

LAMPLIGHTER



In This Issue

	<u>Page</u>
Pastor's Message	1-2
Council Notes	2-3
Mission Update	4
UMM Tea	4
Music Corner	5
Homeless Project	5
Financial Statements	6
Stewardship	6
Oscar Grimes	7-8
Prayer Requests	9
Coming Events	9
Birthdays	9
Youth Calendar	10
Connie's Corner	11
New Member	11
Kids In Church	11

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In a short time Christmas will be here! Christmas is often an exciting and fulfilling time for us with opportunities to visit with family and friends and also celebrate the birth of God's son Jesus. We also recognize that the holiday season can bring feelings of loneliness, too. We miss those who have died; we miss those who will not be home for Christmas. We remember in our prayers our parishioners who are sick and homebound as well as their care-takers, many times these care-takers are family members stretched between family obligations and other life obligations.

A lot of people will be traveling during the Christmas season; we often think of a loved one far from home visiting even if for just a few days. However, loved ones can be separated by something much more than physical distance – they can be separated by the pain of a hurt relationship. Christmas is a season of joy, a time when we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. This Christmas, give the gifts Jesus brought to our world: forgiveness and reconciliation. Many are estranged not only from family members, but also from the Lord and from the body of Christ.

Christmas is a wonderful, grace-filled time for a spiritual homecoming. Christ is waiting to say, "I forgive you," and, "I love you." Perhaps someone you know feels distanced from Christ and the faith family and maybe this person had a bad experience with someone in the church, or finds church teaching hard to understand, or feels unwelcome.

The next few weeks leading up to Christmas may be a time that these folks feel a gentle whisper nudging them to go to worship, if to just hear the familiar hymns, the



scripture that they know from their past or just to try to find peace in the midst of the chaos of this time of year. Please take the time to seek out each visitor this season and to make them feel welcomed. Invite them to return after the Christmas story has been told and the decorations are back in their boxes.

In January I will be preaching a series on "Remedies for the Out-of-Control Life". Are you busy all the time? Do you find yourself exhausted at the end of most weeks? Ever feel overwhelmed by the expectations and obligations in your life? It may surprise you that the Bible offers some pretty good answers that give us the permission and the power to change our lives. The following are the dates, titles, and scripture focus for each week. Please invite your friends, family and any others that might be interested in learning what the Bible and our faith says about these issues.

January 22nd – Week 1 - *"What does a yellow light mean?"* - Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 6:30-32

January 29th – Week 2 - *"More or less"* - Matthew 6:19-21; Matthew 6:25; Matthew 6:33

February 5th–Week 3 - *"Every YES you say is a NO to something else"* - Exodus 18:13-26, Luke 10:25-37

February 12th – Week 4 –*"Finding Serenity Now!"* - Psalm 56:2-4, 10-13

As a faith family, we prepare to celebrate this Christmas with grateful hearts. With your support and prayers, Davidsonville UMC has grown in number and in spirit this past year. Our congregation is becoming a more healthy and vibrant faith community so thank you for your commitment, passion and dedication. Thanks for your support and love for your pastor and staff. We are blessed to be serving with you and growing in our faith together.

With the Peace of Christ, Pastor Lisa

COUNCIL NOTES ~

The Charge Conference was held October 18th and during the conference the Lay Leadership positions were approved and ministry updates were provided along with a vision for the future of DUMC.

The Church Council met on November 21 following the Finance Committee meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 23rd. The Council retreat meeting will be held Saturday March 3rd from 8am – 2pm at the West River Center.

Barbara Cohen provided an update regarding the CrossRoads Child Development Center. She reported the center is thriving and currently serving 116 students.

The Finance Committee submitted the 2012 operating budget which was approved by the Council.

Pastor Lisa shared preliminary plans for DUMC to become a Stephen Ministries church which provides support and counseling to the congregation. This initiative includes training leaders that attend a week long class and Stephen Ministers that are trained by the trainers at church to work in the congregation. To learn more about this you can ask Pastor Lisa, Connie Haywood, Karen Hirakawa, Pat Weems or visit www.stephenministries.org.

