

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church

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# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Conway

Issue 4

"Keeping Everyone Informed"

January, 2008



**First United Methodist Church of Conway  
Welcomes You!**

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## THE MESSENGER

A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Conway



### WHAT THE NEW YEAR OFFERS

- A fresh start in the totality of our life.
- A chance to do good things for others, especially older members of our family.
- An opportunity to plan better for the future, including the use of our time, talent, and possessions.
- A challenge to read helpful books about living according to God's plan.
- A chance to better control stress and anxiety in body and spirit.

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## SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

- Good habits are as addictive as bad habits, and a lot more rewarding.  
—Harvey Mackay
- Whatever we are, we are not what we ought to be.  
—St. Augustine
- The new year is our opportunity to refresh our relationship with the One who says, “See, I am making all things new” (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).
- Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian.  
—G.K. Chesterton
- I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.  
—Martin Luther
- A Christian cannot help being free, because in the pursuit and attainment of his object, no one can either hinder or retard him.  
—Leo Tolstoy

*Answer to “Test Your Knowledge About the Bible:” B (See Isaiah 64:8, NRSV.)*

## WORDS, WORDS, WORDS.

by Dr. Scott Johnson

**Alpha** is the first letter of the Greek alphabet. In Revelation, God (1:8, 21:6) and Jesus (22:13) are called the “Alpha and the Omega,” meaning the first and last. **Omega** is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. (see Isaiah 44:6).

**Christmastide** begins the evening of Christmas Eve (December 24) and ends on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6). The twelve days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day, instead of ending on it.

**Consecration** is the solemn dedication to a special purpose or service. Church buildings, chapels and altars are consecrated to the purpose of religious worship, and vessels are consecrated for the purpose of containing the body and blood of Christ. A person may be consecrated for a specific role within a religious hierarchy, or a person may consecrate his or her life in an act of devotion. In particular, the ordination of a bishop is often called a consecration.

**Epiphany** (from the Greek for “appearance” or “manifestation”) is a Christian feast celebrating the “shining forth” or revelation of God to mankind in human form in the person of Jesus. The feast is also called **Twelfth Day**, as it is the twelfth day after Christmas, or **Three Kings Day** when the three magi arrived in Bethlehem. It is also the traditional Christian observance commemorating Jesus’ baptism (Mark 1:9) and His changing water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11).

**Exegesis** (from the Greek ‘to lead out’) involves an extensive and critical interpretation of a holy scripture such as the Bible. Exegesis also is used to describe the explanation of philosophical and legal texts. One may encounter the terms exegesis and **hermeneutics** used interchangeably; however, there remains a distinction. An exegesis is the interpretation and understanding of a text on the basis of the text itself. A hermeneutic is the practical application of interpretations, often revolving around the contemporary relevance of the text in question. A sermon applying scripture to a life situation would be a hermeneutic.

**Ordinary Time** is a season of the Christian liturgical calendar. The name corresponds to the Latin term *Tempus per annum* (literally “time through the year”). Ordinary Time comprises the two periods — one following Epiphany, the other following Pentecost— which do not fall under the “strong seasons” of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter. The term “*Ordinary*” does not mean common or plain, but is derived from the term *ordinal* or “numbered.” The weeks in ordinary time are numbered, although several Sundays are named for the feast they commemorate, such as Trinity Sunday (first Sunday after Pentecost) and the Feast of Christ the King (last Sunday in Ordinary Time, i.e the Sunday before Advent begins). The liturgical color for Ordinary Time is Green.

### THE EPIPHANY STORY

Epiphany is celebrated annually in Christian churches on January 6. The word “epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Its focus is on the legendary arrival of the Magi (three wise men) after the birth of Christ. They followed the light of a star to find the Light of the World.

The wise men were not Jews but Gentiles, which shows that Christ came not only for Jews but for all other people on Earth. Thus, all of us who are Gentile Christians are in the lineage of the Magi, the first Gentiles who came to Christ.



### WHAT AWAITS US IN 2008?

As we enter the new year, are you wondering what it holds for you, your family and friends, and for our Church? Only God knows. Yet if we truly believe that God holds our future in His hands, then there is no need for concern about the coming year. We can rejoice and celebrate the new year as we make plans for the upcoming activities and events in our lives and in the life of FUMC.

As the past year closes, and the new year begins, let us give thanks to God for our blessings in 2007 and ask for His guidance in 2008. We have already been blessed with the selection of a new Music Director starting on January 1, 2008. I am pleased to announce the selection of Billy Fallaw, MM, who comes to us from Greenville, SC. He and his family will be a wonderful addition to our Church family. Please welcome them and help them as they settle in.

