

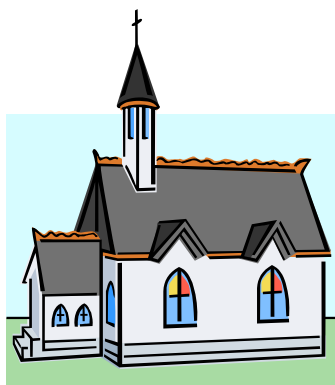
Silverbrook United Methodist Church Newsletter

You can reach us at 703.690.4159 or silverbrookum@verizon.net
Or visit us on the: <http://silverbrook-umc.org>

August 30, 2010

Your Attendance is Requested

You are invited to attend the 103rd Homecoming of Silverbrook United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 19, 2010. We hope you can attend and celebrate our wonderful heritage with us. There will be two worship services, 8:30 am and 11 am. Coffee will be at 9:45am followed by Sunday School classes for all ages. See the Schedule of Activities on page 3.



Potluck Luncheon

We will have a potluck luncheon after the 11 am worship service.
Please bring a dish to share.

EVERYONE is invited to attend this time of sharing and fellowship.

A Note from the Chair of Ad. Council, Kathy Brown

...for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. Matthew 17:20

As we look forward to Homecoming this year, it is appropriate to share with you the many activities and accomplishments of Silverbrook United Methodist Church. We at Silverbrook have more faith than a mustard seed, and God is working in and through us in ways that are awe-inspiring.

The sign ministry continues, and we have become known around town as "the little white church with the sign." Pastor Kim often hears from people who have been touched by the message on the sign. The members of our congregation who marched in Lorton's July 4 parade wore sandwich boards with sign messages on them, and many people made the connection between Silverbrook and the sign (the little white church, made by Tom Painter, riding in the back of the truck helped too).

Our 8:30 service continues to be well attended. Worship opportunities during the past year have included a Maundy Thursday foot-washing service, a prayer vigil with labyrinth walk on Good Friday, quarterly healing services, and a prayer vigil for the Gulf Oil Spill held in July. To maintain our congregational intimacy in light of the addition of a second service, the first Sunday a month in lieu of Sunday School, we have a potluck brunch during the Sunday School hour. We would love to have you join us!

Cont'd pg. 2

From our Ad Council Chair — Kathy Brown cont'd from page 1

Our Sunday School is strong, with one adult class, a youth class, an elementary school class, and a nursery. Four young people were confirmed in June. We provided scholarships for six youth from Rising Hope to attend Camp Highroad; five youth from Silverbrook also attended. Due to our small membership, it was decided not to host Vacation Bible School this summer, but our youth have had opportunities for fellowship through camp, hot dog roasts, volleyball on the lawn and a district youth Bible study.

In 2008, Silverbrook held our first pledge drive. The finance committee educated the congregation on our budgetary requirements, including salaries, programs, building use and upkeep, and apportionments. Our congregation responded, and our income skyrocketed. In addition to raising salaries to more appropriate levels, we were able to set aside \$10,000 as seed money for a building fund. Our ultimate goal is to renovate or replace some of our non-historic buildings. Our "dream team" includes an architect and historian, as well as members of the board. We recognize that this is a long-term goal, but are very proud of the steps we have been able to take toward meeting that goal.

In support of the Silverbrook Retreat Center, we repainted the fellowship hall, and are making plans to update and/or replace some of our existing buildings. In the sanctuary, placed on the National Historic Registry in 2007, we have worked to improve energy efficiency by replacing the insulation in the attic. We recognize that we lose heat and air conditioning through our front doors, so plans are in place to replace them. We are taking time to locate historically accurate doors, so we have replaced the weather stripping on the existing doors as a temporary measure.

We have developed a tradition of providing "welcome back" cookies to the faculties at local schools, and this year our goal was to provide cookies to the faculty and staff of Laurel Hill Elementary School, which opened in September, 2009. The response by our congregation was overwhelming, and cookies were provided to Laurel Hill, Silverbrook and Halley Elementary Schools. The Blessing of the Animals in October has become a favorite event for Silverbrook and the surrounding community. Each year we see new people and pets. The second Children's Clothing Swap was well attended and provided clothing to needy families in our community. Silverbrook was proud to sponsor the Little League Devil Rays. Several members attended and enjoyed the antics of the four and five year old players.

