



SEPTEMBER
THALIA
JOURNAL

“It Can Be the Most
Wonderful Time of the Year”

The August 12th reading of Mark 9:14-27 from *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide reminds us that we need to trust God. When we acknowledge God’s ways, the path of life will open and be straight. Sure we will experience doubts and obstacles and try to reason why this or that happens. There are some things we will never figure out. We are people called to live in vital union with Christ. As Paul exclaims, “We live by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7).

This summer has been a blessing for the Thalia family. Vacation Bible School was a marvelous time of Christian teaching and fellowship. Each helper and child grew closer to God from this time together. Our church continues to assist members and friends in our community who need assistance with financial burdens. As staff we are thankful we can offer this help. Feeding people on the first Tuesdays of each month has been important to show the community we are a resource of concern. It will be great to begin the school year with the morning feeding and fellowship programs.

I believe our hearts were moved for the people of Sudan as Ellen Cummings presented a heart moving program, “From Here to Sudan.” Why is there still so much violence and pain in our world? It makes us work toward helping other people and holding fast to the fact that we need to keep believing in God who is above our limited powers and reason. Robin Richards taught us how we need to make choices in our health and life styles. Her underlying theme of God’s unending Love was refreshing. I thank Ellen and Robin for these truths.

The climax of the summer came with the enthusiasm of our children, youth and adults as they presented the stomp musical, “Joseph, From the Pit to the Palace.” I was spiritually moved by the sound of the lyrics and music in the sanctuary. Oh yes, God does love us unconditionally as the word of the song exclaimed, “When you are in the pit, look up to God.”

When you are coming out of the pit of despair and unbelief, you are ready to see God working in your life. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...” (Proverbs 3:5-6). That’s what the Thalia Lites need to do. Wherever or what ever you have been doing this summer, it is time to reconnect with your church family. We are moving upward to becoming a different church for God. I want us to accomplish these things for God. **Be** in church and Sunday school. The excuses are over; it’s time to share in worship and receive the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. **Pray** for each other and ask God what you can do. **Get** involved for Jesus and serve on a church committee when approached. **Fill out** your Stewardship commitment card and mail or bring it back for our **Consecration –Celebration Sunday, September 20, 2009**. At this point, become an expression of God’s grace by living out our membership promises by giving our prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Everything we have or do is because of God’s blessing and grace. Maybe it is time to demonstrate to God that we are thankful for all the gifts and live a lifestyle that reflects this truth, “Grace is not a puzzle to be solved but a gift to be embraced” (Diane Summers, *Upper Room*, August 12, 2009).

Live in Peace,
Pastor Art

From the Associate Pastor

I LOVE my job!! It's a pleasure to be in this church, and I do cherish my relationship with each of you, wishing I could spend time in each home. We know that's not possible — but it is a good idea! My tasks as Associate Pastor are many and varied, including: — visiting members in hospitals, nursing homes, and those who are at home; — working with the Evangelism Team in visiting the guest who attend worship on Sundays; being ready to preach on short notice — or as called on by the pastor; — offering classes to new members and classes on United Methodism; — working with the Bereavement Committee as needed; — be on call to answer the phone when the Office Administrator is away from her office; — having a prayer service once a month; and often “just doing what needs to be done at that time.” This is not a completei could go on and on — but you get the idea that no 2 days are EVER the same! That's the excitement of my job.

When you come into my office, or phone me, YOU are my agenda for that time! And I am blessed by your friendship and prayers. Keep Praying!!!

GOD BLESS US ALL
Rev Elinor Ritchie Dalton

COME SING WITH THE CHOIR!!!

Rehearsals are back on the weekly schedule in the music department. God's Rejoicers', the choir for children in first grade and above, practice from 6:30 until 7:15 on Tuesday.

Wednesday starts with handbell rehearsal at 5:45 followed by the Kay Owens Memorial Choir rehearsal at 7:00. Thalia Singers rehearse Thursday nights at 7:30.

There is always room in any of these ensembles for you or your children. If you've ever been blessed by hearing them, the rewards are much greater being a part of them. Won't you consider becoming a part of the music ministry here at Thalia?

