

The ECHO

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Volume 69 Issue 7

July 2022

July 2022 CALENDAR

FAITHFUL SERVERS FOR JULY

SUNDAY, July 3
10:00 Worship & Sunday School
MONDAY, July 4
4:00 Dining out at Finish Line
THURSDAY, July 7
5:00 Women's Book Study
FRIDAY, July 8
10:30 Women's Fellowship
SUNDAY, July 10
10:00 Worship & Sunday school
JULY 10-14 CANOE CAMP
MONDAY, July 11
ECHO INFORMATION DUE
TUESDAY, July 12
6:30 Church Council Meeting
THURSDAY, July 14
5:00 Women's Book Study
SUNDAY, July 17
10:00 Worship & Sunday school
WEDNESDAY, July 20
7:00 Men's Fellowship
THURSDAY, July 21
5:00 Women's Book Study
SUNDAY, July 24
10:00 Worship & Sunday school
July 25-29 Vacation Bible School
SUNDAY, July 31
10:00 Worship & Sunday School

July 3
Hopper Usher Team
Lay Reader: TBD
Nursery: Amy May
Children's Church: Charlotte & Rayna Meyer

July 10
Weckback Usher Team
Lay Reader: TBD
Nursery: Christie Kavanagh
Children's Church: Stacy Spicer

July 17
Bohle Usher Team
Lay Reader: TBD
Nursery: Charlotte & Rayna Meyer
Children's Church: Dani Jetensky

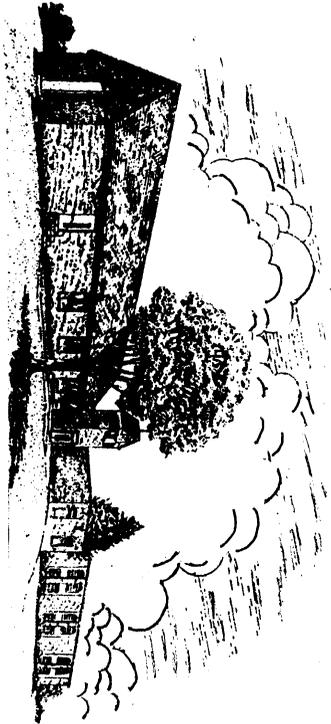
July 24
Wakeland Usher Team
Lay Reader: TBD
Nursery: Tammy Birkenbach
Children's Church: Racheal Wakeland

There will be children's church each Sunday during the summer months. We look forward to teaching and watching your children grow. Children's choir will be returning this summer. Children's Bell Choir will also be performing over the summer.

The Church will be celebrating it's birthday. Stay tuned for details.

ST. MARTIN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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On the last Sunday of this month of July we will gather after morning worship at the site of the new Columbarium in our cemetery to have a dedication ceremony. This sacred place to honor people who choose cremation as a manner of disposition will be a meaningful monument because we also are paving the path around the column with bricks which are dedicated to love ones.

Special moments will be a part of our dedication ceremony. We will have a prayer of consecration and dedication at the new monument and I plan to share the following poem as part of our event written by Vince and Mary Lou Brannon who are the proprietors of a Monument Company in Dubuque, Iowa. For almost 90 years the company has been dedicated to commemorating the lives of people with monuments that will last forever.

Their company's motto is "*Monuments are designed because someone lived... Not because someone died,*" and it is cited from the words of a poem that Mary Lou Brannon wrote which offers her perspective on what a cemetery really is and why they are so important to us today and for future generations. The poem is entitled, "This Is A Cemetery:"

This is a cemetery. Lives are commemorated here- deaths are recorded - families are reunited - memories are made tangible - and love is undisguised.

This is a cemetery.

Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.

Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life - not death - of a loved one. The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering - always.

Pastor Scott

A Place to Retreat

By Mendy Creswell Huskey

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mark 1: 35

Growing up as the oldest of three sisters with a large extended family, I never knew a shortage of siblings, cousins, or friends coming and going through our home. For the most part, the constant activity was welcome. Yet there were times that I needed to escape the hustle and bustle.

Just behind our house grew a large lilac bush. When I needed an escape, I would crawl under the blossoming branches and sit hidden from the world. As a cool summer breeze blew through the branches, I would close my eyes and breathe in the sweet fragrance of the lilac. The serenity of this place seemed to melt away the worries of the world.