While our compassion extends to members of the community outside our walls, we at Silverbrook have dealt with some serious crises in our own congregation, and have reached out in love to support those members and their families. One of the things we do best is to walk with and support each other in times of stress, and we have focused much of our energy this year in doing just that.

We're on the web! Checkout our web page at <http://silverbrook-umc.org>. We're also on Facebook, and would love to have you join us there.

God continues to work in and through Silverbrook UMC. We are a faithful, committed group of Christians, who do our best to listen and act on His word. We continue to grow in our faith, our commitment to each other, and in outreach to those around us, as we believe God is leading us to do. At Silverbrook, God is moving mountains!

Homecoming Scheduled Activities

9:45am Coffee Hour

11 am Service

12:30pm Lunch

Child care will be available in the Nursery .

Got Gifts?

We know you do. God told us so. In the fall we have a financial stewardship campaign to help people pray about what financial resources they can give to the church in 2011. This is important. But it is also important to think about your spiritual gifts and gifts of time that you have to contribute. Please be in prayer about what other gifts God has bestowed upon you and how you might use them for God through Silverbrook. Please feel free to contact Pastor Kim to discuss and pray about this.



Discover God's Call Alumni



Good News. I hear they will be offering another Discover God's Call retreat in the Spring of 2011. Stay tuned for details. Begin thinking and praying now about participating and extending an invitation to others.

Also, George Yenowine has graciously donated some of Johanna's tapes of the Discover God's Call retreats she attended. They are now available in the church library.

Regular Sunday School classes will resume on September 12th directly following the coffee fellowship at 9:45am

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Ever wonder why we worship God? Why would the God of the universe need our songs and prayers? Ever wonder where the creeds and prayers came from and why we still say them today? Now is the time to seek some answers. Come learn with us as we try to understand what worship is and how and why we do it. We will look at communion and baptism and prayer and song and all the other elements of worship. Throughout this sermon series we will offer some new ways to worship: Taize, U2 communion, contemporary, and many others. These will be offered at times separate from our regular worship times of 8:30 and 11:00 so please stay tuned to our website so that you might have the opportunity to experience worshipping God in new ways. This series starts Sept. 26 and will continue until Thanksgiving.



Pastor Kim’s Letter on this page.....

The Celtic Daily Prayer book’s reading for August 27 says: “What we are called to do is *be*. Our whole being should be saturated with the presence of God.” Each of us has certain gifts and a calling from God. I feel my gifts and the focus of my call is the above to help people develop a deeper relationship with God (to be saturated in the presence of God). We call that spiritual formation; helping people to develop a deeper relationship with God. Spiritual formation encompasses a host of things: prayer (and all its many kinds), journaling, discernment, spiritual direction, Bible Study, labyrinths, spiritual reading, retreats, etc. These are all tools of spiritual formation and so I talk about them, refer to them, teach them, etc. I use all of them in retreats. They are all tools used in retreats but the retreat itself is a tool of spiritual formation. We are now entering our second year as Silverbrook UMC and Retreat Center. Through a long discernment process we felt that this is using our special gifts as a church to answer God’s call. All the ways I help people grow closer to God are the things we need for the retreat center

which is just another tool to help people to draw closer to God.

I continually look to grow closer to God. It is my deepest desire to enhance my skills to help people grow closer to God. I took a two year course on spiritual direction to become a spiritual director. I am in the midst of being certified as a labyrinth facilitator - because it helps me draw closer to God and it’s a tool to help others draw closer to God. I hope to finish up my training and be a certified labyrinth facilitator by the end of 2010. Here is to your growing deeper in love and relationship with God. Here is to our church growing deeper in love and relationship with God. Here is to our helping our own people and the people of God outside our community of faith to draw closer to God.

