



The Wellspring

Fuquay-Varina
United Methodist Church
April 2011

by Rev. Albert Shuler

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. ~Matthew 4:1-11

Settling the Issue in Advance

John Wooden is the legendary UCLA basketball coach who led his teams to be a dominant force in NCAA basketball for several decades. His name is associated with success including coaching his teams to 10 Division I-A National Championships. It may be surprising to learn, however, that he did not teach explicitly about winning and losing. Instead, Wooden focused on preparing himself and his players to be the sort of people who could make maximum impact not merely in basketball, but also in life. One of his best known dictums reads 'Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.' For Wooden, achieving success on the court was rooted in preparation; winning was merely a byproduct.

This is also true with respect to the life God invites us to live. The great narrative that God continues to write envisions an unbelievable future for God's people. The scriptures tell the story of God's mission to bring healing, hope and wholeness to all creation. From the moment that humanity turned away from the life that God had created for them and instead chose to go their own way, God relentlessly pursued his most prized creation. God's mission culminated in sending Jesus as the agent through whom God's salvation would reach its climax. But before Jesus emerged as a public figure in Israel, God led him into the wilderness to undergo a period of testing. Our scripture lesson records this pivotal episode, it occurs immediately prior to the beginning of the Jesus' ministry to all Israel, and it is the zenith of his time of preparation. In his confrontation with the devil, Jesus settles the issue of what sort of impact he would make with his life. Jesus was born as the Christ—God's long-awaited Savior who would usher in God's

age of salvation, and this time of testing resolves how Jesus will live in light of his identity as Messiah and Son of God.

Preparation

All of this has an application for us who follow Jesus today, for, in fact, God has a lot more invested in us that we do ourselves. And he wants to shape us into more profound and godly people and prepare us spiritually for the work that he has called us to do.

Our text tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness specifically for *testing*. How does Jesus respond to this challenge? Jesus practices the spiritual discipline of *fasting*. In anticipation of a test, Jesus returns to tried and true methods of preparation. He fasts for 40 days and nights. For those who are familiar with the Old Testament, this time period is reminiscent of the 40 days that Moses spent on Mount Sinai preparing to receive the Law from God. Jesus completes his fast. He is physically hungry, but focused and ready for the tests that await him.

John Wooden prepared his players in a similar fashion. He always started with the basics. No detail was too small or insignificant. In fact, each practice season began with Wooden showing his players (all of whom had already enjoyed stellar basketball careers in high school) how properly to wear their socks and tie their shoes; Wooden wanted to prevent the most common basketball injury, blisters on the feet. He prepared his players for victory by covering all the bases.

Continued onto next page...

Throughout his time of ministry on earth, Jesus repeatedly withdrew from the crowds for periods of prayer. As we seek to become persons whom God can use to change the world, we need to make sure that we are *prepared* to participate fully in the life of God's dreams. Are we ready? What practices do we need to put in place to maximize the impact that we will be able to achieve for God?

The first test

The tempter comes with a straightforward test of Jesus. Knowing of Jesus' physical hunger, the tempter suggests that Jesus use his power as Son of God to create a meal of bread for himself out of the stones lying on the ground around him. Jesus responds by quoting scripture from the book of Deuteronomy. In fact, Jesus deploys scripture from Deuteronomy in response to all three tests he will face. The reason for this is that Deuteronomy was proclaimed by Moses to Israel while Israel itself was still in the wilderness. Deuteronomy was Moses' final instruction to Israel before his passing and Israel's entrance into the Promised Land. In other words, Moses' words in Deuteronomy represented Israel's final preparation for the future that God had prepared for it.

Jesus' response is classic: "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." In other words, Jesus refuses to act on self-interest because he has settled upfront the issue of trusting God with his life. Jesus' unique abilities were not for his own self-preservation but for completing the mission that he was sent to accomplish.

The lesson for us is simple: *Use our God-given gifts for something greater than our own needs.* Later in Matthew's gospel, Jesus will offer these words: "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

How are we tempted to use our gifts, talents, and passions in ways that serve our own needs rather than touching the

lives of those whom God places in our paths?

The second test

Jesus is then transported to Jerusalem. From atop the highest section of the temple, the tempter urges Jesus to throw himself off so that God can deliver him. The tempter adds to the intrigue by quoting from Psalm 91 in which there is a promise of God's protection. Jesus answers with another text from Deuteronomy: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." Jesus deploys scripture again to move the focus off of himself and onto God. God does not have anything to prove.

The principle here is this: *Live confidently that God has your best interests at heart.*

If we are to become the sort of person whom God can use to advance his work in the world, we have to settle the issue of trust upfront. We do not have to be frozen in a world of doubt about God's intentions. We do not have to come up with elaborate schemes to verify God's commitment to us. We trust in the relationship that we have with God through Jesus Christ. As Paul put it to the Romans, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

We then act faithfully in light of God's love for us through Jesus.

Are we confident of God's love for us? Are we able to act decisively and live boldly for God or are there lingering doubts about God's trustworthiness?

The final test

Undaunted by failure, the devil makes a final attempt. He takes Jesus to a high mountain and proceeds to show Jesus the world. He then offers Jesus a deal. Jesus can be ruler of the whole world if he will simply bow down and worship him.

