

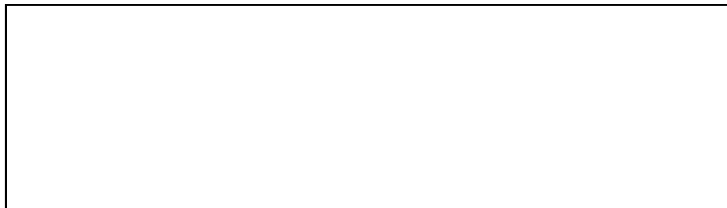
First United Methodist Church
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THE MESSENGER

A publication of First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Mac Kinnett, Minister (mac.kinnett@fumconway.org)
Josh Dumbleton, Director of Music
Jenny Wilburn, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Christine Schwenke, Child Development Center Director
Richard Jordan, Treasurer
Cheryl Chastain, Admin. Asst. to the Pastor

VOLUME 16, NO. 12

DECEMBER 2006

The "On-the-Road-Again Gang" Is On the Road Again!

Sometimes, when we start talking about "the good old days," we realize we should dust off some good old ideas and try them out again. A recent conversation I had with Maxine Dunn is bringing new life to an old idea. Recently, Maxine was telling me about the wonderful experiences of the "On-the-Road-Again Gang." It sounds to me like an idea whose time has come again.

For those of you who don't know, the "On-the-Road-Again Gang" was a ministry of our Christian community that began during the pastorate of Ben Cunningham. It began as a church trip to the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. That trip spurred a desire for more, and the "On-the-Road-Again Gang" was born. As I listened to Maxine joyfully describe the warm Christian fellowship experienced on those trips, I blurted out, "I wish we could do that again!" Maxine said, "We can."

We are. Our first trip will be a day trip to the Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park in Charleston on Monday, December 18. The cost of this trip will be twenty to twenty-five dollars per person to cover gas and admission. We will leave the church at 3:00 p.m. Your place will be reserved when you make your deposit. You should also plan to carry money for dinner and purchases in the gift shop. Space is limited, so don't delay.

We are making tentative plans for the "On-the-Road-Again Gang" to be on the road again in April, perhaps going to St. Simons Island and St. Augustine. Look for more details as spring approaches.

And always remember, God loves you; and so do I.

Mac

WHAT'S GOING ON AT FIRST CHURCH

Advent Adventure

Saturday, December 2

Location: Family Life Center, Main Room

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 3, 11:00 a.m.

Location: Sanctuary

United Methodist Men (and spouses)

United Methodist Women (and spouses)

Monday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Hawes / Watts Circle

Tuesday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Family Life Center, Sr. Room

Spivey / Ward Circle

Tuesday, December 5, at 11:30 a.m.

Location: Bistro

Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Parlor

Stilley / Walsh Circle

Thursday, December 7, at 11:30 a.m.

Out for Lunch

Advent Luncheon at FUMC

Thursday, December 7, at 12:00 p.m.

Speaker: Tripp Jeffords, St. Paul's Episcopal

Henry / Rogers Circle

Monday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m.

Covered-Dish Meal

Location: Family Life Center, Main Room

United Methodist Women's General Meeting and Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 12, 12:00 p.m.

Location: Family Life Center, Main Room

John McCutcheon Class Christmas Party

Thursday, November 14, 4:00 p.m.

Location: Family Life Center, Main Room

Office Volunteers' Luncheon

Prepared by the FUMC Staff

Friday, December 15, 11:30 a.m.

Location: Family Life Center, Main Room

Special Music Rehearsals

Saturday, December 16

Handbells: 10:00 a.m., Chancel Choir: 12:30 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

(Lunch at 12:00 p.m., FLC)

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Christmas Carols with Josh

Sunday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

Location: The Hut

"On-the-Road-Again" Gang

Monday, December 18

Bus Loading: 2:30 p.m., Depart: 3:00 p.m.

Holiday Festival of Lights

James Island County Park in Charleston, SC

CDC Board

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Parlor

Volunteers Assemble Messenger

Wednesday, December 20, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Parlor

Christmas Eve Service

Communion and Candlelighting

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Nursery available at 4:15 p.m.