“...and when the musician played, the power of God came over them.”
 2 Kings 3:15

Ministry Team

Pastor Rev. Arthur Wolz, Jr.	Music & Arts Dir. Grace Holdren	Lay Leader Inez Jones
Associate Pastor Rev. Elinor R. Dalton	Children & Youth Dir. Cathy Sorrell	Church Council Chairperson Charles Winstead
Certified Lay Minister Joan Averette	Program Dir.	Sexton Bob Holdren
Asst. Administrator	Nursery Dir. Cathy Graham	Ministers All the People of Thalia



MISSIONS



Stop Hunger Now is a non-profit, international relief organization committed to ending hunger worldwide in our lifetime. Established in 1998 and headquartered in Raleigh, NC Stop Hunger Now is an advance partner with the United Methodist Church and has provided over \$100 million of aid in more than 55 countries.

The volunteer-based program enables churches to play a significant role in feeding the world. It also provides an on-site mission that illustrates the spirituality of hospitality, compassion and justice. Last November 23rd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, members and friends of Thalia packed 10,000 high protein, dehydrated meals that were shipped to Zimbabwe and used in a school feeding program. We had a wonderful turn out for the packing event and everyone had a great time. **This year on November 22nd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will be holding another 10,000 meal event.** The cost for each meal is \$.25 so we will need to raise \$2,500 and we will need at least 50 volunteers to pack the meals. Last year we had financial and volunteer commitments from several Sunday School classes and other groups in the church. Checks should be made out to Thalia UMC with “Thalia Stop Hunger Now” written on the memo line. If you have any questions please contact Dan Cott at 963-8422.

The UMC Norfolk District will be hosting a Stop Hunger Now meal packing event on Saturday, September 19th at Wesleyan University. Their goal is to pack nearly 300,000 meals. This event also needs financial and volunteer support.

Eastern Shore Migrant Worker Mission is looking for items. If you would like to donate please contact Dan Cott @ 963-8422.

Through the Virginia Conference, Thalia UMC has an official covenant relationship with Clara Mridula Biswas. As part of the relationship Thalia provides \$1,500 per year in support of UMC missionaries and we pledge to pray for and communicate with Clara. Clara is a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church assigned as the community worker in Cambodia. Please encourage Clara through emails and let her know that we are praying for her. Clara's email address is: clarabiswas@hotmail.com.

New Newsletter Editor



I would like to thank everyone who has helped me during the last 6 years to make Thalia's newsletter what it is. I have enjoyed working each month with everyone involved and all the news contributors.

Kim Lincoln will be the new editor. I am sure that you will give her the same willingness to contribute as you did me. I will be working with Kim in August to assist Kim with any questions she may have.

God 's Blessings be with you,
 Barbara Summers

Children and Youth

We've had an exciting summer! The Children's Mission Week and the Youth Mission Week were very successful. It was our first mission week for the children's fellowship. "Wow" – they were awesome!! From cleaning up our church, watering all the flower beds, picking up trash to visiting shut-ins & our friends at Westminster, they worked tirelessly. Each morning they had a Bible lesson & time of devotion. Afternoon activities were fun and a great time of fellowship. Stop by their board & check out their mission week projects.

Our youth worked hard helping some of our widows. They moved furniture, painted a room, did some yard work, removed a fallen tree, etc. They are continuing their work during the school year. If you are in need of some help, just let us know. These young people are to be commended.

Our digital album is up and running and will feature activities from both groups throughout the year. Stop by on Sunday and check out what we've been up to. It is located next to the UMY board.

Children's Church resumes for the Fall. The sign-up sheet is posted on the door. Without leaders, the children will remain in the worship service. **Two adults** are needed in the room for each service. Please help us bring God's Word to life – volunteer today!

Youth Beach Retreat "Have You Seen What I've Seen?" is scheduled for Sept 25th – 27th. Our guest speaker is Judy Granlund. Space is limited. More info on UMY board.

TGIF - Our breakfast crews will be back in full swing every Monday & Friday morning beginning on Sept 11th. We are planning to expand this program to include Tuesday & Thursday afternoons but we need some willing tutors. If you are willing to give 2 hrs/week and help make a difference in the lives of our youth, please contact me ASAP for more details. We would ask that you keep this outreach in your prayers. We **know** what we are doing makes a difference because we have seen the changes – and it is humbling to witness the Holy Spirit at work.