And what does God have in mind for you in 2008? Keep in touch with Him daily, seek His guidance, and ask what you can do to serve Him. You may be surprised to find out what potential lies within you. How will you know what that is? Well, maybe it's time for you to join the Choir, or perhaps you could visit with the United Methodist Women or United Methodist Men and see if you would like to join in their efforts and fellowship. FUMC has several Sunday School classes that would welcome your attendance. God wants you to find your niche and serve joyfully. So step outside your comfort zone, and let 2008 be the year you find a new way to glorify God by giving of yourself and your time and your talents. He will help you every step of the way. And, remember, God loves you and so do I.

Mac

### A NEW YEAR WISH

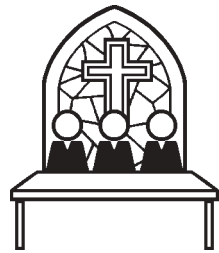
May the New Year bring us:

- Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
- Enough trials to keep us strong;
- Enough hope to keep us lively;
- Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
- Enough failure to keep us humble;
- Enough success to keep us eager;
- Enough friends to give us comfort;
- Enough wealth to meet our needs;
- Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
- Enough faith to overcome despair;
- And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.



## STAFF PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Reported by Phil Thompson, SPPRC Chairperson



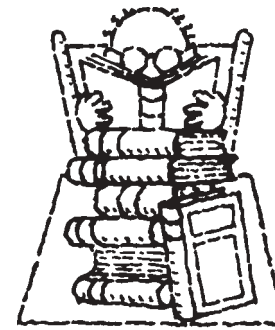
The SPPRC met for 3 hours on December 5, 2007, to conduct the Annual Evaluation of Pastoral Leadership. The annual evaluation is required by The Book of Discipline for the purpose of aiding in an ongoing effective ministry and for identifying continuing educational needs and plans. The form used for the evaluation is designed as a means of encouraging ongoing dialogue between the committee and pastoral leadership regarding ways to assist and promote effective ministry in our Church. Items discussed included ministry goals, the pastor's role in fulfilling those goals, issues or concerns that need the pastor's attention, steps to take to address those issues or concerns, the pastor's use of his time, and continuing education.

The Music Search Committee, a sub-committee of SPPRC, received approximately 25 resumes in response to their advertisement for a full-time Director of Music. After a lengthy review of the resumes, the field of applicants was narrowed to 5 candidates. Reference checks and telephone interviews were conducted, narrowing the field down to 2. Both candidates were personally interviewed, after which time one candidate withdrew his application. The second candidate was interviewed a second time on December 7, 2007, and MSC recommended that candidate to the SPPRC.

The candidate, **Billy Fallaw**, has been hired as our new Director of Music. He begins this position on January 1, 2008. Many thanks go to the individual members of the Music Search Committee and its chairperson, **Wilmarie Boatwright**, for their hard work and perseverance.

I would like to personally thank each member of SPPRC who has served with me during my 2 years as chairman. FUMC is lucky to have members such as these who love this Church and make the hard decisions, not because it makes people happy, but because it's the right thing to do for the Church and its people. I would also like to thank **Mac, Cheryl, Jenny, Elaine, Norman and Mark** for the work they have done, and for picking up the slack when there was an area of need.

The pastor and staff have been attending staff development classes and have become a very close, strong group. With the hiring of a good Director of Music, I believe our pastor and staff will only become stronger. However, they can't do it without your support and nurturing. Take the time to stop by, visit with them, and tell them how much you appreciate them and what they are doing. Offer to help them with their work and ministries. We have a great pastor AND staff, and we need to do whatever it takes to help them become the best they can be.



## BOOK REVIEWS

### FROM THE BOOKSHELF OF ITHALIAH (HELEN) JOHNSON

*Kalas, J. Ellsworth. Parables from the Backside: Bible Stories With A Twist. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, c1992. ISBN 0-687-05697-7 (pap) \$11.20 at Amazon.com*

J. Ellsworth Kalas is a former associate director of Evangelism for the World Methodist Council. He has served 38 years as a preacher in the Ohio and Wisconsin conferences and presently serves as interim President of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He has penned over 30 other books and has written curriculum for The United Methodist Publishing House.

When you say the word "parable" you think of the stories Jesus told. We know them by heart and can "interpret" them easily. We use them to teach, and as examples, and as "told you so" in conversations. Probably at some point we have begun reciting and not really sharing or teaching. We can explain Jesus' stories about the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, or the Laborers in the Vineyard. But can you tell the story from the perspective of the wounded man, the father left behind, or the unhired worker?

Dr. Kalas retells twelve of Jesus' parables. He offers new meanings to old stories that are never really old. The author reminds us that there are other people involved in these stories and they each have their own story to tell.

We encourage everyone to submit reviews of books you have read so that others in the congregation might become interested and want to read them as well. Send your review(s) to Scott Johnson via the newsletter mailbox outside the CDC Office or by e-mailing it to either [newsletter@fumcconway.org](mailto:newsletter@fumcconway.org) or [johnsonmls@wmconnect.com](mailto:johnsonmls@wmconnect.com) and we will be happy to print it.

first two bishops. In 1802 Boehm joined the Methodist Episcopal Church while still a bishop of the United Brethren (see under Jacob Albright).

