Hughes CALLER

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News Briefs

(Hughes UMC) -- The Methodist Women are planning two more trips to New Windsor to volunteer for SERRV International: Thursday, July 17 and Thursday August 14. The group will leave the Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and arrive back home about 4:30 p.m. SERRV International is a nationally known nonprofit organization that works to alleviate poverty around the world through trade and training. As a volunteer, the UMW are helping low-income artisans and farmers in 36 countries. Each trip will be an opportunity for service, fellowship and a delicious lunch. Any questions call Pat (301 681-5905) or Ellen (301 933-6273).

(BWC-UMC) -- Bishop John R. Schol has sent a pastoral letter asking pastors and congregations to pray for peace and justice in troubled Zimbabwe. In part he said, "Our sisters and brothers of Zimbabwe are undergoing political, economic and social turmoil that is leading to starvation, disease and death. They need us to pray for peace, to pray for justice and to pray for leadership that will lead the nation to peace and prosperity.

"I call upon the churches of the Baltimore-Washington Conference to pray for the people

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"Mission Statement" Makes A Difference: Confirmation 2008

By Susan Odell
Education Committee Chair

One of the biggest challenges of any ministry effort is staying focused on God, while sharing his love with others and helping equip His disciples. Without a clear focus and Spirit-filled goals, "activities" and "programs" can become routine time-fillers and actually take away from glorifying God and uplifting others. To meet the challenges of our Christian Education ministry and avoid "activity" pitfalls, during 2007-2008 the Hughes Education Committee, under the leadership of Reverend Janet Habersham, established a long-term Mission Statement and Strategic Goals (see page 5). We immediately began using these as tools to select, implement, and evaluate new educational programs, processes, and materials. The 2008 Confirmation process is one example of how a good Mission Statement helps us improve our ministry.

Most Methodists would think confirmation classes "…provide spiritual nurture and support…" [Mission Statement] to the youth who participate, but when

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Life Skills Spring Classes Conclude; Program Gets County Grant for Fall

A few weeks ago the Life Skills classes ended their winter session with small, but enthusiastic classes. Our dedicated tutors decided to teach an additional 6 weeks for a total of 12 weeks and most of the students continued as well. We are planning a fall session beginning October 1. As usual tutors will be needed and training will be offered. If you are interested contact Linda French, 301-989-8853, Linda.french@wap.org.

Recently the tutoring team applied for and received a $1,700 grant from Montgomery County which will help us fund the program. While we won't know if we'll receive the grant until July, we found it useful to look carefully at our program and thought the description we prepared for the grant would be of interest to the Hughes congregation whose support has made the program possible.

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The successful grant request is too lengthy to be printed here in its entirety, but it is available on the web site.

Here is a synopsis of our program as described within the grant:

Hughes Church is requesting funding to better publicize our Life Skills English Program, to enhance the Bright Ideas Curriculum with instructional materials and to provide a means of communicating with our former students. The Life Skills Program serves non-English speaking adults, primarily from the Wheaton, MD area. The Life Skills Language Program at Hughes United Methodist Church is a ministry of the Outreach Committee. Our church mission encourages the service of its members through outreach to the local and world community. We seek to show concern for those in need outside our walls and to strengthen the spiritual growth of all persons within our walls. The service of offering ESOL-Life Skills classes to the Wheaton/ Silver Spring community has thus provided our teachers with service opportunities within this Christian mission.

The desire to provide an ESL language program for the Silver Spring community has been a goal of the Hughes Long Range Planning Leadership Committee since 2002.

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and the nation of Zimbabwe, that grace and justice may unfold," the Bishop said. Your prayers for hope, healing, freedom and wholeness are desperately needed as we join with our partners in Zimbabwe who strive to create God's kingdom."

The English tutoring program was begun in September 2006 with 6 students. Our language program has official church support, but no direct funding. Two six-week sessions have been offered each spring and fall since then. Fall 2007 had the largest registration of 37 students. At that time five students moved to a higher level and there was a 3.4% test score increase.

