



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church**

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Billy Fallaw, Music Director  
Jenny Wilburn, Director of Children and Youth Ministries  
Cheryl Chastain, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor  
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# The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Conway

Issue 6

"Keeping Everyone Informed"

March, 2008



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

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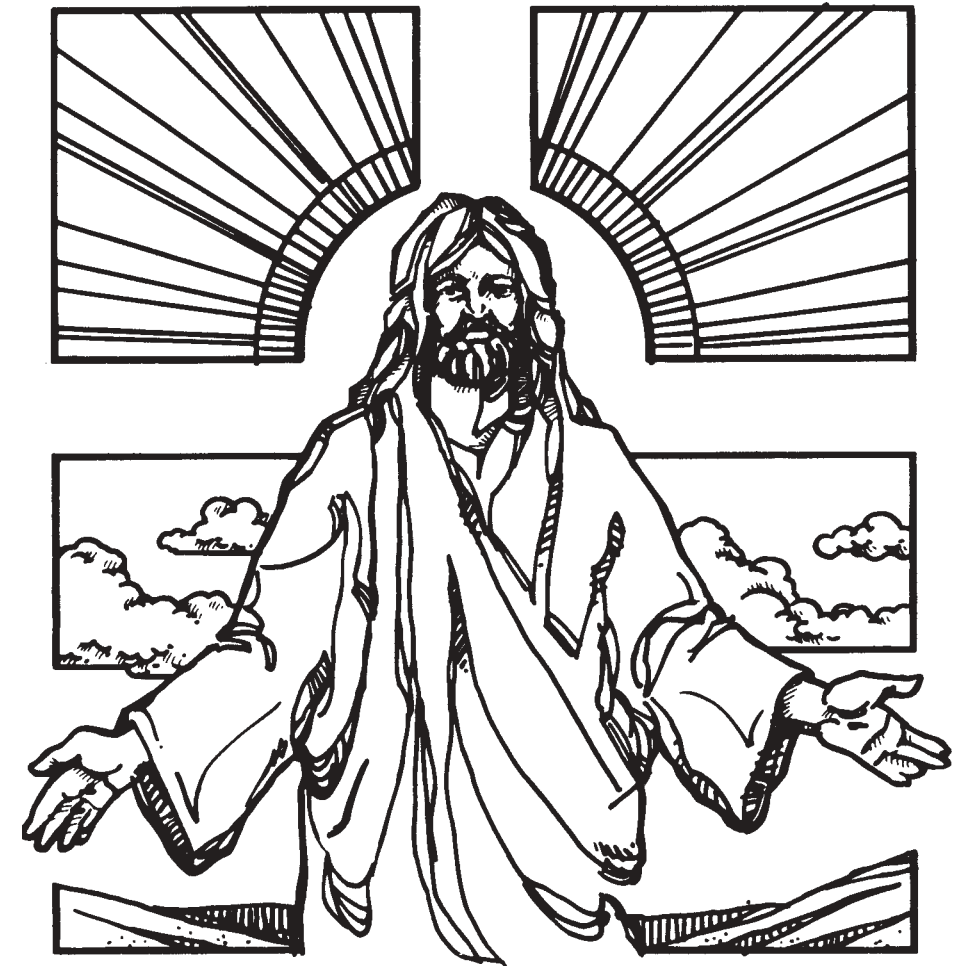
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## THE MESSENGER

A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Conway



***"Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
He is not here but has risen."***

*Luke 24:5*

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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**Holy Saturday** is the day before Easter. It is sometimes called **Easter Eve** or **Low Saturday**. Liturgically speaking, Holy Saturday lasts until dusk, after which the Easter Vigil is celebrated, marking the official start of the Easter season. On this day, the soul of Christ is said to have been both condemned to hell and risen to heaven in preparation for His earthly raising from the dead the next morning. In many Roman Catholic churches, mass is neither said nor communion celebrated.

**Easter, Pascha, or Resurrection Day** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which occurred on the third day after His crucifixion some time in the period AD 27 to 33. Easter also refers to the season of the church year called Eastertide or the Easter Season lasting for fifty days until Pentecost. Easter is termed a movable Christian holy day because it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar. Easter falls at some point between late March and late April each year following the cycle of the moon. Since the Middle Ages Easter is observed as the Sunday after the first full moon on or after the day of the vernal equinox (first day of Spring). Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover not only for much of its symbolism but also for its position in the calendar. The Last Supper shared by Jesus and His disciples before His crucifixion is generally thought of as a Passover meal (Seder), based on the chronology in the Gospels (Matthew 26, Mark 14: 12-25, Luke 22: 1-23, John 13: 1-12)

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## FROM THE BOOKSHELF OF HELEN JOHNSON



