



**Virginia Avenue
United Methodist Church**

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Third Sunday of Easter
April 22, 2007

Prelude
Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship

Astounding Good News.

A surprise beyond expectation.

Christ is alive!

Christ is risen indeed!

Easter is God's light shining in our darkness.

Easter is hope washing over despair.

Easter is joy brimming over,

Flowing into each day and setting alleluias loose.

Astounding Good News

That follows us each moment and causes hearts to sing.

*Opening Hymn:

Extending the Hand of Fellowship, Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Confession:

Redeeming God, you bring life out of dead ends, and hope in the midst of despair. Forgive us for doubting that you are still at work even in the darkest hours, even in the most painful moments. Forgive us for our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, our too-frequent reluctance.

Redeeming God, teach us a stillness that leads to acts of kindness and clarity of vision. Shape in us a trust that leads to faithful witness and bold compassion. Form us in your love that loosens our worry and eases our anger. Make us true disciples—filled with love, acting with justice, and living out hope. Amen.

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*as found at No. 895*)

The Presentation of Our Tithes and Our Offerings

* Doxology: "Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow" No. 95

* Offering Hymn: "

Children's Message

Special Music

Scripture:

Mark 16:6-20

Message: Reverend Don Nation, Tazewell District Superintendent

* Closing Hymn: "

* Pastoral Benediction

* Indicates that you may stand, as you are able.

TODAY'S HOSTS

Pastor: Rev. Terry Goodman

Pianist: Debbie Dixon

Ushers: William Buchanan, Tom Kirby
Ray Nash, Willie Lowe

Greeters:

Hospitality:

Nursery: Patty Douthat

CALENDAR

Today:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Christian Educator's Rally

Wednesday:

6:00 p.m. Youth & Children's Classes

7:00 p.m. Choir

Saturday:

Fellowship Hall Reserved

Birthdays

23 Barbara Nash
Christa Lowe

28 John Bowen

Anniversaries

22 John & Diane McGinnis

John 21:1-19

1Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias.^[a] It happened this way: 2Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.^[b] 9When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 13, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." 18Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Acts 9:1-20

1Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. 10In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 11The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 13"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 15But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 17Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Revelation 5:11-14

11Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" 13Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" 14The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

We Welcome the Reverend Don Nation to our Pulpit This Morning

Please give a warm Virginia Avenue welcome to our current District Superintendent and former pastor of the church, the Reverend Don Nation. He will be preaching in my absence this morning. I will be returning to town sometime after 7:00 p.m. tonight.



On the Avenue

Today is Mission Day at the Bluefield Union Mission

If you want to help out at the Union Mission, we could use your assistance. Please arrive at 12:30 to help prepare a hot meal for distribution between 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Graduating Senior Banquet to Be Held May 9th

The church will honor graduating seniors with a banquet on Wednesday night May 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Everyone is encourage to attend. We will be having a cookout: hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, chips, green salad and the requisite condiments and desserts. We ask that you donate money to the church ahead of time for this meal so that we can purchase the necessary items. If you can't donate ahead time, then you can donate at the meal. Any excess funds will be given to our Fair Share.

Fifth Sunday Offering for the Holston Home for Children

Today we will receive the Fifth Sunday Offering for Holston United Methodist Home for Children. Your generous gifts help to make a difference in the lives of children who need someone to believe in them and someone in whom they can believe. God will bless you for sharing.

Help Our Community Celebrate the National Day of Prayer

The town will meet at the Town Hall on Thursday May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. for a program for the National Day of Prayer. Our church has been asked to prepare finger foods for about 50 people and to supply two volunteers to staff the serving table from about 8:00-8:30 p.m. If you can supply food or volunteer, please let Reverend Goodman know as soon as possible.

Fellowship Luncheon

Join us next Sunday after church for our May Fellowship Luncheon. The crowds have been getting bigger, so you might want to fix some extra food.

Natural Church Development Process Is Underway

The first step in the NCD process is on the horizon. On Wednesday night May 2nd, Reverend Goodman will meet with 30 of the leaders of the church at Ryan's for a meal at 6:00 p.m. and then ask them to complete an extensive questionnaire that will give us a snapshot understanding of our church on eight Church Quality Characteristics.

The persons chosen for this meeting have been elected by the Charge Conference or represent a particular group within the church such as the UM Men, Women and Youth. Please be in prayer for these people and ask that God would undergird the NCD Process as we seek to discover how to best carry out our mission and ministry in this



UMW Parking Lot Sale

Saturday, May 5th, 2007

If you have any items that you would like to donate to the UMW for their Parking Lot sale please place them on the stage downstairs by April 29th.



Mother's Day Cakes

The Ewilda Whitenack Circle will be selling cakes to honor mothers. These cakes will be 9" round and single layer. The cost will be a donation of \$4 per cake. Each cake will

be decorated and can be personalized with your mother's name if you would like. You may choose from the following flavor combinations:

- yellow cake / white icing,
- chocolate cake / white icing, r
- red velvet cake / cream cheese icing.

The Richardson Friendship Class is sponsoring a *Mother's Day memorial bulletin* again this year. If you would like to submit names to be included please fill in the insert in today's bulletin then place it in the offering plate. A donation of \$1.00 per name is requested. Make checks payable to the Richardson Friendship Class. The deadline for submissions is May 6th. All proceeds will go to fund projects and missions of the class.



Steve Alexander
 Christopher Bowen
 Bessie Brewer
 James Brown
 Martha Jane Chudina
 Jerry Connelly
 Glenda Estep
 Roscoe & Margaret Farmer
 Mary Beth Gills
 Terry Hall
 Curtis Helmondollar
 Shirley Helmondollar
 Vernon & Hop Hopkins
 Ronnie Houchins
 Gail Hunt
 Earnest & Ruth Kirby
 Tracy & Betty Janutolo
 Nancy Lester
 Kevin Linkous
 Norma Morgan
 Freda Necessary
 David Parris
 Judi Parris' brother
 Herman & Jodi Patton
 Carter Richardson
 Marcella Scott
 Wanda Stevenson
 Nathan Taylor
 Delores VanDyke
 Lloyd Walker
 Carlene Workman
 Unspoken Requests