**Philip William Otterbein** (1726-1813) was a German-American clergyman and founder of the United Brethren in Christ. After pastoral work in Germany, he came to America in 1752 as a missionary of the German Reformed Church to the wayward “Dutch” in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In association with Martin Boehm, whom he met about 1768, he carried on successful evangelistic work, mainly in the German settlements of Pennsylvania and Maryland. His influence was widespread, especially after he became pastor of an independent congregation in Baltimore known as the Evangelical Reformed Church. While remaining a member of the German Reformed Church, Otterbein played a leading role with Martin Boehm and a small group of lay preachers in laying the foundations in 1789 of a denomination to be known as the United Brethren in Christ (see under Jacob Albright); he and Boehm were elected bishops in 1800.

**Albert Cook Outler** (1908–1989) was a 20th century American Methodist theologian and philosopher. Outler is generally considered to be one of the most important Wesley scholars in the history of the Church as well as the first real United Methodist theologian. He was also a key figure in the 20th century ecumenical movement. Outler was born and raised in Georgia and was an ordained Methodist Elder who served in several appointments. He received his Ph.D. degree from Yale University and taught at both Yale and Duke University before beginning a long tenure at Southern Methodist University in Texas. He was an official observer at the Second Vatican Council. Outler is widely credited with being the first to recognize John Wesley’s method for theologizing, via what Outler referred to as the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Church Tradition, Reason, and Personal Experience. This understanding of Wesleyan theology is prevalent throughout Methodism, particularly in The United Methodist Church. Using this model, Outler was a key figure in organizing the theological statement put forth by The United Methodist Church after its formation in 1968. Graduates of the Disciple I Bible Study ‘met’ him on three sessions of the videotapes for this Bible study.

### THE CALENDAR

An essential part of our lives is the calendar.  
It provides us with a perspective  
In our relationship to our past, present and future.  
It helps us to plan our share  
Of the accomplishment of God’s purpose.  
It is a way of recording significant occasions  
Such as birthdays and important family events.  
It enables us to have uniform observance  
Of cultural tradition and religious festivals.  
It is a daily companion, on the desk or on the wall,  
Giving us a pattern by which to weave  
The fabric of our personalities.

—Jeanne D. Birrell



### OUTREACH COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Submitted by Toby White, Outreach Chairperson

“Thank You” to all who provided filled and wrapped shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child project this year. There were 23 shoeboxes donated which will allow those children in some foreign country to receive a special gift this Christmas season.

“Thank You” to all of those who generously contributed to the Christmas project for the Waccamaw Youth Center. As this newsletter goes to press, we have already surpassed our goal of \$960 which will supply the 16 boys with new towels, wash cloths, sheets, pillow cases, and baseball caps and will allow us to provide for a special outing for the boys which will be determined in the next few days. A complete summary of the contributions to this project will be provided in next month’s **Messenger**.



Merry Christmas  
to the boys at  
Waccamaw Youth Center!



Sue Dusenbury delivering FUMC's gifts to the Waccamaw Youth Center.



## MISSISSIPPI WORK CAMP

During the week of November 11, Bo Ives and Helen and Toby White were part of a group of 20 volunteers from the Myrtle Beach area that went to Gulfport, Mississippi, for an adult work camp that was sponsored by UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission). There are currently five UMVIM Work Camps in different cities in Mississippi that operate year-round to rebuild homes that were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

One of the facts that we learned was that just in Mississippi there were over 200,000 homes destroyed or severely damaged by the hurricane, and as of today, only approximately 25% have been rebuilt. The five UM work camp sites in Mississippi are expected to continue operating for at least another 6 to 8 years, even if there is no new damage from future hurricanes in this area!



Helen White with Mrs. Smith and another volunteer worker.

All 20 of our group worked the entire week on the home of a 79-year-old woman, Vonnice Marie Smith. The roof on her house had been blown off by Katrina and the rain water totally destroyed everything inside her house. She has been living in a small FEMA trailer beside her house for the last two years.

Our work included carpentry items and installing insulation and dry-wall in the entire house as well as general clean-up. Some of our group were also able to assist with organizing the tool room at the work camp center.

In addition to the storm damage, Mrs. Smith has had a lot of hardships over the years. Her husband died at age 52, one of her sons (she had 7 children, 20 grandchildren, and 40 great-grandchildren) was severely injured while a paratrooper in the military. However, he was able to put a new metal roof on her house after Katrina, but died within the last year. At least two of her grandsons have already died, including one that died while we were in Mississippi.

In spite of these and other hardships, Mrs. Smith is a very devout Christian and appreciated our group being there to help rebuild her house. To see her faith and positive outlook on life was very uplifting to all of us and certainly made the trip worthwhile.

