



FARMVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebrate!

Celebrating our Partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ! February 2010



Lent is the 40 days,

excluding Sundays, which lead up to Easter. Why do we observe this period? According to Ask.com, the purpose of Lent is "to pray, do penance, give sacrifice and do good works in preparation for the celebration of Easter." In short, it is to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter.



We prepare to celebrate what Christ has done for us by thinking of how we have wronged God, how much we regret our sinfulness, and how thankful we are that he came and gave his life for us. It also is when people who have given up on church are welcomed back as they join us as we all examine how we have fallen.

Heavy stuff, and we do not often like the heavy stuff. Examining our sinfulness is not something we like to do. Who wants to revel in our foul-ups and mess-ups?

This season can be so much more than that though!

We ask forgiveness because Christ offers it. We seek the kingdom of God because then all else in our lives will fall into the right place. We do the heavy lifting of repentance and change because Christ lifted a cross onto his shoulders so we could be free from what pulls us down. This season of penance, reflection and sacrifice can be for you the most freeing, redeeming and life-giving season of the year, if you'll honor it. **Join us!**

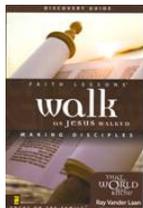
Many people, probably more than half the church, has never been to an Ash Wed. Service. To help everyone—including *you*—to experience just how meaningful it can be, we are having our own service this year: Feb, 17 at 7pm, in the Joyner Chapel. Don't Miss this.

Ash Wednesday
Feb. 17, 7pm

Lenten Discipleship Study

Following up on the very well received study last year, we will again be using the "Walk" DVD series, with "Walk as Jesus Walked". A Bible study combined with a DVD filmed on location, this challenging study will be offered at 2 times- pick the one which fits your schedule best:

Sundays, 7-8pm, or Wed. lunch from noon-1:30pm., beginning 2/21/10.



Are you passionate about your walk with Jesus? Why is it often easier to be excited about hobbies, sports, homes, and occupations than about our faith? *Walk As Jesus Walked: Making Disciples*, a small group DVD curriculum, presents teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan on location with faith lessons from the first disciples. You and your small group will be inspired and motivated as you learn what discipleship means, who can be a disciple, how to be a disciple, and what to expect as a disciple. Each 1 hour session has Scripture readings, a 25 minute DVD presentation, questions for discussion and reflection, and prayer.

What would make someone forget about himself?
What would make him willing to die for someone else?
Some may call it bravery, some may call it foolishness.
But when Jesus died for me, it was something more than this.
It was love. Call it love. Nothing more or less than perfect love.
What else could it have been?
Why did Jesus give His life for us?
It was love, call it love.

*A Powerful Reminder of the Love of Christ,
found in the Choir Room.*

MISSION GIVING UPDATE FOR 2009



Due to your generous giving to the Advent and Lenten Offerings we are able to provide support to several missions and ministries that are not included in our regular budget, as is our hope every year.

Local Missions were the Community Outreach Soup Kitchen and the Carolina Pregnancy Center. Other missions are Project Agape (the UMC mission in Armenia), ZOE (Orphan support in Zimbabwe), UMCOR (Disaster Response), Robeson County Center, Bethlehem Bible college, Wesley Foundation at ECU Bible Study Outreach in NC prisons, the Hispanic UMC in Grimesland, and Stop Hunger Now "Operation Sharehouse." All these gifts help to bring Jesus Christ into people lives.

Latest Update from UMCOR: HAITI: EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

Assessment Continues

The first team of UMCOR staff to visit Haiti since the [earthquake](#) returned on Monday, February 1, passing the baton to a fresh team that arrived there Sunday evening. The goal of the UMCOR teams is to support the Methodist Church of Haiti (EMH) to assess damages and needs, and to plan for long-term recovery in the devastated Caribbean nation. EMH has helped to

Give Now to the Haiti Emergency

100 PERCENT of each gift to Advance #418325 helps the people of Haiti with immediate assistance and long-term recovery

identify a location where an UMCOR office and staff residence can be established in the southern Port-au-Prince area.

While the team, led by program executives Melissa Crutchfield and Sharad Aggarwal, was in Haiti, they piloted a program of food distribution to largely unattended local communities outside of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The UMCOR team also met with representatives of some of the other not-for-profit, nongovernmental and church organizations, whose initial efforts to respond to the January 12 emergency in Haiti are being coordinated by the United Nations. The full assessment of damages and needs, as well as an initial clearing of debris from the earthquake, is expected to take at least another two months. Long-term relief and recovery support will be in place with the help of [volunteers](#). Meanwhile, creative fundraising efforts in the United States to support Haiti relief continue to be the most valuable, immediate response to the emergency. Gifts to Haiti can be made online by visiting www.umcorhaiti.org. (For gifts by check, simply put UMCOR: Haiti in the memo and send it to the church.) One hundred percent of gifts made to this advance will go to help the people of Haiti.

