

The CHIMES

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On Thursday, August 14th, Jay Parrotta will be the guest organist at All Saints Episcopal Church in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. At 12:15 PM, Jay will perform a lunchtime recital that will last 45 minutes. The recital will follow a Healing Service with Holy Communion at 11:30 AM.

The address - 18 Olive Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
Phone - 302-227-7202.

For any questions, contact Jay Parrotta at 703-256-9193 or at jfparrotta@gmail.com.

A publication of Franconia United Methodist Church

Lift Up Your Voice

Music Ministry at Franconia UMC

The music ministry at Franconia UMC is blessed with a vast array of talented participants. During the school year, we have the Chancel Choir for 11:00 AM Sunday worship that rehearses Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM, vocalists for 8:30 AM Sunday worship who rehearse Monday nights at 6:45 PM, and the Bell Choir that rehearses Monday nights at 7:30 PM.

The church's children, youth, and instrumentalists also participate in the music ministry by offering their gifts of music in service to the Lord. Plus, they all take part in the Christmas and Easter concerts. These dedicated individuals will take a break during the summer but will resume their service after Labor Day. During their well-deserved respite, various musicians will continue serving the church in music ministry as soloists during worship services.

Franconia UMC provides opportunities for everyone who desires to be involved in music ministry. Please consider serving God by joining this ministry. Music serves such a vital role in our worship.

Contact Jay Parrotta at [703-256-9193](tel:703-256-9193) or jfparrotta@gmail.com.



Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
Psalm 100: 1–2



Have you been thinking about membership at Franconia United Methodist Church?

To learn more, please join with others who are considering membership on Sunday, August 3 after the 11:00 AM service. (Pizza will be provided.)



Reflections on the Community Barbecue

Sunday night, June 8th

What an amazing, fun day! If you weren't able to join us today, you missed a special time of fellowship, hospitality, good food, laughter, listening to squeals of excitement from our little ones (and not so little ones) and meeting some new neighbors who felt comfortable enough with us to stay the entire time . . .

. . . numbers aren't precise, but at one point Pat Hobbs counted 152. There were probably another 30-40 who came and left either before or after she counted. . . She counted over 60 new faces.

Among the many "God sightings" at the event were simple things , like the fact that it rained so hard in West Springfield they had to close Rolling Road for a time – just a very few miles away. After a few raindrops and several prayers, the rain stopped at the BBQ. A guy who had been monitoring the approaching storm on his phone mentioned "I don't know what you all did, but the storm warning I just got for this area, just went away."

A young man, new to the neighborhood who came at 3, and stayed until 7:30 – and before he left, he asked about the hours of our worship services and said that he would see us soon.

Three families from Franconia Elementary joined us and 4 families who have come to know us through Koinonia –

One of the church members was asked "Why do you do this for people you don't even know?" The response: "because we love you."

Today was the perfect example of living into our new vision statement - we had multi-generations for certain, we reached out and cared for each other, AND we served as instruments of His love as each one of us served as a host in our own ways to those in our community who needed God's touch.

We had new members, old members, non-members – all pitching in to help – all for what? To make it work, to make it fun, to make it special for each other.

From comments of Pat Hobbs, Chair of the Outreach Ministry Team

What an amazing, fun day!



FROM THE PASTOR



By: Pastor Catharine Guest

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

How often do we hear those words at memorial services or read them on the tombstones of those who have given their lives in the service of our country? Every time I go to Arlington Cemetery and look out at the sea of tombstones, my first thought is that total strangers were willing to die to preserve my freedom! No greater love. Our country was founded on such love – and in July we remember most particularly the lives of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. But who were the 56 men who signed that bold document?

- ◆ 24 were lawyers and jurists
- ◆ 11 were merchants
- ◆ 9 were farmers and large plantation owners

Those men were well educated and wealthy – and could have stayed comfortably safe at home. Yet they signed the Declaration of Independ-

ence, pledging their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to something they believed in, knowing full well that the penalty was death if they were captured. So when the war was over, did they all just come back home? Nope...