Getting up for breakfast at 6:30 a.m., devotions at 7:15 a.m., and off to work by 8 a.m. did not seem to be so bad after we had met Mrs. Smith and others that have suffered so much from Katrina yet still manage to have a positive outlook on life.



Mrs. Smith with our group of workers.

Bo, Helen, and I enjoyed the fellowship and work with the other volunteers from First UMC-Myrtle Beach, Poplar UMC-Conway, and St. Paul's Waccamaw UMC-Pawleys Island, in our group as well as with the others from Colorado and North Carolina that were working from the Gulfport work camp that week.

We all plan to go on another work camp in the future and hope that others from FUMC will find it possible to go also. It's a great experience and will change your outlook on life!

American Revolution, Wesley asked the Bishop of London to ordain some ministers for the New World, but he declined. In 1784 Wesley consecrated Coke as the Superintendent, a title soon replaced by that of Bishop in spite of Wesley's strong disapproval. After his consecration he set sail for New York. A conference of Methodist preachers was held at Baltimore at which Coke and Francis Asbury were elected bishops and the Church was constituted as an independent body under the name of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On 27 December 1784 Coke ordained deacons and presbyters and consecrated Asbury bishop: they are regarded as having been jointly the first Bishops and Superintendents of the Methodist Church in America. Coke returned to England in June 1785 and made eight further visits to America until he made his final visit in 1803. While in America he spoke out against slavery and wrote a letter on the subject to George Washington. Following Wesley's death in 1791 Coke became Secretary to the English Conference. In 1805, at the age of 58, Coke married Penelope Smith, a wealthy lady who happily spent her personal fortune furthering the missions. She traveled with him until her death. In 1811 he married for a second time and his wife died the following year. He hoped to open Methodist missions in the East Indies and, at his own expense, set sail for Ceylon. However, Coke died after four months at sea.

**Francis Asbury** (1745-1816) was one of the first two bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. In 1784 John Wesley named Asbury and Thomas Coke as co-superintendents of the work in America. For the next thirty-two years, Asbury led all the Methodists in America. Like Wesley, Asbury preached in all sorts of places: courthouses, public houses, tobacco houses, fields, public squares, wherever a crowd assembled to hear him. For the remainder of his life he rode an average of 6000 miles each year, preaching virtually every day and conducting meetings and conferences. Under his direction the Church grew from 1,200 to 214,000 members and to 700 ordained preachers. Asbury preached extensively in South Carolina and made many visits to Conway (then known as Kingston) between 1785 and 1815 (see sign outside the Hut on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue). The United Methodist publishing house is named *Cokesbury* in honor of Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury.

**Jacob Albright** (1759-1808) was an American Christian leader, founder of the Evangelical Association (later the *Evangelical Church*). A German Lutheran in his heritage, he was converted in about 1790 to Methodism. Preaching and forming classes among his converts in the German settlements, he was ordained a minister in 1803 by representatives from these classes and elected bishop at the first annual conference held by his followers in 1807. The movement did not take the name Evangelical Association until after Albright's death. Albright's Methodist followers formed their own German-speaking Church due in part to a lack of cooperation with the English-speaking majority of American Methodists. The Evangelical Church united in 1946 with the United Brethren in Christ to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church and that body in turn united with The Methodist Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church.

**Martin Boehm** (1729-1812) was an American clergyman and pastor. Boehm married Eve Steiner in 1753 and in 1756 he was chosen by lot to become the minister of the local Mennonite Church. Although raised a Mennonite, he lacked the assurance of the presence and power of Jesus Christ in his life and he prayed for a heart-warming experience, to deepen his personal faith. Then one day, after many months of prayer and meditation he had an epiphany. In 1761 Martin was advanced to the office of bishop in the Mennonite tradition. In 1800, after being expelled by the Mennonites for being too evangelical, Boehm along with Philip William Otterbein, formerly a pastor at First Reformed Church formed the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and they became the sect's

## WHO'S WHO IN OUR METHODIST HERITAGE

By Dr. Scott Johnson

There are many who have worked to create, mold and direct the United Methodist Church we know today. Below is a short biographical list of eight of the 'movers and shakers' of what has become the United Methodist Church.

**Charles Wesley** (1707-1788) was a leader of the Methodist movement, the younger brother of John Wesley. Charles Wesley is chiefly remembered for the popularity of the more than 5500 hymns he wrote. Although it has been said that they were written to "bar room song tunes," modern scholars generally agree that this is an exaggeration. They note that these were more likely tunes from popular songs of his day, which may or may not have been sung in bars. The point of Charles' efforts was to pen songs that people could easily sing, not to write a song to be sung with "100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall" or some other bar room favorite. Like his brother John, Charles Wesley was born in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, where their father was rector. In 1749 he married the much younger Sarah Gwynne. Charles and Sarah had 8 children. However, only three of them survived infancy: Charles Wesley, Jr. (1757-1834), Samuel Wesley (1766-1837), and their sister Sarah Wesley. Both Samuel and Charles, Jr., were organists and composers.

