plus \$100 to help fund Boy Scout Troop 52's trip to Camp Philmont in New Mexico. After two troop leaders and an impressive young Eagle Scout made a brief presentation to our group, the basket was passed and an additional \$306 was raised.

We're in for a special treat at our **April 11** regular dinner meeting in Fellowship Hall. Have you ever wondered what goes on at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Canine Training Center in Harmony Hollow? We'll find out when Special Agent Canine Handler Rich Clabeaux and his four-legged protege, Christie, join us to demonstrate their explosives finding prowess. They'll be joined by French Tolliver, Veterinary Technician with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at the Canine Training Center. It all promises to be a blast you won't want to miss!

Our **May 9** program will feature the Church's own Susan Schall as we are guinea pigs for an informative new presentation she has developed to show how to make non-profit organizations successful. On **May 6** we'll also be participants in the United Way's "Day of Caring" - our annual event to give back to the community we serve. Future programs include the Gideon Bible Society and a best-selling Woodstock author.

At this point only 15 Methodist Men have paid their \$15 annual dues. Last year saw 24 dues - paying members. Based on our attention-grabbing, re-vitalized programs and the great cuisine - our goal this year is at least 30 paid members. Come on guys - we need your support!

From EBS/CDC....

My name is Joan Caldwell and I would like to share with you a few thoughts about Elizabeth B. Sherman Child Development Center, or EBS. I am the director here at EBS. Saying that brings a smile to my face. My position is not one I would have searched for, actually, it kind of found me. As I look around here, I feel I am right where the Lord wants me! EBS is a mission. That mission continues to unfold before me each and every day, often in ways I never anticipated.

I am so honored that EBS received the church's mission box support for the month of March. Thank you for your generous support and for understanding the importance of the EBS mission. We could not do it without the support of our FRUMC family.

You may think of us as a daycare, to help working parents. You may think of us as a preschool to help prepare children for kindergarten. We are that, but so much more. We are a mission when we are able to offer our program to families that cannot afford other daycare options. We are a mission when we embrace these families and show them love and acceptance. We are a mission when we are able to help the single dad when his seasonal job ends and he searches for another opportunity to support his child.

I have found new missions in places that were not so obvious. We are a mission when we offer employment to hard working individuals that have been overworked and undervalued at other places of employment. So many of my staff have found a place of acceptance where they can work and be appreciated for the love and care they give. I have witnessed these people blossom into superior employees as they experience the sense of being valued and loved. That is a mission.

The common thread through all these missions is love. EBS is a mission of Christ's love. As I am surrounded by the love and joy of these children, I see the love of Christ. I trust that our families see His love here, and hope they will seek Him out.

I am so excited that **Sunday, April 10 will be EBSCDC Sunday!** The children are working on sharing their lovely worship songs with you at the 8:30 service. We want to thank you for all of your support. You will feel the love! Following the service, the children would love to show you their classrooms! Please come up stairs and join us for lemonade and cookies!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

01	Amy Nash Cassidy Flouhouse	12	Lynn McConahy Abigail Pearson Avis Briggs	22	Piers Dublin
02	Mary Burke Gene Hinson, Jr. Mike Holbert Marybeth Quist	13	Stacey Athey Penni Jenkins Michael Tanner Teketia Smith Chris Lee	23	Sylvia Seal Ursula Baltzer Lacie Glascock
03	Shirley Jennings Evelyn Scott		William Smith Andre Arrington	24	Melissa Cooper Keri Mortland Alaina Farley Kaleb Smith
04	John Vance Lori Hazelette Blake Cockrell	14	Carmen Pond	25	Sonia Robinson
06	Evon Clater Mike Waters Larry Cooper Larry Scislowicz, Jr.	15	Halle Jantosciak	26	Gwyn McCormick
07	Sheila Smith	16	Nadine Murphy Mickey Moats Sharon Oakes Michael Haffer Sean Coffron Jordan Kenney	28	Erika Henson Andrew Burke
08	Mark Athey Eric Eifert Heather Feckl Levi Simmons	17	Jim Dooley Jeff Leser	29	Terri Whiteside Heather Clawson Ashley Barton
09	Matthew Campbell Karli Hemminger	18	Caroline Harlow Brady Manuel Michael Starr		
10	Kathy Conkey Patty Graham Dawn Gibbons Nancie Kie	19	Craig Halsted Susan McSwain Susan Maddox Brandon Twele		
11	Louise Neff Beverly Morrison Evan Bukva Kirk Briggs, II Penelope Norton	20	Cathie Johnson Maria Thompson		
		21	Mike Chadwell Dylan Allison		



**Mission Box for April
Red Bird Mission**

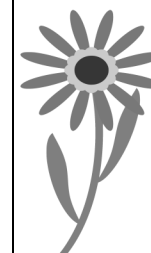
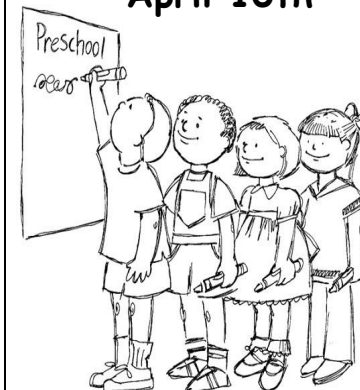
VBS is coming, anyone interested in helping plan and/or staff this year's VBS, please contact Ruth Pearson.

"True love, indeed is not an exterior act. It is not to give something in a paternalistic way to satisfy one's conscience, but it is accepting those who need our time, our friendship and our help," was the message delivered by Pope Francis during a Lenten homily several weeks ago.

The Pope went on to proclaim the forty days of Lent as "A good opportunity to train ourselves to be more sensitive and merciful to others," and that the period leading up to Easter offers an ideal occasion to practice the elements of simplicity and sharing that embody true Christian stewardship.

"Lest the gifts we offer—money, talents, time—serve to salve our conscience, to our secret shame, Lord, inspire us by the way you give; Teach us, dying Savior, how true Christians live."

**Preschool
Sunday
April 10th**



Fellowship hour
(brought to you by the United Methodist Women)

April 17th
Between
Worship Services



Please Support Our



BACKPACK
Ministry