Pre-Service Music at 4:30 p.m.

Location: Sanctuary

Christmas Holiday

Monday / Tuesday, December 25-26

Church Office / CDC Closed

ELSEWHERE . . .

Service of Remembrance

Saturday, December 2, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hillcrest Cemetery

Advent Luncheon

Thursday, December 14, 12:00 p.m.

Location: St. Paul's Episcopal

Speaker: Carl Hunsucker, Trinity UMC

Advent Luncheon

Thursday, December 21, 12:00 p.m.

Location: Kingston Presbyterian

Speaker: Mac Kinnett, First UMC

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1

Courtney Braddock
Callie Timbes
Judith Todd
Judith Watson

December 11

Ann Collins
Sue Howle
Joanne Rabon
Richard Wellons

December 20

Helen Tetterton

December 21

Julia Land
Susan Mungo
Kimberly Sansbury
Douglas Thorndyke

December 2

David Bennett
Jan Kyzer

December 12

Wanda Huggins

December 3

Lloyd Burroughs
Susan Jones
Kristian King
Mary Ward

December 13

Bill Byrnes
Mary Clark
Lori Cox
Jessica Goldfinch
Kelsey Morgan
Cole Thompson

December 22

Michelle Payette

December 23

Cindy Harper
Mary Ann Mehl
Katherine Sarvis
Frank Stillely

December 4

John Hendrix
Sally Hinson
Dick Lindsey
Caroline Todd
Erin Todd

December 14

Trey Causey
Mattie Hucks
Doug Roof
Cary Woodle

December 24

Skottowe Fox

December 5

Bobbie Davis
Ruth Land
Lila Myers

December 15

Bill Huggins
John Steen
John Sunday

December 25

Robin Grant

December 26

Gene Dusenbury
Wanda Kleine

December 6

Sandra James

December 16

Collin Fleenor
Allison Kyzer
Gloria Zwack

December 27

Keith Gawith
Gene Henry
Joan Henry
Lee Martin

December 7

Rick Barrett
Jodi Litviak

December 17

John McIntyre
Holley Rankin

December 28

Teresa Bell
Kathy Richardson

December 8

Tucker Gore
Doris Hedgepath

December 18

Sue Ann Green
Rosa Henry
Lib Jones

December 29

Ryan Cox
Joan Fleenor
Melinda Hyman
Bill Waggoner

December 9

Eugenia Benton
Benjamin Creel

December 19

Richard Owen
Micah Richardson
Ryan Smalls
Bill Taylor
Helen White

December 31

Rick Holt
Vicki Johnson
Jonathan Simmons

December 10

Neal Hendrick
Dickie Thorndyke
Elizabeth Zantow

Financial Report Year-to-Date Ending Nov. 22, 2006

Budgeted Receipts

Operating Fund \$417,759.98

Non-Budgeted Receipts

Bryan Fund (Cemetery) 272.85
CAP 1,785.25
Capital Improvement 85.00
Carillon Fund 455.00
CDC Angel Fund 200.00
CDC Scholarship 500.00
Chancel Choir Fund 1,470.00
Cookbooks 1,310.00
Daniels' Mission Fund 6,888.12
Easter Lilies / Poinsettias 877.50
Easter Lily / Poinsettia Child 1,148.50
Epworth Children's Home 7,800.00
Family Life Center 425.00
General Memorials 2,292.00
General Scholarship 1,849.50
Gideon Ministries 276.00
Good Samaritan Fund 2,496.00
Greenery 156.00
Hut Bible Class 2,358.50
Hut Radio Ministry 485.00
Landscaping Fund 750.00
Lenten Offering (undesignated) 3,896.46
Love Offerings 2,670.00
Miscellaneous Invoices 7,644.01
Missionary Fund 1,515.00
Modeste Cox Fund 120.18
Music Discretionary Fund 2,234.86
New Bus Fund 8,000.00
One Great Hour of Sharing 105.00
Parsonage Modernization 10,445.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund 303.00
Red Bird Mission 280.00
Salkehatchie Summer Service 2,450.00
Salvation Army 200.00
Souper Bowl 716.00
Special Offering 608.00
United Methodist Women 146.00
World Communion 39.00

Total Non-budgeted \$75,252.73

In order to meet our 2006 Budget, we need to average \$10,753 per week toward our Operating Fund.

