



# Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville North Carolina 28311 868-5686

October 2001

## From the Pen of Pastor Ben

I'm especially thankful to have this space to share information with you this month because of the many things that are happening that affect our church family. I have six points of information and pastoral guidance to offer you this month.

1. First of all, I need to remind our Small Group Fellowships that they need to be moving towards some sort of ministry. Small Groups need to be praying for discernment about where God would have them be actively demonstrating Christ's love. Perhaps it will be involvement with Fayetteville Urban Ministries as they provide food and shelter to the needy in our community. Perhaps it will be in offering mentoring relationships with "at risk" children. Maybe God is calling you to tutor in the schools. Your Small Group may even be called to minister in the Cumberland County Jail. Remember, if you do not serve after you have gathered the bounty of God's blessings, your spiritual life individually and as a group will decay and rot like hoarded manna. So get out there and do ministry!

2. You have all noticed that we are still practicing "constant communion" as we continue to celebrate the Eucharist on a weekly basis. Let me assure you that I am not doing this to annoy anyone! I still discern the strong prompting of the Holy Spirit that this practice should continue for the time being in our worship. As I have told you many times, weekly Eucharist was the pattern of Christian worship in the New Testament and throughout the era of the early Church. Weekly Eucharist was the pattern endorsed and practiced by the Reformers. Weekly Eucharist was the practice of the Methodist movement under John Wesley. Christ is truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. His supernatural grace to empower us for godly, sanctified living is transmitted through this ordinance. Christ is present as sacrificial victim and triumphant Lord when we sup with him at his table. Thus the efficacy of his death and resurrection are supremely present in this holy meal. Further, we experience the fullness of pardon and victory when we dine with and upon Christ by faith. Without this grace many of us would fall prey to the devil's schemes and the power of our sinful human nature. Without this grace we would lose the joy of our salvation. As always, I want you to feel free to talk with me about this. You may have concerns, questions, or celebrations you would like to share with me regarding the Lord's Supper. I welcome that time of sharing with you.

3. I want to encourage you to reach out with love and compassion to our Muslim and Arab neighbors. God is granting us, in the face of the horror of the September 11 " attack, an open door to show the unconditional love of Christ to those who share the same ethnic and religious background of the terrorists. Offer to escort your Arab or Muslim neighbors to the grocery store, or other times they are in public. This will help them feel safer during this time when some Muslims and Arabs have come under irrational and hateful "backlash" attacks. Make sure to let them know that as a follower of Jesus Christ you want show them the true character of Christian faith. We do not agree with Islam and its tendency towards expansion through violence. However, in forming protective and loving relationships with our Muslim neighbors we offer a compelling testimony to the truth of the Good News about Jesus Christ.

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## Goodie Baskets

I would like to call upon each of you to help out with items to put in small packages each week to give to new visitors.

Items that we need are pre-packaged items like mints, life savers, little debbie snacks, etc. Please make certain that they are individually wrapped.

If you would like to help out with this, please bring any items to church on any Sunday and give to Mini Regalado or myself. Thank you for your continued help and support with this and other programs at our church.

Jamie Fancher



Kelly Irizarry	10/8
Barbara Hall	10/9
Joy Semrad	10/16
Patricia Holland	10/31

Bob & Marilyn Hutson 10/18

## Prayer Requests

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

4. The Finance and Building Teams have discontinued our relationship with the company who offered to finance our church through the sale of bonds. For various reasons we were no longer confident that Church Security Finance was able to meet our schedule to provide funding for the building project. Lumbee Guaranty Bank is now providing the funding we need to complete the building project. The interest rates and monthly payments are actually lower than we would have to deal with via a sale of church bonds. I believe that we have seen God's hand of Providence at work through the way this has worked out. Please continue to be faithful in your tithing and in your giving to the building fund!

5. Two new Small Groups are forming this month. Richard Upchurch is leading a group based on the Experiencing God material produced by Henry T. Blackaby. The organizational meeting for this group will be Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Richard and Sharon Upchurch. Contact Richard at 424-4164. I will be kicking off a new "Twenty-Somethings" Small Group for young adults on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Starbucks Cafe at Barnes & Noble. If you would like more information you can contact me at the office, 868-5686.

6. Finally I want to encourage you to be praying for our world situation. Especially be praying for God's guidance to be with President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. Also, please be in prayer for our military personnel, especially those Special Forces units already on the ground and in harm's way. Pray for our military leaders and planners that they would have the wisdom to restrain the evil of terrorism, while minimizing civilian casualties. Pray for the military personnel and their families in our church as they are directly touched by this crisis. Pray for those persons in our nation and in our church who are called to offer a conscientious witness of pacifism.

In closing, let me encourage you to continue to share the good news of what God is doing at Cornerstone with your un-church friends and neighbors. Continue to invite them to worship with us so that we can reach out to those who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior. The peace of Christ be with you all!

*Pastor Ben*



## **Children Church Corner**

Children's Church is an exciting place to see the enthusiasm of our young children. When you've taught them something about Jesus or the Bible and they go home singing it or telling of it, you know a seed has been planted. Remember the seeds that were planted with you.... singing "This Little Light of Mine", "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World" and others. If we stop sharing these songs with our children, *where will* they hear these messages of love and kindness to one another?

