

# First Edition

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FUMCFV  
MAY 2016

## A Note from the Pastor

This Thursday may be Cinco de Mayo, but more importantly for Christians it is Ascension Day. Ascension Day comes 40 days after Jesus' resurrection. During those 40 days, Jesus appeared to his disciples, talking with them, teaching them, encouraging them, letting them touch his hands and side. Then on the 40<sup>th</sup> day, Jesus ascended into heaven and was seated at the right hand of God.

But where exactly where did Jesus go? How far did he have to ascend before he reached the right hand of God? Interesting questions to ponder, but neither gets to the heart of what it means that Jesus ascended. The angels said, "*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?*" (Acts 1:11)

These angels remind us that the heart of the Ascension story is not in heaven, but here, on earth. Here, where we are told by Jesus to be his witnesses, to be his hands and feet, to continue his work in the world.

There's a well-known prayer that expresses what the angels wanted to say. It's by saint and mystic Teresa of Avila, born in 1515 in Spain:

God of love, help us to remember that  
Christ has no body now on earth but ours,  
no hands but ours, no feet but ours.  
Ours are the eyes to see the needs of the world.  
Ours are the hands with which to bless everyone now.  
Ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.

The Ascension sets the stage for Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, when the disciples are given power from on high as the Holy Spirit descends on the church with a violent wind and blazing tongues of fire. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to be the hands and feet of Christ and continue to share his love and grace with one another, here and now.

May we not only celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, but live and love in such a way that we make Christ's presence real here in the world today.

Grace and peace,

Anne

## Church Events

- **5/4 - Love Thy Neighbor**
- **5/4 - Wednesday Night Dinner**
- **5/5- National Day of Prayer**
- **5/6 - Family Fun Night**
- **5/12 - VBS Decorating Meeting**
- **5/15 - God Squad End of Year Celebration**
- **5/19- Sister Acts Meeting**

## Prayer Ministry

Shout it out loud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Isaiah 58:1

Wake Up America! This is the theme for this year's National Day of Prayer. From a sermon I just heard yesterday while visiting friends, wake up! And DO something!

You never know where your act will go, big or small. Perhaps you hold a door for someone, then that person gives a ride to another, then perhaps that one will pay for a meal for yet another person, who may in turn help build a home for someone else. And all you did was hold a door open and it turned into a ride, a meal and a home!

Wake up to the possibilities!

Your Prayer Ministry Team is busy this first week of May! First we will host the Wednesday night supper on May 4th. Mike Dorman is cooking! BBQ chicken and brats with baked beans, potato salad & sauerkraut with homemade desserts. We look forward to dining and fellowshiping with you!

Then Thursday, May 5th is the National Day of Prayer. We will have our sanctuary open for all to come and pray from 10am to 7pm. There will always be someone present in the sanctuary. Please join us in prayer for our nation, state and local community.

At noon the Town of Fuquay-Varina will have a prayer service on the lawn of the Town Hall.

Please come to one or both of these events that are held for you. We know prayer can happen anywhere but in community and in the quiet sanctuary are two of the best places, especially on the National Day of Prayer!

In prayer,

Debbie White

Prayer Ministry Coordinator

[prayforme@fumcfv.org](mailto:prayforme@fumcfv.org)

# Children's Events

May 2016

## May 1st: Superhero Sundaes at 3:15pm

All Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> graders are invited! Join us in the basement from 3:15-4:15pm as we explore the Superheroes of the Bible. We will learn about Superhero Daniel and how he made a whole bunch of lions chill out! Our meeting will include the lesson, activity and eating ice cream sundaes. Bring a friend!

## May 1st: God Squad meeting at 5pm

All 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited! Join us in the basement from 5-6:45pm for supper, fellowship, games and devotion. Our lesson is entitled "Your Serve!: Give of your Best!" Bring a friend!

**Mark your calendars!**

"Surf Shack" Vacation  
Bible School: 6/12-6/16



## May 6<sup>th</sup>: Family "Amazing Race" Night at 6:30pm

Join us for a night of adventure with your family! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm for supper and then begin our "Amazing Race" challenge with our family.

## May 12th: VBS Decorating Meeting at 7pm

Join us for our final meeting to help create decorations for VBS. We will meet in the basement. Be sure to wear old clothing!

## May 15<sup>th</sup>: God Squad End of Year Celebration at 5pm

We will conclude our God Squad year with a cookout full of fun, fellowship and games. Plan to meet by the playground from 5-7pm. We will also be recognizing our 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the end of the cookout.

## Love Thy Neighbor: Wednesday, May 4th at 11:20am

Join us for lunch, worship and fellowship at West Jones Street Park! We will meet at First UMC at 11:20am to load supplies and then head over to the park. We will be serving fried chicken as the main meal. We are in need of the following supplies to complete the meal: 4 large pans of macaroni and cheese, 4 large fruit salads and 3 desserts. Please contact Dana Vaughn at [djjv\\_vaughn@yahoo.com](mailto:djjv_vaughn@yahoo.com) with any questions.

## Sister Acts Meeting May 19th

Sister Acts will meet at the home of Karen DeShong on Thursday, May 19th at 7pm. We will be preparing and assembling make-ahead meals for the families expecting new babies in May and June. Look for online Sign Up Genius lists soon for bringing ingredients.

For more information on Sister Acts, contact Angela Cameron at (919) 552-7797 or [angela.w.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:angela.w.cameron@gmail.com)

## Haiti Mission Team: 2016

We had a very meaningful 10 days in Haiti over Easter. It was wonderful to worship with our neighbors a short plane ride away, very challenging and rewarding to help build the foundation of the school in Cotin and always an emotional experience to play with the kids at several orphanages. We always felt God's presence and your prayers! We felt love from the people of Haiti and especially a strong sense of hope from the village of Cotin. Thank you to this congregation for praying and financially supporting the building of



this school. It will empower the kids with an education, provide jobs for the adults and provide a safe place for the kids of Cotin.

We are around \$3500 short of completing the school. The goal is to have the school completed by this September as the children start a new school year. Please contact Dana Vaughn if you would like to contribute to the school fund or submit a check in the offering plate to First UMC with Haiti School in the memo line.

# Birthdays

5/2	Michael Hartley	5/18	William Akins
5/3	Emily Allen	5/20	Miriam Parigoris
5/3	Anna Garrett	5/20	Caroline Campbell
5/3	Andrew Parigoris	5/23	Harrison Ashworth
5/4	Fischer Welch	5/24	Lizzie Akins
5/5	Zoe Ashworth	5/24	Mary Carol Day
5/6	Jane Ray	5/25	Shireen Mehl
5/7	Betty Ashworth	5/25	Barbara Ha
5/8	Steve Davis	5/26	Jim Fortunes
5/12	Judy Lucas	5/26	Evelyn Sturtevant
5/12	Joanie Woodruff	5/27	Chris Ahl
5/13	Betty Andrews	5/27	Miriam McLaughlin
5/13	Dick Owens	5/28	Chad Benditz
5/14	Dominick Cruze	5/28	Karen Davis
5/15	Chris Bogardus	5/30	Ed Fuller
5/15	John Wallace	5/30	Gabriella Cruze
5/16	Cameron Hair	5/30	Joseph Shewmon
5/17	Shirley Forsman		
5/18	Bob Hartig		

# Anniversaries

5/2	Jim & Fran Baggs
5/5	Chip & Debbie Webb
5/14	Patrick & Amy Bryant
5/18	Karl & Shireen Mehl
5/23	Robert & Jennifer Haire
5/24	Bill & Margaret Kiser