Jesus responds swiftly and decisively. He orders Satan to depart with a final reminder from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." There will be no compromise. Jesus, the Son of God, came to com-

plete a mission. It was a mission hatched out of the very heart of God. It involved authority over the nations, but this authority would be gained not through compromise with the enemy but through submitting to death on a cross for the sins of the world.

Following his death and resurrection, Jesus spoke these words to his first followers: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

According to Matthew, these remain the marching orders for Jesus' followers.

Jesus' response to the tempter's final test leads to a third principle: *Engage the world without compromising God's mission.*

Loyalty matters. God is looking for women and men who have settled the loyalty question upfront. God has a job for God's people to accomplish: make disciples of all nations. To fulfill this task God's people need to engage fully the world in which they live without compromising their commitment to God.

Have we settled the loyalty question?

Conclusion

After the devil left, angels arrived to care for Jesus. The time of Jesus' testing ended. It was now time for Jesus to launch into the mission that God sent him to live. He had prepared well. He had settled in advance the issues of self-interest, trust and loyalty. Now he was ready for action.

Let us end with Wooden's quotation cited above: "Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." What about us? Are we ready to live the life of God's dreams? Are we ready to engage the world with the message of hope, healing, and restoration that Jesus has made possible through his life, his death and his resurrection? Have we settled the issue in advance?

If we haven't, we can ask God now to help us do so.

(Author Unknown)

Greetings Friends!

by Rev. Elaine Lilliston

One of my favorite biblical chapters is John 13. The very essence of who and Whose we are is wrapped up in the 38 verses with many exciting twists, turns and wise insights quite reflective of the Lenten season and life as a Christian witness in the world today. While the chapter begins with the familiar “foot washing” as Jesus knelt at the feet of his closest friends on the night in which he would be betrayed and modeled servant leadership, the chapter ends with a foreshadowing of another betrayal that is perhaps much closer to home for us. After all the signs, miracles and even a transformational mountain top experience, Peter’s failure to hold true to himself, his values and his faith ends the chapter as Jesus predicts, “Before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times”.

Personally, I like the images of servant leadership. I love the image of Jesus kneeling at the feet of his friends and quietly washing their feet. I appreciate the simplicity and directness of a new commandment (v.34-35): “As I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” I’m not very comfortable with the warning to Peter!

It is easy to love our friends, neighbors, acquaintances and persons WE CHOOSE to be in relationship with on a daily basis. It is sometimes even to our benefit as, “I’ll pat your back and you’ll pat mine!” We want to treat one another with Christ-like respect, honesty and dignity. Yet, the reality of the journey to the cross is that we are not all we think we are! We fail to practice servant leadership. We fail to think the best of others.

We fail to walk the walk we are so great at studying and talking about over coffee, in friendly conversations and/or in study groups. We fail to stand for Christian values when confronted daily life temptations. We fail to live 24-7 reflecting Christ to the world.

Perhaps, because we can identify with Peter, the Lenten season is a very good place to begin working on transforming our lives! Come, journey with us to the cross. Participate in Wednesday services, studies and worship. Be attentive to Holy Week experiences beginning a day early with Palm Saturday as our children experience the journey and offer to share your talents and time by contacting Stephanie Weeks (552-4331 ext. 113) to learn through the eyes of a child. Wear the Palm Sunday cross in your heart throughout the year as a reminder of our temptations and desire to be true to consistently welcoming Christ in our lives with “Loud Hosannas”. Share the drama of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship @ 7 p.m. each evening and serenely bring bright flowers for the Easter cross on Saturday. Join with our community at First UMC, F-V at 6:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday and with the rising of the sun/SON, REJOICE to share the Easter proclamation: “He is risen. . .He is risen indeed!”

The Lenten Season is OUR time of preparation. . .for life! May this continue to be a time of incredible open receptive hearts, minds and lives to what God may be doing amongst us as we “Trust and Obey”!

Journeying with you, Elaine

Hedge Ministry Team

Every Sunday someone is praying during every worship service, for everyone in those services, the message being given, and for God to bless and guide each person in their Christian journey. This is the powerful “Hedge” prayer ministry. To serve in this way, call Linda Bridgers at 567-8908.



April 3	Glenn & Joann Myers(8:15)	Janice Fain (9:30)	Mary Rose (10:50)
April 10	Glenn & Joann Myers(8:15)	Don Reeves (9:30)	Jim Casper (10:50)
April 17	Glenn & Joann Myers(8:15)	Available (9:30)	Susan Smith (10:50)
April 24	Linda Bridgers (8:15)	Jean Fox (9:30)	Stacey Beard (10:50)

Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School 2011

Where Jesus Makes a Difference Every Day!

Evening June 26th-30th

Day June 27th-July 1st



Though it's only April, June will be here before we know it. It is time to begin thinking about joining us for Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street where Jesus makes a difference every day or otherwise known as VBS 2011! There are MANY ways for people to volunteer. I hope this article will give a good understanding of the variety of ways you can serve during VBS. Some are day commitments where others are week long, some are with the children, and others are behind the scene.

Ways to serve

(Listed alphabetically)...

