An Invitation

There’s no doubt about it. Being the pastor of a busy, active church can be exciting—even a little intoxicating. With so many churches languishing, it’s thrilling to be a part of a vibrant church whose hallways are filled with energy and excitement. I’m proud of Herndon UMC’s commitment to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, our imaginative Vacation Bible Schools, our high school tutoring program, our puppet troupes, CORE, the small groups and weekday Bible studies, our robust music program, Ezra, our mission teams, and the flood of energy that come with the Upward season.

But we all know that as active and exciting as a church may be, ultimately a church is not judged on its ability to be busy.

The key question is not how many programs do we offer, but what difference are those programs making in the lives of people?

Are boys and girls discovering God’s love for them?
Are young people learning to trust God with their lives?
Are our experiences of study and service providing us with fresh encounters with Jesus?
Are people experiencing the Risen Christ in the things we say and do?
Are all of us—children, youth, and adults—finding a deeper and more fruitful faith?

In the venerable words of Sam Shoemaker, Are we learning “to give as much of ourselves as we can, to as much of God as we understand?”

…And just like busyness is not the key criterion for a church, neither should it be the key criterion for evaluating one’s personal life either.

This week, I’ll be getting away by myself for a few days. The days will be spent in prayer, reading, Bible study, and reflection. The purpose is to help me deepen my spiritual life. My hope is that if I can deepen my spiritual life maybe I will be able to be of assistance to those of you who want to deepen your own. Similarly, I will be taking time to clarify my priorities in ministry so that, maybe, I can be of help to those of you who want to be really clear about your own priorities as well.

As one way of exploring these issues, I will begin a new series of sermons this September titled, “What Am I Supposed to Do with My Life?” We will be focusing on a number of important questions, questions like:

What am I supposed to do with my life?
Does God have a purpose for me?
How do I discern God’s call?
How do I find a sense of meaning and purpose?

Far from being abstract and theoretical, my hope is that these sermons will be practical and personal. I’ll be inviting all of us—young and old—to recommit ourselves to a journey of deepening faith and a growing sense of purpose.

So here’s the invitation: Come and join me!

To be honest, that is going to be the focus of my ministry for the remainder of my time at Herndon UMC. I want to be sure that we are very focused and very intentional about doing what a church is supposed to do: helping children, youth, and adults become faithful followers of Jesus.
August Music Notes

While the Wesley Choir is on break for the summer, a variety of special music enhances our 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary worship services. In August, the congregation will hear violin, euphonium, flute, and vocal music. We are very blessed to have several talented solo musicians in the congregation who are willing to share their musical gifts during the summer months to enhance our worship services.

Past Celebrations

On Wednesday, July 1, the Wesley Choir enjoyed their annual year-end backyard BBQ party at the Wise house. Everyone had a great time, and enjoyed the opportunity to share in food and fellowship. While choir members enjoy their summer break, we have been blessed with a wonderful variety of vocal and instrumental special music in the 9am Sanctuary service. Thanks go out to all the talented musicians in our congregation who are willing to share their musical gifts during the summer months to enhance the worship services.
Coming Up…

**WESLEY CHOIR** rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, August 26** with a kick-off potluck dinner at 6pm in Doe Fellowship Hall and rehearsal at 7pm in the Sanctuary. The choir will return to the choir loft on Sunday, September 13.

**CHRISTMAS SINGERS INVITED!** Are you looking for a short-term way to sing with the Wesley Choir this year? Every Wednesday at 7pm, **from August 26–December 23**, the Wesley Choir will begin their weekly rehearsal with a 20 – 30 minute rehearsal of upcoming Christmas music. Anthems for December worship services, special concerts, and Christmas Eve will be rehearsed during this time, and you are invited to be a part of their music this Christmas season. Please contact Shannon at shannon@herndonumc.org for more details.

**HANDBELLS 101** Have you ever wanted to learn how to ring handbells or join one of HUMC’s handbell groups? Well, you’re not alone! A group beginner’s class for children (3rd grade and up), youth, and adults will be held on **Monday, August 31 at 7pm** in the Sanctuary to teach the basics of handbell ringing in a fun and low-pressure environment. Please contact Shannon at shannon@herndonumc.org to register or if you are interested in ringing in one of our handbell groups this fall!

