

YARD SALE SUPPORTS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



This sale is half flea market, half book sale and half a typical yard sale. Yes, we know that comes out to more than a whole sale, but if you have ever been to a Habitat for Humanity Yard sale you know it is accurate. Taken as a whole, it is more than one sale. And we haven't even gotten to the food and baked goods yet. They are there too. You really need to come experience this event.

The Habitat Yard sale will be held on May 14, at Rockville United Church, 355 Linthicum Road in Rockville, from 8:00 AM to 2 PM. Dealers and professional yard sale shoppers are usually in line before 8:00 AM. They know there are good deals to be had here. To give our members a fair chance, there will be a "pre-sale" on Friday May 13 only for members of the participating churches, that is Rockville United Church (RUC), BUCC, and UCC of Seneca Valley. The hours for this are 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. There will be food available. On Saturday there will be food available also, to keep the energy level of the shoppers up.

The book sale room is certainly worth a visit. It is the perfect place to pick up your summer reading, inexpensive paperbacks that can be discarded when finished or saved and donated back to the yard sale next year.

Where does all this stuff come from? You, or members of the participating churches donate the items. When people downsize their homes in preparation for moving or just de-cluttering, the items that could be more useful in someone else's hands are donated to the sale. Signed donation receipts for tax purposes are provided, but deciding on the valuation is left to the donor. Donations will be accepted starting Monday, May 9 from 12 noon to 9:00 PM through Thursday May 12, (same hours each day) and on Friday from 9:00AM to noon. Please do not bring anything after noon on Friday. The workers need a chance to set up for the members sale that evening. Mastermind of the whole affair is Niki De La Rosa of RUC. The people for BUCC members to see if they have questions are Gary Lawson or Jim Cain. A list of what is acceptable for donation and what is not is printed elsewhere in this issue of Outlook, as are directions to RUC.

In addition to donating and shopping at the yard sale, you can really join in the fun by helping out. You can stop by during the collection hours and help unpack, price and place the items on the sales tables. Just trying to identify what an object is can sometimes be a challenge. Help during the sale day would also be appreciated. If you have any questions, Jim Cain, Gary Lawson Pat Miller, Dorothy and Jerry Liddel are all experienced yard sale people and can probably help you.

Mother's Work is Never Done

Excerpt from Mark 1: 29-31

"Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them."

Reflection by Lillian Daniel

This story cracks me up. Simon's mother was very ill, consumed with a fever, but Jesus was able to cure his friend's mother, to literally "raise her up." What a moment that must have been.

So after this life-threatening illness and a miracle cure, what does this woman do next? She makes them all dinner, of course. Simon may be a grown-up, his mother may have just had a near-death experience, but a mother's work is never done.

I know one could make a feminist analysis of this story, and feel sorry for the hard work women had to do in a patriarchal society. But as a postmodern woman, I still relate to Simon's mother simply as a mother.

These days, with one child in college, and another with three short years left at home, I find myself longing to cook meals for my kids. These days, we have to schedule family dinners in advance with our busy high school sophomore. So I love it when my daughter and a group of her friends just happen to find themselves together around the kitchen counter, and I can whip up a little something. I'm eager for my son's first trip home from college because he has already told me what he wants me to make him for dinner.

In my early years of parenting, cooking for my children was just another chore, another stressor in an overscheduled working mom's life. But now, I'd like to do more of it.

When Simon's mother recovered, she must have been enormously grateful to have been given more days to live. But what she chose to do in that moment was something very ordinary. She cooked a meal for her son and his friends. Because when you look back on your life, it's not the big vacations, the promotions, or the extraordinary events you remember. It's the simple stuff, like cooking a meal for your son and his friends.

Prayer

God, you are the host, the mother who waits for us with a heavenly banquet and a loving heart. In you, may we find the grace to delight in each other and in each day you give us. Amen.

Lillian Daniel is Senior Minister for the First Congregational UCC Church in Dubuque Iowa.

From a StillSpeaking devotional of 10/20/2011

Bible Reading ... at Home

(Adapted from SeasonsFUSION - *Seasons of the Spirit*@Wood Lake Publishing)

May 1 - Shared Ministry

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Currents of God's Spirit carry us in directions we may not have chosen and to margins where we may not have gone. Lydia welcomes the gospel's message and its messenger by a river. Her baptism christens mutuality of ministry. Waters of life wash through all the readings today; inviting love, making persons whole, and imparting holy presence. Lydia and Paul serve as disciples together. They minister to one another, and to their companions and households. Where might the Spirit be leading you and your church to go in order to graciously extend the gift of hospitality, and in order to graciously receive the gift of hospitality?

