

Cornerstone United Methodist Church

1411 Rim Road Fayetteville, NC 28314 (910) 868-5686

August 2004 Newsletter

Pastor Kong's Corner

What Matters to You?

It is a great joy and pleasure for me to begin to know the new people in our lives. Since I came to Cornerstone United Methodist Church, God has given to me the gift of memorizing people's names and faces. In a little over one month I have almost identified all my sheep's names and faces. Also, God has inspired me with the discernment that I have seen where my sheep are in terms of spirituality.

As a shepherd and spiritual leader I have seen scars, wounds, conflicts, and joy in the center of my sheep. It is with thanks that I see joy and excitement in the lives in my sheep. I am grateful and thankful! However, some of us have not tasted the great joy and excitement in our lives in Christ Jesus. It does not matter how long we have been Christians, what positions we have in a local church, or what denominations we come from. These things do not give us joy and excitement. Joy and excitement come from how much we love Jesus Christ and how, when, and where we practice what we believe.

In order to love Jesus Christ and to practice our faith, God has inspired me with a book, [A Life That Really Matters](#), by Danny E. Morris. It was a blessing for me to read the book. In the book I realized that we, as Christians, need to pursue spiritual growth and the practicality of our faith.

Have you felt that there is a big hole in your Christian journey? Have you not felt the joy and excitement of your life? Are you thirsty for your spiritual growth? Have you been a Christian for many years, but you still feel that something is missing? Do you want to be a leader at Cornerstone United Methodist Church? Would you like to see the power of transformation in your life?

As the shepherd of the congregation I am strongly convinced when you join this special adventure, you will grow and be nurtured and nourished. Please, come and join me for the glory of God.

Wanted

12 brave Christians who for 40 days will:

- **Meet once a week to prayer together**
- **Give two hours time each week to God in the church**
- **Give God one tenth of your earnings**
- **Spend from 5:30 to 6:00 each morning in prayer and meditation**
- **Witness for God your experience to others**

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kong or call 868-5686.

Yard Sale

On July 31st, a yard sale and pancake breakfast was held at the church to raise money for the mission fund. It was a great success! A big thank you to all who donated items, helped sort and price and of course to those who came out in the wee hours to set up and work the sale!

The Jr. and Sr. High youth put on the pancake breakfast. Several of our youth have expressed an interest in going to the mission field next summer. This was the first of many fundraisers to help prepare for mission trips.

The combined effort raised over \$1100. after expenses. A check was presented to Elva Monge to use for her August mission trip to Mexico.

This event was a wonderful opportunity to meet with our neighbors and invite them to worship with us.

August Birthdays

5	Beth Wiggs
7	Kathy Wood
7	Kathryn Marrs
8	Allison Todd
8	Fred Rossi
9	Zachary Blake
18	John Lee
19	Dereck Secord
22	Katie Wiggs
24	Kathy Walls
26	Anna Crews

26 Morgan Loneragan
29 Abigail Newland

August Anniversaries

17 Jon & Julie Blake
22 Steve & Nancy Kublank

Remember our deployed soldiers in prayer

Dan Irizarry
David Haskell
Doug Marrs
Ed Smith

Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.
(Please notify me of any soldiers not listed)

Notes from the Council Meeting

Our usual meetings are filled with reports from different members and many issues are discussed. The meeting in July was unique because instead of doing a lot of talking, we did a lot of listening. This meeting was our first with Pastor Kong. At his suggestion, we moved our meeting into the sanctuary for a time of prayer. As we let go of our own agendas, the cares of the world fell away and we were able to be in the Presence of God. God spoke to us on the needs of the church. As a group, we were given these three things as our new focus:

- 1. Reach out to God.**
- 2. Reach out to each other.**
- 3. Reach out to the community and the world.**

We ask that you would join us in praying about these points and how they can be implemented. Please join us at the next meeting to pray with us and share ideas.

