

## State Street United Methodist Church

300 West Valley Drive ▪ Bristol, VA 24201  
Office: 276.669.2101 ▪ Parsonage: 276.591.5338  
Website: www.state-street.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Bristol, VA

### OUR CHURCH STAFF

Jeff Wright, <i>Senior Pastor</i>	Mark Hicks, <i>Associate Pastor</i>
Renee LaMon, <i>Admin. Assistant</i>	Paige Morgan, <i>Minister to Youth/Young Adults</i>
Jaymie Derden, <i>DCE</i>	Anne Webb, <i>Financial Administrator</i>
Patty Kilbreath, <i>Parish Nurse</i>	Sam Cox, <i>Music Director</i>
Wilma Blackwell, <i>Preschool Dir.</i>	Michael (Peanut) Brown, <i>Custodian</i>
Bob Greene, <i>Organist</i>	Gerri Felty, <i>Kitchen Manager</i>
Christianne Roll, <i>Worship Arts</i>	

### Office Hours

Jaymie Derden:	Patty Kilbreath:
Mondays, 9:00-5:00	Mondays, 1:00-3:00
Wednesdays, 9:00-3:00	Thursdays, 9:00-11:00

**Spring Garden Pre-School** (276.466.8505)  
Hours Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Floral Arrangements for April

May 3—The floral arrangements beside the altar in the chapel and sanctuary are given by Steve, Ann, Peter and Beth Wallace in loving memory of Ann's father and mother, Bill and June Ruger and Steve's parents, Marvin and Virginia Wallace. The floral arrangement on the table in the narthex is given by Katy Rogers Jacaruso, husband Tom and daughters, Rives and Kathryn in loving memory of Ruth and David Rogers.

May 13—The floral arrangements beside the altar in the chapel and sanctuary are given by Rush and Lea Powers, children Ben II, Andrew and Elise in loving memory of Benry's mother, Mrs. Rush Powers, his grandmother Mrs. Edwin Rush Powers and his sister, Dorothy Ruth Wright.

May 20—The floral arrangements beside the altar in the chapel and sanctuary are given by John and Martha Gibson in loving memory of Martha's mother, Virginia Carpenter and John's parents, Robbie and Herbert Gibson.

May 27—The floral arrangements beside the altar in the chapel and sanctuary are given by the Stevan Rainero family in loving memory of Stevan's parents Elizabeth and Leno Rainero.

**DOLLARS** Generosity is one of the nine fruits of the spirit. It is a spiritual virtue gained from joyful gratitude for what God has done for us. True generosity comes from the understanding that God owns everything and the desire to use the resources God has entrusted to us in a manner that would please God.

**SENSE** "The mission of the church is to build, form, and sustain disciples. The aim of stewardship development is not to finance the church's annual operating budget but to change lives. Giving is part of discipleship. Giving is part of our spiritual formation. When God breaks in upon a sufficiently prepared people, a new generosity emerges – one that is outgoing, joyous, spontaneous, and free." (Moser, David and Bauknight, Brian, editors: *First Fruits: Fourteen Sermons on Stewardship*. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2003)

### An Open Letter to the Church

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank you for your participation and support as we moved through the Lenten season into Easter. We started with a very moving Ash Wednesday service in a packed chapel and finished with a great Easter celebration with over 500 in attendance.

Thanks to each of you who participated and helped in any way. We couldn't have had such a terrific journey without you! This year we included some new opportunities in our journey and your participation was exciting. We had a "Communion in the Chapel" service each Sunday morning during Lent and several of you told us how much it meant to you. On Wednesdays, we had "The Gathering - Lenten Renewal" services during the lunch hour followed by a light lunch. Attendance at these informal services and the fellowship shared around the tables after the services was very encouraging.

Watching you gather around the table on Maundy Thursday was compelling and the combined cantata with Central Presbyterian on Good Friday brought home the story of the day. Then in addition to the high attendance on Easter Sunday, seeing the cross in the churchyard covered in flowers and hearing of the excitement people had in putting the flowers on the cross, just added an exclamation point to our celebration. What a powerful witness of life from death it was to the community.

We also were blessed by the addition of several musicians in our Palm Sunday and Easter services. And we haven't mentioned anything about the excitement in our FISH Club and Wednesday Bible studies. Again, we just wanted to say thank you to each of you who shared in this journey, especially those who put forth the extra efforts to help pull all of these opportunities together. May God continue to guide and bless us as we share in this ministry and work together to help people experience the new life God offers us in the death and resurrection of Christ. Truly we are Easter people!

