



NOVEMBER  
THALIA  
JOURNAL

## “The Check up”

I was recently reading Andy Andrews’s book, The Noticer, and I would like to share some thoughts. “What is it about me that other people would change if they could?” A successful life has a great deal to do with perspective. And another’s person’s perspective about you can sometimes be as important as your viewpoint. What is it about the way I dress that other people would alter if they could? What is it about the way I act that other people would change? What is it about the way I talk that other people would modify if they could?

Often we experience circumstances that don’t make any sense. Perhaps these experiences have to do with some bad choices made. However, God can take these times in our lives and bring transformation. We may go through difficulties but each circumstance is also filled with benefits. Are your eyes clouded or open to new opportunities?

Remember, whatever you focus upon, increases. Are there areas in your life today that need re-focusing? It is uplifting to be around people who make you smile and people who are enthusiastic. We all find new energy and life. A life filled with opportunities and encouragement finds more and more opportunities and encouragement. The opposite is also true. Who really wants to be around a person who is complaining, disagreeable or gossipy? That person receives less encouragement and fewer opportunities to pass on.

We can all think about a new perspective on our situations allowing us to regroup, take a breath, and begin our lives again from a different point of view. Change is immediate! Instantaneous! It may take a long time to decide to change . . . but change happens in a heartbeat.

What do you think about when you first wake up each day? Maybe you think about the most pressing challenges you need to do. Andy Andrews suggests that each day, leave a pad and pen beside your bed and when you wake up, grab it and take it everywhere with you for the first ten minutes or so. List the things in your life that you are grateful for. You can list names, objects, feelings...anything. Remember to list clean sheets and a roof over your head – knowing there are millions who spent the night without either. Remember to list the breakfast food you have – knowing there are also millions who have none. Be generous and thank God for all you have to be grateful for. Seeds of thankfulness will be with you throughout your day, and you will scatter these optimistic thoughts to everyone you meet.

Our time on this earth is a gift to be used wisely. Don’t squander your thoughts or words. The simplest actions you take for your lives matter beyond measure and forever. Allow God to guide your vision. “May your minds be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so you may discern the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:2). Plant your own seeds in the minds and hearts of those you touch. You will honor God as your positive, thankful hearts reach out in love. I witnessed this demonstrated at Thalia United Methodist Church’s Laity Service. The overall theme was clear; God is calling you to ministry. Will you be the problem or part of the solution?

Remember, perspective brings calm. Composure leads to clear thinking and yields new dreams. Keep your head and heart lucid. When you hold your life to the highest standard, watch how God uses you to build up His kingdom at Thalia. Do you need an eye exam from the Great Ophthalmologist? Make your appointment before you lose your sight.

It’s worth pondering,

Pastor Art

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

We're beginning the season of "Hallow-Thank-Mas-Year". Before we know it, the year 2010 and even *Ground Hog Day* will be here!! These facts call for us to reach for our Bible, turn to Psalm 90, and read verse 12: "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

This psalm by Moses calls to our attention the fact that life is short, and we are to use the little time we have more wisely and for eternal good. Take time to number YOUR days, and ask: "What do I want to see happen in my life before I die?"

I have only one more *Thalia Newsletter* article to write: the December Issue. Beginning January 2010, the position of Associate Pastor will be eliminated due to budget restraints. My work here has been, not only a blessing, but a very rewarding almost 2 years because you have let me enter into your lives—in personal spiritual, and delightful ways.

"My Church" will still be Thalia UMC because many of you have become dear friends and fellow Pilgrims walking with me as we 'march to Zion.' I still welcome folks into "my office," which will revert to being "The Library" when I vacate it the end of December.

THANK YOU for allowing me to be a part of your lives!! Keep loving God and each other!! Meanwhile, you're still invited to come in my office to talk about LIFE—in God's kingdom.

**GODBLESSUSALL—**  
**Rev Elinor Ritchie Dalton**

The Children's Fellowship has started a "**Pennies from Heaven**" campaign to benefit Hope Haven Children's Home. Please gather your coins (or dollars) and support our children as they reach out to help children in our community. For more information, stop by the Children's Ministries board located in the Admin wing.

### Ministry Team

#### Pastor

Rev. Arthur Wolz,  
Jr.

