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The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Conway

Issue 5

"Keeping Everyone Informed"

February, 2008



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

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THE MESSENGER
 A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Conway



Lent begins

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6. During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally.

During Lent, attending the various Church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith.

Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.



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FAST AND FEAST

Arthur Lichtenberg, when presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, quoted this Lenten advice:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

—The SourceBook of Wit and Wisdom

Answer to “Test Your Knowledge About the Bible:” A — Peter, James, and John



FROM THE BOOKSHELF OF DR. SCOTT JOHNSON

Ortberg, John. *When The Game Is Over, It All Goes Back In The Box*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, c2007. ISBN: 0-310-25450-0. (240 pgs.) Amazon: \$14.99. CD version available for check-out from the Horry County Public Library.

Ortberg speaks in the “street” language of the 21st century rather than delivering a lofty sermon. The game is life, and the box is a coffin. You can’t live life without focusing some on death at any age, for it is inevitable. This book reminds us of what we already know but continually forget—there are things that matter, and things that don’t, and we easily become confused about which should be our priority. While the basis of the book can easily be summed up in the old adage of life is like a game and it’s not whether you win or lose, but how you play, Ortberg gives fresh meaning to it based on scripture and Jesus’ teaching. What he has to say is equally applicable on whatever board of life you play on or any street in Horry County or anywhere else. This book on the business of life belongs on everyone’s reading list: for the 20-something setting priorities for life, the 30’s and 40’s engaged in the business of living, and the 50-something and above who need to be reminded what to focus on in those years that remain. The book is emotionally evocative without being overly sentimental. It is on the current bestseller list and would make a great Valentine’s Day gift.

Ortberg is pastor of Menlo Park (Calif) Presbyterian Church and the author of: [God Is Closer Than You Think, Everybody’s Normal Till You Get To Know Them](#), and [If You Want To Walk On Water, You’ve Got To Get Out Of The Boat](#).

We encourage everyone to submit reviews of books you have read so that others in the congregation might know about books that you have found interesting and applicable to life’s vicissitudes and one’s spiritual growth. Please send your review to Scott Johnson (2830 Graham Road, Conway 29526 or e-mail to johnsonmls@wmconnect.com or newsletter@fumcconway.org, or put them in the mailbox outside the CDC Director’s Office. We can help edit them if you desire, so don’t worry about what you write, we’ll help.

SPECIAL DATES

- Transfiguration of the Lord, February 3, 2008
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 3, 2008
- Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008
- First Sunday in Lent, February 10, 2008
- Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2008
- Presidents’ Day, February 18, 2008



AS WE ENTER THE LENTEN SEASON

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 6. At that time, some of the members of our congregation and I will have just returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. What a wonderful way to prepare for the season of Lent! We will have visited the area around the Sea of Galilee and observed the places where Jesus walked, taught, healed, and performed miracles — Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, the traditional location for the calling of the disciples and the feeding of the 5000, and the River Jordan. We will have seen such Biblical sites as Nazareth, Megiddo, and Caesarea, touring also the Old City of Jerusalem, the Garden Tomb, the Mount of Olives, and the Garden of Gethsemane. We hope to bring back wonderful stories to share with you about the sites and experiences of our Holy Land tour.

Please partake of as many of the activities of this Lenten season as possible. Whether in the Holy Land, or here at home, this is truly a special season as we reflect on Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for us and his victory over death. So think about the happenings of the next 40 days, as it was then and as it is now, and remember, God loves you and so do I.

Mac



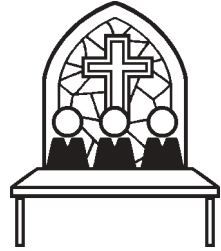
WHY ASH WEDNESDAY?

Traditionally, the Christian Church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures, and brings life out of death!



STAFF PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Serving on the SPPRC for 2008 are:

- Morgan Martin**, Chairperson
- Charles Dusenbury**
- Delan Stevens**
- Britt Stiltner**
- Lynn Hammond**
- Amanda Roof**
- Wilmarie Boatwright**
- Jimmy Brown**
- William Goldfinch**
- John Long**
- Nancy Purvis**

The advisory response form has been prepared and sent in. Mac requested to stay here at FUMC and the board was happy to submit that request with their concurrence.



