



# NEWSLETTER

first umc  
First United Methodist Church

Volume 39, Issue No.27

July 12, 2010

## Notes from Western North Carolina Annual Conference

We met in the very hot days of June for what the program described as inspiration, testimony, conversation, discernment, vision casting and accountability. We heard lots of sermons, reports and music with emphasis on Bishop Goodpastor's vision for the "Power of 3". That is: 300,000 members in the Conference, 30,000 people in worship, 3,000 mission teams, 300 resurrected churches, and 30 new faith communities, and all in the next 3 years.

An update on "Power of 3" showed an increase of 7% on Profession of Faith, more churches had confirmation classes last year than before, more people moved into Methodist churches than moved out, 3,266 mission teams were sent out (14,000 people participated in "Impact Day" impacting 600,000 people), new members were down 1% from previous year. These figures show there is a lot of work to be done to meet the "Power of 3" goals. An empowerment team of church-to-church "coaches" is being organized to improve all aspects of the mission of the church. The Bishop and District Superintendents are working together to help churches revive their memberships. There are currently 15 districts and 1,125 churches in the conference.

Terry Moore, Chairman of the Conference of Ordained Ministry, stated that some churches are promoting what they call "Church Lite". It is a less formal service than many are accustomed to, but is effective for some. However, he said that for others, it "tastes good but is less filling." The goal is to go deep in theology and help clergy through seminars on ethics. He said it is a privilege to be a pastor, not an obligation.

There were 20 Provisional clergy commissioned on Saturday morning and 19 Deacons and Elders commissioned on Saturday night, including Angela Barr Hollar. These services were the most emotional times at Conference.

Many reports were made by organizations such as UMM, UMW, Duke Endowment, United Foundation, Episcopacy Committee, the Lay leader and others. The most interest was stirred by the Annual Conference Task Force Committee and the Budget Committee.

For two years, The Task Force Committee has been considering the moving of Annual Conference from Lake Junaluska to another location. Concerns about Junaluska are space for delegates in the meeting hall as well as air conditioning, parking, lodging, food availability, and local transportation. The committee's recommendation was that the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro be used on a one-year trial basis. The Board of Directors of Lake Junaluska responded that the Lake has a long history with the church, most clergy in the conference were ordained at the Lake, and concerns of accommodations, air conditioning, enlarging meeting facilities, transportation, additional food facilities, and other concerns are being addressed and will be updated to the satisfaction of the Conference. The decision to remain at Lake Junaluska was approved by a 2-1 vote of the delegates.

The budget was proposed and met with a large number of questions, particularly from the people concerned with the church-supported colleges and universities. The Committee said they are bound by the Discipline not to spend more than they take in. This year's budget is 1.5% higher than last year. With a few changes, the budget was approved.

Gastonia's Jennifer Davis was appointed Director of Connectional Ministries, which is the Bishop's "Bold Witness of Christ" and Jim Windham, was appointed Attorney for the Conference Council. From First United Methodist Church, Jesse Caldwell was elected to the Committee on Investigation.

Annual Conference concluded with the announcement of Clergy Appointments. George Freeman, Jim Westmoreland, C.B. Barr, Sarah Davis, and Saxon Scarborough were reappointed to First United Methodist Church, Gastonia.

The Conference Delegates were inspired through these days by daily sermons and admonitions by the Bishop and committee chairs. We should all continue to "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World."

PS: Bill Medlin said to tell everyone hello, and Susan Heafner-Heun was asked to come for a visit to show off her new baby, Ava.

John Goforth, Lay Leader  
First United Methodist Church

## We Witness...

### By Our Prayers

**Barbara Westmoreland-GMH**  
**Loretta Stoker-Presbyterian**



Sympathy to **Susan Honeycutt and family**, on the death of her husband, Daniel Honeycutt on June 28.

Sympathy to **Randy Vinson and family**, on the death of his mother, Rachel Vinson on July 7.

Sympathy to **Rob Davis, Louis Davis, and Kelli England and families**, on the death of their stepmother, Helen Davis on July 12.

Joy to **Julia T. Smith and Ken Taylor** who were married on Saturday, June 19 in Black Mountain, NC.

Joy to Josh and Courtney Clagg, on the birth of their daughter, **Quincy Katherine**, born July 8. Quincy's older sister is Carly.

Joy to Eric and Kelley Clay on the birth of their daughter, **Anna Jacklin** on June 19.