God's blessings as you *shine brightly!* (Phil 2: 15)
Ms. Cathy

Upcoming activities:

Sept 6th – Children's Fellowship – 2:00 pm -3:00 pm
open to all children grades K-5th

Sept 11th – PJs & a Movie – 6:30pm – 8:30 pm
open to all children in grades K-5th

Sept 25th – 27th Youth Beach Retreat for grades 6-12.
more info on UMY board.

LITURGISTS—If you feel led to become part of our liturgist team this fall, please contact Joan Averette at jbaverette@cox.net. Please state whether you would prefer to serve at 8:30 or 11:00.



The Relay for Life team had a great "2009 Fund Raising Year". The fund raising year begins in September and ends with August. We are delighted to report that the Thalia Striders raised \$18,158.44 for the American Cancer Society. The team did an awesome job this year; with the economy down,

all of us had to work a little harder. At the end it was all worth the extra effort put forth. We are most grateful for the support our church family gives us.

We are looking forward to "2010 Fund Raising" which begins in September. Anyone looking to get involved and at the same time have a lot of fun—I encourage you to join the Relay for Life team. Learning about where your contributions go and how lives are changed makes it all worthwhile. Please prayerfully consider joining Thalia Striders for the upcoming year. I have been the Striders team captain for the past three years and certainly enjoyed the honor and support given by the team members, as well as the church family. Cathy Simpson has graciously accepted taking the Captain's position for 2010. She has been a team member for many years and will lead the Striders to new goals.

Mary McKinney, Captain

EMAIL PRAYER PARTNERS—If you would like to join the Email Prayer Partner group, please contact Joan Averette at jbaverette@cox.net to add your name. Your responsibility will be to check your email at least once each day and when you receive a prayer request, to pray confidentially and immediately!

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN—If you would like to join the Phone Prayer Chain, please call Martha and Al Daughtrey at 460-3416. Your responsibility will be to check your phone messages at least once each day and when you receive a prayer request, to pray confidentially and immediately and to make a designated phone call to pass the prayer request along.

From Your Program Director

Summer is drawing to a close and it is time to think about returning to our usual routines and schedules. This is a time when we start new studies and Sunday School classes. If you are not currently participating in either of these opportunities to become more grounded in your Christian education this is a great time to start.

On Sunday September 6th we will return to our normal worship times. Many of our Sunday School classes will begin new studies on that date. **On Sunday September 13th** we will have Promotion Sunday for all of our youth and children Sunday School classes. On that date the children will move to their new grade level class for the school year.

As always the most update schedule of events can be found on our website www.thaliaumc.org.

Please Pray For Our Family and Friends

Danny Averett, 3609 Kim Terrace, VB, VA 23452
Bettie Baxter, 505 Piney Ridge Rd., VB, VA 23452
Clara Biswas, Missionary in Cambodia, clarabiswas@hotmail.com
Doc Boley, 3100 Shore Dr. #300, VB, VA 23451
Moselle Comer, 688 Kingsbrough Square, Chesapeake, VA 23320
Betty Compton, 15117 Philip Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151
Carol Fowler, 4117 Richardson Rd., VB, VA 23455
Betty Frank, Virginia Beach General Hospital
Judy Granlund, 3824 Thalia Dr., VB, VA 23452
Daniel Grubb, 616 Mango Drive, VB, VA 23452
Kay Hastings, 417 Robbins Ln, VB, VA 23452
Royce Jones, 4128 Duncannon Lane, VB, VA 23452
Rick Ledford, 226 E. Chickasaw Rd., VB, VA 23462
Charles Lowell, 2460 Laurel Cove Dr., VB, VA 23454-2056
Ellen Lunsford, 628 Royal Palm Dr., VB, VA 23452
Birdie Mae Manning, 3100 Shore Dr #123, VB., VA 23451
Kathy Saunders, 616 W. Lynn Shores Cir, VB, VA 23452
June Scarbrough, 3409 Edinbrough Dr., VB, VA 23452
Carrie Smith, Chesapeake Health Care, 688 Kingsborough Sq., Room 32, Ches. VA 23320
Margaret Tucker, 3751 Sentara Way, RM 308, VB, VA 23452
Rose Adelle Vosler, 4725 Bunker Hill Ln., VB, VA 23462
Betty Womack 717 DeLaura Lane, VB, VA 23455
Elmer Zartman, 2793 Browning Dr., VB, VA 23456



If someone you know is in need of ongoing prayer, please notify the church office and they will be placed on the prayer list. If we have removed someone in error, please let us know.

