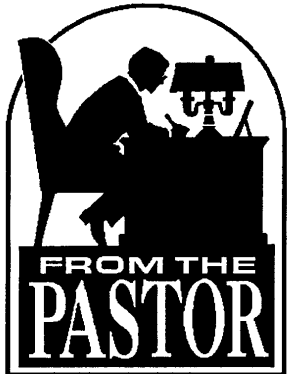


Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville North Carolina 28311 868-5686

September 2002



9/11 Remembrance Project Prayer Support Seven-Day Prayer Strategy

Day One: Sunday, September 1: Open their eyes, Lord.

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Ask God to prepare the hearts of those in your community who will receive the booklet and invitation

to the memorial service. Ask Him to release them from the darkness caused by the work of Satan and give them understanding and openness to the gospel.

Day Two: Monday, September 2: Give us boldness, Lord.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly (Acts 4:31).

Ask God to give you and members of your church the courage to talk with their neighbors and co-workers. Pray that each one would receive a personal invitation to come to the memorial service.

Day Three: Tuesday, September 3: Bring good out of evil, Lord.

...for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance (Philippians 1:19).

Everyone recognizes the evil that was done on September 11, 2001. We have also seen great good come from this terrible attack. Pray that God will continue this work of good and that many will come to faith as they remember the destruction of that day. May lives saved for eternity result from this evangelistic effort around 9-11.

Day Four: Wednesday, September 4: Open doors for the gospel, Lord.

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains (Colossians 4:3).

Pray for the Lord to open doors in schools, prisons, businesses, and everywhere that people congregate. Pray that the *9-11 Remembrance* booklet will find its way into many hands and hearts.

Day Five: Thursday, September 5: Let them see our love, Lord.

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:35).

Pray for churches and ministries to work together to reach everyone in their community. Pray that the visible demonstration of unity will encourage nonbelievers that the love of God is truly at work.

Day Six: Friday, September 6: Grow your church, Lord.

But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand (Acts 4:4).

Pray that those who commit their lives to Christ as a result of the *9-11 Remembrance* outreach will be added to the church and will be discipled by faithful mature

Continued on page 2

September 11: A Remembrance Service

What were you doing on September 11, 2001? Similar to other national tragedies, the day of September 11 will be permanently fixed in our minds. Like most of America, we are sure that you spent the majority of the day glued to the television, watching the horror and the aftermath unfold.

What are you planning on doing on September 11, 2002? More importantly, what are your family members, friends, and co-workers planning on doing on September 11, 2002? For many of them who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, they are probably going to be asking questions.

Why do bad things happen?

Did God fail on September 11?

How can I forgive God for letting September 11 happen?

Is there even a God?

The Good News of Jesus Christ is that He does have all of the answers. Even in the aftermath of such tragedy, God is giving believers an opportunity to reach out to those who are desperately seeking truth in chaotic times.

Our church will be holding a Remembrance Service on Wednesday, September 11 to remember those who died and to hold out the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who live. This evening will be a unique opportunity to invite those who would not normally attend church to hear a clear message of hope that is only found in Jesus Christ.

Unlike very few other times in our history, people are more open than ever to the gospel. Please prayerfully consider who God wants you to invite to this service. Do not let them spend the night of September 11 with only questions and no answers.

Christians.

Day Seven: Saturday, September 7: May everyone hear, Lord.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? (Romans 10:14a)

Pray for the Lord to give us a desire to reach everyone in our cities and communities with the gospel message. Pray that no one would be left out. Pray that each would hear in an appropriate way so that they have a valid chance to respond in faith.

Sand and Stone

The story goes that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: "Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone. Why?"

The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone.

Hidden Heroes: Help for Military Families

By Ellie Kay

During the final days of the Gulf War, I took our 3-year-old son, Daniel, his 2-year-old brother, Philip, and our infant daughter, Bethany, to watch their father launch his F-4 Phantom jet. He was going to the Middle East. "When will de Papa be back home, Mama?" asked Daniel as he waved his chubby hand at the airplane. "Soon," I said as I fought back tears and kissed my baby daughter on her fuzzy blonde head. "We are praying he will come home soon." Philip was excited; he loved watching airplanes, "I wuv you, Papa!" he shouted as he jumped up and down. All of the sudden, he turned to me, furrowed his brow and said, very seriously, "You know, I weally wuv de Papa." Then he turned to wave at the small speck in the sky as his dad flew his mission. Later that week, Daniel's Sunday school teacher told me that he'd had a special prayer request: "Please pway for the all de Air Force guys dat fly to betect our fwedoms." Then he paused and added, "And please pway for dem Army guys dat do de same thing—but dey fly and fight on dem helicopters. Oh, and pray for de Army girls, too!"