Plans for 2008 Funfest Underway

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for our annual Community Funfest. This is a church wide event designed to open our church doors to the surrounding community. There will be a wide range of entertainment and activities to appeal to all ages.

The Funfest Committee hopes that all who are able will participate in some way and invite your neighbors and friends to join us this fall for the Community Funfest. This year's event will include a Used Book Sale to Funfest this year, so please start collecting those previously read books to share.

Help will be needed from anyone who can give us a few hours on the day of Funfest and/or earlier with the planning. Marie Muller will be our Volunteer Organizer again this year and can be reached at (301-681-7812). Please give her a call to find out how you can help.

As the Committee confirms the activities planned and approach September, we will have more information on the specific activities. If you have any questions or suggestions, or contacts for possible entertainment, please call or email the co-chairs: Frances Badman (301-946-0228) FranBadman@aol.com; Linda French (301-989-8853) Linda.French@wap.org.

"I was just fine until you stood up in service and testified that golf was one of your spiritual gifts."

Hughes Service Opportunities

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me"– **Matthew 25:40**

Elementary Sunday School

Coordinator needed for **proven new approach to elementary-age Sunday School curriculum at HUMC. Desire to forge the word of God into the hearts of children a MUST.** Knowledge of skills, talents, hobbies, and work experiences of other HUMC members a MUST. Understanding of different learning styles a Plus. Spiritual Gifts of Leadership, Shepherding, and/or Administration a Plus. Materials provided by HUMC Christian Education (CE) Committee. Contact: CE Director Rev. Janet Habersham (301-499-2508) or CE Committee Chair Susan Odell (301-587-8361).

Senior High MYF

NEEDED : 4 to 6 people willing to build & work as a team of UMYF Counselors for Senior High at HUMC. New materials available for immediate review and use in 2008-2009 school year. **Desire to facilitate opportunities for youth to encounter Christ and strengthen their relationship with God a MUST.** Experience in fostering the growth and development of Christian disciples a Plus. Spiritual Gifts of Encouragement, Shepherding, Knowledge, Faith, and/or Wisdom a Plus. Benefits include travel opportunities (mountains & beaches), frequent hugs, limitless personal growth, & countless blessings. **GUARANTEE**: Never a dull moment! Contact: CE Director Rev. Janet Habersham or CE Committee Chair Susan Odell.

Children's Coordinators

One or more Children's Coordinators needed to assist HUMC Sunday School teachers, parents, & students (infant through elementary-age). **Desire to provide spiritual nurture and support to people of all ages, but especially to children and the teachers who instruct them, a MUST.** Spiritual Gifts of Shepherding, Helps, Administration, and/or Hospitality a Plus. Availability on Sunday mornings throughout the school year a MUST. "Morning Person" a Plus. Experienced and loving team of Christian Education (CE) volunteers ready to provide orientation & continual assistance. To join the team Contact: CE Director Rev. Janet Habersham or CE Committee Chair Susan Odell.

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evaluating the materials and processes used in recent years at Hughes, we were not satisfied with what we found. Once Confirmation occurred, nothing else was done to coordinate with other youth/church leaders regarding the topics covered during the class or topics still needing to be pursued in support of the spiritual growth for Confirmation class "graduates." Change was needed in the process. Rev. Habersham helped the church look at confirmation as a larger process that will help our children become stronger Christians as they move through their high school and young adult years. This approach speaks to the part of the Mission Statement that says we intend to offer nurture and support "… to people of all ages within our church." According to Rev. Habersham, in order to provide such support, the "youth need continuity in their course of study, substantial and meaningful dialog about life issues," and practice for developing and participating in worship opportunities. Their leaders need materials that are age appropriate and flexible enough to meet the needs of the students – whether in a retreat setting or regular UMYF meetings.

