

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.

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. 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: Pre-order Today!

The youth will be selling chili during the services on Sunday, February 1. 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! Today is the last day to pre-order mild, medium or hot chili. Use the form below or call Kristy at 552-4331.



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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

of Quarts: _____ Mild Medium Hot

Lunch and Book Discussion Jan. 25

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.



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

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.

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!



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!

METS Begins New Short-Term Study

If you are going to carry Christ's name by professing to be a Christian man, then surely you should reflect his nature. Transformation—the process of becoming holy begins in your mind.

Our men's group, M.E.T.S. (Men eager To Serve) will offer a seven-session course titled Peter - Walk The Talk which explores how the apostle Peter challenges us to think differently, which will radically affect our behavior. The study begins January 29th and will be held Thursday nights at 7:00 in Room 127 in the adult wing.

This study is open to all men in our community regardless of their religious affiliation. There will be no cost associated with this study. If you have any questions - contact Charlie Gray at charliegray@nc.rr.com.

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.

Kidz NPraise Registration Today

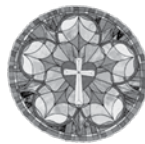
Kidz NPraise Registration is available in the church lobby TODAY! Kidz NPraise is the FVUMC Children's Choir Program that is open to all kids 4 years old through 5th grade. The program meets at 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoons (beginning Jan. 22) and includes choir, instruments, games, drama and more!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

PowerPoint Team Needs Volunteers

The PowerPoint team is in need of a new member to run the 9:30 service on the 4th Sunday of each month. We are also desperately in need of substitutes to fill in for vacations and emergencies. Please contact Kristin Minor at 567 - 0353 or jkminor@embarqmail.com if you are interested.

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.

Reflecting on the Scriptures: Growing in Faith

One of the strengths of growing in faith is a commitment to read and reflect on scriptures. Make this commitment by reading a lectionary scripture each weekday and using Saturday as a day of preparation for worship.



Each Sunday, the four lectionary texts for the coming week are noted in our worship bulletins. Texts are selected from the Old and New Testaments, Psalms, and Epistle lessons. The total amount of reading fills approximately one letter-sized page. We are adding a fifth reading each week with a focus on prayer and/or discipleship.

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.



We began getting our hearts and minds focused on our task by spending several weeks in Bible study, prayer, group dialog, and in defining our mission as: "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.

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

January 18, 2009

Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today, 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.



Women's Ensemble begins TONIGHT

The next session of the Women's Ensemble begins tonight. 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.

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.