DUMC is a Safe Sanctuary congregation. On an annual basis the forms assuring no changes in an individual's status must be signed and submitted to SPRC. Rita Siprak-Weill is coordinating this effort for SPRC and those involved are asked to cooperate right after the first of the year.

Kristy Mosley is going to begin assisting Pam in the church office. The plan is for Kristy to get trained and then eventually replace Pam in the office for a couple of days each week.

Improving communication continues to be a goal of the Council and the Staff at DUMC. Plans are being made for increased mass email messaging with recipients having the option to determine what type of messages they would like to receive. (Church events, Methodist Women, Methodist Men and/or Youth etc.) In addition, arrangements are being made to coordinate the church calendar on the website by the office staff.

The church website remains the greatest single source of detailed information regarding the church and the various ministry activities (www.DUMC.net).

In His Peace,
Steve Leonard
Council Chair

Lay Leadership - 2012

Admin Council Chairman	Steve Leonard	CrossRoads Chair	Barbara Cohen
Council Recording Secretary	Rhonda Ostis	Education Team	Jay & Courtney Ducharme
Lay Leader -	Lee Matousek	Evangelism	Pam Durbin
Reserve Lay Leader	Pam Durbin	Social Needs	Vonda Vales & Terri Williams
Staff/Parish Chairperson	Carol Chell	Worship Team	Cindy Borchelt
Finance Committee Chair	Russ Smith	Cemetery Trustees	Tim Hopkins
Chairman of the Trustees	Don Wilson	Youth Committee	Damon Ostis
Treasurer	Ed Kelley		
Building Committee Chair	Herb Wilson		
Mission Team	Blair Smith		

Missions Team Update

At the last meeting of the Missions Team on Oct. 4th, a number of decisions were made related to DUMC's outreach efforts. These reflect a commitment to serve the Lord locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

This winter Missions plans to have a sort of Early Response Team in place ready to respond to natural disasters that strike the homes of DUMC members. The basic idea is to have phones and computers staffed and ready to receive assistance requests. This would then activate the appropriate response team. Once this program is in place, an announcement will be posted on the website and in the bulletin.

A number of the VIM veterans reinforced a strong showing by the Youth at the West River Conference Center, Oct. 6-8th. The project was to re-roof the very cabin in which the Youth and their escorts were staying. Many decking repairs had to be affected before the new shingles could be laid. Another local program will have DUMC participating in Rebuilding Together (formerly known as Christmas in April) in the new year. This outreach program will benefit needy folks in South County by making their homes safer and more secure.

At the last several meetings of Missions, the advisability of whether or not ASP continues to be the best fit for the Youth's summer project has been discussed. There are other programs that are somewhat closer, but ASP is a known entity and DUMC has a well-established history of working with them. A final decision to go again with ASP was made shortly after the Missions' meeting as DUMC's major regional effort in 2012.

The new year will start with a program on a national level by sending a VIM team to Ider, in northeastern Alabama. Work there will be to repair tornado damaged homes from the spat of storms that struck the region April 27th. So far 20 folks have made the commitment to participate. Departure is scheduled for Sat., Jan. 7th with a return date of Sun., Jan. 15th. Repairs

to be done include dry walling, re-roofing and plumbing. Those wishing to participate will need to decide by Sun., Nov. 27th. Funding for this program is largely provided by the Tongues of Fire Barbeque Ministry Team.

Internationally, DUMC will be participating in the Disaster Aid USA program. This is very similar to the Shelter Box program that it replaces and in which DUMC participated in the recent past. This new program provides superior equipment and at a lower cost (\$750 vs \$1000). The shelter tent and equipment will be on display at church beginning on Nov 27th.

Lastly, there is a need for a storage building for Mission equipment. TOF has pledged \$3000 towards this project. Missions will provide additional funds towards this effort once the expenses of the VIM trip are finalized. Members of Missions will work on plans for the structure and then meet with the Trustees to gain their approval. It is anticipated that the construction of this storage building will be used as a teaching tool for the Youth and future VIM participants.

In closing, Missions is committed to helping those in need. This is reflected in the motto and inspiration for 2012, "...anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me." Matthew 25:40 ERV Bible

Blair Smith – Missions chair



All the ladies of the church are invited to the UMW Christmas Tea, on Tuesday December 13 at 7:00 PM at the home of Lisa Niemann. Car pooling from church is available.



