Some of the things God did in the Bible are mysterious, in that we struggle to figure out the logic behind them. For instance, many of the battles and specific instructions about building the Temple or following certain laws are difficult to understand. Why did the Temple need those precise dimensions, or why did God call for some battles to be “holy” (that is, a complete extermination) and others were not? However, the vast majority of the time, God acts in clear and defined ways and, if we read closely, we can discover the reason for the action. Much of the time, there is a “so that” mentioned, and the rationale is to let Israel know who God is or to let a foreign nation know who God is.

What I am saying is that while we can shake our heads and wonder about many things — flood, fires, tragedies, etc., and wonder why God allows them, we don’t need to shake our heads about the larger picture: God acts (or doesn’t act) so that God can reveal Himself, so that we can be saved.

We too often take it for granted that people know there is a God, and that God loves, forgives, and saves. Most of us grew up in church, heard the Bible stories, sang the songs, and many of us even went to the altar for more than communion, but to give our lives to God. We could no more ignore God than we could ignore our own existence. However, many people today did not grow up in church and, if they think of God at all, they think of a judging, hating God, or that God couldn’t care less about them. They do not want to be saved, because they think it would strip them of identity, force them to act a certain way, or is meaningless.

I may be overstating reality by a bit, but I want to highlight the point: We who know God as loving, forgiving, and nurturing need to get word out to other people — so that they may know! The good news is that there is no single way to get the word out, but there are simple ways to do it. Leave postcards, business cards, etc. around. Share a bulletin or newsletter with a neighbor. Invite someone to your small group (people are often interested in meals, programs, and even Bible studies before they are interested in worship). Make friends and allow an invitation to come naturally. Don’t feel that you have to lead someone to Christ first — lead them into a friendship, and let that friendship bear fruit. The main thing I want to emphasize is that, by sharing our experience with others, we are loving them to heaven and to a deeper connection with us and God on this earth.

The Lord wants people to know God and, in knowing, to be saved. Our role is to act out of the love we have experienced to let other know as well. You may call it evangelism, but it is loving others. May it be our goal to love one person deeply enough to help them understand God loves them this year.

Your fellow servant in Christ Jesus,
By His Wounds, We are Healed

Postcards are out for the Lenten sermon series, which began Ash Wednesday, February 26, and runs through Easter Sunday, April 12. Pick up a few dozen to share!

Lenten Devotionals — Home Grown!

Lent runs from Ash Wednesday, February 26, to Easter, Sunday, April 12. During the 40 days of Lent, we will be able to stay connected with God and each other through worship, small groups, ministries, and our own Lenten devotional booklet! If you haven’t already done so, pick up a devotional today, and be enriched by members of your own congregation!

Holy Week: April 5-12

Holy Week will begin with Palm Sunday on April 5. We will then move to a Maundy Thursday service (7 p.m., location to be determined) on April 9. On Good Friday, beginning at 6 p.m. April 10, we will observe the Stations of the Cross by walking up and down Salt Ponds Road. We will then celebrate Easter Sunday together on April 12. You are encouraged to experience as much of it as you can and, whenever you can’t be present, catch the live-stream! All services will be taped (except those held outside the sanctuary).

Tri-X Class Mission Bucket

The TRI-X Sunday School Class continues its efforts with the Mission Mile Project by dropping change in the Mission Bucket each Sunday and collecting aluminum cans to help support our many and varied mission projects. (Did you notice we changed our jar to a bucket? Our jar became too small!)

This report covers activities for the entire year of 2019. We have collected a total of $786.73 in our mission bucket and earned $73.95 from the sale of aluminum cans. Funds have been distributed as follows:

- $200 – Youth Lake Junaluska Retreat
- $250 – Virginia Peninsula Food Bank
- $200 – ABUKLOI, Inc.
- $37 – Thanksgiving Basket
- $38.27 – Angel Tree Gift
- $100 – Salvation Army
- $50 – Peninsula Rescue Mission
- $100 – Food Pantry (FUMC)
- A total of $975.37

We are always pleasantly surprised to see how much we are able to accomplish with a little help from friends like you!

Aluminum cans may be left in the TRI-X room or the kitchen. Thank you for your continued support of our mission projects. We are blessed as we become a blessing to others!

