



Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville North Carolina 28311 868-5686

April 2002

From the Pen of Pastor Ben

Christians are often concerned when they experience doubt. They worry that perhaps there is something wrong with their walk with Christ or even if they have lost their salvation when they are assailed by stinging questions regarding the veracity of the Bible or the authenticity of their own faith. If this describes you, then fear not! Doubt is a normal part of the Christian experience. To begin with, doubt is a sign that you care about the truth. Only people who are passionate about whether or not what they believe is true and real are doubters.

For instance I have no doubt in my mind about the effectiveness of the parachute the men and women in the 82nd Airborne Division use when they jump out of airplanes. But I can guarantee you that if I was standing in the door of a C-130 attached to a static line, my mind would be dealing with doubt. Why? Because I would be passionate in that moment about whether it was true if that parachute would save my life!

I believe God intentionally places us in situations where we have to shake out the cobwebs of our faith through the process of doubt. It keeps our faith from being flabby, cheap, and shallow. Presbyterian minister and author Frederick Buechner says, "Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving."

Christian growth often involves questioning what we have taken for granted. So do not despair when you have to wrestle with disturbing doubts about God, the resurrection of Jesus, or life after death. This is a part of maturing in Christ.

However, just as physical growth is often accompanied with pain, growing through our doubts can be painful. Doubt is very much like grieving over the death of someone dear to us. When we are beset by doubt we struggle with a basic sense of insecurity. Helen Keller wrote these comforting words for those of us who are experiencing the pain of doubt today:

"It need not discourage us if we are full of doubts. Healthy questions keep faith dynamic. Unless we start with doubts we cannot have a deep-rooted faith. One who believes lightly and unthinkingly has not much of a belief. He who has a faith which is not to be shaken has won it through blood and tears-has worked his way from doubt to truth as one who reaches a clearing through a thicket of brambles and thorns."

The good news is that honest doubt that has the potential to lead to a dramatic new level of faith leads to dramatic faith. In John chapter 20, Thomas missed the first post-resurrection appearance of Christ to the disciples in the upper room. When he heard their witness of the resurrection he basically said: "**SHOW ME THE HOLES!** I won't believe until you show me a Risen Jesus so real I can jab my finger into the holes in his hands and shove my fist into his wounded side." Thomas was not satisfied with just the "feeling" that Jesus was alive. He wasn't going to settle for mass hysteria or a group hallucination. He wanted a Jesus that was at home in the REAL WORLD.

Yet, it was just that kind of honest doubt that paved the way for Thomas' amazing declaration of faith in the risen Christ when he exclaimed that Jesus was

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Follow Up Team

These folks follow up with first time visitors by praying for those individuals and sending them a thoughtful card. They also help with the nurturing ministry of the church by helping people in the church during times of particular need (illness, bereavement, etc.).

If you can help with this ministry, please call Mini Regalado at [redacted]. Anyone that's been on the receiving end of this wonderful ministry knows what a great blessing it is! Please sign up to help. It doesn't take a lot of time, and it will bless you greatly!



William & Joshua

"Understanding William & Joshua: A Discussion About Autism" Please join us at the church on Monday, April 15, 6:30pm to meet William's early intervention therapist and special education teacher. Please RSVP to Barbara Hall ([redacted].com) so we'll have enough materials. Childcare is available by reservation only.

Children's Ministries

Children's Church

Children's Church is running well and staying afloat with volunteers. It is the same volunteers though and we are blessed to have such dedicated and wonderful christians to help out. It would be nice to see new names up on the board. Everyone on the current phone list has their name in the basket.

Sunday School

Sunday School is growing every Sunday. Bridgett Yocum has volunteered to begin teaching the 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class. We have assistants in the 3-4 year old room to help out Kim Gordner's class. It is a joy to spend time in that class with those sweet children. Volunteers are scheduled through June 30.

