

# Cornerstone United Methodist Church

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## February 2005 Newsletter

### NEW WINE IN THE NEW BAG

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."  
(Mark 2:21-22)

This is the first publication of Cornerstone United Methodist Church newsletter in the year 2005. After a profound meditation, God inspired and implanted in me the message that I want to share with you. I've observed the process that before people move into a new home, they begin to throw away their unused and invaluable items. Then the new home is painted. After or right before they move into a new home, people begin to buy the "necessaries" that match with the colors and structures of the new home. After they moved into the new home, people still begin to throw away some more old stuff. People do all these things because they want to begin "a new start." Do they begin "a new start" by putting new things in a new house? Perhaps not! As time goes on, their behavior and environments go back to their "old ways." How can we start new and maintain what we already began?

Jesus teaches us to put a new thing in a new time in the scripture. He says, "One puts new wine into fresh wineskins." New wine is in a new wineskin and old wine in an old wineskin. In other words, New Year, 2005, should be a new start unless both wine and the wineskin are useless and worthless. New behaviors and actions ratify and verify a new start because our doing is the total reflection of our "being." Our "doing" may impact on our "being" somehow. However, our "being" determines our "doing." When our being is transformed, our doing will demonstrate it. More specifically, the one, who used to say cursing words without hesitation, but naturally, begins to speak blessings, the one, who used to never forgive, begins to forgive others, and the one, who used to have some distance or hate specific people, begin to open their hearts and to love them after their hearts are transformed. Our

tongues, eyes, and ears will be transformed. Above all, our hearts need to be transformed in order to start a new life. If we sustain the very same hearts in the New Year, God is not pleased because God wants us to be "New" in the New Year and then we are the "Old Wine" in fresh wineskins.

It is necessary for us not to conform to this world in order to be "New Wine." "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) It is very interesting to see "the renewing of your minds is passive, not active, "be transformed." It is not you or me who transform ourselves with our own will and desire, but it is God, who transforms us. God is the Only One, who transforms us. When God transforms us with His grace, love, and mercy, then we are transformed permanently.

Therefore, my beloved, brothers and sisters, we will be much better off spiritually if we do not conform the world and if we do not focus on ourselves. When we want to be transformed, we focus on God and discern God's will in your family, in the family of Cornerstone United Methodist Church. So, let us live differently this New Year, let us be transformed by God, and let us glorify God more this wonderful year 2005. Amen.

## February Birthdays

1-Stephanie Richardson  
7-Julie Layton  
9-Ian Kenney  
11-Amber Thompson  
12-T.J. Edwards  
16-Terri Anthony  
19-Doug Marrs  
24-Aiden Irizarry  
25-Melanie Davis  
28-Teresa Tischer

## February Anniversaries

2- Richard & Sharon Upchurch  
15-Brian & Katy Allin  
15-Dale & Rita Thomas  
15-Chris & Kathy Walls

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!

Eddie Harrigan  
David Haskell

Rob Hoisington  
Doug Marrs  
Ed Smith

## The Church Needs **Your** Help

1 Thessalonians 3:8-9 says the true Christian worker does not just give joy of knowing Christ to others; God also gives the Christian an unspeakable joy of service. That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

The Committee on Finance met January 30 to organize and set some goals for the year. Our next task is to finalize the budget for monthly income and expenditures. We want to be able to discern the best future for our church, and to plan adequate funding for that mission. We need the help of all the leaders of the church to accomplish this task. Would all leaders of the various committees please submit an estimated budget for 2005 to Stephen Kublank (424-1757 or [snkublank@juno.com](mailto:snkublank@juno.com)) by February 9.

The second request for help concerns the cleaning of the church. If you are not already aware the maintenance for the church has been done by loyal volunteers taking on the task of cleaning the entire church each week for a month at a time. We sure appreciate them! We hope to adopt a new strategy, and that would involve adopting a portion of the church for, we hope, a year or more. This would then require less time for that individual or family each week and enable us to keep better track of things. The areas would be: bathrooms, sanctuary, all-purpose room and classrooms, and kitchen. Deanna Turner has already volunteered for the kitchen, but the others are still available so hurry and get on board before the others are all gone! If you have any questions about what is involved an/or to volunteer contact Stephen Kublank (424-1757 or [snkublank@juno.com](mailto:snkublank@juno.com)). The trustees are also planning a church outdoor cleanup for April 9 and Bill Corey, who is responsible for 90% of the work done outside, sure could use some help if you prefer to be outside.

