

From Pastor Rachel

When our church leaders met in October of 2016 we talked about continuing to grow and reach people by prayerfully considering starting a second campus of the church in another location in Hampton Roads. We wanted this second campus to be in a multi-ethnic neighborhood where we could learn more about what God is doing in that area and help people connect to God, others, themselves and creation in meaningful ways. As part of this vision for expansion we applied to have a Path One resident. Path One is the name of the United Methodist Church Planting network for all of the United States and they have given us a grant to help bring in a full-time seminary graduate to

prayerfully discern if this person would be a good fit for planting the second campus of The Gathering at Scott Memorial. This means that beginning June 15th we will have an additional full-time minister on staff to get to know us and serve with us for a year as we continue to pray and vision about a second campus. I will be staying at the main church site and continue in my role as your pastor. Our resident's name is Todd Byers and God was truly a part of orchestrating this entire process! We are excited to welcome Todd and his wife, AJ, to the church in June and want you to continue to pray for this couple as they finish up their studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and prepare to head down south. This is exciting news as

we are one of only two Methodist churches in the state of Virginia who received grant money to fund a Path One residency. The District and Conference are very excited about this opportunity for our church and are praying for us too. Please let me know if you have any questions about this process.

- Rev. Rachel Gilmore



THE GATHERING at SCOTT MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Courier

RECONNECTING WITH GOD, OURSELVES, OTHERS, AND CREATION

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Pentecost - Birth of the Church

Andrew Schwartz
Minister of Pastoral Care & Spiritual Formation

How many of you speak multiple languages? Maybe you didn't know that Pastor Rachel speaks fluent Bulgarian and if you go to her house and hang out with her and her husband, Pastor Brandon, you will probably hear them throwing a wonderfully loveable and comedic mix of Bulgarian/English back and forth to each other. It's wonderful to witness. Did you know she also knows sign language? Knowing her, she probably has a few other languages up her sleeves that I'm not aware of.

Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, is coming up in early June and for me, Pentecost has always been strongly associated with language. In Acts 2, the first few verses we read: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the

whole house where they were sitting...All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

The believers were together in one place and the Holy Spirit used multiple dialects to express something each tribe, language and culture could understand. What happened there was something so shocking, awe-inspiring, provocative and captivating that we are still reeling from it and contemplating it today!

A few verses later it says there

was a crowd “from every nation under heaven” that came together in bewilderment as this was happening. Each tribe heard, in their own language, of the wonders and glory of God. Thousands were added to their number as a result.

I was having lunch with Herk Stokely and John Soderberg this last week and at one point Herk said something like, “language is all we have to talk about God and it just falls so short”.

Herk is really onto something there. Sometimes I feel like the more we evolve and the more advanced we become as humans, the less respect we have for both the power and limitations of our words. (Check out Eugene Peterson’s “Eat This Book” for a great conversation on this). For my own journey, I’ve noticed a correlation between growing closer to Jesus and greater respect for words and a stronger practice of intentional silence, a real challenge for a high-feeler like me. Similarly, I feel as though God has helped me see the importance of story. Your story, my story, our story together...

“Our stories of God’s power and glory told together unlock the future and create a yearning among us for the Holy Spirit. . .”

Story is intentionally crafting our words, our language, to convey and carry the glory, power and love of God. I believe strongly that each one of our stories carries within them keys that unlock doors in other’s hearts, when we intentionally and authentically tell them.

There is a place I have gone a few times a year that always reminds me of the significant importance and power of story: Prison. A maximum security prison at that. That is where I was last week for 4 days with 35 residents (a much better word than inmates) and 30 team members. This was my 3rd time on such a retreat. This time in prison, I met a 32 year old brother named Daniel. Daniel went to prison at 15 years old, was tried as an adult and sentenced to 45+ years in prison. He explained to me what it felt like going to a maximum security prison at 15 years old. My heart could not help but break at the reality of how completely broken the US criminal justice system is. Instead of being a system of rehabilitation and hope, it’s too often one of oppression and financial profit. Due to choices Daniel made in such an environment at 18 years



old, he was stuck in isolation for 5 years. In isolation he was in a cell the size of a parking lot, completely alone for 23 hours a day. He was allowed 3 shackled showers a week and 1 phone call a month... at 18 years old. He had one person in his life who stuck by his side, his dad, who never missed their monthly phone calls and was a lifeline, manna in the desert, for Daniel. One day they were arguing about something and the phone call abruptly ended. Assuming his dad had hung up on him, had finally given up on him, Daniel decided he would head back to his cell and take his life. He told me something happened in his cell that day. God met him in a powerful and transformative way. The peace and compassion of Jesus fell upon his cell and he found himself changed. Hallelujah! Praise and glory be to God. That was pentecost for Daniel that day. On the 3rd day of the retreat I was incredibly fortunate enough to pray for Daniel in the prison gym. As I placed my hand on his chest, our eyes filled with tears, and I prayed that God would take all the rest of the shame and fear out of his heart and fill him with God’s love, the opposite of fear...and in so doing, something happened to my heart that day too.