**Lucado, Max. *Traveling Light: Releasing The Burdens You Were Never Intended To Bear*. Dallas, TX: Word, c2001. ISBN: 0-8499-1297-0. 164p. Amazon: \$10.00 Available FREE! at the new Horry County Public Library in Conway (242 Lucado).**

While this is an 'older' Lucado book (he seems to have a new title every 60-90 days), it still provides a timeless insight into the divine love of God. God's desire is for us to call on Him in our many times of need: hopelessness, guilt, arrogance, grief, fear, shame, disappointment, loneliness, confusion, envy, doubt, wants, worry, homesickness, et al. In this book Lucado explicates the beloved 23rd Psalm in 18 chapters of 8-12 pages each. Using his knack for humor he makes this book easy to read and understand. Among the many points Lucado makes are: 1. what we have in Jesus is greater than anything we have in life; 2. the fine art of resting in the Lord; 3. let God relieve you of anxiety. He will give you answers and provision in His time and way; 4. Jesus provides vision and direction; 5. we have nothing and are nothing apart from Christ; 7. God will use loneliness to draw us to Him; and 7. Before you go to others with your disappointments and pain, bring them first to God.

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Answer to "Test Your Knowledge About the Bible:" A — Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57-60)

## WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

By Dr. Scott Johnson

**Passion Week** is the week from Palm Sunday to Easter. **The Passion** itself is the theological term used for the suffering – physical, spiritual, and mental – of Jesus in the week and hours prior to and including His trial and execution by crucifixion. The origin of the word lies in the Christian Latin *passus*, (stemming from *pati, patior*- to suffer).

**Palm Sunday** is a moveable feast which falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem in the days before His Passion, an event reported by all four Gospels (Mark 11:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19). It was a common custom in many lands in the ancient Near East to cover, in some way, the path of someone thought worthy of the highest honors. The Bible reports that Joshua had been honored this way. The palm branch was a symbol of triumph and of victory in Jewish tradition and is treated in other parts of the Bible as such (e.g. Leviticus 23:40 and Revelation 7:9). According to the Gospels, before entering Jerusalem, Jesus was staying at Bethany and Bethpage, and the Gospel of John adds that he had dinner with Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha. While there, Jesus is described by the Synoptic Gospels as sending two unnamed disciples to the village over against them in order to retrieve a colt that had been tied up but never been ridden, and to say, if questioned, that the colt was needed by the Lord but would be returned in a short period of time. Both John and the Synoptic Gospels state that Jesus then rode the colt (or in Matthew the colt and its mother) into Jerusalem, with the Synoptics adding that the disciples had first put their cloaks on it, so as to make it more comfortable. The Gospels go on to describe how Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and how the people there lay down their cloaks in front of him, and also lay down small branches of palm trees. The people are also described as singing part of Psalm 118 - *...Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our Father, David. ...* (Psalms 118:25-26).. Exactly where this triumphal entry into Jerusalem took place is unspecified.

**Holy Wednesday**, also known as **Spy Wednesday**, is the day that Judas Iscariot conspired with the Sanhedrin to betray Jesus for thirty silver coins (Matthew 26:3-6, Mark 14:1-2, Luke 22:1-6, John 13:2-3).

**Maundy Thursday**, also called **Holy Thursday**, is the feast or holy day that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles. It is preceded by Spy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday. On this day four events are commemorated: the washing of the Disciples' feet by Jesus, the Last Supper, the agony of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas Iscariot. The word *Maundy* is derived through Middle English, and Old French *mandé*, from the Latin *mandatum*, the first word of the phrase "Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos" ("A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you"), the statement by Jesus in the Gospel of John (13:34) by which Jesus explained to the Apostles the significance of his action of washing their feet.

**Tenebrae** (Latin for *shadows*) is a religious service characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles and removal or covering of the cross and other paraments from the chancel, most times it is performed after the conclusion of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Lighting is gradually reduced throughout the service, initially being fully lit, there being usually 15 candles extinguished one by one after each lesson is read, including psalms, readings, prayers, hymns and choral works. Texts used within the service include the Book of Lamentations or readings from Scripture. The last candle is hidden beneath the altar, ending the service in total darkness. In some places the use of a *strepitus* (Latin for "great noise") is included as part of the service; this may consist of a book being shut (many times the Bible) but often is produced by the banging of hymnals against pews or stomping on the floor, symbolizing the earthquake that followed Christ's death. This custom seems to have originated as a simple signal to depart in silence.

**Good Friday**, also called **Holy Friday** or **Great Friday**, is the Friday before Easter. It commemorates the birthday of (based upon Jewish tradition) and death of Jesus at Calvary (Matthew 27:27-61, Mark 15: 16-47, Luke 23: 26-56, John 19: 17-42).