Tax Relief

A new law allows contributors to Haiti relief efforts to claim their cash donations on their 2009 tax returns, according to the IRS. The law refers to donations for Haiti relief made to charitable organizations such as UMCOR after Jan. 11 and before Mar. 1, 2010, whether these were made via text message, check, credit card or debit card. Taxpayers may make the deduction on either their 2009 or 2010 returns, but not both. Please visit IRS.gov for more details.

Hearts for Haiti

A downloadable gift card, available when you make a donation to UMCOR for Haiti relief, makes the perfect Valentine's Day gift. Not only do you show your beloved how much you care, you also remind the people of Haiti in their time of suffering that they are not alone. Go online to umcor Go to <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline/> to make your donation and select a Valentine's Day gift card.

Health Kits

And while thousands of health kits have been assembled and sent to Haiti, the need for both [health kits](#) and [layette kits](#) is ongoing.

Our Church is collecting health kits!

As the NC UMC responds, each District has been given areas for focus. Our District is collecting health kits. Our own Eloise Carraway is the UMW District coordinator of such efforts, and in our church is leading the effort. You can donate funds to this or purchase your own supplies, whichever you choose. Eloise has been able to purchase kit supplies for between \$10 & \$12 each kit, and each kit includes:

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

- All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.
- Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.



"Everyone's a Sweetheart Tonight"

Saturday, February 13, at 6:00pm

Farmville UMC Fellowship Hall.

Cost \$10.00 per person Proceeds will benefit FUMC Radio Ministry. Entertainment will be provided. Childcare will be provided also. Singles or Couples are welcome! This night, "Everyone's a Sweetheart."



Wow, what a success! We had 13 couples for our first Couples Nite. In February, we encourage couples to attend the UMM Valentine's Day dinner on Sat. Feb. 13.

On March 13, we will meet at the home of Dr. Bert and Julie Warren at 6 PM. Our discussion will be on "how you met your spouse or your first date". Talk with you spouse and decide if or what you may want to share with the group. You may also dress like the time period when you met your spouse (ex. college t-shirt) but this is optional. If you are a young couple and want to join the group we welcome you. Please RSVP to Cynthia_lauderdale@ncsu.edu or bwjw0803@hotmail.com.



FROM OUR CHURCH LIBRARY.....

We have just gotten through celebrating the birth of Jesus, and in a couple of months we will observe his death and resurrection. Just like that, we go from birth to death to life again in only a matter of a few months.

We all know that Jesus spent a lifetime on earth, and that the Bible is full of stories and parables that show us God through Jesus. But have you ever wondered about Jesus as a human – with life problems like we all have?

Think about it – did Jesus ever get frustrated or angry? Did he ever feel lonely? Did he ever have temptations? What was his heritage? Who were his friends?

A good book to tell the story of Jesus on earth is Jesus As Man by Harold Rogers. This slim volume offers glimpses of Jesus that help us to see past the Bible stories to a man, sent by God to live among other men, to help them have a better relationship with God. This book serves as a useful study guide with scripture reading and discussion questions suitable to a Sunday School class or Bible study.

Check out this book and I expect you will gain a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God through his Son as you learn about Jesus the man.

Nancy Wilson (Jablonski)

Church Librarian



The Farmville United Methodist Church Directory was last updated in 2004. In 2010, let's have a new start with a new directory! We will not be making this complicated or expensive and we will not be using a photography company. We will be doing this "in

house". Cyndi Lauderdale has agreed to lead this effort so if you have a recent photo please email it to Cynthia_lauderdale@ncsu.edu or give the hard copy to her to scan. If you need a picture taken (individuals or families) come on Sunday, February 21 from 9:45-10:30 AM, or Wednesday, February, 24 from 6 PM- until. Photos will be taken in the prayer room.

The directory can only be as successful as the photos we receive. Please make every effort to email photos or go to one of the above picture taking events.

Once the directory is complete it will be emailed or you can find it on the church website (password protected) and print it out if you desire. For members without computer access, please call Nan to reserve a printed copy.