It’s my honor and responsibility to share Daniel’s pentecost with you. To carry the Gospel through his story in the written word right here. Isn’t it funny how I have to go to prison to remember that this whole faith thing is changing lives, that God is indeed actively and intimately working at and through his children at the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC? I think I have that in common with those present at the birth of the church. Yeah, right Peter, this all sounds cool and good, let’s just go through the motions and hope someday we actually get to encounter this Holy Spirit, this Jesus, you speak of. Then all the sudden, BOOM! Something like a violent wind fills the “house”, I meet a Daniel in a maximum security prison and the love of God splits my fear down the middle.

PRAYER REQUESTS ♥ Remembering in Prayer

Church Family

Agatha Sigley	Chris Ramsey & Family	Janie Yamrick
Betty White	Cindy Sager, daughter of Jean	Jill Moore
Betty Wise	Schimmel	Joe Wise
Briana Thompson, daughter of Tiffany & Brett Thompson	George Schimmel	Naomi Mitchell
Carla Morrisette	Harriet VanBlarcom, home from rehab	Richard Brown
	Jackie Ginn	

Friends & Relatives

Al Gregg, son of Carolyn Gregg	Elizabeth & Betty Rehpelz	Larry Caffee
Bill Carroll	Gene Sipe	Loretta Tate
Chad Stokely, (son of Herk & Lennie Stokely)	Janet Deham	Patricia Childers
Charlotte Biggs	John Hendriksen	Sandy Vickers, Starke, FL
Donald Hall (nephew of Betty & Barney Reil, kidney failure)	Jonathan Todd, (nephew of Lauren Graham)	Tony Reil, son of Alan Reil
Dwayne Einsphar		

Missionaries

Kate & David O'Donnell
Vladi & Nadia Todorov
Georgi Boev
Reyes Family

Our world, our country, & our leaders

Misplaced refugees throughout the world

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a part of the United Methodist Women’s Mission Coordinator-Spiritual Growth and has been active for over 25 years.

Anyone who wishes the Prayer Chain to be activated for them or for someone else (upon their request) should call: **Pastor Rachel, 428-3720 AND Shirley Lane, 497-6263 or Betty Horner, 340-2686** to activate the Prayer Chain.

When we receive notice to active the Prayer Chain, the information is passed to our UMW Callers who notify others of the request. If you would like to be apart of us and be notified of the Prayer Chain calls, please contact Betty Horner, 340-2686.



Sunday, June 4 after the 11:15 service @ 409 First Colonial Rd
 Everyone is invited to celebrate the birth of the CHURCH! Join us for Pentecost Sunday on June 4th right after church. Kickball, Carnival Games and Picnic. Don't forget to wear RED.

Do you know where your money goes?

THANK YOU! During the season of Lent we had the envelope giving challenge where we raised money to fund children's ministry at the church and the youth also shared in worship and invited us to invest in them by buying "stocks" to help fund their mission trip this summer. Our goal was to raise \$4,000 to support children and youth ministry at the church and we EXCEEDED that goal by raising just under \$4500! Your generosity and willingness to further the important work we are doing with children here at the church does not go unnoticed. If you did not have a chance to participate in this extra giving challenge, you can still send in your envelopes through the end of May to help us make a difference in the lives of children in our church family!

Hilltoppers

Last month at the Lucky Oyster we said goodbye to Johnnie and Pete Wright who are moving to Florida to be near her son. It was sad to see them go. Understand the latest is they will leave the our area around May 11th or 12th. Dorothy presented them with a special cake, Sheryl saw that plates and forks were available as was their meal paid for by an anonymous member.

This is AN INVITATION TO ALL SENIORS To attend our next meetings:

- **May 16th**, 1 PM at The Golden Corral in the Red Mill Commons Shopping Center
- **June 20th**, 1 PM at Peking City Chinese Restaurant in Great Neck Shopping Center

Come join us, just call Betty Horner 340-2686. The food is outstanding as is the friendship.

See you there!

-Betty Horner

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When was the last time you sat down and wrote out your story? When was the last time you asked someone else to share theirs, and really listened to it, engaged the pentecost within them? Your story holds within it the movement forward for our church, the "Pentecost continuation". Our stories of God's power and glory told together unlock the future and create a yearning among us for the Holy Spirit and breaking of chains of injustice in and around us.