### THE CROSS CHANGED EVERYTHING

Sometimes when I think about Easter, I think about how the cross changed everything. From the day that Jesus climbed Calvary with the cross on his back, until he uttered his last words as he died on the cross, life on earth changed. With his last breath, Jesus said, "It is done." And so it was, the sacrifice was made, and our debt was paid. And since Christ's resurrection, everything is different — death is different, sin is different, faith and hope and love are different.



On that first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. Because Jesus had said, "It is done," they didn't know there was more to come — **a resurrected Lord.**

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more to come — **a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.**

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more to come — **the resurrection of the body to eternal life.**

As great as Easter is, it's only a foretaste of what lies ahead. As we celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, we need to remember that because He died for us, the best is yet to come!

Be assured, God loves you — and so do I!

Mac

### AN EASTER PRAYER

It comforts us greatly to know that because Christ was raised from the dead, we who are "in Christ" have the assurance of eternal life.

With the living Christ as our Savior and the undergirding Holy Spirit as our daily Companion, we give thanks for Your grace that never fails us.

All praise and glory to You, loving Creator, now and forever! Amen.



**OUTREACH COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

Report by **Toby White**, Outreach Chairperson

Members of the Outreach Committee for 2008 are: **Toby White**, Chairperson; **Sue Dusenbury**; **Glenda Harper**; **Ashley Hood**; **Garvin Huggins**; **Janet Roche**; **Britt Stiltner**; and **Helen White**.

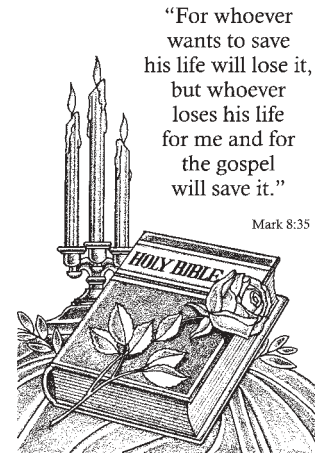
**Lenten Offering** — As Easter is fast approaching, we hope that each of you have been prayerfully considering your special Lenten Offering for this year. Your donation will provide assistance here at our Church (CDC Scholarships, Good Samaritan Fund, and Salkahatchie Work Project), and in our community (Help-4-Kids just added this year, Churches Assisting People, Citizens Against Spouse Abuse, Fostering Hope, and Waccamaw Youth Center). It will also help regionally and internationally (HUNGRIEF and the Daniels’ Indonesia Project). If we each do our part, together we can help hundreds of those that need different types of assistance today. Please mark your check or envelope “LENTEN OFFERING” and bring it to Church on Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, or any other convenient time.

**CAP (Churches Assisting People) Yearly Report** — As all of you have seen from the reports in newspapers and on TV, the problems with the nation’s economy and loss of jobs have resulted in a growing number of people in need of assistance. Horry County has been affected significantly, and it has resulted in CAP providing more support in 2007 than in any other previous year. **There were 6,918 families (equivalent to 18,694 family members) that applied for assistance during the year compared to 5,889 families in 2006.** Emergency food (3-day supply) was provided to 5,963 families to provide nearly 144,009 meals; an increase of more than 28% over last year. Over \$76,000 was distributed for assistance in paying utility bills, rent, lodging, and other miscellaneous expenses (a decrease of over \$10,000 in assistance from last year because many of the Church members in Conway were affected by the economic downturn as well). For the fifth straight year, our Church, FUMC-Conway was the largest monetary contributor of the 30-plus churches that contribute to CAP, with nearly \$16,000 being given (our Church’s contributions were actually an increase from last year). A very special “**THANK YOU**” to all of the groups and individuals that contributed to CAP in 2007. CAP’s success could not have been attained without your help. Based on the early results in 2008, it appears that the local needs are continuing to grow!

**Next blood drive** — Sunday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Food items needed this month for CAP include:** cereal, peanut butter, and jelly.

**WORDS OF WISDOM**  
The key to heaven was hung on the cross.



**THE CIRCLE OF LIFE**

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to:

- The **Jesse Grier (Sonny) Johnson, Jr.**, family following his death.
- **Mary Lee Taylor** on the death of her son, Frank Taylor.
- The family of **William McTyeire “Mac” Goldfinch** following his death.
- **Lois King** and family following the death of her brother, James Perry.