SERVING IN DECEMBER

ALTAR GUILD

Brenda Cutts, Amy Lovell Jenkins, Libby McCutcheon,
Joann Ray

ACOLYTES / CRUCIFERS

12/03 Chanan James / Kyle McAda
12/10 Matthew Woodward / Skottowe Fox
12/17 Katelyn Stegall / Maggie Harper
12/24 Dylan Jenkins / Michael Brooks
12/31 Kyle McAda / Chanan James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12/03 Teal Britton
12/10 TBA
12/17 Blake Martin
12/24 Dave McAda
12/31 Bud Hale

CHANCEL FLOWERS

12/03 Betty Jo Huggins
12/10 Dawne Clonts and Josie Holbert
12/17 Poinsettias
12/24 Poinsettias
12/31 Glenda Y. Sweet

Be sure to sign the flower calendar posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Special note: If you are placing flowers in the sanctuary, please let the church office know whether you plan to pick the flowers up, or if they may be distributed to our shut-ins.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

12/03 Lynn and Alison Hammond
12/10 Dow and Debbie Stanley
12/17 Cathy and Elizabeth Senn
12/24 Maryanne and Anne Marie Martin
12/31 Kent and Jan Bitting

COUNTING COMMITTEE

Sunday: Keith Gawith and Phil Thompson
Monday: Maxine Dunn and Margaret Thompson

EVENING SERVICE (THE HUT) SPEAKERS:

12/03 Val Dunham
12/10 Rev. Joe Daniels
12/17 Christmas Carols with Josh
12/24 No service tonight
12/31 No service tonight

MEAL SCHEDULE (SUNDAY)

12/03 Hunter and Debbie Jenkins, Linda Gangi
12/10 Eric and Carolina Fox / TBA
12/17 Charles and Ann Myers / Charles and Kathy Hucks
12/24 No meal tonight!
12/31 No meal tonight!

NURSERY

Volunteers are needed for our nursery ministry area. If you are interested, contact Jenny at 488-4251 or jenny.wilburn@fumconway.org.

SOUND TECHNICIANS

12/03 Jenni McAda
12/10 TBA
12/17 TBA
12/24 Jenni McAda (morning worship)
_____ (Christmas Eve Service)
12/31 TBA

USHERS (CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION)

Ike Locklair and Jim Ward, co-chairs; Zack Dusenbury, Bill Foxworth, Andy Hendrick, Hunter Jenkins, Duc Watts

USHERS (SUNDAY WORSHIP)

Bill Foxworth, head; Randy Bell, David Bennett, Chris Britton, Philip Davis, Charles Dusenbury, Jimmy Hammond, Andy Hendrick, Hunter Jenkins, Morgan Martin, Charles Myers, Bert Owen, Lavon Singleton, Charles Timbes

USHERS (YOUTH)

1st and 2nd Sunday: John Clark, Lee James, Anne Marie Martin, Hayley Martin

VISITOR FOLLOW-UP

Dow Stanley

Publication Deadlines:

• **January, 2007 Messenger deadline is noon on Monday, December 11.**

• **Bulletin deadline is 10:00 a.m., on Friday, 9 days prior to the Sunday of usage.**

For any information you'd like included in the Bulletin or Messenger, please contact the office by email or phone. Information received by the deadlines noted above will be appreciated!

MISSION AREA NEWS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to those who provided filled shoeboxes for this year's project. There were 32 shoeboxes collected, all of which will allow those children to receive a special gift this Christmas season.

CAP FOOD COLLECTION



Thank you to those who remember to bring food items every Sunday, not just when the grocery bags are distributed. Any non-perishable items may be donated. The items we list each month are in shortest supply at the CAP food pantry.

CAP DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER:

Cereals, peanut butter, jelly

Remember—Hunger is a twelve-month-a-year problem.

