



# Cornerstone United Methodist Church

Fayetteville, North Carolina  
March 2005 Newsletter

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## Pastor Kong's Corner.....

### **THE GREATEST TASK THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS GIVEN TO HIS DISCIPLES**

Every field in our lives has the greatest task and we are called to be faithful to accomplish that task. For example, the greatest task of the American Armed Forces in Iraq is to help Iraqis to have socio-economical justice and peace. American government and American armies are willing to spend immeasurable money and sacrifice thousands in order to accomplish the greatest task. It is very important for military personnel to complete the project. Therefore, I lift up the deployed military people in my prayers and my family prayers as well. The greatest task of students is to be knowledgeable. In order to obtain knowledge the teachers and professors test their students. It is not worthy for a student to go to school without obtaining knowledge.

Then, what is the greatest task that Jesus Christ has given to us? To answer this question I want to share with you what Jesus prayed for his disciples in the book of John and what Jesus said to his disciples before he ascended into heaven.

In John 17 Jesus prayed for his disciples, "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." (John 17:11) Jesus wants his disciples to be one. In other words, Jesus wants unity among his disciples. For the last few weeks the church contacted you to ask the possibility to change worship time because we want to have unity. I know it is not an easy task to change.

However, Jesus wants us to have unity. To have unity among his disciples is one of the greatest tasks. Therefore, I appeal to my beloved, brothers and sisters, please, seek unity and peace among us. Follow what Jesus wants you to be. Jesus also said to his disciples, "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand." (Mark 3:25) I am convinced that we will please Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, when we have oneness among us by assembling ourselves in one worship.

We pursue the greatest Commandment, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We want to accomplish this with the oneness of the body of Christ at Cornerstone UMC. To make disciples is in our hearts and inscribed in our bones. Whenever you have an opportunity, share Jesus Christ with others. Please, share Jesus with your family, with your friends, with your relatives, and with strangers. Our job is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not our responsibility to save souls.

What we need to do is to plant seeds on the ground. It may fall on the path, rocky ground, among thorns, or good soil.

Army personnel are willing to give up their lives in order to give peace to the world. They are deployed to foreign countries for the mission. I believe our greatest tasks; to have "unity" and to accomplish the "great command," are very important for us. I also believe that we need to have a willingness to give up ourselves to the will of Jesus Christ. I want to close my article with my prayer. "O Lord, forgive me, I have not put all my energy, gifts, and talents for the greatest tasks. Help me to be faithful to your call, give me strength and faith to seek unity and great command, that I may find the true meaning of my life, which is redeemed by your blood. Amen."

-Pastor Kong

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## **Church Announcements**

### **Once again, Actual announcements taken from church bulletins:**

- Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.
- Thursday night-potluck supper. Prayer medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- For those who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- Tuesday at 4PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.
- Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing "Put Me in My Little Bed" accompanied by the pastor.
- Thursday at 5PM there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the minister in the private study.
- This being Easter Sunday, we ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement.
- A bean supper will be held Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- The Spring Council Retreat will be held May 10 and 11.

- Pastor is away. Massages can be given to church secretary.
  - Mrs. Johnson will be entering the hospital this week for testes.
  - The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
  - The Men's group will meet at 6pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal feel.
  - The minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan: "I've Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."
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## God'z Girl'z of Grace

### Wednesday Night Girls Group

For those of you unaware, we have a teen girls group that meets on Wednesday Night and is led by Kathy Schuh. Jenna Upchurch had the idea of starting the group, and Kathy volunteered to lead. (As the mother of four girls-it was right up Kathy's alley!) A few of the girls wrote a few words about what the group has meant to them:

**Jenna Upchurch:** AGE 13 This class means a lot to me. It's my support during the week. If I am having a bad week, I have seven people to pick me up; or if I'm having the best week ever I have seven people to tell how cool my week has been. This group is my emotional support and helps me when I am down. I know every week that I have people who will listen to me and love me *no matter what!*

**Megan Schuh:** AGE 12 This group means so much to me. It covers stuff like faith, honesty, purity, joy and happiness. My favorite was dating because it really helped me figure out that all I need till I'm ready for anyone else is God.

**Laura Trudel:** AGE 12 What I have learned in this group is friendliness. I have made so many friends, they are like my sisters (including Mrs. Kathy). I have learned mostly about life and how God is always with you. I am so happy that I can tell them my secrets and they can keep them!

