

Haymarket Herald

March 2010

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RAISING OUR CHILDREN IN THE FAITH

I am really excited about how our children's program is coming together in some significant new ways these days. The Christian formation of our children is one of our greatest responsibilities as a church. Adults can fend for themselves in many ways, but our youth and children depend on us as a church body to provide them a good foundation in the faith. Matthew and I have been working on this since the first day we started working together. Our desire is to put in place a comprehensive Christian formation program from the nursery through the high school years that will lead those children the Lord has entrusted to us into a strong and maturing Christian faith.

We have had a good youth program in place for a while now, though we are always concerned with making it better. Where we needed to do some work was in our children's programming. We've had some good things in place here, too, but needed



Come, you children,

listen to me;

**I will teach you
the fear of the Lord**

Psalm 34:11

to add some other things to round out our program. We have some new programs and activities on the horizon that we are particularly excited about. Let me highlight one of these new efforts that is of particular interest to me as the primary worship leader.

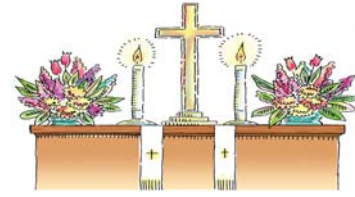
When I first arrived in April of 2007, we had some of our children assisting in worship. They would light the candles on the communion table and open the Bible. They did a good job. But as the work was not as well organized as it could have been (there wasn't an official committee connection), and as it wasn't grounded in a larger Christian education effort, it floundered when some of these children got older and moved on to the youth group. We are going to resurrect the practice with a new acolyte program that will begin soon.

The goal of this program is to teach our children the meaning of Christian worship and to lead them to become active worshipers. It will involve children in grades 3-5 and will serve as an appropriate bridge between the children's church group (which is for children grade 2 and younger and removes them from worship just after *The Children's Sermon*) and the youth group (which begins with grade 6 and includes the youth in the worshipping congregation). This is a most appropriate age group for such a focus. Children at this point in their lives are able to truly grasp the concepts of the Christian tradition and make a profession of faith. They are ready and eager learners who can be taught much about how to follow the Lord. This program will complement the other things we will be doing with this age group to help them take their first steps into a vital, living relationship with the Lord. The children in this program will take turns assisting in worship on Sunday mornings and will receive instruction in the meaning of Christian worship from the ministerial staff.

These worship assistants will be called acolytes. I am aware that this term makes some uncomfortable, so let me say a word about it. This term makes some uncomfortable because of its association with other Christian traditions and practices – traditions and practices that are foreign to our Baptist tradition. I am aware of this unease and had searched for another term to try to address it. But I could not find a more suitable title. The word "acolyte" is derived from the Greek term *akolouthos*, which means "companion, attendant, or helper" and has close associations in actual New Testament usage with discipleship. We mean for these children to be trained in the ways of worshipping God by having them serve as companions and helpers to the primary worship leaders. This title is most appropriate for our purposes.

In closing, let me say that I am excited about this new program not because it is new, but because it represents another significant step in providing a holistic program of Christian education and nurture for our children. In a day and age that is growing more and more secular, and that is increasingly given to constant and distracting activity, we need to be more focused than ever before on raising our children in the faith.

Dr. Stewart



WHY DO WE DO THAT IN WORSHIP?

One of the most important things we do in worship each week is pray. We pray in a variety of ways. We pray in silence. We pray in unison (the Lord's Prayer). We pray through song (many of our hymns are prayerful pleas of one sort and another). And we pray inwardly under the direction of a worship leader. We also pray prayers with a variety of purposes. I would like to lead you in a consideration of these worship prayers in this month's column.

We begin our worship each week with a prayer called *The Invocation*. It is a fitting prayer for the beginning of worship for through it we are invoking God's blessing upon our service, hoping and trusting that its purposes will be realized. There are twin aims attendant in Christian worship. First, and most importantly, we strive to present God a fit offering of praise and thanksgiving. Second, we hope to receive from God "words of life" to instruct, encourage and inspire our faithful living.

The central time of prayer in our worship is that group of prayers that arrives after the first hymn is sung. It is titled *The Prayers of the People* in the church bulletin, and that is what it is meant to represent. In this time of prayer, we intend to bring all our concerns before Almighty God.

