



ECCLESIA

*The mission of First United Methodist Church is to make and nurture Christian disciples
through the presence and power of the Spirit of God.*

January 2010

Volume 33, Issue 1

Please join the congregation of First United Methodist Church for an **Epiphany Lovefeast** in the Moravian tradition on Sunday, January 3, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. A lovefeast is a service dedicated to Christian love and seeks to strengthen the bonds and the spirit of harmony, goodwill, and congeniality, as well as to forgive past disputes and instead love one another. All members of the community are invited and welcome to this service of worship.

journey@first

Reverend Steve Haines will deliver the message for journey@first on January 17 at 9:00 am in the chapel. The message will come from John 2:1-11 and will be entitled "Empty." You will be able to take a look at WHAT is possible through Jesus Christ. Invite a friend, a co-worker, or a neighbor to join you at the journey service in January and find ways to fill the "empty jars" in your life.

Remember, non-perishable goods are received at the service to take to Rowan Helping Ministries as we continue to reach out and serve others in our community.

2010 Leadership Retreat

All members of the 2010 Church Council are invited to attend the Leadership Retreat on Saturday, January 16, 9:00-12:30 in the Stanback Room of the Rowan Public Library. As the retreat is a key time to set priorities for 2010, ministry leaders are asked to have someone from their ministry area attend if they cannot. If you have questions, contact Steve Haines, Martha Ballard, Samantha Wesley or Elaine Hewitt.

Brick and Mortar Auction Saturday, January 30, 2010

6:00-8:00 pm

Our new building is going up, and our auction fundraiser is quickly approaching. If you are contributing something to the auction, we are asking that you pick up a form from the volunteer office, fill out the form and return it to the volunteer office. We already have a beach house, dinner parties, an oyster roast, a numbered print, as well as other wonderful items. By the way, do you have a car you would like to donate? You could receive a tax deduction, as well as help a good cause! *The Bricks and Mortar Committee*

Your Church Staff would like to thank the congregation for the love offering, cards, treats, greetings and blessings you graciously shared with us this Christmas. We feel blessed to serve you each and every day. Many thanks, *Adam, April, Becky, Elaine, Martha, Matt, Murl, Samantha and Steve.*

The Church Office will be closed Friday, January 1st for New Year's Day and Monday, January 18th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

News You Can Use

First Family Celebration meals, small groups and children's programs resume on Wednesday, January 6th.

Notice about meal reservations for First Family Celebration on Wednesdays... If you are unable to keep your reservation for the meal on Wednesday night, please call the church office at 704-636-3121 to cancel, as soon as possible. If you do not cancel, we respectfully request that you pay for your reservation. Thank you.

Attention all women! Mark your calendars and get ready! 12 slots are left for the 2010 Women's Beach Retreat which will be held from **March 18-21, 2010, at Ocean Isle Beach, NC.** The cost for the retreat is **\$150; a \$75 non-refundable deposit is due when you sign up.** Sign-ups have already begun, and this is different from years past. Policies have changed with our rental company, and we need to pay for part of the rental of the house in January and then the final payment in February. So, we are trying to get our money in earlier. It is a learning game! The sign-up sheet is on Samantha's door, and the deposit is due when you sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Samantha or Mary Jane Thompson. We look forward to another great time at the beach for good food, fun and spiritual enlightenment. The theme for the retreat is called "Sweet Life Café."

foundations@first

Join us for the January and February foundations@first sessions. Sunday, January 3rd, 9:45-10:45 am in the Chapel, Steve Haines will lead the session on how the United Methodist Church is organized, to include some of the major agencies of the church. The February 7th session, "Being an Effective Leader at FUMC" will be led by Samantha Wesley and Elaine Hewitt. Examples of areas to be covered are—how to form a ministry team, how to conduct an effective meeting, how to reserve and schedule meeting rooms, and how to comply with Safe Sanctuary.

All sessions are in the Chapel, 9:45-10:45 am on the first Sunday of the month. The sessions are strongly encouraged for church leaders, but are open to everyone. If you have questions, contact Elaine Hewitt. No sign up required.

