

# CELEBRATING

## *Our Partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

The Newsletter of the Farmville United Methodist Church, July 2008



**Tired of an ordinary, hum-drum life? Are you wondering, "Is this all there is?"** Let's spice it up, to the abundant life God created us for. I have some pepper plants growing now which range from sweet-n-tasty to spicy to flame-throwing. I see the peppers coming- they're just about ready.

Do you want a rich, full, satisfying, faithful, fruitful, bountiful life? Then maybe my "pepper paradise" has some good lessons for us all.

### **Prepare the soil.**

Jesus said those who have "ears to hear" his messages are the ones who received, but those whose hearts were not ready missed his point. You need a heart ready to hear God's message. God is always working to reach you. Prepare your heart by simply asking God, "Am I open to you? Am I willing to do what you ask?" Being available to God is the place to start, because God will hear your desire and come close to you.

### **Plant Good Seed.**

If your life's goals and your daily habits are small, worldly, petty, or un-inspired, that's what kind of life you'll have. If you fill your life and heart with junk, that's all you'll get. If you're filling your life with the things of God, and a hunger and thirst for him, you have planted the seeds for a bumper crop.

### **Feed the Seed. Water generously.**

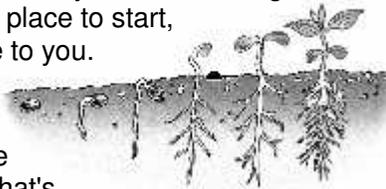
Think on things which are good, noble, honorable and pleasing to God. What do you fill your life with? Thoughts which lead you toward God, or thoughts and habits which lead you away from God? Help your heart bloom by showering it with Bible time, prayer, fellowship, service, and the adoration of God. Seeking after these things first will help your life every day get more rich and God-like.

### **Weed.**

Weeds crop up in our hearts. Bad habits, negative attitudes, worry, willful sinfulness, apathy, consumerism, apathy, despair, unpure desires- these can all grow in our hearts and steal the best of us. You are no longer bound to them though when Christ comes into your life. You are free now, in his power, to cut those things off and throw them away. Do it- your life will be all the better for it. Many people often wonder where God is in their lives, but it is more that they have pushed God aside. We fill our lives with things of this temporary life, seeking the newest gadgets, the better job, the more pleasant life, and miss the richness that comes from turning those things over to God. Weed this mess out.

### **SOAK in the SON**

To nourish your soul with the refreshing Living Water of Christ, soak him in. Adore him. Worship him. Bask in him. Do more than just "church". So often, people in the church trade a life-changing power-filled, joyous, unshakable life of faith for mere "religion". "Religion" is binding, boring, oppressive and unattractive- it reminds us of how far we've fallen and how little we can do on our own. Faith in Christ is based on simply loving him, adoring him, soaking



### **When can we get together?**

Whether you've never been to our church, you're new to the church, not been in a while, or been here every Sunday- **I want to take this chance to get with you sometime this summer.** What works best for *you* over the next few weeks (time/ place/activity)? I hope to hear from you what God is doing in your lives, and to get to know you and your families better. I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings! Pastor Paul

him in and filling your soul- now THAT's a beautiful, bountiful life.

### **Be patient.**

Sometimes, God changes our lives in a flash. In other things, his Holy Spirit nudges us toward the place where we need to be. If you're not perfect, be patient- God isn't finished with you.

### **Don't just bloom- bear fruit.**

My peppers have been leafy for months but just started to produce. But you can't eat leaves. A pepper plant needs to make peppers, and we need to make Disciples. The kingdom of God will not grow if we keep this good stuff all to ourselves. People outside the faith trade their souls for empty promises of unfulfilling life-choices. When they look at **your life**, do they see something different enough to walk away from their life choices to embrace yours? Is your life dripping with the goodness of God, so much so that others are drawn to what

you have? If so, praise God for living as he calls. If not, then pray and seek God to ask him to change your heart, to fill you up as he directs, and start to see the harvest all around.





