

Cornerstone United Methodist Church

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

October 2004 Newsletter

TRANSFORMATION FROM GOOD TO GREAT

In his book, Good to Great, Jim Collins said, "Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great." I have met countless Christians. Ample Christians are good and scarcely are great. It is lenient for us to be "good" Christians. In my perspective, good Christians are the people who have good moral and ethical standards and live by them, who have patriotic spirit, who have regular attendances on Sundays, who offer a good contribution to church, who are eager to help others. In addition, good Christians are concerned about the future of our youth. We have been "Good" Christians.

However, God wants us to be more than good Christians. He wants us to be "Great." God desires more than doing our duties that we may be called "good" by others. It is important for us to hear "Good" Christians from others. But it is more important for us to hear "Great" from God. The Great God wants us to be Great in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in our lives.

What does mean to be "Great?" To be "great" does not mean "to offer more contribution, to involve in more programs, or to have a nice clothes on Sunday." It means "to have God in our lives." Whatever we do and wherever we are we PUT GOD FIRST that God is our God and we are the children of God.

We Christians need to PUT GOD FIRST, who is the Greatest God of all. There are ample gods in this world. We identify them and know them by whom we love most, what we think most, and where you spend time most. If you love money most, then, your god is money. If you think about pleasure most of your time, then, your pleasure is your god. Likewise if you spend your time most for your job, then, your job is your god. They are good! but they are not Great because they are always changing, depending upon the times, cultures, values, and races.

However, our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." There is no turning point in Him. There is no darkness in Him. Therefore, when we want to be

"great," we focus on God. It is the only way to be "great," for there is no alternative.

When we focus on God, what happens? We are doing the same things that we have done before. However, we do them in God, under God, within God, and with God. We try to understand God in all situations, to think our concerns in God's perspective, and to act in God's ways. We may do the very same things, but our motives and understanding are differentiated. We have good morals and ethics because of the by-products of faith, coming to Christ not only on Sundays, but also in every moment of our lives because the understanding of devoted life in Christ, offering ourselves and our gifts to God with joyful heart and gladness. We still help people with the compassion of Jesus Christ. Also, we understand our youth and children, who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, that is why they are very precious not only in our sight, but also in God's sight. Our understanding, perspective, and paradigms are transformed.

However, remember the person, who is doing the great thing, is not you, but it is the One, who lives in you. It is the One, who was willing to give up his life for you. It is the One, who arose from the dead.

The bottom line is it is God, who transforms us from good to great. Our works and efforts have a limitation to transform us, but there is no limitation in God. The Bible says, "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loves me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20) My beloved, brothers and sisters, let us hold fast God, let us focus our eyes on God, and let us love God more. Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Yours in Christ our Savior,

Pastor Kong

October Birthdays

- 1 Kum Namkung
- 3 Tammy Newland
- 7 Kevin Harro

8 Kelly Irizarry
10 Paul Taylor
16 Thia Schuh
16 Joy Semrad
18 Eric Newland
20 Galaiah Wood
24 Kathy Davis
25 Phillip Anthony

October Anniversaries

None to report!

This is a list of soldiers who are away from their families or civilian contractors. If anyone needs to be added to this list please let me know!

Stuart Farris
Eddie Harrigan
David Haskell
Dan Irizarry
Doug Marrs
Anson (Duke) Layton

Charge Conference

On October 10 at 4pm, Cornerstone UMC will host the 2004 Charge Conference. All members of the council need to be in attendance with a written summary of what has gone on this year in their ministry. There will be not be a church council meeting held that night. Please see Pastor Kong or Sharon Upchurch if you have any questions.

Jr/Sr High Happenings

The Jr/Sr High youth have planned a couple of work days for the month of October. The scheduled days are Saturday, October 9 and Saturday, October 23. If you have any work around your house or yard that you would like help with, our youth would be glad to come and help. The youth groups are planning a summer missions trip and would appreciate any donations you might feel led to give. Your prayers for this trip would also be greatly appreciated ! To schedule a time for the youth to come to your house you may call Sue Todd at 425-6443 or Sharon Upchurch at 424-4164.

Church Keyholders

To all those who hold keys to the church, please use care when setting the alarm when you are leaving. Be aware that if the door is open while you set it, it will not activate. The doors must be closed while you set the alarm. Thanks!