Thank you to everyone who came to Breakfast with Santa in December. We had the largest turnout ever, with over 230 people in attendance. It was such a joy to

see our Fellowship Hall teeming with joy and laughter. What a fun time! Thank you to Bob Roakes, Bill Noell and Rob Roakes for working their kitchen magic for our breakfast. Thanks to the youth who helped with crafts, to the Children's Ministry Team and friends for their dedication and commitment to our ministry. You all are fabulous and appreciated! Thank you again!

Adopt a School

We received thank you notes from our 4th and 5th Grade Backpack Buddies.

For our Backpack Mission, we are in need of individual portions of pasta, fruit and vegetables. Thank you again for all of your support.

Thank you to all our Sunday School classes, the choir and staff for contributing to the Christmas gifts for Isenberg. The 15 families we adopted were overwhelmed with gratitude and praise for our church family. Please know that we did make a difference this holiday season. Your generosity put smiles on faces and warmed so many hearts.

January 29th will be here before you know it. Please mark your calendars for our annual Mentor/Volunteer Luncheon to be held at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you again for all your support and prayers. We are blessed to have such a caring, sharing church family.

A Message From the Finance Committee

In 2009 we sent out 410 pledge cards. As of 12/21/09, we received 187 cards – a 46% return rate. The pledged amounts were \$65,030.00 for capital (existing structure improvements and maintenance), \$44,573.00 new pledges for the new building project and \$433,716.12 for the operating fund.

The finance team met in December 2009 and will meet again in early January 2010 to finalize their recommendations to the church council for the 2010 church budget. In 2009, the proposed annual budget was \$784,296.23 with an estimate of \$734,100.00 in revenue. Simply stated, we began the year anticipating a \$50,000.00 loss in 2009. At the time of this Ecclesia deadline, final figures were not available but expenses had not been quite so great as anticipated.

It is crucial that everyone turn in their pledge cards so that your finance team can make wise and informed decisions regarding the operating budget for your church year. Thank you to everyone for your prayerful consideration.

Pastor's Note Pad

On behalf of all of your First UMC staff and our families, I would like to thank all of you for your many acts of kindness and generosity during the Christmas Season. Your gift to the staff was very gracious, but more than that, it was your spirit of genuine concern and partnership that was an inspiration to all of us. We remain grateful that God has allowed us to be in this place, at this time, with you.

Now, as we head into the year 2010, I want you to think about the possibilities that lay before us as a church to do ministry in this place. I want to think of 2010 as the year of "WOW," that term that we use whenever we come face to face with something that unexpectedly captures our imagination. For example, Christmas is a season that inspires us to say "WOW, look at what God did for us through the birth of Jesus Christ." "WOW" is a word that I heard spoken many times after our Lessons and Carols Service as people walked out in awe of the beautiful music they had just heard. I am certain that in the coming months we will stand by the fence outside of our sanctuary watching the walls of our new building rise into the sky and say, "WOW! Won't it be great when we can get into that place."

In the coming year I am looking for us to work on those ways that we can continually say, "WOW," about our experience with the church; so that people can say, "WOW, God is truly at work in and through First UMC. If you have any ideas of things that we can be doing to make this happen please write them down and send them to me.

On a different note, I would like to clear up a few questions I hear about the new facility.

- Windows in the sanctuary will not be covered, but instead there will be a small courtyard containing the columbarium so that natural light can come into the sanctuary.
- You will soon receive more information concerning the columbarium. Niches large enough for two containers of ashes will be offered, but a price has not yet been determined. The surface of the niches will be black granite with an off white trim that will contain black and red hues to match the church's brick.
- The offices will be in different areas of the church building. Our music director, Matthew Brown, will be on the first floor in the music suite; our Administrative Assistant, April Elrod, will be in an office at the main entrance; DCE, Samantha Wesley and youth director, Adam Sproles, will be located in the first floor in the current office area, and the rest of the staff will be in the upstairs of the new wing. Samantha and Adam needed to be near our children and youth areas, and the upstairs of the new wing will actually make the rest of the staff more accessible to those who come to see them, because they will be located closer to the main entrance.

