

THE COMPASS NEWS

JAN. 21, 2010

VOLUME II, ISSUE 6

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

Welcome	1
Worship	2
Service	3
Learning	4
Calendar of Events	4

PLACES OF INTEREST

- **Byway of Blessing:** time to rest, reflect, and be received.
- **Paths into Prayer:** offering our words for uplifting our lives
- **Service Roads:** new ways into working for your local community
- **Around the Corner:** what's new and what's coming for the Compass community

A bi-weekly travel guide for holy wanderers and wonderers on the journey of faith.

Produced by The Compass Press
at Highland United Methodist Church

Byway of Blessing...

*En el frío invernal
del mes de diciembre,
un capullo del rosal
brota en un pesebre;
y el calor primavera
hace al mundo despertar,
¡qué fragante olor
de tan bella flor!
Yo esa ro-, yo esa ro-,
yo esa rosa anhelo
del jardín del cielo.*

Cold December flies away
at the rose-red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks
while the whole world wonders
at the holy unseen power
of the tree which bears the flower.
On the blessed tree
blooms the reddest flower,
on the tree blooms the rose
here in love's own garden,
full and strong in glory.

~Catalonian Carol, *En el Frío Invernal (Cold December Flies Away)*. United Methodist Hymnal #233

Light re-enters the world and we celebrate the birth of Christ, our light. In this season of gradual birth and reawakening, we pray that you will discover new life and hope planted like seeds in your soul. May the winter be kind, may your steps be strong, and may we meet again on the journey soon. Until then and always: Welcome to the Compass.

Weekly Sunday worship at 11am. All are welcome.



Streetside Reflections: *Nox et tenebrae (Night and shadows)*

Darkness of night and evil things,
Confusions of the world, give way,
Light enters and the day is here;
Disperse, for Christ the Lord has come.

Shadows of night depart in haste,
pierced by the sun's compelling ray,
the world appears in colored hue,
Bright in the glory of the day.

We only know You, Christ alone;
Sincerely and insistently,
O Light from heaven, Morning Star,
Serenely shine on us today.

Praised be the Father and the Son,
And Holy Spirit equally,
The Triune Godhead Three in One,
Now and for all eternity. Amen.

~from *Wednesday Lauds* in "Benedictine Daily Prayer: A Short Breviary."



Back to Basics: Liturgist Training Sessions

On Sunday, January 31, we will be hosting a Liturgist Training session from 12:30-2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

This is for folks who want to learn more about serving as a liturgist (worship leader), reading scripture, or serving other aspects of the Compass service.

This is also for folks who have received training in the past and want a refresher course while sharing their valuable liturgist experiences and helpful tips with others.

Come learn the "Why?"

- What is worship?
- Why do we do the things we do?

Come learn the "How?"

- Where do I stand?
- How do I move?
- How do I speak?
- What do I say?

We hope to see you on January 31. Please bring your lunch.

If you are unable to attend the training session on the 31st, the next session will be Wednesday, May 5, 2010 following the Community Supper.

Please contact Jennifer Webb (our friendly Compass community Worship Guide) for more information or to sign up. 677.5324 or webbjen810@yahoo.com.

Dropping the Hammer: Claiming Authority in 2010



On Sunday, January 17, Compass worship began its first-ever sermon series, "Dropping the Hammer: A Study in Authority."

Drew is leading this lectionary-based series of sermons as a counterpart to the *Beginnings* class (see pg. 4). Though you don't have to participate in them both to know what's going on, they are very related.

"One of the greatest challenges for church folks is claiming authority faithfully," Drew explains. "Today's church and society feel chock-full of individuals who claim authority on very questionable grounds. They often get the most attention simply because they're the loudest, simplest, and most irate. In this climate, how can the rest of us raise confident, composed voices reflecting the community of faith? How can we claim good authority?"

As we discovered on Sunday, claiming authority wasn't immediately easy for Jesus, either. It took a surprising situation and some no-nonsense

motivation from his mother Mary to bring about Jesus' first miracle (John 2:1-11). We're not alone in struggling to come to terms with our responsibilities!

So, if you've ever wanted to speak knowledgeably and faithfully about Christianity...

If you've ever resisted the idea that fundamentalists should have a monopoly on language of faith...

If you've ever felt that church and Christian faith must be about more than judgment and condemnation, but you didn't feel capable explaining why...

If you've ever wanted to know more about what biblical authority really looks like...

Join us on a journey starting on January 17th all the way through Lent, Passion Week, and finally Easter, when true power and authority is revealed in an empty tomb and a risen Lord.

Each Sunday morning at 11am in Compass worship.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...."

~Matthew 28:18 (NRSV)

Service Roads: Working with the Colonial Heights Food Pantry



The Colonial Heights Food Pantry
530 Southpark Boulevard

USDA bagging is a monthly event!

