

Youth News

TODAY: Lifeline Youth is meeting at Casa Blanca from 4:45-6:15pm. Casa Blanca is located at 607 E. Academy Street. The Confirmants are meeting in the Centrum.

High School Seniors Retreat

Held March 27-29, this retreat is specifically designed for high school seniors who want to address the all the challenges and joys they will encounter as they enter the next phase in life!

We will be headed to Wilmington, NC and spend time talking to some college students about their experiences living away from home, the challenges they face and the choices they made—good and well not so good.

There is no cost for the retreat, but money for all food for the weekend is needed. Seniors must register with Kristy by Sunday, March 1.

High School Mission Opportunities

Teen Valley Ranch Retreat

This is a mission retreat, coming March 13-15. There will be time for play, but we will also work to make camp better for the summer with painting and landscaping. The cost is \$75 per person. A \$25 deposit is required to hold your spot by Feb. 22. There is limited space...so register now!!!



Florida Mission Team

On June 14-20, a high school mission team will go to Tampa Bay, Florida working at the Migrant Mission Center. Work may include roofing, painting and general maintenance. We will also work with migrant children through Vacation Bible School.

The total cost is \$300 per person, plus two lunches, all traveling meals and money for our free day activities. Register by turning in a deposit of \$50 by Feb. 22. We will hold fundraisers to help lower the final cost.

Reaching out to our Community

Food Pantry Foods of the Month

The F-V Emergency Food Pantry has requested that our church Collect the following food donations: **February: Oatmeal & Grits, March: Canned meats & canned or dry milk.** Other types of food items are appreciated as well. A collection container is in the church lobby.

Volunteer to Help your Community

More and more local residents are coming to Southern Wake Faith Community in Action (SWFCA) asking for help with utility bills, medications and rent. Many face eviction or power cut offs. SWFCA needs your help. Please attend a volunteer training session on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00pm at the Family Life Center of St. Augusta Missionary Baptist Church in Fuquay-Varina. You will receive training for intake and assessing client needs. Reserve space for this training by emailing: swfca@helpsouthwake.org or calling 567-1800.

Household Heating Assistance

The Crisis Intervention Program for Energy Assistance provides financial help to households in a heating-related emergency. To qualify, households must meet an income test; be in a heating-related emergency; and, contain a US citizen or a non-citizen meeting eligibility criteria. Contact the Wake County Dept. of Social Services at 212-7000 and make an appointment at the Southern Regional Center (across from the F-V Post Office). It is very possible that households that have not qualified for assistance in the past may meet the criteria for assistance through this program.

Connecting with our Sisters & Brothers

We have an exciting opportunity to build connections with the Spanish-speaking congregation that meets at FVUMC on Sunday nights, Inglesia Monte de los Olivos.

Already underway is a bridge activity that involves helping the Hispanic Sunday School for grades 1 through 5 that meets from 7 to 9 pm each Sunday. The children learn songs and Scriptures in English and Spanish. We are also in need of some caring people to help out with the younger children who are 2 to 5 years old.

Please call Kerry Vitkus at 740-6464 or Debra Murphy at the Church if you could see yourself as part of this ongoing mission as we work to become more connected to our Hispanic sisters and brothers in Christ.

Main Street Kitchen - Saturday, Feb. 21

This Ministry is a once monthly event where we prepare and deliver meals to those in need throughout the community. We would love to have you join us. The menu for the month on Feb. 21, will be Chicken Pot Pie, salad, fruit, dessert and bread. Donations needed are canned chunk chicken, mixed vegetables, potatoes, beans, corn, etc; large cans of fruit; Bisquick or other flour mixes; milk; bags of mixed salad; salad toppings, cheese/crou-tons/bacon bits, etc. To make a cash donation, please deliver to the church office and designate for Main Street Kitchen. Contact Paula Cade (557-4347) with any questions.

Stuffed animals for rescue heroes



During the month of February, our congregation traditionally collects small stuffed animals to be shared with children during vulnerable times. "Rescue Heroes" serving in law enforcement, fire officials, EMTs and social services distribute animals throughout the year to children in need.

Stuffed animals are brought to worship; held and prayed over during our services; and remain in the Centrum throughout the week. At the end of the month, each animal is placed in a zip-lock bag and packaged for our "rescue heroes" who join us for worship by Sunday, Feb. 22.

Coupons for Troops Update

The Quiet Care Ministry Team THANKS all who have continued to contribute to this wonderful program! The response has been overwhelming, and our team has been unable to keep up the volume of coupons to cut. A few of us who do it now have hand problems from all the scissor-work!

To help make the program run smoothly, we have several requests: If at all possible, PLEASE CUT OUT the coupons and sort them by Food and Non-Food before putting them in the tub. (Non-food includes all pet foods and medicines, paper goods, etc.) If cutting them out is not possible, please do not stop bringing in the coupons! Also, remember that we cannot take any coupons past the 2-month expiration date. Right now-we cannot take any coupons dated before the MIDDLE of December 2008. Please do not roll or fold the coupons. Note: The base cannot take any "local" coupons from restaurants, dollar stores, grocery stores and such places, as they do not have those places over there.