Brown Bag Bistro Coordinator - enjoys organizing lists, shopping for snacks, preparing and serving snacks. *Commitment: all week*

Crew Leader (Tour Guide)- be an encourager and helper for kids; travel with one group of kids leading them from site to site; assist site leader with activity; daily discussion about Bible lesson and life focus.

Commitment: prefer all week

Crew Assistant (youth tour guide) - be an encourager and helper for kids; travel with crew leader and group of kids from site to site; assist with activities at each site. *Commitment: at least two days*

Decorating Team - helps transform our Centrum, hallways, and classrooms into a creative Main Street environment. *Commitment: Sunday afternoon 6/26.*

Firehouse Fitness Leader (recreation) - lead groups of kids with fun-filled games; motivate kids to participate; prepare and test games in advance.

Commitment: prefer all week

Fun Factory Leader (crafts) - enjoys crafts and is flexible; gather supplies; select projects for each age level; guide kids in creating projects.

Commitment: all week

Hospitality Host - enjoys serving others; likes to decorate; able to set up and restock hospitality room for volunteers. *Commitment: any or all 5 days*

Mighty Mission Leaders - enjoy teaching kids how to share God's love; update kids throughout the week about impact they are making; lead kids in mission lessons & activities. *Commitment: prefer all week*

Moving Music Leaders - love music; like to work with kids; learn the songs and motions.

Commitment: prefer all week

Nursery Volunteer - assist our nursery staff to care for our volunteer's youngest.

Commitment: one day or multiple days

Parable Productions Leader (Bible storyteller) - enjoy teaching the Bible and storytelling; choose how each day's Bible story will be presented; gather needed supplies. *Commitment: can be one or more days*

Registration Coordinator - set up and decorate registration tables; arrive early and be able to help leadership team troubleshoot; help all feel welcome

Commitment: first two - three days of week

Set Up Team - helps take down chairs, prepares Centrum and classrooms for the week ahead.

Commitment: Sunday afternoon June 26th

Sidewalk Celebration Leader

(opening/closing assembly) - enjoy being in front of and speaking to groups of children; like to work with kids and able to motivate them; may choose to practice in advance for assembly skits; emphasize the Bible Memory and life focus statements at all sessions.

Commitment: prefer all week

Take Down Team - reset Centrum and classrooms so they are ready for Sunday morning use.

Commitment: Fri. afternoon at 12:30

On April 3rd & 10th there will be a SUPER SIGN-UP insert in the bulletin as well as a board in the lobby. Hope everyone can find some-where to join forces with God during VBS 2011

For more information please contact : Daytime: Marianne Carroll (552-7695) or Jen Froning (762-9236)

Evening: Heather Layman (567-9383) or Lori Jackson (285-3104)

Joyfully,
Stephanie Weeks

Palm Saturday

Saturday, April 16th



What is Palm Saturday?

Children ages 3 & 4 year olds

Learn about the joys of spring as they journey through 5 rooms which will include a variety of stories, crafts, and activities. Our preschoolers should be accompanied by a parent as the extra helping hands are greatly appreciated.

Children from K-5th grades

Experience Jesus' journey to the cross as they move from the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem through Jesus' resurrection.

The Morning Begins:

Registration will begin at 8:45am on the children's wing, and the rotations will begin at 9:00.

An Easter egg hunt concludes our morning of fun.

Your Support is Needed:

-Our hungry bunny is in the lobby; please feed the bunny with individually wrapped candy (that will fit inside a plastic egg).

-The Appalachian Service Team will be selling hotdogs beginning at 11:15 for \$3.00 or plates for \$5.00 (hotdogs, chips, and drink).



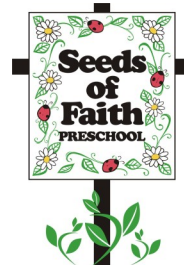
Preschool Happenings!

Wow! Spring is coming. Our preschoolers are getting spring fever and breaking out of their winter shells.

Flowers are popping up and we see new life everywhere. We will continue to learn about giving to others through our Heifer Project Banks. Ms. Stephanie will be telling stories of Jesus' journey to the cross and out of the tomb.

During this time of Lent be aware of the changes you can make in your spirit and have your own journey with Christ.

Easter Blessings,
Ms. Lynne



North Carolina United Methodist
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Ministries, Inc.**



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*At the camp of your choice for fun
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Mom's Prayer & Play Group

3rd Saturday Monthly

from 10:00 -11:00 am Room 213 on the Children's wing. A special time to celebrate Motherhood and offer up prayers of thanksgiving. Specifically designed for Mom's with children ages 6 & under. For more information please contact Lisa Brinkerhoff at lbrinkerhoff@hotmail.com

There is power in praying together and offering support to one another. Hope to see you there!



All God's Children "GAME DAYS"

4th Sunday of each month

All God's Special Needs Children Game Day!

If you know someone who may like to attend please invite them to contact For more information, contact Diane Gabry at ggabry@nc.rr.com



Youth Ministries

Notes for Seniors

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is quickly approaching!

This year, we are going to be adding some new traditions for seniors, so please look at the opportunities below and consider how you will participate!