**HUMC MUSIC GROUPS FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN**

Do you play in the band or orchestra at your school? Do you sing in the chorus or take private lessons? The musical interests and talents we are given are blessings from God, and it is even more of a blessing to share those gifts with our congregation. Check out the many opportunities to participate in music at HUMC this year. From preschool through high school, there is a group for all ages!

- **Joyful Noise Children’s Choir**  
  Pre-K through 2nd grade  
  Wednesdays-5:30-6pm
- **One Accord Children’s Choir**  
  3rd-6th grade  
  Wednesdays-6:30-7:15pm
- **Voices of Truth Youth Choir**  
  7th-12th grade  
  Wednesdays- 5:00-5:45pm
- **Gloria Bells**  
  3rd – 6th grade  
  Sundays- 5:00-5:45pm
- **New Generation Ringers**  
  7th grade-adult  
  Mondays- 6:00-7:00pm

**All music groups begin rehearsals the week of September 13**
Liturgical Dance  
(Interpreting Religious Music Through Movement)

There is an interest in having a liturgical dance group at HUMC. No dance experience necessary. Only a sense of rhythm and a love of Christian music. Liturgical dance group members will occasionally support the worship services and perform at such events as the Mission Concert. We hope to have a demonstration by a professional dance troupe in the near future. The Liturgical Dance team will be open to anyone from 4th grade to adult. We are in the exploration and information stages of developing a Liturgical Dance Team. If you think you might be interested in helping start a Liturgical Dance group here at HUMC, please contact Tammy Lemmons at ttlemmons@cox.net.

Being on a HUMC Relay for Life Team

HUMC members have generously supported Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society over the past several years. You donate to the relay rummage sale, and support each team’s dinners and other fundraisers. I think it’s time for a HUMC relay team. I will be happy to chair the team and get things started for us. I will also attend the all hands meetings. Cancer has touched so many families in our church. I think this would be a great way to fight back and show our support. It’s also a lot of fun. Think about it and we will hopefully get started in September. If you are interested, contact Tammy Lemmons ttlemmons@cox.net

"Giving Back To The Community Sunday"

There are 4 months each year which have 5 Sundays in them. HUMC has set aside those months with a "5th Sunday" as an opportunity to give back to the local community. August will be our next "5th" Sunday opportunity and we will be partnering with Dranesville Elementary and their "BackPack" program. Last school year, every Friday afternoon, 100 children received a ziplock bag packed with enough food for them for a weekend. These bags only cost about $4.00 per child. We will once again be collecting food items to go in the ziplock bags, or if you would prefer to sponsor a few children for the weekend, we will accept cash donations and we will do the shopping.

Please watch for more information to come. We will be posting a board in the narthex with items needed.
NEIGHBORS IN NEED

HUMC will once again be participating in the North County Hypothermia Prevention (NCHP) Program which is operated by Cornerstones in Reston. It is one of four hypothermia prevention sites in Fairfax County that serves a hot meal and offers a warm shelter every night for 30 men or women from December 1 through March 31, regardless of the temperature, preventing weather-induced illness and loss of life among unsheltered homeless men and women in our community.

HUMC will prepare dinners twice a month beginning on Sunday, December 6 and ending in March.

The CLOSET continues to be open 5-8 p.m. every Thursday night in July and August (except for July 2). The Closet is located at 845 Station Street in Herndon. Volunteers are needed 3-5 & 5-8 on Thursdays. Sign up here to volunteer. The Closet is a nonprofit thrift shop, founded in 1974 by a handful of churches to assist low-income families by selling used clothing at nominal price. In 2014, The Closet gave away more than $68,000 worth of clothing and necessities to over 1500 needy persons referred by an authorized social service agency or one of our member congregations, as well as donating more than $49,750 in profits to local organizations and providing scholarships to local stu-

Membership to Discipleship

This year’s theme at Annual Conference was “from Members to Disciples” and the next focus for the Shift Team is also from Membership to Discipleship, as a result we are in the midst of thinking what that means for Herndon UMC. Be watching for some new additions to our offerings of Adult Small Groups this fall. We are working on adding groups on various topics, both day and evening, and for men and women. If you have a suggestion of a topic that you would like to be covered (Biblical, Topical, Special Interest) or if you would like to lead a group, please see Chad Hrbek, chad@herndonumc.org, so we can see how it fits into the program. More information and opportunities will be available in September.