Blessings,

Jeff & Mark



## State Street Steeple

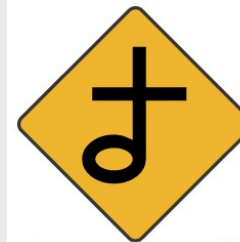
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May, 2012



**Crossroads**  
BUMC YOUTH CHOIR

### Hear The Crossroads Choir

On Sunday, June 3, we are pleased to welcome the Crossroads Choir from Bartlett United Methodist Church to our services. The group is made up of 6th – 12th graders from Bartlett Tennessee and surrounding communities. At Bartlett UMC, the Crossroads choir leads music in worship about once a month, hosts a magnificent dinner theater, and leads the Easter Sunrise service. For over 20 years, this choir has toured all over the United States; this year, we will be one of their first stops on a tour that will take them to New York City. Here at State Street, the group will participate in all three of our services.

### Women's Ministry News Mandisa Girls Night Live!

Join the Women's Ministry on Thursday, May 3 as we attend Girls Night Live sponsored by WCQR beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Viking Hall with special guests, Grammy Award winner Laura Story and funny lady Anita Renfro. We invite you to bring the special women in your life together for a music filled night that lifts your spirits, connects you on a deeper level, and reminds you that no matter what you are going through, YOU ARE NOT ALONE! Tickets are \$26, but a group rate of \$20 is available for more than 15 are going. Contact Rhonda Helms at 423-534-5192 or email rhelms17@gmail.com.

### In Memoriam

The Reverend Stan McCready, former Senior Pastor of State Street, passed away Tuesday, April 17, 2012, after a lengthy illness. A memorial service for him was held on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the First Centenary UMC in Chattanooga. Please remember his wife, Judy, daughters, Carla and Brian Hughes, Jean and Ben Pitts, and other family members during this time of bereavement. If you would like to express your condolences you can send a card to their home address: 8425 Lady Slipper Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37421-4394 or go on-line at www.heritagefh.com.

### NEW Sunday School Class in May!

#### The Great Commission: Good News on the Move!

Jesus' last words to his disciples were strong and forceful and full of verbs – Go, Make, Teach, Baptize. Some have described these words (what the church calls "The Great Commission") as Jesus giving his disciples their marching orders. Come learn more about this important message Jesus gave his disciples and what it means for us today!

Have you found a Sunday school class here at State Street UMC yet? If not, we invite you to join us in May for this special four-week class. Led by Rev. Mark Hicks and located in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following 9:01 worship (10:00-10:50 a.m.).



### It's that time of year, Club 52 is open for enrollment!

Club 52 is a special opportunity offered to our church family to support the youth program. By joining you pledge to give the youth \$1 a week for a year, or \$52! You can pay over the year in one lump sum, in a few payments, however you want! As a member you will receive special newsletters, updates and discounts on youth activities. It's a great way to show the youth just how important they are to us. There are only 100 memberships available and they go quickly so make sure you renew your membership or come May 6 to be first in line to get a new one! Thanks in advance for your support.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

On Saturday, May 12, anyone who is interested is invited to participate in a Spring Cleanup of the church grounds. We'll start about 9:00 a.m. and work until we're finished or worn out, whichever comes first. So bring your rakes, brooms, and leaf blowers and join in the fun. We'll have pizza and soft drinks about 1:00 to celebrate our success. Please join us!

**Spring Garden  
Preschool**  
"Where children blossom"



On Sunday, April 29 the Spring Garden Preschool kids will join us in worship at the 11:00 a.m. service and provide special music. We hope you will share in this special service. The Preschool continues to have open enrollment for the summer and fall programs. Call 276-466-8505 for details.



## THE WRIGHT WAY OF

**THINKING.....** Grace and peace be to you in the name of the risen Christ! Halleluia! Christ is risen indeed! We frequently say those words or ones similar to them on Easter Sunday morning as part of that grand celebration of the resurrection. We said them, all 500 of us just a few weeks ago. Yet, I sometimes wonder how those words affect our lives the rest of the year. And specifically, do we really stop to say thanks to God or praise God for what he has done for us in both the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

The truth is it is a lot easier to get "psyched" up for that one Sunday of celebration than it is to live in thankfulness the rest of the time. On Easter Sunday, church attendance increases all across the country. On Easter Sunday morning, even if it is cold, there is a beauty in the day. People put on new outfits, get dressed up, and the fashion parade begins. People have a little more bounce in their step on Easter Sunday. Worship means more on Easter Sunday. People genuinely seem glad to be in worship on Easter Sunday, like there is no place they would rather be. People seem to be more primed to praise God on Easter Sunday. What is it about Easter that brings out all those attitudes and actions in people? Why do we not see that the rest of the year?