Senior Names

Kevin needs the name of all high school seniors for their recognition service on June 5. All parents should contact Kevin with this information by calling the church office or emailing kjohnson@fvumc.org.

Lifeline Senior Speak-Out—May 22

At this final Lifeline of the school year, senior students will have a chance to share what they have learned through the years, and an opportunity to reflect on their Christian journey through the youth ministries of FVUMC.

Senior Night on the Town—May 22

Following the Senior Speak-Out will be a Night on the Town. We will be headed to downtown Raleigh for the night, and more details will come soon!

Senior Seminar—Sunday Mornings in May

During the Sunday mornings in May, Kevin will be leading a Senior Seminar class during the 10:50 Sunday School hour. During this class we will be looking at college life, developing faith while in college, and the student's continual connection to their home church.

Senior/Youth Sunday—June 5

Senior recognition and Youth Sunday are both on June 5 this year! All seniors will be honored in both the 9:30 and 10:50 services and should plan on being at both services. The youth will be planning this worship service, so get it on your calendars!

**LifeLine Welcomes
our Confirmands
April 17th @ 4:30**

High School Growth Groups-

Tuesday Mornings at 7:00 am

Every Tuesday morning from 7:00-8:00 am all high school students are invited to participate in growth groups before school. There will be a guys group led by Kevin and a girls group led by Amy Ogburn. At each meeting we will have breakfast, a devotion, and a time of prayer and accountability. Sign up at Lifeline or with Kevin at kjohnson@fvumc.org.

Lifeline

All middle and high school students are welcome to come to our weekly youth gathering, Lifeline. We meet every Sunday at 4:30 for time to hang out, worship together, learn from the Bible, and get to know one another in small groups. Come and join us as we continue discover What's the story.



Mission Opportunities

High school students have been encouraged to go on Appalachian Service Project (ASP)

Middle school students will also have an opportunity...Details to follow!

Confirmation Sunday

April 10th at 9:30am & 10:50am

Our Confirmands began a journey at the end of August and have been meeting weekly in covenant relationships with one another and the Lord. Twelve adult mentors have shared the journey including: John and Kendra Bridwell, Mark and Jen Froning, Matt Harrenstein, Les and Amy Hendrickson, Karlton and Heather Layman, Andy and Elaine Lilliston and Si Weeks. On Confirmation Sunday, the church family will welcome approximately 50 young people into ministry amongst us as our newest ministers. By our Baptism, ALL are Called into ministry! Share the youthful excitement and joy of invigorating our church family and gifted community with these incredible young people.

This is a very focused and committed group. . .we have much to learn and to share with each as our journeys in faith continue!

Global Missions

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." —John 13:14-16

As we approach Easter we are focused on Jesus' sacrifice and the Hope in His resurrection. Rightly so. But He also gave us an example the night He was betrayed. The example was of a servant. He called us to serve one another in the same manner. As Easter approaches, reflect on ways we can serve one another, in the congregation we call FVUMC, outside our doors, and to the ends of the earth.

Les Page
Mission Coordinator



Acts 1:8 Update

We now have a date for our Acts 1:8 celebration next year. The celebration will be held February 24-26, 2012.

We know this is way in advance, but it will take many hands and hearts to prepare for this weekend long celebration and interaction with the missionaries and organizations that our congregation partners with, from our front door to the ends of the earth, as we join God in mission.

Mission News and Opportunities!

- * If you see Thearon Willis give him a big thank you for his hard work and many hours updating the mission portion of the FVUMC website.
- * Congratulations to Caroline Lewis on being selected for internship this summer with Strong Missions in Costa Rica.
- * A mission trip to Costa Rica is being planned for late November/early December. Ann Ledford will lead a team to work with teen mothers. The trip is in partnership with Strong Missions. For more information contact Ann Ledford: 773-0334 , mledford@nc.rr.com
- * Look for the new Mission Wall across from the office. All areas of mission will be represented with information and feedback. Thanks to Bob Anderson for his assistance and Rob Pavone for the design.

FVUMC Made The Top Five!

FVUMC was named in the top five churches to receive the Rainbow Covenant Award! F-V UMC has a long history of being a strong supporter of second mile financial gifts and again has been recognized as one of the top five churches in the Raleigh District in making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your continued support in all that we do!

Become a Member

*A community of love and togetherness,
The garden family welcomes you!*

For more information, contact Joy Brown at 557-5954 or admin@covenatncommunitygarden.org



F-V Food Pantry Food Canned & Dried Vegetables

Are being requested for the Month of April. Other types of food items are also appreciated, as well as grocery bags. There is a blue collection container in the lobby. *NO Glass containers please!*

Main Street Kitchen: April 16th

Only a couple of hours once a month, no commitment is required for being a part of this awesome ministry. Fun, Fellowship and a wonderful time being the hands and feet of Christ. Thanks to all who have and continue to be a part of this ministry, and if you would like to spend a couple hours being blessed, please feel free to contact Paula Cade at 557-4347 with any questions.

Eco-Justice Ministries

An ECO-Palm Sunday!

For the second year, FVUMC has purchased our palm branches that are used during Palm Sunday services through an UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) project called Eco-Palms. UMCOR partners with the University of Minnesota to build support in the US for the Eco-Palm Project which ensures that palm harvesters in Guatemala and Mexico are earning a fair income for their labor. The project helps to sustain forestry, protect local jobs and helps preserve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers.