### By Our Presence

July 4, 2010

10 a.m. 253

July 11, 2010

10 a.m. 224

### By Our Service

*Sunday, July 18*

*Greeters:* Lynn and Jan Newton, Debbie Ware

*Doorstopper:* Connie Austin

*Scripture Reader:* 10 a.m. Clay Thomasson

## Divide n' Serve

Our next Divide n' Serve date is August 29! We hope that you will come and serve with us from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on that Sunday morning!

If you are interested in being a Team Leader or you have an idea for a possible project, please contact Ann Davis, 704-214-6548, [ardavis100@earthlink.net](mailto:ardavis100@earthlink.net) or Rev. Sarah Watkins Davis at the church, 704-864-4371 ext. 232, [swdavis@fumcgnc.org](mailto:swdavis@fumcgnc.org).

## Vacation Bible School

Get the date on your calendars, August 1-5. Want to help this year? Contact either of the Co-leaders, Kathy Larrazabal, [larrazabalf@bellsouth.net](mailto:larrazabalf@bellsouth.net), 704-867-1590, Terra Maitra, [tmaitra@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tmaitra@carolina.rr.com), 704-813-8193 or Elissa Nanney, [dnanney@carolina.rr.com](mailto:dnanney@carolina.rr.com), 704-852-3953 to volunteer.



## Need some help with supplies for VBS

**VBS is sure to be a blast! But we need a few donations to help us in crafts and decorating. Please bring these items to the church.**

Strands of Christmas lights (borrow or donate)  
Space items (glow in the dark planets, space shuttles, astronauts)  
Refrigerator boxes 6' PVC pipes (2)  
White tulle Jingle bells (need 1,000)  
2" diameter styrofoam balls (125)  
Used CD's Tin pie plates (300)  
Large bottles of Elmer's Glue  
Hobby Lobby and Michaels Gift Cards

## Family Life Center Ministry

### Let's go see the Braves

Join us for a family trip to Atlanta on **Sunday, August 15** to see the Atlanta Braves take on the Los Angeles Dodgers. We will be leaving the Wachovia parking lot at 8 a.m. to travel by chartered bus for the 1:35 game. We will return that evening. **This trip is open to all ages. Children, youth, adults, and seniors are invited to join us.** We have 40 tickets. The cost is \$40 per person, which includes the cost of the bus and your ticket. Contact Jim Ware to register 704-864-4371, ext. 241, [jware52@gmail.com](mailto:jware52@gmail.com). **Deadline to register is Monday, August 2.**

### Youth Trip to Wet 'n Wild Water Park

On **Sunday, August 8**, we will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. and travel by church bus to the Wet 'n Wild Water Park in Greensboro. This traditional end of summer trip is open to all Mid Hi and Sr Hi youth. The cost is \$25 for admission to the park and extra \$ for meals and snacks. We will return to the church around 6:30 p.m. Call, text, or email Jimbo to register. **Deadline to register is Monday, August 2.**

## Youth Connections

Sunday, July 18, 2010

10 a                      Worship

## Downtime

Wednesday, July 21, 7:30 p.m. at Julie and Gray Heath's home.

## College addresses needed

All college students should submit their mailing address, email, and text number as soon as possible. Your church wants to keep in touch with you while you are away. Email this information to Amanda, [amanda@fumcgnc.org](mailto:amanda@fumcgnc.org).



## Calling ALL VBS Volunteers!

Our final meeting before Blast off will be July 25, 11 a.m. (or after worship) in the FLC. There will also be a Safe Sanctuary training held at that time. Youth cannot have a background check but it is important that they have this information!! Childcare provided with advance notice.

## Register for VBS NOW!!

[www.cokesburyvbs.com/galactic-blast/fumcgnc](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com/galactic-blast/fumcgnc)

Online registration ends July 28. We will have onsite registration August 1, 4:30-5:15 p.m. Volunteers can register here too!

## Wonderful Wednesdays

Thank you to Dana Adams for coordinating this great summer fun and to parents helping out each week! To make your reservations, please drop off your form on the table outside Sarah's office or contact Dana Adams, [adamsdirtbike@yahoo.com](mailto:adamsdirtbike@yahoo.com) or 704-861-1349. Please remember to fill out and turn in the permission forms as it will have emergency contact information!

**Make Your Mark! July 14, 10 a-12 noon \$5**  
We're going to make our mark! We'll do some tie-dye as well as make care packages for the youth mission trip. We'll meet in the Family Life Center.

## Mission Trip News...

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the youth Mission to Michigan. If you have not had a chance to make a donation, we still have a few requests: gas gift cards, Walmart cards for groceries and daycamp supplies, and Lowe's gift cards for building supplies. We need these by Friday, July 16.