## 2008 LAY DELEGATE REPORT

The 2008 North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held June 11-14 at the Greenville Convention Center with Joyce Hardy and Nancy Harris attending as our voting delegates along with Pastor Paul. This was the last year of the quadrennial theme for the conference "...in the light of God". In previous years the focus has been: Worshiping, Walking, and Working. "Witnessing...in the Light of God" was the theme for 2008 which highlights the Annual Conference's efforts to make Jesus Christ known to the people of North Carolina and around the world.

The opening ceremonies included the "bringing in of the light" with FUMC's youth member Amber Fields serving as one of the participants. Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr. gave the State of the Church address encouraging clergy and laity to live out the truth of the scriptures John 3:16-17. He reminded everyone present of their purpose as the body of Christ. In asking the question "What's the New News?" he discussed the need for laying down old habits, self-care for pastors, fiduciary responsibility, healthy churches thru the Seven Pathways, becoming Acts 2 churches, etc. In his positive remarks about the status of the church he noted that 3,380 persons joined our Methodist fellowship this year as new believers! Bishop Gwinn concluded by leading everyone in singing "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to let it Shine". This was a highlight of the conference as this well-known children's melody reminded us of the "Witness" theme.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 19-20 (NIV)

These words of Jesus to his Disciples were used throughout the sessions for the laity. The word "witness" has now been added to the oath potential members take when they join the UMC and the idea for doing so was suggested by laity. Not only are we to support our church through prayers, gifts, and service, but also through witness. In special sessions for the laity, lay representatives worshiped together in prayer, music, guest speakers, and personal testimonies. Among some of the laity events and witness remarks were:

- "I never want to be anywhere except where God wants me to be". Conference President of the UMM who doesn't wear a watch anymore when doing God's work.
- "What keeps us from being Disciples of Christ? Laity are scared of the 'E' word (Evangelism) and fear of witnessing. Bishop Palmer via video.
- "'My Mission Window' can be right out my own window". Laity can witness through missions locally thru their home, work, church as well as globally. Sam Dixon, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).
- Throughout the conference we had the privilege to hear inspirational witnesses and testimonies by lay representatives who came from all walks of life to share with us what being a Methodist meant to them.
- "Trees that fell as a result of Hurricane Katrina were converted into a Communion table and pulpit for General Conference 2008". This was done by United Methodists in NC as well as other areas. Rufus Stark, retired.
- "Through the witness of Cedar Grove UMC and the encouragement of my young son, my wife and I joined in a Bible Study and began attending Cedar Grove UMC." Don Logner: I had no church affiliation or relationship with Jesus Christ prior to the witness of this church and desire of his son to learn what was happening at this nearby church.
- "You're from Farmville! (Smiles and claps!) Thank you so much for your church's '1K for 1Kid' participation. We are delighted to have you on board with our program..." Remarks of staff from Methodist Children's Home manning their conference booth upon seeing Nancy's nametag and visit at their booth.
- Reverend Dr. Leonard Sweet, theologian and author who was the speaker at the Laity Leadership Event drew a distinction between what he called the "Church of Gutenberg and the Church of Google", calling attention to the advances of our time.
- Emily Innes was re-elected as the Conference Lay Leader for a second quadrennial term.
- A Celebration of the Laity was held on Friday highlighting the ministry of the UMM, UMW, the UM Youth, and the Lay Speaking Ministries. A lay ministry was chosen from each district to receive the lay ministry of the year award. "Men of Purpose" received the Greenville District Award.

A recommendation was made and approved at the conference to return to the Greenville Convention Center for the 2009 Annual Conference to be held June 10-13. With the conference being so near this is your opportunity as laity to attend at least part of an Annual Conference. You do not have to be a voting delegate to attend. Imagine being a part of a huge room full of Methodist laity sharing in this hymn at the 2008 Annual Conference as they prepare to pass it on and "Witness...in the Light of God".

