



Cornerstone United Methodist Church

Fayetteville, North Carolina
March 2005 Newsletter

Pastor Kong's Corner

WHY ARE WE HERE?

One of the most profound questions asked by human beings, whether we are a Christian or not, is "Why are we here on earth?" In other words, "What is the purpose of my being?" People pursue the purpose of their own existence. In order to find the purpose of life some people accumulate possession, while others are seeking power and pleasure, which leads them astray. A wise man said to me, "Do not drive your car without knowing where you are going because the longer and faster you drive the car, you will stray from your destination." As Rick Warren says in his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, "You were made for God and life is about letting God use you for his purposes." I am very convinced that our purpose and meaning begins with God and ends with God **always**.

Through a few planning sessions from last year and this year, God nudged us to the mission statement at Cornerstone UMC. Do you know how long it takes to make a mission statement? Nine months! Like a woman keeps and nurtures a baby in her womb for nine months we prayed, mediated, and reflected on what God wants us to do and to define our being and purpose. The baby of Cornerstone UMC has been born with blessing of God. The baby is God's child of the family of Cornerstone UMC. We are very thankful to God and delighted to announce our purpose, "**The mission of Cornerstone United Methodist Church is 'Through joyful worship, spiritual nurture, and compassionate outreach, we seek to reach everyone for Christ Jesus.'**"

Our mission statement begins with worshipping God, nurtured by God and God's word, and ends with reaching out to ALL people. We seek God first. Then we seek to reach out to people. Our mission statement is sound biblically and theologically. Jesus said to his disciples, "The first commandment is you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, you shall love your neighbors as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30)

My beloved, brothers and sisters, we know our destination and our purpose by the grace of God. We cannot hesitate to move forward and we should not hold our past. We are determined to reach our destination. I, as a leader of the church, am willing to give up more possession, more power, and more pleasure for the accomplishments of the mission that God has given to us. Really! Please, come forward to join me to build up the body of Christ at

Cornerstone UMC. I have great anticipation hearing from the risen Christ, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant, enter into the joy of your master!" (Matthew 25:2) Therefore, let us put our ignition key into our vehicle to start. Let us drive our own vehicle to our destination. Let us drive longer and faster to reach our destination!

General Fund Giving Summary

General Fund Giving should be 25.0% of budget
Actual General Fund Giving is 19.8% of budget
General Fund Giving as of March 27, 2005: \$39584.93

Thank You

MANY THANKS to all of you for your prayers for me and my family.
God heard you and has blessed me with more time on this earth.
I am so grateful for your prayers, calls, cards, meals, and words of encouragement.

In Christ's Love,
Sharon Upchurch

Easter Egg Hunt for the Community

Easter Egg Hunt

The Community Easter Egg Hunt was a success on March 26th. All the games we planned for the children went as planned and the bouncing castle was the hit for the day. We thought the day was going to start off bad by the weather but it held off so the children could have a fun day. There were about 100 to 150 children there including the teenagers.

The egg hunt went very well for all the children in each group. We had the one to three year olds go first and it was funny watching them. They were so amazed at all of the eggs on the ground. We did not hide the eggs because there weren't many places to hide them so we just put them on the ground and let the children go pick them up and put them into their baskets. There were 500 eggs for them to pick up. A few of the children were trying to empty their eggs as they were picking them up and their mom's were on the side lines telling them to just pick up the eggs. Next came the four to ten year olds. They were very anxious to get in there and get the eggs. This group was very quick at getting the job done and they picked up all of their 500 eggs. Before we could let the next group in we had to put more candy into the eggs that the other groups had emptied. This group was the seven to eleven year olds. They were so fast at

gathering their eggs and in no time they had picked all of them. We had 500 eggs for them and noticed we needed more. We had to fill more eggs that day so we didn't run out. Yes that was a lot of eggs to fill! Antonia Ban and I (Kaye Taylor) had filled most of the eggs and thanks to Beth Wiggs and her daughter and a friend of Alex's they helped fill over 1200 eggs. As for the eggs being filled at the hunt thanks to Vicki Dinsmore, Kelly Irizarry, Jean Upchurch and Tammy Corey for helping out.

We had invited the fire department and a deputy sheriff to come and show the children the fire truck and talk to the deputy. The children were in awe at the fire truck when the fireman extended the ladder and one of the firemen went to the top.

Along with the egg hunt we served hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks. There was plenty of food for all who came for a day of fun. We want to thank our chef's for the day. They were John Ban, John Wood and Jeremiah Schuh. John Ban said they provided two kinds of food, burnt or dropped. (Just kidding here). We were pleased that everyone had a good time and hope that we can do this again in the future.

Antonia Ban and I (Kaye Taylor) want to thank all who helped put this together for the children. With God's help we did it. We want to recognize the following people who helped us.

John Ban, Kathy Schuh, Megan Schuh, Jeremiah Schuh, John and Kathy Wood, Lucinda Williamson, Karen Walker, Vicki Dinsmore, Tammy Newland, Angel Corey, Tammy Corey, Bill Corey, Paul Taylor, Jon Lipinski, Maria Marten, Rita Thomas, Bob and Lea Smith, Jean Upchurch, Dave Ortiz (a friend of John Ban, he helped put up the tents). Ken Dye, Kimberly Lonergan, and Mrs. Namkung, Mike Todd and Sharon Holmes for the story time after lunch. Policemen, Jay White, George Hogan, Firemen, Kevin Sudduth, and Ray Hast. Also Reverend Kong Namkung for the use of the church and the grounds. Plus a great big thank you to the following teenagers for cleaning up afterwards. The teens were rewarded for a job well done by a pizza party at Cici's Pizza at Westwood Plaza. They were, Angel Corey, Hannah Namkung, Todd Hastings, Stephan Conrad, John Namkung, Megan Schuh, Kahill, Jeremy, Jeremiah, Daniel Todd, Stephan Collazo, Caleb Ban, Joshua Ban and Jonathan Ban. Thanks to everyone who gave money towards buying the food, candy and drinks. The girls had an ice cream party at the church on Wednesday the 30th for winning the race to see who raised the most candy.

We want to thank everyone for their help and support for the children's fun day.

Thank you,

Antonia Ban and Kaye Taylor.