MUSIC CORNER

By Bob Waddell

We have had an exciting Fall musically speaking at DUMC. The chancel choir has dusted off some older octavos and sang them at the later service. The praise band has learned some new songs that were introduced at the early service. Our newest addition to our music ministry, the Davidsonville Duet Times Two, debuted over the summer and has contributed this Fall to our worship services with their wonderful a capella harmonies. Our September 11th observance was highlighted by a beautiful rendition of ‘Oh, What a Morning’ by Mei Cobb. On Sunday, Nov.20th, the bell choir joined the chancel choir at the later service for my arrangement of ‘Spirit Like a River’. We also experimented with the bells accompanying the regular service hymns with some success. There will be more of this in the future. Soloists, Chuck Moeslein and Ben Borchelt, added their talents this Fall with performances of contemporary Christian pieces at both services.

On Thanksgiving Eve it was DUMC’s turn to host the annual Ecumenical Service for the denominational churches of Davidsonville. The Davidsonville Duet Times Two (Minus One) gave a spiritual version of ‘Leaning on the Everlasting Arms’. I created a community choir from the churches involved to sing ‘Creation Will Be at Peace’, a lovely anthem appropriate for the occasion and time of year. The piece was well received based upon comments by the congregation after the service.

Christmas will be soon upon us. The children will begin to rehearse the annual Children’s Pageant scheduled for December 18th. The chancel choir has started rehearsing the cantata to be performed Christmas Eve. I am finishing a new piece for bell choir to be debuted also on Christmas Eve.

Thanks to all the church members who give of their time to make the music ministry a vibrant and spiritual part of DUMC.

HOMELESS PROJECT



Bagged lunches and Toiletry bags for the Homeless will be done on December 23rd at 11:00 AM in the Parlor with the youth. We will be needing brownies for the 400 bagged lunches, but only bring them if you have signed up on the clipboard or talked to Debby Wasson. We are asking for 36 dozen brownies with NO NUTS, AND PLEASE BRING THEM INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED. Be sure to only cut one dozen per brownie box mix, as we want nice large brownies for them. With any extra brownies, the kids can eat them when we have finished bagging the lunches.

As for the toiletry kits, I will be buying all the needed items and will be asking the congregation to write a check to DUMC - MYF (memo homeless) to reduce expenses or put cash in an envelope marked MYF - Homeless in the offering plate by December 18th.

If you have any questions about this project, please call Debby at 410-798-6901 or e-mail me at mathtutor5@verizon.net.

Thank you for your help, Debby Wasson

DAVIDSONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND CROSSROADS CHILD DEVELOPEMENT CENTER

CONDENSED PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2011 AND TEN MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2011

	2011		2010	
	Month of October	10 Months	Budget	10 Months
<u>DUMC</u>				
GROSS INCOME	29614	275701	342500	290243
TOTAL EXPENSES	40766	350196	342579	291591
OTHER INCOME, REIMBURSEMENT ,INTEREST	6070	37413	33750	4632
NET EXPENSES	<u>34696</u>	<u>312783</u>	<u>308829</u>	<u>286959</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(5082)	(37082)	33671	3284
<u>CROSSROADS</u>				
GROSS REVENUES	52953	494191	464633	409487
OPERATING EXPENSES	38725	414045	391885	329615
OPERATING PROFIT	13868	80146	72748	79872
INTEREST/BOND REDEMPTION	_____	_____	_____	<u>36395</u>
NET PROFIT	13868	80146	72748	43417

As Submitted by Ed Kelley, Treasurer to Administrative Council on November 21, 2011

2012 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE RESULTS

On Consecration Sunday 59 pledge cards were received; of these, **44 or 75% STEPPED UP their giving**. This is the largest percentages of Step Up givers we have had since 2008 **and the largest dollar increase ever**, allowing for continuation of our current ministries in 2012. **Praise be to God! For those of you who have made these commitments, we thank you.**

To the 80 Giving Families who have not yet made a pledge commitment, we provide this urgent appeal. Unless you Step Up your giving, the church will not be able to support proposed new ministries. Please prayerfully consider increasing your 2012 giving.