Blessings, Pastor Kim

Silverbrook United Methodist Church
8616 Silverbrook Road
Lorton, VA 20079
Pastor Kim Barker-Brugman

703.690.4159
Website: <http://silverbrook-umc.org>

email: silverbrookumc@verizon.net
email: Pastor@silverbrook-umc.org home: 703.339.3948

Retreat Center of Silverbrook UMC

Come and experience the presence of God.... In the serenity of our sheltering oaks, beautiful butterfly garden, peaceful cemetery, relaxing meditative path, and lovely historic church. When you spend a day in the quiet, prayerful space you can slow down, take a deep breath, and deepen your relationship with God.

You are invited to join us for our monthly retreats. We offer a Retreat Day (10am-4pm) on the second Saturday and a Quiet Day Retreat (10am –2pm) on the fourth Friday of the month.

The dates and topics for the upcoming quarter are:

Forgiveness

Quiet Day Retreat Sept. 24

Spend some time apart to understand more about the concept of forgiveness from a Biblical perspective. All the exercises given will help you to delve deeper and understand more about how Jesus asks us to forgive.

Retreat Day Oct 29

Forgiveness is not always an easy thing. We will delve into the scriptures to find out what Jesus says about forgiving others (and ourselves). We will have some time apart to ponder our own needs around forgiveness (forgiving others and offering forgiveness). We will hear some wisdom from other experts who know how hard it is to forgive and to seek forgiveness.

Mind, Body, Spirit

Quiet Day Retreat Oct. 22

A time to really live in the connectedness of these three parts of who we are. We will learn some practices of body prayer. We will practice walking prayer on the church's new labyrinth.

Retreat Day Nov. 13

A very relaxing day of yoga and meditation on the scriptures. Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. What does this mean for how we eat and exercise? What does this mean for how and why we spend time with God to take care of the soul, the center of the temple? Lesley Spalding, Art of Movement, Program Director at The Workhouse Art Center, and certified yoga and pilates instructor will lead us in the body portion of our day while Pastor Kim offers spiritual thoughts and insights from the scriptures.

Advent

Quiet Day Retreat Nov. 19

Christmas is just six weeks away. Advent starts right after Thanksgiving. Take some time apart for you to prepare your spirit for the coming of the Christ child.

Gifts of Christmas

Quiet Day Retreat Dec. 10

As you are busy shopping and making Christmas gifts as a sign of love to those you love, come apart for a few hours to ponder the spiritual gifts of Christmas.

There is a cost of \$40 for Retreat Days and \$25 for Quiet Day Retreats. Lunch is included.

Registration forms are available on our website: www.silverbrook-umc.org or by contacting Pastor Kim at Pastor@silverbrook-umc.org or by calling 703.690.4159. Please note that registration fees are due one week before the retreat.

A Note from Chair of Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Anne Szymanski

We have exciting news to share this year! We have a new Nursery Worker. Her name is Christina Malick and she works in the nursery for both the 8:30 am and 11:00 am services. She brings a lot of experience with her as during the week she works at Kinder-Care. Here's getting to know Christina:

One aspect of working in the nursery that I enjoy the most is watching the children grow. I love teaching them new skills and later seeing them use those skills. I enjoy the enthusiasm they have with learning new things and showing them that things they may find intimidating are not all that scary.

Some of the things I enjoy doing in my spare time are spending time with family (dad and boyfriend), reading, going on walks (definitely not a runner), and just trying new things, like the skydiving (which she did!).

A short-term future aspiration is to get back in school (for business), some long term ones are to finish school, find a career that encompasses business and children, and hopefully start a family of my own!



Hospitality w/a Capital "P"

Thanks to the generosity of some of Silverbrook's wonderful volunteers we are now open to the public two days a week for prayer. Every Wednesday from 10-2 and every Thursday from 10-12 noon the doors are unlocked, a sign saying "Open for Prayer" is put out, prayer cards and box are available and candles are lit. The sign ministry has gathered a lot of steam over the last few years under the care of Maggie Bentley. Since so many people in our neighborhood realize we are alive and well due to our ever changing sign we thought it was time to make our sanctuary more available. So please stop on by, come in and light a candle and say a prayer.

Blessings,

Pastor Kim