### **Titus 2 Women**

The Titus 2 Women will be enjoying an evening at the Day Spa Salon on Monday, February 21st from 5:30 to 8:00. The Day Spa Salon is located on Ramsey Street directly across from Methodist College. Bring your teenage daughter or bring a friend. Mini services will be available for \$10 per service. Services include mini facials, pedicures, manicures, massages, etc. Please RSVP to Kelly Irizarry if you would like to come as a deposit is required. Everyone is asked to bring an

appetizer or dessert and a drink.

## **Youth News**

Our youth will be very busy over the next several months. We are planning a missions trip in June. We will be going all the way to Lexington, North Carolina !! We will be spending a week in Lexington with Group Workcamps helping to repair people's homes. As a youth leader I am very excited about what God is going to do in that community and with our youth ! I believe it will be a life changing experience for all of us. We have several fundraisers planned over the next few months. Please support our youth during this time. We still need to raise around \$2000 and have a few other needs for the trip, such as a van large enough to transport all twelve us to Lexington. Please keep our youth and this trip in prayer over the coming months and help as God leads you .

Our youth will also be selling Papa John's pizza coupons. They are \$5.00 each.

**Thank you for supporting our youth!**

## **Girl Scout Cookies**

Girl Scout cookies are on sale now through the beginning of March. \$3.00/box. Buy lots and freeze them so you'll have them all year long! Hmmm, think frozen Thin Mints crumbled over ice cream. Yummm!!! All of the different Girl Scout Cookie varieties freeze really well. Support scouting at Cornerstone!

## **Cornerstone UMC Online!**

By Douglas Dalton, Cornerstone Webmaster

Cornerstone UMC Online! is much more than just your traditional church web site. Our church created not only a web site where you can see the regular activities of the church, but you can also study the Word of God and Jesus Christ. When I first started attending Cornerstone United Methodist Church we created a web site that was originally intended to communicate to the public about our church. But in the four years since participating in the development of this web site, I have tried to develop a web site that could also be a teaching tool, and a resource tool. Cornerstone UMC Online! is the culmination of that very effort.

Cornerstone UMC Online! has a wide array of web pages to visit and enjoy. Some of them are specifically about Cornerstone United Methodist Church. Some of the web pages provide tools of study. And some web pages provide access to other web sites.

To access the web pages on Cornerstone UMC Online! it is best to use the main menu on either the home page, or at the top of each web page. Just to give you an idea of what is available on our web site I would like tell you a little bit about the menu on the homepage. The menu consists of the following (and I have included a description of each of the menu items):

"Who We Are" -- this section contains information about Cornerstone United Methodist Church, including a profile of our pastor, a listing of our Church Council, a description of our small groups, our background and history, and our vision statement.

"Cornerstone Online!" -- this section contains: the weekly sermon notes of the Reverend's Kong Namkung and Benjamin Sharpe; access to the streaming RealAudio sermons of the Reverend Kong Namkung and the Reverend Benjamin Sharpe; access to streaming RealVideo of the Christmas programs for the past several years; the pastor's annual report; the Cornerstone United Methodist Church newsletters; a news corner where Christian related news is reported and updated daily; doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church; again, our vision statement; photographs of special activities at Cornerstone including the everyday life at Cornerstone and the construction of our new church; a web page dedicated to providing contact information for resources in North Carolina, and the federal government to provide assistance, or obtain assistance from the listed organizations; a section dedicated to prayer, where you can post prayer, request prayer, and pray for those who requested it; and view and sign our guestbook (which is currently being worked on).

"Our Calendar" -- this section contains a calendar of all public events related to Cornerstone United Methodist Church. If you are hosting an event that is related to our church, you may post the event here so that all members may review the monthly calendar and keep abreast of all activities. To post a particular event send a copy of the event meeting time, description of the group holding the event, purpose of the event, and place of meeting to Douglas Dalton at [wheelrunner@nc.rr.com](mailto:wheelrunner@nc.rr.com). Do not send me notifications of any event that is private in nature. Also remember that this portion of the web site is for easy viewing and to remind people of what is going on in our church. You should continue to use the church calendar in the church

office for scheduling your events as you have in the past.

"Bible Minute Daily Devotional" -- this section contains four daily devotionals that you can use to guide you in your devotional time. They are updated on a regular basis.

"Aid to Victims of Disaster" -- this section lists the Methodists organization that is responsible for providing aid to victims of natural disasters, and man-made disasters.

"Methodist Resource Links" -- this section provides different web sites related to anything you want to know about Methodism and the denomination called United Methodist. Included is the homepage for the United Methodist Church and the North Carolina conferences, along with the Fayetteville District web site. There are also a few related web sites such as the Orthovox Theological Magazine and the Confessing Movement within the UMC web site.

"Personal Growth with God" -- this section provides a number of resources related to personal growth, including an understanding of receiving and worshiping Christ, devotional resources and religious study resources, a tool to help you understand your spiritual gifts, a web site to help you understand how to maintain your personal finances from a Christian point of view, a site related to history and Christianity, and a site to provide free lesson plans.

