

# Chesterbrook Chimes



Volume 3, No. 6

June 2011

## *United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center*

By Rev. Kathleene Card

I highly recommend the book *United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center*, by Scott J. Jones. This book was written to help with the renewed interest in Christian doctrine. Jones explores how United Methodists deal with issues of “official teachings.” Jones acknowledges that our church’s own members have all kinds of reactions to anything that sounds binding or authoritative; however, he feels the need to examine the question that asks “What **do** we believe?”

For these months around the Annual Conference, I thought it might be good to get a conversation going about “What we as United Methodists believe.” This month I am addressing: “*The United Methodist Doctrine as Christian Doctrine*” To be continued as follows:

**In July** we will talk be about *The Triune God and Scripture*.

**In August** the discussion will be on “*Creation, Sin, Law, Grace, and Repentance.*”

This is an attempt to address issues that have tended to divide congregations in the past. I agree with Jones when he says: we need to be clear about how “worship and social action, evangelism and justice ministries, spiritual involvement and political involvement” are **all** important. If this sounds ambitious, let me assure everyone that I know one person cannot heal all the tension religious beliefs can cause—but that I feel strongly we need to look at the wholeness of our tradition and grow in our knowledge **of—not just about**—God.

So I encourage us to look at who we are as people called United Methodists, so we can “be able to describe ourselves accurately.” (20)\*

Here are some ideas from *Extreme Center* that invite conversation:

### **What is the Shape of United Methodist Doctrine?**

#### **According to Jones we need to:**

- Define what we mean by *doctrine*. Jones quotes George Lindbeck from his *Nature of Doctrine*, “Church doctrines are communally authoritative teachings regarding beliefs and practices that are considered **essential to the identity or welfare of the group** in question.” (20)
- Decide which texts constitute the teachings of the church.
- See that “*authoritative doctrine* is that body of teaching to which all other doctrines refer for their validity.” (34) The *General Conference* in the UMC is the primary source of authority for our church in the United States. (33) We have five conference systems:
  - Local church
  - District
  - Annual
  - Jurisdictional or central
- General Conference (only the General Conference speaks for the whole UMC, and it is made up of 1000 delegates meeting every four years.) (34)
- Understand how the *Judicial Council* is able “to determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference.” (36)
- The formal shape of authoritative UM Doctrine is determined by the General Conference. (39) There are restrictions to what the General Conference can do without seeking the consent of all the preachers. And the authority of the Conference has been challenged. (40) But Jones encourages us to read doctrinal statements with a “presumption of wholeness—that in publishing these texts as its teaching, the UMC believes it is offering a coherent body of teaching

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Pastor’s Column 1-2

Music Director’s Report 3

Lay Leader’s Report 2

Prayer Requests 3

Preschool Director’s Column 5

Seminarian Pastor’s Column 5

Upcoming around our District 5

Calendar and Birthdays 6

(Pastor's Column from page 1)

that also aims at consistency.” (43)

Jones limits his scope to **Ten Texts in Three Levels**

- **Level 1** Constitutional Standards: The Constitution, Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith, Standard Sermons, *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, and General Rules. [To help put the General Rules in perspective think of the three simple rules: do no harm, do good, and attend upon all the ordinances of God.]
- **Level 2** Contemporary Statements: non-constitutional sections of *Book of Discipline*, and *Book of Resolutions*.
- **Level 3** Liturgy: *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *United Methodist Book of Worship*.

**Saving Doctrine:** The UMC emphasizes the “way of salvation, the progress of individuals, and the thus also of societies, from creation and sin through repentance and justification to entire sanctification as the goal of human life. The church is the “means of grace” in this process. (60)

**Biblical Doctrine:** The UMC is under the authority of Holy Scripture.

**Practical Doctrine:** The goal of UM doctrine is practical: it seeks to lead people to a life of discipleship. In its practical nature the doctrine is coherent but not completely consistent. (61) That is to say, where consistency means “no internal conflict,” coherency seeks to form an intelligible whole. Jones wants us to know the UM Church has “poured more energy into accomplishing its mission than in refining its doctrinal statements.” (64)

### The Nature of United Methodist Doctrine

- **UM Doctrine is Christian Doctrine**
  - ◇ The UMC is part of the church universal, which is one body in Christ. (70)
- **UM doctrine is Practical**
  - ◇ **First**, the UMC wants to tell the world the truth about God in a way that those who accept it find themselves transformed by it, and then are guided by it in all they do. (74)
  - ◇ **Second**, Once transformed, human beings are led toward fulfilling God’s purpose in creation. (74)
  - ◇ **Third**, Having the correct doctrine is not an end in itself. If one has a right relationship with God, one will have a heart for all that matters to God. (76)

