

CORNERSTONE UMC

SEPTEMBER 2005

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The Rev. Kong S Namkung, Pastor

*Our Mission: Through joyful worship, spiritual nurture, and
compassionate outreach, we seek to reach
Everyone for Jesus Christ.*

VISION COMES FROM GOD

"In the last day it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your son and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."
(Acts 2:17)

A few weeks ago, when my family had a family devotion one night, God spoke very clearly into my heart, "Reach out to fifteen new families by the end of this year." When I heard the voice of God, immediately my heart was full of joy and peace. At the end of the devotion, I asked my family, "Would you pray to God that God brings fifteen new families to Cornerstone UMC by the end of this year?" All of my family, including my nephew, who came to visit us from Korea, prayed that night. As my family went to bed, I began to think logically with my reason and questioned God, "Fifteen new families! This would mean we have a new family visiting us every single Sunday! Is this possible? Can we do that?" I know the statistics of the history of Cornerstone UMC. It is not an easy task for us to have fifteen new families by the end of this year with these statistics, or, maybe it is impossible!" I have two minds; one is to believe what God spoke to me and the other is to use my logical thinking.

I have been praying everyday and asking God to show me what He is going to do in order to fulfill what God spoke to me. One day I visited Doug Marrs and engaged in conversation about stewardship. As he shared his previous experience in Hawaii, Doug talked to me what God spoke to him. He said, "We need to reach out and bringing in new families for the mission of Jesus Christ." When I left his home, my heart was full of joy and the visions that God has given to me.

During a steering committee meeting, Dan Irizarry talked to the members about bringing new families to Cornerstone UMC because we have the mission of Jesus Christ, who said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. Behold, I will be with you always at the end of age."
(Matthew 28:18-20) Dan's vision is much bigger and larger than mine. His vision is to bring one hundred new families to Cornerstone UMC by September 2006. What a vision!

Is this just a coincidence, or does God speak to God's people about what God is going to do? I believe God is the God of revelation. God never hides what God will do to His people. When God delivered the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt, God spoke to Moses, his brother, Aaron, and the whole congregation of the Israelites. When God sent His only begotten Son to the world, God revealed His plan to prophets in the Old Testament, shepherds, wise men, Mary, and Joseph.

Therefore, my beloved, brothers and sisters, believe what God is going to do around us. In his book, Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby said, "God is always at work around you." Our Almighty God, is not far away, but is around you and me. When we open our spiritual eyes, we can see what God is doing around us.

Second, when God shows us what God is doing, God has something in His mind. That is, God invites you to become involved with Him in His work. God is like a mother, who prepares a nice meal for her family and who wants you to have as much food as you can. Whenever God works, God invites His people to join with Him. God called Abraham to be the father of the faithful. God called Gideon to defeat the Philistine. God invited Moses to deliver the Israelites. God invited judges to do His work. In the Bible there are countless references about God's invitations to His people. The same God, who invited His people to do work with Him, is the same God who invites you to bring new families to the sanctuary of Cornerstone United Methodist Church.

Third, God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action. Again, to bring fifteen new families to the body of Christ at Cornerstone United Methodist Church, and to nourish them, make them disciples of Jesus Christ is not a lenient task. However, do not forget that God is the God of creation and there is nothing impossible for God. We must put our faith in God and take action to reach out to our family members, friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Paul, in his letter to Corinth, said, "I will go on to vision and revelations of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 12:1b) I, as the pastor of the church, will go on to vision and appeal to you, my beloved brothers and sisters, join me and join God.

Pastor Namkung

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

4	11:00 Worship	Heather, Conner and Sky Anderson Baptism
	After Worship	Potluck Lunch
7	8:00 pm	PPRC meeting
8	6:30 pm	Cub Scout Round Up
	7:00 pm	Lay Leadership meeting
11	6:30 pm	Adm Council meeting
12	6:30-8 pm	Cub Scout Pack meeting
13	6:30 pm	Cub Scout Round Up
14	7:00 pm	Wed Evening Activities
17	early am	Youth Work Trip to Lexington
	9:00 am	Titus II Women
	10:00 – 4:00	Hispanic Committee meeting
19	6:30 – 8:00	Cub Scout Den meeting
26	6:30 – 8:00	Cub Scout Den meeting
27	7:00 pm	Annual Charge Conference

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Welcome New Members - Kathy, Josie, Ashley & Megan Schuh with Pastor Kong



Kathy and her children joined our Cornerstone family on August 28th. Please give them your warm welcome.

