

*The Call*  
*Meadowview United Methodist Church*  
**April 2017**

**Strategic Planning**

It is a challenging time for churches throughout the United States. Many 21st century forces are driving a decline in worship attendance and giving, especially among mainline denominations. Instead of losing heart however, we at Meadowview UMC want to look thoughtfully at the external and internal challenges we are facing. We believe that MUMC has a lot to offer as a church family for those seeking a church home.

As such, our Church Council has approved undertaking a Strategic Planning Process that will unfold over the next three months. Kelli Smith, who is a Policy Analyst with the Friends of Southwest Virginia, will graciously lead our planning process. Kelli is not coming to offer ideas, but rather to facilitate a church-wide conversation where we look at our strengths and weaknesses as a church. The end result will be a plan of action, developed by our congregation, to guide us on a path to better share our ministry throughout our community with the hopes of bringing in new members to share in our ministry. Please mark your calendars for two Sunday evenings: April 9 and April 30. We will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. **Everyone, everyone, everyone (member or not) is invited and encouraged to participate in this process** (please come on the evenings that you can, even if you have a conflict on the other night). Pizza and drinks will be available on April 9.

Upcoming Events

-Sunday, April 2	Communion Sunday
-Sunday, April 2	Lenten Study, 4 p.m.
-Wednesday, April 5	Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, April 9	Palm Sunday
-Sunday, April 9	Lenten Study, 4 p.m.
-Sunday, April 9	Strategic Planning Session, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
-Wednesday, April 12	Half-Century, Noon
-Wednesday, April 12	Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00 a.m.
-Wednesday, April 19	Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, April 23	Easter Choral Celebration, 9:30 a.m. Service
-Sunday, April 23	N.O.W. Committee Meeting, Noon
-Tuesday, April 25	Older Adult Outing
-Wednesday, April 26	Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, April 30	Strategic Planning Session, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
-Sunday, May 7	Graduation Luncheon, Noon

**Lenten Study:** *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton will meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in the Dow Room at Emory UMC on April 2 and 9.

**Half-Century:** Will travel to the Sugar Hill Brewery and Restaurant in St Paul, VA on April 12, at Noon. Reservations need to be made with Evon Crowder at [crowderb@comcast.net](mailto:crowderb@comcast.net) by Monday, April 10.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** April 16, Holston Conference Cemetery, Emory, VA at 7:00 a.m.

**Easter Choral Celebration:** Sunday, April 23, 11:00 a.m. service.

**N.O.W. Committee Meeting:** Sunday, April 23, Noon.

**Older Adult Outing:** Tuesday, April 25 to the Carter Family Fold and Museum, Mace's Spring, VA. Neel Rich is coordinating (944-3351). Visit the Carter Family Fold, A.P. Carter Store/Museum, A.P. Carter Log House with a local guide. Lunch will be catered by Smoke-N-Pig BBQ.

**Church Funds:** Our church has been blessed with many wonderful estate gifts over the years that we have used to begin important ministry funds. Individuals and families are invited to continue making contributions to these funds, which include:

- The James and Louise Nicely Local Mission Fund;*
- The Mary Virginia Smith Mary's Lunch Box Fund;*
- The Johnie Stringer Scholarship Fund.*

For more information about any of these, or to make your own plans for an estate gift to the church, please speak with Randy Pennington or David Jackson.

**Meadowview Worship Volunteers**

	<b>Apr. 2</b>	<b>Apr. 9</b>	<b>Apr. 16</b>	<b>Apr. 23</b>	<b>Apr. 30</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Luke	Kaylee	Zoe	Elijah	Isaac
<b>Chimes</b>	Anna	Elijah	Anna	Elijah	Anna
<b>Children's Church</b>	N/A	Becky	Cindy	Missy	TBD
<b>Children's S. School</b>	Becky	Becky	Cindy	Missy	TBD

**Communion Stewards:** Doris Quintana and Missy Deel

**Flowers:** Eloise Buckles