On Saturday, Jan. 16 at 9:30am, we headed back to the Colonial Heights Food Pantry (CHFP) for an intense workout. We filled United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-approved bags of food for well over 100 local families.

Unlike the smaller, more frequent bags that the CHFP fills and disperses weekly, the USDA bags are filled to the brim with food intended to provide a base amount of nutrition for a month. Though the bags are huge, one look will still tell you that it's not a lot for an entire month—which is why the CHFP strives to supplement the monthly USDA bags with weekly resources.

Our continued covenant relationship with the CHFP is becoming a two-way street. They are eager to support us in our new Wednesday Night Community Suppers at Highland, and they are putting these advertisement flyers in their food bags to local folks: "Free. For All. No Strings Attached." Not only that, the CHFP is also contributing some of their largest cans of food (too large to give out) to the Community Suppers!

One step at a time, we are joining in the effort to welcome all God's people at table. Come and be a part of this new and holy work!

Thanks to Tricia Cox (our friendly Compass community Service Guide) for her leadership in this area.

Health Kits for Haiti

Please consider compiling a health kit for disaster relief following the Haiti earthquake last Tuesday, January 12. You may drop kits off at church.

Health Kit Items Value: \$12 per kit

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (**NOTE:** UMCOR Sager Brown Depot is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

All items included in kits must be **NEW** items.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.

Do **NOT** include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

WHAT IS THE COMPASS?

MISSION

The Compass: where all seek to journey together through faith.

VISION

Embodying worship
welcome
service
learning

INVITATION

We invite you to join us in the work of being God's people in this beautiful, wounded world. All are welcome. Come and find a new direction!

Highland United Methodist Church

125 E. Westover Ave.
Colonial Heights, VA
23834

Phone:
804.526.3870

Fax:
804.526.7470

E-Mail:
drew@highlandumchurch.net

Website:
www.highlandumchurch.net

All are welcome...
Come find a new
direction!

Learning: Surveys and New Beginnings

Elisabeth Patterson (our friendly Compass community Learning Guide) has been working on a survey to offer at the Compass service on Sunday mornings. The intention is to plan our next few Bible studies and other educational activities with *your* input in mind.

You may respond to these questions by email; however, we will also have a special learning-oriented Sunday in the Compass for you to fill out the surveys anonymously.

Until then, you're welcome to mull over these questions in preparation:

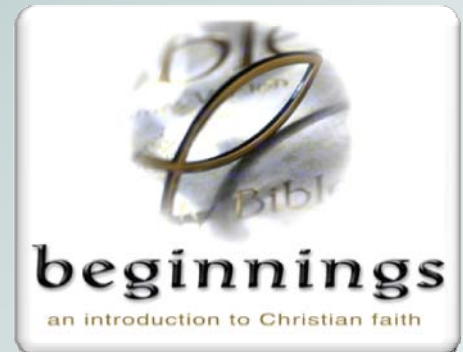
1. Is there something you want to learn more about in the Bible?
2. Will you come to a Bible study about the book of Revelation?

3. Are you interested in a study group about other religions or cults?
4. What's your preference for day of the week and time of a Bible study?
5. Will you come to a Bible study following Wednesday Night Suppers?
6. If you haven't attended a Bible study, what can we offer or change so you will come?
7. Will it help you attend if childcare is provided?
8. Do you think Bible study is important, or is it just one more thing on your busy calendar? Why?
9. Would you be willing to have a Bible study in your house?
10. Please write down anything else you'd like us to know.

Now Introducing (or Re-Introducing)...

Coming soon on Wednesday nights following the Community Suppers, it's *Beginnings: An Introduction to Christian Faith*.

Starting on January 27, this course will run approximately twelve weeks. Each participant will receive a book; sessions will last from about 6:45-8:15pm. Come and join us!



LOCAL LISTINGS: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(ALL EVENTS AT HIGHLAND UMC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

JANUARY

24 th	11am	Compass Worship	10 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper
				6:45pm	"Beginnings: An Introduction to the Christian Faith"
27 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper			
	6:45pm	"Beginnings: An Introduction to the Christian Faith"	14 th	11am	Compass Worship
31 st	11am	Compass Worship	17 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper
	12:30pm	Liturgist Training		6:45pm	"Beginnings: An Introduction to the Christian Faith"

FEBRUARY

			21 st	11am	Compass Worship
3 rd	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper	25 th	5:30pm	Wednesday Community Supper
	6:45pm	"Beginnings: An Introduction to the Christian Faith"		6:45pm	"Beginnings: An Introduction to the Christian Faith"
7 th	9:45am	Compass Guides Meeting			
	11am	Compass Worship			