



Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville North Carolina 28311 868-5686

February 2002

Evangelism Team Update

by Douglas Dalton

(with liberally borrowed notes from Rev. Ben Sharpe)

As the chairperson of the Evangelism Team, I have been reviewing what I know about evangelism and what I believe God is directing our team to do over the next year. With the opening of our new church, I believe that there are new opportunities for us to prepare the way for God to have a new relationship with us and our community. Our efforts will be on what we can do to set the stage, so to speak, for people to have an encounter with God, through Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Ben Sharpe gave a wonderful sermon entitled "A Passion For God's Kingdom (Prepare the Way of the Lord)". This sermon has seven Biblical principals that put forth that I believe will guide us in our efforts to serve God in the evangelism efforts we intend to make in the next few years. He has defined these basic principals as:

1. **EVANGELISM IS GOD'S INITIATIVE.** Traditionally evangelism was considered as leading people to Christ. Actually, Christ is coming to them over and over in little encounters in their lives. God is the one who initiates this relationship. What we do in evangelism is set the stage for that encounter with God, so that people will be able to respond to God's loving initiative by receiving Jesus Christ.. Evangelism is the act of preparing people to have an encounter with God. This is a very important point. It's not our job to SAVE anybody. It IS our job to prepare people for the saving work that God longs to do in their lives.

2. **CONNECT WITH THE CULTURE -MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE.** Rev. Ben Sharpe instructed us that we must become students of the culture in which God has placed us as evangelists. We don't have to accommodate the culture where it contradicts the Gospel, but we need to learn to **COMMUNICATE AND CONNECT WITH THE PEOPLE IN OUR CULTURE.** The way most of us think of evangelism is inviting people to worship. That's okay, but Christian worship will make **NO SENSE** to the non-Christian. And we will not turn worship into secular entertainment to attract the lost. Worship is for God. We need to realize evangelism must happen where we encounter non-believers on a daily basis.

3. **MOVE PEOPLE TO AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.** With evangelism we prepare the way of the Lord by helping people consider that there is something more than just the day to day world of work, school, shopping, errands to run, etc. We prepare people to understand that God is getting ready to break into their life, and help them to be ready for that encounter.

4. **HELP PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE THEIR NEED FOR GOD.** The way we demonstrate the need for God is to **EMPHASIZE OUR BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD AND OTHERS.** By doing so we form genuine, caring, loving relationships.

5. **HONESTLY CONFRONT HYPOCRISY IN OURSELVES AND OTHERS.** Post-modern people have their **HYPOCRISY RADARS TUNED TO THE MAXIMUM.** We have to be willing to acknowledge our struggles and failures with the people we are preparing to have an encounter with Christ. Otherwise we

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Children's Church

The children's church new curriculum is a great success and the little followers of Jesus in our church are mad about Theo. Theophilus the Faith Retriever, Theo for short, is a great addition to all of our current and upcoming preschool children's ministries.

If you haven't taken the opportunity to spend just a short 45 minutes with the 3 to 5 year olds, you are really missing out. There is a new sign up board, and everyone on the current phone list has a name card to reserve their spot for a **blessed Sunday working with Children's Church.** Too chicken to do it by yourself, get your best friend to take the plunge with you!

Thank you to all who have served this past year at Children's Church. And a special to thanks to the Gordner family who not only have coordinated the nursery, but Kim also teaches faithfully every Sunday in Sunday School. Even though they dedicated all of that time to those two responsibilities, they still managed to serve Children's Church more Sundays than any other family in our congregation. If we were all that dedicated, we'd have to arm wrestle just to get a chance to do anything!

Debbie Hill

God uses what you have, to fill a need which you could never have filled.

God uses where you are, to take you where you never could have gone.

God uses what you can do, to accomplish what you never could have done.

God uses who you are, to let you become who you never could have been.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers,
in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies as a living
sacrifices, holy and
pleasing to God; this is your
spiritual act of worship.

- Romans 12:1-

will come off phoney and hypocritical.

6. DEMONSTRATE THAT ACTIONS MATTER MORE THAN GOOD INTENTIONS. When we encounter God HE TRANSFORMS US SO THAT WE LIVE IN A RADICALLY NEW WAY. WE LET GOD'S KINGDOM REIGN IN OUR LIVES. To evangelize our world effectively, we have to demonstrate that transformation in our lives and anticipate it in the lives of those we want to introduce to Christ.

7. MOST IMPORTANTLY, POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS. We must minimize our own importance for the purpose of directing all devotion and attention to Jesus Christ. Likewise, we must remember that we are not arguing doctrine, or politics with people when we engage them in evangelism. We are sharing our love for a person, Jesus Christ. We are inviting our non-Christian friends to come to know and love this person.

If we follow these points as our guidelines, I know that our efforts as evangelism people will produce great fruit in the form of authentic Christian disciples. My goals this year are to incorporate these guidelines into our every activity in life as individuals, as a people of God, and as a church.

Over the next several months we will be having several prayer and planning meetings. Each meeting will begin with prayer and conclude with prayer. That is because we are going to be asking God directly to participate and instruct us in our planning. This is God's work we will be doing and it is by His

will that we will accomplish it.