Daniel didn't quite understand what his father did for a living a decade ago, but after the Kosovo war in 1999 and now with our current situation, he does. As a military family who currently has five school-aged children and two adult children, we have a keen appreciation of what it takes to keep this nation free. We've lived through these two wars and know that my husband, Lt. Col. Bob Kay, will likely be called upon, again, to fly and fight in order to protect our nation's freedoms. We're the veterans on the home front. Some have called military families the "hidden heroes at home," but most of us would not accept such a title. After all, we don't wear the uniform, we haven't sworn to offer our life's blood to defend our nation, we don't eat MRE rations in some faraway place. We merely support those who do. And yet, if Bob knows that when he returns from his mission he will have a loving family waiting for him, he is better able to concentrate on the task at hand. When he believes that his family will have people in the community who will assist them through the uncertain weeks and months, then perhaps he rests a little better when he contemplates the stars in a darkened sky half a world away. And in some way, these families, as well as their communities, have contributed to our national defense as have all the supportive families of other airmen, seamen, soldiers and Marines. As a veteran wife and mom, I've seen my share of so-called "fire fights" at home while dad is away. Any military spouse will tell you that it seems as soon as the troops deploy, the children get sick, the washer breaks down or a distracted mom will absentmindedly plow through a partially opened garage door. (We've purchased two garage doors in the past year.) Nonetheless, I have the confidence that God will watch over us in the future, even as He has in the past. I believe that one of the ways God does this is to send angels in skin. These people come to the rescue when the mundane issues of life—mowing yards, cooking dinner—threaten to be my downfall. It is precisely at these moments that God often provides a strong back to take care of a few of Dad's chores or a hot meal when I'm too exhausted to cook. In this time of national concern, if you find yourself wondering how you can reach out in practical ways to military families in your community or rescue workers who may be called upon to serve for extended periods of time, you might find these suggestions helpful: Phone calls: Initially, there are quite a few phone calls, cards and letters of support. Here are a few tips for these calls:

Brevity: Keep the initial phone calls brief and to the point, such as: "I just want to let you know that we're praying for you and will be here to support you in any way we can."

Sensitivity: Be mindful that sometimes people will want to talk and other

Continued on page 4



Cornerstone Small Groups

Monday Women's Bible Study	Joy Semrad
Wednesday Night Bible Study	Ben Sharpe
Promise Keepers Men's Group	Ken Dye
Friday Fellowship	Jon & Antonia Ban
United Methodist Men	Steve Kublank
Senior High Youth	Brian & Christyn Hahn
Junior High Youth	Mike & Sue Todd

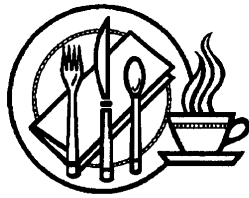
Combined 5th Sunday Service

September 29, 2002 — 10:30am.

Cornerstone's Early (9:30am) and Late (11:00am) Sunday Services will meet together on this Sunday, September 29, at 10:30 a.m. Immediately following the service, there will be a pot-luck lunch in the multipurpose room. Bring your favorite dish to share and let's back the church to capacity for this special service of singing and celebration!

FW Friends

FW Friends, our midweek children's program, begins on Wednesday, September 4. We will be meeting every Wednesday night (with the exception of September 11) from 7:00 - 8:30. Parents, bring the whole family to the 6:30 midweek Praise & Worship time then bring the kids on over to FW Friends at 7:00. FW Friends has activities for children 3 years to 5th grade. Junior high and senior high kids can be a part of this ministry also through being a circle of friends leader for a group of five children. Adults are also needed to be either a circle of friends leader or to help out with some of the activities. Adults, no preparation required for his. All of the lesson plans are already done, all of the materials are already bought and gathered; all you have to do is come and help lead our children in some great time learning about praising the Lord.