### Reformulation and Reinvigoration

**Seven words** describe the nature of the theological task as the UMC understands it: *critical, constructive, individual, communal, contextual, incarnational* and *practical*. Doctrine is not a static entity. (78)

The theological task, though related to the Church’s doctrinal expressions, serves a different function. Our doctrinal affirmations assist us in the discernment of Christian truth in ever-changing contexts. Or theological task includes the testing, renewal, elaboration, and application of our doctrinal perspective in carrying out our calling “to spread scriptural holiness over these lands.” (BOD 74-75.)

\* numbers in parentheses indicate page numbers in Scott Jones’ book.

### ...from the Lay Leader

by Elaine Cherry

This past year we have seen more destructive weather events than I ever recall. happening. Fortunately for us so far, Northern Virginia has been spared the terrifying, endless tornados which wiped out entire towns and killed hundreds of people across the nation. The snows this year were so numerous that at one point, there was snow in 49 of the 50 states!

But I think in some ways the rains and floods have created even more havoc, and brought more terror to the hearts of our citizens. My daughter Katie lives in South Louisiana and spends a great deal of her time listening to the personal tales of those dear souls who have survived the worst punishments of Mother Nature. One elderly friend recently described her experience of being on the brink of drowning as she clutched the top of a chimney near her own home, which she watched flip over and wash away. She felt the closeness and the inevitability of the drowning death awaiting her.

Suddenly a voice in her mind spoke clearly, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness”, and at that moment she knew Jesus was right beside her, and no matter what happened she would be ok, and her fear was calmed. Somehow after hearing Jesus’s words to her, she miraculously was saved from drowning. Her faith in God’s word from Matthew 6 is truly inspirational to all who hear her story. But remember that we too can claim those very words ourselves, from scripture as well as from singing hymn #405 in the Methodist Hymnal.

## Upcoming events around our District



### "Is the Person Without a Home My Neighbor?" June 4, 2011 - 9 a.m. to noon

Part of the "Who is My Neighbor" discussion series for both lay and clergy to ask questions, voice concerns, get new ideas for ministry with the homeless.

**Dr. Beverly Mitchell**  
Professor of Historical Theology  
at Wesley Seminary

**Wesley Seminary @ Mount Vernon Square**  
900 Massachusetts Avenue NW, DC 20001

\$25 registration per session  
Please register by May 30th by calling 202-403-0962  
or emailing [mvs@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:mvs@wesleyseminary.edu)

### Orientation for Annual Conference delegates Sunday, June 5 ~ 5-6 p.m. Messiah UMC

6215 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152  
All local church delegates and district at-large delegates are invited to attend. Expense checks for district at-large delegates and district youth and young adult delegates will be available for pick up at this session.



### Benefit Recital by Anne Hurley-Cole

to help purchase a new piano for  
Epiphany UMC

**Sunday, June 19 4 p.m.**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax  
Hunter Mill Road, Oakton

The First Baptist Church Chesterbrook  
1740 Kirby Road  
Invites you to Annual Ushers Ministry Service  
**3 pm Sunday, June 12**  
Special guest Woodlawn UMC Youthful Praise Youth Choir



### Meet CUMC's new Music Director

By Virginia Harrod

Virginia Harrod, a native Fairfax resident, has been involved with church music her whole life. She grew up playing handbells and directed a handbell choir in Ohio while attending Ohio Northern University. Virginia holds a double degree in Music Education and Vocal Performance, and loves singing, playing the piano, and being able to use music to worship and better glorify God.

She also loves knitting, card making, swimming, and shopping! She's very excited about the possibilities for the CUMC music program, and looks forward to meeting everyone and worshipping together this summer!

### Schedule Notes

- Handbell rehearsals – Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.
- vocal choir rehearsals – Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 p.m.