Our 2011 giving is running below our expenses and unless the November and December giving increases significantly, we project a 2011 deficit of \$37,000. We have reserve funds, but we can't continue to operate another year with this deficit spending.

We pray that knowledge and faith can combine to resolve this situation. The Finance Committee has laid out the facts to the best of our ability. We request you prayerfully reconsider your 2012 giving. If any aspect of our process or requirements is unclear, please ask a member of the finance committee. We are all here to serve the needs of God and our savior, Jesus Christ.

Roger Vales, Finance Chair

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW OSCAR FAY GRIMES?

By Cynthia Howie

When Jean Smith asked me to interview Oscar for an article for the Lamplighter, I was thrilled. I know Oscar pretty well and this article will only cover a very small portion of his life. In the 10 ½ years we have lived here, he and his family have become some of our dearest friends. I see Oscar on a regular basis outside of church. His giving heart is always leaving something tasty at our door. We have spent many hours discussing family, faith, vegetables and livestock. After he leaves, I always seem to be in better spirits and always thank God that this man is in my life. I have learned a lot from Oscar Grimes and I probably know more than most about him, and I think in this article are many things most don't know, but should know...

Oscar started coming to Davidsonville United Methodist Church in his mother's arms 85 years ago in 1926; he is now 87 years old. He can never remember life without God. As the youngest of 5, going to church was not an option. It was a part of his family's life and staying home could only lead to trouble. *"God with my upbringing in a Christian home is why and who I am today. I feel sorry for those that don't have a Christian foundation. Having Christian parents will make the road much easier in a young person's life"*

Young Oscar

When Oscar was 12 years old his parents owned a Model A Ford (much like the one he owns today). He really loved that car. So once when his parents were gone for the day he thought he should "try it out". So he did. He drove around the farm and was having a good old time when he decided he needed to test the brakes to see just how good they were. This test involved a fence and just how close he could come to it at a fast rate of speed. He had mastered his shifting pretty well and he was now excited to see how he could handle those brakes. *"Well, the brakes worked just fine but the fence took a beating. I moved faster than that Model A repairing that fence and repairing the bushes. I fixed that fence pretty good; they never knew what happened."*

At 17 years old, Oscar was a member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF). That year the group took a train to Cleveland, Ohio and participated in a youth rally. *"It was right after the war and we slept in a huge manufacturing plant that made war supplies. I met a great group of young people. At the stroke of Midnight, New Years Eve 1941, we all took communion, held hands and prayed. The hair stood up on my arms and it was one of the most inspiring events of my youth. It was my closest Mountain Top Experience. Today I go to my back North 40 and pray. I think it's as close as I can get to God"*.

Another memorable event at 17 was being selected for the 4-H Club Congress. It was an all expense paid trip to Chicago and he was selected on his merits as a leader. This was one of his proudest achievements as a young person.

Oscar remembers meeting in the basement of the sanctuary for Sunday school. The basement was sectioned off with curtains. They would open with a song and scripture reading. That would set the tone for his coming years of loving his church and Sunday school. He remembers going through a rough period of being a "little stubborn" and not wanting to go to church. And even though he was *"the half spoiled youngest of five"* he was never given a choice of staying home. He wishes more parents were as firm with their kids today on attending church. Even today, Oscar misses Sunday school during the summer months and anticipates the start of a new school year.

As a student, Oscar says he was "average". He wanted to learn scripture but his time working on the farm consumed him and he really had no free time to memorize different bible verses. His last year of high school in 1942 his father fell and had multiple injuries. *"That's when school became secondary and work took a front seat. I went to school for only a half day so I could work to keep the farm going. I would milk cows before I went to school and then would drive a team of 3 horses with a walk behind plow in the afternoon. Sometimes I was so tired I couldn't get through supper without falling asleep. I loved arithmetic and geography and because the teacher was fond of me I earned a better grade that year in arithmetic. I was really too tired to get into trouble or really notice girls much - that really didn't mix with farming. It was all about keeping the farm running"*.