To keep up with youth while they are gone check out Becky's blog for daily updates.

Reminder to Sr Hi's going on mission trip, please have your luggage at the church by 3 p.m. on Friday, July 16.

## Parish Nurse Ministry No Woman Left Behind

Free mammograms are available for women in our community who cannot afford one or have no insurance. This project is sponsored by The CaroMont Cancer Center through a grant from the Charlotte affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. For additional information, call the No Woman Left Behind hotline at 704-671-7724 or contact Lisa Marisiddaiah at 704-616-4023



## Care Teams

The Parish Nurse Ministry has been working to establish "care teams" which allow members of the church to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to other members of the church who are living with illness and/or dealing with difficult situations. These teams would also assist caregivers. This is a great way to multiply caregiving support. If you are willing to be on a "team" to provide meals, transportation, companionship, etc. to church members in need, please contact Lisa Marisiddaiah, 704-616-4023.

## Free Alzheimer Education Seminar

Free educational conference: The Alzheimer's Foundation of America will present a care-focused, interactive conference for family caregivers. **Friday, August 6, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** at the Hilton Charlotte City Center. No cost to participate in any activities (presentations, memory screenings, virtual dementia tour, fall prevention). Breakfast and lunch included. For additional information or to register, call 1-866-232-8484.

# Week at a Glance

## Sunday, July 18

### Sr Hi's on Mission to Michigan

10 a. "Casual" Worship

One Service, Sanctuary, no children or youth Sunday School in July

## Monday, July 19

### Sr Hi's on Mission to Michigan

9 a Workout, Gym

## Tuesday, July 20

### Sr Hi's on Mission to Michigan

5:30 a Salvation Army Breakfast

7 a Volleyball, Gym

10 a First UMC Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, July 21

### Sr Hi's on Mission to Michigan

9 a Workout, Gym

7:30 p Downtime

## Thursday, July 22

### Sr Hi's on Mission to Michigan

10 a Sit n' Knit

## Friday, July 23

### Sr Hi's on Mission to Michigan

9 a Workout, Gym

You may contact us...

Mail: PO Box 218 Gastonia, NC 28053

Phone: 704-864-4371 Fax: 704-864-2076

Website: www.fumcnc.org

**Weekend Pastor on Call: 704-586-5122**

**Friday-Sunday**

*Input your phone number when prompted to leave a numerical message. Your pastor will promptly return your call.*



CW3 Shaun Breth (Nan White's grandson)  
 USMC Larry Harrington (Olivia Davidson's nephew)  
 MSGT Martin "Bo" M. Henson (Louise Henson's son)  
 CAPT Parker Gray (Jimmy Gray & Lynn Lamb's son)  
 SGT Nathan Sicheloff (David & Libby Sicheloff's son)  
 SFC Bo Beam (Ernie & Rosemarie Nivens' son-in-law)  
 SSGT Zach Gray (Donna McPhail's son)  
 LTJG Andrew Hendricks (Walt Hendricks' grandson)  
 SGT David Frederick (Amanda P. Frederick's husband)  
 SSGT David DeBerry (Chris DeBerry's son)  
 A1C Jessica DeBerry (Chris DeBerry's daughter-in-law)  
 SSGT Ryan Malloy (David Nanney's cousin)  
 CPL Donald Hamrick (Charlie Greene's cousin)  
 SSGT Jonathan Cole (Amanda Cole's stepson)  
 Specialist 4 Geoffrey Doyle (Barbara Doyle's grandson)  
 ENS William Hendricks (Walt Hendricks' grandson)

## Friendship Connections

*Where Friends Connect and Reconnect*

It's Summertime! Tip # 3 for staying young!

Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have a friend that makes you laugh, spend lots and lots of time with them!

Stay cool and mark your calendar for September 16!

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George M. Freeman, Senior Minister  
 Saxon Scarborough, Music Minister  
 Jim Ware, Director of Family Life Center  
 Linda Nolen, Director of Food Services

### Program Staff

James Westmoreland, Minister of Programming  
 Sarah W. Davis, Minister of Children's Programming  
 Jay Oden, Organist/Music Associate  
 Carol White, Director of Weekday Preschool  
 John Arey, Pastoral Counselor

C.B. Barr, Minister to Older Adults  
 Rebecca Greene, Director of Youth Ministries  
 Don Carr, Church Business Administrator  
 Lisa Marisiddaiah, Parish Nurse