Ministry to our College Students

As our college students prepare to leave for school at the end of the month we want to make sure that we have the most up to date contact information for them. Parents and/or students please send the church office this information, office@herndonumc.org. We would like to have physical mailing addresses, e-mails, and phone numbers. Thanks for helping us keep connected.
The Youth of Herndon UMC spent the week of July 18 – July 24 in Roanoke, VA working with REACH (Real Experiences Affection Change). Throughout the week the 15 youth and 4 adults worked on many different projects in and around the City of Roanoke. The projects that our 2 teams worked on fell into three categories; Creation Care, Feeding the Hungry and Housing the Homeless, and Community/Personal Relationships. In the area of Creation Care, both of our teams worked on a Community Garden for a local elementary school and both teams waded through the Roanoke River picking up trash. One group labeled sewer drains throughout the city to notify people that the drains led to the river and also cleaned a local park, the other group worked on a garden that will produce organic vegetables to be given to the local food bank and food pantries and also picked up trash throughout the neighborhood. In the area of Hunger and Homelessness, one group collected food door to door for a local food pantry and organized clothing and other items in the Roanoke Mission Thrift Store while the other group distributed food at the Food Bank and helped prepare a meal at the Roanoke Mission. And in the area of Relationship building, both groups help promote the work of REACH in the neighborhood and their efforts to bring the community together by handing out flyers door to door. In addition one group painted a conference room at the Family Services office and the other group worked with children at a local low income child care facility.

The whole team had a life changing experiences stepping outside their comfort zones and trying new things. They were exposed to many different issues that are present in an urban environment all the time and hope to bring some of what they learned to our local community. Relationships between the team members and other youth and adults were formed and strengthened. It was a very successful mission trip for the entire team.

The team was made up of Abby Yencha, Andrew Philips, Andy Watts, Audrey Hale, Caroline Sevila, Emma Wise, Ethan Symonds, Kerry Gallagher, Maddy Horstman, Marshall Kurtz, Matthew Lawley, Peter Williams, Roberto Mora, Shelby Fullerton, Sonali Sheelam, Becky Field-Ross, Chad Hrbek, Linda Amonett, and the Team Leader was Jay Horstman.
Attention 2015-16 KIDS in Grades 4-6!
This year’s “Reconnect” LOCK-IN will be held on September 11-12. (Please note the new date.)
We need some parent volunteers to stay the night too!
If you are a kid who is interested or a parent volunteer, please contact Melanie.

Introducing,

KIDS’ SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS
We are moving to a small group program designed for KIDS. It will start at 10:10 on Sunday, September 13. Look for more information in the next newsletter and on the website.

Kid’s Worship takes place at 9 & 11 am for those age 3 through grade 2.

Puppeteers, Singers and Ringers Wanted!
For those seeking faith, fellowship and opportunities to grow as performers—Gloria Bells (grades 3-6), Joyful Noise choir (age 3-grade 1), One Accord choir (grades 2-6) and Hands Up for God (grades 3 and up) kick off during the week of Sep 13. Check the schedule on the left for times.

God and Family Class
This Scouting Award class is open to ALL boys and girls in grades 4-6. It meets Wednesdays, Sep 16-Oct 21. Students must register with Melanie by Sep 9, and should plan to attend all classes.

Thanks to all our participants and volunteers who made Vacation Bible School 2015 a HUGE success!
Please save the dates for next year, JULY 11-15, 2016.

Melanie Ayers, HUMC KIDS Director.
703-707-6271x103. melanie@herndonumc.org.
Worship Services

Sundays
9:00 a.m.  "Sanctuary" - Traditional Worship Service and Children's Church
11:00 a.m. "Connection" - Contemporary Worship Service
(Nursery Care available for infants through age 3 from 8:30 am—noon)
"Kids Own Worship (KOW)" - Available at both 9:00 am & 11:00 am services

Saturdays
5:30 p.m.  "Relax and Renew" - Casual Worship at HUMC

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor     Rev. Gary Robbins  pastor@herndonumc.org
Dir. Of Program Ministries    Chad Hrbek    chad@herndonumc.org
Dir. Of Children's Ministry   Melanie Ayers  Melanie@herndonumc.org
Dir. Of Liturgical Music     Shannon Wise  Shannon@herndonumc.org
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Custodians              Victoria & Audelio Ayala
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