Eco-Palms are harvested in a sustainable way that minimizes the impact on the natural forest and helps to protect the environment. Harvesters are trained to gather only quality palm fronds which allow the plant to keep growing. The palms are then brought to a community processing building, where the palms are processed and packaged for export. By processing the palms themselves, these communities keep more of the profits. When we raise our branches, we play an important role in protecting forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in harvesting communities.

Eco-Palms are one way FVUMC seeks to live out our love for God by caring for our neighbors and honoring creation.

FVUMC RECYCLES!

Remember while at church: throw your plastic, paper, aluminum, glass and chipboard into any blue bin located in each classroom and throughout the building!



Fresh Shipment- Coffees & Teas & Cocoa!

Every FVUMC purchase brings a donation to UMCOR by Equal Exchange. It also supports fair trade for small farms across the world!



Bring A Mug....Save A Cup!

Perhaps you've noticed something different at the weekly Hospitality Table in the narthex. We've begun using real cups and mugs instead of disposable Styrofoam cups.



Styrofoam virtually never breaks down and takes up a lot of space in our community's landfill. Our country is increasingly running out of landfill space. When new landfills are opened, they are routinely placed in impoverished areas where land is cheap and the population is in little position to advocate for themselves. We are called to love our neighbors in both direct and indirect ways. Volunteers are washing our weekly batches of mugs, cups, and spoons in a spirit of hospitality and a witness of stewardship of God's creation.

If you regularly enjoy the coffee at the Hospitality Table on Sunday mornings, the EcoJustice Ministry asks you to consider bringing your own travel mug for your cup of coffee. This would free our kitchen's mugs for visitors and guests.

Imagine: the FVUMC brown mug may even become the new "I'm a visitor" sign!

Rain Barrels for Sale

Whether it's watering your garden or washing your car, a rain barrel is a great way to help conserve water (and money) which is good stewardship all around. The EcoJustice Ministry is selling rain barrels on a pre-order basis. You order one; we make it. Upon completion, you purchase it for \$50. Proceeds support projects that demonstrate love of God and neighbor in alignment with the UMC social principles and in keeping with the mission of the Eco-Justice Ministry. For more information or to order a rain barrel, contact Tammie Quick at tlquick@gmail.com or 557-2131.



Spiritual Formation



WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

Morning Offerings

10:30 am

Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back

Room 117

Facilitator: Pastor Al

11:30 am

Light Luncheon in the Centrum

12:00 pm

Worship Service with Holy Communion

An inspiring line-up of gifted speakers:

April 6

Chaplain Lindsi Hines

April 13

Rev. Regina Henderson

*An audio version of our guest speakers
is available online!*

Transformation Stations

Exploring Jesus' Passion

On Monday, April 18th from 8:00am to 8:00pm, come and journey to the cross with Christ during Holy Week. Experience His last days on earth through seven interactive worship stations set up in the Centrum. You may come as an individual or bring your family. The stations are appropriate for all ages and can be a very moving, prayerful time. Give yourself one hour to complete Jesus' last week. This is a self guided process with instructions as you come in the Centrum. The Centrum is open to experience the Passion and be transformed.



Pastor's Bible Study
Beginning Wednesday, May 4th
at 7:00 pm in Rooms 117/119

Music Ministries

Mark Your Calendars!

A wonderful way to experience and share in God's love this summer!

FVUMC Handbell Choirs

Sunday 5/22 5:00pm

An Evening of Praise & Worship

Sunday 6/12 5:00pm

The Junaluska Singers

Tuesday 7/12 7:00pm

Tagé on Steel

Sunday 7/24 4:00pm

One Achord

Sunday 8/7 5:00pm



SUMMER
Concert Series

SCHEDULE

Holy Week Music

The FVUMC Music Ministries are working hard in preparation for Holy Week and Easter Services, and you are invited to join us! We'll be singing with a combined mass choir and full orchestra for all of the Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday, April 17

Holy Thursday, April 21

Good Friday, April 22

Easter Sunday, April 24

All voices are welcome! Rehearsals will take place during regular Wed. evening (7:00 - 8:30 pm) and Thurs. evening (7:00 - 8:00 pm) practices (come on Wed. OR Thurs. nights, not both).

Please contact Jennifer Harrenstein,
Director of Music Ministries

(jharrenstein@fvumc.org)

or 552-4331 ext. 105)

for more information.



Women's Ministries



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**UMW Circle of Faith
April 4th**

Our meeting date has changed!
Come join us on the first Tuesday of the Month
at 10:00am in Room 127.

Save the Date!

Saturday
June 25th!
Details to come!



**2nd Saturday
Women's Breakfast
April 9th
In Room 117/119
8:00-9:30**

*Our speaker will be Tammie Quick,
with our Eco-Justice Ministry.*

All Women of the church are invited to attend and bring a friend! Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am and set up begins at 7:15. Volunteers are still needed to bring food and / or help set-up.

