

The Wellspring

February 2012

*Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church
is a Christ centered community that
Loves God, Learns God, Serves God, and Shares God.*

God is on the Move

By Rev. Albert Shuler

In the Gospel of Mark we find the story of four fishermen of differing income levels and levels of success—all at work, and are called by Jesus. Simon and Andrew were called and immediately they left their nets and followed him. James and John were called and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. They did not second guess, they did not question, they did not hesitate - not even for a moment - since Mark is clear to remind us that in both cases the fishing teams left immediately. I say it is fortunate that they responded this way because it is this response that pulls the rug out from underneath us today. We don't know what to do with such radical obedience, such complete and under trust, such unhesitating resolve, and such undeniable faith. Such qualities were no doubt rare in the first century but at times they feel almost non-existent today.

I say it is fortunate that these four fishermen acted in simple and immediate obedience, because if they had not, we might not know the story of what would happen next. From here, with little more than a few clothes on their back. Jesus begins to take Galilee by storm. Just little further down the road, Jesus confront the demonic forces of evil that possess the weak and he travels to Simon's home and heals his mother-in-law. By the end of the day Jesus has entered the city at the door where he is busy healing, restoring, and renewing. In other words, in this Jesus, this stranger by the sea, God is on the march. There is no indication in scripture that the four fishermen knew this - but they knew enough to go, to check it out, to risk, to step out on faith, to not count the cost, to move forward without a spreadsheet of possible variables or detailed itinerary. What they eventually discover was that this stranger was more than they could have possibly imagined. Who could have foreseen that in three or so years after Jesus, death and resurrection, these fishermen could look back to that first day they were called by the sea knowing now that it was on that day God came, not first to the seat of power in Jerusalem, but to struggling fishermen in Galilee. Who could have foreseen that the simple call to "follow" was a message about God, a message from, and a message to everyone?

Believe it or not, Jesus is still in the business of barging into our churches, lives and community. Jesus is still in the business of presuming that God's agenda is more important than ours, and it can and should take precedence over everything else we are doing. Jesus is still on the march and he is looking for just a few people to lay aside their fears and skepticism and replace them with trust and hope. Jesus is still on the move, calling us - and expecting us that there may still be some unsuspecting people like you and me that are crazy enough to drop everything this moment on nothing more than a hope, a prayer, and the word of Jesus.

Are YOU ONE OF THESE UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE?

Pastor Al

Greetings Friends!

by Rev. Elaine Lilliston

I enjoy putting things together! I've always been fascinated with manufacturing plants; revel in "assembly required" box notes; and, thoroughly enjoy repairing appliances, household items and things that might end up rapidly in the trash by a more normal person.

Recently, I have been salvaging a shattered piece of pottery. Pieces have fit together like a cylinder puzzle. The base is now complete and safely holds the piece upright. The formerly shattered base that I thought might compromise the future usefulness of the piece is the very part that went together most rapidly. Proud of the progress, I showed the staff. Fortunately, for each of us...our staff members are realistic and pointed out the remaining 3 x 4 inch gaping hole. While the initial repair only involved fitting pieces together matching one side, the remaining major pieces need to match on several sides. The ONLY way this will work is to file away the rough edges of each piece creating smoother surfaces that can slide together. Since the project is taking place during "Christian Unity Week", I've been drawn to several thoughts.

Life happens. Sometimes, our plans are altered; relationships are broken; and, hopes are dashed. When we least expect it, shattering circumstances prevent us from being the whole people we'd like to be. However, like the glue holding pottery pieces together, what if we allowed ourselves, relationships and interactions to be "glued together" by the love and life of Christ? What if we were so in tune to Christ amongst us that we willingly sought ways to file off our rough edges in order to better function as a united witness in the world? What if we saw ourselves as incredibly important parts of the whole "Body of Christ" with Christ at the center? What if we laid aside the pain that's gone and were able to greet each day as a wonderful gift from God? What if we offered signs of reconciliation and fresh beginnings? What if we believed that God can and is working for good in our lives? What if we were open and responsive to the nudgings of the Spirit within us?