YEAR-END CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

As you make out your list of charitable contributions this year, please remember First United Methodist Church in Conway and the many United Methodist funds such as UMCOR Disaster Relief, the Daniels Indonesia Project, Good Samaritan Fund, and others.

Toby

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS



Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to Bobbie Davis, Mary Hucks, and Frank Watts and families on the death of their brother, Willie Watts, on November 6, 2006

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to Jan Kyzer and family on the death of her aunt, Selma Burdett, in Birmingham, AL.

Daniels Mission—Indonesia

... In memory of **Sam Ray, Ben Johnson, Opal Allen and Willie Watts**, by Myron and Maxine Dunn.

Good Samaritan

In memory of **Willie Watts**, by Billy and Libby Jones.

Music Discretionary

... In honor of **Sallie Goldfinch**, by William, Dianne, and Jessica Goldfinch.

... In honor of **Mac Goldfinch's 81st birthday** on November 29 by William, Dianne, and Jessica Goldfinch.

Operating Fund

... In memory of **Willie Watts**, by Wilmarie Boatwright.

THANK YOU NOTES

The Child Development Center (CDC) would like to thank all those who supported our BBQ Dinner. A special thank you to Edith Hucks and Nancy Stiltner for helping the day of the BBQ.

A special thanks to Dale Gladson for the donation of The Interpreter's Bible Commentary Set to our upcoming resource center.

Thank you for allowing us to help celebrate your homecoming. It is a blessing to fellowship with God's people. Thank you also for the love offering.

May God richly bless you all.

Dean and Jodi Hucks

Faith Ranch Ministry, Aynor, SC

My dear friends,

All of your prayers, visits, calls, cards, flowers and food, sent with the love I feel from all of you, my friends in Christ, have been the inspiration that has given me hope and encouragement with everything in my life. My appreciation and love for you all just overflows in my heart. With Jesus, my family, and you all, I have been able to go through this past year. Please know that I think of all of you with great love and that I thank God every day for such affectionate, compassionate friends to love me.

Yours in Jesus Christ,
Leila Hucks

Daniels Mission News

News from Nias Island

The following is from an extensive assessment by The United Methodist Committee On Relief, UMCOR, concerning conditions in Lolowa'u District, Nias. We have two churches located in this very large district. Since conditions in the five main villages and 15 sub-villages are about the same, we will use one of them, Dao Dao, as an example of all.

"In response to a request from Joe and Rae Daniels, Methodist volunteers who have been working in Nias since the mid 1990s, UMCOR-Indonesia's Program Development Officer and Senior Engineer traveled to Nias to conduct an assessment of possible humanitarian intervention by UMCOR in five villages where no organization has gone.

Prior to this trip, UMCOR Indonesia staff met with the Danielses in Medan during February in order to discuss their volunteer work in Nias. They have been working with villages located in Lolowa'u District on small-scale projects, such as providing funds for food, school uniforms, building Methodist churches and basic health care, including transporting patients to Medan, North Sumatra, for emergency treatment. Given the substantial needs in these villages since the earthquake, related to housing construction and infrastructure rehabilitation that require intervention by an experienced humanitarian aid organization, the Danielses encouraged UMCOR to consider working there. Analiser Halawa, who has worked closely with the Danielses since 1994, accompanied UMCOR staff to Nias and served as a guide for the duration of the visit."

House Repair/Reconstruction: 58 houses located in Dao Dao Village were destroyed, and 88 were damaged by the March 2005, earthquake. Cost of construction of 58 @\$8,000 and repair of 88 @\$4,000 is estimated to be \$816,000.

Primary School Construction: Children in this village are currently attending elementary school - first through sixth grades. The existing facility is in poor condition as the building was structurally damaged during the earthquake, and no water supply nor sanitation facilities are available. Cost of this activity [without water]: \$200,000.

Water Supply System and Public Latrines: A well is located in the village but is no longer in use since it is dry. Water from the well is also of poor quality and not sufficient for drinking. Drilling a well and supplying water through a pipe, and repairing four public bathrooms are expected to cost \$72,000.