May 8 - For the Common Good

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

There are huge, sweeping themes of God's presence in this week's readings. Opportunities for ministry arise when faith confronts powers that oppress; when we cannot walk away from situations of pressing need. Where does God call us to bring freedom and compassion, to seek for the common good? To live in Christ challenges us to engage in mission. To dwell in the Spirit renews us with waters of life. We trust God's power to deliver.

May 15 - Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate the breath and fire of the Spirit that lives and moves and acts among God's people. Pentecost Sunday celebrates the animating and sustaining presence of God's Spirit within the church. Perhaps it is for this reason that Pentecost is often celebrated as the "birthday of the Christian church." The Spirit gives the church its mission and the power to undertake it. As you look into the future, what mission is the Spirit giving to you and your church?

REFLECTION: God of wind and fire, we experience you in an endless palette, a life-giving rainbow of hope and joy. When we, like the first disciples look at life around us and wonder where is hope, remind us of your presence, and infuse us with your spirit, that it might dance forever in our souls. Amen.

May 22 - Voice of Wisdom

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-36

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Proverbs is filled with pithy sayings of advice on how to live, interspersed with teachings on the life of Wisdom, a personified being. In Proverbs 8:32 Wisdom declares, "happy are you when you keep my ways!" Indeed, life comes to its fullness when we celebrate creation, and cry out for justice for those who are unable to enjoy the fullness of life because of oppression by others.

REFLECTION: Eternal Presence, mysterious and intimate, thank you for delighting in our humanity, for bothering to care for us and the world enough to enter our experience, to understand us from the inside out and to still consider us worthy of guiding us into truth. May we learn your wise ways and delight with you in your whole creation. Amen.

May 29 - Voice of a New Song

1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39

Psalm 96

Luke 7:1-10

Galatians 1:1-12

Today's readings speak of our faith in God, and how we live that out. We are to hold fast to the message we have received and to model it for others. Our God is good – we know that from the wondrous creation in which we live, and from the passion for justice that God has demonstrated over and over again. We are called not to spend our energy putting others down for their beliefs, but instead to practice, demonstrate, and celebrate our faith over and over again.

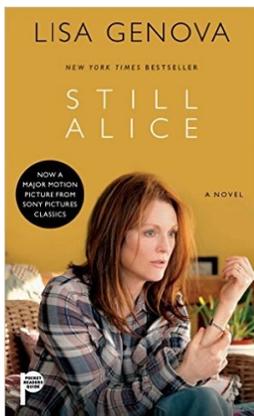
REFLECTION: As we rush from one crisis to another, we are in danger of forgetting the wonder and wisdom at the core of the universe and the source of our lives in the way of Christ. May we tune our ears to the song of God. May seeds of the melody grow in and thorough us. Amen.

DON'T FORGET GRUNGE SATURDAY MAY 7

Last month Outlook printed an article by Dan Driver about the upcoming Grunge Saturday. We are sure you'll marked it on your calendars so you would be sure to come to BUCC Saturday morning between 8:30 and 11:30. This is just a reminder in case you have misplaced your calendar. Grunge Saturday is coming!! If there are any little things about the appearance of the church that have been bugging you, this is the time to come and correct them. We hope it will be a fair weather day so we can work outside, but if not there are some inside tasks we can do. We will not be able to do anything in the Sanctuary because one of our new shared users, the Seventh Day Adventist Church will be meeting at BUCC for the first time and we want to be considerate partners.



SEEKERS



Seekers will next meet on Thursday, May 19 at 7:15 pm in the BUCC parlor. Our book will be Still Alice by Lisa Genova.

The novel is about a woman who suffers early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Alice Howland, a 50-year-old woman, is a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned linguistics expert. She is married to an equally successful husband, and they have three grown children. The disease takes hold swiftly, and it changes Alice's relationship with her family and the world. It was Genova's first novel.

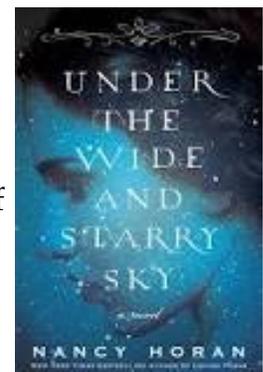
Everyone is invited to join us.