"Questions: God & Jesus Christ" -- this section provides information to help you understand God, and Jesus Christ. Of particular importance on this section is the web page which allows you to view or listen to the Jesus film online, and free of charge. It is a good tool to use to share the story of Jesus, by allowing people to view the Jesus film through the Internet. In addition, it can help you understand how you can witness for God.

"Resources for Bible Study" -- this section provides a whole variety of resources to assist you in your Bible study, and general study of your personal faith. You will find Bible search engines, Bible encyclopedias, ways to help people understand the Bible, and a whole variety of other tools. This resource is great and should be integrated into your regular Bible study.

"Answers to Everyday Questions" -- this section deals with the everyday questions you may have regarding your everyday life experience. It covers such topics as movie and television reviews, reviews of e-games, life's issues for yourself and your family, issues

regarding racism and Christianity, and how you can witness to Christ.

"Men, Women, Teenagers, & Kids" -- as implied by the title of this section there are a whole variety of Web resources which address the different interest of men, women, teenagers, and kids, all from a Christian point of view.

"Christianity, Science, & Apologetics" -- this section deals with the complex issues of Christianity and science and apologetics. It is certainly of interest to those who want to know how science supports and proves the accuracy of the Bible and the authenticity of Jesus Christ. It also provides information about Christianity, theology, doctrine, and other related topics for the purpose of equipping Christians so that they may be more prepared for today's world and the attacks upon Christianity by contemporary society.

"Christians with Disabilities" -- this section provides a variety of resources to assist persons with disabilities, including support, equipment and employment. It contains a variety of web sites related to uplifting the spirit of the person who has a disability.

"Evangelism & Faith-Sharing" -- this section provides a variety of web sites related to the topic of evangelism, and sharing your life experience with Christ with others.

"Our Sacred Holidays" -- this section helps us to understand the Christian season in terms of the seasons of the church year, the true meaning of Christmas and Easter, and understanding Christmas through the nine lessons.

"Understanding Islam" -- this section relates to information that helps us to understand Islam and Christianity, especially in light of today's violent times.

"Other Resources & Links" -- this section provides a variety of resources which include 15,000 free audio sermons, the global pastors network, Christian Internet radio and television network, Christian music, and points for filtering media for your family.

"Fun and Games" -- in this section you can find cartoons and 16 games to play on your computer through the Internet. They include: Bible Challenge Weekly, Cornerstone Flying Clock, Classic Checkers, Jotto, Connect Four, Concentration, BAP, Maze 3-D, Nibbly, Ping-Pong, Quiz Show, Invader, Rush-Hour Puzzle, Space War, Tux on the Run, and UFO attack.

All of these features and web pages can be accessed on the menu on the left side of the homepage. However, only the "Cornerstone Online", "God & Jesus Christ", "Bible Study", "Men, Women, Teenagers & Kids", and "Christians with Disabilities" menu items can be accessed from the menu at the top of the web page on all subsequent web pages.

One of the best resources we have is also on the homepage for Cornerstone UMC Online!. You will be able to post a prayer request and view a prayer request that you may pray for. You may also become a prayer partner in our Cornerstone Prayer Team. In addition, you can click on the link to Today at Heartlight and read a wonderful story that is relevant to today's world. Each day the stories change and always continue to delight.

In addition to all of these resources you will find the capability to search each web page, and the entire web site. Also available is the ability to translate any web page to a different language: English to Spanish, English to French, English to German, English to Italian, English to Dutch, English to Portuguese, English to Russian, and English to Norwegian. You will also be able to print whatever web page you are currently viewing, bookmark the web page you are currently viewing, or e-mail a friend or family member to let them know about the web site.

Because Cornerstone UMC Online! is such a big part of the Ministry of our church, we wanted to be able to identify our web site uniquely, so that it can be accessed by anyone without having to remember a big and unwieldy web site address. To accomplish this we have created our own domain, specifically related to our web site and church. As a part of this effort we also wanted to identify our web site by its name, so that it would be easy to find. Whenever you want to go to Cornerstone UMC Online! all you have to do is type into your web browser [www.cornerstoneUMCOnline.com](http://www.cornerstoneUMCOnline.com). Or if you want to tell any of your friends, family, or coworkers about a good web site tell them to go to [www.cornerstoneUMCOnline.com](http://www.cornerstoneUMCOnline.com).

In the four years that Cornerstone UMC Online! has been in existence we have seen an amazing amount of traffic from the Internet. As of today, we have received a total of 223,124 Web hits. So why not come out and join those who have enjoyed our web site. Feel free to browse and look around, and stay for awhile. I'm sure you will find something you will enjoy.