Evelyn Boone
Secretary/Treasurer
### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Birthday Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harper Howell</td>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>David Taylor</td>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>Stephanie Zeiber</td>
<td>3/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Townsend</td>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Ashley Wilson</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Jordan Rowe</td>
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<td>J.D. Campbell</td>
<td>3/1</td>
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<td>Carol Wolsh</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Brian Haight</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Don Bartlett</td>
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<td>Reb Godwin</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Steven Ward, Sr.</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>Anna Franklin</td>
<td>3/23</td>
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<td>Becky Thompson</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Phyllis Holland-James</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>Austin Williams</td>
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<td>Linda Poinsett</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Michelle Horner</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Chuck Blackmon</td>
<td>3/24</td>
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<td>Clif Heath</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Chris Alhouse</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Joel Brady</td>
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<td>Phillip Sagaser</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Elizabeth Kravitz</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Hannah Malinowski</td>
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<td>Liam Carr</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Jennifer Williams</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Seth Black</td>
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<td>Cary Forrest</td>
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<td>Kathy Morgan</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Aaron Avery</td>
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<td>3/8</td>
<td>John Hamilton, Jr.</td>
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<td>Dawn Davis</td>
<td>3/17</td>
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<td>Lynne Vaughan</td>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Bill Parady</td>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>Ken Gilpin, Jr.</td>
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<td>John Maninga</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Jackie Soule</td>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>Ian Taylor</td>
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<td>LM West Jr.</td>
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<td>Pam May</td>
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<td>Mike Barroso</td>
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<td>3/21</td>
<td>Annette Harris</td>
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<td>Brian Cole</td>
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<td>Nicole Lewis</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Morgan DeShetler</td>
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### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mimeo &amp; Norma Soriano</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Dallas, Jr. &amp; Melaney Jenkins</td>
<td>3/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julio &amp; Maria Aviles</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Lisa Brooker</td>
<td>3/22</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Ronnie &amp; Doris Steele</td>
<td>3/26</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We extend our condolences to Jane and Jesse Barbour and the family of his brother Jack Barber, in the death of Jack’s grandson.

We also extend our condolences to Bud and Bonnie Harper in the death of Bud’s brother on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

Laurie Scott
Mike Branstetter, Jim Branstetter’s brother
Sarah Sudduth
Sara Meacham
Davis Family
Shelby Wright
Sandra Shearer
Joyce Wilson
Woody Wilson

Upcoming 50 Plus Events

The 50 Plus group will meet at the church at 9 a.m. Friday, March 13, for the tour of Endview Plantation and Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News.

Built in 1769 by William Harwood, the “T”-frame Georgian-style house, now known as Endview, served as a Confederate hospital during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign.

Built between 1851 and 1859, Lee Hall Mansion was home to affluent planter Richard Decauter Lee and his family. During April and May of 1862, the home was used as a headquarters by Confederate generals Joseph E. Johnston and John B. Magruder. These two historical sites are now owned and operated by the City of Newport News.

Don’t miss this opportunity to visit national history located right here in our area. Afterwards, we’ll stop for lunch. Cost is just $14 plus your lunch. For questions or reservations on any of our outings, contact Anne or Bill Bryan at 757-851-0748 or by emailing them at abandbb1@cox.net.

From the Kitchen Committee

Friendly reminders to keep us healthy and safe:

- Wash the large can opener and cutting boards in the dishwasher after use
- Air dry cutting boards
- Check utensils after washed and run them again if needed
- After four runs of the dishwasher, please be sure it is drained, add another scoop of detergent
- Please be sure to turn the dishwasher off when done
- Any time the stoves are turned on, turn on the fan. Please be sure to turn it off when you leave
- Thank you, thank you!!
Joys and Gratitude

To Secret Santa,
Your thoughtfulness and love to me at Christmas was greatly appreciated. What a lovely surprise!

— Anne Ziglar

Dear Secret Santa,
Thanks SO much for my surprise Christmas gift! I am putting the Pumice Foot Scrub to VERY good use!!! Really appreciated your thoughtfulness. God Bless!

— Anne Bryant

First United Methodist Church Fox Hill gives thanks to all scouting leaders for leading our young people on the path to a better future in their church and our community.

Time spent leading our young people now will pay big rewards in their futures as they move into adult activities.

We thank each of our scouting leaders. May God bless each of you as you continue to lead and set examples for our youth!

Thank you so much for the lovely reception you all provided for Mom's family and friends. What a blessing you are in our lives.

Sincerely, Katherine Nelson
(Jean Sprouse’s daughter) and Family

Listen up!

We now have a Wi-Fi listening system in our sanctuary! Thanks to the United Methodist Men for paying for it, and to our audio/visual team for researching, installing, and setting it up.

If you use a Wi-Fi enabled phone or tablet, download the “Listen Everywhere” app from either the Google Play Store or Apple Store. Connect to the “Assisted-Listening” Wi-Fi network while in the sanctuary, then you can use the app to hear everything in the service through your earbuds or headset just as you would if you were listening to music or answering a cell phone call. If you have a Bluetooth-enabled hearing aid, you may be able to listen through that (consult the A-V team for more information). Please note: the “Listen Anywhere” Wi-Fi network does not carry the Internet, so you will have to download the app before coming to church.