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going and  
Soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.  
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it  
You spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on."  
UMC Hymnal Page 572



**JULY – FOOD OF THE MONTH – Corn, Beets, String Beans (canned)**  
Just place your food items in the “grocery cart” when you come to church on Sunday morning.  
I will take care of delivering it to the Soup Kitchen and Food Bank of Eastern NC.

In early June I delivered 52 pounds of canned food to the Food Bank of Eastern NC in Greenville. The volunteers at the Food Bank are most appreciative. They took me on a walking tour of their building. The warehouse is neatly arranged, but very low on their food supply. Also, the very same week I received a call from a volunteer at the Farmville Outreach Soup Kitchen saying that their food supply is very low. Let’s not forget that food supplies during certain times of the year are low – Can you bring an extra can of food? – Will you help our brothers and sisters who are hungry and desperately need food? During the summer months, I plan to take your donated goods to both agencies.

**THANKS** to everyone at Vacation Bible School for helping stock the pantry. The food competition was well received – the adults may have enjoyed it more than the children. I delivered 88 pounds of peanut butter to the Food Bank of Eastern NC on June 23. I still have hundreds of cans and boxes of food to deliver to the Farmville Soup Kitchen and Food Bank in the next week.

### Outreach Soup Kitchen Serving Schedule

July – Mike & Debbie Terrell

August – to be determined

I will be preparing and sending out a serving schedule that will begin September 2008. The schedule will cover September 2008 through June 2009. I already have one new volunteer. Let me know if you would like to be added to the serving list (753-4941.)

### 1 K for 1 K Campaign

**CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!** Together we raised \$2,000 – enough money to help 2 children at the Methodist Home for Children. I can’t thank you enough for your generosity.

If you would like to serve on the Outreach Ministries Committee, give me a call. Do you have ideas for short or long-term projects? I would like to hear from you.

Farmville United Methodist Church’s enthusiasm for mission is self-evident!

Blessings,  
Debbie Terrell  
Outreach Ministries Chair

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### UMW NEWS



July is here and half of the year is gone. I hope all of you are having a good summer. I would like to thank the Circles for refreshments at Bible School and everyone who helped. We had a first class Bible School and everyone had a great time.

Meals on Wheels will be July 21-25 with Circle III in charge. If you can help, just give Willa Rae Bullock a call. If you have not helped with the meals before, you should. It really makes you thankful because you never know when you may need help.

I will be having an UMW Executive Board meeting in the next few weeks to plan for the Fall. If you have any ideas on something let me know.

Don't forget the “2008 Mother Child Retreat” at Camp Don Lee September 19-21. All registration must be received by August 25, 2008. If you need more information, please give me a call at 749-4816. I really think it will be a wonderful experience. If you do not have a child- borrow one for the weekend.

We will be having a Brunch Saturday, September 13, 2008 for all the ladies in the Greenville UMW District for a “Meet Your Neighbor” event. I'll be contacting you later, but be sure to mark you calendar now.

Don't forget to save your Campbell Labels. All you have to do is cut out the UPC Code and Campbell kid only. There will be a box marked for labels in the church kitchen. This will help purchase educational tools for Methodist College. We did this many years ago and I would like for us to start doing it again.

Thank you ladies for all you do for the church and remember it takes everyone.

In Christian love,  
Darlene Gaynor



Congregation,

Several weeks ago at Annual Conference it was stated that UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) was out of Flood Buckets. With the floods in the Midwest and a bad hurricane season expected, needless to say, there is a great need.

These clean-up kits / flood buckets will cost approximately \$50.00 each. This will be an opportunity for our entire church to help others in need. Our community knows first hand how devastating a flood can be! Your help will be a blessing to so many. Will you please donate any monetary amount you can? This may be individuals, Circles, Sunday School classes, UMM or anyone willing to help. We will go out and purchase these supplies and bring them back to the church for a "Praise the Lord" party putting them together!

I thank you in advance for all the work you do that represents God's hands in this world.