In her search for something better for 2008 Confirmation, Rev. Habersham found the "Claim the Name" materials. "Claim the Name" not only provides options for the number and intensity of Confirmation sessions, but also four years' worth of retreat and

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other follow-up materials that will enable us to provide long-term nurture and support for our youth – taking them all the way to young adulthood.

"Claim the Name" offers an opportunity to supplement the instructional time of Sunday School by providing substantive topics and guidance during UMYF or other activities. These materials align with other aspects of our Mission Statement: facilitating encounters with Jesus, strengthening their relationship with God, and fostering their growth as Christian disciples. The materials also will make it easier for adult volunteers to take on leadership and counseling responsibilities with the youth.

Improvement of the 2008 Confirmation process was not limited to the selection of "Change the Name" materials. For the first time, the process included visit to a local synagogue, including a discussion with a rabbi. Another new feature was making the students responsible for developing a short worship service for each class meeting. They sang songs, read scripture, and practiced other parts of worship. Also, two of the adult mentors went beyond the request to be one-on-one mentors for individual students; these two were actively involved at most classes throughout the duration of Confirmation. This approach worked so well that other interested adults may be requested to serve in a similar "whole group" - mentoring role with future Confirmation classes.

Co-teaching with Reverend George Ennis in 2008 was the first time that Rev. Habersham was personally involved with Confirmation at Hughes. Looking back on her experience, she thinks it turned out to be a good process. Rev. Habersham is a "process person" – a role and approach not everyone can appreciate or emulate. As she explains her leadership style, she enjoys bringing resources, ideas, and experience "to the table, getting projects initiated, making sure things are going forward, then stepping back and letting others take ownership; I don't own it – everyone owns it." This approach fits very well with one of the basic purposes of the Baltimore-Washington Conference's Discipleship Adventure initiative – helping churches move from pastor-led to laity-led ministries.

2008 Confirmands

As changes are being made in Christian Education, we want feedback from process participants as well as the volunteer leaders and professional staff. Here's part of what we heard from one of this year's confirmands, Justin Skovholt:

"They kept it interesting with things like guest speakers, such as Brother Larry. We learned a lot about the history of Christianity… played games about Christianity as teams answering questions." When asked if it was something like a Bible-based 'It's Academic' competition, he said, 'Yah – that's a great way to describe it!' He said that one of the approaches for learning "specific aspects of the history of Methodism" was for partners or small teams to make and present posters about what they learned. When explaining how this worked, Justin said, "The leaders would give some information, then we would analyze passages from the bible, study other material, and memorize information." The posters were supposed to "help us figure out and tell what the scriptures meant and how they applied today." Justin gave some thought to the final question "What stands out for you from what you learned in the Confirmation classes?" His response was the experience of learning about the "beginning – what people went through to be a Methodist and how for a while the word 'methodist' was a derogatory term. This broadens my views about just going to church and reading the Bible - to the idea of having to fight to be a Methodist."

As Education begins the next phase of "Claim the Name", we will be looking at how to improve the mentoring process, as well as nurturing and supporting continued spiritual growth and enhanced relationships with Christ Jesus. We hope that over time, members of the 2008 Confirmation class will become effective in helping meet the expectations of the last line in our Mission Statement as they too learn to "share God's story of love in a hurting world."

Education Committee Report

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

"…thus says the Lord God: Behold I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily." **Isaiah 28:16 [NKJV]**

By Susan Odell

Education Committee Chair

We are building a solid foundation for Christian Education here at Hughes. Thanks to the professional guidance of Reverend Janet Habersham, Christian Education Director, in partnership with the Education Committee and under the leadership of the Master Builder, strategic progress has been made during 2007-08 to develop the blueprints. We have made enhancements of, additions to and initial construction of programs in our Christian Education ministry.

