

What is the focus of each **DISCIPLE** Bible study?

BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY, DISCIPLE I, gives equal time to both the Old and New Testament, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as the revelation of God. DISCIPLE I aims at transformation, not just information, and calls on persons to submit themselves to examination by Scripture, to put themselves under the power of God's Word, and to be changed by God's Word.

This study requires reading large portions of Scripture each week and is based on careful study and preparation. During the course of 34 weeks, groups will move through the biblical stories of Creation to the New Jerusalem. The titles of the sessions along with theme words; theme verses; and major persons, events, and topics will set the sequence of the biblical story in the minds of the participants. The principal Scripture for each session follows the chronological movement of the biblical story.

DISCIPLE I is a pre-requisite for the remaining DISCIPLE studies with the exception of the short-term studies.

INTO THE WORD INTO THE WORLD, DISCIPLE II, encourages persons to open themselves to hearing what God has to say to them through the Bible and to be guided into service in the world by Scripture and their study of it. This 32-week study selects specific portions of Scripture and delves deeper into them. Depth study of Scripture will be the work both of individual members and of the group in its weekly meeting. Equal attention is given to both the Old and New Testament with concentration on four books: Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts (eight lessons on each book). Appropriate connections are made to other parts of Scripture both through reading and study and through commentary in the study manual. Participants read familiar passages, see them in fresh ways, and anticipate that God will speak through them.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE, DISCIPLE III, has as its driving idea the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. The word You in the title is meant to be heard both in its singular form (the individual) and in its plural form (the community). We are a community of memory. Participants in this 32-week study read the major and minor Old Testament prophets, with the exception of Daniel, and read the 13 letters traditionally attributed to Paul. To establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke for God, daily readings also draw on the books of Deuteronomy through Chronicles. Study of the prophets follows their historical rather than their biblical sequence. The dating of Paul's letters influences the sequence of their study. Several themes weave their way through the study: the call to remember, the call to repentance, the need for renewed vision (eyes to see, ears to hear), and the place of community.

UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE, DISCIPLE IV, is a 32-week study. The word Under in the title is meant to convey invitation, welcome, sheltering, security, and rest--home at last. The Hebrew version of what Christians

call the Old Testament has three divisions: Torah (the first five books of the Bible), the Prophets, and the Writings. The Writings include all the books that are not part of the Torah or the Prophets.

DISCIPLE IV concentrates on the writings in the Old Testament – Ruth, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, and Daniel. New Testament Scriptures include the Gospel of John; 1, 2, and 3 John; James; Jude; and Revelation. Emphasis on the Psalms as Israel's hymnbook and prayer book leads naturally to an emphasis on worship. Present in the entire study is the sense of living toward completion, toward the climax of the message and the promise, extravagantly pictured in the Revelation.

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS invites believers to look at Jesus in each of the four Gospels and ask the question, "Who is the Jesus that you see?" This study deepens discipleship through better understanding of the biblical texts and their message. Two questions frame this study: "Who is the Jesus you bring with you to this study?" and "Who is the Jesus you take with you from this study?" JESUS IN THE GOSPELS takes participants on a journey from one question to the other. While distinct in format and approach, this Bible study builds on the foundation and carries forward the philosophy and ideals that shaped DISCIPLE—high-commitment, long-term, disciplined study that fosters community and builds toward transformation.

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS is different from DISCIPLE I-IV Bible studies in its approach to Scripture; it looks more closely at the Gospel texts, in the kind of daily preparation and study required of the participants, in lesson layout and design, and in the nature of the study and discussion that takes place in the weekly group meeting. JESUS IN THE GOSPELS focuses on the portraits of Jesus found in the four Gospels--Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The word in used in the title signals that this study takes an approach different from the familiar "life and teaching of Jesus" approach of reading stories and accounts of what Jesus said and did in order to draw conclusions about their meaning and about who Jesus was. This study looks at the way each Gospel writer presents events and teachings and at the picture of Jesus that emerges in each of the Gospels.

Lessons 1-22 concentrate on Matthew, Mark, and Luke with some related passages from John. Lessons 23-30 concentrate on the Gospel of John with supporting passages from other parts of the New and Old Testament. In the course of the 30 weeks, participants read the four Gospels and considerable amounts of Scripture from other parts of the Bible.

Visit the DISCIPLE table in the lobby and sign up today! Registration continues until Friday, July 31. Based upon enrollment and day of the week preferences, our DISCIPLE classes for the 2009-10 year will be scheduled and announced. All classes will begin the week of Sept. 13.

Efird Bible Study Starts Aug. 2

From the two creation stories to the Hebrews' move to Egypt, a master teacher helps us understand how master story tellers passed Hebrew history from generation to generation, while also painting clear pictures of Biblical characters. Join us for a DVD-based Bible study on the book of Genesis by Master Teacher Dr. Mickey Efird, a professor at Duke Divinity School. Our study consists of 20 lessons and begins August 2 at 10:50am in room 119. If interested, contact Barbara Patterson at jmpatterso@aol.com.