Those are questions we "preacher types" typically ask. After all, it is part of our "job" to ask such questions. It is expected; right? But, what happens when those same questions are also asked of us? I mean it is only fair that if I ask that of you I should put that question myself as well. Do I get excited about the resurrection when it's the middle of August? How does the resurrection affect me when it's the middle of winter? Do I stop and praise God for the new hope and life he has given me or do I just take it for granted since I know it's real? Do I just assume God knows I am grateful even when I don't overly show it? You see, we "preacher types" are not immune to many of the same struggles of you pew-sitters. We have our ups and downs, struggles and sorrows just like you. And while I have always viewed myself as generally a positive person, there are times when my spirit grows weary too, not only from carrying my own burdens but often from sharing many of yours. But, the right way of thinking is that we all are Easter people all year long not just on one Sunday a year.

I recently read something I want to share with you. "We call God 'Father,' and like children, we expect God to provide for us. Of course, he does. God's generosity is greater than our ability to appreciate. Perhaps that's why when we pray we are less expectant of God's goodness than we should. We expect that the sun will rise every morning, and we pray for cloudless skies (if we have a picnic planned) or for rain (if our plants need it). Yet even when we get what we've asked for, how often do we really say 'Thank you' for it? Or do something in return? Again, like children, we just expect good things to be provided. That's how things are supposed to be."

What that says to me is that too often we take God for granted and the reason we don't get overly "fired up" about what God has done is that outside of the one day

designated to celebrate it, is we just expect it to be true. But, if we really stopped to ponder what all God has done for us, it should have an affect every day. It should be evident in how we relate to each other, how we relate to the rest of the world, and how we deal with all that life throws our way. God has told us there is nothing to fear, yet often we live in fear. God has promised to be with us, yet often we feel all alone. God has conquered our greatest enemy - death, yet we give other people and other things our allegiance. What we should do is thank God every day for His abundant gift of love and life given to us in the resurrection of Christ. Because Christ is risen doesn't mean that life is going to be easy. We will still battle sickness, hurt, and pain. We will still have trials and struggles. We will still face difficult circumstances. We may still get a bad diagnosis or report. Someone we know may still get into trouble or hurt us in some way. But, even through the dark days, we should remember the Son has risen and as Bill Gaither put it, "Because He lives, we can face tomorrow."

I know in the days ahead, there will be times when it is easy to get excited about what God has done, is doing, and will be doing in our lives. I am realist enough to recognize there will be days when we are less appreciative in both word and deed. My prayer is that no matter what the next days bring, we can still praise God for the gift of life given to us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. It is not just some great story we celebrate once a year. It is a living reality that should live in us all the time. I pray that each of us will experience that resurrection power and presence as never before and certainly more frequently than once a year. Truly we are Easter people!

In Christ's Love,

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MISSION  
MOMENT

**Each month this year, we spotlight a hands-on monthly mission opportunity that offer you the opportunity to touch others in the name and love of Jesus.**

For the month of May, we will be joining in with Abingdon Conference churches collecting items for Zimbabwe health kits. Instructions are to fill a 5-gallon zip-loc bag with the following:

- 2 bars of soap
- 1 small bottle Listerine
- 2 toothbrushes
- 1 washcloth
- 1 bath or hand towel
- 1 bottle shampoo (12 oz or less)
- 2 tubes toothpaste (6 oz)
- 1 bottle children's cough syrup (small)
- 1 bottle roll-on deodorant
- 1 bottle Equate tablets for diarrhea
- 1 bottle multivitamins (adult or child)

Even if you can't do a full kit, you can still help by providing the \$5 shipping fee that must accompany each kit. If you want to cover the shipping for a kit or kits, just make sure to note that on your check.