We greatly appreciate your contributions! God bless all of you for helping with this ever growing ministry. To join our team, contact Amy Hendrickson at 552-5483 or Lyn Matthews at 567-7563.



An Invitation to You...

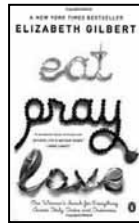
Covenant Community Garden is beginning its third growing season. Come grow with us - no experience is necessary! Garden membership is open to all people from the Fuquay-Varina community. Supporting memberships are also available for those who are not able to work in the garden but want to help us grow food to share with the community. Both types of membership are \$10. Work days will be Mondays from 9-11am, Wednesdays from 4:30-6pm (spring/fall) or 6:30-8pm (summer), and Saturdays from 9am-Noon. Visit our table in the lobby or contact Chris Burtner at 414-3273 or covenantcommunitygarden@mindspring.com.

February Book Club

Eat Pray Love by Elizabeth Gilbert

This bestselling, heartfelt memoir has touched a cultural nerve.

Elizabeth Gilbert tells how she made the difficult choice to leave behind all the trappings of modern American success and find, instead, what she truly wanted from her life. To join the dinner and discussion on Friday, February 20, contact Debra Murphy at dmurphy@fvumc.org or 552-4331.



Prayers for Immigrants

You are invited to join in a national effort to pray for immigrants in our midst. Religious communities throughout our country are joining in prayer specifically Feb. 13-22 around three emphases: protection for the immigrants and their families; empowerment of faith communities to serve on behalf of immigrants; and, moral courage for our national leaders. If you would like to register your intent to pray, go to: www.interfaithimmigration.org.

EcoJustice Meeting Next Sunday

On Sunday, Feb. 22, the F-V UMC EcoJustice Ministry Team is gathering for simple meal and a meeting. Please join us at Noon in room 117-119 to discuss strategies/plans/projects for our ministry in the coming year. The EcoJustice ministry answers the calls to love our neighbor and care for God's creation by promoting social and economic justice and environmental sustainability.



2009 Lenten Studies Update

Please look over the descriptions in the bulletin insert for our upcoming Lenten Studies and prayerfully consider which one you will participate in, as you seek to observe a holy Lent this year.



NOTE: the insert is an updated, amended version of the one that appeared in the February newsletter. If you have questions, contact Debra Murphy at 552.4331 or dmurphy@fvumc.org.

Emmaus Gathering – Friday, Feb. 27

Emmaus monthly gatherings include fellowship, music, worship, as well as information about Emmaus. The Heart of Carolina Emmaus community is a caring fellowship of Christians committed to the tangible expression of Jesus Christ's agape love and the support and development of Christian disciples in our local churches.

Anyone interested in learning more about Chrysalis Flights or the Walk to Emmaus are invited to join this month's Emmaus Gathering which will be here at F-V UMC at 7:30pm on Feb. 27.

Maybe you've been on a flight or a walk but haven't had the opportunity to get involved; this gathering will be a great opportunity to reconnect!

For those involved with the Emmaus community, we hope you'll join us. Sponsorship training will be offered from 6:30-7:30 pm before the Gathering.

Hope to see you on the 27th at 7:30pm. Contact Si Weeks at 552-7458 for more information or with any questions.

Wednesday Night Lectionary Class

Pastor Richard's lectionary class is back in session. If you would like to read, study and discuss the text we use for music and preaching in worship on Sunday morning, come on Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. We are currently meeting in room 122. Come and enjoy our fellowship!

Help with PowerPoint

The Power Point team needs substitutes to fill in for vacations and emergencies. Please contact Kristin Minor at 567-0353 or jkminor@embarqmail.com if you are interested.

Fuquay-Varina UMC

Weekly Times

February 15, 2009

Acolyte Training - This Tuesday

An acolyte by definition is a follower and a helper. In our 10:50 service, acolytes light and extinguish the candles and assist the pastor with other special duties. Acolytes rotate throughout the Sundays of the month. Interested children need to attend one 30 minute training session. Our next session is this Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 4:30-5:15pm. Contact Stephanie Weeks at 552-4331 Ext. 113 or sweeks@fvumc.org for information or registration.



New Members' Class

Our next new members' class (known as "Connectings") will begin next Sunday, February 22 and conclude with a church-wide potluck luncheon on Palm Sunday, April 5. The class will join the church on Easter Sunday, April 12.

"Connectings" introduces potential members not only to the life and ministry of FVUMC but to our Methodist heritage and our connection (and responsibility) to global Christendom.

The class meets at 10:50 in room 117-119. Childcare is available. If you have questions and/or would like to register for the class, contact Debra Murphy at dmurphy@fvumc.org or 552.4331.

Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network

WIHN guests are arriving next Sunday, Feb. 22 and will be here through March 1! Please see the sign up board in the lobby for ways you, your family or your small group can make our guests in transition feel at home here at F-V UMC!

Help needed includes meals, laundry, hosting the families in the evenings, driving families to and from the WIHN Day Center in Raleigh using the WIHN van, and room setup and clean up.

WIHN provides shelter, meals, case management and educational services to homeless families in addition to promoting action and awareness in the community regarding homelessness. WIHN guests are hosted by Wake County churches while they work to move toward permanent housing.