

# Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville North Carolina 28311 868-5686

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## January 2003



Euro-Asia Episcopal Area

To the Friends and Supporters of the Euro-Asian  
United Methodist Church  
*REPORT 2002*

Dear friends, sisters and brothers in the Christian  
faith!

Greetings and blessings from United Methodists  
in the Euro-Asia Episcopal Area!

Some of you may remember (with a smile) my  
emphasis on the "correct spelling" of the name: the  
Russia (without an "n") United Methodist Church. In

this way, we acknowledged the importance of our relationship to all of Russia and its many nations, not only to the Russian nation. Though "Russia United Methodist Church" is still the official name, we have in reality grown beyond the borders of the Russian Federation over the last few years. In 2002, work in a fifth country has been added:

Belarus has joined the list that contained already the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Moldova. In Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and several areas of Russia, new churches have joined the Conference, adding some new spots on the vast map of the area, that reaches from the Baltic Sea in the West to the Pacific Ocean, and from the Northern White Sea to the Central Asian desert in the South. This is almost half of Europe and a considerable part of Northern Asia. Therefore, following the custom of the region, we prefer to use the name of "Euro-Asia" as we are looking at the complete area. The churches in Ukraine have applied to the government for the registration of a "United Methodist Church in Ukraine," Kazakhstan will hopefully follow soon. They will continue to be a part of the structure in the area but with government recognition, the work will enjoy some status and security. This is very important, as the recent example of Belarus is showing, where all unregistered religious activity has been outlawed. Please, pray for our small church there that the registration process will be completed soon.

To strengthen the work of ministry in this vast area, the Northern Europe Central Conference made a decision, to establish new Conferences. As a result, the episcopal area now has four Annual Conferences and 11 districts. It makes the work better "manageable," however; this has not been the main reason for structural reform. With the New Testament and our Methodist tradition, we see administration and structure of the church as an important means for mission. Speaking of the Church as Christ's "body," the New Testament mentions the "joints" that connect the members in their growth and outreach (Eph. 4:16). New regional centers are emerging, and cooperation of pastors and churches give new impulses and strength in ministry. To make the decision visible, a large map at one of the walls in the plenary hall at Annual Conference showed the geography of the new Conferences.

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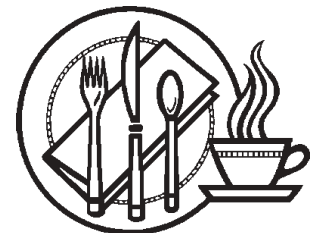
## Missions First Saturday

New Years is a great time for renewals and resolutions. If you are resolved to get your family more involved in mission and outreach, join other brothers and sisters in Christ at Cornerstone's Missions First Saturday. Missions First Saturday is an opportunity to get out into our community to meet the needs of others and share the Good News on the first Saturday of each month. If you have a mission opportunity you would like to suggest, please do. Look for a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for our first outreach on February 2nd. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Sandra Roper @ 425-8655 or Debbie Hill @ 764-1094.

Please be in prayer for our church to fulfill God's calling in this project and for all the hearts touched by this opportunity, both on the giving and receiving of this outreach.

"...The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

*Matthew 9:37-38*



## Pot Luck Church Breakfast

January 12  
8:30 am

Come and enjoy breakfast and a  
special time of fellowship

Another main event at Conference was the celebration of 10 years of renewed Methodist ministry in Russia. Likewise, several of the churches have been looking back at ten years of witness and mission. Visits with them as well as with new churches have been a “standard feature” at the bishop’s travel schedule. I enjoy the worship services with adults and children but also participation in outreach and caring ministries with families, persons suffering from an addiction, ex prisoners and others.

Almost all of our churches are involved in such ministries, and cooperate and support each other. Groups and teams from supportive churches in Western countries have also participated, and their gifts enable us for better service. Though I had the chance to visit with some of our friends in local churches and Annual Conferences and to thank them personally during this year, I would like on behalf of all our people to express the deep gratitude for your help, your prayers and the financial support. You really make us feel that “Methodists are one people” all around the globe.

