



**“Talk Is Cheap, Action Is Powerful”**

Professor Wendy M. Wright, of Creighton University, looked her seminarian students in their eyes and asked, “Here we are on this most reflective day of the church calendar, Ash Wednesday, and what do you hear proclaimed? Gather, fast and pray.”

Most of us know this is the beginning of the Lenten Season. This is the time of the year to practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, self-examination, Bible reading and repentance. The ashes are administered on our foreheads and these words bring remembrance, “Dust you came and to dust you will return.” Sometimes we can easily allow our faith to be a matter of convenience or self-promotion. We fast, pray, repent and attend worship in humility as individuals and communities. The ashes remind us of our mortality, fragility and painful incapacity to live fully into the Gospel.

This year join Rev. Elinor and myself as we worship God on **Ash Wednesday, February 25, at 7:00 PM.** The Kay Owens Choir will set the tone for the evening through their music ministry. Together we will begin these forty days of Lent and begin to see ourselves as God sees us. We were created from the dust and will return. I think this is the only way to really begin the Lenten journey. Create in your people clean hearts, Oh God, and renew a right spirit within us. When Jesus returns, what will he find you doing? May our actions speak louder than our words!

God’s Mercy Endures Forever

*Pastor Art*



**The Gift Of His Son Has Been Given.  
Pass It On.**



## MISSIONS



Below is the list of the scheduled mission events for 2009. There still may be more scheduled as needs arise.

\*February 3, 2009, 7PM - Planning Meeting for those interested in helping with the June Mission trip to Houston, TX for hurricane recovery.

\*April 18-25, 2009 - Hurricane Katrina Recovery - Ocean Springs, MS

\*April 20, 2009 - Annual Thalia Golf Tournament - Heron Ridge Golf Club

\*June 4, 2009 - JCOC homeless feeding event

\*June 20-27, 2009 - Hurricane Ike Recovery - Houston, TX

\*October 29, 2009 - JCOC homeless feeding event

\*November 22, 2009 - Stop Hunger Now! Packing Event - Thalia UMC

For details , call Dan Cott 963-8422.



The Virginia Annual Conference will be meeting at the Scope in Norfolk this year. If you have never attended, we want you to know that everyone is invited. Parking at the Scope is free for visitors.

There will be hymn singing, worship, celebrations, displays, choral singing, ordination and licensing,

a memorial service, Bible studies, and reports on the work of our Conference. Bishop Kammerer will preside. You can also join your voice to sing with a couple of thousand other United Methodists. There will be a Cokesbury display, a potato drop, and a blood drive. More information on the Conference web site. We will post the schedule around the church when it is published. This is a chance to see United Methodism in action!

*Dane Mills*

### Silence Is Trust At Work

“The purest faith has to be tested by silence in which we listen for the unexpected, in which we are open to what we do not yet know, and in which we slowly and gradually prepare for the day when we will reach out to a new level of being with God.”

*~Thomas Merton*

### Ministry Team

#### Pastor

Rev. Arthur Wolz, Jr.

#### Associate Pastor

Rev. Elinor R. Dalton

#### Certified Lay

#### Minister

Joan Averette

#### Asst. Administrator

Joyce Williams

#### Music & Arts Dir.

Grace Holdren

#### Children & Youth

#### Dir.

Cathy Sorrell

#### Program Dir.

Michelle McKinney

#### Nursery Dir.

Cathy Graham

#### Lay Leader

Inez Jones

#### Church Council

#### Chairperson

Charles Winstead

#### Sexton

Bob Holdren

#### Ministers

All the People of Thalia

## THALIA'S YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Reminder: Children's Fellowship and "PJs & a Movie" events are open to all children in grades K - 5.



"PJ's & a Movie" will meet on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!! Our movie is "Chicken Little." Prizes go to anyone who can stump Ms Cathy

Children's Fellowship will have a planning session for our 2<sup>nd</sup> overnight event to be held mid-spring. Our meeting will be on Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM. All are welcome!



High School Seniors - Applications for Kay Owens Scholarship are available for pick-up in the Youth Director's Office. Application Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.



Winter Jam 09 @ Scope is Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets are \$10, but our Youth Fund will offset the cost. Deadline to sign-up is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign up on Youth Board.

*Miz Cathy*

### From Your Program Director

February looks to be a busy time at Thalia! We will be starting new studies and activities in February that will hopefully appeal to many of you. I look forward to seeing more of you at our events. As always, the most recent listing of activities will be on our website [thaliaumc.org](http://thaliaumc.org).



Pastor Art will be leading our New Member Class beginning on February 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 PM. This class is designed for any new members to Thalia.

This class is essential for those who have not been to a class where you can learn what it means to be a United Methodist and what we believe. Please contact the Church office to RSVP or to ask any questions. This class will last 4 weeks and will be offered again later in the spring for those unable to attend this session.