Scripture shows us the importance of taking time to breathe in God's peace, love, and hope. In today's quoted verse, "Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Just as I used the lilac bush as a child, today I seek to follow Jesus' example and find a time and place to retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life to breathe in the sweet fragrance of God's peace. Honoring God in this way brings me the peace, love, and hope of God.

Cemetery Progress

The completion and dedication of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden was held on June 26, 2022, with approximately 30 in attendance. This project started as an idea in 2017 by Elaine Gilligan and Dennis Viehland as a memorial to their parents. As the project progressed, many joined in the effort to help the project become a world class addition to our cemetery. Stop by and see the finished project!

The Cemetery Board appreciates all the efforts, labor, donations, and support of those that helped move the Columbarium project to completion.

Anyone who needs any information about the Columbarium niches, grave sites, rules, or the new Memorial Brick sales can contact a Cemetery Board member or email srstrupp@gmail.com or call 314-277-6845.

No Greater Love

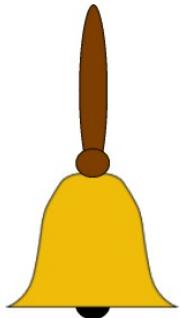
Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13)

Commemorations of the 75th anniversary of D-Day in 2019 honored the more than 156,000 troops who took part in the largest seaborne invasion in history to liberate Western Europe. In his prayer broadcast over the radio on June 6, 1944, President Roosevelt asked for God's protection praying, "They fight not for the lust or conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate."

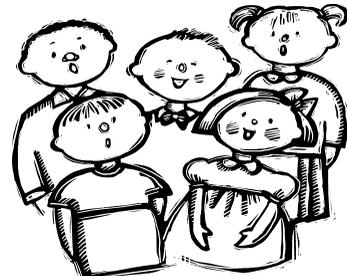
A willingness to put one's self in harm's way to restrain evil and liberate the oppressed brings to mind Jesus' words: "greater love has no one than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends." These words come in the midst of Christ teaching His followers to love each other. But He wanted them to understand the cost and depth of this type of love; a love exemplified when one willingly love others is the basis of His command to "love each other".

Perhaps we could show sacrificial love by giving time to care for the needs of an aging family member. We could put the needs of a sibling first by doing their chores during a stressful week at school. We might even take extra shifts with a sick child to allow our spouse to sleep. As we sacrificially love others, we demonstrate the greatest expression of love.

Lisa M. Samra
Our Daily Bread



Children's Bell Choir and the Children's Chancel Choir will be active during the summer months. We will practice each Sunday morning at 9:45 before church upstairs in the nursery. The Choirs will perform the 2nd Sunday of each month and also the 5th Sunday, if there is one, during the worship service. We look forward to the children participating and sharing.



Children's Choir



St. Martin's Women's Fellowship meeting was held on June 2, 2022, with 9 women and Pastor Scott present. The program was to be presented by Mary Anna White. Due to laryngitis, she was unable to do the presentation and Jane Weber presented the program instead. The program was on relaxation and breathing. Everyone became relaxed and calm for the rest of the meeting. Ruth Ann Gillman and Helen Werner will be the contact people for funeral luncheons when Tammy and Sandy are out of town. The July meeting has been changed to July 8 instead of the 7th. We will be meeting at the Old Dutch Hotel in Washington, then having dessert and a short meeting at Debbie Prince's house. We will leave from the church at 10:30 and carpool to the restaurant for 11:30 reservations. Jan Brinkley invited the ladies to a tea party. More information will be coming up. Prayer concerns were shared. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's prayer. All ladies are welcome to join us. God Bless.

Respectfully submitted by
Tammy Birkenbach,
Vice President



Please come and be a part of Men's Fellowship. The July meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 in the Conference Room at 7:00 pm.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – July 25-29 - Registration forms will be prepared, and we would like to encourage people to register before the first day of Bible School. A flyer

will be prepared and posted on FaceBook. For safety reasons, all VBS parents and students will enter and exit through the "slab door" at the rear of the fellowship hall. The roof repair over the Narthex and offices has begun. All is going well.

A Food handlers class is being organized by Kathy Hopper. We need to have all workers take this class before our Oktoberfest. We will also need to have 2-3 Kitchen Managers. If you are interested, please talk to Kathy Hopper or Dianne Lowerre.