Older Oscar

Oscar has held just about every position in our church except Sunday School Superintendent. He's not sure how that position got by him, but it did. From being a janitor to a lay leader, his commitment had no limits. He enjoyed being a lay leader most. He would ask members to speak on specific bible verses and would also pick the hymns to be sung that Sunday. If you haven't sat next to Oscar during a hymn, then you haven't had the privilege of hearing his wonderful voice. Often times I don't sing just to have the opportunity to listen to him. It really warms my heart.

As a young adult, Oscar's father had the foresight to realize our church would grow and would eventually need more property. His father purchased the property adjoining the church with borrowed money. *"The property was so thick you couldn't shoot a rabbit in it. But we cleaned it up and raised tobacco on that property for the next 20 years to help pay for the property."* Oscar's father gave this first acre to the church once it was paid in full. When Oscar purchased the farm from his father, he got the remaining property adjoining the church. He sold that property to our church at what was considered a fair and reasonable "Christian" price. The property that is currently the Green Cathedral also had tobacco planted on it and Oscar would pay rent to the Episcopal Church for use of that property. After many years of paying \$75 a year in rent, the Episcopal Church decided to give the property to our church because of the strong relationship they had built with Oscar over the years.

When speaking about his faith, Oscar admits the man he is today is because of his faith. God has always led the way and he based his decisions on what's "right and wrong" morally. *"At this stage of the game I don't know much I could have changed to be a better Christian, but there were many times I was on shaky ground on how I was serving God. My Christian conscience reminded me of how to be a better church member and Christian."*

Personal Facts about Oscar

Married- to Jean, his wife for 61 years this October 14, 1950

Children- 4 Grandchildren- 6

Favorite Hymn- "Jesus is All the World to Me"

Favorite scripture - 1 Corinthians 13:13 *"... But the greatest of these is Love"*

Favorite Bible Story - David & Goliath (*"faith can help you accomplish anything"*)

Favorite Color - Purple and Burgundy

Oscar's land under cultivation- 100 Acres and 7 additional acres of woodlands

Head of Beef- 40

Flock of Chickens-12 (yielding 7-9 eggs a day) and two have now been blessed by Pastor Lisa!

It's a privilege to call Oscar my friend and neighbor. He has been a role model for me but mostly he has been an inspiration on how to be a faithful child of God. He is a gentle spiritual man and my life has been ever more joyful for knowing him. "Yes, Indeedy"





DUMC Prayer Warriors

Prayers are requested for:

Norma Ingram
 Norma Carpenter
 Dale and Anita Gray
 Jean Ford

Virginia Howells
 Geneva Leitch
 Edgar Wayson
 Joy Wood

Betty Mobra
 June & Bill Scrimgeour
 Millie Crutchley & family
 Family of Lori Heider

LOOKING FORWARD AT DUMC



Dec. 7, 14, 21 7:30 p.m. Advent Service in the Sanctuary

Dec. 9 & 10 Cornerstone Theater presents "When Christmas Left Rattler Canyon" Refreshments at 6:30 and show at 7 p.m.

Dec. 11 Cornerstone Theater - Refreshments at 1:30 and show at 2 p.m.

Dec. 13 UMW Christmas Tea, 7 p.m., home of Lisa Niemann

Dec. 18 Children's Pageant

Dec. 24 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m., & 11 p.m.

Dec. 25 Christmas Day worship



The Sunshine Committee will be taking Christmas cookies to our sick and homebound members. Please make an extra dozen when you are baking and leave them in the kitchen by Dec. 11 in a well-marked container. Thank you, bakers.