As a church family, we are off to a great start for 2012. Many initial team meetings have taken place in the life of the church during January; volunteers stream daily into the church facility assisting with needed tasks while so many more are reaching out into our community to serve. The worshipful work of each has been a testimony that we, as a church family and serving as witnesses in the world, are seeking to be a "Christ-centered community

that loves God, learns God, serves God and shares God". We are prioritizing decisions; we are rallying around our vision; and, we are seeking to be Christ-centered in all our relationships and actions. May this be a time of new beginnings as we so center our lives on the one who has given us life that we truly are reflective of what we are Called to be as reflections of the "Body of Christ" in the world!

Filing away with you,

Elaine

PS...A quotable from *The Soul of Christianity* by Huston Smith, pg. 78: "The people who heard Jesus' disciples proclaiming the Good News were as impressed by what they saw as by what they heard. They saw lives that had been transformed—men and women who were ordinary in every way except for the fact that they seemed to have found the secret of living. They evinced a tranquility, simplicity and cheerfulness that their hearers had nowhere else encountered. Here were people who seemed to be making a success of the enterprise everyone would like to succeed at—life itself." *Let it be for us!*

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, call Linda Bridgers at 567-8908.



February 5

Glenn & Joann Myers(8:00)
Lyn Matthews (9:30)
Mary Rose (11:00)

February 12

Glenn & Joann Myers(8:00)
Sue Hagan (9:30)
Jim Casper (11:00)

February 19

Glenn & Joann Myers(8:00)
Available (9:30)
Susan Smith (11:00)

February 26

Linda Bridgers(8:00)
Jean Fox (9:30)
Stacey Beard (11:00)

Children's Ministries

SAVE THESE DATES!

Nursery care is available for the youngest family members of persons serving in each.

Palm Saturday

March 31, 2012

9:00am-Noon

Plans are stirring for an awesome beginning for Holy Week as children (3 years through 5th grade) explore the final events in the earthly life of Jesus in age level appropriate ways!

Acts 1:8 Celebration for Children

April 20, 2012

6:30-8:30pm

Children will hop around the globe meeting with missionary families and discovering unique cultures.

Contact Lindsi Hines to join the adventure!
lindsihines@nc.rr.com

Vacation Bible School

June 24-29, 2012

two sessions mornings or evenings

Contact a member of the leadership team NOW to indicate your interest in serving during this incredible week of faith formation for our church family.

Coordinating team members include:

Daytime:

Marianne Carroll, Lori Ward

Night-time:

Heather Layman, Lori Jackson, Kendra Bridwell



Sunday Mornings are ACTIVE!

Faith Formers are ready and eager to share the love of God with the children of our church and community as we seek to learn, serve and share! We are committed to supporting our families in faith formation and thus have two different Sunday morning options and curriculums at 9:30 and 11am so that families may worship, study and serve in multiple hours while children are assured of a variety of engaging experiences. For example, during the 9:30 SS hour, children are learning about the "Friends of Jesus who joined him in ministry and outreach" during February. While we are "Digging into the Bible" during the 11 time frame exploring the formation of the Bible from oral tradition to scrolls to printed pages, as well as, some unique books including Paul's letter to Philemon. Faith formation is important to us. .and, we want our children to be informed, challenged and response to. .the Word of God for us the people of God!

All God's Children @ 11:00am

INVITE friends and neighbors to come explore this special opportunity for children with unique needs. We have an abundance of volunteers, a paid nurse on duty and creative lessons planned especially for the children in our midst by an amazing team led by Ann Ledford, Diane Gabry and Jenna Ramsey. Come...grow in Christ with us!

Faith Weaver Friends (2nd-3rd) & Kids for Christ (4th-5th) Sundays 4:30-6 p.m.

Active vibrant opportunities for elementary aged children to explore serving God in the company of a great peer group!

Regular meetings during February include Feb. 12th, 19th and 26th but not on Feb. 5th. Come join the fun and celebrating being a Christian witness in the world is very, very cool!