Here are some notes for a better listening experience from Jim Branstetter:
1. Check the "time out" setting on your device, as a short time setting will shut down the app prematurely.
2. Turn off location services, especially GPS or other "high accuracy" settings; as these will shorten battery life considerably.
3. The existing FM receivers remain available for your use; the contacts have been cleaned and they now have new batteries! if using these devices, feel free to bring your own headset or earbuds - which may be more comfortable or better suited to your use comfort. Also a "neck loop" is available for the FM system, for those with a hearing aid having the "telecoil" setting. This choice may be better suited for these users.
History of the “Commission on a Way Forward”  
By Mike Williams  
Lay Member of Annual Conference

As many of you already know the United Methodist Church has been struggling with the issue of homosexuality for many years. In this article I will try to encapsulate what has happened since General Conference 2016, when it was decided to delay any decision on this issue and to establish a “Commission on a Way Forward” to address the homosexuality issue without the UMC splitting apart over this issue.

Why the 2019 Special General Conference?
Amid growing concerns for the UMC’s future, the 2016 General Conference authorized the formation of a commission to deal with church teachings on homosexuality and to find ways to help the church stay together. The “Commission on a Way Forward” submitted proposals that were considered by the delegates at the 2019 Special General Conference. The General Conference is the only body that approves church policy and speaks officially for the denomination.

What was decided by General Conference 2019?
The General Conference delegates, by a 438-384, passed the Traditional Plan, which retains restrictions against "self-avowed practicing homosexual" clergy and officiating at or hosting same-sex marriage ceremonies, and requires stricter enforcement for violations of church law.

What happened next?
Many UMC churches throughout the United States were angered by this decision, and there was a lot of talk of splitting from the UMC. At the Virginia Annual Conference, a motion was approved to delay any action until after the 2020 General Conference scheduled for May. One General Conference’s decision is not binding on the next, and it was felt that new plans would be submitted for consideration.

General Conference 2020, what now?
As expected, new plans have been developed and will be presented at the General Conference. Unfortunately, many of these plans split the UMC into different denominations and would require each church to make a decision on its own way forward. For a comparison of the top plans please see https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/gc2020-proposed-plans. It is too early to tell what will be decided at the General Conference and how that decision will affect us here at First UMC Fox Hill. I will try to keep you advised of the General Conference 2020 decision and the Virginia Annual Conference outcome in June.
Financial Fundamentals

This report briefly addresses finances at First United Methodist Church Fox Hill. The latest weekly and year-to-date information is in the weekly bulletin.

With the start of a new financial year at FUMC Fox Hill, we are confronted with the typical challenges to meet the funding needed to sustain our programs and ministries. Preliminary January numbers show your strong support, but we need to step up our giving if we hope to meet our plans. As always, a major part of our needs is to fulfill our Conference Apportionment obligations. In 2019, we were ultimately able to cover only 78% ($65,042 out of $83,045) of our obligation. We need to correct that shortfall while meeting our other obligations. We have been able to continue funding our mortgage payments and have a balance as of $210,371 as of the end of January.

Correcting Annual Donation Statements

We have found a few statements which had incomplete entries on them, so please check yours promptly, especially if you use it for tax filing purposes. We want to be sure you have full and complete information, and it is important that you let us know immediately if you find any errors.

Be generous with what God has provided. Your gifts help others in many ways and are used to spread God’s word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total One Fund – Through January 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income For Planned Expenses(^1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through(^2))</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Through Income(^2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Through Expense(^2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Pay-It-Forward” Contributions</td>
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*Additional 2019 expenditures are anticipated.
\(^1\)Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, etc.
\(^2\)This item represents funds contributed, but passed through to non-budget items, e.g., flowers, Advocate subscriptions, special mission programs, etc. [Some pass through income was received in 2018; paid 2019.]

If you have any concerns or questions about FUMC FH finances, please contact our financial staff through the office or Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, at 851-0748 or by e-mail to billb-1111@cox.net.