Eloise Carraway  
District UMW Social Action Coordinator



### FUMC Softball Players and Fans!

You are invited to be a part of Softball this season. We will have **practice tonight at 6:30** at the "big field" on the corner of Horne and Ryon Drive before you get to the Ripken field. Our games this week will be **Tuesday, June 26 at 7:30pm. FUMC vs First Baptist and Thursday, July 1 at 8:30pm. Spring of Living Water vs FUMC** **EVEN IF YOU CANNOT BE AT PRACTICE**, know that **we need you!** This is going to be a **fun** season, and for men & women alike. We need more players though, especially you ladies out there. With summer schedules being like they are, we need a good pool of people to make sure we have enough to play every game. Let's come out and have some fun!!! (Schedule and Rules are enclosed)



### FROM OUR CHURCH LIBRARY.....

Welcome to summer! I hope everyone is finding their own special way to enjoy all of the wonderful opportunities that summer offers up.

For those of you who enjoy reading, don't forget that our library has fiction and other lighthearted books and videos for both children and adults.

One treasure I was excited to find is a 7 volume set of The Chronicles of Narnia. I may be one of the few people who has never been exposed to the author C. S. Lewis, but with the release of the movie "Prince Caspian" recently and all the good press that Christian radio and websites have given the movie and its predecessor "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe", I promised myself I would find the book(s) and see exactly what the attraction is.

So my challenge for the summer is to read all 7 volumes of the Chronicles of Narnia – and I encourage each of you to stop by the church library and find something fun or entertaining to challenge your own self with!

Nancy Wilson  
Church Librarian



Fellowship Supper Meeting is Monday, July 14 at 7:30pm. Join us for good food and great fellowship.! Bring friend!



Thank You Note

United Methodist Church

Thank you so much for the five week devotional! That will help get me through college! I am so blessed to be a member of such a wonderful church. You have seen me grow u and grow spiritually! Thanks you so Much

Love  
Player Eason



When we are traveling and vacationing, it's easy to forget that our church relies on what we have pledged to keep the ministry of FUMC moving forward. Your financial support along with your spiritual support is greatly appreciated.



July 1: Rob Talton  
 July 3: Jessica Lang  
 July 10: Hassel Eason  
 July 14: Jon Carraway  
 July 15: Willa Rae Bullock  
 July 19: Kinney Hart, Scott Lang  
 July 21: Trey Johnson  
 July 22: John Jablonski, Crossan Lauderdale  
 July 23: Sarah Lang  
 July 24: Garrett Vernelson  
 July 26: Frank Powell  
 July 28: Landon Heath  
 July 29: Charles Eason, Mike Tugwell  
 July 31: Andrew Stevens

### Daily Bible Reading for July & early August

You can begin at any point of the year. Just pick up on today's reading and go from there. To prevent the falling behind, which most of us tend to do when following a Bible reading plan, each month of this plan gives you **only twenty-five readings**. You could set aside Sundays to either not read at all or to catch up on any readings you may have missed in the past week.

### JULY

New Testament			Old Testament
LUKE	COL.	PSALMS	1 CHRON.
1. 7:11-17	1:1-14	123-124	1-2
2. 7:18-35	1:15-29	125	3-4
3. 7:36-50	2:1-7	126	5-6
4. 8:1-15	2:8-15	127	7-9
5. 8:16-25	2:16-23	128	10-11
6. 8:26-39	3:1-14	129	12-14
7. 8:40-56	3:15-25	130-131	15-16
8. 9:1-17	4:1-9	132	17-19
9. 9:18-27	4:10-18	133-134	20-22
	1 THESS.		
10. 9:28-36	1	135	23-25