February is North Carolina Christian Advocate Month. The NC Christian Advocate is a periodical that connects you to information concerning matters of the United Methodist church on the national, conference, district and local level. the goal of the NC Christian Advocate is to help keep local church members and pastors informed by offering news about national events as well as local church and conference news. These articles and features can be used as tools for teaching, learning, and inspiration. If you are interested in subscribing to or more information about the North Carolina Christian Advocate, please call the church office.

THE UMMEN Supper meeting, Monday, February 8 at 7:00pm



SUMMER CAMP

Registration for NC United Methodist Summer Camps 2009 has begun. Information on the exciting programs for children and youth is available in the church office or from your computer at www.ncumcamps.org. There are a variety of programs

options for children beginning as young as 7 and as old as 17 to choose from at each one of the three NC United Methodist Camps. Chestnut Ridge, Don Lee and Rockfish bring years of great experience and commitment to provide excellence in Christian Education and faith formation for campers and staff in 2009. UM Summer Camp experience has long been recognized as a significant milestone in the faith formation process of children and youth. Relationships with God are strengthened and Christian Community is built which as served as a life benchmark for thousands of campers over the years. UM Summer Camping is all of this and is also lots of fun. Information and registration forms are in the church office. Register Today!



The Season of Lent begins February 25 with Ash Wednesday. One of the ways we have traditionally observed the season of Lent is through the Lenten Offering Coin Folders. The Lenten Offering coin folders will be given out next Sunday. Funds raised through the Lenten offering go directly to missions that are not in our operating budget. We ask for you to return your folder or check for the Lenten offering by Easter Sunday.

KID'S KINGDOM will meet Sunday, February 14 at 4:00pm

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH FOR THE CHURCH

To benefit the U.M. Youth Fellowship has been moved to noon, Feb., 7. See you there!

Laity University has been rescheduled to Sat., March 20. Everyone is invited to be at St. James UMC in Greenville, 2:30-4:30pm, for this great learning and singing experience! Watch for more details.

Relay for Life Team

Our church will be participating in the Farmville Relay for Life which will be held on May 7-8, 2010. We are looking for some good team members that want to have fun and help out for a great cause. Registration is \$10.00 and includes a tee shirt for the event. Our first meeting will be February 17th at 6:30 in the library. Please contact Joy Fields for more information. Thanks for those who have already signed up!!!

Our "Holiday Helpers" was very successful. We took in \$4007.70 and with expenses taken out we made \$3641.70.



On January 4, 2010 we had a meeting for all the ladies of the church to come and help decide where the money would go for local missions. In 2008 the FUMW donated \$2000 to local missions, but thanks to your generosity we were able to donate \$2900 in 2009 to assist with the following needs:

FUMC Radio Ministry: \$1000
ECU Wesley Foundation: \$500
Farmville Community Soup Kitchen: \$500
1K for 1Kid: \$300
Carolina Pregnancy Center: \$200
Methodist Children's Home Christmas Gifts: \$400

The rest of the money earned stays in the treasury to fund expenses such as paying for all the special occasion flowers placed in the Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Also there are always other mission needs which arise during the year that we want to be able to fund.

I would like to thank everyone for your support and help in 2009. It was a good year for the Farmville United Methodist Women and it would not have been possible without your help.

The mittens, blankets, and other warm items placed under the Christmas tree were given to people in need in the community. Thank you for helping make this possible.

We have a new Bereavement Chairman, Joy Fields. This is such an important position and I know she will do an excellent job. This is a service our church offers when someone loses a loved one. Eloise Carraway did this for many years and thank you for all you did.

UMW Dates to Remember:

Feb.

Circle IV serves Wesley Foundation meal on Feb. 25.

Mar.

Circle III has Birthday Party at Nursing Home, Mar. 20.

Circle III has Meals-on-Wheels the week of Mar. 22-26.

Apr.

"Girls' Night Out" for all ladies in the church on Apr. 19 at 7:00 PM. It's a dessert and entertainment event.

Sept.

Mother-Child Retreat the weekend of Sept. 17-19.

For forms or information contact the church office or Darlene at 749-4816.

I would like to thank you ladies again for all you do for the church. Remember it takes everyone.

In Christian Love,
Darlene Gaynor

Feb. 1 – Chandler Henry, Cyndi Lauderdale

Feb. 2 – Ronald Carraway

Feb. 11 – Diane Warren

Feb. 12 – Brett Carraway

Feb. 13 – Pam Johnson

Feb. 14 – Janet Clontz

Feb. 15 – Nancy Harris

Feb. 16 – Carolyn Erwin

Feb. 17 – Nicole Hall

Feb. 20 – Mazkenzie Walston

Feb. 21 – Ronald Parker



PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR.....

