

Wishing for *The Wish List*

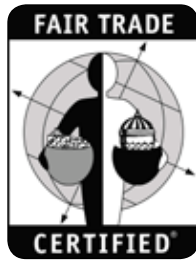
The 6-8th grade Sunday School class led by David Labrecque is looking for 20 copies of the book *The Wish List* by Eoin Colfer. The class (which meets at 10:50am) will study this book after the first of the year. If you have a copy or would like to donate a book, please contact David by email at fr@mindspring.com or by phone 349-0711. Thank you in advance for your help.

Childcare Help Needed for Christmas Eve Services

We are in need of adult and youth volunteers to serve infants through pre-k in the nursery/childcare rooms at the 5:30 service and with the infants through 3rd grade during the 7:30 service. Please consider this opportunity to share God's love with young children. Contact the nursery coordinator as soon as possible if you are interested: mweller@fvumc.org or 272-7549.

PowerPoint Team Substitutes

The Power Point team is in need of substitute to fill in for vacations, illnesses and emergencies. Please email Kristin Minor at jkminor@embarqmail.com if you are interested in joining this team.



Great Fair Trade Gifts for Christmas!

Stuck for a gift idea for someone special? Consider making a gift bag or basket filled with Equal Exchange products.

We have Fair Trade Coffees, Teas, Cocoa, Chocolate Bars, Nuts, Coffee mugs available in the church office at excellent prices.

126 Smiling Faces Thank You

Thank you to every one who helped with Operation Share! This year 126 children will receive new toys and books for Christmas. The remaining toys were given to Wake County Social Services. In every face we see Jesus!



December Childcare Closings

Due to varying schedules; childcare will not be available on the following evenings in December: tonight, Sunday, Dec. 28 and Wednesday, Dec. 31. If you have an event and a need for childcare during those evenings, please contact Marie Weller as soon as possible @ mweller@fvumc.org or 272-7549.



Clothing Closet Is Jan. 10

On Saturday, Jan. 10 from 8am to Noon is the next Clothing Closet. Volunteers are needed on Thursday (late afternoon) and Friday (9am-5pm) for setup and clothes sorting. Please bag each family member's clothes separately to help speed up setup time. Write on the bag or include a note on the top with the category: Mens, Mens Large, Womens, Womens Petite, Maternity, Teen, Girls, Boys, Infant (up to 4T). If the shed behind the church is full, please bring your items on Thursday or Friday to the adult wing. For more information or questions please contact Roberta McCormack 567-2765.

F-V UMC's Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you

Stephen Ministers are members of Fuquay-Varina UMC who have been through extensive training and provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care for people who are experiencing a difficult time. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and provide weekly support for you as long as your need persists.



If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Dale Floyd, Polly Sheets, Bob Sorrels, or Susanne Young.

Contact them via confidential email at stephenministry@fvumc.org. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care into your life.

Young Adult Sunday School Class Meets at 10:50 Weekly

College aged adults and high school seniors come together for a time of fellowship and Bible study each Sunday morning at 10:50 in room 118. Contact Lennie Furlough or Kristy Hochhalter for more information.

New Recycling Opportunity!

In an effort to expand the recycling program at F-V UMC, the EcoJustice Ministry Team has placed new, blue recycling containers in the rooms on the adult wing of the church.

Place your discarded paper, plastic and aluminum cans in these bins, and the materials will be collected weekly by a member of the recycling team. No sorting required!

There will be detailed information posted in each room about what materials can be recycled.

To learn more about this ministry, send an email to EcoJusticeFVUMC@gmail.com.



Prime Timers Seeking an Organizer

The Prime Timers Group is seeking someone (or several someones) to coordinate future events. Please contact the office if you are interested in learning more about the position.

January Book Club

Darkness Is My Only Companion

By Kathryn Greene-McCreight

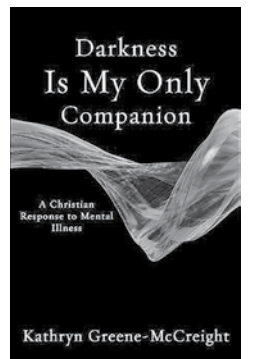
Where is God in the suffering of a mentally ill person? What happens to the soul when the mind is ill? How are Christians to respond in the face of mental illness?