At a recent meeting, **Spivey Hood** was selected to serve as Chairperson of the Trustees for the 2008 term. Also serving on the Board of Trustees are:

- Jack Driggers**
- June Brown**
- Keith Skipper**
- Debbie Brooks**
- Mike Saville**
- Lella Faye Sanders**
- Karen Foxworth**
- Lavon Singleton**
- Mac Kinnett**

Cheryl Chastain met with the Board to discuss the need for replacement of the office copier. The contract has expired on the Ricoh, and it is no longer capable of meeting our needs. It has become unreliable and requires too many service calls for repair. Cheryl was asked to explore other options and bring her recommendations to the next Board meeting on February 5.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

By Dr. Scott Johnson

Lent is the introspective forty-day period (or season) lasting from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert where he endured the temptations of Satan (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4: 1-13). The six **Sundays in Lent are not counted** in the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter” celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death. Lent initially simply meant *spring* and derives from the Germanic root for *spring* (specifically Old English *lencten*; also the Anglo-Saxon name for March—*lenct*—as the main part of Lent, before Easter, usually occurred in March).

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. At worship services on this day, ashes are usually imposed on the foreheads of the faithful. The minister marks the forehead of each participant with black ashes, usually in the shape of a cross, which the worshiper traditionally retains until washing it off after sundown. The symbolism echoes the ancient Near Eastern tradition of throwing ashes over one’s head to signify repentance before God. The ashes used in the service of worship are sacramentals, not a sacrament. The ashes may be prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebrations. They are blessed according to various rites proper to each liturgical tradition. In some churches they are mixed with *light amounts* of water or olive oil which serve as a fixative. In most liturgies for Ash Wednesday, the Penitential psalms are read; Psalm 51 is especially associated with this day. The service also often includes a corporate confession rite.

Shrove Tuesday is the term used in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia to refer to the day after Shrove Monday and before Ash Wednesday. In these countries, particularly Ireland, and amongst Protestant denominations in Canada including Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, this day is also known as **Pancake Day** or **Pancake Tuesday**, because it is customary to eat pancakes on this day. In other parts of the world—for example, in historically Catholic and French-speaking parts of the United States and elsewhere—this day is called Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras (French for “Fat Tuesday”) is the day before Ash Wednesday, and is also called “Shrove Tuesday” or “Pancake Day.” Mardi Gras arrived in North America as a sedate French Catholic tradition with Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville and Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, in the late 17th century, when King Louis XIV sent the pair to defend France’s claim on the territory of *Louisianne* which included what are now the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Revelry and feasting (i.e. ‘fat’) before the strict introspection of Lent is a hallmark of this day. In South America the day is known as Carnival (especially in Rio de Janeiro) and can start many days before the beginning of Lent.

FOUR BEAUTY TIPS

Before she became an actress, Audrey Hepburn was a successful fashion model. After her acting career, she spent much of her time working for humanitarian causes around the world. These four “beauty tips” written by this former model are a snapshot of how she lived her life. They were read at her funeral.

1. For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
2. For lovely eyes, look for the good in people.
3. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
4. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.



Following are letters we received to share with the congregation:

Dear Christmas Carolers,

I wish I could thank each one of you that came to my house, but I cannot — so please know how much I appreciate your singing, my card, my candy cane, and especially my first fruit basket. You made my Christmas a little brighter, and I love each of you for doing this for me. My love to each of you and have a Merry Christmas! Lots of Love,

Mary T. Foxworth



Dear FUMC Carolers,

We didn't expect the goodies along with the beautiful Christmas carols. Thank you for the beautiful card, candy cane, fruit basket and the young people who presented it so well. God Bless all of you and have a Merry Christmas.

Margaret and Philip Thompson



I wish to thank the youth of First United Methodist Church who, on December 9, gathered on my lawn and sang Christmas carols. The joy of the season filled the air. Smiles were on all faces as one handed me a Christmas card from the Church and a beautiful basket of fruit.

My family, Sims and Pratt Gasque, join me in appreciation to the youth director, Jenny Wilburn, and all the adults who joined us on the lawn and sang Christmas carols. Thank you all so much.