Lifeline Youth Ministries



Tell Somebody:

High School Winter Retreat

March 2-4, Don Lee Center

Be sure to sign up for the High School Winter Retreat! Find the form at www.fvumc.org/youth.htm This will be an incredible weekend away, as Kevin and Laura Johnson (that's right, my wife!) will lead us through sharing our faith with our friends and the world around us. Be sure to sign up by Sunday February 5 to get the early-bird price of \$95!

M25: High School Mission Trip

July 24-29, Atlanta, GA

We are headed to Atlanta this summer from July 24-29 for an unforgettable mission trip experience. We will be working in the inner-city of Atlanta, spending time with the homeless and getting to walk in their shoes. Our first team meeting will be on March 25, and a \$100 deposit is required by this meeting. See the youth webpage at www.fvumc.org/youth.htm for more information and to sign up online. We will meet monthly as a team to prepare for all that God has for us. All current 8th-11th graders are welcome on this trip.

FVUMC College Scholarships

F.H. Eason and Estelle Tilley Memorial Scholarships

Current Seniors in high school, be on the lookout for a new scholarship application for seniors headed to college. The application will be due on March 30, 2012, and we will be considering students who exhibit academic achievement, involvement in the church, and their future goals and plans. For more information, contact Kevin at kjohnson@fvumc.org.

Lifeline

All Sundays in February

(except the Feb. 5th)

6:15-8:00

Our weekly gathering for all 7th-12th graders involves time to hang out, messages that connect with teens, and worship led by youth. Come and join us on Sunday nights!

Life Groups

Wednesdays

6:30-8:00

These groups are a chance for students to grow deeper in friendship with one another and with Christ. Each week involves Bible study, bonding together, prayer and accountability. Groups are divided by middle or high school and by gender.

Reminder

You can get all of the information you need at:

1. www.fvumc.org/youth.htm which also features a google calendar at the bottom with up to date information.
2. Our official Facebook page, which you can find by searching for Lifeline: Youth Ministry of FVUMC! On Facebook.
3. Kevin's emails: if you are not receiving Kevin's emails, send him your email address at kjohnson@fvumc.org.



Confirmation Highlights



Confirmation

Friday, Feb. 3rd 6:30-9:30 p.m.

MS Rock-a-thon and Pizza Game Night

Join in the Centrum for an evening of fellowship, games and rocking chairs in motion generating funds and awareness of the importance of MS (Multiple Sclerosis) research.

NO Evening MEETING on Sunday, Feb. 5th

Sundays Feb. 12, 19 & 26

Evening Meetings

4:30-6 p.m.

Centrum

Music Ministries

Musicians Needed During 8:00am Worship

There is a critical need for musicians to serve during the 8:00 am worship service. If you are a vocalist or instrumentalist and would be willing to share your gifts with our congregation during the 8:00 am worship service, please contact Jennifer Harrenstein, Director of Music Ministries, at jharrenstein@fvumc.org or 552 - 4331 ext. 105.

Men's Ensemble



The Men's Ensemble is a choral group for those on a tight schedule! The group will meet for three rehearsals on Sunday evenings, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, and then sing for worship. This ensemble offers an opportunity to sing with a choir WITHOUT the long term commitment! The group is open to ALL—previous experience is not required!

Rehearsals on Sundays, Feb. 12, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26,
7:00 - 8:00 pm

The Men's Ensemble will sing in worship on Sunday,
March 4 at the 11:00 service.

Contact Ted Willis, Associate Director of Music Ministries,
at twillis@fvumc.org or 552 - 4331 x115.

Pine Straw Sale

Thinking about sprucing up those flower beds this spring? Make plans now to purchase your PINE STRAW from the FVUMC Music Ministries! Pine straw will be for sale on Saturday, March 24 at the church, with home delivery available. Pre-orders will be accepted in the weeks prior. Watch the Wellspring and FVUMC Times for more information in the weeks to come!