It has been a special privilege for the church in Russia to host guests from abroad. In March, the European “Swop Shop” for children’s ministries was held in Pskov. The participants had a great time together, culminating in celebrating Easter with the hosting church. When visiting churches and Sunday Schools, I see how the ideas from this seminar are creatively used. My special thanks to the Methodist Church in Great Britain for the help, making this event possible. In fall the General Secretary of the German United Methodist Mission Board visited Russia to prepare for an exciting joint project for children in Russia and Germany. “Children help children,” a mission program of German Sunday Schools, will help in the acquisition of a camp for Russian children and youth. Work with children has been one of our priorities from the very beginning of renewed UM work in Russia ten years ago. In the beginning it was just to help children from starving.

Very soon, however, our churches have widened the specter of their ministries with children, including offering fellowship and possibilities for development of creativity. Though quite restricted in means and not having their own buildings, churches and especially the lay activists in the Sunday Schools have done marvelous things in supporting children (most of them not from a Methodist family). The districts have offered children’s camps every summer, trying hard to find places to rent for a week or two. More recently, efforts have been made to help in prevention of drug and alcohol dependency, for example through summer camps devoted to this aim. It has been our dream, to have our own facility for such activities with children and youth and a place that could also be used for seminars and other meetings. We are

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## **The Methodist/ Wesleyan Tradition**

Cornerstone UMC is a part of the Methodist/Wesleyan movement that began within the Church of England over 200 years ago. God continues to use this movement as an exciting means to bring people to Christ and his Church today.

### **What are the distinctive features of the Methodist/Wesleyan movement?**

Its message has been summarized as:

- All need to be saved,
- All may be saved,
- All may know that they are saved,
- All may be saved to the utmost.

### **Traditional features of the people called Methodist include:**

- the importance of blending knowledge with vital piety, a quickened mind with a warmed evangelical heart;
- the importance of shared leadership (lay and clergy) in the life and mission of the church;
- the importance of blending personal commitment with social responsibility; Methodists have always held that the purpose of Christian conversion is not only to get one’s soul ready for heaven, but to taste the first fruit of heaven through a life of justice, love, and mercy in this world;
- the importance of hymn singing in worship and in teaching Christian truth;
- the importance of blending preaching, and testifying with sacramental worship (the Lord’s Supper and baptism);
- the development of congregations into smaller groups for instruction, pastoral care, and fellowship;
- the importance of blending ardor with order in matters of faith and practice; and
- the importance of a connectional system that links local congregations to districts, to conferences, and to the worldwide fellowship.

### **Who is welcome as a member of Methodist, United Methodist, or other congregations in the**

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## **Cornerstone Small Groups**

|                               |                       |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Monday Women’s Bible Study    | Joy Semrad            | 867-6786 |
| Wednesday Night Bible Study   | Jason Hicks           | 848-7358 |
| CBS (Cornerstone Bible Study) | Ben Sharpe            | 868-5686 |
| Promise Keepers Men’s Group   | Ken Dye               | 864-5373 |
| Friday Night Fellowship       | John & Antonia Ban    | 860-3470 |
| United Methodist Men          | Steve Kublank         | 424-1757 |
| On-The-Edge Senior High Youth | Brian & Christyn Hahn | 480-0603 |
| Hi-Voltage Junior High Youth  | Mike & Sue Todd       | 425-6443 |
| Kids Ministry/Sunday School   | Debbie Hill           | 764-1094 |

# Leadership Training Event

For Pastors and Laity on Sunday January 12, from 2:45-5 pm at Hay Street UMC, located in downtown Fayetteville on the corner of Hay Street and Ray Avenue. If you are a Team Leader, please plan to attend these important training sessions. Contact Rev. Sharpe for more information.