**John Wesley** (1703-1791) was an Anglican minister who was the early leader in the Methodist movement. Methodism had three origins: the first at Oxford University with the founding of the so-called "Holy Club;" the second while Wesley was a parish priest in Savannah, Georgia, and the third in London after Wesley's return to England. The Savannah experience is usually considered to have been both unproductive and spiritually challenging. In making the Atlantic passage, John did have a very significant encounter with a group of Armenians which had a significant impact on his spiritual and theological understanding of the faith. The movement took form from its third basis in the early 1740s with Wesley, along with others, itinerant field preaching and the subsequent founding of religious societies for the formation of believers. Methodists, under Wesley's direction, became leaders in many social justice issues of the day, including prison reform and abolitionism movements. His greatest theological achievement was his promotion of what he termed "Christian perfection," or holiness of heart and life. Wesley insisted that in this life, the Christian could come to a state where the love of God, or perfect love, reigned supreme in one's heart. He continually insisted on the general use of the means of grace (prayer, Scripture, meditation, Holy Communion, etc.) as the means by which God transformed the believer. Throughout his life, Wesley remained within the Church of England and insisted that his movement was well within the bounds of the Anglican Church. John Wesley was born in Epworth, the son of Samuel Wesley, a graduate of Oxford, and a minister of the Church of England. In 1689 Samuel married Susanna Annesley, twenty-fourth child of Dr. Samuel Annesley. Susanna herself became a mother of nineteen children. In 1696 Samuel Wesley was appointed rector of Epworth, where John, the fifteenth child, was born. Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture; and the Bible was the sole foundational source of theological or doctrinal development. The centrality of scripture was so important for Wesley that he called himself "a man of one book" — meaning the Bible — although he was a remarkably well-read man of his day. However, doctrine had to be in keeping with Christian orthodox tradition. So, tradition became, in his view, the second aspect of the so-called Wesley Quadrilateral (see entry under Outler).

**Thomas Coke** (1747-1814) was the first Methodist Bishop and is known as the Father of Methodist Missions. He met John Wesley in August 1776, becoming one of his closest assistants. Wesley called Coke "the flea" because he seemed always to be hopping around on his missions. Following the

## UPCOMING PROJECT DATES IN JANUARY

### Sunday, January 20

Begin collecting school supplies.

Items needed are:

- packs of #2 pencils
- 24-pack crayons
- wide-rule spiral notebooks
- composition notebooks
- wide-rule loose leaf notebook paper
- pocket-sized Kleenex tissues
- pencil-top erasers
- packs of 6-tab dividers
- glue sticks
- multi-colored dry-erase markers, OR
- cash donations marked "school supplies project."

### Monday, January 28

Deadline for receipt of school supplies.

CAP food items needed for January are: grape jelly, cereals, pasta & sauce, and jars of baby food.

### BIBLE FACTS

Did you know that:

- There are 66 books in the Bible?
- Micah and Nahum are the middle books of the Bible?
- 3 John is the book with the fewest words?
- Psalms has the most chapters?
- There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible?
- Psalm 117 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117 is also the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- There are 31,101 verses in the Bible?
- Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible? "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man" (NIV).
- John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible? It has two words: "Jesus wept."
- Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible? It has 78 words.



## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Blake Martin, Finance Chairman

As we near the end of 2007, it becomes appropriate to take a look back over our Church's financial situation for the year. We began 2007 with an annual budget of \$983,000.00 in anticipated revenue and \$988,000.00 in anticipated expenses, thereby leaving us with an approximate \$5,500.00 deficit. Those in charge of the programs and ministries of our Church have conscientiously exercised very good stewardship in managing the financial resources God has entrusted to us during this year. We have been able to accomplish all of the ministry objectives our Church established at the beginning of the year and have been able to meet all of our administrative expenses including not only those necessary for the day-to-day operation of the Church facilities but also our conference apportionments as requested by the United Methodist Conference. We anticipate **once again paying 100% of those apportionments** and doing so with no adverse effect on our programs and ministries. Though we anticipate ending the year with a deficit, prior experience tells us that our congregation takes to heart God's direction to be good stewards of that which He has entrusted to us. Experience further tells us that year-end giving generally allows us to greatly reduce or alleviate entirely any anticipated deficit we might face so that we may begin the new year "in the black".

The Finance Committee thanks you for your faithful obedience to God's call to be good stewards, not only of your time and talents, but also of the financial resources that He has so graciously entrusted to you. We encourage you to rely upon God and His promise in meeting your financial commitment to our Church, and we look forward to sharing with you in January 2008 our Church's financial situation as of the end of 2007 and our proposed budget for 2008 as we continue the ministries to which God has called us as the Body of Christ in this world.

## HAPPY RE-NEW YEAR!

When the year is new, we think about  
Watching it come in and the old one out.

The past is gone, we can't redo it  
But what if we could just renew it?