These include: the needs of the congregation, both individual and corporate; confession of sin and dedication to new life; items of national and international importance; the success of the church universal, including the work of missionaries; and, the needs of the poor and oppressed in our community and beyond.

We begin with a time of silence wherein worshipers are invited to pray as they feel led. *The Pastoral Prayer* follows with the pastor praying for the people in a complementary fashion. We close our time of prayer together with a unison rendering of *The Lord's Prayer*.

An oft-overlooked weekly prayer is *The Offertory Prayer*. While it is a short prayer, it is a vitally important one. As it is accompanied by *The Offertory Sentences* and *The Doxology*, it focuses us on God's blessing in our lives, including the great blessing of eternal life. Through this prayer we give thanks for God's abundant grace even as we consecrate our gifts to the service of rendering a more profound expression of our gratitude.

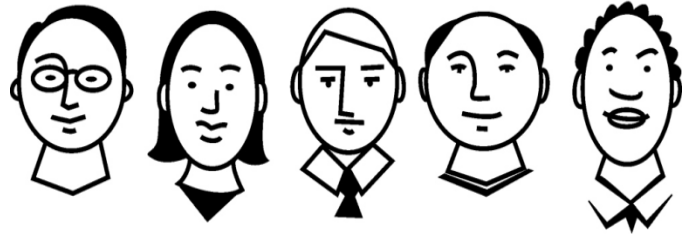
An unlisted prayer is the prayer I pray at the end of each sermon. Were I to include it in the bulletin, it would go under the heading *The Prayer of Dedication*. The reason I do not list it in the bulletin is because it is a completely spontaneous prayer. Where I spend time prior to the service preparing for all the other prayers in worship, I do not take time to prepare for this one. It flows completely from the sermon and serves to ask God to help us implement the call to faithful action the sermon has sounded. It is, most truly, a part of the sermon – its conclusion.

The final prayer listed is not really a prayer in the sense that the others are. *The Benediction* is a blessing pronounced upon the people of God as they make ready to leave the sacred hour of worship. All the benedictions I offer come directly from the Bible. There is no more appropriate way to leave worship to face the uncertainties of a new week than with the assurance of God's blessing upon our lives.

As I said at the outset of this column, praying is one of the most important things we do in worship. The reason I have written about it in detail here is so that we can know why we pray the way we do. Knowing why we pray in these ways, hopefully, will enable us to enter more fully into our prayer together.

Dr. Stewart

From the Deacons Bench



DEACON'S BENCH

SNOW, SNOW, SNOW. Keep your faith; spring is around the corner with day light savings time, warm weather and green grass. The crocuses are getting ready to spring to life and the birds of all descriptions will be returning to serenade us with their songs. We are drawing closer to Easter with its promise of eternal life for all who accept and believe. We are assured of our salvation because our Savior rose from the dead and promised eternal salvation for us through His death on the cross.

With Spring, our pace will quicken and we will start to be more involved in all kinds of activities. Remember to keep some quiet, reflective time for the Lord, especially as we prepare for the Easter Season.

Let your spirit be alive with the Good News and the promise of eternal life that has been given to all who believe. We need to examine our lives and reflect upon whether or not we are glorifying God. We should try not to be involved in busy work that has no purpose. We need to keep order in our lives. Remember, God's orders are all laid out for us in the Bible. Let that be your life coach and the busy things of the world will take care of themselves.

Also, I know each of you have been troubled by the earthquake in Haiti. There are and will continue to be many ways to help the poor unfortunate people who were involved in this tragedy. Recovery will take much time. Your prayers and support for those who have and will continue to be involved in the relief effort will be effective and welcome.

Love one another and be kind to one another as we toil in God's Vineyard.

Max Loudon
Deacon Chairman



The Loom – Weaving our Congregation into Community

If the church is to be the Body of Christ in the world, the primary purpose of the church's education is to "build up" that body – to create communities incarnating God's love to participate in God's transformation of the world to emancipate all creation from bondage.

These important words, delivered by Dr. Charles Foster, former professor at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, speak directly to the importance of a holistic ministry to people of all ages in our church. For each age, and particularly for children and youth, part of the church's calling is to provide appropriate formative experiences which communicate the significance of a growing relationship with God. Without it, the identity and mission of all Christians are lost. What is left, then, is a hollow tradition void of any meaning and purpose.