We have taken advantage of the hard work and creative ideas of the many people who have contributed their time and prayers to Hughes' Christian Education over the years and we are moving forward with a clearer vision. As Rev. Habersham observed after interacting with the Committee and others here at Hughes, "With Christian Education, a modest foundation had been laid, but people had a sense of 'we need to do something else' but the members didn't know what 'it' was. So, this is why the people wanted a Director of Christian Education." In this writer's mind, she hit the nail on the head!

Perhaps you remember Rev. Habersham quoting (in the September 2007 "Caller") Pastor George O. McCalep from his book Fulfillment Hour, "Sunday School is not just about teaching. It is the strategy for doing the work of the Great Commission." And she shared that he sees "Christian Education as the ministry of the church that undergirds all other ministries." Taking this experienced pastor's insights to heart, the Education Committee has worked with Rev. Habersham to develop Christian Education at Hughes UMC as "an instrument of change" - - a key tool for equipping disciples for the work each of us has been called to do. We in the Christian Education arena stand on Jesus' observation to His disciples when He sent them out to do His work in Luke 10:2 "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few." [NKJV] This assures us that with God's help, even a small number of people can achieve "great" results.

Most Hughes members have not seen the work of building on the Rock – the laying of other stones for a stronger ministry. In addition to regular monthly meetings, the Education Committee and Rev. Habersham held several night and Saturday morning "working meetings" (starting in September 2007). We implemented short-term action plans, and under her tutelage we have developed a Mission Statement and several

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Library Summer Offerings

Summer is a great time to read more books and enjoy movies with the family. With that in mind, we are adding some new DVD's to the church library in time for summer viewing. We have added some new books as well so come in before or after church service and check it out for yourself. Below is the list of new DVD's with more to come:

One Night with the King – Feel the touch of destiny. A sweeping epic of a young Jewish orphan who become the biblical Esther, Queen of Persia. (124 min.)

Chicken Soup for the Soul – Inspirational Stories for the Christian Heart. (88 min.)

The Perfect Stranger – The man told the lawyer he was Jesus Christ… the lawyer decided to call his bluff. Based on the best selling novel "Dinner with a Perfect Stranger." (86 min.)

Facing the Giants – Inspiration for the Game of Life! Never Give Up. Never Backdown. Never lose faith. (112 min.) This movie was produced by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. It is an amazing movie and the story behind the production is inspiring.

Faith Lessons on the life and ministry of the Messiah. (2 hr. 35. min) This is from the last small group study. Use it to review or for a personal study if you missed it. Filmed on location in Israel.

Veggie Tales – The Woderful Wizard of Ha's – The Story of the Prodigal Son.

Borrow these and watch them and get them back so others can also enjoy them.

Frances Badman and Jeannine Rodriguez, Church Librarians

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long-term Strategic Goals.

"The mission of Christian Education at Hughes UMC is to provide spiritual nurture and support to people of all ages within our church and community by:

• Forging the Word of God into each person's heart and mind.

• Facilitating opportunities for individuals to encounter Jesus Christ and strengthen their relationship with God.

• Fostering the growth and development of Christian disciples.

Christian Education is the ministry that provides foundational support for all other ministries so that we, HUMC, can share God's story of love in a hurting world."

Our primary Strategic Goals include:

• Increase the requests for and the participation of all ages in Christian Education opportunities;

• Expand people's understanding of Christian Education;

• Create and implement an annual Christian Education Plan for Hughes;

• Expand active participation in Christian Education Committee;

Thanks to the time and thought devoted to this initial effort, change is occurring. For example, we have established annual plans for the next two-years, including the topics and materials for the church-wide small group studies. We are linking educational activities with some other ministries groups (such as Outreach), as well as the Discipleship Adventure Core Group and others here at Hughes. We are also reviewing ways to be more effective in reaching beyond the walls and members of our church. If we are truly successful, we will never be "done" with enhancing and building a Christian Education ministry. As Rev. Habersham has counseled us, "We are on a journey; sometimes the fruit of our labor doesn't show up until way after we are gone. We have to know that and be comfortable with that fact."