Frankie Hart



Dear Children of First United Methodist Church,

The fruit basket you brought to me for Christmas was so very good, and I thank you so much. I enjoyed the card and also the singing. I hope all of you had a very good Christmas and that the new year will be good to you all. Please thank your leaders for me. May God bless each of you. With love,

Anna Lou Johnson



To the Youth and their Adult Leaders at FUMC,

Rejoice in the songs of the season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The carols you sang for me were indeed an abundance of blessings for us at this joyous season. And the fruit basket is lovely. Thank you so much.

The C.G. Hutchinsons



OUTREACH COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Submitted by **Toby White**, Outreach Chairperson

The response for the *Christmas Project* in December was tremendous! The total contributed was \$1,903. Remember the goal was a minimum of \$960! "Thank You" to all that contributed so generously to this project. As was reported last month, we were able to purchase new towels, wash cloths, sheets, pillow cases, and baseball caps for each of the 16 boys now living at the Waccamaw Youth Center. We were also able to provide each boy with \$15 worth of movie theater gift certificates and a \$15 gift certificate to be spent at Wal-Mart. We gave a check for \$475 to the WYC management to be used at their discretion. With the remaining money, plus a portion of our Outreach budget, we were able to provide 13 hams and 15 turkeys to Help 4 Kids, which were distributed to needy families in our area.

Again this year, we will be encouraging everyone to give a Special Offering during Lent to help those less fortunate than we are. This is the largest offering coordinated by the Outreach Committee each year. All of us have been blessed in many ways during the last year and this offering is one small way that we can help to alleviate the pain and suffering of those not only in our community but also in other parts of the world. One new agency has been added this year — Help 4 Kids. Over this last year, the Outreach Committee has been more involved with Help 4 Kids and know that this is another local agency that is doing a very good job of assisting the needy in Horry County. Therefore, this year's Lenten Offering will benefit the following charitable agencies or programs:

CAP — Churches Assisting People is an interdenominational agency in Conway that provides food and help with utilities, rent, and other needs.

HUNGRIEF — An international United Methodist project, Hungrief helps to alleviate world hunger and poverty. Funds are divided 80% to the World Hunger programs and 20% to the South Carolina United Methodist Conference Hunger Fund to be used in our state.

CDC (Child Development Center) — Scholarships assist those children who may need financial assistance to be able to attend the day care program here at FUMC, and some of the funds may be used for Staff Training.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND — A local project here at FUMC, the Good Samaritan provides financial assistance to those in need that may not be able to get help from other agencies.

SALKEHATCHIE WORK PROJECT — Our youth have been involved in Salkehatchie projects by repairing homes of the elderly and others in need throughout South Carolina.

DANIELS' INDONESIA MISSION PROJECT — **Rev. Joe and Rae Daniels** of our Church started and are continuing to coordinate this ongoing work to assist new churches on the island of Nias in Indonesia. It may be especially helpful to note that just before leaving for Nias on January 24, the Daniels were notified that anticipated funding from UMCOR will not be forthcoming. They left with heavy hearts knowing that they will have to tell those people that those funds will not be made available to help built a clinic on the Island.

CASA (Citizens Against Spouse Abuse) — A local agency, CASA provides assistance for spouses that have been abused physically and emotionally by their partner.

FOSTERING HOPE — A local agency, Fostering Hope helps children living in foster homes.

WACCAMAW YOUTH CENTER — A local agency that is dedicated to improving the lives of the at-risk youth in our community.

HELP 4 KIDS — A local agency that provides food, clothes, school supplies, and other items to needy children in parts of Horry County as well as many adults.

Last year, we received over \$6,500 for the Lenten Offering. Our needs are even greater this year than last, so if you can help us meet or exceed this amount, we will certainly appreciate your support, as will those in receipt of our contributions. Please mark your check or envelope “LENTEN OFFERING” so that it will be directed correctly. Your offering can be brought to Church on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, or any other convenient time.

Next **BLOOD DRIVE** — Sunday, April 13 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Food items needed this month for CAP are: cereals, vegetables, and grape jelly.