We all need reminders from time to time of why we do what we do and the importance of passing such traditions on to each subsequent generation. In his column, Dr. Stewart gives a great example of one way the church does just this by addressing the renewal of the acolyte program. Breathing new life into the education of our older children (and all ages) is an essential role of our congregation. We do not do create acolytes to simply pass on traditions. We do it to involve them in the deep meaning of worship. We teach them the whys of worship. We show them the connections worship has with the rest of our life, Monday through Saturday. We look to establish in our children a bond and a connection to our church.

Establishing a bond to and within the church for children, youth, and adults at various points in life is essential. Everyone needs to know that they are important. Everyone needs to know they are needed. And everyone needs to have a purpose for being involved. I have been giving these needs a lot of thought recently. For our children and youth, I have come to develop a sort of chart that visually shows the needs of our children and youth based on their age and development. The church has been

addressing many of these concerns for some time but inevitably, without some guide, important formative pieces or ages can be overlooked.

Obviously, children are not born with the capacity to automatically trust God and grow in a relationship with God. Nor can they understand by themselves the call that God gives to all Christians to embody love, forgiveness, and hope to all people. Rather, they must be taught and this teaching takes time and occurs in different ways over a lifetime. This happens through storytelling, through music, through scripture reading, through participation, and especially through example. What becomes quickly evident here is that children need adults – not just a few adults, but the whole church to build them, the next generation, into the Body of Christ.

And truth be told, adults need children too! Walter Brueggeman, an Old Testament scholar, argues that faith formation binds the generations into a professing community together. It is in the adults of a faith community (church) that the young find clues to the meaning and power of events central to the identity and mission of the church. Conversely, in the youth of the church, the adults envision the community's continuity and renewal. Our children and youth absolutely need the adults to understand and interpret what being Christian is about. And adults need to know that their work and witness will not be for naught but will be carried on by the next generation.

So, faith formation in a church, while many times age graded, can only be successful when approached holistically. Our children desperately need to see, hear, know, and trust our adults. They need to see their joy and deep commitment to church. At an early age they need to know that the church is important, holds deep meaning (even though they cannot fully explain the meaning) and is safe. This only happens when the church see its identity and mission as building up the body of Christ.

In this effort, our church offers important formative events and activities for children and youth. They include Sunday school, mid-week mission and Bible study groups, children's church, choir, retreats, fun activities, and Passport for youth. Along with the renewed acolyte program, the Children's Ministry Team is also excited to offer for the first time to the older children a chance to attend their own Passport camp – Passport Kids. This will

take place June 29 – July 2 at Eagle Eyrie and is open to anyone who has finished third grade through sixth grade. This experience will be an important step in solidifying this age group around faith formation, giving them something unique to look forward to each year.

Also, in March, the middle school youth will be going through “The Anatomy of the Church.” This is a six week study that introduces them to why Christianity requires commitment to a church and why this commitment means much more than simply membership. During this time, I will be asking different members of our church to share with this group stories of how the church has helped form their life of faith. They will also share their hopes and dreams for the future church.

As a minister, it is my joy to put thought to how we as a church deepen our commitment to God and one another. I am excited to work with our committees (or as I like to call them, ministry teams) to provide meaningful opportunities of service and faith formation. However, as the word “community” points out, we all are involved in supporting, teaching, and caring for one another. We all touch each other in powerful ways.

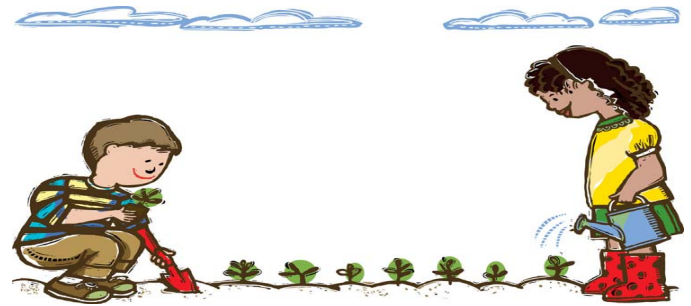
As we continue to grow our ministries to and with all ages, the church will also need the commitment and time of all our members. We all are a part of the church’s education program both as teachers and learners. But the church is always in need of those who can commit to a specific place of ministry. In children and youth ministry, the parents carry a lot of the weight in the church education. But I am thankful for the members of our church who give their time and energy to these groups and do not have children who fit these ages. To these youth and families, indeed to the whole church, your work is invaluable. I imagine there are many more in our community who can make a lasting impact in these groups by being a teacher, a leader, and a mentor. You are never too old or know too little to be of significant service. Your presence and love is needed. How can you make an impact?

