

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 we need to focus attention in the coming years. We began getting our hearts and minds focused on our task by spending several weeks in Bible study, prayer, and group dialog. We then felt led to define our mission: "Serving as a catalyst for our entire congregation to discern how to more effectively create and empower Christian disciples." With this mission in mind, we realized we could not move on in the process until we heard from you about future faith-building needs.

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. 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.

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. This has been a wonderful experience as the children are loving and the adults appreciate our help so much. 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 740-7474 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.

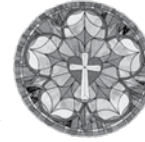


New Members' Class

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.



UM Men Meeting Jan. 21

The United Methodist Men will hold our first meeting of 2009 on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7pm. Tom Kelly will be inducted into the role of UMM President succeeding Charlie Gray is moving into the role of Raleigh District UMM President. This will be a time to show our support for Tom as well as make plans for our organization in the coming year. Nominations will be called for at the meeting for the role of Vice President.

The United Methodist Church has found that every church with an outward focus on men, has a growing congregation. So come out and support the efforts of men at FVUMC.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Jan. 24 is the next UMM Men's breakfast with speaker Johnny Evans. Breakfast is at 7:30am and we will welcome Mr. Evans to the podium at 8:00am sharp.

Mr. Evans played NCSU football and was named Fellowship of Christian Athlete College Athlete of the Year in 1978. A 2nd round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns, he played there 1978 - 1980. Johnny is currently Eastern NC Director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a Radio Analyst-NC State Football with the Wolfpack Sports Network. Join us and remember to bring a friend!

Efird Bible Study Series

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 on Sunday, February 1st at 10:50 am and runs for several weeks. If you have questions and/or would like to register, contact facilitator Barbara Patterson at jmpatterso@aol.com

Women's Ensemble begins Jan. 18

The next session of the Women's Ensemble begins Sunday, January 18! This group is open to ALL WOMEN (adults and youth 6th - 12th grades!) who love to sing praises to the Lord! Previous experience or the ability to read music are NOT required. We will teach you everything you need to know! This is a SHORT-TERM COMMITMENT. The three rehearsals are on Sunday evenings from 6:45-7:30pm on Jan. 18, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8. The Women's Ensemble will sing at the 10:50 am Worship Service on Sunday, Feb. 15. Join us in the Choir Room for the first rehearsal as we come together to sing praises and enjoy fellowship with other women! Special thanks to Music Ministry Volunteer Sharon Haigler who will direct this session. Questions? Contact Jennifer Harrenstein, Director of Music Ministries, at 552-4331 ext. 105 or jharrenstein@fvumc.org.



Circle of Faith UMW

The Circle of Faith has changed meeting times effective January 2009. We will now meet the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 10:30am in the Chapel. All ladies of the church are invited. We anticipate many ladies joining us by meeting in the daytime. Meetings are one hour. Questions - Fran Sykes - 552-9220.

Children's Church Volunteers

As we move into 2009, there are a few openings for children's church volunteers serving Kindergarten-2nd graders. Currently we are in need of a volunteer at 10:50 for 5th Sundays. Also, we have a need for substitutes to fill in every now and then. Please contact Keena Teague 772-5368 davidkeena@bellsouth.net or Stephanie Weeks 552-4331 ext. 113 or sweeks@fvumc.org. All materials and lessons are provided for you. Come join the fun!

Main Street Kitchen – Jan. 17

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 this month will be Meatloaf with mashed potatoes, a vegetable, Fruit, tossed salad, bread and dessert. Items needed for the meal this month are:

Ground hamburger/turkey, Large boxes of Instant Potatoes, Large cans of vegetables, Large cans of fruit, Bag Salad/shredded cheese, Milk. Items should be brought to the Kitchen prior to 01/17/09 and marked MSK. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please deliver to the church office and designate for Main Street Kitchen. Please feel free to contact Paula Cade (557-4347) with any questions. We are in need of many talents, so please contact for additional info.

Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Next Sunday, January 18, following the 10:50 service we will present a screening of *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: A Historical Perspective*. This DVD is the authorized video biography of King and contains rare and largely unseen film footage and photographs. We will begin with a pizza lunch (\$3 adults; \$2 kids) and then watch the 60 minute DVD. So that we can order enough pizza, please make a reservation by phone or email: dmurphy@fvumc.org or 552.4331.



Prime Timer's Meeting Jan. 20

All senior adults of the church are invited to our first program of the year on Tuesday, January 20th at 10 am in the choir room. Debra Murphy will offer a video presentation, "Gender, Power, Scandal, Scripture: Women in the Bible," examining some familiar and some not-so-familiar biblical women and their depiction in art through the centuries. Following our meeting we will go out to lunch. If you have questions or would like to make a lunch reservation, contact Debra at 552.4331 or dmurphy@fvumc.org.

Kidz NPraise Registration Today

Kidz NPraise Registration is available in the church lobby TODAY! Kidz NPraise is the FVUMC Children's Choir Program that is open to all kids 4 years old through 5th grade. The program meets at 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoons (beginning Jan. 22) and includes choir, instruments, games, drama and more! Check out the registration table in the lobby for more information.

Women's Bible Study

The PinC Ladies Bible Study group is starting a new study on 1/12/09. The topic is *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackley. Please contact Mary Kay Davis at 418-6278 for more information.

Support our youth mission trips!

Variety Show - Jan. 25 at 5:00pm

Come support the youth of our church and enjoy a family gathering for all ages. Come and be entertained with a variety show, featuring acts from the PULSE Praise Team, The Drama Team and so many more! This event is free of charge. A donation will be taken to support the middle school and high school summer mission trips!

Chili Fundraiser

The youth will sell chili during the services on Sunday, February 1st. Get your chili so you will be prepared to watch the Superbowl! Chili will be \$5 per quart or \$9 for two quarts!

If you missed out because we sold out last year... don't be left behind! Preorder your mild, medium or hot chili by January 18th!

To pre-order call Kristy at the church office 552-4331 or watch the bulletin on January 11th and 18th for a tear off insert and place it in the offering.

All proceeds will benefit the youth trip to Tampa Bay, Florida where the youth will work with a Migrant Mission Center.



Sunday Lunch and Book Discussion

Who'd have thought that a book about the Trinity would sell 2 million copies and spend months on the New York Times best-seller list? *The Shack* has done just that, though not without controversy from various corners of Christendom.

If you've read this book and loved it (or hated it), join Debra Murphy for a lively discussion on Sunday, Jan. 25 at noon in room 117. We'll have lunch together and then talk about this provocative book. To sign up (so we can order enough food): dmurphy@fvumc.org or 552.4331.



Fuquay-Varina UMC

Weekly Times

January 11, 2009

Christianity and Other Faiths

Join Debra Murphy for a 4-week series of Sunday morning conversations beginning TODAY, January 11 at 9:30 am in room 117.

We will explore the beliefs and practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shinto, and we'll talk about Christianity's relationship to people of other religions.

For more information, contact Debra at 552-4331 or email dmurphy@fvumc.org.



Want to Serve in Costa Rica?

There will be a meeting on the Costa Rica mission trip TODAY at 12:00 noon in room 117/119 in the adult wing. If you are interested in joining this mission team then please try to attend this meeting as we are looking to finalize the team by the end of January. If you cannot make the meeting and are seriously interested in going on this trip please contact Rob Pavone at rpavone@nc.rr.com or at 557-7690. The trip is July 25th through August 2nd. This is the final opportunity to join the team.

Youth Choir Resumes Tonight

The FVUMC Youth Choir resumes rehearsal tonight, January 11, 6:30 – 7:15 pm in Room 127. ALL YOUTH, 6th – 12th grades, are invited to attend! Come check out this awesome time of fellowship with other youth as we sing praises to the King!

Come & Paint!

The Trustees have planned a workday to complete painting classrooms inside the church. Volunteers are needed this Saturday, Jan. 17 — no experience necessary! We will start at 8:30am. Please contact Patrick Paturzo at (919) 280-8621 or David White at (919) 269-7549.