*For more information email
Penny Downey at pgdowney@aol.com
or call 919-946-0639.
Childcare can be arranged in advance if needed.*

Men's Ministries



**F-V UMM
Meet on the
3rd Mondays**

All men are invited to attend the monthly meeting on the third Monday at 7:00 Room 126. To stay in touch, visit our Google Group Site at <http://groups.google.com/group/fvumc-um>

UMM Upcoming Events:

April 7-9: *No Man Left Behind* Conference about 'Building a Sustainable Ministry to Men' will be held at the Merci Center.

May 13-15: Father/Child Canoe Trip.
Details to come!

*For more information regarding upcoming events, contact ummen@fvumc.org
Or Si Weeks at 552-7458.*

Ongoing Men's Ministries

Prayer Warriors meet the third Monday of every month, in the Prayer Chapel at 8:30pm for devotion and intercessory prayer.

Men Eager to Serve (METS) meet on Thursday nights from 7-8:30pm in Room 127 for a time of service, fellowship, and accountability.



**4th Saturday
Men's Breakfast**

Easter Weekend
The breakfast will return in May!

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Richie Hines, Lynn Sapp, Venie Weather, Dub Hornsby, Keith Strandtman, Kathy Davis, Debbie Scates, Susan Ogburn, Shirley Hicks, Maxine Senter, Eddie Ragan, Joe Weede, Bill Colagiovanni, Alice Schmelzer, Virginia Jones, Vickie Cardin, Kevin & Debbi Braswell, Diane Rubin, Henry Hanmann, Carole Nanzetta, Phil McCray, John & Beth Silveira, Dorothy Herring, PJ Ramsey, Clay King, Ellen Tinsley

Our Life In Community

April Book Club

This Must Be the Place

by Kate Racculia

(Henry Holt & Co. 2010)

The Darby-Jones boardinghouse in Ruby Falls, New York, is home to Mona Jones and her daughter, Oneida, two loners and self-declared outcasts who have formed a perfectly insular family unit: the two of them and the four eclectic boarders living in their house. But their small, quiet life is upended when Arthur Rook shows up in the middle of a nervous breakdown, devastated by the death of his wife, carrying a pink shoe box containing all his wife's mementos and keepsakes, and holding a postcard from sixteen years ago, addressed to Mona but never sent. Slowly the contents of the box begin to fit together to tell a story—one of a powerful friendship, a lost love, and a secret that, if revealed, could change everything that Mona, Oneida, and Arthur know to be true. Or maybe the stories the box tells and the truths it brings to life will teach everyone about love—how deeply it runs, how strong it makes us, and how even when all seems lost, how tightly it brings us together. With emotional accuracy and great energy, *This Must Be the Place* introduces memorable, charming characters that refuse to be forgotten.

To join the dinner and discussion on Friday, April 15, contact Judy Casper at jacasper@earthlink.net or Matilda Storm at matildastorm@embarqmail.com.



The Spiritual Spinners

Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church

For All Who Love To Ride And Help Others:

100km (~62 mi)

Challenging ride with several of the best climbs in the area from beginning to end.

50km (~31 mi)

A few good climbs along with some great rollers.

30 km (~19 mi)

A scenic route along rolling country roads.

*Fully supported with SAG & Rest Stops
Lunch provided for all riders and volunteers*

Event Details:

When

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Where

Fuquay-Varina UMC
100 South Judd Parkway SE
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Start

8:00 am (100 km)

Check-in begins 7:00 am

8:30 am (30 km & 50 km)

Check-in begins 7:45 am

*Cost: \$25 Online until 9pm May 12th www.active.com
\$35 Day of Event - cash or check only*

<http://www.active.com/cycling/fuquay-varina-nc/ride->

New Ministry Team Forming

You do not need to be a counselor, teacher or have a degree. You do need to have a close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, have a heart for people in separation/divorce and be led by God to help. We will provide you with the training you need. You will not do this ministry alone, but will be part of a team. We will give you continued support. DivorceCare is a 13 week program, so you would not need to make a long term commitment. Contact Thearon Willis for more information or questions at thearonwillis@nc.rr.com.

DIVORCE *Care*

Mary Magdalene in Fuquay-Varina

on April 14th@ 7:00pm at First UMC

First UMC Fuquay-Varina (402 N. Main Street) cordially invites you to experience Mary Magdalene in person on Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary. You will be touched and inspired by the first-person story of a woman who was so uniquely involved in the history of Holy Week you won't want to leave her side. Please invite church family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we welcome Mary Magdalene. A love offering will be taken to advance Luella's ministry, and all are invited to remain for cookies and lemonade afterward. Questions? Call Ellen Rose at 608-2821 or email her at ellenrose01@att.net.

Thursday Morning SOWers

Max Lucado Bible study

Beginning Thursday, May 5th we will spend 6 weeks exploring Max Lucado's *Fearless* study. Lucado shares that there are many things today we are fearful of, "But what if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? If you could hover a fear magnet over your heart and extract every last shaving of dread, insecurity, and doubt, what would remain?" This study addresses these questions and more. Join us on Thursday mornings from 6:00-7:00am in the adult wing as we journey together to trust more and fear less. Please contact one of our facilitators prior to Monday, April 25th if you'd like to be a part of this upcoming study, in order for us to get you the materials before our first session.