Friends, may you open your selves up to the Pentecost movement continuing to unfold, right here in our church family. May your eyes be opened, your fear be split in half, your heart be awe-struck and your tongue start rattling to keep up with the wonder and glory pouring out through your words. May God link together our story



as we pray for opportunities to share them and opportunities to invoke the Pentecost story of glory in others.

-Andrew Schwartz
 Minister of Pastoral Care
 & Spiritual Formation

upcoming events



"Mommy" & Kid Dance

Friday, May 12, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
 @ 409 First Colonial Rd.

Celebrate the special relationship between "Mommy"/ "Grandma"/ "Auntie" & child. Come dressed to impress and ready to dance the night away. Desserts and punch will be served.
RSVP to children@gatheratscott.com.
 ("Daddy" & kid dance will follow in June.)

Only Two Worship Services for Summer

Beginning , 2017

- 9 am: Traditional/Heritage
- 10 am: Experiential

Church office hours:

Mon. — Thurs. 9 am - 1 pm

www.gatheratscott.com

admin@gatheratscott.com

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Find us on Facebook-

The Gathering at Scott Memorial



Church Work Day/ Spring Cleaning

Saturday, May 20, 9 am - 12 noon
 @ 409 First Colonial Rd.

Join us for some painting, gardening, deep cleaning, hanging curtains, and general spring cleaning and church maintenance. Childcare provided. Sign-up online or at church. For more info contact Branden Miller, bandctile@gmail.com.



FAITH • LOVE • HOPE
in action

Our goal is local Missions and are planning a project to aid in receiving funds. On Saturday, May 6th from 9 am to 1 pm we will hold a Flea Market and Bake Sale in Curry Hall. Items of all descriptions will be displayed for sale.

“Remember someone’s item they consider trash can be someone’s Treasure”. You just don’t know what you can find.

Previous local Missions project, The Book Sale, was quite a success. We thank you for your participation in your purchasing. The Unit is looking into several other future money making projects to be announced at a later date.

Our Ruth and our Mary Scott Circles are disbanding for the summer and will return in September. Our United Methodist Women’s Unit is opened to all ladies, whether you are a church member or not, it also includes your friends. Come join us, just contact Betty Horner 340-2686.

May The Lord Bless and Keep You in His Care.

-Betty Horner



The Missions Committee invites you to participate in these upcoming events:

Cinco de Mayo Lunch

Sunday, May 7, after 11:15 am service

@ 409 First Colonial Rd.

Join us for a taco lunch and fellowship after the 11:15 am service. Pick-up a missions brochure featuring TGASMUMC’s outreach opportunities for the spring/ summer. Childcare provided.

Feed the Hungry @ PIN Ministries

Saturday, May 13, 6:45 am – 8:45 am @ PIN

Ministries (503 15th Street, Virginia Beach,)

We are on board for to cook & serve breakfast to roughly 50 -80 people. We need 6-10 volunteers to help. Arrive at 6:45 AM to set-up, 7 am -8 am cook, 8 am - 8:45 serve. Clean up - 8:45 am -9 am. For more info contact Marta Gray, just-nmart1@verizon.net.

Celebrate Motherhood!

Birthing Kits Assembly

Sunday, May 14, 11:30 am

@ 409 First Colonial Rd.

Celebrating Motherhood! Honor your mother by assembling a birthing kit after/ before the service. UMCOR birthing kits help sustain everyday life for people who lack ready access to essential supplies.

For more info on how you can help contact Matthew Hillman,
mhillman@verizon.net

Todd Byers - Path One Resident comes to TGASMUMC June 2017

Todd Byers hails from New York although he has family living throughout Hampton Roads. He is transitioning to the United Methodist Church from the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He graduated with a Bachelor of Sociology from Stony Brook University in 2005, pursuing a Master of Sports Business Management from Manhattanville College in 2011 after spending a few years as a data analyst and process control associate as well as working in marketing research as an analyst and a production associate in New York City. He will be graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey in May with dual Masters degrees in Christian Education and Divinity. He has interned at a church plant in New Jersey and an established church in Tokyo, Japan while studying at Princeton. Todd married AJ in June of 2016 and she is also a Princeton graduate after receiving her undergraduate degree in Intercultural Studies. She has worked in hospitals as a chaplain and loves working with children and living into her own call to ministry. We are excited to welcome this incredible couple to our church on June 15th! Please be in prayer for them as they transition from New Jersey to Virginia Beach.



Todd and AJ Byers - Path One Resident family coming to TGASMUMC June 15, 2017.

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**WE BELIEVE IN
INCARNATIONAL
MISSIONS - BRINGING CHRIST’S
LOVE TO BEAR ON A HURTING
WORLD WITH OUR HEARTS & HANDS.**