Given in memory of **Elizabeth (Lib) Ambrose Jones** by **Mrs. Sharon Thompson, Mrs. Francis Hart, Mr. & Mrs. John B. McCutcheon, Mr. & Mrs. W.D. Whitaker, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Long, Conway National Bank, Emma Thompson Sunday School Class, Nita Brown, Eugenia Allen, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Wayne Hudson, Patty Taylor, Dr. & Mrs. Barry Goldsmith, Dr. & Mrs. Al Stocks, Mr. & Mrs. John Brown, Nancy Hendrick, Mr. & Mrs. George Jenkins, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Jordan, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Whitaker**

Given in memory of **William “Mac” Goldfinch, Jr.**, by **Mr. and Mrs. Genair Hutchinson, Thompson Funeral Home in West Columbia, The Conway National Bank, Billy & Libby Jones, and Nancy W. Hendrick**

Given in memory of **James Atkinson Bruorton, Jr.**, by **Billy & Libby Jones**

Given in honor of **Billy Fallaw** by **Nancy W. Hendrick**

Given in memory of **Frank Austin Thompson, Jr.** by **Patty Taylor**

Given in memory of **James O. “Tootsie” Thomas** by **Mr. & Mrs. Dan Whitaker, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Watts**

Given in memory of **Henry Lee “Hank” Buck, IV**, by **Patty Taylor**

Given in memory of **Henry Buckheister** by **Peggy Smith**

Given in memory of **Frances Laura Claridy** by **Betty Jo Huggins**

Given in memory of **Lauren T. Dusenbury** by **Patty Taylor**

Given in memory of **Dr. William Robert Griffin** by **Dr. & Mrs. William Connor**

Given in memory of **Garvin (Lann) Huggins, III**, by **Patty Taylor**



March 3

Frances and Jack Driggers

March 8

Irene and Billy Joe Calhoun

March 10

Fran and Al Benson

March 17

Heather and Chris Johnson

March 21

Grey and Jeff Bracken

Anne and Bud Hale

March 23

Lynn and Irby Koon

March 25

Betty and Garvin Huggins

Wendy and Keith Skipper

Debbie and Dow Stanley

### PASSOVER FOR METHODISTS



*And this day shall become a memorial for you, and you shall observe it as a festival for the LORD, for your generations, as an eternal decree shall you observe it. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove the leaven from your homes ... you shall guard the unleavened bread, because on this very day I will take you out of the land of Egypt; you shall observe this day for your generations as an eternal decree. - Exodus 12:14-17*

### Passover

Of all the Jewish holidays, Pesach or Passover is the holiday most celebrated by Jews to commemorate the Jewish exodus from Egypt after generations of slavery. It lasts for 7 days. The Hebrew word Pesach means to “pass through” or “pass over” and relates to God passing over the houses of the Jews when He was slaying the firstborn of Egypt during the plagues that struck Egypt. Pesach is also the name of the offering made in the Temple on this day, the sacrificial lamb a.k.a. Pascal lamb.

Probably the most known aspect of Passover is the removal of leavened bread, called chametz, from the home. This is done to remember that the Jews leaving Egypt were in such a hurry that they did not have time to let their bread rise. During Passover Jews will eat mitzvah or unleavened bread made from plain flour and water, then quickly baked.

On the first night of Pesach there is a special family meal filled with ritual to remind the celebrants of the holiday’s significance called the Seder, meaning “order.” No work is to be performed on the first and last days of Passover. Passover will be celebrated from April 18-26 this year.

It was on the first night of the Passover, at the end of the Seder meal, when Jesus took the bread and the cup and blessed them, creating what Christians refer to as communion.



### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by **Blake Martin**, Finance Chairperson

**PLEASE COMMIT WITH US.....** We frequently are best able to determine our future direction by reflecting on our past course of travel. As the Body of Christ planning for 2008 and the ministry opportunities God will give us during this year, a quick look back at the ministry opportunities He set before us in 2007 can certainly prove helpful.

Our adult members have continued their spiritual growth in Christ through the various service projects of the United Methodist Women; a resurgence of the United Methodist Men; the opportunity to reach out to those in the Gulf region affected by devastating storms; a renewed interest in Sunday School, including the creation of a new adult class; and a greater sharing within our family through the creation of a new website and the rebirth of our Church newsletter, the MESSENGER.

Our youth have continued their growth in Christ through their Sunday night gatherings, special trips, and events which have allowed them to bond closer to each other. They have grown through such outreach ministries as Salkehatchie Summer Service which allows them to answer God’s call to reach out to those less fortunate.

Our music ministries continue to experience the leading of God’s guiding hand with renewed interest ranging from our chancel choir, our adult handbell choir, and a revitalization of choirs for the youth and children which we anticipate will only continue to grow under the guidance and direction of Billy Fallaw with whom God has truly granted us a blessing.

Our children’s programs continue to leave us speechless as we are privileged to witness the working of the Holy Spirit in the youngest members of our family through such memorable programs as “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.”