The Finance Team, chaired by **Blake Martin** is responsible for establishing and administering the budget of FUMC. Also serving on this team for 2008 are:

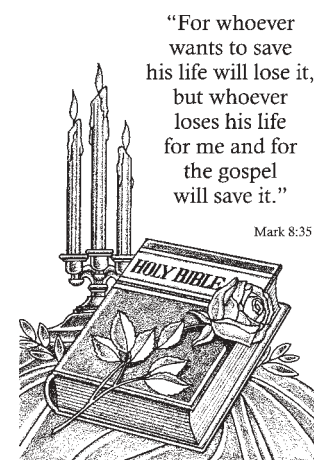
Franklin Sanders
Jan Bitting
Keith Gawith
Delan Stevens
Jan Kyzer
Spivey Hood
Morgan Martin
Ike Locklair
George Martin
E'Lonna Butler
Jeff Mishoe
Patrick Carter
George Goldfinch

We had projected a deficit of \$5,500 by the close of 2007. We finished the year with an actual deficit of \$7,900. However, we were able to meet our apportionments and continue with everything that had been planned for the year. We may mail a letter to those we missed hearing from when we sent out pledge cards to see if we may find others who intend to pledge so we can more closely plan the 2008 budget. Hopefully, we will be able to complete the 2008 budget and present it at the next council meeting.

Council approved a request to seek initial funding from the Trustees to cover the cost of preliminary architectural work to move ahead with the Church renovation project.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Do your commitments and financial transactions match your spoken convictions?



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to:

• **Leila Hucks** and family on the death of her sister, Laura Stanley, on Christmas Eve.

• **Myron Dunn** and family on the death of his nephew, Henry E. Buckheister, III, in Mt. Pleasant, SC, on January 9.

• **Laura Barnett** and family on the death of her father, Dr. Richard A. Steadman, in Aiken, SC, on January 14.

• **Sandra James** and family on the death of her father, James Donald “Tootsie” Thomas, on January 22.

• **Jan Kyzer** and family following the death of her sister-in-law, Rosa Lee Metts.



Given in honor of **Janet & Blake Martin** by **Carolyn C. Causey**

Given in honor of **Patsy Buck** by **Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hucks**

Given in memory of “Mac” Clarity by **Dr. & Mrs. Britt Stiltner, Mr. & Mrs. Myron Dunn**

Given in memory of Friends passed away by **Lois Vaught**

Given in memory of *Elizabeth (Lib) Ambrose Jones* by **Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hucks; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Payne; Carolyn C. Causey; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dusenbury;**

Mr. & Mrs. David Dunn; Dena McGinn; Dow Stanley; Mr. & Mrs. Allen Ray; Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Howell, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Billy Jones; Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Brown; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Winfield; Mr. & Mrs. Kirby Freeman; Mrs. Harold McCown; Mr. & Mrs. Ray Booth; Rev. and Mrs. Regi Thackston; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barker; Mr. & Mrs. Terry Adkins; William A. Collins, Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Myron Dunn; Priscilla D. Coursey; Mr. & Mrs. Ray Booth; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barker; Mr. & Mrs. Kit Atkins; Glenda Sweet; Mr. & Mrs. William Bull; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Huss; David, Beverly, and Paul Blevens; Mr. & Mrs. Rupert Stalvey

Given in memory of *Frank Austin Thompson, Jr.* by **Mr. & Mrs. Joey Jones**

Given in memory of *Laura Stanley* by **Mr. & Mrs. Myron Dunn, Family Fellowship Sunday School Class**



February 8

Wilma and Brad Govan

February 10

Kelli and Tyler Thomas

February 14

Gladys and Paul Alexander
Sherry and Chris Finlayson

February 19

Edith and Jim Hucks

February 21

Jan and George Kyzer
Maryanne and George Martin

February 22

Jeannie and Zack Dusenbury

February 24

Pam and Charlie Frye
Pat and Phil Thompson

February 28

Norma and Ron Kirby

ANYONE GRADUATING SOON??



If you have a Spring or Summer graduate (graduate school, college, or high school) in your family, please contact **Cheryl Chastain** at 488-4251 with the graduate's name, school from which graduating, and degree (if applicable), and the date of the expected graduation.