Women's Ministries



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Circle of Faith
FEBRUARY 7th
10:00am Choir Room

To ALL ladies of F-V UMC are invited!
Questions, call Fran Sykes, 552-9220.

Women's Breakfast

Saturday, February 11th
8:00 - 9:30 am Room 117 / 119
All are welcome to attend.



Men's Ministries



F-V UMM

Meet on the 3rd Mondays
All men are invited to attend the
monthly meeting at 7:00 Room 126.

To stay in touch, visit our Google Group Site at
<http://groups.google.com/group/>

Men Eager to Serve (METS)

Meets on Thursday nights from 7-8:30pm in Room 127
for a time of service, fellowship, and accountability.

Men's Breakfast
4th Saturday
7:00am



Spiritual Formation



Bible Study Opportunities!

L.I.F.E. (Living in Faith Everyday)

The goal of this class is to take faith and theology where they intersect with the basic and at times mundane realities of life and work on our spiritual formation in Christ at those points. Big events and spotlights of faith are applauded, this class will look at the day to day reality of Christ in between those points.

Sunday Evenings @ 4:45 Room 123
Contact Stephen Woods @ sr8694@juno.com
Childcare is available!

Serving from the Heart:

Finding your Gifts and Talents for Service

Does your ministry match who God created you to be? God's plan for the church calls for each member of the body of Christ to play a vital role. God wants us to find joy and fulfillment when we serve. That happens when we serve in a role that matches who God created us to be. This study will help each participant consider their own spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities, resources, individuality, dreams, and experiences...all adding up to an enhanced capacity to serve God and neighbor. *Cost \$13.00*

Sunday Evenings @ 6:30 Room 124 (begins 2/12)
Contact: Terri Pavone @ tpavone@fvumc.org

Thursday Morning SOWers

He Speaks to Me

Why do we settle for the Word of the Lord revealed to someone else and passed on to us as if God does not speak to us individually? This shouldn't satisfy us. He wants us to hear His voice, understand, and obey. The Lord desires to speak to us personally. He wants to meet us where we are despite who we are and reveal His will for our lives.

Thursday Mornings at 6:00am in the Chapel (begins 2/9)
Contact: Jennifer Harrenstein @ jharrenstein@fvumc.org
or Stephanie Weeks (snweeks@nc.rr.com or 552-7458)
Sign up now so a book can be available for you!

Lenten Bible Studies

During this season of Lent, a variety of studies will be offered during! Studies will range from the Lectionary to Adam Hamilton's 24 hours. Look for updates via the Weekly Times and the website for details!

Lenten Service Opportunities



Ash Wednesday Soup Supper Team:

Many hands are needed to offer this fellowship opportunity on **February 22nd!** If you or your friends, Sunday School Class, or Small Group would like to assist please contact Debbi DeMaris.

- + Crock Pot Soup
Sign-up to bring a crock-pot of soup to the kitchen between 5:00-5:30pm
- + Set-Up & Service
Volunteers needed by 5:00pm to organize the soups as they come in. Set up beverages table, make coffee, organize serving line.
- + Clean-up Crew
Volunteers needed by 5:30pm to wash dishes and rinse crock-pots, and wipe tables off.
- + Centrum Reset Crew
Help reset the Centrum after the Worship Service.

Wednesday's Lenten Lunches Team:

Another celebrated event! Lunches are provided following a short meditation services on

2/29, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28

If you or your friends, Sunday School Class, or Small Group would like to assist please contact Debbi DeMaris.

- + Table Decorations
Set up the day before! Great opportunity for a group to adopt a week and be creative. Approximately 6-8 tables are used.
- + Set-up & Service & Clean-up
Volunteers needed by 5:00pm to organize the soups as they come in. Set up beverages table, make coffee, organize serving line. Assist with food preparation as needed. Clean up kitchen, run dishwasher, and wipe tables off.

Check out the Spiritual Formation Catalog!

Each issue is full of information in regards to Bible Studies, Sunday School Classes, Small Groups, and Service Opportunities!

