

March 2014

Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church Fuquay Varina

First Edition

Mark Your Calendar

3/2 - 3/12

Lasagna Orders

3/5

Love Thy Neighbor

3/7

Family Night

3/9

Daylight Savings Time Begins

3/9

God Squad

3/22

Church Clean-up

3/23

God Squad

3/23

Lasagna Pickups

A Note From the Pastor

With the arrival of Ash Wednesday on March 5, we will join Christians all over the world beginning the observance of Lent. Since the 4th Century, Christians have counted back 40 days from Easter, 40 days excluding Sundays, and declared a holy season of preparation, sorrow, reflection, repentance, fasting and acts of mercy. We are called in this season to acknowledge our sin, our brokenness, to confess out loud "all is not right with our souls."

Lent can be a brutal and painfully honest journey for Christians. We began the journey with ashes smeared on our forehead, reminding us of our sin, sin that lead to our death, reminding us we are mortals, not God. Ash Wednesday and Lent remind us who we are in relation to God.

We are all invited to observe a Holy Lent. Spend the days of Lent reflecting on the things you let get in the way of your relationship with God and asking God to help you grow in love for God and neighbor. Open yourself up the means of grace this Lent: prayer, scripture, worship, communion, confession, service and others that help you grow. In worship and later online there will be a daily guide of Lenten practices, suggestions to help you observe a holy Lent.

The good news for us during this season of Lent is that God meets us where we are with grace, far beyond what we deserve. As we journey through Lent to Calvary and to the undeserved grace poured out on the cross, we can walk with confidence and assurance because on the other side of Lent and Good Friday, lies an empty tomb and an Easter Celebration. Lent prepares us to celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death, the victory that gives each of us the hope for each day in Lent and every day of our lives. Grace

Worship Fair - March 9, 2014

We need your help!
Our worship committee needs additional volunteers for the following:

- A) Lay Readers for Sunday scripture reading
- B) Communion Servers
- C) Ushers
- D) Sound System

We are sponsoring a Worship Fair on March 9th in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am and 10:15am. Food will be served. Members of our worship committee will be available to discuss the specific duties for each job.

We hope to sign up many volunteers for each function. Please search your hearts and gifts for this effort.

ACC March Madness Peanut Butter Drive - Fuquay Varina Food Pantry

Starting Sunday, March 2nd, please bring your jars of peanut butter to the stage in the fellowship hall. You can put them in your favorite team's bin. The team with the most jars (standard size) will win. Seven ACC teams will have bins: North Carolina, NC State, Duke, Wake Forest, Florida State, Virginia Tech, and Georgia Tech. Here are your team captains:

UNC - Julia & Keith McCombs
NC State - John Daniels
Duke - Anne Ahl
Wake Forest - Angela Cameron
Florida State - Lisa & Steve Campbell
Virginia Tech - Jeff Munzenmaier
Georgia Tech - Scott Chastain

The winning team gets to have all the losing team captains dress in their teams color and gear on Sunday, March 23. The peanut butter for the contest will be counted through Sunday night, March 16. You can contribute by buying peanut butter, collecting peanut butter at your work, or passing out coupons for peanut butter to your teammates. The collected peanut butter will go to serve those in need at our local Fuquay Varina Food Pantry. The Food Pantry passes out over 500 jars of peanut butter each month. Let's see how many we can collect for them.

Love Thy Neighbor: Wednesday, March 5th at 11:20am

Our next Love Thy Neighbor meal at West Jones Street Park is on Wednesday, March 5th at 11:20am. We will meet at the church and then head over to the park together. We will be using leftovers from the Valentine's banquet to prepare the main meal of 1 pan of chicken alfredo pasta and 3 pans of beef/veggie pasta.

We are in need of the following items for the meal:

- 2 large salads and dressings
- bread
- 4 desserts
- 3 sodas

Please contact Dana Vaughn at djiv_vaughn@yahoo.com if you would be willing to provide any of these items.

