



Hinton Avenue United Methodist Church  
750 Hinton Avenue  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
434-293-7049

May 5, 2011

Dear Hinton Avenue Family,

You may know of my passion for Christ's church, particularly when it comes to a radical welcome to those outside the church, our risk-taking service in the neighborhood and beyond, our shared compassion and care, and intentionally designed study opportunities for all ages and interests. Thus, there is news and some events coming up in May that I want you all to be aware of, to either include in your prayers, to participate in yourself, or to share with others.

**This Sunday, May 8, after we celebrate Mother's Day in worship, the 2011 Confirmation Class and Youth group will be serving a meal at Lee Park** to homeless persons after worship under the TOP (Teens Opposing Poverty) program. Youth will meet downstairs in the kitchen to wrap and pack food and help load it into cars for transport downtown. Youth not in confirmation class will begin to prepare the food beginning at 9:45am. The Confirmation class will join them after worship to finish. Permission slips, if not already turned in, will be provided. All will be back at the church around or shortly after 2pm.

On **Saturday, May 14**, Hinton Avenue will participate in a "**Change the World**" mission event that will be coinciding with United Methodist churches world-wide. Because the environment is dear to the hearts of many at Hinton Avenue, we will participate in a **trash-pick up morning from 9am to noon** in the Belmont neighborhood. Bring trash bags, gloves, a pick to use if you wish, a hat, and your lunch. Drinks will be furnished. A prize will be given to the person bringing back the most trash.

**Sunday, May 15**, is the **Annual Spaghetti Cook-off** following worship. Make your best sauce to bring, or come to be an "official taster." Pasta, salad, drinks, and paper/plastic ware will be furnished. Sign up with your "entry" or call Pam Davis, 296-0634 if you have questions.

Conference Disaster Response Teams have been sent to Tennessee and Alabama. In order to be part of such a team, special training is required. **On Friday, May 20 from 6-9pm - 1pm on Saturday, May 21, early Disaster Response Training** is being offered by the Va. Conference at Blacksburg UMC, 111 Church Street. The \$50 fee includes a training manual, Va UMCOR ERT badge, T-shirt, breakfast and snacks, and a background check. If you're interested in going with me, please leave a message in the church office or call me at 804-399-1028.

**Beginning Sunday, May 22**, we will begin to collect supplies for "**Kits for Conference.**" Each year at Annual Conference, church delegates (Patricia Carter and I this year) bring "kits" that

help replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. These go to UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana for distribution world-wide. This year, Hinton Avenue will be collecting supplies for 2 different kits: **Baby/Layette Kits** and **Birthing Kits**. Supplies will be collected in the sanctuary and then be dedicated prior to Annual conference in Roanoke that begins June 15. Start bringing supplies for the collection table beginning on May 22.

- **Baby/Layette Kits**: 6 cloth diapers; 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits; 2 baby washcloths; 2 gowns or sleepers; 2 diaper pins; 1 sweater open in front; 2 receiving blankets. Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.
- **Birthing Kits**: 1 hotel size bar of soap (1 oz and up); 1 pair clean latex gloves; 1 square yard of clear 4ml plastic sheeting; 3 pieces of clean string each 12" long; 1 clean single use razor blade (carefully wrap the blade in paper or plastic to protect it and keep it from causing injury); 2 flannelette receiving blankets, each 1 square yard. Place these inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

**Sunday, May 29, is "Get Ahead Sunday"**. Last year the Church Council designated every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday as "Get Ahead Sunday". This special appeal is to help meet our United Methodist Conference and Charlottesville District apportioned budget items. Included in that are funds that go directly to World Mission. This provides a means of response for each of us to world and national situations. Our generosity is especially meaningful at this time in light of the tragedies in Japan and Alabama and neighboring states. "Get Ahead" envelopes are provided in the pews and/or checks can be designated "Get Ahead" on the information line.

Or special interest to you may be what's going on in the **Confirmation Class**. It is my and Sandra McLaughlin's delight to listen, learn and laugh with these young persons. Here are some quick guesses by them on the meaning of some words that have to do with the Sacrament of Holy communion. Enjoy!

- "Eucharist" – bug, underwater geological formation, something we chant? (Eucharist is the sacrament of Holy Communion).
- "Immanent" – a bug's insides, hard like cement, inevitable, going to happen (Immanent means existing with, close to.)
- "Omnipresent" – being present, something having to do with Jesus, it's always there, everywhere, a big gift (Omnipresent means God is everywhere.)
- "Intinction" – something inside something else, something made of tin, to get in line (Intinction is the act of dipping Communion bread into the cup.)

They learned that United Methodists have an "open table" meaning that "all who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are invited to receive the bread and cup. We have no tradition of refusing any who present themselves desiring to receive." – from The United Methodist Book of Worship.

May Christ's peace be with you as we continue in such exciting ministry together!

Rev. Rosemary G. Welch, Pastor

**[hintonavenueumc.org](http://hintonavenueumc.org)**