Please Continue to Pray for our Deployed Military Personnel and their Families

Tyrone Anthony
Karen Marrs

TJ Edwards
Michael Monge

Jeff Hall
Ed Smith

David Haskell

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL GROUP STUDIES / CLASSES / FELLOWSHIP

Beginning this month, Cornerstone is providing several small group opportunities in three areas:

1. Bible Studies
Philippians – 4 weeks, time to be determined by class participants
John – 13 weeks, time to be determined by class participants
2 Corinthians – 13 weeks on Wed Evening at 7:00 pm
2. Bible Related Study Groups
Experiencing God – 13 weeks on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm
Disciple Bible Study – 33 weeks – time to be determined by class participants
3. Christian Life Groups
Your Best Life Now book discussion – time to be determined by class participants
Prayer by Richard J. Foster book discussion – time to be determined by class participants
Family Bible Fellowship – for all ages 7:00 pm, possibly on Thursday or Saturday

Please explore in prayer with God which offering is best suited to you and your schedule. This is a wonderful chance to grow your faith and get to know others in a small group setting. You will be blessed!

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YOUTH WORK CAMP RECAP DINNER & PRESENTATION

Last Sunday evening our Youth and their Leaders, Sue Todd and Dan Irizarry presented a slide show and presentation of their work camp experience. In June, nine of our youth and two adults traveled to Lexington, NC to spend the week working for Christ by serving others. Group Work Camps had 67 home repair projects assigned to the over 400 youth and leaders who attended. Along with their daily work, the participants had daily devotions and a group gathering each evening with a theme of “Fruit of the Spirit”. The youth shared their experiences and ‘God Sightings’ of the week. They thanked all those who contributed to their trip by attending their many fundraising activities, gave donations or assisted with carpentry training. The youth who couldn’t attend the work camp were acknowledged for all their help in fundraising as well. A wonderful potluck dinner preceded the presentation and since the youth were hosting, they asked all the adults to go through the dinner line first.

On September 17th, the ‘crazy bus’ will again travel to Lexington to complete some one-day projects on another home. Anyone interested in going on this Mini Work Camp, please contact Dan or Sue for more information.



STEWARDSHIP

We Are Responsible to Share in Church Work

We should want to give so we can support the work the church does.

Philippians 4:14-18 - The church at Philippi gave to support Paul. This constituted "fellowship" (sharing) in his work of preaching. Likewise today local churches need money so teachers can teach in classes, group meetings, radio and TV, literature, etc. (See also 1 Tim. 3:15; Acts 11:22-26; 1 Cor. 14; 1 Thess. 1:8; 1 Cor. 9:6-14; 2 Cor. 11:8,9.) Acts 4:32-35 - Local churches also cared for needy members - they shared their possessions. (See also 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8, 9; Acts 11:27-30.)

To the extent we are able; we should share in the church's work. If members fulfill their responsibility to share, the church can do its work. Let us remember that the more we can give, the more the church can accomplish. Do you know that members volunteer weekly to clean the church, mow the huge lawn, change the church sign, and prepare the bulletin and other office duties? More visible volunteers are our worship leaders, Sunday School teachers, Youth leaders, Wed Evening teachers, ushers, acolytes, and communion assistants.

Is there something at our church you can do to fulfill your responsibility to share in the church's work?

We Are Stewards of God's Possessions

A steward is a person responsible to use someone else's property to accomplish work for the owner.

Psalms 24:1, 2; 50:10, 12; Haggai 2:8 - God owns the earth and everything on it, including animals, silver, and gold. Our possessions were given us by God (1 Chron. 29:12, 14; Deut. 8:11,17,18; James 1:17; Job 1:21).

We "possess" or "own" things only as relates to other people. We have the power to decide how these things will or will not be used, but other people do not have that right for "our possessions." But in relation to God, He is the real owner, not us. He has the right to control, for He is the Maker. (See also 1 Chron. 29:11; Deut. 10:14; Gen. 14:22; 1 Cor. 10:26.)

Acts 4:32-35 - Christians shared with needy believers because they knew their possessions were not really their own. If we view our possessions as "ours," we may resent giving them to others. When we realize that these things really belong to God, not to us, then we should willingly use them for whatever God wants. We sometimes think of the church treasury as "the Lord's money," but the money in our pocket is also "the Lord's money." Giving it to the church just transfers it from one of God's stewards to another of His stewards. To give it, then, does not do God a favor. It just fulfills our duty as stewards to use God's possessions for His purposes.

Are you a careful steward of the Lord's money?

Stewardship Is a Duty of All Christians

Acts 2:44, 45 - All that believed were willing to share (cf. Acts 4:32). Acts 11:29 - Every man gave according to his ability. 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2 - Every one of you should lay by in store.

Those who are not members are not responsible to support the church (though they ought to become members). But all those in the church ought to give to finance the work.

In nearly every congregation, the overwhelming majority of the money is given by a few members, while others give relatively little though they could give more. If you are truly able to give only a small amount, then God is pleased. But if you could give more, yet you just choose to leave the giving up to others, are you a faithful steward?

Could the church accomplish more if you were a better steward?