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## THE SPARROW AT STARBUCKS

The song that silenced the cappuccino machine  
by John Thomas Oaks

It was chilly in Manhattan but warm inside the Starbucks shop on 51st Street and Broadway, just a skip up from Times Square. Early November weather in New York City holds only the slightest hint of the bitter chill of late December and January, but it's enough to send the masses crowding indoors to vie for available space and warmth.

For a musician, it's the most lucrative Starbucks location in the world, I'm told, and consequently, the tips can be substantial if you play your tunes right. Apparently, we were striking all the right chords that night, because our basket was almost overflowing. It was a fun, low-pressure gig - I was playing keyboard and singing backup for my friend who also added rhythm with an arsenal of percussion instruments.. We mostly did pop songs from the '40s to the '90s with a few original tunes thrown in.

During our emotional rendition of the classic, "If You Don't Know Me by Now," I noticed a lady sitting in one of the lounge chairs across from me. She was swaying to the beat and singing along.

After the tune was over, she approached me. "I apologize for singing along on that song. Did it bother you?" she

asked.

"No," I replied. "We love it when the audience joins in. Would you like to sing up front on the next selection?"

To my delight, she accepted my invitation.

"You choose," I said. "What are you in the mood to sing?"

"Well. ... do you know any hymns?"

Hymns? This woman didn't know who she was dealing with. I cut my teeth on hymns. Before I was even born, I was going to church. I gave our guest singer a knowing look. "Name one."

"Oh, I don't know. There are so many good ones. You pick one."

"Okay," I replied. "How about 'His Eye is on the Sparrow'?"

My new friend was silent, her eyes averted. Then she fixed her eyes on mine again and said, "Yeah. Let's do that one." She slowly nodded her head, put down her purse, straightened her jacket and faced the center of the shop. With my two-bar setup, she began to sing.

Why should I be discouraged?

Why should the shadows come?

The audience of coffee drinkers was transfixed. Even the gurgling noises of the cappuccino machine ceased as the employees stopped what they were doing to listen. The song rose to its conclusion.

I sing because I'm happy;  
I sing because I'm free.  
For His eye is on the sparrow  
And I know He watches me.

When the last note was sung, the applause crescendoed to a deafening roar that would have rivaled a sold-out crowd at Carnegie Hall.

Embarrassed, the woman tried to shout over the din, "Oh, y'all go back to your coffee! I didn't come in here to do a concert! I just came in here to get somethin' to drink, just like you!" But the ovation continued. I embraced my new friend. "You, my dear, have made my whole year! That was beautiful!"

"Well, it's funny that you picked that particular hymn," she said.

"Why is that?"

"Well . ..." she hesitated again, "that was my daughter's favorite song."

"Really!" I exclaimed.

"Yes," she said, and then grabbed my hands. By this time, the applause had subsided and it was business as usual. "She was 16. She died of a brain tumor last week."

I said the first thing that found its way through my stunned silence.

"Are you going to be okay?"

She smiled through tear-filled eyes and squeezed my hands. "I'm gonna be okay. I've just got to keep trusting the Lord and singing his songs, and everything's gonna be just fine." She picked up her bag, gave me her card, and then she was gone.

Was it just a coincidence that we happened to be singing in that particular coffee shop on that particular November night? Coincidence that this wonderful lady just happened to walk into that particular shop? Coincidence that of all

the hymns to choose from, I just happened to pick the very hymn that was the favorite of her daughter, who had died just the week before? I refuse to believe it. God has been arranging encounters in human history since the beginning of time, and it's no stretch for me to imagine that he could reach into a coffee shop in midtown Manhattan and turn an ordinary gig into a revival. It was a great reminder that if we keep trusting him and singing his songs, everything's gonna be okay.

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk  
Abraham was too old  
Isaac was a daydreamer  
Jacob was a liar  
Leah was ugly  
Joseph was abused  
Moses had a stuttering problem  
Gideon was afraid  
Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer  
Rahab was a prostitute  
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young  
David had an affair and was a murderer  
Elijah was suicidal  
Isaiah preached naked  
Jonah ran from God  
Naomi was a widow  
Job went bankrupt  
John the Baptist ate bugs  
Peter denied Christ  
The Disciples fell asleep while praying  
Martha worried about everything  
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once  
Zaccheus was too small  
Paul was too religious  
Timothy had an ulcer...AND  
Lazarus was dead!  
No more excuses now!!  
God can use you to your full potential.  
Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

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## March Birthdays

1 Dwight Harro	2 Beth Pratt
5 Erin Newland	6 Isabelle Smith
7 Tiki Bakhshi	7 John Wood
8 Caleb Tolley	10 Kerry Robinson
10 Nancy Kublank	13 Mary Kenney
13 Alicia Secord	14 Jenna Upchurch
15 Brittanyrose Lonergan	16 Jamie Fancher
16 Brianna Honma	16 John Namkung
18 Julie Boyett	20 John Turner
21 Richard Upchurch	24 Eddie Newland
26 Deborah Macy	27 Pearl Lee

## March Anniversaries

25 Roger & Kimberly Lonergan

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# Prayer Requests

## Prayer Requests

Jasmyn Troy's mother is expecting and will be finding out the sex of her baby on March 7th. She is due on August 13th. Jasmyn would like prayers that her mother gives birth to a healthy baby.