In *Darkness Is My Only Companion*, Kathryn Greene-McCreight confronts these difficult questions raised by her own mental illness—bi-polar disorder. With brutal honesty, she tackles often avoided topics such as suicide, mental hospitals, and shock therapy.

Greene-McCreight offers the reader everything from poignant and raw glimpses into the mind of a mentally ill person to practical and forthright advice for their friends, family, and clergy.

Her voice is a comfort to those who suffer from mental illness and an invaluable resource for those who love and support them.

Join the discussion on Friday, January 16 at 6:30 pm. Contact Debra Murphy at 552-4331 or email dmurphy@fvumc.org.



Deadline Extended for 2009 Bolivia Mission Trip - Info Meeting TODAY

The Bolivia Mission Trip 2009 is set for June 18-28, 2009. Come with us on this incredible experience! If you are interested in participating, please attend an informational meeting today, Dec. 21 at 2pm.

Contact Faith Mangum as soon as possible to reserve a spot for you on the trip. We need a \$100 deposit for each workteam member by Jan. 10. Contact Faith Mangum by email at mangumst@meredith.edu or by phone 552-1115.



Save a Life this Tuesday

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. As you can imagine, the winter months top the list for the greatest time of need.

We have the opportunity to donate blood at F-V UMC just in time for Christmas. Please consider giving blood this Tuesday, Dec. 23 in hopes that children and adults who are sick or in emergency situations this holiday season will be able to receive the gift they need to stay alive!

The blood drive will be held from 3-7:30pm. In addition to blood donors, volunteers are needed to help in the canteen.

Please contact Jenna Ramsey teacherramsey@yahoo.com or call her cell phone at 1-336-675-7572 with any questions.

Poinsettias Updates

Correction: Poinsettias are given in Honor of Marian Lane from her Children and Grandchildren

Addition: Poinsettias are given by Ann Sorrels in Honor of Lynn and Bob Sorrels, Linda Bridgers and Theresa Jones



An Advent Prayer

Loving God, as we move through this Advent season, we open the empty places in our hearts and lives to the merciful light of Christ. Show us the renewing power of your grace and mercy.

May we walk in the light of Christ, offering your compassion to a world that needs your revelation.

When Mary faced the shocking gift of your Son, she praised you. When Paul looked at the struggles of the early church, he praised you. Often, we forget to offer you praise. Forgive us when the stress of the season, unresolved personal issues, unfounded fears and unrealistic hopes get in the way of following your call.

May our hearts be full of praise for you and our lives full of your compassion.

Holy One, we trust that you are never absent from us. Even when we are pulled from away from you because of national, world, or personal issues, you are present. O God, you deliver us from such evil and gently lead us to new possibilities. You unfailingly offer us liberation through your love and through your Son.

May we proclaim your deliverance to the world.

We believe that you have chosen us, love us, and -- through baptism -- help us grow into mature people of faith. May our lives point to Jesus, and may we live in such a way that others know your words -- that you bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, give sight to the blind, and set the oppressed free.

May we proclaim the new birth you offer.

Amen.

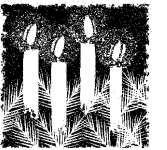
Adapted from prayers written by the Rev. Nancy Nichols

Fuquay-Varina UMC Weekly Times

December 21, 2008

Come to the Love Feast Tonight!

Our annual Love Feast worship service will be held tonight, Dec. 21 at 7:00pm. As the United Methodist *Book of Worship* describes, the Love Feast recalls the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expresses the *koinonia* (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ.



Without interrupting the worship service, a fellowship meal of sweet rolls and coffee is served. Prayer and testimonies, often personal witness to God's grace, and praise, in the form of hymns, songs, or the spoken word, are focal points of the Love Feast. The F-V UMC Love Feast also includes the music of our FANFARE handbell group and candlelight congregational singing.



Christmas Eve Worship

4:00pm — This is a family-friendly service with Holy Communion, a children's moment, a live dramatization of the Christmas story, and music by the Kidz NPraise Singers

5:30pm — This service includes Holy Communion, candlelighting, and music by the Praise Team.

7:30pm — A traditional worship service with Holy Communion, candlelighting, and music by the Cantata Choir and Instruments of Praise

11:00pm — A traditional worship service including Holy Communion, candlelighting, and music by the 8@8 ensemble

Beginning at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve, a Brass Ensemble will share songs of the season in front of the fountain.