Road Construction: Travel to and around Lolowa'u District is difficult. UMCOR-Indonesia staff was able to visit only one of the sub-villages which is near the main road. Dao Dao Village is located approximately 15 kilometers from the main road and is only accessible by foot, as there is a small path that leads to a hilly area where the main village is located. The estimated cost of constructing 15,000 meters of road is \$850,000.

Health Clinic Construction: There is no operational health clinic in Lolowa'u District. It is recommended to construct one large facility to accommodate the health care needs of all individuals residing in the five villages. Estimated cost: \$35,000.

Hilinamazihono/Simandaolo Villages: [There is only one junior high school in the entire Lolowa'u District, and it is out of walking range for most village children.] The existing facility is in poor condition and is also insufficient to provide a proper educational environment for students. Rehabilitation work would include repairs to the floors, walls, doors and windows as well as adding two classrooms, an office for the headmaster and bathrooms [without water.] Estimated cost: \$70,000.

A high school has been requested by the residents of Hilinamazihono Village, as the distance from this village to the closest school is 14 kilometers, and students do not have any means of transportation other than walking. [There is currently no high school in the district.] Village residents are in the process of identifying a suitable location for the school and will obtain land on their own. Estimated cost of construction of a high school: \$300,000.

Markets: As it is too far to travel to a major town in order to purchase goods and most families do not have the means to travel long distances, local markets serve as their primary source of obtaining day-to-day goods. All five main villages would like to have a market to facilitate the buying and selling of basic commodities; however, it is recommended to build one large market. Estimated cost: \$90,000.

Vocational Skills Training: Several villages requested vocational skills training as part of livelihood assistance. A program can be arranged for approximately 500 participants to include common topics of interest related to farming, small livestock, mechanics and sewing. Projected cost for four Multi-Village Projects: \$880,000.

The projected cost of supplying clean water and sanitation, repairing and constructing roads, houses, schools, markets, a medical clinic and providing skills training in five villages and 15 sub villages is \$3,000,000.

UMCOR-Indonesia has obtained some funds from The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and from Bank Asia to begin, in early 2007, some of the projects: clean water, primary schools and a market.

We will leave to return to Indonesia/Nias for two months on January 25. We pray that, at the least, we can get some organization with large funds available interested in building a medical clinic, repairing the junior high and building a high school. We will continue religious and humanitarian projects as we have been doing for the last ten years with funds that come to us.

We stayed at the same hotel as a US Marine Medical Officer and military personnel from the US Navy Medical Mercy Ship, who were stationed on Nias when we were there. Every one of them echoed what the Marine said, "For the last 20 years, I have been all over the world, I mean everywhere in the world, but I have never seen anything like this." AND they had not even been to Lolowa'u District, the worst of the worst.

We covet your prayers as we work together in the service of Christ's love,

Joe and Rae Daniels

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

It seems that the Christmas season keeps getting earlier and earlier each year. The lights, trees, and decorations go up in stores and homes much earlier than they used to. It's impossible to go into a store at the beginning of November without a dancing and singing Santa or Frosty toy screaming in your ear, and, usually, there are at least 10 of them going off at the same time, and at different intervals. I heard a little girl say recently, "I'll be glad when they stop singing." It makes me wonder whether we, as God's people, are truly ready for the coming of the Christ Child.

If I were to ask you what emotions you associate with the Advent and Christmas season, what would you say? Joy? Anticipation? Fear? Celebration? There are so many emotions we could name when we begin to look at the journey to Bethlehem.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we will be looking at Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Roman Catholics have a much different view of Mary (the Blessed Mother of God) than most Protestants do. They believe that not only Jesus, but also Mary, was immaculately conceived. There is so much unknown about Mary and the events surrounding the conception and birth of Christ that is difficult to understand or comprehend: the Annunciation to Mary, the Immaculate Conception, the birth of Christ in a manger, Mary herself; all of these add to the mystery of the season of Advent. Mary is perceived as a Co-Redemptor by Catholics, but for most Protestants, there are many questions that can be raised surrounding the conception and birth of her Son. The biggest question may be this: why Mary? Surely, it can't just be assumed that she was the right person at the right time. She was a very young girl, not even married; why would she become the Mother of God? The Immaculate Conception itself, in the age of science, causes us to rely on faith, believing in things unseen.