Recall what you did to help someone  
Then renew those efforts that were begun.  
Remember the people that came your way  
Then renew those friendships without delay.

Think of your family both far and near  
Then renew your ties throughout the year.  
Remember the sound of joy and laughter  
Then renew your hope for life ever after.

Remember the Bible and how you revere it  
Then read from it often and renew your spirit.  
Remember the touch of God's great love  
Then renew your faith in our Father above.

Brenda Wilkins



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Reported by Karlene Rudolph, Communications Chairperson

The Communications Team will be adding some new procedures in the new year to improve communications within the Church family and to the community. In 2008, we will definitely be working on a new Church directory — self-published. More details on that will follow after the first of the year. Happy Holidays!



FUMC will be hosting a Job Function Workshop on Sunday, January 13, 2008, to train new and returning Church leaders. No need to travel anywhere. Sessions will last about two hours or less. Those who should plan to attend are the Chairpersons of the Church Council, Worship, Evangelism, Outreach, Discipleship, Congregational Life, Stewardship, Communications, Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations, Trustees, Finance, and Lay Leadership teams. Members of these teams are also urged to attend to learn how to effectively and efficiently work within our various committees and task forces.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

Worship the Creator, not the creations.

## SPECIAL DATES

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2008
- Epiphany, January 6, 2008
- Baptism of the Lord, January 13, 2008
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2008
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21, 2008

**THE ALTAR GUILD**



Guild members for the month of January are:

- Edith Hucks**
- Janet Roche**
- Janet Von Deck**
- Karlene Rudolph**



*Altar Flowers*

**FLOWER CALENDAR**

The 2008 Flower Calendar is empty, and we need to have it full of names. Please take the time to add your name to the list on the bulletin board outside the Church office or call the office at 488-4251. This calendar allows you to reserve a date to donate the altar flowers in honor of, in memory of, or to the Glory of God.



**Following are letters we received to share with the congregation:**

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you very much for considering me for the Church scholarship. It was really a big help in paying for my school tuition this year at Clemson. I really appreciate all of the thoughts and prayers. Again, Thanks.

**Scott Skinner**



Dear Church Members,

Thank you so very much for the special visit by the carolers on Sunday afternoon, December 16. We were happy to see the bright faces and enjoyed the singing. We deeply appreciate the lovely fruit basket from the Church and appreciate your thinking of us. May each of you have a wonderful Christmas and a healthy, happy 2008. God Bless You All.

**Margaret and Tom Jordan**



Dear FUMC and Henry/Rogers Circle,

Thank you so very much for the kindness and concern shown to me and my brother and his wife, John and Brenda Wilkins, with the passing of my husband of 40 years, Gary Ray Watkins. Mac, thank you for your visits at the hospital and for calling following the funeral. Circle members, thank you for your kind contribution in Gary's memory to the Tunnelton Historical Society, the town in West Virginia where my husband was born and raised. To everyone who sent cards and condolences, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

**Marlene J. Watkins**

**United Methodist Men**



**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

On December 10, the United Methodist Men prepared and served a steak and shrimp dinner to the United Methodist Women in the Family Life Center. The meal was delicious, and the speaker, Mac's father, retired Reverend W. R. "Bill" Kinnett, gave an entertaining and enlightening presentation which he titled, "The Scrooge Factor." Assisted by Mac and Jimmy Jones, he led everyone in singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The event was largely attended, and a wonderful time was had by all. Following are some pictures taken during the event.



*Host, Jimmy Jones, Chairman of the UMM.*



*Guest speaker, Reverend W. R. "Bill" Kinnett.*



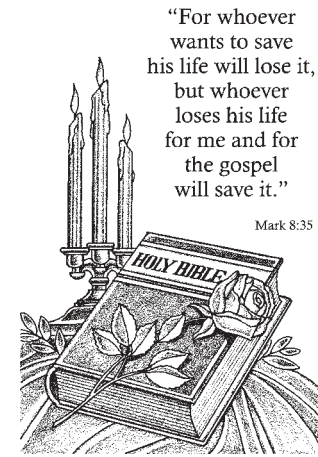
*The Kingston Trio, Maybe??*



*Mac and Linda seated with Mac's parents, Mary Alice and Bill Kinnett.*



Let's do this again next year!



### THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to:

- **Dr. Brad Lineback** and family on the death of his father, Webster Elmer Lineback on November 22, 2007.
- **Anne Roof** and family on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Ambrose "Lib" Jones on December 22, 2007.
- **Irene Calhoun** and family following the death of her sister, Laura Frances "Mac" Cooper Clardy on December 15, 2007.