The Men's Fellowship is gaining strength as they reconvene for their monthly meetings on the third Wednesday evening of every month. Projects are being discussed and membership is growing. The invitation is open to all men to join them. Talk to Jack Nobles for more details.

We will have a Church Council position opening in August because of Elaine Brooks moving to Virginia. There will also be three additional positions to fill at the end of the year. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and talk to Dianne Lowerre if you are interested.



The Peace Pantry is in need of the following items all year. Please feel free to donate these at any time:

ketchup, mustard, jelly, sugar, flour, spices, cake mixes and icings, hamburger helper, rice-a-roni, canned potatoes, canned mixed vegetables, instant potatoes, canned ravioli, or other like items.



Youth Group

Well, the time has finally arrived for our much anticipated Mission Trip. We are beyond excited to finally be able to go and serve in another community. We will be leaving bright and early on Sunday, June 26 for Bayou La Batre, Alabama. While we are there, we will be serving in a community doing minor home repairs, yard work, and running a Kids Club for the young youth in the community. Bayou La Batre is known as the Seafood Capital of Alabama. The town was deeply impacted by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010 and another major hurricane last year. This community has experienced hardships and financial difficulties that we, living in the mid-west cannot imagine. Yet the spirit and tenacity of the people that live there is inspiring. I can't wait for our youth to experience all this community has to offer along with all it's needs. We will be anxious to share our stories when we get home.

The youth presented all the women in the congregation with a small token of their appreciation on Mother's Day and we did the same for all the men on Father's Day. This congregation supports and "parents" our youth in so many ways. This is one small way we can show our appreciation for everything that is done for us.

Canoe Camp is scheduled for July 10th thru the 14th, as soon as we get back from our Mission Trip we will be preparing for Canoe Camp.

A huge thank you to each and every member of this congregation that tirelessly supports our youth and our activities.

Terri, Donna, & Kathy

Youth Brag:

Elizabeth Zeilman was selected to attend Missouri State University this summer for the Missouri Scholars Academy. This is a three-week residential summer program held on the University of Missouri Campus in Columbia, Missouri, for 330 of Missouri's gifted high school juniors. MSA exists to enrich and expand gifted education for individual students and gifted programs. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.75, a minimum ACT score of 29 and ranked in the upper ten percent of their class and have taken high-level courses in mathematics, science, English and foreign language. Students must also submit two written essays and have two letters of recommendation. As you can see this is not an easy selection process. We are immensely proud of Elizabeth and her accomplishments. She is a gift to us and now everyone will see how gifted she is!!!! Congratulations Elizabeth!!!!



St. Martin's Vacation Bible School will be July 25-29 from 9am-Noon. We are fortunate to have Kim Taylor leading us again in a week of fun Christian-based crafts, music, games, snacks, and stories. Pre-registration is appreciated, and forms will be available soon. We are in need of volunteers to make this event possible (any amount of volunteerism is appreciated.) Please contact. Kim Taylor at 314-614-0939 or Kathy Hopper at 314-614-1210 to sign up.

A NEW EVENT IS COMING . . .

Probably most of us would agree that music is, and always has been, a very important part of St. Martin's. So on **Sunday, July 3**, at our morning worship service, you are invited to an event that hasn't been done in awhile, maybe never! It will be called **MUSIC APPRECIATION DAY**, and there will be an opportunity to thank God for all of the people who have been Involved in our music program over the years—singers, instrumentalists, bell ringers, directors, pianists, etc. We will have a guest musician (you'll never guess who), and we'll be squeezing music into the worship service at every opportunity. It will be patriotic, loud, and fun!! So don't miss it! Donuts will be served after worship!!



LOOK WHO IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY

80 + years

Daniel Webster 7/6
Ron Tate 7/14
June Williams 7/18
Hugo Kramme 7/19
Leroy Kramme 7/24
Carlton Norton 7/29

LOOK WHO HAS AN ANNIVERSARY

25 + years

Mike & Jan Vandaveer 7/7 49 years
Tim & Kristen Cicero 7/10 27 years
Buzz & Kathy Hofstetter 7/11 52 years
Mark & Rhonda Volz 7/15 28 years
Kevon & Barbara Zehner 7/22 39 years



Stokes Robinson



**Change
of
Address**

Temporary change

Elaine Brooks
C/O Bryan Brooks
2160 Jennings St.
Woodbridge, VA 22191

Updated information will be passed on at a later date.