Stop by the church office,
or see Debbi on Sundays
at the Welcome Center!

EcoJustice Ministries

De-mystifying EcoJustice: A short history of a different kind of ministry

In the fall of 2008, some members of our congregation came together to hold a series of conversations about what a ministry might look like that had a focus on creation care and social justice issues.

It became clear that such a ministry would be more of a perspective, awareness, even a paradigm shift in how we're used to viewing the Gospel.

This would prove to be an extremely broad and even abstract endeavor as well. In other words, this ministry would not be focused on a single, significant act like the Clothing Closet, which is very social justice-minded and economically and ecologically grounded. This new ministry would need to provide education to understand the need to change old habits as well as projects to help the congregation form new ones all the while honoring God through honoring His creation and loving our neighbor. *The EcoJustice Ministry was born.*

After getting approval from FVUMC's Church Council to become an official ministry of the church, one of the first things the EcoJustice members did was hammer out a vision statement. This has been the guiding force for all the projects, classes and events that EcoJustice has sponsored.

EcoJustice names a way of seeing and being in the world that shapes the whole of our life and witness as the body of Christ. The EcoJustice perspective says that Jesus came to reconcile ALL of creation, and all that is in it belongs to him. When God created the world it was good before he ever created man. The EcoJustice perspective tries to look at everything through God's economy and network of systems, not through man's supposed improvements or progress. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).* Interestingly, the Greek word for world in this scripture actually means "cosmos," as in universe!

EcoJustice answers the calls to love our neighbor and care for God's creation by promoting social and economic justice and environmental sustainability. Everything we do in word and deed does in fact impact our neighbors -- down the road and across the globe. When you upgrade computer equipment or when you drink a bottle of water, it has an impact, and we need to be aware of that impact.

EcoJustice manifests itself through all the ministries of the church, transforming our congregation, our community and our world. Every ministry of this church can be viewed through an EcoJustice lens. For example, KFC and the Confirmation classes have begun using washable dishes for their snacks during their meetings. An EcoJustice volunteer washes the dishes each week. This saves landfill space for our neighbors in Holly Springs and teaches our children that we do not live in a disposable world.

EcoJustice seeks to share in the work of global reconciliation in ways that bring glory to God. You cannot have true justice the kind that the Bible speaks of without having a theology of abundance. You cannot fully love your neighbor if you have this notion that there is not enough to go around, which is a theology of scarcity. This kind of theology produces fear, whereas a theology of abundance produces generosity.

God has made his creation in a way that will support all life, if we don't exploit it or take more than our share. God wants his children to share, and that's at the heart of reconciliation. However, this kind of sharing comes with some sacrifice, which is always easier said than done.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, it is insufficient when we say, "That's overwhelming, I can't think about that." Simply put, we are held to a higher standard. Scripture shows us time and time again that our God is not pleased when people of privilege exploit the poor and destroy creation. Therefore, every church in middle class America needs an EcoJustice Ministry. Thanks be to God that together we are changing our personal and corporate habits to be aligned with His economy, and we should be proud that FVUMC has opened the doors for this important work.



EcoJustice

Global Missions

CONGREGATION-WIDE INVITATION

- WHAT:** Acts 1:8 Mission Celebration Weekend
WHEN: April 20 – 22, 2012
WHERE: Most events will be held at FVUMC
WHO: Missionaries are coming to share and celebrate the Lord's work with us!
WHY: This event is being held to strengthen our relationships and involvement with the missionaries and mission entities that we support at FVUMC. This will be accomplished through fellowship, education, and celebration events being held throughout the weekend.



***Mark your calendars and keep watching
for more information in the coming weeks about this event!***

With each new year comes new opportunities to serve God in a new way.
 In April the church will be celebrating an Acts 1:8 weekend.
 Would you consider opening up your home to a missionary for the weekend?
 A loving place to lay their head at night is all that is asked of you.
 Their days will be filled with the works of our Lord.
 If you are interested in this opportunity to share God's love through your gift of hospitality,
 please contact Whitne Harris at dwharris@nc.rr.com or call 919-812-7067.