As a part of our evangelism efforts, we will also be learning about prayer. Prayer will guide us directly in our efforts to set the stage for God to encounter His people. By learning about prayer we will be learning what prayer is and is not, and we will be able to teach those who have had their first encounter with God how to have effective communication with Him, through Jesus Christ. We must not lead a person to God without teaching that individual how to remain with God and communicate with Him. So learning and teaching about prayer will be two of our goals.

In addition, on March 1st and 2nd, members of our team will be participating in the Faith Sharing Workshop with Dr. Eddie Fox and Dr. George Morris at Methodist College. We will be undergoing two days of Powerful Faith-Sharing Training so that we can use these skills in our efforts to prepare people for an encounter with God, through Jesus Christ. It is encouraged that each of you take this training as evangelism, and sharing of our faith, is demanded by our direct relationship to Jesus Christ. For more information call 1-800-849-4433 and ask for Linda Bourey in the Evangelism Office.

Shortly, our evangelism team will begin a new effort directed toward providing a Christian-based Saturday night Coffee House in our church. The goal is to provide a safe and Christian environment that would feature poetry readings, alternative music, jazz, Christian Music, speaking forums, serious con-

versation, games, book clubs, etc., in an informal and Christian Context. Part of our team's efforts will be to provide the setting where people can discuss their faith and be available to help people encounter God through Jesus Christ. Our goal is to keep this an informal time to gather around coffee and encounter God. This will not be a time for preaching but a time to care enough to really listen, to really engage people where they are, to be willing to see things from their point of view. We need to become more versed in the arts: music, drama, literature, film. These are the ways that postmoderns receive the messages that guide their lives. The Saturday Night Coffee House will provide this opportunity. If we want to evangelize, we must enter these arenas. Most importantly we have to be willing to take the time to form positive, godly relationships with non-Christians instead of just spouting off our Jesus talk. Your life is the only way most people in our culture will know anything about Jesus. You cannot share Christ without being willing to share your life. And it is our team's hope that this informal night will provide the opportunity to prepare those who attend to encounter God.

Our team will be developing more goals and plans over the next several months. It is our hope that you will be a part of the team and join with us in our efforts to evangelize for God. If you are interested you may call me, Douglas Dalton



Fayetteville Urban Ministry

An ongoing service project has begun in our church offering all of those interested an opportunity to participate.

Fayetteville Urban Ministry is in constant need of items to make Snack Packs and Hygiene Kits for the homeless folks that come through their facility. At my first visit, the woman I met there related to me that there really is a much larger homeless community in Fayetteville than most of us are aware because they live in the woods and out of sight of most people.

When they come through the FUM facility, they are given snack packs which may consist of any item that is nonperishable and has an easy open top. Suggested

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"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

-Corrie Ten Boom

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

February 2002 March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Women's Bible Study	6 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 FW Friends 6:30	7 Promise Keepers 7:00	8 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	9
10	11 Pastor's Day Off Church Council Mtg 7:00 pm	12 Women's Bible Study	13 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 FW Friends 6:30	14 Valentine's Day	15 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	16
17	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 Women's Bible Study	20 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 FW Friends 6:30	21 Promise Keepers 7:00	22 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	23
24	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 Women's Bible Study	27 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 FW Friends 6:30	28 Promise Keepers 7:00	1 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00 Evangelism Team Workshop	2 Evangelism Team Workshop
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Notes: For more information on the above Bible studies, please call the Cornerstone office at 868-5686.

There's always something happening at Cornerstone!

sundayschool @ cornerstone.fun



WANTED: Sunday School Substitutes- Our Sunday School Staff could not be more dedicated than they are, but occasionally, even saints catch a cold. If you are interested in helping out

in this capacity, please contact Debbie Hill

Parents, what a wonderful way to show your child's Sunday School teacher how much you appreciate what she does every week by being willing to fill in for her when she is absent.

Arts and Crafts Items- Once we get in the building, we will be collecting items such as yarn, wiggly eyes, pipe cleaners, fabric and poster paints, paint brushes, colorful stamp pads, markers, crayons, construction paper and just about anything else you may have that would help us set up a nice craft resource. In the past, much of those items have been purchased by our Sunday School and Children's Church teachers. It would be a wonderful service to have these things in place for them to use from when it comes time to do a craft. Sooooo, clean out that craft box of yours and bring it to Debbie Hill at church.

FW Friends- In the last flyer (lime green) at church, it said that FW Friends, our midweek children's program be-

gins on February 3. It should have said that it begins on February 7 at Debbie Hill's house until we are established in the new building. The current time will be from 6:30 until 8:00. We are currently offering this to 1st - 5th graders, but will include preschool once our Wednesday night programs are in full swing. Anyone interested in participating in this program (child or adult) please contact Debbie Hill.

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items are: Vienna sausages, tuna packets, soup, pasta, fruit cups, juice boxes, snack cracker packages, etc.

Also, they need items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, hotel-size shampoos, conditioners, lotions and soaps to make Hygiene Kits.

Want to teach your kids to have a heart of service? Put them in charge of picking up a little something extra at the grocery store each time they are with you, or have them remind you to add something to your list, if you leave them at home. Kids are great at remembering things that in our busy day to day life we tend to let slip, plus won't they feel what a blessing it is to be involved in doing for others. Now that's a bible lesson!