#### Associate Pastor

Rev. Elinor R.  
Dalton

#### Certified Lay Minister

Joan Averette

#### Office Administra- tor

Michelle McKinney

#### Music & Arts Dir.

Grace Holdren

#### Choir Dir.

Michael Burke

#### Children & Youth Dir.

Cathy Sorrell

#### Nursery Dir.

Cathy Graham

#### Lay Leader

Inez Jones

#### Church Council Chairperson

Charles Winstead

#### Sexton

Bob Holdren

#### Missionary

Clara Biswas  
clarabiswas@  
hotmail.com

#### Ministers

All the People of  
Thalia



## Spiritual Formation

### Pat Mills

Program Council is sponsoring a short Advent study titled The Best Songs Come at Night by J. Ellsworth Kalas. This is a 4-week thematic study, with one lesson for each week of Advent—including a key Scripture, a brief reflection, discussion and reflection questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week. The four chapter titles are: *Miracles Begin as Babies (MT. 1:18-25)*; *the Best Songs Come at Night (Luke 2:8-18)*; *Wise Men Follow a Star (MT 2:1-11)*; *Christmas Lasts Longer Than You Think? (Luke 2:22-38)*. The book costs \$7.00 and will be on sale at the church. The study can be your Advent Sunday School Lessons or can be used as a brief devotional. When we study together, we grow together. May this be an Advent of blessings for you and yours.

## Operation Christmas Child Project Needs Your Help!



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Everyone is invited to participate by packing a shoe box filled with small toys and other gifts as listed below. Please fill a box (standard size or a small plastic container) or get with some of your friends or Sunday school members and bring it back to the church **by November 15**. You can wrap the box (lid separately) but wrapping is not required. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.

Determine whether your gift will be for a girl or a boy and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop it off at Thalia **between now and Nov. 15**. If you wish to include \$7 each box for shipping, you can include that in your box or you may write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line). However, if you just want to fill a box, the UMW will help with the shipping cost.

## Church Clean-Up Day

Come Join us at the Church on **November 21st from 8am to 12pm**. We need your help with the many projects of our busy Church. Just show up or contact Ellen Pitt 486-5789 with questions.



## MISSIONS



People frequently ask how our tithes and offerings here at Thalia are used to further God's Kingdom. A large portion of those apportionment funds go towards Mission Projects.

(Reprinted from "Mission Opportunities for local churches in the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church".)

Jesus commands us to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, provide clothing and shelter to the poor, care for the sick and visit those in prison. Being in ministry with the poor and needy is basic to our Christian faith.

While it would be wonderful if we could reach out personally to everyone who needs our help, we know that is impossible. But when we join with other members of our congregation, put money into the offering plate, and participate in the carefully planned system of United Methodist mission and ministry, our gifts can stretch around the world, helping those in need and spreading the love of Jesus Christ, even in places where we can't go.

When you give here at Thalia, most of the money is used to support our local ministries. A smaller portion funds regional ministries in the Virginia Conference. Finally, a portion of your giving goes to the worldwide United Methodist Church to support programs on a national and international level.

### Virginia Conference Ministries

#### **Welcomed at the Table**

The Virginia Conference has committed to establish 250 new faith communities in the next 30 years and strengthen and revitalize existing congregations, welcoming more people to Jesus' table of fellowship.

#### **Nurtured and Transformed**

The conference provides numerous resources to help local churches nurture and transform children, youth, young adults, singles, older adults, men and women. Including these programs: School for children's Ministries, Safe Sanctuaries, Camp Rainbow, All God's Children Camp, 19 Campus Ministries, Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center.

#### **Christ to Others in the World**

Virginia Conference supported programs include: Initiatives of Hope, Volunteers in Mission, Disaster Response, Voices of Youth, School of Christian Mission, Chaplain Service of Virginia, Society of St. Andrew, Stop Hunger Now, Appalachian Ministry Network.

#### **Missionary Support**

The conference supports over 27 missionaries worldwide including Clara Biswas in Cambodia which Thalia also supports directly.

