



Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville North Carolina 28311 868-5686

November 2001

SundaySchool

From the Pen of Pastor Ben

Over the past couple of months I have been involved in intense study and prayer regarding Christian worship. I didn't mean to take this direction in my spiritual life, but rather was led to it by Providence. At times I have felt confused and frustrated because the Holy Spirit was stretching me and prompting me as the leader of worship - but I didn't know the direction towards which He was directing.

You have been subjected to some of that struggle as you have witnessed me become more intentional about some of the things we do in worship. Some of you have expressed your prayerful and thoughtful concerns regarding certain trends in my worship leadership. Thank you for your input and especially for your prayers. Thank you for realizing that I was earnestly seeking God's will for our church, but was unable to clearly discern exactly what that will was.

On the morning of Sunday, October 28th, after considerable prayer the previous evening, I believe that God gave me clarity of direction for worship in our church. I believe that our worship should be charismatic and Spirit-filled in the best, biblical senses of those terms. Further, I believe that the Holy Spirit is prompting me to seek this Spirit-filled worship in the context of a liturgically ordered service.

Thus, I am NOT saying that God is leading us towards the Christian subculture of the Charismatic Movement. Neither am I saying that we should gravitate towards ritualism. Rather, I believe that God is leading us to worship that is supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit so that the fullness of God inhabits every element of worship. This is a gift, a charism, from God. Worship begins with God and flows back to God.

Also, I do NOT want to quench the Spirit. I believe that people should know that the Living God is present in power and might when they enter our services. Yet, as in the case of the early church, I believe that the Spirit's operation is most authentically experienced in the context of ordered, liturgical worship.

Our church is connected to all the faithful Christians who have come before us and we should demonstrate this connection in our worship. Thus we do things in worship that Christians have done everywhere and at all times. We demonstrate this through portions of the worship service that reflect the earliest traditions of the Christian Church. These liturgical elements are not dead ritual, but are means of grace that communicate the Spirit's power to us today. (By the way, Methodism is particularly blessed to combine both liturgical and charismatic elements in its worship tradition.)

This is where I desperately need your prayers: How do we pull this off? On the one hand, how do we employ the ancient practices of Christian worship in such a way as to not quench the Spirit? On the other hand, how do we remain spontaneous and open to the Spirit without descending into confusion and chaos? Beloved, I need you to ask God to grant me wisdom as I lead our worship. Let me know what God is placing on your hearts regarding worship.

Finally I am confident that as we intentionally seek God's leadership for our worship, and remain open to Him, He will be faithful to grant us the guidance we seek.

Pastor Ben

@ Cornerstone.fun

Fall finds Sunday School in full swing!

Welcome to new teachers **Debra Kocher, Sue Todd, and Marv Gordner**. Debra took over our K-2 class. Sue Todd now has the Junior High students and Marv Gordner is working with the Senior High. Be sure and thank them for performing such an essential service to our youth of the church and for being willing to share their faith and God's word with our children.

A special thank you to **Barb Hall**. She will be standing in for Rebecca Townsend until the time she is able to resume her class.

And of course, many thanks to all those who, over the last year, have devoted so much of their time week after week to this tremendously important program: **Glenda Dye, Andy Townsend, Joy Semrad, Kim Gordner, Rebecca Townsend, Laura Sutton, and Richard Upchurch**.

Needed: Substitute Teachers for Sunday School. Cold and flu season is rapidly on the way and all of our great subs have become regular, every week teachers. If you are interested in helping out at church with this very necessary area, please contact Debbie Hill at 764-1094. The hours are great and so is the precious time you will spend with our little folks. After all, that's how the others became full timers ... they loved it so much, they wanted to do it every Sunday.

Wanted: We are beginning to gather materials for our new classrooms. Right now we are interested in finding CD/Boomboxes. If you find yourself with one you no longer want, please send it our way!

Debbie Hill

This Month in Christian History

November 1, 1512: After four years of work, Michelangelo Buonarroti unveils his 5,800-square-foot painting on the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

November 3, 753 (traditional date): Pirminius, the first Abbot of Reichenau (Germany) dies. His pastoral instruction book, *Scarapsus*, contains the earliest evidence for the present form of the Apostles' Creed.

November 4, 1646: The Massachusetts Bay Colony makes it a capital offense to deny that the Bible is the Word of God.

November 7, 1918: Evangelist William ("Billy") Franklin Graham, Jr., is born in Charlotte, North Carolina.

November 10, 1908: Ten years after Samuel Hill and John Nicholson met in Boscobel, Wisconsin, to begin what would become Gideons International, the organization places its first Bible in a room at the Superior Hotel in Iron Mountains, Montana.

November 11, 1620: Forty-one Puritan separatists arrive in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They had hoped to settle further south, but as William Bradford wrote in his journal on December 19, "We could not now take much time for further search ... our victuals being much spent, especially our beer."