### THE PRICE OF A PRETZEL

*A woman of modest means was selling pretzels while standing in front of a building in New York City. A businessman decided to help her out. He handed her the asking price of a dollar, smiled, and went on without his pretzel.*

*This became a morning ritual every day for three weeks. He gave her a dollar without taking a pretzel. Then one day, the woman stopped him and said, "Excuse me, Sir. May I have a word with you?"*

*"Oh," he replied, "I know what you're going to say. You're going to ask why I give you a dollar each day and never take a pretzel. Right?"*

*"Not exactly," she replied. "I just wanted to tell you that the price of my pretzels has gone up to a dollar-and-a-quarter."*

Well, prices do keep going up, don't they? Now that winter is here, and with energy prices rising, Churches will likely pay more for heating. Gasoline costs more, food costs more, utilities cost more. Missionaries are short of funds and supplies. Social services of the Church (feeding the hungry, finding shelter for the homeless, helping the poor pay medical bills, etc.) require more money and volunteers.

We would do well to remember our Lord's words, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36, NRSV).

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

Yes, if the price of pretzels has gone up, so have the needs of the Church. We should consider this as we prepare for the funding of the new year's missions and obligations.





FUMC has a new adult Sunday School class called “The Discovery Class.” It is designed for anyone 18 years of age or up, married or single, who is looking for a Bible-centered Sunday School curriculum. It meets upstairs on the second floor of the Education Building in the old Bible Fellowship Classroom each Sunday morning and begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. We are currently using the United Methodist curriculum as the source for our studies and discussions and welcome anyone who might be interested in joining our group. We encourage lively discussion and study during and outside of the Sunday School hour as we strive to move into a closer walk with Christ. We would love for you to become a part of this new and exciting class in our Church. If you have questions, please feel free to contact **Blake** or **Janet Martin** at 234-3235 or bamunc@sccoast.net.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OFFICERS

Re-elected to serve as officers of the “Women at the Well” Sunday School class for 2008 are:

- Libby Saville**, President
- Dawne Clounts**, Secretary
- Jo Ann Smith**, Treasurer

The **Messenger** editors ask that the leaders of each Sunday School class please forward the names of the officers of YOUR class to us even if the officers for 2008 are the same as 2007. We would like to print the names of these people in the next issue of the **Messenger** so others who might be interested in joining your class in the new year will know some folks that they may contact to find out more about your class and its studies and activities.



### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE

The prophet Isaiah sometimes felt that his fellow Jews had ceased praying and therefore God had hidden his face from them (see Isaiah 64:7, NRSV). Yet Isaiah knew that God was their Father and that the people were the work of God’s hand. Which of the following statements did Isaiah make to God?

- A. “We are the paint, and you are an artist who paints pictures of us.”
- B. “We are the clay, and you are our potter.”
- C. “We are the putty in your hands, and you sculpt us.”

Answer can be found on the last page of the **Messenger**.



January 1  
Hannah Boyle  
Carolyn Cox  
George Kyzer  
Lisa Manship  
Cindy Thibodeau

January 2  
Aaron Sweeney

January 3  
Kenny Beckham  
Kayla Langlitz  
Sharon McMeekin  
Karon Palmer

January 4  
Christi Dusenbury  
Martin Strobel

January 5  
Marty Slapnik

January 6  
Rebecca Harper  
Mary Ann Land

January 7  
Jean Steen  
Betty Smith  
Dell Tolson

January 8  
Michael Godwin  
Debbie Stanley

January 9  
Frank Beeson  
Genair Hutchinson  
Libby McCutcheon  
Michael Timbes

January 10  
Stephen Drew  
Julie Dusenbury  
Tessa Edmondson  
Jennifer Stevens

January 11  
Frank Watts  
Louis Welch

January 12  
James Burroughs  
Myra Jones

January 13  
Nancy Stiltner  
Angela Valley

January 14  
Christian Barrett  
Ray Binis  
Megan Hendrix

January 15  
Bill Barnhill  
Wendy Dannelly  
Craig Hyman

January 17  
Mark Huggins  
Preston Mayers

January 18  
Ruth Coy  
Zoey Elvis

January 20  
Joyce Burroughs  
Edward Lewis

January 21  
Cheryl Chastain  
James Floyd  
Kathy Hucks  
Donna Mishoe  
Jacob Prince  
Jo Ann Smith

January 23  
Elaine Farr  
Christopher Lilly

January 24  
Emma Alsager  
Sonya Martin  
Sherri Woodward

January 25  
Anna Levy  
Ike Locklair  
Stanley Nixon  
Cole Waggoner

January 26  
Justin Rice  
Lisa Thorndyke

January 27  
Virginia Hardwick  
Ryan Perry

January 28  
Morgan Martin  
Bobbie Tyler

January 30  
Theresa Donaldson  
Laurel Finlayson  
Josh Holt  
Dave McAda  
John Thibodeau

January 31  
Tony Atkins  
Tara Boyle  
Toby White

## SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE TEAM MEMBER MEETING

Sunday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center

If you plan to attend a Salkehatchie camp this summer or you are just interested in finding out more about this service camp, please plan to be at this information meeting. Contact **Blake Martin** or **Jenny Wilburn** for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS to **James Hammond** on his graduation from Clemson University on December 20.