Calling All Volunteers

Will Theo, the Faith Retriever, really eat a worm and ketchup sandwich? Will Theo really hug a cockroach? Come to Children's Church in September and find out! Besides our exciting puppet plays, children will learn about David and Solomon They will learn that God is reliable and kind. They will learn about saying "I'm sorry" and not being selfish.

Children's Church is offered during the second service for children ages three, four, and five. We are always looking for willing volunteers to teach the simple but important lessons to our little ones. There are still volunteer slots that need to be filled for August and September. So please sign-up on the Children's Church board in the fellowship hall or call me, Laurie Harro, at 860-9735, with your questions.

A big Thank You to all our summer volunteers including Sharon and Lisa H., Katie A., Natalie H., Kelly I. and Stephanie R. The Lord bless you for your ministry to the children of Cornerstone.

Titus 2 Women's Group

Exciting things are happening at CUMC! The first meeting of the newly formed Titus 2 Women's Fellowship group will meet on August 21st at 10 a.m. at the church. This will be a covered-dish brunch for all women of the church. Please bring a dish to share. We are hoping to meet once a month for fellowship and encouragement. This will not be a bible study. This group is being formed based on the scripture from Titus 2:3-5.

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way we live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

Our prayer is that through this group we will get to know one another and be able to serve and nurture one another thereby strengthening this church body to more fully serve the Lord.

So, whether you need to be encouraged or can offer encouragement to others, please join us on the 21st. Childcare will be provided for those women attending with children.

If you have any questions please call or e-mail Beth Wiggs, Sue Todd, Jen Crews, or Julie Layton.

A new yahoo group has been formed for the Titus 2 group. You can join by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CUMCTitus2>.

YOUTH GROUP

If you are in 6th-8th grade please come and be a part of our youth group. We will meet on Sunday, August 15th from 6-8 pm. Dinner will be served. Come prepared to share your favorite summer memory and have ideas for what you would like to do this year! See you there! Any questions call the Todds at 425-6443 or e-mail at gertieguss@earthlink.net.

The Amazing Pickle Jar

The pickle jar as far back as I can remember sat on the floor beside the dresser in my parents' bedroom. When he got ready for bed, Dad would empty his pockets and toss his coins into the jar. As a small boy I was always fascinated at the sounds the coins made as they were dropped into the jar.

They landed with a merry jingle when the jar was almost empty. Then the tones gradually muted to a dull thud as the jar was filled. I used to squat on the floor in front of the jar and admire the copper and silver circles that glinted like a pirate's treasure when the sun poured through the bedroom window. When the jar was filled, Dad would sit at the kitchen table and roll the coins before taking them to the bank. Taking the coins to the bank was always a big production. Stacked neatly in a small cardboard box, the coins were placed between Dad and me on the seat of his old truck.

Each and every time, as we drove to the bank, Dad would look at me hopefully. "Those coins are going to keep you out of the textile mill, son. You're going to do better than me. This old mill town's not going to hold you back."

Also, each and every time, as he slid the box of rolled coins across the counter at the bank toward the cashier, he would grin proudly. "These are for my son's college fund. He'll never work at the mill all his life like me."

We would always celebrate each deposit by stopping for an ice cream cone. I always got chocolate. Dad always got vanilla. When the clerk at the ice cream parlor handed Dad his change, he would show me the few coins nestled in his palm. "When we get home, we'll start filling the jar again." He always let me drop the first coins into the empty jar.

As they rattled around with a brief, happy jingle, we grinned at each other. "You'll get to college on pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters," he said. "But you'll get there. I'll see to that."

The years passed, and I finished college and took a job in another town. Once, while visiting my parents, I used the phone in their bedroom, and noticed that the pickle jar was gone. It had served its purpose and had been removed.

A lump rose in my throat as I stared at the spot beside the dresser where the jar had always stood. My dad was a man of few words, and never lectured me on the values of determination, perseverance, and faith. The pickle jar had taught me all these virtues far more eloquently than the most flowery of words could have done. When I married, I told my wife Susan about the significant part the lowly pickle jar had played in my life as a boy. In my mind, it defined, more than anything else, how much my dad had loved me.