Facilitators:

Tanya Dillard 557-1343 tanyad@nc.rr.com

Jennifer Harrenstein

552-5259 jharrenstein@fvumc.org or

Stephanie Weeks 552-7458 sweeks@fvumc.org.

Help Create The Cross

Fresh cut flowers can be brought to the church on Friday evening (4/20) or Saturday (4/21) morning.

Come Saturday (4/21) afternoon to create the flower cross in the lobby.

Sign up in the lobby for this opportunity!



The Fair Trade 'Spring' Store

Shopping with a Difference

For the first time, the EcoJustice Ministry is hosting a Spring Fair Trade Store!

This event will take place Friday and Saturday, April 29th & 30th from 8:00am-8:00pm in rooms 117/119 and outside at the Garden Pavilion!

Our annual Fall Fair Trade Store event has given people in our church and community an opportunity to purchase items made by artisans around the world who are part of a Fair Trade business paradigm.

The Spring Fair Trade store will feature items such as birdhouses, baskets, jewelry, spring clothing, books, planters, garden accessories and more!

Come find a unique gift for an upcoming wedding, graduation, or Mother's Day!

If you're new to this business concept, Fair Trade involves the following principles:

- Producers receive a fair price - a living wage. For commodities, farmers receive a stable, minimum price.
- Forced labor and exploitative child labor are not allowed.

- Buyers and producers trade under direct long-term relationships
- Producers have access to financial and technical assistance
- Sustainable production techniques are encouraged
- Working conditions are healthy and safe
- Equal employment opportunities are provided for all
- All aspects of trade and production are open to public accountability

In today's world economy, where profits rule and small-scale producers are left out of the bargaining process, farmers, craft producers, and other workers are often left without resources or hope for their future. Fair Trade helps exploited producers escape from this cycle and gives them a way to maintain their traditional lifestyles with dignity.

The Fair Trade Store helps us think about our habits as consumers and where these habits fit into our Christian walk as we strive to love God and neighbor.





April 29th - May 1, 2011

The annual United Methodist-wide annual event, as always, offers the usual trio of events raising money for local agencies helping neighbors impacted by poverty. *This year* a fourth event is offered with the hopes of giving everyone the opportunity to join in the fun! 2011 Agencies supported are Haven House, Women's Center of Wake County and Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine.

We hope you'll join other FVUMC members as well as United Methodist folks from all over the Raleigh district in one or more of these fun ways to raise money and awareness for our neighbors in need.

† **Sitting Tourney, Couch of Grace** (*new this year*) - anytime throughout the weekend from Friday - Sunday for teams of 4 people create relay teams to be sponsored to raise money for the Race of Grace weekend. The winning relay team will each receive Universal Remote Controls!

† **Golf Tourney, Links of Grace** - Friday April 29th at Neuse golf Course with shotgun starting at 8:30 am & 2:00 pm. Pre-registration is required.

† **Bike Tour, Tour de Grace** - Saturday, April 30th at Louisburg College registration at 8:00 am for 32 or 52 mile rides beginning at 9:00 am.

† **5K Run/Walk, Race of Grace** - Sunday, May 1st on a certified 5k course, downtown Raleigh registration at 1:00 pm - the race begins at 4:00 pm

† **Calling All Bakers!** The Race of Grace 5K Walk/Run on Sunday, May 1 awards a homemade cake to each of the top runners. You can contribute by baking a cake to support the race. Volunteer through the contact us form on the www.raceofgrace.org web site.

† **Special request from FVUMC!** Help nourish those who are raising funds to provide medical care to the uninsured by filling our lobby shelves with **SNACK PACKS** such as chips, crackers, cookies and other individually wrapped treats.

For more information or register by going to RaceOfGrace.org website or by contacting Jim Casper, FVUMC's Race of Grace Coordinator at jecasper@cokeburyacorns.com

Run. Walk. Bike. Golf. Volunteer. Donate. Together, we can make a difference.

PrimeTimers: Come Join Us!

April 19th: A tour & lunch at The Little Herb House in Raleigh. We will leave from the adult side of the Church at 9:30am and return approximately at 1:00. Find out about herbs! How healthy they are; how to cook with them; and how to make gifts, and more. Call Debbie Corr 557-7437 to save your spot or for a ride. *Looking ahead:* A trip to Bentonville Battleground in May!



Thank you FVUMC

Knowing that my church family along with friends and family were praying for me was very comforting and sustained me during my surgery and recovery. I believe that through your prayers and God's amazing grace I am truly blessed. Thank you for all the cards and well wishes, but most of all thank you for your prayers. Your brother in Christ,
Keith Strandtman



Hear The Good News!

This ole world is like a magnet; in fact it is a magnet if you consider the pull of gravity. Most of the time it's forceful pull will not let up and we often loose our grip on the things we hold on to. I have noticed in the past few years the pull gets stronger and stronger and the spinning round and round are forever? Maybe you caught the key words previously, "we often loose our grip on the things we hold on to". By golly that is the answer! Maybe we hold on to the wrong things? It has been said that the world is a needy place, so why do we look to the world for our answers?