- ◆ 5 signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.
- ◆ 12 had their homes ransacked and burned.
- ◆ 2 lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had 2 sons captured.
- ◆ 9 of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

The cause of freedom was so important to these men that they put their lives on the line to achieve it. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice and we are compelled to respond by living lives worthy of the name American. We must also be willing to assume the responsibilities that come with the name.

As I consider such things, I wonder... how do we respond to our Savior's great act of sacrificial love and its eternal implications? Christ died to set us free from sin and death, but at the end of the day freedom isn't free – it comes at a price. Blood is shed; someone dies. The survivors must choose how to respond – live in such a way that those who died in their stead are honored...or not.

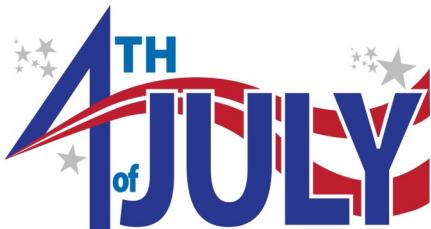
And it is here that my analogy breaks down. Christ did indeed die – yet Christ lives – and through the power of the Spirit, we who believe in Christ are given the power to live into our belief. It is our choice: God's sacrificial love gives us the ultimate freedom: for Christ or against Him. It's a choice left to each of us as we consider the cross and the empty tomb.



Did You Know?

John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest.

Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826--the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

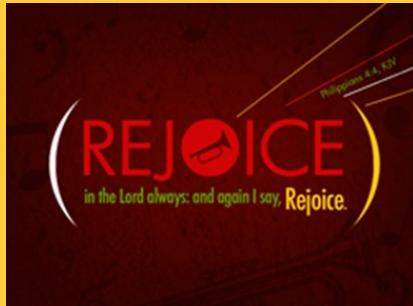


Fourth of July: Independence Day

July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 until today, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to casual family gatherings and barbecues.

Ten Commandments for Kids

1. Show God your Love by loving others.
2. Be thoughtful and kind in what you say and do.
3. Thank God for each new day.
4. Help family members without being asked.
5. Take care of all living things: people, animals and plants.
6. Be true to what is really important.
7. Treat other people's things as if they were your own.
8. Always tell the truth and be honest.
9. Be happy for your friends when good things happen to them.
10. Share your things cheerfully.



ROCKING FOR THE LORD

A new opportunity to participate in the ministry of Franconia United Methodist Church!

Have you played or sung in a rock band? Have you always wanted to be a part of a rock band? How about "Rocking for the Lord"?

If you sing and/or play a musical instrument and would like to praise God in a Christian Rock Praise Band, please let Pastor Guest know. You can send an email to catharine.guest@gmail.com.

Bible Brain Twister

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books are not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly ad-

mit it usually takes a minister to find one of the 17, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are the names of 17 books of the Bible in these sentences. One preacher found 16 books in 20 minutes. It took him three weeks to find the seventeenth one. (Send an email to Chimes@franconiaumc.org if you find all 17.)

Franconia Youth at Kingsfest

Eight Youth attended Kingsfest in Kings Dominion on Thursday, June 26 for the Christian concert with *TobyMac, Hillsong Young & Free, Building 429, Rend Collective, and Compassion speaker Tony Wolf!*



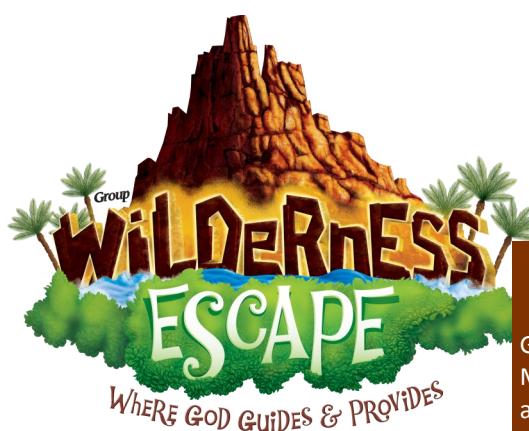
TobyMac



Upcoming Youth Events:

July 5–11: Youth Missions Trip, SPY (Summer Projects for Youth) program, Fieldstone Methodist Church, Blacksburg, VA.