The DR Congo mission work team needs YOU!

On June 15-30, 2012 there will be a UMC work team traveling to Kasungami, DRC to build a parsonage for Nazareth UMC - and there is still plenty of room on the team! We will be working closely with the Child Action Initiative (CAI), an UMCOR Advance project that helps over 100 children orphaned by wars, famine and AIDS. The deadline to sign up is the first team meeting on **March 11, 2012** and the total cost per member will be \$3,000. The work will include building a parsonage for the church pastor, helping CAI with the pharmacy, working with the village women and orphaned children, and helping with the on-going UMCOR Sustainable Agriculture and Development farming program.

Please prayerfully consider joining this work team, and contacting **Dave Heiser** at 919-639-8972 (heiserdm@cdmsmith.com) to ask any questions and to obtain a volunteer application form. A full project description and application forms will be hung on the "Ends of the Earth" bulletin board across from the church admin office for the next few weeks. ***Join the team - You will be richly blessed!***

Clothing Closet February 4th

Contact Heather Williams
567-3185
Tara Critcher
744-1520

Main Street Kitchen February 18th

Contact Paula Cade
557-4347

F-V Food Pantry Food: Oatmeal & Grits

Put items in the blue container in
the church lobby!
Please no glass containers!

Church Council

The first Church Council meeting of the year on January 3, 2012 was attended by almost 50 church members. We opened with a hymn and a reading of 1 Peter 5:1-5 and Titus 1:7-8. As we began our service on Council for 2012, we were challenged to put off being proud, arrogant, quick-tempered, and greedy and to put on humility, a willingness and eagerness to serve, hospitality, devotion to what is beneficial, self-control and holiness. Each member received a prayer of praise and a prayer of petition from a variety of scripture passages which we were able to pray in praise of God and on behalf of our congregation. Each member was to continue to pray the scriptures given until our next Council meeting in February.

A report was given on the finances of the church through November 2011. Those results reflected that expenses for January through November 2011 of \$1,135,614 exceeded tithes, offerings and other revenue received of \$1,065,380, by \$70,234. The Finance Committee is optimistic that, given our conservative budget and recent successful stewardship campaign, we can have a good financial year and possibly replenish our reserves.

We received an update on the search for a Director of Children's Ministries. Of the fifteen resumes received for the position, four candidates were given personal interviews by the search sub-committee. None of those candidates were deemed to be the right match for our needs and the search was reopened to receive resumes through January 31, 2012.

A report from the Trustees indicated that the real estate listing for the Casa Blanca property was renewed at a lower listing price of \$215,000. The Trustees also unanimously voted to call a charge conference on the first Tuesday in February prior to the Church Council meeting to recommend approval of a sight-distance easement requested by the DOT and Town of Fuquay. The Trustees also unanimously voted to join the petition to annex the 10 feet of property that was not in Town limits between our property and the Universal property next door. Neither of these actions will cost the church any money.

Church Council and Visioning are co-sponsoring a workshop on February 25, 2012, 9 a.m. to noon, which is open to all church members as we assess next steps in implementing the church's vision to be a Christ-centered community which Loves God, Learns God, Serves God and Shares God.

The Council then held a discussion assessing our church's hospitality - how welcoming we are to visitors and how we develop community among our members. Members were asked to think and pray about the discussions and come prepared to share further at our February meeting.

The first meeting was closed with a sharing of prayer concerns and prayer. **The next Church Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. and is open to all church members.**



Living the Vision

Saturday, February 25th, 9:00am- Noon

The *Vision Team* and *Church Council* are co-sponsoring a workshop to explore what it means to be a *Christ-centered community that Loves God, Learns God, Serves God, and Shares God* at FVUMC. The entire church body is requested to join church leaders as we worship and discuss in small groups and corporately what it means to live out the vision God has given us. Your reservation is requested so that we can plan for enough small group facilitators, coffee and continental breakfast for a donation of \$3. You may sign up by emailing Susan Smith at smooresmith@earthlink.net or completing the registration form found here or in the Weekly Times and dropping it in the offering plate.