Satan is always on the prowl to confuse and lure us to his world, yes this is his world and depending on the world is depending on Satan? Peter warns us of this in saying we must be on our guard, vigilant, sober and aware that Satan will do anything to devour your joy and make you forget all about God's promises. This is written in 1 Peter 5:8:

But rejoice! For in the center of our lives is Jesus! He has promised each and every one of us that His Word is in our hearts. We are born with it, a covenant promised to us! A wonderful, full of God's Grace covenant.

When we go to this Center, we are given the Spirit to help us resist this magnet of Satan.

And this Spirit has fruit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. -

Galatians 5:22-23

If you or someone you know is in need of a listening ear, a caring heart or even a walking companion through this world of excessive pull. Stephen Ministers are here just for you. We can face these things together; we are waiting for your call.

Susanne Young 552-7503

Polly Sheets 552-5035

Bob Sorrels 552-0505

Thearon Willis 820-1845

Mel Cade 557-4347

Seeing God Through Love

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

—1 John 4:12 (NKJV)



Did You Know...

...that you could make stock and bond gifts to FVUMC? The Finance committee has a process set up with the United Methodist Foundation (UMF) of the North Carolina Conference to accept stock/bond gifts. The UMF will accept the stocks/bonds, sell them promptly and mail a check to FVUMC. The UMF does not charge the giver or the church anything for this service. It is a simple process of submitting a form to the UMF.

For more information, visit the UMF's web site at <http://umf-nc.org/services/gifts-of-securities> or contact FVUMC's Financial Secretary, Joan Thomas, at JThomas@fvumc.org or 919-552-4331 ext. 107.



Divorce Hurts.

Find Help at DivorceCare.

DivorceCare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. It's a place where you can be around people who understand what you are feeling. It's a place where you can hear valuable information about ways to heal from the hurt of divorce.

There is a DivorceCare group meeting every Monday evening at 7:00pm in room 127, beginning May 2, 2011.

You can visit the FVUMC website for more information or contact Thearon Willis at thearonwillis@nc.rr.com

DIVORCE *Care*

Visit the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist church at <http://nccumc.org> and learn more about what the UMC is doing!



Newsletter & Bulletin Deadlines

Newsletter:

Submit items by the 15th of the month
prior to publication.


Email newsletter@fvumc.org

Bulletin:

Submit items by Tuesday at noon.

Email bulletin@fvumc.org.

Please list the Sunday dates
the announcement is



National Day of Prayer
May 5th
Town Hall
at 12 Noon

Japan Emergency: How to Give

Online: www.givetomission.org
Offering: put in the offering plate designating
Japan Emergency in memo line.
Check: Make your check to UMCOR at
PO BOX 9068 New York, NY 10087
Credit Card: Call toll-free 1-800-554-8583



*Please give
generously to
Japan Emergency
UMCOR Advance
#3021317*

Mother's Day Special Offering

Mother's Day has become important to the United Methodist family of the NC Annual Conference as caring persons in all 12 districts combine efforts to assist residents within our retirement communities whose resources have been depleted. The Mother's Day offering provides an opportunity for each of us to have a part in providing a 'more abundant' life for residents who need financial support.



FVUMC Staff

Senior Pastor Albert Shuler
Associate Pastor Elaine Lilliston
Director of Adult Ministries Debbi DeMaris
Director of Youth Ministries Kevin Johnson
Director of Children's Ministries Stephanie Weeks
Director of Music Ministries Jennifer Harrenstein
Associate Director of Music Ministries Felicia Wermke
Office Manager Jane Gue
Administrative Assistant Terri Pavone
Financial Secretary Joan Thomas
Preschool Director Lynne Sorrels
Organist/Pianist Diana D. Thomas
Nursery Toni Drapkin
Property Manager/Custodian Bob Anderson

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fvumcpre@yahoo.com

tdrapkin@fvumc.org
banderson@fvumc.org

Church office Hours Monday thru Friday 8:30am-5:00pm

The Wellspring

Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church

919-552-4331
www.WeMakeDisciples.org
100 South Judd Parkway SE
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

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Organization
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Fuquay-Varina, NC
27526

~ EASTER OPPORTUNITIES ~

Palm Saturday Event

Saturday 4/16

*Children ages 3 & 4 learn
about the Joys of Spring!
Children K thru 5th experience
Jesus' Journey to the cross.
Registration begins at 8:45*

Palm Sunday

Sunday 4/17

8:15am

Music led by the 8@8

9:30am & 10:50am

*Music led by the combined
Choirs & Orchestra*

Holy Week Services

Monday 4/20 8:00am-8:00pm

Transformation Stations
*An Interactive, self-directed experi-
ence as you explore Jesus' Passion.*

Thursday 4/21 @7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Worship
*A commemorative service of
the sacrament of
Holy Communion & Foot Washing.
(Childcare available)*

Friday 4/22 @ 7:00pm

Tenebrae Worship Service
*A somber service of darkening
to prepare us for the crucifixion and
death of Jesus Christ on the Cross.
(Childcare available)*

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service

Hosted by

**First United Methodist
402 N Main Street,
Fuquay-Varina
6:30am**

Sunday Services

With Holy Communion

8:15am

Music led by the 8@8

9:30am & 10:50am

*Music led by the combined
Choirs & Orchestra*