CONWAY CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

(A Ministry to the Worship and Glory of God)

February 11, 2008, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WESTMINSTER ARP CHURCH

1619 PARKVIEW RD – CONWAY

**LUNCH (\$4/PP) – RSVP BY 02/06/08
248-4140**

**SPEAKER: EMMA LOU JOHNSON
"Friends in China"**

**DONATION: Baby bibs, pacifiers & clips,
small toys (1-3 yrs), clothes (premie - 4t)**



The Communications Team is preparing to self-publish a new *Pictorial Membership Directory*. We hope to take pictures each Sunday during the month of March and to have the Directories ready for distribution sometime this spring. We will send out more details via the newsletter and flyers as we complete our planning.

We are also working on improving the *internal* and *external* communications system for FUMC. We appreciate any suggestions from the congregation in this regard.

We are planning to make basic computer training available to members. Jean Timbes has agreed to teach a class to beginners who would like to know how to create a Microsoft Word document, use the internet, and learn how to send and receive email. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the form inserted in this issue of the **Messenger** and return it to the Church office or Jean or Karlene.

We continue to be available to the Staff and the other Core Ministry Teams to facilitate promoting various events or special activities as they come up. Please let us know if you would like us to help you advertise an activity or event.

Committee Members are:

- Karlene Rudolph**, Chairperson
- Jean Timbes**
- Teal Britton**
- Alicia Harper**
- Anne Roof**

United Methodist Men



Saturday morning, January 5, found an intergenerational group of 34 men in attendance at a sumptuous country breakfast. A great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. During the meeting that followed, the following were elected to leadership positions for 2008:

President's Council

- Jimmy Jones**, Council Chair
- Mac Kinnett**
- Charles Myers**
- Bud Hale**

Treasurer — **Andy Hendrick**

Communications Director — **Dick Deminski**

REMINDER — The UMM is not just for the post 60-year-old group. Men of all ages are encouraged to come to the next meeting on Saturday morning, February 2 (it's Ground Hog day, but that won't be the main course) at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a great time of food, fellowship, and more. Come on all you guys — be there!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW hosted the District-wide mini-school of missions here at FUMC on January 26. This event began with registration at 9:15 a.m. followed by a short worship service before participants were dispersed to attend the workshops which were:

- A. Music and Mission
- B. Globalization: It's impact on our lives.

The gathering was well attended, with lunch included in the \$10 registration fee. Many thanks to the women of the Spivey/Ward and Burroughs/Collins Circles for the decorations and for serving as hostesses for this event. They did an excellent job.

A General Meeting of the UMW is scheduled for February 9 in the Family Life Center with Brenda Wilkins in charge of the program. She has invited a guest speaker from CASA (Citizens Against Spouse Abuse) to inform us about her organization, its purpose, and services offered. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon with lunch, followed by a presentation about CASA by Julia Costillo. All UMW members are encouraged to attend.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for February 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER REPORT

by
Christine Schwenke



CDC News

This year has started off with a bang, and we have already been very busy. We will continue to be busy throughout the year as the CDC will have both our annual ABC inspection and DSS license renewal occurring this year.

We are starting the new year with 74 children, with three more that will join us this month. We will also have a new teacher join us soon in our one-year-old classroom bringing our staff up to 17. We will have two teachers finishing up their associates degree and two more enrolled in the Early Childhood program at Tech.

We have made some classroom changes already this year and will begin repainting furniture, cubbies, and classrooms this month. In addition to classroom changes, the staff will be participating in many training opportunities which started in January with the South Carolina Early Childhood Association Conference.

Items on our wish list are:

- Mobiles for the infant room
- Any toys, books, puzzles, games that your children/grandchildren have outgrown.



Please Note: If your birthday is not listed or if your name is incorrectly spelled, please let us know so that we can correct our records.

