



Valentine's Banquet

Tickets for the youth group's Valentine's Banquet fundraiser are on sale in the church lobby or by contacting the office. Support the youth by attending the banquet, because all proceeds go toward the youth scholarship fund. Last year over \$2,000 in scholarships were given and this year the need is even greater!

Tickets are \$35 per couple, \$20 for an individual. Childcare is an additional \$5 per family. Our entertainment will be the Newlywed Game, with our game show host Matt Harrenstein. The banquet will be Friday, Feb. 13 at 7:00pm.

Lenten Reflections

If you'd be willing to write a brief reflection (250-500 words) on a Lenten theme (prayer, fasting, suffering, the cross, repentance, forgiveness, for example), please contact Debra Murphy. **Submissions are needed by Feb. 15.** Many contributors will be needed to fill a book for the 40 days of Lent. Scripture passages can be "assigned" or you can choose your own.



A special focus for this year's book will be the Bible's book of Psalms. Questions? dmurphy@fvumc.org or 552.4331.

Prime Timers February Event

The Prime Timers (senior adults of our church and community) will enjoy a lovely Valentine concert by the NC Master Chorale Chamber Choir at 4pm on Saturday, Feb. 14 at Peace College. On the program are Irish love songs and the music of the Beatles. We will leave the church at 2:30 pm and stop for dinner at Captain Stanley's after the show. If you'd like to ride the church bus, get your reservation in early! Contact Joan Kuhn at 557.3768. Ticket price for the concert is \$12.80.



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.

Family Retreat at TVR

For many years, families at FVUMC have enjoyed an annual weekend family retreat at Teen Valley Ranch in the NC mountains. This year, March 20-22 is reserved for our church, and all are invited. The retreat includes worship, camp activities (horses, repelling hiking, etc.) fellowship, and all meals. For pictures and other information about TVR visit their website www.tvr.org. Cost depends on the number of participants and ages of the children. If you're interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Tammie Quick at tlquick@gmail.com or 557-2131.

F-V High School Baccalaureate

Our church has sponsored FVHS Baccalaureate for many years. In an effort to increase attendance and involvement there will be a baccalaureate committee formed to ensure the success of this event. If you are interested in being a part of this committee please come to our first meeting on February 18th in room 127 at 7:30pm. For more information contact Kristy Hochhalter at youth@fvumc.org.



BACCALAUREATE



Youth News



Reminder: No Lifeline tonight!

TODAY! Youth Book Club

If you are in senior high and enjoy reading and discussing books then join us TODAY, immediately following church in room 126. We will be discussing *The Great Divorce*, by C.S. Lewis. Bring \$3 for a pizza lunch. The book club will meet every other Sunday and a reading list will be given out at the first meeting.

Youth Jam Session at Lifeline

Calling all youth in 7-12th grades: Come and join Lifeline on February 8! We will discuss Christian music and the role of music in our lives. Then, we will break out into a jam session! Bring your instrument or your voice. We will provide music and snacks. The youth CD library will be there too – so you can check out some of the latest Christian music.



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 youth mission team will go to Tampa Bay, Florida working within the migrant families through home repair and renovations at the Migrant Mission Center. We will also have an opportunity to work with migrant children through Vacation Bible School. Work may include roofing, rehabbing, painting and general maintenance.

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.

Middle School Winter Retreat

Feb. 20-21 is the middle school retreat. Our program is called, "I Promise, They Don't Have Cooties." This is a program on human sexuality, specifically designed for middle school youth, 7-8th grades. The guest speaker, Gretchen Shea, is a youth ministries director in Raleigh. She is the author of the material that will be used. The retreat starts Friday night. The youth will return home to sleep and come back all day Saturday. The cost is \$20 which covers all food and supplies. To register contact Kristy Hochhalter at youth@fvumc.org or at the church office. The deadline for signing up is Wednesday, February 11.

Information Session TODAY

Parents of youth who are eligible to attend the winter retreat above are asked to participate in a 1-hour session led by Kristy Hochhalter, Director of Youth Ministries. We will go over the retreat program materials and answer questions, so that parents can choose for their family whether their youth will participate.

The hour-long sessions will be held on Feb. 1 during the 10:50 service on the adult wing and Wednesday, Feb. 4 from 7:30-8:30pm in room 127. Please plan to attend one of these sessions.

Acolyte Training - Tuesday, Feb. 17

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.



If you have a child interested in acolyting, he/she needs to attend one 30 minute training session.

Our next session will be Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 4:30-5:15pm. Please contact Stephanie Weeks at 552-4331 Ext. 113 or sweeks@fvumc.org for more information or to sign up for the training.

New Members' Class

Our next new members' class (known as "Connectings") will begin on 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. Topics include: the marginalized status of the early church; the process of canonizing scripture; the history and development of the sacraments; a theology of Christian worship; the challenges of discipleship in a consumer-capitalist culture; the responsibilities and privileges of church membership.

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.

Girl Scout Service Project

As part of a community service project, Girl Scout Troop 1564 is collecting toiletry items to help out the Ronald McDonald House. A collection box will be located in the lobby from now through February 14th. Please consider donating new toiletry items such as soap, shaving cream, shampoo, deodorant, disposable razors, toothbrushes, dental floss, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Olson at 661-6369.

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.

Building Bridges - You Can Help

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.

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!

How Would God Rate Our Discipleship?

This time of the year, many people are participating in performance reviews in the workplace. Most of us know our strengths and weaknesses with regard to work, but have you ever reflected on performance as a disciple for Christ? Would you know how to get started evaluating where you are on your faith journey?

A few months ago, a Vision Committee was created to begin the process of evaluating where we as a congregation are in our mission to create disciples who create disciples...and where to focus attention in the coming years. The Church Council has formally commissioned the committee as newly-renamed Catalyst Team and given the approval to distribute a series of three questionnaires in the coming weeks.

Please pick up a blue sheet in the lobby and return the questionnaire by Feb. 8. Your responses to these questionnaires will help guide us in our journeys to evaluate strengths and areas for focus.

Your feedback is critical! We need you to pray and then participate by completing these questionnaires. This isn't a job for a committee. This is a calling to the entire congregation.



Fuquay-Varina UMC Weekly Times

February 1, 2009

Bible Study Starts Today

The Jesus we find in John is different from the synoptic Gospels. Learn how Jesus is presented on two levels as you gain new insights and marvel at how Jesus was in control even as he was nailed to the cross.

Dr. Efird's favorite Gospel is likely to become yours as you uncover a Jesus different than you find in other accounts. This DVD-based study begins today at 10:50 am and runs for several weeks. If you have questions, contact facilitator Barbara Patterson at jmpatterso@aol.com



Chili Fundraiser Today!

The youth are selling chili after worship today. All proceeds will benefit the youth mission trip to a Migrant Mission Center in Tampa Bay, Florida.



Women of Faith Bible Study – Join Us!

"You don't have to wait until you have a problem for God to minister to you. Health and wellness are issues that women discuss daily in our society; yet Christians often overlook the issue of spiritual health."

Join us Thursday mornings from 6-7am in the chapel as we explore Spiritual Wellness. This 12-week study involves some outside commitment and a chance to strengthen your spiritual wellness. All women are welcome!



If you are interested or have questions please contact Jennifer Harrenstein (jharrenstein@fvumc.org) 552-5269, Marie Weller (mweller@fvumc.org) 567-1778, or Stephanie Weeks (sweeks@fvumc.org) 552-7458. We hope to see you on Thursday morning!