BOOK GROUP

On Tuesday, May 10 at 3:30 pm in the parlor, the Book Group will discuss Under the Wide and Starry Sky by Nancy Horan.

This novel, set in France in 1875, chronicles the unconventional love affair of Robert Louis Stevenson and an American divorcee, who has left her philandering husband in California. The love affair spans 2 decades and the world.

All are welcome to join the discussion and fellowship.





COFFEE HOUR ADDITION

The next time you enter the parlor after the worship service, you will notice an addition to the usual array of coffee, creamer, sugar, tea bags and cookies. There will be a discreet little container ready to receive your contribution to the financing of this very important part of our Sunday mornings.

The Leadership Team decided at its last meeting that we needed to do this to defray the costs of supplying these items. There was no threat that, if donations don't cover the costs, the coffee will disappear. Consider it a donation, not an obligation, but it will help BUCC.



PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL!

It's that time again! Spend an hour with the youngest BUCCers this summer. Sign up on line for a date that works for you. You'll be able to download the curriculum when you sign up. If you have any trouble with downloading the curriculum or don't want to bother signing up online-just email Jo Ann Linseisen (jlinseisen@gmail.com) with the date that you'd like.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/dueqoW>
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE MAY 22 and JUNE 12 AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE

The Faith in Action team is hosting a series of *Conversations on Race* -- three sessions following the Sunday worship service, meeting on May 22, and June 12. This is an opportunity in a safe and sacred space to ask our questions, express concerns, reflect on what we are missing, and consider what part our church might play with regard to this issue.

Ideally we would like to know ahead of time if you plan to attend, so that we can send you an article to "prime the pump" and help to guide our discussion. If you plan to come, please let Jean Thompson know at revjeant@gmail.com or call 301-493-4946. And if you don't decide till the last minute, please join us anyway!



CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY IS JUNE 5TH

Join us June 5th as BUCC youth will assist in leading worship, the bibles will be given to the 3rd graders, and the church school teachers will be recognized.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

On June 5, 2016 we recognize all the graduates at Youth Sunday service. Will you or a family member graduate from middle school, high school, technical school, college, graduate school...you get the idea? Let Jo Ann Linseisen (jlinseisen@gmail.com) know the school and degree (if appropriate) and we will print your name in the bulletin and recognize you during the service. Congratulations on your accomplishment!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Come to a potluck lunch on Sunday, June 5, after Children and Youth Sunday.

BUCC's leadership council is hosting a lunch to celebrate our youth and their teachers and share the progress we are making on funding the work and mission of BUCC.

At the annual meeting in February, the congregation asked leadership council to explore how BUCC can balance the financial and spiritual purposes of our church. We want to share with you what we have discovered thus far.

Potlucks are full of delicious surprises. Bring a dish to share whether it was made in your kitchen or at your favorite take-out place. More details will be coming.

See you there!

Martha Knouss, moderator



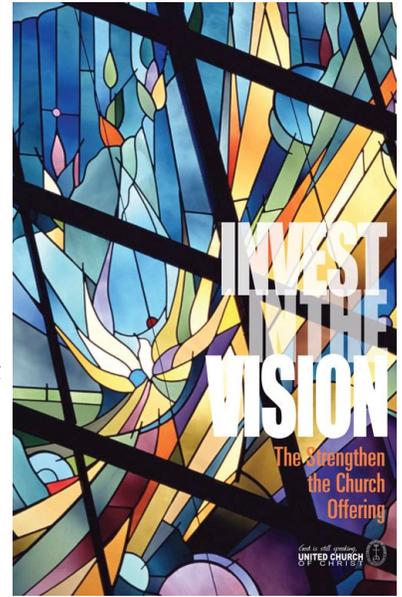
OUTLOOK IS ALSO AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

If you would like to receive a full color PDF of this publication delivered to you via e-mail, just e-mail Colleen at admin@bethesdaucc.org to be added to the distribution list.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING MAY 15

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. When you contribute to the projects that are supported by Strengthen the Church, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual lives of our youth and young adults.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016



DIRECTIONS TO RUC

From Rockville Pike, go east on Twinbrook Parkway.

Cross Viers Mill Road.

Turn Left on McAuliff soon after crossing Viers Mill.