.....Tracey Smith, Sylvia Paschal, David Parker, Tommy Bullock, Etna Lewis, Horace Allen, Rufus and Evangeline Cochran, Perry Harper, Linda Gayhardt, Margaret Wilson, Nandra Talton, Dorothy Talton, Michael Thigpen, Louise Lewis, Donna Howard, Billy Modlin, Larry Cochran, Gerald Brown, Lewis Clark, Ken Wainwright, Donnie Holloman, Lula B. Bush, Nick Luper, Carlton Teel, Blaney Parker, Jo Manning, Lynette Williams, Haley Hiatt, Pam Adams, Peggy Harrell, Aubrey Lewis, Melissa Thomason, Daisy Williams, David Newton, Lewis Muldrow, , Noel Baucom, Martin Simonds, Peggy Sermons, Marshall Webb, Beverly Nelson, Churchill Lewis, Lucy Jordan, Mildred Wainwright, Michael Lovic, Sammy Hobgood, Lydia Byrd, Jeff Byrd, Cecily Satterthwaite, Elaine Bullock, Melody McKeel, Kathi Howell, Stan Vick, Lacy Tugwell, Marilyn Ellis, Lawrence Duke, Belinda Joyner, Hope Renger, Fritz & Mariemath Jeudy, and unspoken requests.

A Thought for February from Pastor Paul...

THE POWER OF LOVE

Who was Valentine? And why do we have a special day for his- a day of love? I'm the type that loves to know why we do what we do. We celebrate his day every year- Hallmark stays in business because of Valentine's Day- and yet I did not know why. So I started digging.

I learned* that Valentine's Day has an origin within both Christian & Roman rituals. 3 Catholic saints, all martyrs for the faith, are named Valentine, where two of them lived in the 3rd Century, and a third in Africa. The prevailing romantic legend has it that Valentine, a priest near Rome, was beheaded for defying Emperor Claudius II by performing marriages when the Emperor, in an effort to make better soldiers, outlawed marriage for young men. Other stories say that he may have been executed for attempting to rescue Christians from the Roman prisons where they were being tortured. Further legend ties the first Valentine to a note sent from the jailed saint to his jailor's daughter, with whom he had fallen in love, sending her a note before his impending death, signed "From your Valentine".

And Feb. 14th? Well, it may be tied to the death of Valentine around 270. It may also be the Christianization of the pagan Lupercalia festival, the official beginning of Spring in Roman times celebrated on the 15th of Feb. This festival, which was a fertility ritual to Faunus as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus, included a lottery of sorts where the young bachelors drew out the name of a young maiden to court for the next year, a ritual that often ended in marriage. When Feb. 14th was declared by Pope Gelasius around 498ad as St. Valentine's Day, that practice was stopped.

The tradition that February is the month of romance became even more entrenched when, in the Middle



Ages, Feb. 14th became noted as the time of the year when birds choose a mate. And the tradition of sending notes or cards to one's hoped-for love for St. Valentine's Day dates back to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in both English and French literature.

With the history of the holiday shrouded in so much mystery, what can we take away from this

exploration? One is that, no matter the specific reason the original Valentine was martyred- be it for performing unapproved weddings in Roman times or for risking his life to rescue ill-treated prisoners- he gave his life in his love for others. As we prepare to enter into this season of Lent (see p. 1), where we turn our hearts to see both our sin and the Cross of Christ, I can think of no other cause more worthy than to lay down one's life for the love of others- as Valentine did back then and as Christ has done for you as well.

So this year, when you in your own way honor that special Day of Love, think of true sacrificial love- God's agape love- and love those around you like this:

"⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NLT)

In the name of God's Love for you, Pastor Paul

*<http://www.history.com/content/valentine/history-of-valentine-s-day>
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15254a.htm>

Return Service Requested

Farmville United Methodist Church

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Admin. Assist.: Nan Walston nan.farmumc@embarqmail.com

Organist/Music Director: Drucilla Lamm

Youth Director: Sheldon Letchworth youth@farmvilleumc.com

**YOU are
Invited!!**

Farmville UMC is dedicated to making Disciples of Christ! We welcome all! Come, see what God's touch can do in YOU! We have many ways to connect to the church, including our groups, missions and activities. See the details at FarmvilleUMC.com. We have 2 different worship experiences- an 8:45am contemporary worship (with praise band) in the Joyner Chapel, and the 11am worship traditional worship in the Sanctuary.

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