We have been so blessed to have volunteers sign up and lead our children. I haven't had to make hardly a call (which for me lately has been a blessing in itself). Our faithful volunteers in the past two months include: Jim & Tammy Fox, Jeff & Debbie Hill, Jon & Julie Blake (twice), Deb Hamerly, Deb Kocher, Mini Regalado, and Marv & Kim Gordner. Thank you sooo much for the love and kindness you share with our children.

You too, can plant seeds. No experience necessary. Just ask me to put your name down for a Sunday and we'll provide all the materials you need. It's easy, it's more than enough, and the rewards are many.

*Sharon Upchurch*

## **This Month in Christian History**

**October 3, 1226:** Francis of Assisi, preacher and mystic who created monastic communities for men and women devoted to poverty and serving the poor, dies.

**October 3, 1789:** George Washington names November 26 as a day of national thanksgiving for the ratification of the Constitution. On the same date in 1863, Abraham Lincoln designates the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

**October 13, 1917:** Three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal, report visions of the Virgin Mary.

**October 14, 1735:** John and Charles Wesley, cofounders of Methodism, set sail for ministry in America.

**October 15, 1932:** A small party of supporters gather in Liverpool, England, to send Gladys Aylward, a 28-year-old parlormaid, off on a dangerous missionary journey to China. Though she'd been turned down by the missions agency she applied to, she went on to become one of the most amazing single women missionaries of modern history. Her dramatic rescue of a hundred orphans is told in the movie *The Inn of Sixth Happiness*, starring Ingrid Bergman.

**October 17, 108:** According to tradition, Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, was martyred on this date. The Apostolic Father closest in thought to the New Testament writers, Ignatius wrote seven letters under armed guard on his way to Rome—some asking that the church not interfere with his "true sacrifice".

**October 21, 1663:** Virginia colonist John Harlow is fined 50 pounds of tobacco for missing church.

**October 26, 1529:** Thomas More becomes Lord Chancellor of England. Though he defended religious freedom in his book *Utopia*, he strongly opposed the Reformation and wrote against Luther, Tyndale, and others. Because he also opposed Henry VIII's claim to be the supreme head of the English church, as well as the King's divorce, he was executed.

**October 27, 1771:** Francis Asbury, sent from England by John Wesley to oversee

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# October 2001 November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's Day Off	2 Women's Bible Study	3 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	4 Promise Keepers 7:00	5 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	6
7 Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!	8 Pastor's Day Off Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	9 Women's Bible Study	10 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 <b>NEW! Experiencing God 7:00</b>	11 Promise Keepers 7:00	12 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00 <b>NEW! 20-Somethings at Starbucks</b> <i>Women's Retreat - Lake Tillery</i>	13
14	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 Women's Bible Study	17 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	18 Promise Keepers 7:00	19 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	20
21	22 Pastor's Day Off	23 Women's Bible Study	24 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	25 Promise Keepers 7:00	26 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	27
28 <i>Set your clocks back!</i>	29 Pastor's Day Off	30 Women's Bible Study	31 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00	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>Youth 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

*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*

America's 600 (or so) Methodists, lands in Philadelphia. During his 45-year ministry in America, he traveled on horseback or in carriages an estimated 300,000 miles, delivering some 16,500 sermons. By his death, there were 200,000 Methodists in America.

**October 28, 312:** According to tradition, on this date the 32-year-old Roman emperor Constantine defeated Maxentius at Milvan Bridge. Before the battle, Constantine had seen the symbol for Jesus, chi-rho, in a vision, accompanied with the words "By this sign conquer". He is considered Rome's first Christian emperor.

**October 28, 1949:** Jim Elliot, missionary to Ecuador's Auca Indians, writes in his journal the most famous of his sayings "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

**October 31, 1517:** Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses.

@Christianity Today

### ***SEE YOURSELF IN THE SERMON?***

Following the Sunday morning service, the pastor stood at the back of the church, shaking hands with the worshipers as they left. As one man shook hands, he looked intently at the pastor and said, "Powerful sermons, Pastor. Thoughtful, well researched. I can always see myself in them ... and I want you to knock it off."

@Christianity Today 1999

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## *Nursery News*

Thank you to all the wonderful members who have so generously given the gift of their time in the nursery during the busy summer months. What a powerful witness!

In order to give all the upcoming nursery warriors plenty of notice in case of any conflicts with dates, I have already scheduled workers through the month of October. I hope this will be helpful. Also, please remember that service in the nursery includes Sunday School (9:45 am) AND Worship Service, unless otherwise noted.

### **October**

- 7 Sharon Upchurch
- 14 Harro
- 21 Fancher (Sunday School) / Kocher (Worship)
- 28 M. Gordner (Sunday School) / K. Gordner (Worship)

*Kim Gordner*

## **Sunday School Class News, 3rd-5th Grades**

**Allie Townsend** and **Trey Gordner** remembered to bring their Bibles every Sunday for the month of June. **Allie Townsend** brought her Bible every Sunday for the month of July. **Allie Townsend, Alex Wiggs, Tim Harro, Ryan Hill,** and **Jenna Upchurch** all brought their Bibles every Sunday for the month of August. Keep up the good work!!