All of this and more represents God’s blessings freely poured out on our family as we travel together under the guidance and direction of His chosen servant, Mac. God is indeed good beyond what we could ever imagine or deserve.

We are currently finalizing our ministry opportunities for 2008 and earnestly desire for you to join us as we continue to grow as the Body of Christ. Each of us, in joining the Church, promised to support it through our prayers, our presence, our service, and our gifts so that God might be better known to those around us. **Please commit with us...** to pray without ceasing for this Church and its ministry to our world. **Please commit with us...** to be intentional in your presence at all opportunities which present themselves for the coming year. **Please commit with us...** to be in service to those whom God may place in your path during the coming year, whether within this Church or in the world at large. And, finally, if you have not already done so, **please commit with us...** to be the good stewards God calls us to be of the material possessions He entrusts to us. Please join us in making the financial commitment necessary to not only carry out the ministries to which God has called us during the coming year, but to also demonstrate in a concrete way our obedience to His command to be His good and faithful servants.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience by way of the commitment card sent to you earlier or by picking one up at the Church office and filling it out. Please **commit** to do this now. Just take the time to fill out a card with your best estimate of what you will be able to contribute financially in 2008 so that we may better plan for continuing the work and missions of First United Methodist Church of Conway.



## MUSIC — FROM LENT TO EASTER

By **Billy Fallaw**, Director of Music

In addition to offering **Organ Meditations for Lent (Wednesdays at noon)**, FUMC will hear music by the Chancel Choir each Sunday that focuses on the Lenten Season as we gather to worship.

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word, *lencten*, which means *spring*. The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. The first Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan and the sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

On **Palm Sunday, March 16**, we shall celebrate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem in worship at 11:00 a.m. All children who wish to participate are asked to gather in the courtyard immediately after Sunday School to line up for the procession of the palms. They will enter the sanctuary following the crucifer and acolytes during the processional hymn. Music will be offered by the Cherub and Wesley Treble Choirs and the Chancel Choir. This day begins Holy Week. The afternoon of **March 16 at 5:00 p.m.**, we shall gather in worship to consider the Passion of our Lord. The Chancel Choir with members of the Long Bay Symphony will present music for the Passion of Christ. Scripture and a dramatic presentation of Christ's Passion will be read. This service ends in silence. Our next gathering will be Maundy Thursday.

**Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m.**, we gather for Holy Communion as we remember Christ's Last Supper in the Upper Room.

**Easter Sunday Morning, March 23**, the *Alleluias* return! Our celebration turns to the Resurrection with scripture, sermon, and music. This festival service will include music from Handel's **Messiah**. The congregation is invited to bring flowers to place on the Living Cross that will be in the Church yard.

As we continue this journey through Lent in the next few weeks, let us be mindful of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. May our lives be forever changed by that love.

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### LENT OFFERS TIME FOR GROWTH



Lent is a good time to think about the quality of your spiritual life. Do you think about God often ... or rarely? Do you pray often ... or occasionally? How well do you know the Bible? The Commandments? The Beatitudes? The lives of biblical heroes and heroines?

During Lent, commit to spending more time in prayer. Also consider selecting a book of the Bible or a particular Bible character to study in depth during this period.

Some people give up particular items or habits during Lent. If used wisely, this discipline can help you abandon things that have been interfering with your relationship with God.



#### March 1

Jenny Chanaca  
Anna Lou Johnson  
LeEllyn Long  
Reid O'Quinn  
Diana Rodwell  
Tami Slapnik

#### March 2

Mary Alice Stokes

#### March 3

David Dusenbury  
Joey Jones  
Alice Nelson

#### March 4

Marie Scot  
Mark Spera  
Susan Thomas  
Andrew Thorndyke

#### March 5

Bruce Harper  
Jeremy Holt  
Bennie Land  
Wayne Tsunoda

#### March 6

Frank Dunbar

#### March 7

Heather Edwards  
Margaret McGougan  
Anne Roof

#### March 8

Sara McMillan  
Matthew Woodward

#### March 9

Syd Flournoy  
Jim Mishoe  
Kevin Sansbury  
Jimmy Swinson  
Don Thibodeau  
Rick Weidman