This mystical, ethereal quality transmits itself into some of the musical settings for Advent and Christmas. Like Lenten music, Advent music is anticipatory, reflective, and penitential; it shows the human nature to sin, and the need for a Redeemer. On this first Sunday of Advent, you will hear some of the musical settings of the "Ave Maria" (the "Prayer to the Mother of God") because it embodies a significant part of music literature; we will also be focusing on the "Magnificat" (the "Song of Mary"). Because the events surrounding Mary are somewhat obscure, you will find that many of the settings of the "Ave Maria" are treated in the same way, mystically. It is my prayer that this Sunday, we strive to have a heart like Mary's, pure, full of grace, and that

we, too, like Mary, will be able to say, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:46-47)

On the Second Sunday of Advent, we will be looking at the life and teaching of John the Baptist. John foretold the birth of Christ by proclaiming the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway unto our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God." (Luke 3:4-6) Isaiah and John's message is quite clear: Christ was coming for the salvation of ALL, to break down the barriers of ethnicity, race, and other dividers that separate us from the love of Christ. You will be hearing settings of the German chorale *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* that date back to the time of J. S. Bach and Martin Luther; "Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home. Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth." Again, it is with a penitential heart that we examine our own lives to make room for the coming of the Christ Child. Margaret Jordan and Lib Wellons will be playing a piano duet entitled "Christmas Fantasy" that will help us on our spiritual journey to the manger.

The Third Sunday of Advent will be our Service of Lessons and Carols. The tradition of the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" was established in England on Christmas Eve, 1918, in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge University, and has been a tradition that has continued to this day. The service was first broadcast on radio in 1928, and these broadcasts have continued internationally for over 70 years. This tradition has been modified and duplicated in cathedrals and churches across America. There are two different Services of Lessons and Carols included in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*: one for the season of Advent, and one for the season of Christmas. I have decided to combine the two, which will take us from the foretelling of the coming of Christ by the prophets, to the birth of Christ in the manger. Musical selections will be provided by The Chancel Choir, the FUMC Handbell Choir, and the FUMC Children's Choir, interspersed with congregational carols and scriptural readings by members of the congregation. This will be an excellent opportunity to invite a friend, a neighbor, a relative, or a co-worker to come to church with you, to be a part of the telling of the story of Christmas and to experience the ministry of the Music Department at FUMC.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD (CONT.)

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we will be focusing on the pronouncement to the shepherds, and the words of the prophet Zechariah: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them...to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:68-79) We also remember the words that were spoken by the angels to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." (Luke 2:14) Living in a world filled with evil and sin, it should be our prayer that peace would prevail in our hearts, minds, and lives; and that, through our peace, we might begin to transmit that peace, which only Christ brings, to a world living in darkness and sin.

The 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service will begin at 4:30 with a 30-minute organ Prelude to help prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ and Communion with the newborn babe. The musical selections will be

a culmination of all of the many emotions that we will have experienced this Advent season: mystery, joy, preparation, and celebration. It is my prayer that this evening will be a very holy celebration of the birth of Christ, and that, because of the preparations we have made in our own hearts and lives, we truly will be ready to receive the Christ Child.

So, I ask again, is FUMC ready to receive the Christ Child? Have we made the preparations necessary to receive Him? Just as Jesus could not rise on Easter Sunday without the cross, so we, too, cannot experience the birth of Christ until we take that journey to Bethlehem. On behalf of the Music Department at FUMC, we encourage you to "Prepare the Way of the Lord" and have a very blessed and holy Advent and Christmas season. It is our hope that we, together, can make that trip to Bethlehem a truly meaningful journey.

Soli deo Gloria ("To God Alone be Glory")

Josh Dumbleton

NEWS AND ADDITIONS

WELCOME to our NEW MEMBER!

Please make her feel welcome!

Sallie E. Goldfinch

1216 Snowhill Drive
Conway, SC 29526

Jill transfers her membership from Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Conway, SC, in Conway, SC

New Mailing Address:

Jim and Dot Bruorton

215 Cape Neddick Lane
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-286-9600

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sheriff Phillip Thompson,

recognized as "Champion for Children"
at the 2006 awards ceremony at Horry-Georgetown
Tech on October 27.