Children's Church

Come check out the children's church board in the fellowship hall. Everyone should find their name in the little basket if they are on the current phone list (and there are blanks for those not yet printed). So, come on by and check it out, your name that is and pick a Sunday to be a blessing in the lives of children from 3-5 years old. Two and a half years ago when I first started being active in the ministries of Cornerstone, I did it because I believe you should support whatever you are a part of and do your equal share of the work, but I must say that in committing time to these various activities, I have learned the real truth. Through opening yourself to others and putting yourself in their service, God can touch your heart in real ways, help you to grow, and really communicate with you like you wouldn't believe. So if you are looking for a way to be closer to God, take a step out in faith and do something you've never done before and He will be there to guide you and bless you for it.

Debbie Hill

Marriage

THE JOKE

The fourth grade Sunday school teacher was preparing for the next Sunday's lesson. Since the topic was marriage, the teacher thought it would be a good idea for the pastor to visit the class and chat about this important subject. The pastor agreed, and began his time with the children by asking, "What does God say about marriage?" Without hesitation, one small boy responded, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

THE SERMON

That's a pretty good misquotation joke, but did you notice the kernel of truth in what the youngster said? In a very real sense, a man and woman do not fully know what they are getting into when they get married, for it is impossible for either of them to know how they are going to grow, change or stagnate through the years.

One thing they can know, however, is that Jesus Christ sees marriage as a lifelong commitment of faithfulness, loyalty and trust between two people — that's the real meaning of the phrase "plight your troth" that used to be common in traditional marriages. So when two Christians get married, they do know what they're getting into — something that they cannot get out of while remaining in God's perfect will.

Christians have a higher calling than to determine what is the proper "grounds for divorce". That higher calling is a higher road, the road of confession, repentance, and forgiveness. It's not an easy road, especially when only one spouse wants to travel that path. But it's easier to travel along that road together when two have agreed in advance that divorce is not an option!

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." [1Cor. 10:13]

And what about divorce? It may be as irrevocable as murder. But *"if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* [1John 1:9].

Now that's good news!

From Nick's Humor Line, Sunday Stuff

times they won't because they are bombarded by the enormity of their circumstances. *Leave a message:* Some families may have an answering machine on at all times. If you get the machine, don't hang up; just leave a short message expressing your care and concern.

Visits: If you are related to a military family, your initial reaction might be to go help them. Here are some points to keep in mind:

Ask first: Don't call and simply announce your intentions to come to their rescue. Ask permission to come and be prepared for a no or a maybe later.

Not about you: If you get one or two negative responses about a visit, then remember that this is not about you. Don't make life harder for these family members by insisting on so-called "family rights" to help.

Asset, not liability: If the military family has determined that your visit can be more of an asset than a liability, then consider the living arrangements. If they live in military housing, then their quarters are likely very small. Consider staying at an inexpensive hotel, billeting on base or even renting a clean RV to stay in during your visit. Close quarters tend to add stress.

Permissive help: On your visit, propose to help without taking over. Ask permission to help and then feel free to clean, cook, do laundry, take the children to the zoo, mow the lawn, change the oil in the car, fix the broken door handles, run errands—well, you get the idea.

Keep those cards and letters coming: During Desert Shield in 1990, our troops sat in the desert for six months for a three-day ground war. Once the media frenzy of the initial deployment wears off, people get on with their lives and tend to forget the families that remain alone for many weeks. Here are ways not to forget:

Mark your calendar: Make a weekly reminder note to send a card or make a

call. God has a way of making your little note make a big difference.

Humor helps: Humor can be an incredibly healing balm and provide a much needed release, so you might want to send a funny card.

Unconditional love: Do not require a response from your friend. Your card may have meant a lot, but when they see you the next week, their mind is so full of other things they may not remember to thank you. The usual protocols do not always apply during sustained separations from family members.

Angels with skin: It's one thing to give a family an open-ended statement of "If there's anything we can do to help, please let us know." Chances are they will never call for your help. Here are some ways to be proactive in your offer

for help:

Refusals permitted: While you offer help, be sensitive to the fact that they may refuse it. Don't take

it personally; just make a different offer for help at a later time.

Be specific: Instead of a blanket proposal for help, offer a tangible form of assistance such as, "Can my son and I come and mow your lawn on Friday or Saturday?" Or "I'd like to bring you a meal one day next week. What day would be a good one for you to take a break from cooking?"

Group projects: When the troops were in Kosovo, a youth group from another town wanted to come help the airmen's families. The thought of a bunch of strangers coming to help was kind of scary initially. If your group wants to help, contact a military family through someone they know or their unit's supervisory contact. Have a specific project in mind. For example, a youth group could clear away leaves or clean the

house. Always have adult supervision present and be responsible for those in your group. These projects can be a tremendous blessing to the families involved.