#### March 10

Ashley Bryant  
Joe Carpenter  
Jonathan Hardwick

#### March 11

Linda Garvine  
Shannon Gawith  
Sandra Jean Hyman  
Barry Roof

#### March 12

Ralph Edwards  
Jeanne Fisher  
Cole Singleton

#### March 13

Jimmy Edwards  
Sandra Tsunoda

#### March 14

Richard Anderson  
Gwen Mishoe

#### March 15

Anne Morgan

#### March 16

Carolyn Hedden  
Ali Thompson

#### March 17

Larry Canada  
Sue Dusenbury  
George Jenkins  
Ted Miller

#### March 18

Janie Anderson  
Briggs Dickerson  
Justin Gawith

#### March 19

Rob Robinson  
Brad Thompson  
Ryan Zantow  
Hannah Waggoner

#### March 20

Hayes Bennett  
Jan Gawith  
Whiteford Smith

#### March 21

Kyle McAda  
Dick Sayre  
James Westbury

#### March 22

Virgil Fluornoy  
Brittany Timbes

#### March 23

Janet Rouche

#### March 24

Dock Doyle  
Andy Hendrick  
Jerry McClellan  
Woody Robinson

#### March 25

Anne Marie Martin

#### March 26

Mildred Jones

#### March 27

Georgia Burroughs  
Megan Green  
Alexande Neal  
Fran Rickenbaker  
Corky Thrasher

#### March 28

Sylvia Avant  
Hunter Dickerson  
James Hammond  
Elaine Weidman

#### March 29

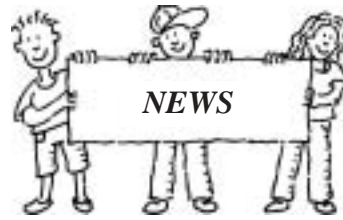
Michael Brooks  
Curtis Bryant  
Margaret Dunbar

#### March 30

Frankie Hardwick  
Jim Schroeder  
Sara Tucker

#### March 31

Lonnie Calhoun  
Pam Copland  
Brian Herring



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

Report by **Jenny Wilburn**

### Sunday School Workshop

Saturday, March 1  
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

All current teachers of children and youth and those interested in teaching children and youth classes should plan to attend this training. We will be meeting in the children's gathering room.

### Girls of Grace

Friday, March 7  
6:00 — 8:00 p.m.

The Girls of Grace has planned a special event just for girls in elementary school. We will be meeting in the Family Life Center for a bead jewelry making party. The cost is \$5.00 and includes a personal bead kit for each participant and pizza.

### Children's Palm Sunday Procession

Sunday, March 16

Children will gather at 10:45 a.m. in the courtyard to participate in the palm procession.

### Easter Sunday Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 23

Bring your Easter basket to Church on Easter Sunday! The egg hunt will take place in the courtyard immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



## ALTAR GUILD

Report by **Amy Jenkins**

Serving on the Altar Guild this month are:

**Wilmarie Boatwright**  
**Glenda Harper**  
**Callie Timbes**

Easter lillies for the altar may be purchased with the enclosed form, or you may contact the office to place your order. Lillies may be dedicated to the memory of or in honor of someone.



## GOD AND YOUR MONEY

What money?

That's a good question. The sad reality is that many American families spend more money than they make. That should be a shocking fact for Christians. Why? Because Christians are supposed to be good stewards of all that we have: our time, talent, intelligence, energy and possessions, including money. Let's consider money from the Christian standpoint:

1. It is not sinful to earn all the legitimate money one can garner. In itself, money is not evil. It is the love of money we must resist.
2. It is important to save as much as one can — at least 10 percent.
3. It is vital to make a budget and stick to it.
4. God owns the world and gives us the responsibility to take care of it. It takes money to care for home and property.
5. We should strive to give at least 10 percent to God's work, which includes the church.
6. One reliable fact about stewardship: There is no way we can out-give our loving God. Ever!



## OUR METHODIST HERITAGE

By **Gregory K. Martin**, Church Historian

Part 1 of a 3 part Series



Bishop Francis Asbury, the early Methodist missionary leader, first visited this area in 1785. He made later visits in ensuing years, but the first recorded instance of his preaching in Horry County was on December 24, 1795. He noted in his journal, "We came to Kingston (Conway) where I preached in an old Presbyterian meeting house now repaired for use by the Methodists." This meeting house was located near the present Kingston Presbyterian Church.

When Asbury preached at Kingston on February 8, 1801, he recorded "A lovely day, but few people—perhaps not more than one hundred including the coloured [sic] folks. My subject was Luke IX: 24. Brother Whatcoat spoke on John III: 16. It is now 16 years since I rode, anxious and solitary, through this part of the land; there was scarcely a house to receive me and no Methodist to bid me welcome, but God hath given us many friends, some of those whose houses I lodged in; witness the children of Mr. Clark and of Durant and their widows also."

Clearly, these early visits by Asbury planted the seeds from which Methodism in Conway began to grow, and the church in which we worship today is a direct outgrowth of his ministry here.