Matthew Hensley
Director of Christian Education



AT THE JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING ...

At the last regularly scheduled business meeting, held on Wednesday, January 20, the church heard reports from staff, officers and committee chairpersons. Three motions were considered. The church voted to make Alex Nagy a member of the Nominating Committee; it voted to make John Pross a member of the Preschool Council; and, it voted to establish a new volunteer position called the “Contract Administrator” (a copy of this last motion is on the bulletin board outside the pastor’s study).



GARDEN GURU?

Like to work with your hands?

Like to play in the dirt?

Want to reach out to the community on behalf of the church?

We are looking for a good organizer to coordinate church members in establishing and maintaining a church garden this summer. We hope this will include all ages and backgrounds in our church. In addition to being a great way to build community in our church, we believe this will be a wonderful way to creatively work to extend God's love to those in need in our community by donating our fresh produce. Interested? Please contact Brenda Knighton or Rev. Matthew Hensley. You may email Rev. Hensley at matthewhensley@verizon.net



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Easter Eggstravaganza –
Saturday, March 27; 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Snow may be on the ground, but Easter is not far away! To help the children in our community celebrate the most important event in our faith, the Children's Ministry Team will once again sponsor our annual Easter Eggstravaganza! The Eggstravaganza is part egg hunt, part spring fling, and part witness and outreach designed to reach our whole community. To make this event as successful as possible, the Children's Ministry Team will be asking each adult Sunday school class to sponsor a booth. The Children's Ministry team will sponsor age appropriate egg hunts.

So save Saturday, March 27 for an Easter Celebration and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends!

Frances Kennedy



HOMETOUCH COMMITTEE

The visitations of The Home Touch Committee have been hampered by the snowy weather. The committee members have kept in touch with their "shut-ins" by phone and cards. It is most important to communicate with the "home-bound,"

Guerry Gordon is planning to have a meeting of this committee at her home for a light supper in March. Details of this meeting will be forth-coming.

Remember that we have two groups of "Home-Bound"---permanent and temporary. If you know of anyone that would fit in either of these groups, please notify either Guerry Gordon(703-754-1594;ghg2002@comcast.net) or Ann Whitney at the church. Thank you!

Guerry Gordon
Chairperson,
Chairperson

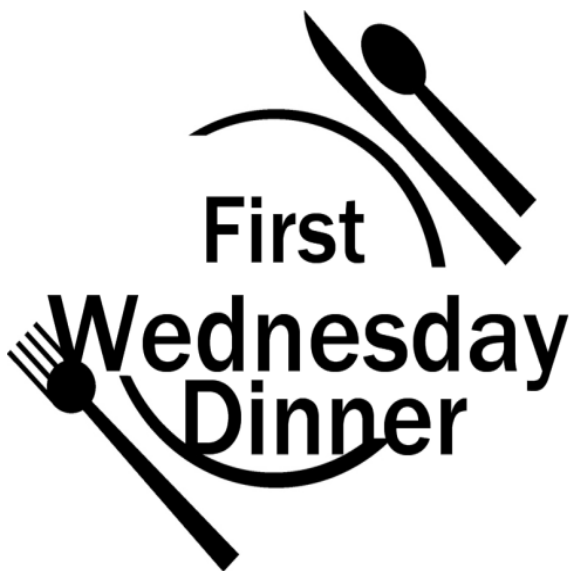
FIRST WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Each first Wednesday night of the month, all are invited to dinner at the church! We hope this promotes fellowship among our friends and members. We also hope such a dinner eases your hectic day and makes involvement in our mid-week activities easier. We are grateful to the Fellowship Class which will be providing our dinner in February.

- Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. People are welcome to come anytime between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- **March 3** is the next First Wednesday Night Dinner and reservations must be received in the church office by **Sunday, February 28**.