February 1
Bill Hamilton

February 2
Catherine Causey
Tanner Goshert
Emily McClellan
Todd McClellan
Cheri Sweeney
Susan Todd
Helen Wakefield

February 4
Deborah Anderson
Wilma Govan

February 5
Bray Mayers

February 6
Betty Dunham
Diane Goshert
Joe James
Ann Myers
Jack Wachtman

February 7
Brenda Cutts
McKinley Sanders

February 8
Tara Devers
Ken Senn
Howard Smith

February 9
Amanda Hausefield
A.J. Lebiedz

February 10
June Brown
Troy Devers
Misty Elkins
Demaris Rabon
Jacob Westbury

February 11
Jeannie Dusenbury
Charlie Frye
William T. Goldfinch
Shirley Harris
Whitney Martin
Michelle Rabon
Billie Thompson

February 12
Robert Crenshaw
Tommy Harper
Edith Hucks
Arthur Messinger
Mary Sweitzer

February 13
Charles Myers
Emily Steiner

February 14
Brad Lineback
Tyler Stokes

February 15
Bud Hale
Shirley Hardwick
Garvin Huggins
Bobbie Stille
Margaret Thompson

February 16
Sally Goldfinch
Chris Johnson
Beverly Ponce

February 17
Beverly Kirtz
Christine Morris
Sally Ann Thompson

February 18
Marley Dickerson
Kim Pederson

February 19
Linda Locklair
Rick Rickenbaker

February 20
Andrew Beesom
Hunter Jenkins

February 21
Scott Sansbury
Lois Sayre

February 22
Orrie Kyzer
Barbara Jo Lackey
Howard Smith
Penelope Timbes

February 23
Jack McCutcheon

February 24
Jeb Brigman
Brian Lookadoo
Betty Woodward

February 26
Charles Dusenbury

February 27
Lloyd Burroughs
Donald Garvine
Holly Grant
Sheila Kyzer

February 28
Kimberly Godwin
Bridgette Harper
Payton Jones
Libby Saville
Melissa Simmons
Margaret Trull

February 29
Larry Dickerson



WHY LINCOLN STOOD

When it came time for the pastoral prayer at the Church Abraham Lincoln attended, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Washington, D.C., the president stood up. Because most of the worshipers remained seated, someone asked the president why he stood. The president responded, "When my generals come into the Oval Office, they stand for their commander-in-chief. Isn't it proper then, that I stand for my commander-in-chief?"

THE PRAYER AT VALLEY FORGE



When Washington was leading his troops in the struggle for independence, he was greatly discouraged during the harsh winter the army was gathered at Valley Forge. A resident of Valley Forge, Isaac Potts, was walking through the woods when he heard a man praying aloud. He peeked through some trees to see that it was General Washington himself!

Isaac Potts later told his pastor, the Rev. Nathaniel Snowden, that the prayer he heard was "a plaintive sound" coming from a man in need of divine help. Mr. Potts went on to say that he saw Washington on his knees, his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He heard Washington beseeching God for aid and direction. "Such a prayer," Isaac said, "I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying."



Worship Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Worship Committee for 2008 are:

- George and Amy Jenkins, Co-Chairs**
- Lee James**
- Hunter Jenkins**
- Ann Myers**
- Nancy Purvis**
- Bud Hale**
- Billy Fallaw**
- Charles Hucks**
- Charlotte Ives**
- Tammi Steiner**
- Delan Stevens**
- Jenny Wilburn**
- Mac Kinnett**

There was great response to the Christmas worship activities, especially the Children's pageant and the Children's Christmas Eve service. We expect that there will be another play planned for next year and that the Christmas Eve service for the children will become a tradition here at FUMC. The Covenant Service was also well received.

While Mac is gone (January 27 and February 3), **JoAnna Fallaw** will conduct our worship services.

Our thanks to **Sadie Rae Hutchinson** for submitting the following Valentine message to share with our **Messenger** readers:

A VALENTINE FROM GOD
 John 3:16
 For God
 so lo V ed the world
 that He g A ve
 His on L y begotten Son
 that whoso E ver believeth
 i N Him
 should no T
 per I sh but have
 everlasti N g
 lif E



BUILDING STUDY COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that we are moving forward with the renovation of FUMC. **Gary Brown** has been selected as the Architect for the project. The Committee toured three Churches that Gary renovated and everyone was quite impressed with the work he had done. Gary is currently preparing “as built” drawings as a start to our project. The drawings will be done in the next 10 days to 2 weeks with an initial report to be forthcoming.