Christmas Program

Kathy Schuh is heading up our Christmas Program this year! It will be for children ages 3—grade 8. Practice will usually be on Sunday's from 4:00-6:00.

There was a meeting on Oct 3rd-but it is not too late to sign up!

Call Kathy at 487-3908 if you want to participate!

Voters Registration!

There are voter registration forms on the information table in the fellowship hall. Although the election isn't until November 2nd, registration forms are only accepted until October 8th. There is information about absentee ballots as well. If you have any questions about registering, call Jen Crews 848-4678.

Christian Citizenship

How To Exercise Your Influence

excerpted from an article by Tom Minnery

1. Register to vote.
2. Study the candidates.
3. Talk about the issues with family and friends.
4. Get involved by conducting voter registration drives, distributing voter guides, serving on a campaign, etc.
5. VOTE! (See Biblical mandate in Romans 13.)
6. Visit www.citizenlink.org for information on issues and to learn how to participate in your government.
7. Keep elected officials accountable through phone calls, e-mails and letters by communicating your concerns or approval.

(*Tom Minnery is a vice president of Public Policy at Focus on the Family. His article appears in the October/November 2004 issue of Focus on the Family magazine.)

Nursery Redecorating!

The nursery is in need of a makeover. We really want to make it an inviting place for the youngest members of our church family. Jen Crews is heading up a group that will help with the design and the work. She brought in paint chips that were orange and green! It wasn't good, please help her! Call her at 848-4678 or email bryanjencrews1@earthlink.net

Titus 2 Women's Group

The Titus 2 Women's group met for a pot luck brunch on September 11, from 10-12. We had 18 that were able to attend. Several others had previous commitments but plan to attend next time. Each of those women completed a Secret Sister form prior to the meeting.

When each woman arrived, she signed in and then created a tiara for herself out of pipe cleaners. During the devotion, we were reminded that we are all princesses since we are all daughters of a great king. Our scripture reference was John 1:12.

Following brunch, we introduced ourselves (important since there were some new faces) and then played a few very silly games. We also drew names for Secret Sisters. Each woman that wanted to participate, filled out a form about herself. At the end of our meeting, each person drew a name from the bin. For the next three months, she will make a special effort to encourage and lift up the woman whose name she drew. No extravagant gifts, just simple things. Maybe an email that says "I prayed for you today!" or dinner one night (delivered by a helper) or a pretty card in the mail. It's up to each woman what she does for her Secret Sister. But it must be done anonymously. At our meeting in December, we will reveal our "Secret Sisters". Those women who were not able to attend the brunch can pick up their Secret Sister's information at church. Envelopes with people's names are in the Treasurer's in-basket in the workroom.

Tammy Corey presented the information for creating a church cookbook as a group fundraiser. Angel Croyle and Jean Smith will be working with Tammy to find out what it would cost us to completely produce our own book without using the cookbook company. Prior to

committing to make the book, the women will decide what ministry they'd like to support with the money raised. (While it wasn't discussed at the meeting, Sue and I previously talked about a local women's shelter that could really use our support. We'll discuss that and other ideas at our next meeting.)

Our next breakfast is planned for October 16th at 10:00. We had an excellent time!

Announcing.....

The Soul FOOD Diet ***Inspired by Cornerstone Youth,*** ***Sponsored in part by II Brothers Pizza***

Our Youth really want to grow in their knowledge of God and serve Him in visible practical ways! We can praise God that their priorities from the Youth Planning Session were to serve in missions, get inspired through youth retreats, and increase their knowledge of His will and His ways through Bible study! The Soul Food Diet answers this third goal by guiding participants through half the Old Testament by next summer.

Here's how it will work. We will begin by reading through the Psalms together in about 6 weeks. Why Psalms? Psalms contains devotional literature written by and for people in all situations: people looking for wisdom, looking for God's intervention, looking for forgiveness; people experiencing victory, feeling abandoned or betrayed by God, feeling anxious or at peace, confused or certain of God's greatness and faithfulness. Psalms also are quoted many times in the New Testament and contain many prophecies of Jesus.

After that, readers will have a choice of menu! Some will continue forward from Psalms and read the prophetic books, learning about prophecies already fulfilled and others that reveal God's future plans for His people. They will also learn about the brave and faithful servants who delivered God's prophecies in the face of persecution. They will finish by reading Revelation, which draws many of its images from the Old Testament Prophets.