REGISTRATION

For Living the Vision

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation of \$3.00

_____ Check

_____ Cash

Please return to church office or offering plate!

Our Life In Community



Albert Shuler, Bruce Zillmer,
Tyson Franks, June Mangum,
Janice Fain & Family, Frank Lane
& Family, Carey Mauget & Family,
Melissa & Conrad Beck,
Karen TerMeer, Sharon Preston,
Yvonne Wight, Lori Culberson,
Robert Kinton, Tom Myatt,
Lynn Mills, Yvonne Wight,
Shirley Baker, Fran Applegarth,
Alice Schmelzer, André Carson,
Dub Hornsby, Shirley Hicks,
Maxine Senter, Vickie Cardin,
Emily Ashworth, Kevin & Debbi
Braswell, Diane Rubin, Henry Han-
mann, Carole Nanzetta, Phil
McCray, John & Beth Silveira, PJ
Ramsey,

Be a Sorrow-Bearer

Martin Luther translated "Blessed are those who mourn" to mean "Blessed are those who are the sorrow-bearers." As Christians, we not only have our own sorrows and burdens to bear, but also those of others. In practice, this means that we take other people's tragedies and difficulties to our own hearts in intercessory prayer and in helpful service. In adopting this ministry, we ourselves will also be comforted. This is what Stephen Ministry is all about.

First, Stephen Ministers are sorrow-bearers. They are not sorrow-fixers, sorrow-brighteners, or sorrow-deniers. They come alongside a hurting person to listen, care, support, pray, empathize, encourage--to bear another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). And through their sorrow-bearing, God brings about real, lasting healing.

Second, an effective sorrow-bearer remains connected to Jesus, who "took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4). Jesus, incarnate in each of us, empowers us to be a sorrow-bearer. He makes sorrow-bearing possible--and powerful.

Whether or not you are involved in Stephen Ministry, you probably won't have to look hard for opportunities to be a sorrow-bearer, because they'll come looking for you. Welcome them. By sharing people's burdens so that God's healing love can flow through you to those who are hurting, you'll make a real difference in people's lives--and your own life will be immensely enriched as well.

If you or someone you know might need someone to help bear his or her sorrows, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Polly Sheets (552-5035), Bob Sorrels (552-0505), Thearon Willis (552-7577), and Susanne Young (552-7503).



TVR Family Retreat: 3/16-3/18, 2012

Attention FVUMC families; come see why our children and families have enjoyed TVR Christian Camp for years, by attending the TVR Family retreat this Spring. You will love a weekend away in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. This time is perfect for reconnecting with the members of your family and other families at FVUMC. From Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, enjoy worship, games, hayrides, campfires, horseback riding, rock climbing wall, and lots of laughs.

This year's retreat will be March 16-18. The cost is based on three days and two nights. A family of two is \$180.00; family of three - \$220.00; and a family of four - \$260.00. Each additional child is \$40 for the weekend. The cost covers all meals, lodging and activities. TVR is a non-denominational Christian camp located in Plumtree, NC. You can read more about TVR and see pictures of the camp and activities on their website -- www.tvr.org.

Registration forms with information sheets are on the table outside the church office. A \$50 deposit is due with completed registration form. Make checks to FVUMC with a memo for TVR Family Retreat #7408 (3/16-3/18, 2012).

For more information or questions, contact Vicki or Mark Bethea at 557-0857 or VBethea6@nc.rr.com.



A Note of Appreciation:

I would like to thank everyone for all their cards, thoughts and prayers. My Dad lived his entire 101 years following and teaching God's word. I can only aspire to be as faithful. Thanks again, it is truly a blessing to be part of such a caring church family.