Church Office 757 340-5015

YOU ARE BEING CALLED!

RENEW OUR PROMISE

Our Prayers

Our Presence

Our Gifts

Our Service

We will celebrate **Commitment Sunday**, on September 20th, at both services. Please remember to bring your commitment cards and place them on the altar during communion.

Please take this opportunity to renew your promise to uphold the Church through your Prayers, your Presence, your Gifts and your Service. You may view our Stewardship video campaign at www.thaliaumc.org/stewardship.asp

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT

Thalia United Methodist Church
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Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Phone: 757-340-5015
Fax: 757-463-2252
Website: www.thaliaumc.org

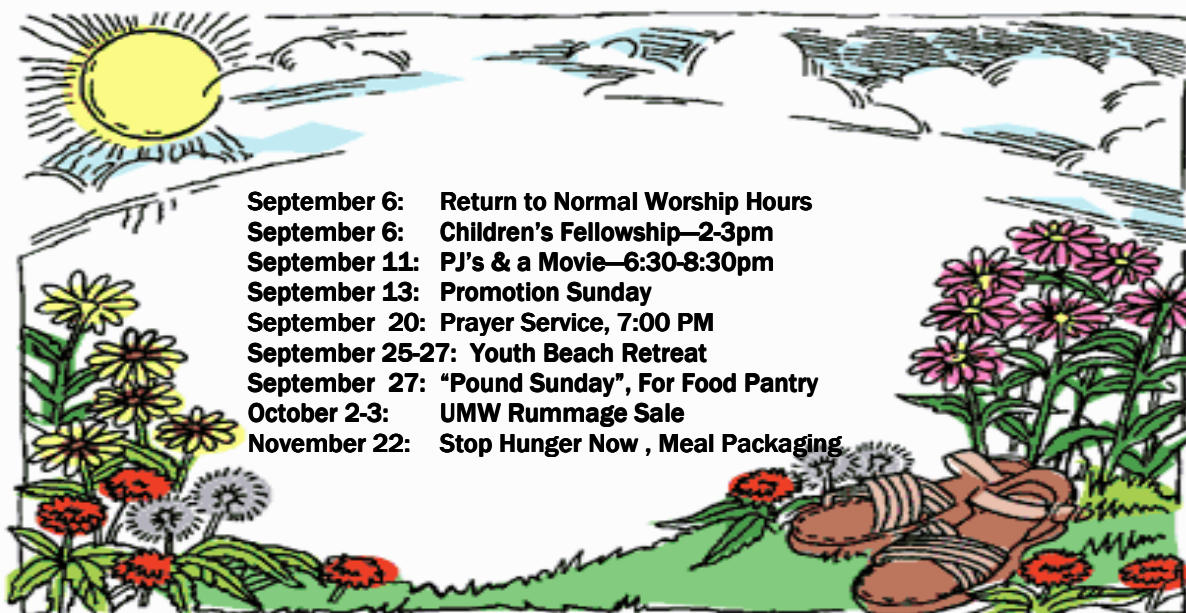
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Return Service Requested



Remember to turn in your Farm Fresh receipts to the church office.

Mark Your Calendar



- September 6: Return to Normal Worship Hours
- September 6: Children's Fellowship—2-3pm
- September 11: PJ's & a Movie—6:30-8:30pm
- September 13: Promotion Sunday
- September 20: Prayer Service, 7:00 PM
- September 25-27: Youth Beach Retreat
- September 27: "Pound Sunday", For Food Pantry
- October 2-3: UMW Rummage Sale
- November 22: Stop Hunger Now , Meal Packaging