*(See Part 2 in next month's Messenger)*

## THE COLOR PURPLE

We are still in the Church season of Lent. Many churches have purple paraments on the altar, lectern, and pulpit. Many pastors and choir members wear purple stoles. Why purple?

In ancient times, purple garments were expensive and hard to find. The dye came from rare sea mollusks that had to be crushed to garner their purple fluid. (One ounce of purple dye required 250,000 mollusks!) Then the right kind of fabric had to be placed in the dye, dried, and made into clothing, which was time-consuming.

Generally, only wealthy people and members of royalty could afford purple garments. For example, in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man “was dressed in purple and fine linen” (Luke 16:19, NRSV).

Purple is used in Church sanctuaries during Advent and Lent because Christ is revered as the King of Kings.



### THREE NAILS

Nails symbolize Jesus’ passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus’ hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE

The Gospels tell us that after Jesus died, his body was placed in a rich man’s tomb. This man wasn’t a disciple but apparently believed in Jesus and followed his message. He came from a small town not in existence today.

What was the man’s name, and what was his hometown?

- A. Joseph of Arimathea
- B. Aristarchus from Thessalonica
- C. Ariel of Moab

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



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A general meeting of the UMW was held on February 9 in the Family Life Center. Guest speaker, **Julia Costillo** from Citizens Against Spouse Abuse (CASA) shared information about her organization with the group. Luncheon was served prior to the program, and the UMW would like to thank **Lois Sechriest** for the wonderful vegetable soup she prepared for the group.

A meeting of the Executive Committee met at the Family Life Center on February 19 to make plans for “UMW Recognition Sunday” scheduled for May 18. After some discussion, a sub-committee was organized to finalize the plans. The planning committee consists of **Paula Youngs** (UMW President), **Glenda Harper**, **Charlotte Ives**, and **Brenda Wilkins**.




### MISSION NEWS

Report from Nias Island by **Rae Daniels**

We will be dedicating the Church at Hilinamazihono on March 9, no matter what shape it’s in. The members are working hard, but they need a couple of extra workers who also know what they are doing to finish the job. We have been working on this Church for the past 6 years. As I mentioned in the last issue, the beautiful start we had on it came tumbling down 5 years ago. It was being erected on “wetland” and had no supports except for the tall front (facade). Now we are on flat, solid ground. The Bishop is trying to make the churches use wood for building instead of block. He says it’s safer in an earthquake, but it is so much more costly than block.

It will take about \$2,000 to finish the Church — cement to reinforce inside and outside walls, a tile floor, and wooden benches. We are going to Samaritans Purse, UMCOR (again), the Bishop, and whoever breathes in Medan to try to get them to give us some help.

Thanks to all of you who have helped us for all these years to build not only this Church, but nine others. We are indebted with our whole hearts. The Church people in Nias know you by name. God bless you each and everyone.



**REMEMBER?**  
Set Your Clocks Ahead!

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday morning, March 9. Be sure to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before retiring Saturday evening!



### SPECIAL LENTEN EVENTS

The Lenten Concert Meditation series with our organist, **Billy Fallaw**, continues on Wednesday, March 5, 12, and 19 from 12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m. The meditations are free and open to the public. It is requested that there be no applause and that all attendees enter and exit the Sanctuary quietly between pieces.

The Lenten Luncheon series also continues on Thursdays from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. with the following schedule:

**2008 Lenten Luncheon Schedule**

**Thursday, March 6, 2008**

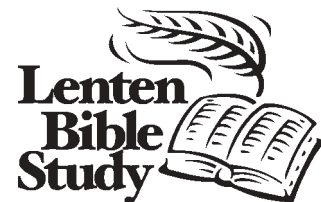
**First United Methodist Church, (Fellowship Hall)**

**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

Lenten Bible Study, led by Reverend Mac Kinnett, continues on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

### SPECIAL DATES

- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 2, 2008
- World Day of Prayer, March 7, 2008
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 9, 2008
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 9, 2008
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 9, 2008
- Passion/Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008
- Holy Week, March 16-22, 2008
- Maundy/Holy Thursday, March 20, 2008
- First Day of Spring, March 20, 2008
- Good Friday, March 21, 2008
- Holy Saturday, March 22, 2008
- Easter Day, March 23, 2008

### GOOD ST. PATRICK

On March 17, many churches, especially those with a large Irish population, will celebrate the life of St. Patrick. He grew up in a Christian home in Britain, but wasn't very religious until a major event changed his life. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, but escaped to Gaul (France) after six years. The years of enslavement strengthened his faith. He later wrote, "In that strange land [Ireland], the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes." He was led by God's voice to return to Ireland where he converted people to Christianity tribe by tribe.