We need more people involved - people who are willing to offer new ideas and diverse experiences to build further on the existing foundation – people who may not ever have taught Sunday School or led a small group Bible Study, but have a passion for learning and spiritual growth or for creating materials for sharing information with various age groups or for developing new ways to meet the needs of people right outside the doors of this church since "education" can often be the first step in developing new relationship. The Education Committee is looking for a few more people who can commit to regular meetings as we continue to uncover needs and discover solutions for every facet of Christian Education – so even if you don't have a "solution" to offer, we welcome you into our own "continuous learning" process. As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it." I Cor. 3:9-10a [NKJV]

Look for additional information about Christian Education, including our goals and accomplishments, in this and future issues of "The Caller." And remember, one of the additions we made was to provide a suggestion box so anyone can offer ideas/constructive feedback to the Education Committee. The box is in the Education wing next to the door of the Education Resource Room. Please use the suggestion forms when you have something to share with us. And even if you do not have a suggestion for us, PLEASE COME BUILD WITH US!!.

PLEASE NOTE

Campbell Proofs of Purchase
Ziploc "Boxtops for Education"
Kleenex "Boxtops for Education"
The Board of Child Care
Auxiliary Needs Your Support ! !

From the Editor:

Don't miss out on the, color graphics, and additional photos of the electronic *Caller*. Subscribe by simply sending an email to theripleys@mac.com.

Staff Parish Relations Moment

This month we welcome Rev. Kenneth B. Hawes to Hughes United Methodist Church. Pastor Hawes comes to Hughes from Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Hagerstown and has served congregations in both New York and Maryland. He has a passion for studying the Bible, social justice issues, and fostering a sense of community.

In addition, the Bishop has appointed Rev. Oswaldo Cuevas Gaete to El Buen Samaritano, the Hispanic Mission affiliated with Hughes. Rev. Gaete began El Buen Samaritano two years ago and is interested in building similar missions throughout the Conference. Hughes is pleased to be a part of his exciting ministry.

On July 6th a welcoming service will be held for Rev. Hawes and Rev. Gaete at 10:00 a.m. Communion will also be celebrated during this worship service. I invite you to join us as we greet our new pastors and begin our ministry together.

While a church-wide reception will be held later in September, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has arranged a series of informal meet –and – greet sessions with Pastor Hawes throughout the summer. These sessions will be held on the following dates:

July 8, 7:30 p.m.	616 Piping Rock Drive, Silver Spring	Ken and Carol Whitney
July 17, 7:30 p.m.	2417 Eccleston Street, Silver Spring	David and Alyce Amussen
July 28, 10 a.m.	Hughes UMC, Parlor	Marie Muller
August 6, 7:30 p.m.	403 Russell Ave., # 201, Gaithersburg	Lydia Skinner
August 14, 7:30 p.m.	306 First Street, Rockville	Jeffrey and Gail Broadhurst

Sign up sheets will be placed in the Narthex beginning June 27th or you may contact the Church office at 301-949-8383.

How blessed we are as a congregation of the United Methodist Church! As we begin our service together with Rev. Hawes and Rev. Gaete, I ask you to be open to change as without it, we cannot grow. Hughes will continue to work with the leaders of the Baltimore-Washington Conference as we celebrate, connect, develop, serve, and share our faith with new believers as we grow our congregation and engage in mission both in our community and around the world.

I have spent a lot of time thinking about a passage in Luke over the past several weeks – "*For unto whomever much is given, of him shall be much required*." Luke 12:48. Upon reflection I realize how appropriate it is to be reminded of this passage during this time of transition. Hughes United Methodist Church has been given much, I have been given much; it is now time to follow God's direction, welcome change, and give back as much as possible.

Marjorie Roher, Chair
Staff Parish Relations