If you have other questions about the facility please let me know.

May you have a wonderful New Year,
Steve

Youth News
www.1styouth.org

January Birthdays

Robert Anderson- 1 Nolan Meyerhoeffer- 3
 Lauren Gray- 7
 Katelyn Storey-13 Suzanna Maxwell-16

Exciting Opportunities to Grow
with Jesus in January

To Save A Life- Opening In Theaters January 22, 2010. This is a film that explores how saving a life could be just a matter of opening our ears to the cries of those hurting through the dramatic story of Jake Taylor.

About to Save a Life: Can a movie change the world? No, but it can move the people who will. **To Save A Life** is more than a movie. It's the difference you can make when you use your influence and time for others—whether in your family, neighborhood, campus, community or world. Some people are just dying to be heard and accepted. Don't let 'em have to. Be the person who takes the time to show people they have value. Listen. Reach out. Engage. Imagine if we took the time to show other people we care. **To Save A Life** dares—no, inspires—you to. **To Save A Life** is an awesome movie. But it's only a movie. You can change the world. **For more go to <http://www.tosavealifemovie.com/>**

January 8-9- Ski Trip at Wolf Ridge in Asheville, NC leaving the church at 4:30.

January 10- Youth starts back. VERY Important Parent Meeting at 4:30. We will talk about 30 Hour Famine, Summit and College Panel.

January 17- NO Youth, MLK

January 24- College Panel for Senior Youth of Rowan County

January 31- SouperBowl of Caring Collection following worship

February 5-7- Summit (ALL Youth). \$90 DUE January 24 (Non-Refundable DEPOSIT \$40). Scholarships Available upon request. Discounted cost for families with 2+ youth. Open to any parents that want to go as a counselor.

February 26-27 – 30 Hour Famine

Congratulations to:

Matthew Langford—National Junior Honor Society, West Rowan Middle School

Luke Lundy—Accepted to High Point University

Lauren Watts and Max Parker—Accepted to East Carolina University

Cool Kids!

January Birthdays

3 Zara Huffman
 8 Caroline Johnson
 16 Evan Koontz

P.A.W.S. will not meet on January 3rd.

First Family Kids will begin again on Wednesday, January 6th. Come and join the fun, and bring your friends!

Mark your calendars:

January Activity: Ice Skating

Date: Sunday, Jan. 24th after church

February Activity: Parent's Night Out

Date: Friday, Feb. 19th 5:30-10:00 pm

March Activity: Easter Egg Hunt

Date: Saturday, March 27th 9:00-11:00 am

April Activity: Webb Farm for fishing and play

Date: TBA (after spring break)

May Activity: NASCAR Speedpark

Date: TBA

June Activity: Vacation Bible School

Theme: "Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God"

Date: June 21-25

PAWS Questions: (for 20 points) Please bring your answers to Samantha, and write your name on the paper. 1) What is the Tuesday called before Ash Wednesday? (It has 2 names) and Why? 2) What church season begins with Ash Wednesday, and how many weeks is it?

HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS

Guests and New Members:

Connecting 101 and Get Acquainted Luncheon

If you are considering joining our church or if you are a new member and haven't attended, join us in Connecting 101 on Sundays, January 31 through February 28, 9:45-10:45 am in the Conference Room (Room 106). Even long-term members who are curious are welcome to join us as we discuss our faith; our Methodist history and theology; our individual spiritual gifts, talents and interests; and based on those gifts from God, where you might best connect with our congregation in worship, study, fellowship and service. For more information, contact Elaine Hewitt, Director of Lay and Welcome Ministries.

Guests (and New Members who haven't attended) are invited to our Get Acquainted Luncheon on Sunday, January 31, 12:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The luncheon is provided by Bobbie Melton and the Evangelism Ministry Team. This is a chance to talk with staff one-on-one, meet other guests, and tour the church campus, if desired. Children are welcome. Childcare for pre-school age children will be arranged, if requested. Please RSVP to the church office no later than Wednesday, January 20 with the number attending and if childcare is requested (704-636-3121).