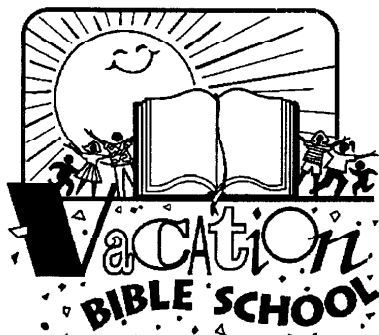
FW Friends

FW Friends now has approximately 20 kids in grades 1-5 and ten kids ages 3, 4, and 5. This program is also growing each week and I know the kids are having a blast. Suddenly on Sunday, I have children hugging me left and right with a cheerful "Hi, Miss Debbie". Aren't children a blessing!

VBS

VBS is scheduled for June 17-21. The first informational meeting will be on Sunday, April 14 from 4-5 pm. We will watch a video, view some of the crafts we will be doing and talk about how each evening will run. We are planning on running it from 5:30-8:30 with small-group sponsored dinners starting at 5:30. These times are tentative.

To get more information or become involved in these ministries, contact Debbie Hill.



Cornerstone Small Groups

CBS (Cornerstone Bible Study)
Tuesday Women's Bible Study
Wednesday Night Bible Study
Promise Keepers Men's Group
Friday Fellowship
United Methodist Men
Senior High Youth
Junior High Youth

Marilyn Hutson
Joy Semrad
Ben Sharpe
Ken Dye
Jeff & Debbie Hill
Steve Kublank
Brian & Christyn Hahn
Mike & Sue Todd

The National Day of Prayer

America United Under God

Tuesday, May 2, 2002

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

The National Day of Prayer is an annual event established by an act of Congress which encourages Americans to pray for our nation, its people and its leaders. The National Day of Prayer Task Force concentrates on the need to pray for those in leadership on all levels of national, church, and educational areas of influence. Mrs. Shirley Dobson is the Chairman for 2002.

James 5:16 tells us that the prayers of the righteous are "powerful and effective," and we anticipate that God will move in tremendous ways on May 2 in response to His people's petitions.

Mrs. Shirley Dobson

reprinted from Christianity Today

Council Meeting Change

The Administrative Council will be meeting on the second Sunday of the month at 7:00 pm at the church. This is a change from the previous schedule.



Cornerstone Guys

The United Methodist Men of Cornerstone are looking for new members. One of the events up for discussion right now is a camping trip for the men to have fun and get to know each other. Give Steve Kublank a call if you'd like to be involved with this small group. You'll be glad you did!

Adult Sunday School

This great class is still happening every Sunday morning. Steve Kublank is preparing some wonderful lessons. Come in and get involved in a great study.

Mark your calendar!

VBS

June 17 - 21

April 2002 May

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

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

There's always something happening at Cornerstone!

The School of Trials

Can't you all picture the Lord at the admissions counter of a school saying, "Okay, you will be taking the Job Loss class. Go to Room 204 and you'll get your assignments there. Don't be scared. You'll learn a lot, and I'll be there with you.

"And you, young lady, you are going to be taking Mess Unlimited. Sometimes my students call it, 'More Than I Can Handle.' In addition to your text book, you'll need a sick baby, a dirty house, and company coming. You go to Room 101, and I'll teach you how my grace can be sufficient for you. You say your hair's a mess and your laundry is piling up? That's even better. I'll show you how to give that to me, I'll organize it all for you, and give you a loving, thankful spirit.

"Next — ah, you already have your hands full in that marriage. That's fine. I also teach a class on 'Putting Christ First in Marriage.' You'll be surprised at the blessings you're going to get in this class. Take your burden to Room 208, and I'll show you how to handle it. Having a non-supportive husband is a benefit in getting all that you can out of the class. You and I are going to really enjoy each other in the days ahead. Don't worry about your husband. I have some things for him to learn as well."

All of us are taking classes in the Lord's school. Sometimes He assigns us more classes than we think we can handle. But the Master Teacher knows his students and the material. I'm thankful He is my teacher.

Linda Dessolee Roth

reprinted from The Best of Proverbs 31 Ministry



***From the Pen of Pastor Ben** from page 1*

"My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

I have good news for those of us who are honest doubters. In the words of Paul Tournier, "*God loves those who don't give in without a fight!*" The good news is that the Risen Christ has an unsettling habit of showing up and inflicting his reality upon us! And when that happens you are liable to cry out to Jesus, as Thomas did, "My Lord and my God!"