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### Notes from our Council -

- 2005 Scheduled Council Meetings - Everyone is Welcome

March 13	August 14
April 10	September 11
May 15	October 9
November 13	December 4

- Follow-Up Planning Session

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am - 12 noon  
All are welcome and encouraged to attend

- A 12-25 ft. ladder is needed
  - 2- 8' X 40' containers will be purchased for storage of supplies and lawn equipment
  - A reminder to please refrain from handling the musical equipment and sound board. Parents should remind their children as well.
  - Because actual giving is less than budgeted, the monthly mortgage payment is being paid from our Building Fund
  - Church 'business' cards are available to all to give out. They have the church's information and directions on them.
  - A Scouting Coordinator is needed for the remainder of the year
  - Pray for our Summer Youth and Mexico Mission trips
  - Pray for those who are deployed
  - Pray for and join our small groups - where relationships with each other and the Lord are developed and matured
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### Reaching Souls for Christ

In Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Church", he shares that the Gospel was spread primarily through relationships. He suggests that we should reach out to those with whom we have something in common.

### People in Transition -

- A new marriage
- A new baby
- A new home
- A new job
- A new school

### People under Tension -

- The pain of divorce
- The death of a loved one
- The strain of unemployment
- The difficulty of financial problems
- Marriage and family difficulties
- The sadness of loneliness
- Stresses of resentment, guilt, anxiousness, etc.

Mr. Warren lists the ten most receptive groups of people that his congregation has reached:

1. Second-time visitors to the church
2. Close friends and relatives of new converts
3. People going through a divorce
4. Those who feel their need for a recovery program (alcohol, drugs, sexual, etc.)
5. First-time parents
6. The terminally ill and their families
7. Couples with major marriage problems
8. Parents with problem children
9. Recently unemployed or those with major financial problems
10. New residents in the community

God has chosen each of us to be at Cornerstone UMC at this time in our lives. Who do you know (or will become acquainted with) that you can relate your life experiences and share God's goodness and mercy? Can a casual conversation lead to a life changing relationship with our Lord? The Lord has given us our answer, Yes!

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## **Finance Report**

Since the beginning of the new year, Finance has come together twice. Once to outline our mission within the church, and second to create a budget for 2005.

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Toward that goal, through prayer and discernment, we strive to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. The Finance Team's mission is to help the church be good stewards so we can focus on the work God has for us to do.

In our February meeting, the Finance Team agreed upon a new budget and presented it at the Administrative Council meeting where it was adopted. The budget for 2005 is \$199,970, which requires monthly contributions to the General Fund of \$16,664. Last year, the church spent \$199,969.23 but only received \$162,215.26, leaving a shortfall of \$37,753.97. So far in 2005, giving is following a similar trend. Receipts in January were \$13,934.75 and were \$11,505.79 in February. Based on our new budget, this reflects a \$7,887.46 shortage for the new year.

Please prayerfully consider your contributions to the church. Each month the Finance Team will report in the newsletter the percentage of funds received compared to the budget. This year, contribution statements will be sent out quarterly so you can more easily track your giving.

At our next meeting, Finance will be discussing stewardship. We ask you all to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confessions of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

Steve Kublank, Finance Team Leader

*Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Cor. 13:11*

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### Still Need Cleaning Helpppp!

We still need volunteers to help clean the church. If you have any questions about what is involved, and/or to volunteer, contact Steve Kublank at 424-1757 or [snkublank@juno.com](mailto:snkublank@juno.com).

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# Upcoming Events

March 2 8:00pm Pastor Parrish Relations Committee Meeting

March 6 Girl Scout Sunday

March 12 10:00 Planning Session

March 13 12:00 Finance meeting

6:30 Administrative council

March 20 3-5pm Lay Rally - Salem UMC

March 25 7pm Good Friday service

March 27 Easter Sunday

6am Sunrise service and breakfast

11am baptism