*Also, please contact Dana if you can help set up at 10:30am

House Your Neighbor Race (Formerly Race of Grace)

Come out and join the NCSU student chapter for Habitat for Humanity to support those people in our community without affordable housing. You can join the cause by running/walking in the 5k race that starts at 4 pm. The course weaves through downtown Raleigh and has musicians supporting the participants along the route. Contact Bryant Welch if you would like to join in on the run/walk.

You can also pitch-in by baking a cake that will be awarded to those that finish in the top three of males and females of 14 different age groups. Please contact Betsy at dale3fan@nc.rr.com or (919) 605-0222 if you would like to bake a cake.

St. Baldrick's Fight to End Childhood Cancer

Six members of First United Methodist Church's youth group will be participating in the St. Baldrick's fundraising effort to end childhood cancer. They will be raising money and shaving their heads to show solidarity with children who have no choice but to lose their hair. Before age 20, 1 in 300 boys and 1 in 333 girls will be diagnosed with life threatening cancer. Our team, and thousands more like us around the globe, want to see this end. You can support our team's efforts in several ways:

1. Pray for our the young men on our team to use this opportunity to be lights in our world and our community.
2. Pray for the young boys and girls who are affected by cancer.
3. Contribute to one or more of our team by giving on-line or in person for our event.
4. Come to our Wednesday night fundraising supper, scheduled for March 19th. We will be serving BRINNER (breakfast for dinner) including a biscuit bar and cinnamon bun casserole.
5. Come to our event, which is March 22 at the Aviator Brewery. Our shaving times are yet to be announced.

For additional information, please visit the Missions bulletin board in the hallway by the choir room.

CREW NEWS

Lasagna Sale: Don't know what's for dinner? Never fear, the CREW is here! The CREW is taking orders for lasagnas March 2-12. Look for the order form in your bulletin.

Questions? Contact Victoria Benditz at vjbenditz@hotmail.com or 919-557-5502.



Haiti Mission Trip

We are excited to announce that our church has organized a mission team to serve in Haiti this summer. We will be serving at the Ryan Epps Home for Children. Our team will work with the children of the orphanage, do manual labor in the community, prepare meals for the local families and worship alongside those in the community. At this point, we have 10 people on our team representing our church. The dates of our trip are August 5th through August 13th.

How can you help our team?

*We would appreciate prayers for this trip....doing the work God wants us to accomplish, opening our hearts to those sweet orphans, our safety, our families here back at home.

*If you would like to financially help our team, we have set up an account through Angie to accept donations. The cost per person is \$1500. We will share any donations amongst our team. You can make a check to FUMCFV with Haiti Mission trip in the memo line.

*We will be collecting items at VBS this year to take to the people of Haiti. Stay tuned for more information on this project and other fundraising efforts!

Please contact Dana Vaughn at djjv_vaughn@yahoo.com with any questions.



Prayer Ministry

Calling all Facebook users

We are on Facebook! 'Like' our page to keep up with what is going on locally, nationally and globally within the United Methodist Church. If there is something you would like to see posted here, send me a note. If you'd like to help keep the page up to date, I would love to hear from you!

Debbie White

lewdrop91804@aol.com

We are all on a journey, going on to perfection. At any step along the way, we (us and Jesus) can call it quits. But He did not, He persevered on His journey. On this journey we need each other and we need God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. People often take journeys to find themselves. Jesus journeyed to find US. Jesus' walk was a working journey. He knew his identity. He understood his reason for being here. As you walk your journey, know you are not alone. If you would like us to pray for you, just ask. We would love to walk along side you through prayer. Before you call it quits, ask us to pray for you, we must all persevere together. We are all servants of God! As the head can't get anywhere without the legs, we, the body of Christ, need to journey together.