Greg Martin

was re-elected Mayor of Conway.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWS

December will be a busy month in the CDC as the children prepare for Christmas. Be sure to stop by the Horry County Museum, December 4-21, and see the gingerbread house the four-year-old class made for the Community Christmas Exhibit.

ADVENT ADVENTURE

Saturday, December 2

9 - 11 a.m. in the Family Life Center

Bring out the entire family to prepare for the season of Advent!! Families will be making an "Advent Log" and an Advent calendar. There will also be a special Christmas Surprise Workshop for the children to make a special gift to put under the family Christmas tree for their parents.

YOUTH SKI TRIP

The youth ski trip scheduled for Dec 29-Jan 1 has been canceled due to a lack of registrations

UMW NEWS

The United Methodist Men will host the United Methodist Women for a Christmas Gathering and meal at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, December 4, in the Fellowship Hall. Spouses are invited. The meal is a Harper / Watts creation.

Please mark on your calendar the United Methodist Women's General Meeting and Annual Christmas Party. It will be on December 12, at 12:00 noon, in the Family Life Center. It is very important that we have a good attendance at this meeting. There will be a money tree for missions.

December Circle Meetings reported to the church office:

Burroughs/Collins	No information available for December		
Hawes/Watts	December 5, 2006	10:00 a.m.	Family Life Center Sr. Room
Henry/Rogers	December 11, 2006	6:00 p.m.	Family Life Center Main Room
Lannis Jordan	No information available for December		
Spivey/Ward	December 5, 2006	11:30 a.m.	Bistro (Please bring unwrapped toy for box at the hospital.)
Stilley/Walsh	December 7, 2006	5:30 p.m.	Family Life Center Main Room

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Harvest Tables

The Trustees have replaced 24 folding tables in the Fellowship Hall with new lighter tables at a cost of \$45.00 each. Twelve tables were in need of replacement, and twelve will be kept on hand for outdoor use.

If you wish to make a donation toward this purchase, please mention "Harvest Table" on your offering envelope and designate your intended offering.

God's Great Bounty

If you have been wondering if there are still FUMC cookbooks available, the answer is "YES." They are \$15 each, can be picked up in the church office during office hours. They make great hostess gifts for your travels!

Website Questions

Did you know that our Sunday Bulletin is posted each week on our website?

Did you know that our monthly Messenger is posted there as well?

Did you know that the "Daily Study and Devotion Guide" is posted weekly?

Did you know that the calendar is posted on our website?

The answer to all of these questions is YES! Take a moment and check the church-related information at fumcconway.org. Be sure to log on to be registered as a member and gain access to even more helpful information. The future will bring increased information through our website.

We've Moved!

Did you hear that the staff at First United Methodist Church has moved? Technically, the staff has been in the process of relocating within the main building for the last couple of months..

The office of Josh Dumbleton, our Director of Music, is located upstairs in Room 218. His office décor was created by our very own Frances Driggers and her much trusted special assistant, Jack. Thank you both for developing this warm and inviting workspace! The artistic ability and construction skills of this couple are amazing!

The office of Jenny Wilburn, our Director of Children and Youth Ministries, is located across the hall from Josh in Room 221. With a fun approach to office design, Jenny desired to create a child-youth-parent/adult space where everyone would feel comfortable and welcome. She shared her vision with Jenni McAda. The collaboration began, and the end product is a bright, casual space where creativity abounds. Jenni M. worked many hours searching near (in the building) and far (outside sources) to pull this project together. Jack and Frances Driggers also offered their expertise by hanging pictures and embellishing (raising) a very low coffee table. Thanks, Jenni, Jack and Frances for a job well done!

The main office is still a work in progress. Cheryl has moved downstairs and has made several changes in her work area. Other changes are on the horizon as the vision for an exciting and inviting church office develops.

Take time to thank your fellow church members for the giving of their time and creativity in making the staff offices a place that not only allows personal growth and creativity but also reflects the personality of each person.