The Fabulous Fun Bunches will gather for a covered dish dinner to reshuffle our happy groups on Thursday, January 14. The feast will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm. We welcome all adults, younger or older, married or single, shy or outgoing. We want YOU! Join us for fun, food and fellowship. For more information, call Linda Brown at 704-633-3262 or Peggy Lutz at 704-209-6280.

The United Methodist Women will meet on Monday, January 4, and Tuesday, January 5; meeting times and locations follow.

Monday, January 4

Circle 1—10:30 am, Daisy Hedrick Classroom
 Circle 2—10:30 am, Church Parlor
 Circle 4—6:00 pm, Evelyn Dymond's House *
 Circle 5—6:30 pm, Church Conference Room
 Circle 6—12:30 pm, Media Room ** (A Physical

Fitness Expert will be the guest speaker.)

Tuesday, January 5

Circle 7—9:00 am, Church Parlor

** For Circle 4, a light dinner will be followed by the program and business meeting.*

** For Circle 6, no lunch will be provided.*

For ladies looking for wonderful fellowship, please join us! With our various meeting times, one of our Circles should fit your schedule! Call Cheryl Nickerson at 704-639-0194 for more information.

Get your tickets now to "The Rooms of Your Life" Women's Retreat!

The UMW is sponsoring the women's retreat here at FUMC on February 5-6. Jean Padgett will be back to present five in-depth sessions of her program "The Rooms of Your Life." Tickets are available from a UMW circle leader or in the church office. The cost is \$25.00. This will cover Jean's presentation, a program workbook, and three meals. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to retreat here at our church.

*first*ARTS PRESENTS

UNC-CHAPEL HILL
 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
 GLEE CLUBS

IN CONCERT

Friday, January 8, 2010
 7:30 pm Sanctuary

*An offering will be received for the
 Music Memorial Fund.*

Service Opportunities and Recognition

Dear First Methodist Church Members,
Thank you for the weekend snacks. We enjoy the treats every Saturday and Sunday. Many thanks, *The 5th Grade Isenberg Backpack Buddies*

First United Methodist Church,
Thank you for all the prayers, the prayer shawl and visits. Wonderful to know that there are so many wonderful people who care. I got home to Mom's Sunday, November 22. I hope to go to my place in the coming weeks. Love, *Elizabeth Calvert*

To keep friends and family up to date on **Wayne Hager**, his wife, Robin, has created a CaringBridge website. You can follow Wayne's progress and show your support. Visit Wayne's website in two easy ways: 1) Visit the CaringBridge website, www.caringbridge.org/visit/waynehager; or 2) Enter the website name, waynehager, at www.caringbridge.org. You may leave a message in the guestbook, and receive e-mail notifications when the journal is updated.

Small Group Opportunities at First United

Methodist Church of Salisbury

Sign-ups are located on the bulletin board in the hallway next to Samantha's office.

Dare to Be Uncommon Men's Bible Study

By Tony Dungy

Tony Dungy says it's time...for *every* man to choose an Uncommon life! This Super Bowl-winning coach has spent his life shaping young men. Now, Tony Dungy is ready to share core truths he wants *every* man to understand, live by, and pass on to others. Examine your life—and aspire to a life of renewed integrity... influence...and faith. With this Bible study, you'll tackle key principles found in Tony Dungy's *Uncommon*. You'll explore Scripture, engage in discussion, encounter character-building insights—and uncover what it means to live a life of true significance. **Facilitator:** Steve Haines **Day Offered:** Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am OR Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm; study begins on February 16, 2010 (**please note start date change**). **Cost of Book:** \$9.00

Difficult Conversations:

How to Discuss what Matters Most

Whether you're dealing with an underperforming employee, disagreeing with your spouse about money or child-rearing, negotiating with a difficult client, or simply saying "no," or "I'm sorry," or "I love you," we attempt or avoid difficult conversations every day. Based on fifteen years of research at the Harvard Negotiation Project, *Difficult Conversations* walks you through a step-by-step proven approach to having your toughest conversations with less stress and more success. You will learn: how to start the conversation without defensiveness; why what is not said is as important as what is; ways of keeping and regaining your balance in the face of attacks and accusations; how to decipher the underlying structure of every difficult conversation. Filled with examples from everyday life, *Difficult Conversations* will help you on the job, at home, or out in the world. It is a book you will turn to again and again for advice, practical skills, and reassurance. **Facilitator:** Jeff Matthews **Day Offered:** Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm; study begins Wednesday, January 6, 2010. **Cost of Book:** \$10.50

Invitation to the Old Testament

Short Term Disciple Course

This study approaches the study of Hebrew Scriptures by inviting participants to hear the story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Narrative, poem, history, and prophetic utterance all have their own distinctive characteristics and purpose, arising out of a particular historical, social, and cultural setting. To understand fully the story of God's covenantal relationship with Israel calls for listening to these various ways the story is told throughout the Old Testament. What does it mean to be God's chosen people? And how does the story of Israel's covenant with God inform our own identity as heirs of that covenant? Through this study, participants will be invited to listen afresh to the witness of the Old Testament to hear God's call and purpose for their own lives and respond to that call. **Day Offered:** Wednesday evenings 6:15 pm; study begins Wednesday, January 6, 2010. **Cost of book:** \$8.00

Continues on Page 8

THOSE SERVING ON SUNDAYS

January 3

Acolytes

8:30: Amelia Steinman
11:00: Robert Egloff, Connor
Johnson, Matthew
Langford

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

January 10

Acolytes

8:30: Will Steinman
11:00: Hurst Fowler, Kaleb
Robinson, Mary Seifert

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

January 17

Acolytes

8:30: Spencer Storey
11:00: Callie Slife, Josh Smith,
Alex Warren

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

January 24

Acolytes

8:30: Mimi Webb
11:00: Parker Williams, Robert
Egloff, Kate
Zimmerman

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

January 31

Acolytes

8:30: Alexander Whitaker
11:00: Michael Anderson,
Heather Carmichael,
Jacob Daye

Nursery

Nurseries are available for 0-2 years of age:

Lisa Hinson
Children's Church (ages 3, 4, 5):
TBD

ON CALL SCHEDULE

January 1-January 3

Steve Haines

January 8-January 10

Steve Haines

January 15-January 17

Steve Haines

January 22-January 24

Martha Ballard

January 29-January 31

Steve Haines

If a member of your family is hospitalized, please inform the church office. In the case of hospitalizations or pastoral care needs when the office is closed, the cell phone number of the pastor on call can be found by calling the church number 704-636-3121 and listening to the message.

DOORSTEP VISITORS

January 3

Doug & Pam
Leonard

January 10

Carmen
Shepler

January 17

Larry & Pam
Cordts

January 24

Barbara
Langford &
Bobbie Melton

January 31

Neal & Sandy
Powell

ALTAR GUILD

8:30

Carolyn Bayer

11:00

Sara Hill

MOMENTS FOR CHILDREN

January 3

Bobbie Melton

January 10

Jason Walser

January 17

Linne' Wallace

January 24

Judy Fowler

January 31

Samantha
Wesley

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Friday Hospital Visits

January 1

Kelly Sproles

January 8

Karla Swanson

January 15

Linda Adams

January 21

Phyllis Hanna

January 29

Jay Hughes

THE SUNDAY PULPIT

January 3

Steve Haines

January 10

Steve Haines

January 17

Steve Haines

January 24

Steve Haines

January 31

Martha Ballard

JANUARY USHERS

8:30 Worship

Jim Molitor,
Co-Chief; Don Hylton, Co-
Chief; Susan Fraley, Joyce Miner,
Steve Schoch

11:00 Worship

Jay Duke,
Capt.; Hoke Brittain, Co-Capt.;
Jason Walser, Mel Smith, Van
Kelly, Jim West, Jeff Daye, Ned
Storey, Helen Hager, Tripp
Callahan

FIRST FAMILY CELEBRATION

Volunteer schedule to collect money: (Two people needed per class. Please be in the fellowship hall by 5:15 to get ready for dinner service at 5:30.)