All submissions for the Anchor need to be received no later than the 15th of each month to be included in the next newsletter.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOX HILL
1 SALT POND ROAD
HAMPTON, VA  23664

TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

CURRENT RESIDENT or

MAILING ADDRESS
LABEL GOES HERE

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
FOX HILL

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. • Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Can’t be here in person? Livestream us from our website

www.firstumcfoxhill.org • www.facebook.com/firstumcfoxhill
churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org • 757-851-6302

Pastor: Brian Sixbey • Assistant Pastor: Tommy Markham
Youth Director: Josh McNutt • Music Director/Organist: Mark Biondolillo
# Church Calendar for March 2020

## Sunday, March 1
**A Night’s Welcome**
- 8:30 a.m.  Worship (S)
- 9:45 a.m.  Sunday School/Small Groups
- 10:15 a.m. Praise Team
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (S)
- 6:00 p.m.  Youth Fellowship

## Monday, March 2
**A Night’s Welcome**
- 1:00 p.m.  Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)

## Tuesday, March 3
**A Night’s Welcome**
- 10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers (ESR)
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Tri-X)

## Wednesday, March 4
**A Night’s Welcome**
- 9:30 a.m.  Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
- 2:00 p.m.  Sing-alongs at Coliseum
- 6:00 p.m.  Wesley Bell Choir (S)
- 6:30 p.m.  Karate for Christ
- 7:00 p.m.  Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)
- 7:00 p.m.  Chancel Choir (S)

## Thursday, March 5
**A Night’s Welcome**
- 11:00 a.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office)

## Friday, March 6
**A Night’s Welcome**
- 5:00 p.m.  Young People’s Praise Band (S)
- 6:30 p.m.  Youth Life Groups
- 6:30 p.m.  Young Adult Life Groups
- 7:00 p.m.  UMW Thursday Evening Circle Meeting (FH - Stage)

## Saturday, March 7
**District Prayer Team (S)**

## Sunday, March 8
**Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- 8:30 a.m.  Worship (S)
- 9:45 a.m.  Sunday School/Small Groups
- 10:15 a.m. Praise Team
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (S)
- 6:00 p.m.  Youth Fellowship

## Monday, March 9
- 1:00 p.m.  Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
- 6:00 p.m.  Girl Scouts Troop 1062 Meeting (B201)
- 6:15 p.m.  Children’s Activities Team (PP)
- 6:30 p.m.  Finance Committee (ESR)
- 7:00 p.m.  Church Council (Tri-X)

## Tuesday, March 10
- 10:00 a.m.  UMW Wesley Circle Meeting (PP)
- 10:00 a.m.  Shawl Makers (ESR)
- 10:30 a.m.  Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, March 11
- 9:30 a.m.  Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
- 10:00 a.m.  UMW Wednesday Morning Circle Meeting
- 6:00 p.m.  Wesley Bell Choir (S)
- 6:30 p.m.  Karate for Christ (FH)
- 7:00 p.m.  Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)
- 7:00 p.m.  Chancel Choir (S)

## Thursday, March 12
- 11:00 a.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office)
- 5:00 p.m.  Young People’s Praise Band (S)
- 6:30 p.m.  Youth Life Groups
- 6:30 p.m.  Young Adult Life Groups
- 7:00 p.m.  UMW Thursday Evening Circle Meeting (FH - Stage)

## Friday, March 13
**50 Plus Bus Trip**
- 6:30 p.m.  Karate for Christ (FH)

## Saturday, March 14
**District Prayer Team (S)**

## Sunday, March 15
- 8:30 a.m.  Worship (S)
- 9:45 a.m.  Sunday School/Small Groups
- 10:15 a.m. Praise Team
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (S)
- 6:00 p.m.  Youth Fellowship
Monday, March 16
Anchor Newsletter Deadline
1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
7:00 p.m. UMM Dinner (FH)

Tuesday, March 17
St. Patrick’s Day
8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Breakfast and Work Day
10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers (ESR)
7:00 p.m. PPSRC Meeting (Tri-X)

Wednesday, March 18
9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Tri-X)
12:00 p.m. Women’s Fellowship of Circumstance
3:00 p.m. Wednesday Afternoon Book Club (ESR)
6:00 p.m. Wesley Bell Choir (S)
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)
7:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study (ESR)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, March 19
11:00 a.m. Reunion Group (Pastor Tommy’s Office)
5:00 p.m. Young People’s Praise Band (S)
6:30 p.m. Youth Life Groups
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Life Groups
7:00 p.m. MOPS Studies (FaithLink)
7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Book Club (ESR)

Friday, March 20
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ (FH)

Saturday, March 21
7:00 a.m. District Prayer Team (S)
9:00 a.m. MOPS Crafts Fair (FH)

Sunday, March 22
8:30 a.m. Worship (S)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups
10:15 a.m. Praise Team
11:00 a.m. Worship (S)
6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, March 23
1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study (Tri-X)
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Troop 1062 Meeting (B201)
7:00 p.m. UMW Executive Board (ESR)

Scouts BSA Schedule

Tuesdays — Weekly
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 151 Meeting (FH-K)
7 p.m. Scouts BSA Troop 151 Meeting (FH-S)

Fridays, March 13 & March 27
6 p.m. Venture Crew 1151