11. 9:37-50	2:1-9	136	26-28
12. 9:51-62	2:10-20	137	29
			2 CHRON.
			1-2
13. 10:1-16	3:1-6	138	3-5
14. 10:17-24	3:7-13	139	6-7
15. 10:25-37	4:1-10	140	8-9
16. 10:38-42	4:11-18	141	10-12
17. 11:1-13	5:1-11	142	13-16
18. 11:14-28	5:12-28	143	
	2 THESS.		
19. 11:29-36	1:1-7	144	17-19
20. 11:37-54	1:8-12	145	20-21
21. 12:1-12	2:1-12	146	22-24
22. 12:13-21	2:13-17	147	25-27
23. 12:22-34	3:1-5	148	28-29
24. 12:35-48	3:6-13	149	30-33
25. 12:49-59	3:14-18	150	34-36

### AUGUST

New Testament			Old Testament
LUKE	1 TIM.	PROV.	EZRA
1. 13:1-9	1:1-11	1	1-2
2. 13:10-21	1:12-20	2	3
3. 13:22-35	2	3	4-5
4. 14:1-14	3:1-10	4	6



.....Iris Roebuck, Lola Joyner, Tracey Smith, John Talton, Sylvia Paschal David Parker, Tommy Bullock, Eleanor Joyner, Ruth Teel, Lois Tyson, Kim Cotton, Etna Lewis, Horace Allen, Rufus and Evangeline Cochran, Perry Harper, Clark Blackburn, Brenda and Daniel Purser, Delaney Hudson, Linda Gayhardt, Margaret Wilson, Nandra Talton, Dorothy Talton, Cecil Eason, Michael Thigpen, Michael Williams, Barbara Manning, Louise Lewis, Allen McGee, Dot Beard, James & Betsy Bonds, Mary Allen, Tommy Casper, Danny Vernelson, Mr. Mack, Doug Rice, Jean Ross, Rebecca Wilson, Donna Howard, Billy Modlin, Irene and Randy Pollard and Mike and Beverly Wainwright, Larry Cochran, Gerald Brown, Lewis Clark, Bonnie Burch Hicks, Blake McKeel, Ken Wainwright, Mildred Wainwright, Bailiegh Carlene, Donnie Hollman, Pat Jones, Lula B. Bush, unspoken prayer request.

#### Return Service Requested

P. O. Box 153, Farmville, NC 27828-0153  
 Phone 252-753-4803 E-Mail – [church@farmvilleumc.com](mailto:church@farmvilleumc.com)  
 Webpage: [www.FarmvilleUMC.com](http://www.FarmvilleUMC.com)

Pastor: Paul Dunham-pdunham@nccumc.org  
 Admin. Assist.: Nan Walston-nan.farmumc@embarqmail.com  
 Admin. Council: Mr. & Mrs. Mike Tugwell  
 Music Director: Bonnie Burnette  
 Organist: Drucilla Lamm

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# THANKS FOR A HOG WILD TIME



This year the VBS Theme was "Son Harvest - County Fair". Through the examples plant peace, produce some patience and pick a bushel of kindness, too! Each night in Pastor Paul's Pasture they learned that the best way to grow is to know Jesus as their Savior and to live as He wants them to live. They continued each night with learning cool music, making awesome crafts and tasting some outstanding snacks.

Our Mission project for the week was collecting food for the Farmville Soup Kitchen and the NC Food Pantry. The groups had a contest to see who could bring the most food and in the end the crazy cows ruled. We collected 104 cans of beans, 114 jars of peanut butter, 192 cans/box of potatoes and almost 300 cans of corn or boxes of rice. Our goal was to help children discover the importance of missions and to understand that we can all be involved by praying and supporting special projects.



The kick off picnic was buzzing with excitement. The smell of Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, popcorn and the delicious Snow Cones was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to the Farmville 4-H Club for sharing their special animals with us.

Son Harvest VBS was a wonderful event! Each evening we had 80-85 kids in attendance. It was a time for us to enjoy the children of our church but also to reach out to children in our community. Thanks to all of the 40plus volunteers who helped make this year's program a fun and meaningful experience!



You can see the link for pictures from the whole week on the "links" page of our church webpage, <http://www.farmvilleumc.com/links.html>.