#### **Mission Project Grants of Virginia**

Including **Thalia UMC TGIF Breakfast Club.**



### Worldwide United Methodist Church Ministries

**World Service Fund** supports most of the worldwide mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church.

**Ministerial Education Fund** helps men and women who are called by God answer that divine call.

**The Black College Fund** supports the 11 United Methodist historically black colleges and universities in the United States.

**Interdenominational Cooperation Fund** supports ecumenical efforts to foster a renewal of Christian unity and understanding as we work with other Christian communions to witness to a common faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.

**Africa University Fund** supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa.

If you have questions or would like further information please contact Dan Cott or visit [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org).

#### **Faith Works Coalition News**

By the time you read this, we will have completed the Dorothy project and Dorothy will once again be living in her home. Thanks to all who provided labor, materials, finances and prayers for this special project. Several smaller projects are in the planning stage for the weeks and months ahead. Contact Richard Norman if you would like to participate.



**Attention Parents!** Parts for the Children's Christmas Program will be handed out on Sunday, November 8th following the 11am service. If your child would like to be in our program please attend. If your child would like to sing a solo or play an instrument please contact Cathy @ [thaliaumy@yahoo.com](mailto:thaliaumy@yahoo.com) prior to Nov. 8th.



**U.M. Women Sponsors  
Advent Service  
Thursday, December 3  
7:00 p.m. - All Are Invited!**

Everyone is invited as we prepare for the Advent Season and hear Nancy Coleman, past President of the Norfolk District UMW, present a dramatic monologue portraying Mary, Jesus' mother. An inspiring song, "Mary, Did You Know," will be sung by Joan Rickman. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you at this inspirational service on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the sanctuary. Refreshments will follow in the large hall.

## **Please Pray For Our Family and Friends**

**Bettie Baxter**, 505 Piney Ridge Rd., VB, VA 23452

**Lance Bellamy**, 4213 Feather Ridge Dr., VB, VA 23456

**John Campbell and Pat Bair**, brother and sister Linda Cousin

**Darlene Engles**, 597 Marisol Dr., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

**George Eskeli**, 3430 Inspiration Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917

**Jeannette Gouldsmith** 5152 Allyne Rd., VB, VA 23462

**Daniel Grubb**, 541 N. Loudon St., Winchester, VA 22601

**Zack Haynes**

**Frances Hurley**, John Brister's sister

**Becky McBeth**, Ruth & Dan Cott's niece

**Brad McCully**, Ruth & Dan Cott's nephew

**Rebecca Ann**, 4 yr old niece of Cathy Carpenter

**Elaine Monn**

**Kathy Saunders**, 616 W. Lynn Shores Cir, VB 23452

**Bessie Smith**, Diane Kesterson's mother 4950 Horse Shoe Rd, Appomatox

**Kay Trump**, Jane McElhaneys sister

**Angie Walters**, a friend of Kim Lincoln

**Ashley Weeks**, a friend of Char Johnson

**Tom Winner**, a friend of Cindy Marancik

**Vanessa Worth** 6830 Fairway Point Dr., Charlotte, NC, 28269

**Leon Englad** 1944 Captiva Dr., Middleburg, FL, 32068



## **Please Pray For Our Military**

**David Brister**, USN, deployed

**Bobby Brown**, deployed

**John DeAngelis**, USS New York

**Justin Denton**

**Christian Mountain**, Afghanistan

**Christy Mountain**, USS Eisenhower

**Scott Neumann & Family**, stationed in Japan

**Karl Lang**, deployed to Iraq

**Alex and Roslin Lindner**, deployed

**SSGT Jorge Perez**, 591 St. Medical Logistics Co., APO, AE 09391

**Jason Shick**

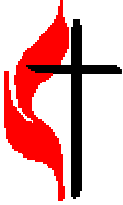
If someone you know is in need of ongoing prayer, please notify the church office and they will be placed on the prayer list. If we have removed someone in error, please let us know by calling the Church Office at 340-5015.



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

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

### Mark Your Calendar



- November 15: Membership Sunday**
- November 21: Church Clean Up Day**
- November 22: Stop Hunger Now , Meal Packaging**
- November 22: Community Thanksgiving  
Worship Service**
- November 26: Thanksgiving Dinner**
- December 3: UMW Advent Service**
- December 13: Choir Cantata**
- December 20: Children's Christmas Program**