**Thalia UMC Missions Golf Classic** will be held on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Heron Ridge Golf Club. Mark your calendars today! We need each of you to spread the word, field a foursome, recruit sponsors, and support us with your prayers. Help us make this year another success. To pick up information packet or get questions answered please contact Michelle or check our website for details!

## Coping as Christians



Beginning Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, a new study titled *Coping as Christians* by Maxie Dunnam, will be offered for 7 weeks at 7 PM. This study was offered with great success 20 years ago. In this time of trying economic and world times, it seemed an appropriate study to bring back. To quote Mr. Dunnam:

“Is there anyone who doesn’t need help in coping with the problems of day-to-day living? Every day we are confronted with stressful situations, broken relationships, or other problems that threaten to undo or defeat us. Some of these problems cannot be solved completely but are, instead, recurring. We have to cope.”

Topics: Interruptions and Limitations; Worry, Guilt, and Fear; Stress and Distress; Loneliness, Loss, Grief, and Death; Depression; Compassion Fatigue and Everyday Demands. (Look for sign up sheets in the hallway. Books will be distributed at the first class.)



NUMBERS...We’re pleased when we see them lower on our bathroom scale and hope that our latest blood tests yield numbers that show the medicine we’re taking is working. We buy our gasoline at stations where the price is low and shop the stores for the lowest prices. But, it is not always a good thing when numbers fall. The global financial crisis is proof of this.

Our numbers in the music ministry at Thalia have also fallen. When you look at the choir loft on any Sunday, you’ll see far too many empty chairs. There are handbells that are not being rung because there are not enough ringers and anthems that cannot be sung because there are not enough voices.

One person might not be able to improve the economy but one person can make a difference in the service of the Lord. Any of the musical groups here at Thalia would welcome a new member with open arms. Rehearsal schedules are listed in the weekly bulletin and on the website. Won’t you be that one person who makes a difference?

Grace

A Service of Marriage Renewal  
Sunday, February 8, 7:30 PM



Renew Your  
Marriage  
Vows

This is the opportunity for married couples to worship together and renew their wedding vows. We will gather for worship, prayer, and sharing as we explore the Ten Commandments of Marriage. Each couple will be invited to kneel at the altar, serve each other Holy Communion and renew their vows. You do not want to miss this time of worship and rekindling your soul. A great opportunity to buy a new diamond, guys!!

## From Your Associate Pastor:



Most of you may have learned of my month’s leave of absence (that began January 26)—which I am taking upon medical advice. The reasons for doing this are—I’ve been dealing with much stress, and I need time to continue the grieving process. When I started work here last February, it was only 2 1/2 months after Cully died. I knew it was too soon, but because of the pastor’s back surgery, I was asked to become “pastor-in-charge” during his absence. I continued full time until May, when Pastor Art returned, and then assumed my part-time Associate Pastor’s role.

During this time off, I will stay here some, my son and I will travel some, I will visit my sister’s in Charlottesville, and catch up with old friends. When I return February 23, I hope to be rested and refreshed and able to continue my church duties with more energy. I do covet your prayers, not only for me, but for all of Thalia UMC — its staff and its people! You certainly will be held gently and lovingly in my heart!

GODBLESSUSALL!  
Elinor Dalton



It’s that time of year again to get ready for softball. The past few years we have not had a full team from Thalia. A few games were played without enough players. If there is not enough interest this year, we will not have a softball team. I will be glad to coach, if we can have a full team. I will need a commitment from at least 12 players, 18 or older, by Feb 15th for us to be in the league this year. Please call Steve Finlayson @ 803-3411.

## Valentines To Give To Your Children

- Acceptance – Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- Self-confidence – Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- Life without needless fears – Don’t let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
- Appreciation – Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- Faith – Introduce your children to God, the best friend they’ll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.