## Schedule

2:45-3:15 Praise, Worship, and Gathering  
3:20-4 Class One  
4-4:14 Break  
4:20-5 Class Two

## Leadership Classes and Instructor:

### *Covenant Prayer Groups*

Class One - For Laity  
To be announced  
Class Two - For Pastors  
Rev. David Benson, Spring Hill UMC

### *Youth*

Class One  
Rev. Adam Seate, Wesley-Black's Chapel  
Class Two  
To Be Announced

### *Youth Call to Ministry*

Class Two Only  
Rev. Adam Seate, Wesley-Black's Chapel

### *Staff/Pastor Parrish Relations*

Class One and Two  
Rev. David Malloy, District Superintendent

### *Finance*

Class One and Two  
Sharon Strother, NC Conference Treasurer

### *Christian Education*

Class One and Two  
Tobyn Wells, District Director of Christian Education

### *Short Term Mission Panel*

Class One  
Thomas Holbrook, Mt Ariel UMC  
Sue Campbell, Mt Ariel  
Class Two - Operation Inasmuch & Youth Mission Trips  
David Edwards, Hay Street UMC  
Sam and Marcia Stryker, Hay Street UMC

### *Prison Ministries*

Class One  
Rev. Bryan Sexton, Culbreth Mem. UMC  
Class Two  
Pedrito Mitchell, John Wesley UMC

### *Scouting*

Class One  
Rev. Chris Aydlett, St Andrews UMC  
Class Two  
Mike Cassanova, Gardners UMC

### *Igniting and Visitation Ministries*

Class One  
Rev. Mike Davis, Garndners UMC  
Class Two  
Rev. Marty Cauley, Trinity UMC

### *Young Adult Ministries*

Class One - Mother's Morning Out  
Rev Brian Gentle, Haymount UMC  
Class Two - College & Young Adult Ministries  
Rev. Benjamin Wells, Methodist College, Chaplain

### *United Methodist Men*

Class One and Two  
To Be Announced  
NC Conference UMM President



## *Wesleyan Tradition*

*Cont. from page 2*

### **Wesleyan tradition?**

All people who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who accept the challenge to serve him in the life of the church and the world are welcome as full members. If not already baptized, those seeking membership will be baptized before being received as full members.

actively pursuing to buy a camp near Voronezh at an idyllic site in the forest close to a small river. Expected help by Volunteer teams from the US will make this project another example of the worldwide Methodist Connection, linking continents and countries.

Most of the projects, reported in previous years, have continued and shown progress, though sometimes slow. The seminary building in Moscow will be hopefully completed in 2003; building projects in other places, for example Samara and Pushkin are following. We would not be able to do all this without the substantial help that comes from you, your churches, and Conferences. We are deeply grateful for these sign of your love. Finally, I can report with joy that there has been progress in cooperation with other Protestant denominations in Russia. The plans for an "Evangelical Alliance" (mainly supported by Baptists, Lutherans, Pentecostals and Methodists) call for a Faith Conference in Moscow in April. Joining in prayer and Bible study, we will together gain new awareness and direction of a common witness. Our joint heritage is also the theme for a prayer week in January 2003, jointly prepared by these denominations.

Ministry of prayer has been an important connection with you also. Thank you for your prayers, and be assured of ours. Let's join in prayer for God's peace in God's world, as we are preparing to welcome the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:5).

Yours in friendship and the fellowship of the common Lord and faith,

Ruediger R. Minor —  
Bishop Dr. Ruediger R. Minor  
The United Methodist Church, Eurasia Area  
Moscow, Russian Federation



**GIRL SCOUTS**

Well, it's Cookie Time again! Please check with our Girl Scouts about placing your order. Don't forget, cookies freeze really well. Buy extra so you can have some later! Scouts at Cornerstone include: Stephanie Richardson, Alexandria Wiggs, Mary Kenney; and Megan Hill.

Girl Scout Cookie Sales raise money for activities for the girls' troop as well as supporting our local council. One of the things our council, Pines of Carolina, does is maintain four camps for scout troops to enjoy. Scouts can attend with their troops or attend resident camp individually during the summer.