The Building Study Committee is made up of the following members:

- George Jenkins**, Chairperson
- Spivey Hood**
- Mary Ruth Baxter**
- Mary Ellen Scarborough**
- June Brown**
- Joe James**
- Carl Purvis**
- Debbie Jenkins**
- Duc Watts**
- George Martin**
- Jim Ward**
- Greg Martin**
- Mac Kinnett**

LET ME BE YOUR VALENTINE

On a scrap of paper a red crayon heart was drawn
It was lying on my pillow when I awoke at dawn.
A small hand had neatly printed, “Be My Valentine;
Mommy if you love me, would you please be mine?”

“I know that Daddy loves you and would give you pretty flowers
I know how much you miss him, and cry for him for hours.
But Daddy went to heaven and can't be your Valentine
I think that he would want you to have this gift of mine.”

“So would you let me help you when you're missing him the most
You're not alone, God left me here, and His own Holy Ghost.
Let's help each other be as strong as Daddy had to be
When God asked him to live with Him instead of you and me.”

“So let me be your Valentine, today and all year through
We'll start our own tradition with a crayon heart or two.
And maybe we'll find lots of ways to have some peace within
Remember that God loves us and we'll both see Dad again.”

Brenda Wilkins



NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (NCD)

A new committee has been added at FUMC at the direction of the Bishop. We have not yet received clear guidelines about the purpose of this committee and how it will function. **George Martin** has been appointed to Chair the committee, and we will have more information to offer in future issues of the **Messenger**.

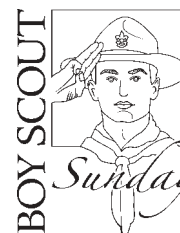


CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

William and Sally Goldfinch will be assisting **Jan and Kent Bitting** in this work area. They are planning a Festival of Love celebration, but a firm date has not been set. Watch your Church bulletin for more information.

Restarting the Sunday evening meal is being considered. If you have any thoughts about it, please contact William, Sally, Jan, or Kent. Your ideas are most welcome.

HOW THE BOY SCOUTS CAME TO AMERICA



February 3 is Boy Scout Sunday. It seems appropriate at this time for us to recognize their significance in America and their contributions to our society. The following bit of history helps us understand how the Boy Scouts came to America.

In 1909, Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce was visiting London. Late one afternoon the city was enshrouded in heavy fog. Boyce lost his bearings in the murk and was approached by a boy of about 12 carrying a lantern. The boy offered to guide Boyce to the address he was seeking. When

Boyce produced a shilling, the boy replied, “No, sir, I am a scout. Scouts do not accept tips for good turns.”

That comment piqued Boyce's curiosity. He wanted to learn more about scouting in Britain, so the boy took him to the British Scout headquarters. He was so enthralled with what he heard there, that he decided to get scouting started in America.

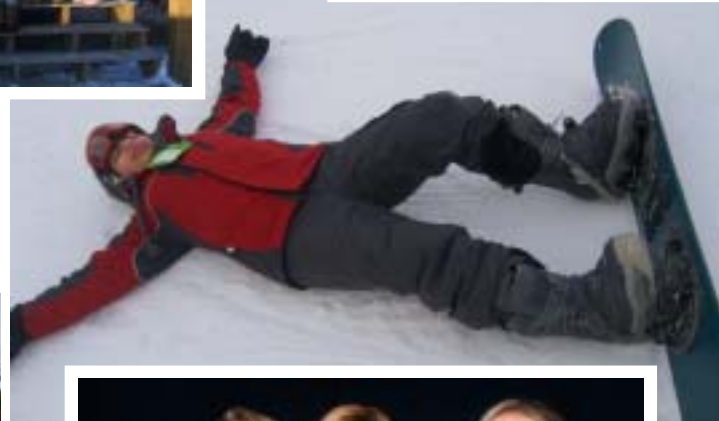
Churches with a Scout troop, whether for boys or girls, are blessed by the troop's presence. They perform valuable service projects, learn and practice good values, health and survival techniques, discipline, and helpfulness toward others.

Let us offer scouts our gratitude when we see them helping the handicapped, assisting the elderly, directing the flow of Church traffic, repairing or painting Church property, and assisting us in many and various ways. We all benefit by their presence.



Eighteen youths and four adults ventured north in -2 degree temperatures in late January to ski in West Virginia at the Winterplace Ski Resort. The weekend was full of snow, tumbles, laughs, and surprises. In addition to skiing, playing in the snow, and tubing, the youth also focused on the scripture Ephesians 5:15 and spent some time talking about making wise choices in their lives.

