



Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville North Carolina 28311 868-5686

March 2002

From the Pen of Pastor Ben

We are finally in our new church building! It has been a long six-year pilgrimage that has brought us to this point. God has been incredibly faithful to us along the way, I loved the adaptation of Psalm 136 Dwight Harro wrote for our procession from the school to the new church building recounting God's mighty acts on our behalf. You can read a copy of that Psalm in this newsletter.

There are so many people to thank for bringing us to this new beginning. I want to especially say thanks to Robert Semrad and Bill Holland who offered invaluable leadership during the building process. Also, I want to thank the entire congregation (as well as our friends and relatives) for the continued faithful financial support that underwrites the construction costs and upkeep of the new church building.

The amazing thing about the new building is that it is already too small! This is almost always the case when a congregation moves into their first home. On our first Sunday, we had 177 seats set out and 171 persons in attendance! If we had not already planned to go to two services on March 17, we would have been driven to that step by necessity.

Speaking of the addition of another service, I wanted to try and explain, once again, how I see our Sunday morning schedule working. Before I offer the details, let me add that the creativity and ingenuity of our church family will probably improve these plans once they are in place.

Now for the details:

1. The early service begins at 9:30 a.m. and is scheduled to run to 10:45 a.m.
2. The first portion of the service is mostly praise and worship.
3. At 10:00a.m. those children who desire to attend Sunday School are dismissed to their classes.
4. Parents and others not attending Sunday School remain for the duration of the service.
5. It is anticipated that adults in the early Service will be availing themselves of Christian education opportunities throughout the week in our small group settings (such as Cornerstone Bible Study, PK, or Friday Night Fellowship).
6. This means that there will be children from both the 9:30 service and the 11:00 service attending the same Sunday School classes.

There are advantages and drawbacks to this schedule. It makes the best use of our limited space and personnel while keeping the early service at a time (9:30 a.m.) that has been demonstrated to allow for maximum participation in our community.

As we move into this new schedule and settle into our new facilities, I want to encourage us all to pray that God would empower us to maintain a servant attitude and that He would enable us to extend massive amounts of



Cornerstone Music Notes

On March 17, we will begin to offer two worship services on Sunday morning instead of one. This will help our church grow, and will also allow for greater variety of expression in worship. "Traditional" and "contemporary" are the labels being used for these services, but what do they mean? Both services will contain a blend of music so that nobody gets stuck in a particular worship style. But there will be some differences too. Here's how the two services will compare with one another:

Contemporary 9:30 am

This service's music selections will include more of the newest worship songs with about 1 hymn per week usually contemporary styling. Instruments will include keyboard (synthesizer), bass, guitars, possible electric guitar, drums (stronger), tambourine and other percussion. Primarily a flow of uninterrupted musical worship.

Traditional 11:00 am

This service will have more familiar music with some new songs and hymns; at least 1 hymn per week, usu-

Psalm 136

(adapted February 24, 2002 and read during the processional from
E.E. Miller Elementary School to the new
Cornerstone United Methodist Church building)

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good

His love endures forever

Give thanks to the God of gods

His love endures forever

Give thanks to the Lord of lords

His love endures forever

To Him, who alone does great wonders

His love endures forever

Who by His understanding made the heavens

His love endures forever

Who spread out the earth upon the waters

His love endures forever

Who made the great lights

His love endures forever

The sun to govern the day

His love endures forever

The moon to govern the night

His love endures forever

Who called Pastor Ben Sharpe and his family to Fayetteville

His love endures forever

Who called a congregation out of nothing

His love endures forever

And molded our diversity into a family

His love endures forever

Who sustained us through PCS losses

His love endures forever

And replenished our numbers

His love endures forever

Who nourished us with His presence each Sunday

His love endures forever

Who displayed His power through healing

His love endures forever

Who restored from deformity

His love endures forever

Who saved some from near death

His love endures forever

Who delivered some from addiction

His love endures forever

Who provided jobs for the jobless

His love endures forever

Who comforted those in grief and sustained in times of trouble

His love endures forever

Who opened the eyes of many to the good news of salvation

His love endures forever

Who led many to baptism in His name

His love endures forever

Who forgives our sins and heals our divisions

His love endures forever

Who provided land right next to the school

His love endures forever

Who sent gifted people to oversee the building process

His love endures forever

Who provided needed and unforeseen finances

His love endures forever

Who removed the rent increase from us

His love endures forever

And drove down interest rates ahead of us

His love endures forever

Who watched over the church design and construction

His love endures forever

And brought it to completion in His good time

His love endures forever

Give thanks to the God of heaven

His love endures forever

Hallelujah!!