Upcoming dates:

** Sunday, March 9 at noon Prayer Ministry Team meeting

** Wednesday, April 16 Prayer Team to host the Wednesday Night Supper 6pm

Mike Dorman will be head chef
country steak, green beans, mashed potatoes, and Debbie's cookies

** Thursday, May 1 is the National Day of Prayer

Sanctuary will be open for prayer 10 am - 7 pm

Prayer service held at the FV Town Hall at noon.

If you feel the Holy Spirit tugging you to join the Prayer Team, please let me know! We would love to have you join us on our journey.

In Prayer,
Debbie White
prayforme@fumcfv.org

God Squad

All 3rd-5th graders are invited to attend our meetings! We meet in the basement for supper, devotion time and games/activities. Feel free to bring a friend to our meetings! Also, "like" our God Squad page on Facebook for updates and pictures. Contact Dana Vaughn at djjv_vaughn@yahoo.com with any questions.

March 9th: God Squad meeting at 5pm

Lesson: Blind Sight-ed: Jesus Uses Mud to Heal

March 23rd: God Squad special outing

Stayed tuned for details! This is always a fun day full of energy and excitement!



Winter Olympics and Closing Ceremony Sundae Party!

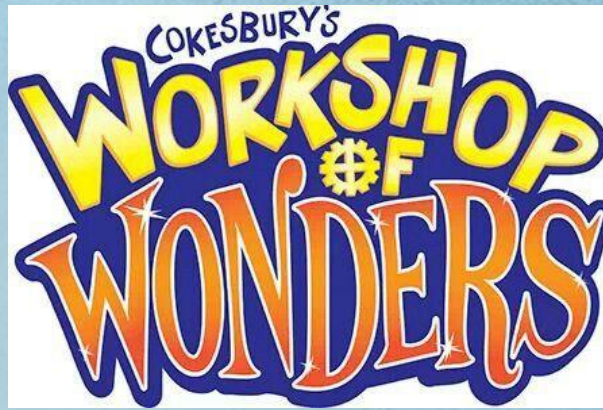
Enjoy a fun night with your church family!

When: Friday, March 7th at 6:30pm

Where: Fellowship Hall (supper provided)

The Olympics were fun to watch on TV, but our events are going to be even more fun! Start your training now for Sumo Wrestling, Archery, Ice Hockey and Basketball!

After our events, we will be making "Colossians Celebratory Sundaes" to remember all of the virtues that make us great Olympic athletes in God's kingdom!



You are invited to VBS 2014!

Kickoff: Sunday, 6/15 at 4:30pm

VBS week: Monday, 6/16- Friday, 6/20 from 5:15-8pm

There is a place for everyone at VBS! From our little ones in nursery and the toddler class all the way to rising 6th graders! There is a place for you to serve too.....supper, snacks, Bible stories, music, group leaders, recreation and much more!! Contact Dana Vaughn at djiv_vaughn@yahoo.com to learn more.

****I interviewed a few First Church kids about their favorite part of VBS....here's what they said!****

Natalie Peele: "My favorite part of VBS is going to the Bible story room and learning about Jesus. I also like the music and singing!"

Sarah Munzenmaier: "My favorite part about VBS is the games we get to play outside!"

Abigail Bryant: "I like singing and making crafts! I also like eating with my friends!"

VBS Decorating!!

We love to transform our church into the theme each year for VBS. The kids and adults all love looking at the bright, fun decorations that adorn our hallways, Fellowship Hall and sanctuary.

This year we will be transforming our church into different “Workshops of Wonder,” where we will learn to imagine and build with God!