Below are some pictures of the action:



MISSION NEWS



By the time you read this, we will be in Indonesia for our nineteenth "tour of duty." Although we might like to sit happily forever on a beautiful beach in the South Pacific as that pictured at left; alas, we have work to do in Nias, pictured right.



We had a beautiful facade to our Church at Hilinamazihono (left), but one day the earth shook, and it came tumbling down. That was five years ago. We hope, with help from supporters, to finish this Church this year (right). It won't be the Church it would have been, but it will be a



Church where children and adults will lift their voices in worship and thanks to God. And children will rejoice in getting used clothing, toothbrushes, and balloons.



Our pastor, shown in the picture at left, died of cancer in October, 2007. He was a humble man and a great pastor. He left a wife and two children, a son (8 years old) and a daughter (3 months old). In addition to trying to help his wife, Ibu Bukit, get her life together, we must find pastors for the ten Churches now left without a pastor. Two students, whom we sent to Seminary, graduated in December and have been assigned to Nias on condition that we help the Churches pay their salaries and find them a place to live. We will "bargain" with the Bishop and the District Superintendent.

Much of life depends on our taking advantage of opportunities that come our way. Thank all of you for working with us in the service of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Blessings and love,

Joe and Rae Daniels





LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

Billy Fallaw, our new Music Director, will be playing organ meditations every Wednesday during Lent from **noon to 12:30 p.m.** in our Sanctuary. The programs will begin on **Wednesday, February 6**, and continue for seven weeks, through **Wednesday, March 19**. The meditations are free and open to the public. So, please come, bring your friends, sit, meditate, and enjoy the music.

2008 Lenten Luncheon Schedule

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Trinity United Methodist Church

Speaker: The Reverend Don Steins, Pastor, Kingston Presbyterian

Thursday, February 21, 2008

Kingston Presbyterian

Speaker: The Reverend Mac Kinnett, Pastor, FUMC

Thursday, February 28, 2008

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Speaker: The Reverend Bob Guffy, Pastor, First Baptist

Thursday, March 6, 2008

First United Methodist Church, (Fellowship Hall)

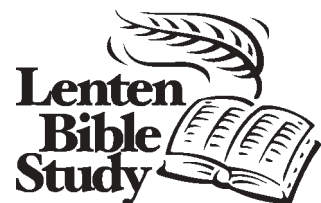
Speaker: Father Tripp Jeffords, Pastor, St. Paul's Episcopal

Thursday, March 13, 2008

First Baptist Church

Speaker: The Reverend Carl Hunsucker, Pastor, Trinity UMC

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



This year's Lenten Bible Study, led by **Reverend Mac Kinnett**, will be on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center beginning February 10. We will be using the book, "Parables and Passion," by John Indermark. The cost of the book is \$11.00. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to participate in these services.



ALTAR GUILD

Amy Jenkins, Chairperson, reports that Altar Guild workers for the month of February are as follows:

**Bobbie Stilley
Churchill Jenkins
Margaret Thompson
Woodie Woodward**

Altar flowers are needed for February 17 and 24. Please check the Flower Calendar on the bulletin board outside the Church Office to sign up for one of those dates or any of the blank dates for the rest of 2008.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OFFICERS

Officers of the "Victory" Sunday School class for 2008 are:

Toby White — President
**Val Dunham, Keith Gawith, Jay Wilburn, Bo Ives,
and George Kyzer** — Teachers
Bo Ives — Secretary/Treasurer
**Jan Kyzer, Frances Driggers, Freda Jones,
and Helen White** — Social Committee
Charlotte Ives — Birthday and Get Well Cards

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE

In Mark 9 Jesus took three disciples to a high mountain. While there, the men witnessed amazing things. Jesus' clothes became dazzling white, and then Elijah and Moses appeared to them. The disciples then heard a voice from a cloud that said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" (Mark 9:7, nrsv). Suddenly, Elijah and Moses vanished and the disciples were alone with Jesus.

Who were the three disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration?

- A. Peter, James, and John
- B. Peter, Andrew, and John
- C. Peter, James, and Andrew
- D. James, Matthew, and John

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