Easter is Coming!

Make hot cross buns-small, spicy, sweet buns that are a traditional Easter treat.

Prepare to observe Maundy Thursday. The word *Maundy* comes from a root word meaning "mandate" or "command." Look up John 13:34-35 to discover the "new commandment" Jesus gives.

Discuss Jesus' experiences in the garden of Gethsemane in Matthew 26:36-46. Then read his prayer for all believers-including your family-in John 17:20-26.

Look up 2 Corinthians 5:17. As a symbol of a "new creation," make butterflies using a large piece of wrapping tissue scrunched and secured in the middle with a clothespin.

Make homemade pretzels, which originated as a Lenten treat.

Read Matthew 26:1-16, 47-56. Talk about your child's experiences of betrayal or disappointment in friendships. Imagine Jesus' personal hurt at Judas's treachery and the subsequent desertion of Christ's closest allies.

Define *atonement*, helping your kids understand the ideas of making amends or repaying a debt that is owed.

Practice the traditional Easter greeting: "Christ is risen!" and the reply: "He is risen indeed!"

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Say What?

We were sitting in church a few weeks ago while the priest delivered a sermon based on the timeless story of the prodigal son. When he got to the point where the father sees his son returning and races out to meet him, the minister said "Throwing wide his arms, the father said..."

...At which point a young boy jumped up & shouted, "YOU'RE GROUNDED!"

Nick's G-Rated Humor

March 2002 April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Come join us on Wednesday evenings in our new church! Dinner is from 5:45-6:30. Cost is \$2.00 per person, but no more than \$10.00 per family. Praise & worship, Bible study and FW Friends follows right after dinner.</i></p>					1 Evangelism Team Workshop	2 Evangelism Team Workshop
3 Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Women's Bible Study	6 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 Dinner 5:45-6:30 FW Friends 7:00	7 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 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 Dinner 5:45-6:30 FW Friends 7:00	14 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00	15 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	16
17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 Women's Bible Study	20 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 Dinner 5:45-6:30 FW Friends 7:00	21 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00	22 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 Women's Bible Study	27 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 Dinner 5:45-6:30 FW Friends 7:00	28 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	29 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00 <i>Good Friday</i>	30
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	1 Pastor's Day Off	2 Women's Bible Study	3 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 Dinner 5:45-6:30 FW Friends 7:00	4 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00	5 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	6
Cornerstone 7 Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers! Daylight savings time begins	8 Pastor's Day Off Church Council Meeting 7:00	9 Women's Bible Study	10 Cornerstone Bible Study 7:00 Dinner 5:45-6:30 FW Friends 7:00	11 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00	12 Friday Night Bible Study 7:00	13

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

There's always something happening at Cornerstone!

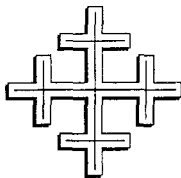
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grace to one another. Moving is a stressful time for ANY family. It is especially stressful if you happen to have 150 folks in your family! So be prepared to be emotionally (or even physically) bumped and jostled as each of us seeks to find out where we fit in our new surroundings. I offer Paul's words to a church he loved to you in this time:

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (*Philippians 4:1-4*)

Finally, now that we are in the building, pray with me for God's strong direction in how we are to offer Jesus Christ through the ministry of our church.

Pastor Ben



Lord, today as I labor:
help me to do the right thing
at the correct time
with the proper attitude
and in the correct relationship with You.

Music Notes

from page 1

ally traditional hymnal styling. Instruments will include percussion, keyboard (piano, organ), acoustic guitar, drums (lighter), possible wind or string instruments, tambourine and other percussion. Thematically arranged music and possibly scripture or other readings.

Both services will continue to change some (dare I say evolve?) in character. As a praise team, we pray that the new services will enable you and your friends to worship in spirit and in truth, and with heart, soul, mind, and strength! We appreciate your prayers and comments as we grow together in worship. We will model our vision for "contemporary" worship during the March 10th service.

Dwight Harro
Music Minister