Please reply:

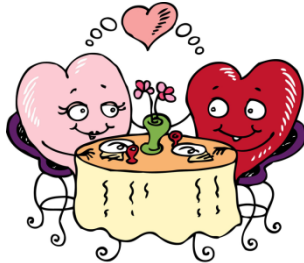
_____ Number planning to attend the First
Wednesday Night Dinner on March 3.





Current needs in our children's and youth ministries:

- High school Sunday School Teacher
- Sunday School Teacher substitutes for children and youth
- Nursery volunteers
- Children's Church volunteers
- Wednesday Ignite Bible Study leaders
- Wednesday Mission Friends and Children in Action teacher assistants
- Youth activities chaperons
- Host a youth activity at your home



2010 Valentine Banquet

Thanks to all who signed up to attend the annual Adult Valentine Banquet to benefit youth retreats and Passport. The weather this year was just too much to bear and so for the first time since its inception, the youth ministry team had to cancel the event. We are grateful to all who helped us by purchasing the steaks we bought from Ruby Tuesday. The youth hope they were yummy!

Please know that the valentine banquet has annually been the youth's largest fundraiser. Each of the last two years, the banquet has earned the youth over \$2,000 to pay for Passport or other important retreats. The youth ministry team plans to make up this fundraiser in early April with a dinner and fellowship time that should be fun for the whole congregation! While this will not be a sweetheart style banquet, the youth will be your servers. Stay tuned as a time and theme to this event are planned and announced. The youth appreciate your support!



Mission Madness – April 9 – 11 Richmond, VA

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia is hosting its first annual youth mission retreat in Richmond on April 9 – 11. This weekend will prove to be a great time of fun, fellowship, missions, and madness!!! Those who love Passport will also enjoy this weekend as we minister to people within our own state. The weekend will be meaningful and the cost inexpensive. Please sign up in the youth room by Sunday, February 28. A deposit of \$44 is due at sign up. Total cost is \$88. Scholarships are available and recipients are kept anonymous.



Do you have a youth calendar?

Do you know a youth who could use one?

The youth ministry team has planned events for the entire 2010 year and has published a handy wall calendar with all pertinent church dates and activities as well as school holidays. Each month also features a picture of our youth in action. Please see Rev. Hensley if you know of a youth who could benefit from this calendar!



Last month we focused on what we could do for the people of Haiti through our Baptist General Association of Virginia churches. These contributions went to cooperative missions from the churches. One hundred percent of your offerings and items you so kindly gave went to the field. They have the ability to respond quickly because of our network of churches. They are trained in disaster relief and ready to act immediately. Over 1,400 Baptist churches together support these missions.

My friend went to Haiti on a mission trip. She and her team took tents which they gave away so they slept in their sleeping bags on the ground. Their food was bread and water. She passed out food and water to orphans in the orphanages. When she ran out of food, the next little child smiled and took a hug. When she attended a religious service, she was impressed at the faith of these people. One young man told her that he had lost his parents but that he must go on. He said, "Things will get better." She watched an operation on a little girl's leg. They had no anesthetic to give her. Let us keep these people in our prayers and count our blessings.

Thank you for your kindness in this regard. It is interesting to note that the Baptist General Association of Virginia is an important part of our mission budget as they work in so many areas which we support. Thank you for your help with the Virginia Mission project. The collection bin is near the double doors. We will continue this through March.

Ruth Nagy
Chairperson



The following people have March birthdays:

- Mar. 1 Sam Hessenauer
- Mar. 3 Justin Goff
- Mar. 5 Dorothy French, Carter Richardson, Ellen Plagata
- Mar. 6 Kelly Shirley, Ralph Swain
- Mar. 7 Tom Smith
- Mar. 10 Donna Stallings, Keaghan Plaughter
- Mar. 11 Amanda Mazzu, Bene' Dodd
- Mar. 16 Eda Shabraw
- Mar. 17 Stephanie Thacker
- Mar. 18 Dan Sawyer
- Mar. 19 Charles Drey
- Mar. 20 George Bowen
- Mar. 22 J.T. Frazier, Ami Pape'
- Mar. 23 Paul Sellers
- Mar. 24 Joyce Fairfax, Jim Vail
- Mar. 25 Ed Drey
- Mar. 28 Patricia Thompson
- Mar. 30 David Taylor
- Mar. 31 Samantha French

ACOLYTE TRAINING CLASS

Saturday, March 27

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All children in grades 2 – 5 are invited to come and receive instruction for participation in the new Acolyte program (see Dr. Stewart's column in this newsletter for more information about the program).
Lunch will be served.