**Please Pray For Our Family and Friends**

George Averette, 617 E Lynn Shores Cir., VB, VA 23452  
Bettie Baxter, 505 Piney Ridge Rd., VB, VA 23452  
Belva Bennett, Lisa DeAngelis' Mother, SC  
Clara Biswas, Missionary in Cambodia, [clarabiswas@hotmail.com](mailto:clarabiswas@hotmail.com)  
Doc Boley, 3100 Shore Dr. #300, VB, VA 23451  
Jackson Brown 12718 Hills Rd., Kearney, MO 64060  
Mary Clayton, 1736 Buckley Arch, VB, VA 23456  
Moselle Comer, 688 Kingsbrough Square, Chesapeake, VA 23320  
Betty Compton, 15117 Philip Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151  
Betty Farris, Atria VB, 1628 Old Donation Pkwy, VB, VA 23454  
Kay Hastings, 417 Robbins Ln, VB, VA 23452  
Carl Hedquist, 8 Smith Ave., Reading, MA 01867  
Candace Keenan, June Whitten's Daughter  
Rick Ledford, 226 E. Chickasaw Rd., VB, VA 23462  
Charles Lowell, 2460 Laurel Cove Dr., VB, VA 23454-2056  
Ellen Lunsford, 628 Royal Palm Dr., VB, VA 23452  
Birdie Mae Manning, 3100 Shore Dr #123, VB., VA 23451  
Cathy Martin  
Derrick Martinez, Mrs. Paredes' Nephew  
Dorothy Mixner, Mother of Frank Mixner  
Alan Parker, Lorraine Morrow's Son-in-Law  
Richard Pehnert  
Jennifer Ramos, 3008 Persimmon Ct., VB, VA 23452  
June Scarbrough, 3409 Edinbrough Dr., VB, VA 23452  
Carol Scruggs, 425 Cedar Ln, VB, VA 23452  
Bessie Smith, Diane Kesterson's Mom  
Carrie Smith, 4101 Clintwood Lane, VB, VA 23452  
Tom Stewart, 711 N Street Southwest, Ardmore, Ok 73401  
Ken Tryner, Friend of Rusty and Wende Barton  
Margaret Tucker, 3751 Sentara Way, RM 308, VB, VA 23452  
Rose Adelle Vosler, 4725 Bunker Hill Ln., VB, VA 23462  
Christiam Walker, 638 Ravenhurst Ln., Apt. 201, Springlake, NC 28390  
June Whitten, 5229 Winding Bank Rd., VB, VA 23455  
Betty Womack 717 DeLaura Lane, VB, VA 23455  
Elmer Zartman, 2793 Browning Dr., VB, VA 23456



# On the Bulletin Board



## Community Meal

You, your family and the community are invited to have a TED (Thalia Evening Delight) meal at the church on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Your cooks for the evening will be Dan Cott and Pastor Art. The menu includes breathtaking tomato soup and gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. We look forward to this becoming a monthly Tuesday night meal and fellowship. Come and celebrate with TED. See you there!



## Cancer Support Group

### Thalia Cancer Survivors And Caregivers Support Group

We are forming a new congregational support group for those of us who have or are currently battling cancer. If you are interested in being part of this special group of people, please call or email me. More information will follow. Cassie Knapp: Cassie116@verizon.net or 757-498-0005

### Single Friends In Christ

Next Friday Fling Dance Dates: January 30, February 20, and March 27, at Church of the Ascension, 4853 Princess Anne Rd, 7:00—11:00 PM. Admission is \$6 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information, call Betsy Kincaid @ 463-4622.



On Easter Sunday, April 12th, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection with flowers decorating our sanctuary. Take this opportunity to share in the beauty of our risen Lord by ordering flowers "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" someone you care about. There will be an order form in the Sunday bulletin soon. If you have any questions, please call Sheryl Ahern @ 498-9435.



The UMW Spring Rummage Sale is scheduled for April 3-4. Please start collecting your treasures now. We will publish collection dates and times in the March newsletter.



### Sidewalk Café and Bake Sale

On April 3-4, the ladies of the church will offer a delicious lunch for you to enjoy. Then you can visit our bake sale and take home some home made goodies for the family to enjoy. More information to follow in the Sunday bulletin and the March newsletter.



## Food Pantry

Thalia's Food Pantry issued food for 1,126 people during 2008. We are so blessed that we can provide this much food to those less fortunate. Please continue to support our food pantry. Don't forget! Every 4th Sunday is "Pound Sunday". Bring a pound of food from every member of your family.



The UMM ask you to bring your aluminum cans to the church. Money collected from these cans goes into the Scholarship Fund. What a great way to recycle!



**LENT BEGINS  
February 25**

Thalia United Methodist Church  
4321 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
Phone: 757-340-5015  
Fax: 757-463-2252  
Website: www.thaliaumc.org

Non-Profit Organization  
U S POSTAGE PAID  
Virginia Beach VA  
Permit No 13

Return Service Requested



Remember to turn in  
your Farm Fresh  
receipts to the  
church office.

### Mark Your Calendar



- February 3: Planning Meeting For Hurricane Ike Recovery Trip, 7: PM
- February 3: Community Meal, 6:00 PM
- February 8: Service Of Marriage Renewal, 7:30 PM
- February 13: "PJ's & A Movie" Night, 6:30- 8:30 PM
- February 15: Prayer Service, 7:00 PM
- February 15: New Members Class, 7:00 PM
- February 22: "Pound Sunday", For Food Pantry
- February 24: Coping As Christians Study, 7:00 PM
- February 25: Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 PM



Check our website for information updates  
[www.thaliaumc.org](http://www.thaliaumc.org)

For further details, see articles in this publication.