Mark your calendars for 3 VBS decorating meetings to help build and paint our decorations:

**Thursday, March 13 at 7pm
Wednesday, April 16th at 7pm
Wednesday, May 14th at 7pm**

We are also in need of the following items for our decorations. Please contact Dana Vaughn at djjv_vaughn@yahoo.com if you can donate any of the following:

Tool boxes, tools, tool belts, paint brushes, paint buckets/cans, paint trays, art easels, beret, paintings or frames, parachute, toy tool benches, blue prints, test tubes, lab coats, element chart, science fair display, ballet/dance costumes, ballet/dance shoes, toy cars, tires, cans of oil, checkered flags, playbills, director’s chair, dramatic costumes, tripod, cardboard boxes, a/c tubing, pool noodles

Music Ministry
Helga Bogardus
Director of Music Ministry
music@fumcfv.org
Danny Moody
Organist

Valentine Banquet 2014, Vive L'Amour: Paris the City of Love

Even though a major snowstorm interrupted our preparations the week of the Banquet, months of planning and preparation made it possible to quickly and efficiently continue as scheduled for the banquet on Saturday February 15.

A HUGE THANK YOU goes to the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir families, Beth Munzenmaier, Victoria Benditz and the CREW, Margaret Kincaid, and Chris Phillips for the months of planning and the long, hard work that made it possible.



Annual Easter Cantata

Chancel Choir will present Because He Lives, with a strong resurrection message, in the season of Eastertide, on Sunday, April 27, excerpts at 8:30am worship, full presentation at 11:00 worship. Vocalists and instrumentalists are invited to join rehearsals in the month of March. Choir rehearsals Wednesdays 7:00-7:45pm Instrumentalists contact Helga music@fumcfv.org



Children's Choir

What a sweet message the **Cherub Choir** brought to worship with their cherubic voices on Sunday, February 23! Thank you to the parents who faithfully bring their children to both Cherub Choir and God Squad rehearsals and to participate in worship and at the Valentine Banquet. They remind us of the JOY of the Lord!

Cherub Choir has ended their season for Spring 2014.

We look forward to some Cherubs graduating up to God Squad Choir and Cherubs returning in the Fall.



God Squad Choir rehearse Sunday, March 2, 9 and 16 in preparation for worship on Sunday, March 23.

VBS Music Experience Children AND ADULTS who would like to learn the music and the movements for this year's VBS won't want to miss this opportunity! Join Ms Helga, Ms Karen on one or ALL of the following dates to enrich your VBS experience.

Sunday, April 6, 4:15-5:00pm

Sunday, April 13, 4:15-5:00pm

Sunday, April 27, 4:15-5:00pm

Sunday, May 4, 6:30-7:15pm

Wednesday, May 28, 6:30-7:30pm



Birthdays

3/1	Debbie Webb	3/20	Jill Rollins
3/3	Kevin Gaines	3/21	John Akins
3/3	Kate Heldreth	3/22	Shirley Fasolt
3/3	Sarah Munzenmaier	3/22	Ally Mehl
3/4	Bonnie Cannaday	3/23	Julie Austin
3/4	Doris Summey	3/23	Ken Blue
3/6	Meredith Perry	3/24	Kim Barbee
3/8	Julia Brown	3/24	James Dewar
3/8	Mickey Denning	3/24	Chuck Perry
3/8	Jamie Johnson	3/25	Murray Buddin
3/9	Ashley Gibbs	3/26	Louis Iannone
3/9	Mandy Setzer	3/26	Gerald Minshew
3/10	Jonah Marsh	3/26	Jimmy Parker
3/11	Katie Peele	3/27	Richard Bucklin
3/11	Ashley Ruffin	3/27	James Mountford
3/12	Abigail Markle	3/29	Charles Hair
3/13	Annette Stuart	3/29	Kaylee Markle
3/14	Amanda Baxley	3/30	Mason Welch
3/14	Alison Best	3/31	Jo Avent
3/17	Amy Bryant	3/31	Sarah Johnson
3/17	Julie Gilbert	3/31	Beth Munzsenmaier
3/17	Teresa Kendall	3/31	Mollie Stephenson

Anniversaries

3/1	Stanley & Drusilla Williams
3/4	Will & Tricia Buddin
3/10	Steve & Tami Ashworth
3/12	Rudy & Noralee Seymour
3/17	Bill & Ruth Ann Heldreth