July 21–25: Assisting with Vacation Bible School



July 21–25 9 AM–NOON Vacation Bible School

Go online to register: franconiaumc.org
Music, singing, games, crafts, snacks, and time to visit Moses in his tent!



OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

Cindy Langan, Finance Chair

Franconia United Methodist Church continues to be blessed by your generous support. As of May 31, 2014, we had a surplus for offerings over budgeted expenditures of \$6,388. This is a decrease from our surplus as of April 30 of \$11,681. This was a result of lower offerings than the previous months and increased expenditures. Offerings for the year are still above budgeted costs by \$1,000 and expenditures are still below budget by \$5,288. Our reserves are down to \$25,743 from \$26,243 last month.

The Capital Fund balance as of May 31st is \$18,478 an increase from \$17,569. The Trustees have significant improvements planned for the Church property this summer including painting the steeple, front porch, the trim, windows and doors.

Suitcases for Foster Children

The Bucky Circle delivered six suitcases to Franconia Family Services in May. The staff was delighted to receive them and will disperse the cases to foster children in our area. Often the children do not have any place to keep their personal items, such as pictures of their parents or siblings. Without a place to keep these items when they are moved around, they often lose these cherished items.

These improvements will significantly reduce the Capital Fund. Please consider making additional contributions to the Capital Fund if you are able.

While May was not a strong month, June offerings through the 15th are \$20,164 which is a little ahead of May and June is a 5 Sunday month. This gives good reason to expect a better month. Please continue to support Franconia UMC financially and with your prayers, presence, service and witness so that we can continue to move forward in the direction that God is leading us to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world!

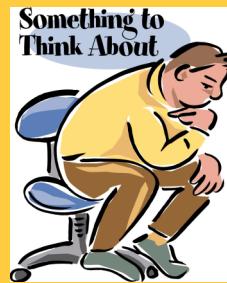
APRIL 30, 2014

- Surplus of Offerings in excess of Expenditures: \$11,681
- Reserves: \$26,243
- Capital Fund: \$17,569

MAY 31, 2014

- Surplus of Offerings in excess of Expenditures: \$6,388
- Reserves: \$25,743
- Capital Fund: \$18,476

If you have a relatively good, medium-size suitcase taking up space in a closet, the Bucky Circle will take it to help a foster child keep track of those few personal possessions he or she has. You can bring them in and leave next to the Bucky Circle box in Cokesbury. If you have any questions - please contact Barbara Lawrence, Vikki Beaty, Sandra Ross, or Elaine Balducci.
(See Photo on Page 8)



I Was Wondering . . . What Difference Does Membership Make?

Church membership is a public acknowledgment of our faithful commitment to this particular Body in Christ in good times and in bad. Within the United Methodist Church, membership gives power to our voice within the life of the church. As members we are called to hold each other accountable for our spiritual deepening and our faith walk. Additionally, as members we are able to prayerfully vote on all that takes places within the life of the church and to voice our discernment as to where we feel that God is leading us as the Body of Christ. Though we can serve Him as a part of the priesthood of all believers without becoming a member, as members we are given the opportunity to become leaders of ministry teams as God calls and join our God given talents with those members whom He has already gifted and called to leadership for His glory.

We give thanks to God for the membership of the Body of Christ in this place and the powerful ministries God has called each of us to lead.