Turn Right on Linthicum Avenue. RUC is on the Right

***Outlook* Submission Deadline: MONDAY, May 23rd at 12:00 (Noon)**

OUTLOOK is published monthly. Please place items for publication in the mailbox in the church office or Email to dotjeryliddel@gmail.com with a copy to admin@BethesdaUCC.org



SHANNON RUNS BOSTON MARATHON

Musing on a Marathon

On April 18, I ran and completed the Boston Marathon – a feat I used to consider “out of reach.” But as in life, my journey to this particular start line was surprising.

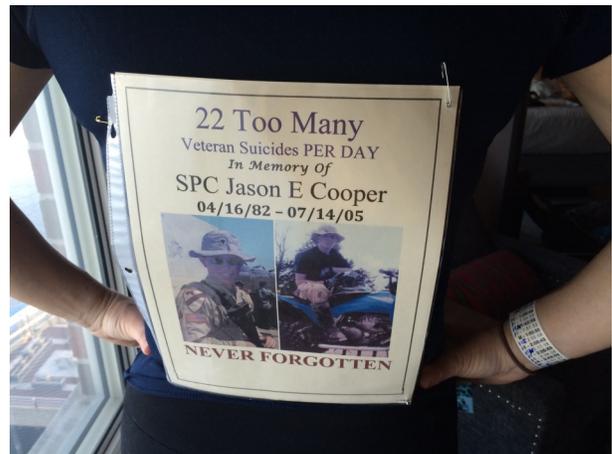
I started running in my 20s. After some shorter races, I decided to tackle the daunting 26.2 miles and ran the Marine Corps Marathon in 2000. It took me almost five hours to complete. Nine years and two kids later, I registered for the same marathon. Having two small kids at home, I really needed an excuse to spend several hours out of the house! This time around, despite being hit with the flu just 48 hours before the start gun, I finished about 15 minutes faster than my first marathon. I don’t think I became a “serious” runner until I joined the Montgomery County Road Runner Club. It offers a variety of structured and specific training programs that place you with runners at similar paces.

Training for a marathon can be daunting. For me, this means running six days a week for a total of 40-50 miles a week. It includes track workouts to gain speed and long runs of 16-22 miles on the weekends for endurance. To do it right, you also have to fit in strength training, lots of stretching, and paying close attention to nutrition. Over the years, I got faster and in 2012, I ran a Boston Qualifier at the Detroit Marathon. For my age group, that was 3 hours, 45 minutes.

Then something happened that I still can’t completely wrap my brain around. It may have been good luck, bad luck, fate, or simply God intervening. Before I could register for the 2014 Boston Marathon, I suffered a stress fracture and couldn’t run at all, let alone train for a marathon. I was painfully disappointed. I had worked so hard and would have to sit the Boston Marathon out. As we all know, tragedy would strike this typically joyful event when the finish line was bombed – killing 3 and wounding hundreds more. I watched the event in sadness and disbelief wondering what would have happened had I not been injured and had run as originally planned.

But I was so inspired by the stories of the runners and spectators that dreadful day that I committed to re-qualify and ran the Steamtown Marathon in Scranton, PA on our 12th Anniversary. I ran my fastest marathon yet, 3 hours, 39 minutes. But again, injury (plantar fasciitis) would sideline me only a month before the Boston Marathon. I had to miss many important runs leading up to it on April 18.

Despite feeling frustrated by a nagging injury and worried about my training interruption, I was fueled by the fact that I'd be running in memory of a fallen soldier through a local organization called 22 Too Many - highlighting the fact that an average of 22 veterans a day commit suicide. The organization hopes to shed light on the often "invisible" wounds of our vets and the staggering toll PTSD takes. This was the second time I had run for this important cause. After I finished Steamtown I sent the medal and photos of the day to the family of the soldier whose photo was on my back. I received a heartfelt response several weeks later. I will likely never meet this family, but I continue to pray for them. During Boston, I was able to have conversations with other runners who wanted to talk about the photo on my back. I'll also write to his family with photos and memories from our Boston trip and hope they know their son will not be forgotten.



A highlight of our Boston weekend was attending a worship service to "Bless the Athletes" at Old South Church, just steps away from the Boston finish line. Trent and I were almost turned away because so many people wanted to attend. I'm glad they were finally able to squeeze us in.