## Special Events/Meetings

- Tuesday, May 1**  
7:00-8:00 Missions Committee
- Sunday, May 6**  
6:00-7:00 Lay Leadership Committee
- Monday, May 7**  
1:30-2:30 Grand Court Communion
- Tuesday, May 8**  
10:00-12:00 Circle 4  
11:00-12:00 Circle 1 and 2  
12:00-1:00 Circle Luncheon
- Wednesday, May 9**  
Our Last FISH Club for the Spring
- Thursday, May 10**  
5:15-6:30 Education
- Saturday, May 12**  
9:00-1:00 Church Work Day
- Tuesday, May 15**  
11:00-1:00 OAK to Cheddars
- Thursday, May 17**  
8:45-12:00 Meals On Wheels
- Monday, May 21**  
7:00-8:00 Church Council
- Wednesday, May 30**  
1:00-3:00 Labelleers

### Vacation Bible School is on the Move....

Our Children's Council is excited to announce a NEW and different way of doing VBS this summer. *Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God* is our theme and we'll be offering several activities throughout the summer! Yes, that's right... VBS will be "on the move" as we visit different sites and offer family-friendly options throughout the summer! Mark your calendars now for these fun events.

**June 4-7 - VBS at Eastridge Apartments.** We are teaming up with Chief's Kids, a program that meets throughout the school year in several public housing areas in Bristol VA. We'll help provide four nights of VBS fun from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All planning and coordination will be done - all we have to do is show up and participate in the fun! We need 5-6 volunteers each night. Please contact Jaymie if you can help!

**June 23 - Operation Overboard at SSUMC.** Join us for an afternoon/evening of fun water-based activities as we learn more about what it means to claim Jesus! Games, crafts and LOTS of water fun will make this day extra special. Times TBA.

**July 14 - Operation Overboard at Spring Lake Pool.** A trip to the pool has long been a favorite of our summer VBS and this year it will be EXTRA special. We'll spend several hours that afternoon learning about Jesus' disciples, playing games and doing simple crafts, followed by a picnic supper then we'll have the pool to ourselves for the evening!

**August 4 -Back to School Fun!** We'll celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year with some outdoor activities, inflatables and our school supply store.

We're excited about our summer of VBS on the Move! Planning teams are forming now and it's not too late to jump on board with us! Contact Jaymie at [dce@state-street.org](mailto:dce@state-street.org) or Becky Littleton at [itsbecky123@hotmail.com](mailto:itsbecky123@hotmail.com) if you would like to help!

## Weekly Recurring Events

- Monday**  
10:00-11:00 Staff Meeting  
7:00-8:30 Pack 8 Cub Scouts
- Tuesday**  
7:30-9:00 Troop 8 Boy Scouts
- Wednesday**  
10:30-11:30 Morning Prayer Group  
6:30-7:15 Handbells  
7:30-9:00 Chancel Choir
- Thursday**  
6:00-7:30 901 Praise Band Rehearsal
- Friday**  
7:00-9:00 AA Men's Meeting
- Saturday**  
8:00-9:00 Emmaus Men's Meeting  
9:00-10:00 Emmaus Women's Meeting
- Sunday**  
8:30-9:30 Chapel Worship  
9:01-9:50 9:01 Experience in Fellowship Hall  
9:30-10:00 Worship Arts  
9:45-10:00 Communion in Chapel  
10:00-10:50 GREAT Adventure Elementary  
10:00-10:45 Sunday School  
11:00-12:00 Worship in Sanctuary  
5:30-7:00 Middle School Youth  
6:00-7:30 High School Youth

### It's time for .....

### the Change for Children Challenge!

*Change for Children* is a Holston Conference effort to make a difference in the lives of children. Monies are collected all year to be turned in at Annual Conference. Funds are distributed to children in Africa and to churches who for projects that serve children.

### Congratulations to

### JIM BLASER and CINDY BISHOP!

They are the winners of the latest mini-photo book giveaways in our children's Sunday School program. Jim won the Christmas photo book and Cindy won the November - Daniel in the Lion's Den photo book. And parents, if your child was in the Christmas Pageant and you would like your own hard cover large photo book, please let Jaymie know by Sunday, April 29th. Cost is \$45 and I will need your check on Sunday. This book is really adorable -- check it out at the GREAT Adventure Sign in desk.

### Mark your Calendars!!!

Save the Date!!!

Write it Down!!!

It's Coming!!!

April 27-May 1 2013...that's, 2013...one year away...

...April 27-May 1, 2013

Mark your Calendars Now!!!

For more information see Pastor Mark Hicks.