No matter how rough things got at home, Dad continued to doggedly drop his coins into the jar. Even the summer when Dad got laid off from the mill, and Mama had to serve dried beans several times a week, not a single dime was taken from the jar. To the contrary, as Dad looked across the table at me, pouring catsup over my beans to make them more palatable, he became more determined than ever to make a way out for me. "When you finish college, Son," he told me, his eyes glistening, "You'll never have to eat beans again...unless you want to."

The first Christmas after our daughter Jessica was born, we spent the holiday with my parents. After dinner, Mom and Dad sat next to each other on the sofa, taking turns cuddling their first grandchild.

Jessica began to whimper softly, and Susan took her from Dad's arms. "She probably needs to be changed," she said, carrying the baby into my parents' bedroom to diaper her. When Susan came back into the living room, there was a strange mist in her eyes.

She handed Jessica back to Dad before taking my hand and leading me into the room. "Look," she said softly, her eyes directing me to a spot on the floor beside the dresser. To my amazement, there, as if it had never been removed, stood the old pickle jar, the bottom already covered with coins. I walked over to the pickle jar, dug down into my pocket, and pulled out a fistful of coins. With a gamut of emotions choking me, I dropped the coins into the jar. I looked up and saw that

Dad, carrying Jessica, had slipped quietly into the room. Our eyes locked, and I knew he was feeling the same emotions I felt. Neither one of us could speak.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life, for better or for worse.

God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others.

TEN THINGS GOD WON'T ASK on that day.

1...God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

2...God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

3...God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

4...God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

5...God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of our ability.

6...God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

7...God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

8...God won't ask about the color of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.

9...God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.

10...God won't have to ask how many people you forwarded this to, He already knows whether or not you are ashamed to share this information with your friends.

**** Church Bulletin Bloopers ****

- ** Lent is that period for preparing for Holy Weed and Easter.
- ** Jean will be leading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the program herself and has been growing like crazy!
- ** Hymn: I am Thin, O Lord.
- ** Volunteers are needed to spit up food at the food bank.
- ** Head Deacon and Dead Deaconess nominations will be accepted at the next business meeting.
- ** There will not be any Women Worth Watching this week.
- ** Child care provided with reservations.
- ** Mark your calendars not to attend the church retreat.
- ** The visiting monster today is Rev. Jack Bains.
- ** The Boars of Trustees will meet next Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- ** The activity will take place on the church barking lot.
- ** Next Friday we will be serving hot gods for lunch.
- ** If you would like to make a donation, fill out a form, enclose a check and drip in the collection basket.
- ** Nov. 11: An evening of boweling at Lincoln Country Club.
- ** Hymn: "I Love Thee My Ford."
- ** Newsletters are not being sent to absentees because of their weight.
- ** Helpers are needed! Please sign up on the information sheep.
- ** The District Duperintendent will be meeting with the church board.
- ** As soon as the weather clears up, the men will have a goof outing.

- ** Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.
- ** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget all His benefits.
- ** For the word of God is quick and powerful...piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit.
- ** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men.
- ** Definition: Persons who are shut-in during bad weather.
- ** Bring one dozen coolies wrapped for Christmas

Cornerstone Calendar

Mondays

Pastor's Day Off

Wednesdays

6:30pm

Bible Study w/ Richard Upchurch

Discovery Group

7:00pm

Praise Team Practice

Thursday

7:00pm

P.O.I.N.T. MAN Men's Group

Small Group for Women @

Joy Semrad's home

Call Joy at 867-6786 for information

Aug 14

8:30-noon

Church Planning Session Breakfast

Aug 15

6:30pm

Church Council Meeting

6-8:00pm

Jr. High Youth Meeting

Aug 21

10:00am

Titus 2 Women's Brunch