The day of the Boston Marathon was magical. The crowds were thick and encouraging, the race was well organized and the camaraderie with the other runners is unmatched. This winter I ran with a group in rain, snow, sleet, & below freezing temperatures. Needless to say, our bodies were not acclimated when the weather the day of Boston was quite a bit warmer than anyone had expected - reaching 70 degrees at the start. Along with a fairly strong headwind slowing you down, it was a difficult race to say the least. But my foot held up, my legs didn't cramp, I got to see Trent at mile 13 and again at 20 just before Boston's famed "Heartbreak Hill" and I finished in 3 hours 58 minutes. I prayed before, during and after the race for everyone's safety and was heartened to hear an interview later with Boston's chief of police that there was not a single arrest or incident the entire day. I want to thank you all for your kind words, blessings before the race, and congratulations. Your support fueled my determination when my body started slowing down. The marathon is as much a mental race as it is a physical conquest and every bit of feel-good energy is appreciated!

For now, I need to rest my foot and let it heal completely. I have no plans to race anytime soon. At the most, I hope to be casually running again by mid-Summer. But something tells me I'll get back to Boston someday. Next time, I want to bring the boys. Maybe one of them will catch the running bug like me. I could always use another running partner.

Shannon Ross

Links: Boston Marathon www.baa.org Montgomery County Road Runners Club www.mcrrc.org

WHAT CAN BE DONATED TO THE HABITAT YARD SALE



Items That are Acceptable:

- Home baked pies, cookies or cakes for the Bake Sale Table (Please deliver Friday AM or PM.)
- Adult, baby, toddler and children's summer clothing
- Kitchen utensils, dishes, and cookware
- Furniture in good condition, such as lamps, tables, small bookcases and file cabinets. Larger items like sofas, bedroom furniture and dining room sets**
- Rugs, drapes, and curtains that are clean and usable.
- Working appliances, to include flat screen TV's and radios (if you have the manuals, please bring them).
- Tools and garden tools
- Electronic items that work please include the instruction manual**
- Pictures, framed photos and picture frames
- Children's toys and games that are in good working order and have ALL the pieces. (Beanie Babies OK)
- Jewelry, both costume and real
- Hard cover and paperback books, vinyl LP's, CD's and DVD's.
- Antiques
- Baseball, Tennis, Soccer and indoor sports equipment
- Old software manuals
- Clean blankets, spreads and other bedding

Items that are NOT acceptable and Will Not Sell:

- Winter clothes of all types
- Stained or damaged clothing
- Mattresses, mattress pads and box springs. (It is illegal to sell these items if used)
- Incomplete/broken puzzles or games
- TV sets with picture tubes
- VHS and audio tapes
- Stuffed animals of any size (Beanie Babies are OK)
- Bicycles, unless in good condition
- Skis, hockey or other winter sports equipment
- Lawn mowers or power equipment that does not work
- Encyclopedias (Sorry, the Internet has a all the answers)
- Broken furniture - unless it is an antique
- Spouses, partners, children or other relatives
- Stoves, freezers, refrigerators, washers, dryers more than 5 years old**
- Building supplies (These can be donated to the Habitat ReStore in Gaithersburg)

** Accepted on a case by case basis, consult with a Yard Sale supervisor first.

BUCC – MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	2	3	4 7:00 PM Metro Garden Club	5	6 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM Cross Pointe Fellowship	7 8:30 AM Grunge Saturday 9:00 AM SDA 5:00 PM SDA
8 8:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	9 3:30 PM Worship Team 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	10 10:30 AM Potomac Assn Church & Ministry Group 3:30 PM BUCC Book Group	11	12 7:00 PM Christian Education Team	13 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM Cross Pointe Fellowship	14 8:00 AM Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale -- RUC 8:30 AM Potomac Association Spring Meeting 9:00 AM SDA 5:00 PM SDA
15 8:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	16	17 7:00 PM Leadership Council Meeting	18	19 7:15 PM Seekers	20 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM Cross Pointe Fellowship	21 9:00 AM SDA 5:00 PM SDA
22 8:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 12:00 PM Conversation on Race 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	23 12:00 PM DEADLINE for OUT-LOOK Articles	24	25	26 7:30 PM Pastor Parish Relations Team	27 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM Cross Pointe Fellowship	28 9:00 AM SDA 5:00 PM SDA
29 8:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	30 MEMORIAL DAY BUCC OFFICE CLOSED	31				

-W. Earl Hall

Science has never dreamed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY YARD SALE
at Rockville United Church Saturday May 14. 8:00AM
(pre-sale for BUCC members Friday at 5:00PM)**

**GRUNGE SATURDAY
May 7th, 8:00 AM or when you get there .**



OUTLOOK

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