When in doubt, send chocolate (or other tokens): Okay, this piece of advice comes from a chocoholic, but the logic is sound—give your friends small gifts from time to time. These special treats make all the difference.

Money is no object: Thoughtful reminders that someone is thinking of them don't have to be expensive. Drop off a gift basket filled with your friend's favorite foods (did I mention I love chocolate?) or a video rental of a movie they've been wanting to see. (Be sure to let them know when it's due back.)

Gifts of time: I've been called "The Coupon Queen" many times, but why not make a coupon booklet as a gift? Include coupons for free baby-sitting, a meal, a favorite batch of cookies, a coffee date, running errands—the possibilities are limited only by your imagination!

Group gift: Groups of friends could join together and buy a long-distance phone card, a gift certificate for a favorite restaurant or movie passes for a fun night out.

Remember prayer: There's an old saying, "There are no atheists in foxholes." No matter what the military member's religious affiliation, the overwhelming majority of people won't turn down prayer. Let them know you are praying for them regularly.

Fayetteville Urban Ministries

Fayetteville Urban Ministries are always looking for items to make snack packs and hygiene kits for the homeless community that come through their facility. There is a blue box in the fellowship hall for such items. Stop by the box to get a list of what they are looking for and next time you are at the grocery store, do a little mission work, pick up a little something for someone else.



September 2002 October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!	2 <i>Labor Day</i>	3	4 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/Praise 6:30/ FW Friends 7:00 CBS 8:00	5 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00 Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00	6 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00	7
8 Council Mtg 7:00	9 Pastor's Day Off Women's Bible Study	10	11 Noon Prayer Group Remembrance Service 7:00	12 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00 Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00	13 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00	14
15	16 Pastor's Day Off Women's Bible Study	17	18 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/Praise 6:30/ FW Friends 7:00 CBS 8:00	19 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00	20 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00 BBQ/Chicken 11:00-7:00	21
22	23 Pastor's Day Off Women's Bible Study	24	25 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/ Praise 6:30/FW Friends 7:00	26 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00 Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00	27 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00	28 RISK Tournament!
29 10:30 Combined Worship Service Pot Luck Dinner to follow	30 Pastor's Day Off Women's Bible Study Charge Conference 7:00	1	2 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/Praise 6:30/ FW Friends 7:00 CBS 8:00	3 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00 Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00	4 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00	5
6 Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!	7 Pastor's Day Off Women's Bible Study	8	9 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/ Praise 6:30/FW Friends 7:00	10 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00 Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00	11 Friday Night Fellow- ship 7:00	12
13 Church Council Meeting 7:00	14 Pastor's Day Off Women's Bible Study	15	16 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/Praise 6:30/ FW Friends 7:00 CBS 8:00	17 Promise Keepers 7:00 Choir 7:00	18 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00	19

Don't forget to buy your barbecue/chicken lunch and dinner tickets for Friday, September 20. We will be serving from 11:00 to 7:00 pm.

There's always something happening at Cornerstone!

Remember

You remember how you were taught to write. Your mother put a pencil in your hand, took your hand in hers, and began to move it. Since you did not know at all what she meant to do, you left your hand completely free in hers. This is like the power of God in our lives.

Anthony Bloom, Russian orthodox monk, as quoted in Guideposts

FOR THOSE WHO SPEED ON THE HIGHWAY - A FEW HYMNS

45 mph.....God Will Take Care Of You
55 mph.....Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
65 mph.....Nearer My God To Thee
75 mph.....Nearer Still Nearer
85 mph.....This World Is Not My Home
95 mph.....Lord, I'm Coming Home
Over 100 mph.....Precious Memories

HYMNS FOR ALL THINGS

The Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him With Many Crowns
The Weatherman's Hymn...There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
The Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, holy
The Golfer's Hymn.....There's A Green Hill Far Away
The Politicians Hymn.....Standing On The Promises
The Optometrist's Hymn....Open My Eyes That I Might See
The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
The Shopper's Hymn.....Sweet By and By
The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got A Mansion, Just
Over The Hilltop
The Massage Therapist's Hymn.....He Touched Me
The Doctor's Hymn.....The Great Physician

*Group Work Camps are amazing
places for youth!
Coming soon...to a youth meeting
near you!*

-6-