-Carey Mauget



Wednesdays of Lent

Morning Offerings

An inspiring line-up of gifted speakers will be sharing in beginning February 29th

10:30 am

Pastor's Bible Study

(a lectionary study)

Room 117 Facilitator: Pastor Al

11:30 am

Light Luncheon

in the Centrum

12:00 pm

Worship Service with Holy Communion

Evening Offerings

6:00 pm

Vegetarian Potluck Dinners

Everyone is invited to join in one of the oldest Lenten spiritual disciplines of the church: *fasting from eating meat.*

We'll experience this together as a Vegetarian Potluck each Wednesday evening on **March 7, 14, 21, & 28** in the Centrum.

Drinks and bread will be provided. Watch the FVUMC Times for more info to come.

7:00 pm

Bible Studies

A Variety of studies will be offered! Look in the Weekly Times and our website for more information!

Childcare available for
Wednesday evening classes



Note from Preschool

Happy Valentine's Day!

February is blowing in and for the preschool it's a bustling month!



Time for our community friends to visit in anticipation of registration for the 2012-2013 preschool year. During Spirit Week we will support our favorite sports teams, wear silly hats, and come to preschool in our PJ's. Then we will

'Read Across America' and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with our S.L.I.C.E (Successful Learning in Creative Education) reading program where we will decorate pizza slices as we read at school and at home. *Never a dull moment 'round here!*

May your life be as busy and blessed as all of ours!
Ms. Lynne & Ms. Judy & the Preschool Staff

Registration Information

Open House

Monday, February 6th
2:00pm & 7:00pm

Registration for Church Members

New Students

Tuesday, February 7th
2:00pm (first come, first served)

Community Registration

New Students

Thursday, February 16th
9:30am (by lottery)

Please contact Lynne Sorrels with any questions at
919-557-1568.

February Book Club



The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway

In a city ravaged by war, a defiant young musician decides to play his cello at the site of a mortar attack for twenty-two days, in memory of his fallen friends and neighbors. Drawn into the orbit of his music are three strangers, each living like fugitives in their homeland; a bakery worker, a young father, and finally, a woman-a sniper-who holds the fate of the cellist in her hands, even as her own fate becomes just as changeable with each passing day. In following the lives and days of these four strangers, *The Cellist of Sarajevo* brilliantly explores how war can change one's definition of humanity, how music affects our emotional endurance, and how a romance with the rituals of daily life can itself be a form of resistance.

To join the dinner and discussion on Friday, February 24th, contact
Suzanne Jones at dsjones@nc.rr.com or
Matilda Storm at matildastorm@embarqmail.com

March 16 - *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for the Women Worldwide*
by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

Offering Envelopes



The 2012 Offering Envelopes are located in the church lobby! Stop by Sunday Morning to pick yours up! If you do not need yours or unable to locate yours, please contact Joan Thomas at 552.4331 x107 or jthomas@fvumc.org.

The Wellspring

Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church

Love God. Learn God. Serve God. Share God.

919-552-4331

www.FVUMC.org

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Upcoming Events

February

Confirmation Rock-a-thon	2/3
Clothing Closet	2/4
Preschool Open House	2/6
Financial Peace University begins	2/6 & 2/9
UMW: Circle of Faith	2/7
Preschool Registration begins	2/7
Church Council	2/7
Women's Breakfast	2/11
Main Street Kitchen (MSK)	2/18
Ash Wednesday	2/22
Book Club Dinner & Discussion	2/24
Vision & Church Council Retreat	2/25
Lenten Studies begin	2/29

March

High School Winter Retreat	3/2-4
Church Council	3/6
TVR Family Weekend	3/16-18
Main Street Kitchen	3/17
Confirmation Sunday	3/25
Palm Saturday Events	3/31

Looking Ahead:

Holy Week	4/2-7
Easter Sunday	4/8
Acts 1:8 Celebration (2012)	4/20-22
Vacation Bible School	6/24-29
M25: Youth High School Mission Trip	7/24-29

Newsletter:

newsletter@fvumc.org

Articles due by the
15th of the each month

Bulletin:

bulletin@fvumc.org

Notices are due
Tuesdays at noon