December

January

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Angie Sprecher | 2 Mary Ann Hicks |
| 3 Spencer Baird | 3 Emily Cobb |
| 3 Nikolas Ostis | 3 Geoffrey Wood |
| 7 Tom Roh | 5 Patricia Weems |
| 11 Christianna Ducharme | 10 Susan Hopkins |
| 12 Griff Howie | 11 Kacia Smouse |
| 13 Ashley Gross | 12 Denise Hicks |
| 13 Beverly Swaim-Staley | 12 Donald Shankle |
| 17 Betty Schmitt | 14 Lisa Niemann |
| 21 Sara Carter | 18 Barbara Stecher |
| 21 Randy Simpson | 19 Annie Grow |
| 25 Terri Williams | 22 Jack Gould |
| 26 Kelsy Ruane | 22 Joshua Hirakawa |
| 27 Norma Carpenter | 24 Katie Hollamon |
| 27 Geneva Leitch | 24 Hannah Hollamon |
| 27 Benjamin Robertson | 24 Vassie Hollamon |
| 31 Douglas Gross | 24 Caroline Webber |
| | 27 Dave Rice |
| | 29 Bailey Masters |
| | 30 Linnea Boogades |
| | 30 Rhonda Ostis |
| | 30 Kerin Webber |
| | 31 Mason Baird |

Holiday Youth Calendar 2011

- *Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 (ALL YOUTH)*
 - **Ringing The Bell for the Salvation Army**
 - 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM @ Giant in Edgewater, MD
 - The youth will work in teams of two for two hour shifts ringing the Christmas bell to raise money for the Salvation Army. Parental supervision is requested.
- *Friday – Sunday, December 9th-11th, 2011 (ALL YOUTH)*
 - **Cornerstone Theatre – “When Christmas Left Rattler Canyon”**
 - Friday/Saturday at 7:00 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM
 - The Youth will also be raising money and requesting sponsors for their upcoming Thirty Hour Famine in collaboration with a World Vision mission in Tanzania.
- *Sunday, December 11th, 2011 (ALL YOUTH)*
 - **“The Story” Tour – Stephen Curtis Chapman, Newsboys, Rebecca St. James and others, with special guest speaker Max Lucado, sponsored by World Vision/30 Hr Famine**
 - A Christmas Concert telling Bible Stories from Genesis – Revelation
 - This goes hand in hand with the current Sunday School Curriculum!!!
 - 7:00, PM, Woodbridge, VA (transportation TBD)
 - Tix - \$35 (contact Kyle about pre-ordering tickets)
- *Saturday, December 17th, 2011 – Sunday, December 18th, 2011 (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)*
 - **30 Hr Famine/Lock In**
 - Money raised from Thirty Hour Famine pledges and sponsors will be donated to a World Vision mission in Tanzania
 - The youth will learn about world hunger through a series of activities
 - Youth will attend the 8:30 Worship service on Sunday morning, where they will offer a short presentation on what was learned through the 30 Hour Famine, and breakfast will be served during a relaxing Sunday School
- *Friday, December 23 (ALL YOUTH)*
 - **Bagged Lunches for the Homeless**
 - 11:00 AM in the Old Fellowship Hall

*The Youth Group will continue to meet at its normal times, unless otherwise noted. Middle School from 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM and High School from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM (No Youth Group Christmas Day)

**November Youth Group – “The Journey for Youth” Bible Study by Adam Hamilton

***December Youth Group – “The Nativity Story” film viewing and discussion



Connie's Corner

Dear Friends in Christ,
 One of the subjects in the Stephen Ministry training course is 'Crisis theory and intervention: danger vs. opportunity.' Crisis is defined as 'a serious or decisive state of things, a turning point, or any crucial situation.' Paul tells us that we should "rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." Thus, the danger vs. opportunity. I think that sometimes holidays bring out the crisis in us. I know they do with me. Happy memories make me sad. Crises do not need to be 'life threatening' --they don't even need to be 'bad'. How can happy memories be bad? Let this just be a reminder that within our Christian community we share each other's sadness and gladness. No crisis is too small. I need to remember not to cry because it's over, but to smile because it happened. Thank you; thank you Lord!

Peace and love, Connie

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Sheri Powell

Husband – Randy. Married 21 years ☺
 Daughter – Libby (age 10).

Libby attends Davidsonville Elementary and is in the 5th grade. She loves to dance, write stories, read, and ride her bike.

Sheri and Randy both grew up in the Lanham/Seabrook area and went to high school together. They moved to Davidsonville in 2008.

Sheri is an accountant. She is working for a restaurant group in Washington, DC as their controller. Randy is a mechanic. He has had his own business since 1985.

Sheri's interests include reading, bike riding, and camping.

KIDS IN CHURCH

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied,

"Because people are sleeping."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'