Preschool News

Dear Church Family,

February was a winter wonderland that had our preschool program closed for a number of days! We had to combine several events once we returned, and had a Valentine Slumber Party, which was PJ day mixed with a Valentine Party! The time off for students was well used by the preschool office to complete the registration process for next year. We have another full house of students all set for next school year. And again, there are waiting lists for those that didn't make it! Teachers are working diligently to get the academic work caught up, while still maintaining the fun and craft projects.

March brings us to registration for Summer Camp. Forms are available in the office for a March 1 registration which begins at 9:00 a.m. Camp is for children who are four or five years old by June 1. Classes begin June 7 and run for four weeks. Each week your child can attend camps from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon and learn about deep sea diving, rambling through the rainforest, the zoo, and going on a camping trip. Staff and children enjoy these fun-filled and theme-based weeks.

The month of March also includes a celebration of Dr. Seuss, with an author study and age appropriate activities for each grade level. You might find a classroom making green eggs and ham or oobleck, or making Cat in the Hat hats! March is "Music in the Schools" month, so we are looking for anyone who might be interested in sharing musical instruments with our students. Sometimes an early introduction to instruments leads to a child who ends up in a marching band or in the symphony! This month we host our annual Scholastic Book Fair. We are hoping a few church members will have some free time to come and help out the children in selecting books for their wish

lists. March 15 and 16, at 9:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. would be a great time to help out these little ones, if you are available. All you have to be able to do is write down book titles! Contact the school office if you are available to help. Concluding March is Easter Parties...and then we are on to Spring Break! The school year is flying by!

We were happy to be asked to support the medical supplies being gathered for Haiti. We have one big full box, and then we had a week's worth of snow days and were unable to collect more! We are thankful for Bobby's hard work with all the snow removal at each entrance and walk way. We are thankful for the Ducketts' plowing of the parking lot...quite a big job that took several long days! We are happy that we were able to provide the funds to pay for this enormous undertaking, benefitting both the church and school. I am thankful to the staff that came in during the snow storm to do many tours and an open house. We have a very dedicated staff at HBCPK!

Looking forward to spring...sunshine and flowers!!

Mrs. Laurie Frasz
 Director,
 Haymarket Baptist Church Preschool &
 Kindergarten





The annual meeting for Missions Unlimited will be held on Saturday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. at Haymarket Baptist Church, 14800 Washington Street, Haymarket, VA. This meeting will feature special speaker, Kristen White, Student Missions Coordinator of WMU of Virginia, and an afternoon tea with a silent auction on baskets filled with various items. All proceeds from the auction will go to benefit WMU charities.

In celebration of our churches' missions support, we now come together as one body of women working together on some common goals. This annual meeting will provide us with an opportunity to talk about our projects and decide our goals for 2010.

Beginning at 2:00 p.m. we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at Haymarket Baptist to enjoy tea and cookies. This will give everyone an opportunity to view the baskets and place a bid on the basket of their choice. The auction will close at 2:50 p.m. and the winners then announced. During the business portion beginning at 3:00 p.m., the members attending will decide on which mission project to fund with collected monies.

I look forward to greeting as many women as possible from each of our NorthStar churches. God has placed on my heart the need to help those we can, and guide our Network of women together to do amazing things in the future. Begin praying now for our organization, and make your plans to attend our annual meeting.

Prior to this meeting, I would like for each church WMU group leader to contact me at 703-754-9041 or email me at pattycarey@comcast.net. I would appreciate your help in organizing the silent auction and contributing a basket from your church. Each basket can be a themed basket, for example; beauty basket, pedicure/manicure basket/teas and coffee basket, etc. During the meeting, we will discuss the projects your churches have been supporting during the last year. We will begin to organize new committees to address issues such as WMU scholarships and future planning of Missions Unlimited.

I am so blessed to have you to support me in this effort, and I know that together we can do great things for others.

Please mark your calendars for March 13 and come have fun as we pave a path together to do God's work.

In Christ's Service,

Patty Carey
Missions Unlimited Director

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