November 12, 1660: John Bunyan is arrested for unlicensed preaching and sentenced to prison. While incarcerated, he penned *Pilgrim's Progress and Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*, the greatest Puritan spiritual autobiography.

November 15, 1280: German theologian Albertus Magnus, teacher of Thomas Aquinas and defender of his theology (as well as a brilliant writer on Aristotelian thought), dies at the age of 87. Declared a doctor of the church in 1931, ten years later Pope Plus XII proclaimed him the patron of natural scientists.

November 15, 1917: Oswald Chambers dies while serving as chaplain to British troops in Egypt during World War I. His widow Gertrude, spent the rest of

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Dear Church Family,

Andy and I would like to thank all of you for supporting us while we go through these difficult times. We have received so much comfort from God through all of you and we thank Him for placing us at Cornerstone right now.

It would seem that life is being very unfair to us these days but I'm here to tell you that God has been so good to us - so faithful, just as He promised. We receive countless blessings every day. Allie may have leukemia, but hers is one of the most successfully treatable kinds (ALL). Andy may not have a job, but he's needed at home right now to be with Allie and Ryan and he is. Ryan may need surgery, but his spirits are up and his prognosis is good. God never promised us life would be fair, but He does promise to always be with us. He has kept that promise and we will continue to be faithful to Him no matter what.

Forgive us if we don't thank you individually - so many gifts came right away that things didn't get sorted out very clearly as to who gave what, but please know that we are thankful to you.

In

Him -

Andy, Rebecca and Allie Townsend

3rd-5th Grade Sunday School

The 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class sends its best wishes to Allie and Ms. Rebecca. We miss you!

Alex Wiggs and Jenna Upchurch brought their Bibles each Sunday in October. Keep up the good work girls!



Debra Kocher	11/14
Mike Wiggs	11/23
Alexandria Wiggs	11/23

James & Sylvia Chambers	11/3
Don & Linda Kurtz	11/23

Prayer Requests

The Townsend family,
Bill Holland's father,
Don Ferrara's father,
Jeff Hill's sister,
Maegan Ocasio.

November 2001 December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Promise Keepers 7:00	2 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	3
4 Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 Women's Bible Study	7 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	8 Promise Keepers 7:00	9 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00 <i>----- Pilgrimage -----</i>	10
11	12 Pastor's Day Off Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	13 Women's Bible Study	14 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	15 Promise Keepers 7:00	16 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	17
18	19 Pastor's Day Off	20 Women's Bible Study	21 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	22 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	23	24
25	26 Pastor's Day Off	27 Women's Bible Study	28 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	29 Promise Keepers 7:00	30 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	1
2 Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!	3 Pastor's Day Off	4 Women's Bible Study	5 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	6 Promise Keepers 7:00	7 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	8
9	10 Pastor's Day Off Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	11 Women's Bible Study	12 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	13 Promise Keepers 7:00	14 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	15

Notes: For more information on the above Bible studies, please call the Cornerstone office at 868-5686.

There's always something happening at Cornerstone!

This Month in Christian History Cont. . from page 2

her life compiling his notes, lectures, and sermons into books, including the bestselling *My Utmost for His Highest*.

November 18, 1874: The Womens' Christian Temperance Union is founded in Cleveland. Claiming the power of the Holy Spirit, Protestant members would march into saloons and demand they be closed. It was the largest temperance organization and the largest women's organization in the U.S. before 1900.

November 19, 1861: At the suggestion of her minister, abolitionist Julia Ward Howe wrote "some good words to that tune" of the popular song "John Brown's Body." In February, the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was published in the *Atlantic Monthly* and became very popular, especially after the Civil War.

November 22, 1873: The French ship, *Ville du Havre*, sinks in the north Atlantic, killing all four daughters of Chicago lawyer Horatio G. Spafford. His wife survived, and Spafford immediately booked passage to join her in England. While passing over the spot where his daughters died, he began writing what would become the famous hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul."

November 22, 1963: British scholar and author C.S. Lewis dies, the very same day as Aldous Huxley and John F. Kennedy.

November 23, 1654: French scientist and mathematician Blaise Pascal experiences a mystical vision and converts to

Christianity. The creator of the first wristwatch, the first bus route, the first workable calculating machine, and other inventions then turned his life to theology.

November 24, 1771: Methodist Francis Asbury begins preaching in America. For the next 45 years, he was the main figure in establishing the Methodist church.

November 28, 1863: The first annual national Thanksgiving Day is celebrated. Back in October, President Lincoln had proclaimed the fourth Thursday of each November from that time forward as a national day of thanks.

November 29, 1780: The Congregational Church of Connecticut licenses Lemuel Hayes to preach, making him the first black minister certified by a predominantly white denomination. Hayes later became the first black minister to pastor a white church.

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Nursery News

Please note there is a new nursery schedule. Please check with Kim Gordner to see when you have nursery duty. She usually has a chart posted in the sanctuary during the worship service.