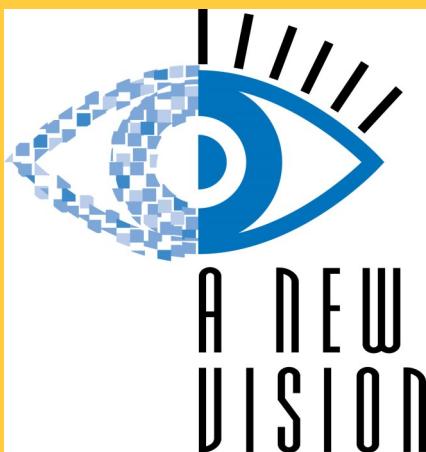
UPDATE: Outreach to Franconia Elementary School

The school year has come to a close and FUMC's support of Franconia Elementary School has been so warmly received and appreciated. Our gifts of time, food, books, and prayers have made differences in the lives of our neighbors. The book drive was a huge

success with over 400 books donated. We will support the school during the summer as we help with taking books into the neighborhoods. We will meet with the new principal in mid-summer to outline our plans for the next school year.

Recently I was invited by a student to visit a cultural display in the library completely organized and set up by the students to share artifacts and other items representing their native countries. Working with these students has been like seeing a cross-

Continued on page 6



Franconia United Methodist Church is a multi-generational, Christ-centered community called to reach out to the young adults and families in the Franconia/Kingstowne area. We welcome all and together respond to the challenges of daily life through worship, study, and fellowship. As led by the Holy Spirit, through dynamic and innovative ministries, we will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Implementation of the New Vision

On Saturday, August 2, the Church Council will meet off-site at Hermitage to review all ministries and events within the context of the mission and vision statements. To implement the New Vision, we will need to examine what the church is currently doing and to discern what God is calling us to do in the weeks and months ahead. If you have questions or comments, please share them with members of the Church Council or members of the Vision Implementation Team. Vision Implementation Team: Glenn Sutton (team leader); Bruce Bartolain; Cindy Langan; Pat Hobbs; Sharon Sheldon; Suzanne Ackley; Lisa Dickinson; Sharon Pappajohn; Keisha Miller; Janet Hedrick; and Pastor Catharine Guest (Advisor).

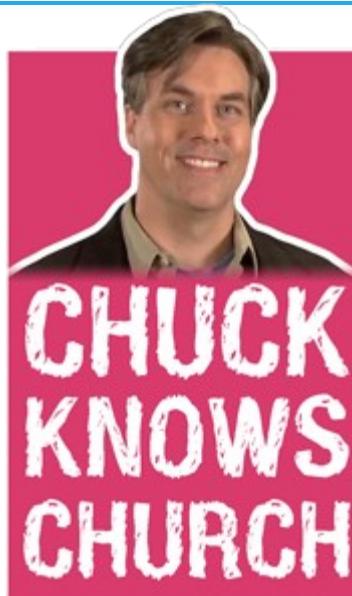
Franconia Elementary School

(Continued from page 5)

section of the many peoples that make up the U.S. and our local neighborhood. Countries represented by the students and their families: Peru, Egypt, Nigeria, New Zealand, China, Russia, Switzerland, England, Kenya, Japan, Korea, Greece, Benin, Chile, France, New Guinea, Vietnam, Finland, India, Turkey, Pakistan, and the United States. I find it exciting that we live in such a diverse and culturally rich community.

And all of us are God's children!

Pat Hobbs, Chair, Outreach Ministry Team



<http://www.chuckknowschurch.com>

Episode 79: Psalms

The Psalms are right in the middle of your Bible. You could think of the Psalms as the hymnbook of sacred scripture. But, is that all you know?

NOTE: At its June meeting, The Church Council approved the partnership agreement with Franconia Elementary Schools. The document has been signed and has been returned for final review and approval by Fairfax County Public Schools .



Chuck Knows Church is a fun and informative (and free!) weekly web series about the objects, symbols and terms used in church. Take a couple of minutes each week and have some fun while you learn from Chuck!

You can get the weekly episode of **Chuck Knows Church** in several places:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChuckKnowsChurch
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/chuckknowschurch
- Web-site: www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChuckKnows>

The United Methodist Church's General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) produces **Chuck Knows Church**.