Because Ireland is called the Emerald Isle, those who celebrate St. Patrick's Day will wear something green. Some Christians will even color food or drink green. Many Christians will also eat corned beef and cabbage and decorate tables with shamrocks. Shamrocks are actually three-leaf (not four-leaf) clover plants. Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach about the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
By Sadie Rae Hutchinson

May the heavens smile upon you,  
May bright sunshine fill your days,  
May the joy of special blessings  
Warm your heart in countless ways.

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



Remember.....



### THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD

There's a legend that the dogwood was once the size of the oak and other forest trees. It was so strong and firm that it was chosen as the timber for Christ's cross. This greatly distressed the tree. Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed the tree's regret and told it:

*"Because of your sorrow for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. It shall be slender, bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall form a cross – two long and two short petals. And at the outer edge of each petal will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red. In the center of the flower shall be a crown of thorns. And all who see it will remember ...."*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Lighthouse Christian Supply** is sponsoring a **FREE** county-wide Vacation Bible School workshop on Monday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The workshop will be conducted by the Standard Publishing Company, and the theme for this year is “God’s Big Backyard.” **Everyone is welcome!** There will be displays and ideas to help all those involved in VBS. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the workshop. For more information, contact **Louise Goodwin** or anyone at the Lighthouse by calling 248-9632.



### THE CHIMES ARE RINGING

We are delighted to hear our Church chimes ringing again. Thanks to our Chairman of Trustees, **Spivey Ward**, for getting them repaired. The chimes were given to the Glory of God and in honor of and in memory of the following people:

To the Glory of God by **Dr. and Mrs. W.R. Griffin.**

In Memory of William Fred Holt and Sallie King Holt by **Kenneth Holt.**

In Memory of Mamie Churchill S. Jenkins by **George H. Jenkins, Jr., and Family and Churchill Jenkins and Family.**

In Memory of George Henry Martin and in Honor of Julia Ann J. Land and Benjamin Smith Land, Jr., by **Gregory Keith Martin.**

In Loving Memory of John B. McCutcheon and Adelyn Goldfinch McCutcheon by **Mary Ruth McCutcheon Baxter, John B. McCutcheon, Jr., and William S. McCutcheon.**

In Honor of Reverend Edward McCutcheon by **Mr. and Mrs. John B. McCutcheon, Jr.**

In Memory of James Trapier “Jimmy” McInvaill by **Augusta McInvaill, Anne McInvaill Bessant, and Mary McInvaill Surtzer.**

In Memory of Carrie Belle Morrison by **Barbara Holt.**

In Memory of Annette E. Reesor by **Agnes Swope.**

In Memory of James W. Taylor, Jr., by **Jose Holbert and Danny and Dawne Clonts.**

To the Glory of God by **Emra F. Watts and Mary Louise Watts.**



### CASA CAN USE YOUR HELP

Reported by **Brenda Wilkins**

Julia Costillo from Citizens Against Spouse Abuse (CASA) spoke recently at a meeting of the United Methodist Women. Participants at that meeting learned about the organization — its purpose and what it is doing to assist victims of spouse abuse. The lives of women and children are in their care, and the United Methodist Women would like to support their efforts in any way we can.

We would like to ask the congregation to help us to help them. If you have any used cell phones that you no longer need, please donate them to CASA. They are reconditioned as needed and used by the shelters. If you have any household items, clothing for women and children, or used furniture that you can donate, please let us know. We hope to put a box labeled CASA in the narthex or somewhere in the Church for collections. For larger items, such as furniture, please call CASA at 293-2270 so they can arrange a pickup.

When women and children are rescued from their homes and taken to the safe houses, they usually get out quickly with only the clothes on their backs. Therefore, donations of clothing are most helpful. Furniture and household items are used by the shelters and housing for women and children once they leave the shelters to make a fresh start in life. Monetary donations would, of course, be greatly appreciated. Federal funding for programs such as CASA has been curtailed, so there is a tremendous need for funds from local sources.

If you have monetary contributions to make, please place the money in an envelope marked CASA and place it in the collection plate on any Sunday during worship service. The money will go directly to CASA. We have placed some brochures in the narthex for anyone who wants to learn more about CASA. The UMW and CASA would like to thank you all in advance for your contributions.

#### PRAYER OF THE ABUSED

No where to turn, no one to care; no help I know of anywhere.  
What can I do? Where can I go? Will I survive? I just don't know.

I can't go on with life this way; I live in fear from day to day.  
I'm hurt, I'm tired, I'm just not sure, how much more I can endure.

God, please help me get away; give me some place safe to stay.  
Where I can heal and think things through; There must be something you can do.

Like the Psalmist prayed so long ago; Dear Lord on me your mercy show.  
Forever faithful I will be. Please help me Lord and set me free.

Brenda Wilkins