Thank you to all that contributed to our drive to raise dog and cat food for Animal Haven. All items donated were delivered to Animal Haven last week. The volunteers were very grateful for your generosity! We will continue to have our round bin in the Fellowship Hall to receive more donations. Please consider picking up something extra while you're grocery shopping. You can drop it off while you're at church and we'll make sure it gets where it is needed. Thanks!

Our Cadettes participated in a workshop to learn about the Girl Scout Silver and Gold Awards. The Silver is the highest award a girl can earn as a Cadette Scout (grades 6-9). The Gold is the highest a girl can earn as a Senior Scout (grades 9-12). We will begin to work toward the requirements for their Silvers this spring. The girls will also be making plans to go to Discovery Place in Charlotte for a camp in at this science museum! Great Fun!

## **WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR**

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs, and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May we live as intended, in a world at peace with the awareness of the beauty in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, may your checkbook and your budget balance, and may they include generous amounts for your church and charities.

Bless you with every happiness, great health, peace, and much love during the next year and all those that follow.

And...

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*

*(Jeremiah 29:11-13)*

*\*\*Thanks to Nick's G-Rated Humor!\*\**

# January 2003 February

| Sunday   | Monday                                     | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday                          | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
|  |  |  | 1<br><i>New Year's Day</i>   | 2   | 3                               | 4   |
| 5 <b>Cornerstone Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers! 1st Sunday in Advent</b> | 6 Pastor's Day Off<br>Women's Bible Study  | 7  | 8 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 6:30/FW<br>Friends 6:30<br>CBS 7:00  | 9 Promise Keepers 7:00<br>Choir 7:00                              | 10 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00 | 11 <b>Girl Scout Cookie Sales begin! Order Now!</b> |
| 12 <b>Church Breakfast 8:30am Council Mtg 7:00 Leadership TNG</b>      | 13 Pastor's Day Off<br>Women's Bible Study | 14 Dollar Happy Meals & McDonalds<br>Skibo Road 6:00 | 15 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 6:30/FW<br>Friends 6:30<br>CBS 7:00 | 16 Promise Keepers 7:00<br>Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00               | 17 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00 | 18  |
| 19   | 20 Pastor's Day Off<br>Women's Bible Study | 21 Dollar Happy Meals & McDonalds<br>Skibo Road 6:00 | 22 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 6:30/FW<br>Friends 6:30<br>CBS 7:00 | 23 Promise Keepers 7:00<br>Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00               | 24 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00 | 25  |
| 26   | 27 Pastor's Day Off<br>Women's Bible Study | 28 Dollar Happy Meals & McDonalds<br>Skibo Road 6:00 | 29 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 6:30/FW<br>Friends 6:30<br>CBS 7:00 | 30 Promise Keepers 7:00<br>Choir 7:00<br>Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00 | 31 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00 | 1   |
| 2 <b>Pizza Sunday @ Two Brothers!</b>                                  | 3 Pastor's Day Off<br>Women's Bible Study  | 4 Dollar Happy Meals & McDonalds<br>Skibo Road 6:00  | 5 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/FW<br>Friends 6:30              | 6 Promise Keepers 7:00<br>Choir 7:00<br>Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00  | 7 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00  | 8   |
| 9 <b>Church Council Meeting 7:00</b>                                   | 10 Pastor's Day Off<br>Women's Bible Study | 11 Dollar Happy Meals & McDonalds<br>Skibo Road 6:00 | 12 Noon Prayer Group/Bible Study 7:00/FW<br>Friends 6:30<br>CBS 8:00 | 13 Promise Keepers 7:00<br>Choir 7:00<br>Cadette Girl Scouts 7:00 | 14 Friday Night Fellowship 7:00 | 15  |

*There's always something happening at Cornerstone!*

You are... God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief Cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. *Ephesians 2:19-22*