January 6

Adam & Eve

January 13

Choir

January 20

Discovery

January 27

Seekers

FUMC Cookbooks are still available for \$20 a book. The cookbook makes a great gift anytime of the year. If you would like to purchase one or more, please stop by and see April.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SALISBURY
• 217 SOUTH CHURCH STREET • SALISBURY, NC 28144 •
WWW.FUMCSALISBURY.ORG

Phone: 704-636-3121

Fax: 704-637-2933

Email: staff member first name@fumcsalisbury.org

(Adam Sproles is adams@fumcsalisbury.org)

*Staff with an asterisk have e-mail

Web Page: www.fumcsalisbury.org

On-line calendar on the News and Events page

Child Development Center: 704-633-7209

www.salisburychildcare.com

Email: cdc@fumcsalisbury.org

After-School Care: 704-433-6679

Preschool: 704-636-3121

www.firstmethodistpreschool.org

2010 Church Leaders: District Leadership Conference

The Salisbury District Leadership Conference will be held Sunday, January 24 at Trinity UMC in Kannapolis. The laity and clergy training event will highlight "The Power of 3 for WNCC," with the scheduled times reflecting the theme. The event will begin at 2:13 and end at 5:03 pm. The schedule includes time for two workshops as well as communal worship. Workshops will be available for key administrative and program areas such as SPRC, Trustees, Finance, Missions, Evangelism, Youth Ministries, etc. For more information, contact Elaine Hewitt.

A report from Joyce Ingram, UMW Chair for Education and Interpretation: Collection of postage stamps and Campbell labels during 2009 totaled: 7 pounds, 14 ounces of postage stamps; 1,200 bar code numbers from Campbell soup can labels. The stamps and soup can labels were mailed to mission houses in Kentucky and Indiana. Greeting card fronts UMW has collected have been sent to local rest homes for use in craft projects. Please continue placing postage stamps, bar codes from Campbell soup labels and greeting card fronts in the box in the volunteer office. We thank everyone for their help in collecting these items for the UMW mission projects.

Meals on Wheels Fundraiser

We have the opportunity to support a Meals on Wheels fundraiser in late January. Tickets will be available through the church and Meals on Wheels volunteers for breakfast, lunch, or dinner at Oak Park on Enon Church Road for \$5.00. All proceeds

FUMC MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor:	Steve Haines*
Associate Pastor:	Martha Ballard*
Director of Music Ministries:	Matthew Brown*
Director of Christian Ed and Children and Family Ministries:	Samantha Wesley*
Director of Youth Ministries:	Adam Sproles*
Church Business Administrator:	Becky Lippard*
Director of Lay Ministry:	Elaine Hewitt*
Administrative Assistant:	April Elrod*
Building Superintendent:	Murl Leazer
CDC Director:	Vickie Wood
Preschool Director:	Patsy Langlais
ASC Director:	Salem Dietz

will go to Meals on Wheels. Breakfast is served at 8:00 am, lunch at 12:30 pm, and dinner at 5:30 pm. Individuals RSVP for the date and meal of their choice. Exact dates will be announced in the worship bulletin. To RSVP, please call Oak Park at 704-636-4600. *Bon Appetite!*

FUMC Preschool Registration Begins in January

FUMC Preschool is beginning registration for the 2010-2011 school year. Children currently enrolled in our program and members of FUMC can register January 19th through January 21st. Open enrollment will be from January 25th through January 28th. Please contact Patsy Langlais at 704-636-3121 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

Dear Church Members,
Thank you so much for your generosity in helping Isenberg Elementary students and their families to celebrate a more joyful Christmas. With warmest regards, *Isenberg's Faith-Based/Community Committee*

Small Group Opportunities Continued...

For Kids ages 3-5th grade: *First Kids* is a program on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15 pm. They meet every Wednesday evening to learn scriptures, Bible stories, play, and crafts. There is also child care for children 0-2 years of age.

For Youth 6th-12th Grade: Bible study on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm. Come and join the fun and fellowship, and bring your friends! In the youth room with Adam.