### Lifting Up Local, National & International Issues:

- Victims of Natural Disasters across the Midwest and South.
- People of all countries, especially: Japan, Libya, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Haiti, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Korea
- People serving in harms' way
- U.S. Navy Seals
- Our President, and all National, and local leaders
- The Christian Church

### Lifting Up Our Church Family in Prayer:

- Our Church:**
- Chesterbrook UMC
  - Arlington Temple UMC, our 5 Talent partner
  - Bishop Charlene Kammerer and family
  - District Superintendent

Rev. Dr. Young Jin Cho  
and his family

### Weddings:

- Michelle Mendelsohn and Sam Neer (6/18/11)
- Katie Van Horn and Carter Davis (6/11/11)

### Lifting Up Special Missions:

- Bethany Frazier
- Shade and Fresh Water
- Zion Project, Sarita Hendricksen in Uganda
- Salt and Light, Dominican Republic
- Art for Humanity, Rev. Evans, Honduras
- Andy & Jodi Oliver

### Health and Healing:

- Talia (leukemia)
- Ed King (cardiac)
- Jan Harrod (shoulder surgery)
- Al S. (cancer)
- Bill (throat cancer)
- Bill Robinson
- David
- David Martin (cancer)

- Debbie
- Diane
- Gary Martin (stroke)
- Janet
- Jessica
- Kristen H. (stroke)
- Manny de Pinho
- Marguerite Gibson
- Marion
- Robert
- Sam Waters
- Stephen

### Comfort and Support:

- Arthur
- Azalie Rose Crain
- Boots Thompson
- Connie Murray
- Donna Chuz
- Jessica
- Joe
- Judy
- Kathy
- Michael
- Mike
- Mickie Kagey
- Rex
- Sam
- Stacey
- Stephanie

## Seminarian Pastor's Column

by Jiyeon Kim

Praise the Lord! My second year of Wesley Theological Seminary is over thanks to God's guidance and protection. I'm pretty sure I couldn't do anything without the grace of God. I am also so thankful to all the CUMC members for prayer, encouragement and support. It was an amazing year in which I grew up mentally as well as spiritually. I continue to ask for your prayer and help in the next school year. I will serve CUMC constantly in the next school year.

I have a lot of plans for the summer. The most important thing is my certification interview as a part of the ordination process of the United Methodist Church on June 2. Please pray for the interview. I also will take two summer classes at Wesley and Reformed Theological Seminaries. In July, I'm going to visit Korea in order to meet my family and friends. I will be back to worship at CUMC the first Sunday in August.

I am so grateful for something that has already happened. I have been chosen to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Harry C. and Reba C. Rickard Scholarship Endowment by the Virginia United Methodist Foundation. I will also continue to receive the Presidential Scholarship \$7,500 for the 2011-2012 academic year of Wesley Theological Seminary.

The last school year was quite tough for me. Looking back, I realize how great God is in my life. I look forward to the time I can share the greatness with you. Have a wonderful summer.



### Could You Help?

The Share furniture program needs volunteers to schedule pick-ups and deliveries. Schedulers work at home. Schedulers retrieve messages offering or requesting furniture, making calls to arrange pick-ups and deliveries, and preparing the schedule for our two trucks. Experience with E-Mail and Word is essential. Anyone interested in doing this vital work should e-mail [iauerbach@cox.net](mailto:iauerbach@cox.net).



by Sam Askew

First, I would like to 'Thank' everyone for your responses to my call for long term project ideas. Your thoughts have certainly rearranged how the trustees have decided to prioritize these projects.

1711 Kirby Road, VA 22101. Please be sure that your donation is made out to "Chesterbrook United Methodist Church" with 'CUMC Beautification Fund' on the memo line. These donations will be used only for the enhancement of the Church building itself. The first project that these donations will be used toward the exterior painting of the Church.

We currently have an opening on the Board of Trustees. You do not need to be a member of CUMC nor do you need to be a 'professing member of the United Methodist Church'. If you are interested in joining the Trustee team please let me know. We would love to have another perspective with fresh thoughts and ideas on the team.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas as together we 'create sacred spaces' at Chesterbrook United Methodist Church.

We are now looking at:

- Resolve Water drainage and structural issues
- Exterior painting

Please continue to share your thoughts by e-mailing me at [samuel\\_askew@yahoo.com](mailto:samuel_askew@yahoo.com).

If you are interested in contributing to these longer term beautification projects for our Church please include your donation with any Sunday service offering or feel free to mail your donation to the CUMC Administrative Office at

**Chesterbrook  
United Methodist  
Church**

Chesterbrook Chimes is a publication of Chesterbrook United Methodist Church  
**Articles for publication must be submitted by the 15th of the month.**

You may contact Pastor Card by  
E-mail: [PastorCard@verizon.net](mailto:PastorCard@verizon.net),  
or reach her on her cell phone,  
(703) 309-5221

1711 Kirby Road  
McLean, VA 22101

Phone: 703-356-7100  
Fax: 703-854-1693  
E-mail:  
[ChesterbrookUMC@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterbrookUMC@gmail.com)



**CUMC  
Preschool and  
Child Care  
Center**

[WWW.CHESTERBROOKUMCPRESCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.CHESTERBROOKUMCPRESCHOOL.ORG)  
PHONE: 703-854-1691  
Fax: 703-854-1693  
Email:  
[Chesterbrookumcpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:Chesterbrookumcpreschool@gmail.com)



### ...from the Preschool Director

Christina Maxwell

The month of May flew by and summer is right upon us. The preschool students were busy planting sunflowers, beans, and learning about nature. As for the staff, planning a yard sale and getting ready for graduation are just a few of the many things going on at Chesterbrook Preschool and Child Care.