The other group will return to Genesis and read forward. They will cover the sweep of the history of God's people from Adam to the demise of the nation of Israel. This group will discover many stories

left out of Sunday School curriculum. They will see the sovereignty, holiness, patience and mercy of God as well as the full extent of human sinfulness both individually and collectively. They will also find many striking glimpses of Jesus lived out in history hundreds of years before his birth! Some of the parallels between Old Testament characters and Jesus are so amazing, you'd think a fiction writer must have created them. They are not fiction, but the work of the Lord of History!

*Knowing what's in God's Word, the Bible, has so many benefits for life, and the process of discovering what's in there and how it all fits together can really liven up your relationship with God!! The two menu options described are available for the **low price** of reading about **2 pages per day** from the Bible!*

*And **NOW**, if you are a Cornerstone youth (grades 6-12) you can read a couple pages of the Bible per day and get a **FREE** II Brothers pizza buffet once a month!*

We are also looking for at least as many adults as youth to join the diet. That way, each adult can be paired with a youth member for mutual encouragement (and the opportunity to get to know somebody from "the other generation"). So join the diet that provides pizza and encourages sweets (David said God's Word is sweeter than honey - Ps. 19)! Sign the list at the back of the church or let Dwight Harro know you're in (3pinesharro@earthlink.net). The schedule follows.

Adults: *We hope to provide an incentive for your reading as well, but there is not funding for this in the budget. We would like to award a \$5 coupon monthly (\$25 maximum) for use toward any Bible study aid. We are still looking for a Christian bookseller willing to help with this. However, if anyone wants to help make this happen through a special donation, please speak to Pastor Kong. Of course donations toward adult pizza buffet rewards are welcome!*

(You can pick up a reading schedule on the information table)

Looking Ahead in Ministry

Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm	Tae Kwon Do class at church
Wednesdays 10:00am	Gospel of Mark Bible Study
w/ Pastor Kong	
11:45-12:30pm	Wednesday Prayer Meeting
5:30-6:15pm	Wednesday Night Dinner

Ministry	6:30-8:00pm	FW Friends Children's
Richard Upchurch	6:30-8:00pm	Purpose Driven Life w/
Pastor Kong	6:30-8:00pm	Purpose Driven Church w/
Church	6:30-8:00pm	Discovery Bible Study at
12-17) w/ Kathy Schuh	6:30-8:00pm	Youth Girl's Class (ages
17) w/ Jim Wilmore	6:30-8:00pm	Youth Boy's Class (ages 12-
	7:00pm	Praise Team Practice
Thursdays	5:30-6:30pm	Tae Kwon Do class at
church		7:00pm
P.O.I.N.T. MAN Men's Group		
10/10	4:00pm	Charge Conference
10/16	10:00am	Titus 2 Women's Group Brunch
10/20	4:00pm	Meeting with new Bishop
at Salem UMC		
Meeting	11/14	6:30pm
		Administrative Council
	12/5	6:30pm
		Administrative Council Meeting
program	12/12	6:00pm
		"Angel Alert" Christmas

Girl Scouts Everywhere!

Cornerstone is the proud sponsor of 8, that's right, 8 Girl Scout troops. We have 2 Daisy troops (Kindergarten), 3 Brownie troops (grades 1-3), 2 Junior troops (grades 3-6), and 1 Cadette/Senior troop (grades 6-12).

Not only do we have troops for every age group (including adults, we can always use your help!), but we have troops that meet in the evenings and some that meet during the day for homeschoolers.

Deanna Turner's troop is preparing for a Halloween party on October 30 as well as working on badges. They are a busy group of girls Thursday afternoons!

Beth Wiggs's troop is preparing for Camporee in October. The girls go to Camp Mu-Sha-Ni in Moore County for this Council wide event that runs Friday through Sunday.

All of our troops are busy getting their year off to a great start. Thanks to all of our leaders for the time and effort they give to provide this program for our girls!

If you have a girl that would like to be a part of scouting, contact Beth Wiggs at 867-4058 or bethwiggs@cslink.net.

And in case you were wondering, Yes! we have scouts for boys too! Cub scouts is for boys in at least first grade. Call Beth and find out more!