### INTRODUCING MR. BILLY FALLAW AND FAMILY

**Billy Fallaw**, Master of Music, is our new Music Director as of January 1, 2008. He comes to us from Buncombe Street UMC in Greenville, SC, where he was Director of Music since May 2004. He is a native of Union, South Carolina, and has degrees from Winthrop University and Converse College. He was previously Choirmaster and Organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he planned and led an expansion of the Brunzema Tracker Organ to 3 manuals and an enclosed division.

He has sung with the Carnegie Hall Festival Chorus and has worked with Robert Shaw, James Conlon, Sir Neville Mariner, Andre Previn, and Helmuth Rilling. In addition, Fallaw has led choirs in performances at historic Bruton Parish in Williamsburg, Virginia, and Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He has conducted members of the Charlotte, North Carolina, Symphony in performances of Mozart's **Requiem**, Pinkham's **Christmas Cantata**, Vivaldi's **Gloria**, and members of the Greenville, South Carolina, Symphony in performances of Rutter's **Requiem** and **Gloria**.

He has served on the South Carolina Conference Commission on Worship, the Metropolitan Music Ministry Board of Directors in Charlotte, North Carolina, and as South Carolina Conference Organist.

At Buncombe Street UMC, Billy was responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive music and arts program that incorporated many talented people from within the Church. He planned 2 concert series and presided over 2 Austin Pipe Organs. Billy worked closely with the Music and Arts Board to provide many opportunities for spiritual growth through visual and performing arts within this community of faith.

You are encouraged to come meet Billy and join the Chancel Choir each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room and to join other musical programs that he helps develop here at FUMC.

Billy is married to **Jo Anna** (an ordained UMC minister, Methodist campus minister at Furman University, a singer, a flautist, a guitarist, and native of Atmore, Alabama). They have three children: **Will**, age 15, (a Sophomore honor student, a singer, a trombonist, and basketball player), **Ann Morgan**, age 12, (a seventh grader, a violinist, a flautist, and basketball player), and **Ross**, age 4, (a singer, a percussionist, and keyboardist).

Please introduce yourselves to Billy and his family, and make them welcome here in Conway and at FUMC.

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH



The performance of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, December 9. The Children and Youth brought the best-selling book by Barbara Robinson to life much to the enjoyment of the near-capacity audience. Under the direction of Joan Goff, the five-act play combined exceptional acting on the part of all the cast and glorious singing of Christmas carols. In case you missed this performance that brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation, below are some scenes of the action.



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

First United Methodist Church held its first Children's Christmas Eve service this year on Christmas Eve morning in the Hut. The service was planned especially for the children, and it included the traditional elements of our evening Christmas Eve service in a child-friendly environment. The children sang Christmas carols, listened to **Mr. Mac** tell the Christmas story, served communion to each other and their families. Children as young as 2 years old experienced the tradition of Christmas Eve candle lighting. The service was such a joy to attend and we look forward to the many ways that First United Methodist Church will continue to minister to children and their families.



Mr. Mac tells the children the story of Christmas.



Communion.



Jenny Wilburn and son, Daniel.



Lighting of the candles.

## BIBLE SKILLS, THRILLS, AND DRILLS PARENT MEETING

Sunday, January 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the Children's Gathering Room (upstairs).  
Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

This children's introduction to the Bible is for children in 1st – 6th grades. We will meet each Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. and spend time getting to know the Bible better through Bible stories, games, scripture memorization, crafts, Books of the Bible memorization, and a whole lot more!! Children who plan to participate should bring their parents with them to the first meeting on Sunday, January 6.

## UMYF

The Youth Ministry will be back in full swing on Sunday nights at 5:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center starting Sunday, January 6. This program is for 7th – 12th grade students and includes dinner, games, a lesson, fun, and fellowship. Be sure to join us!!

## CHILDREN'S COUNCIL 2008 PLANNING/CALENDARING MEETING

Monday, January 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the Children's Gathering Room. Children's Council members should plan to attend this very important planning meeting.



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEENAGER SEMINAR

We are co-hosting a seminar in January to help parents of teens and pre-teens to better understand why teenagers act the way they do; and how you as a parent can respond in positive ways to normal adolescent behavior. This seminar will also include practical and easy-to-remember principles to help you build positive relationships with your kids and to encourage them toward responsibility and self-reliance.

### Understanding Your Teenager Seminar

Saturday, January 12, 2008

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Christ Community Church

\$5 per person/\$8 per couple

Contact: **Jenny Wilburn** (488-4251)

## YOUTH SKI TRIP

The youth that pre-registered for the ski trip will meet in the Family Life Center parking lot at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, January 18. Remember to bring money for four (4) fast food meals on the road. We should return to the Family Life Center parking lot on Monday, January 21, around 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact **Jenny Wilburn** at 488-4251.