This year's yard sale was a success. We raised \$683 which will be used to buy new classroom items for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year. The leftover items were donated to SHARE and the Salvation Army. We would like to extend a thank you to all of the parents and families who donated items and volunteered their time with the preparation and working the sale on May 21.

The soccer program *Kinder Kick* wrapped up this month and the

students involved learned a lot! The students practiced dribbling, participated in one-on-one games, and even scored a few goals! The coach and staff of the program have been excellent with our students. Most of them have played professional soccer. Hopefully, they will be back next year to score more goals with our preschoolers!

As we enter into June, the school year will come to an end on June 21. This will be the last day of school as well as our Graduation Day. All of CUMC's families are invited to attend Graduation from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. The students who will attend Kindergarten in the fall will receive a diploma, and Ms. Brooksie will lead the children in several songs. There will be a pot-luck lunch following the ceremony, and no after care will be provided this day. The school closes at 1 p.m. on the last day of

As you may know, I am facing another round of shoulder surgery in June. Following a fall in June 2007, I have undergone five previous surgeries, including replacing my

**Thank You**  
From Jan Harrod

damaged shoulder joint with a prosthetic joint. Unfortunately, I've continued to experience pain even after the replacement, and have recently received a diagnosis that I am allergic to one of the metals in the device.

On June 16, I will receive a different non-allergenic piece in my shoulder joint at Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia. I will then have an extended rehab period, including physical therapy, to regain as much function as possible in my shoulder.

Thank you for all your support during my time here at Chesterbrook UMC. I deeply appreciate all the kind words and helpful people who have been part of my time at CUMC...especially my Newsletter Angels! I covet your continued prayer as I prepare for and undergo this procedure, that I may be pain free and fully mobile, able to return to the activities that I love! Peace be with each of you.

## Christian Education News

### Countdown to Confirmation

**Jack and Peter Fant**, our fantastic Chesterbrook teenage brothers, continue to read Scripture and study on Sundays as they work towards making their decision to be confirmed on June 12. Thank you to their mentors, Andy Card and Steve Ochs, who have spent time with Jack and Peter, too.

On Sunday, June 5, Pastor Card will have a special session with our teens, and share her beliefs and knowledge so that these young men will have everything they need to make their decision.

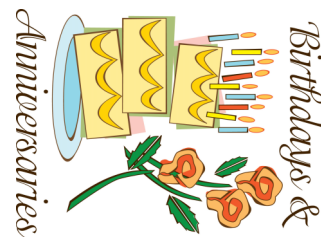
Please continue to pray for Jack and Peter, their parents and mentors, and plan to join Jack and Peter at church for a very special June 12 service.



Confirmation

# CUMC Calendar June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1 p.m. Remembering Story 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	2 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 9 p.m. Korean Men's Basketball	3	4 1 p.m. Kohaku Ensemble
5 10:00 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Korean Basketball	6 6:30 p.m. Body and Soul	7	8 1 p.m. Remembering Your Story 6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts	9 6 p.m. Cub Scouts 9 p.m. Korean Men's Basketball	10	11
12 <b>Pentecost Sunday/ Confirmation</b> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Korean Basketball	13 6:30 p.m. Body and Soul	14	15 1 p.m. Remembering Your Story	16 9 p.m. Korean Men's Basketball	17	18
19 10:00 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>*Third Sunday Fellowship</b> 4 p.m. Korean Basketball	20 6:30 p.m. Body and Soul	21 7:30 p.m. Church Council	22	23 9 p.m. Korean Men's Basketball	24	25 wedding
26 10:00 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Korean Basketball	27 6:30 p.m. Body and Soul	28	29	30		



## June Birthdays

2 John Kahler  
3 Fleeta Smith  
5 Mary Anderson  
6 William Britton  
15 Shelly Grover  
15 Angelica Sherman  
18 Julia Chryst  
26 Jack Richardson  
27 Bill Britton  
29 Logan Richardson