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Report from Annual Conference

2014 Virginia Annual United Methodist Conference: “Lord Renew Us With Your Spirit”

Joining nearly 4,000 other Methodists, Pastor Catharine Guest and Lay Leader, Thom Hostetter attended the 232nd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference in Hampton, Virginia from Friday, June 20th through Sunday, June 22nd. It was a successful weekend in which over 41,200 health kits with a total value of nearly \$534,000 were collected for UMCOR; tons of potatoes were packaged for regional food banks, church pantries, food kitchens and other agencies; thousand of cans of vegetables, fruit, meat or fish, and soup were collected for the 4 Cans 4 Conference; and multiple thousands of dollars were donated towards the goal of purchasing 100,000 “Imagine No Malaria” mosquito nets for children in Africa. Bishop Young Jin Cho honored 41 clergy retirees, including Franconia UMC’s former Pastor, Vernell Carter, on Saturday afternoon and licensed 26 new local pastors, commissioned 22 provisional members, and ordained 13 elders Saturday evening.

Of the seven Resolutions listed in the Book of Reports, the voting clergy and local church representatives chose to postpone until 2015 Resolution 1: To have the VA Annual Conference petition the 2016 UMC General

Conference to expunge from the Book of Discipline the sentence that “the United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” The clergy and local church representatives deferred Resolution 2, “Investments in Fossil Fuel Companies,” to the Board of Church and Society to revise. Resolution 2 called for the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, the First United Methodist Church Endowment Fund, and any other investment to immediately stop any new investments in fossil fuel companies and ensure that within five years none of its directly held or commingled assets includes holdings of equities or corporate bonds in fossil fuel companies. Resolution 3, Defeat Poverty With Wages, passed. It requires the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to urge the federal and state governments to increase the minimum wage to become a “living wage by or before 2019.”

There was not enough time for the conference to vote on the remaining four resolutions: Number 4: Hydraulic Fracturing Oil and Gas (calling for



a moratorium on oil and gas fracturing in Virginia); Number 5: “Ban the Box” (calling on the Virginia state legislators to ban questions about criminal history from initial job applications for public and private employment); Number 6: “Political Speech and Ideology” (the Virginia Conference of the UMC ban political speech from the pulpit or in the UMC sanctuaries and the prohibition of using political ideology to discriminate in hiring or promoting any clergy or at any local church; and Number 7: “Virginia Conference and General Conference Membership” (prohibiting relatives of clergy and non-clergy staff from being lay representatives to the Virginia or General Conferences of the United Methodist Church).

Go to www.vaumc.org/AC2014 for complete coverage of the 2014 Virginia UMC Conference.



Looking For A Few Good Men

United Methodist Men meet monthly for fellowship, devotions, and breakfast on the Fourth Saturday each month in Cokesbury Hall at 8:00 AM. The men help members of the Church with small household projects and sponsor events, such as an Easter Egg Hunt, Mother’s Day Lunch, and group outings to baseball games.

To learn more, contact Thom Hostetter 703-971-9107.

Franconia United Methodist Church

6037 Franconia Road

Alexandria, VA 22310

www.franconiaumc.org



The CHIMES

July 2014



Saturday, August 2: Offsite retreat for Church Council

Sunday, August 3: New Members Class— following 11 AM service

Sunday, August 10: Visit with Nancy and Kip Robinson, our missionaries in Sierra Leone—Breakfast, worship, and reception

Thursday, August 14: 12:15 PM
Lunchtime Recital by Jay Parrotta,
All Saints Church, Rehoboth Beach, DE

Saturday, August 16: 3:00 PM DCFEST,
Christian Concert, Patriot Center



Do you have a friend or relative who is having a problem? It doesn't have to be a medical problem, just something that prayers may help. Let the Prayer Shawl committee know. Contact Sandra or Suzanne Ackley at the 11 AM service or Debbie Gordon at the 8:30 AM service.



Suitcases for Foster Children

The staff at Franconia Family Services is delighted to receive suitcases from the Bucky Circle. The suitcases will be used by foster children as they travel from place to place.

Barbara Lawrence notes: "The green suitcase in the picture was 'an old travel friend' of mine with lots of miles on it. Good to know that it will finish its life in good use."

(See article on Page 5.)