August Book Club

An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith By Barbara Brown Taylor

An Altar in the World is about how faith can be both practical and sensuous. In Barbara Brown Taylor's hands, the old division between heaven and earth is healed and both come alive. Gentle, humbly crafted, lyrical, and deeply wise, *Altar* shows Brown as a pastor who understands that knowing God occurs in a place beyond theology. Under Taylor's expert guidance, we come to question conventional distinctions between the sacred and the secular, learning that no physical act is too earthbound or too humble to become a path to the divine. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do. Join us for dinner and discussion on Friday, August 21. Contact Judy Casper at jacasper@earthlink.net or Matilda Storm at mstorm2@orion.naz.edu.

Promotion Sunday Is Aug. 23 for Children and Youth

All children and youth will move to their next Sunday School age level class on Sunday, August 23. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Weeks, Children's Ministries Director, at sweeks@fvumc.org or Kristy Hochhalter, Director of Youth Ministries, at youth@fvumc.org. Both can be reached by calling the church at 552-4331.



PrimeTimers Upcoming Events

This group is for those in the prime of life! Welcome all to participate in our activities each month. On Aug. 17 at 10:30am, we'll hear from Terry Bass on financial investment instruments and dangers. A road trip to the NC Museum of Natural History for an exhibit on chocolate is in the works. Call Debbie Corr at 557-7437 or Ray and Kerry Vitkus at 740-3466 if you need a ride.



FaithWeaver Friends Parent Meeting

Our FaithWeaver Friends program for 2nd and 3rd graders will be held on Sunday afternoons from 4:30-6:00pm. We are having a required informational meeting on Sunday, August 2 at 4:30pm in room 117/119 (childcare will be provided). If you have a child who plans to be a part of FWF, attendance is very important, if you can't attend this meeting please contact Stephanie Weeks at sweeks@fvumc.org or 552-4331 Ext. 113.



If you are interested in helping within this ministry please plan to attend as well and we can find your best fit. In order for this ministry to be a success for our children we will need many hands on board. No experience is needed, and there are many areas you may fit such as missions, music, recreation, behind the scenes, small group leaders, and more.

Praise Team Jam Session

Interested in offering your gift of music to the Lord? The 9:30 am worship Praise Team is looking for musicians with a talent to share and a heart for worship!



The team is especially in need of guitarists, and is also open to anyone gifted in keyboards, percussion, vocals or other instruments that can contribute to a contemporary band setting.

The team will hold a Jam Session on Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 pm in the Centrum. The Jam Session is an opportunity for any interested musicians to begin the audition process for joining the 9:30 Praise Team. Bring your instrument (or your voice!) and join us for an evening of praise music!

Advanced "reservations" are not required, however anyone wishing to receive additional information about the Jam Session or team membership should contact Jennifer Harrenstein, Director of Music Ministries, at jharrenstein@fvumc.org or 552-4331 ext. 105.

NEW! Church-Wide Email Distribution List



Did you receive an email or two from F-V United Methodist Church last week? If not, and you would like to receive email messages in the future, please contact the church office via email at jgue@fvumc.org.

School Supplies Needed

During the entire month of July please help fill our lobby shelves (many times over) with school supplies to be distributed by our friends at Southern Regional Center as well as to local English as a Second Language high school students. All school supplies are welcomed, especially new or gently used (good condition) book bags. Crayons, pencils, glue sticks, folders, notebook paper, rulers, scissors, and pencil pouches are all useful elementary items. For our high school students we need 3 ring binders, dividers, pens, expandable book covers (larger size), graphing papers, index cards, hi-lighters, small staplers, and colored pencils.



**If anyone has a graphing calculator they are no longer using it would be a HUGE help to the high school students.

Have fun filling our lobby shelves with these necessities to ensure a successful start to a new school year for children and youth in our community.

Other Chances to Meet our District Superintendent - Rev. Jon Strother

If you were unable to attend the Fuquay gathering to meet Rev. Jon Strother, the new Raleigh District Superintendent, other introductory gatherings are scheduled. Fellowship and refreshments will be offered before and after each gathering:

- Sunday, July 26 - Hollands' UMC on Ten-Ten Road 3:00-4:15pm
- Sunday, August 9 - Raleigh: Edenton Street UMC 3:00 to 4:15 pm
- Wednesday, August 12 Raleigh: Millbrook UMC 6:30 to 7:45 pm

Each gathering is identical and offers opportunities for celebration, renewed focus and a deepened sense of what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

Coupons for the Troops



71 pounds of coupons mailed and counting! We want to thank all of you again and again for your generosity, time and effort to supply the CUT-OUT, SORTED and fliers of coupons for our adopted base in Germany.

In these difficult times, every penny counts and our troops and their families appreciate our efforts. It is a way that we can continue to say WE CARE and THANK YOU for all you do for all of us here in the United States. Please continue to provide the coupons, and we will continue to get them ready and to mail them. (A reminder: NO local store/restaurant coupons and they will only accept two months PAST the expiration date.) Thanks and Blessings to all of you from the Ladies of the QUIET CARE MINISTRY.

Fuquay-Varina UMC

Weekly Times

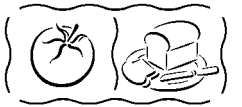
July 26, 2009

Tomato Sandwich Party TODAY!

All are invited to enjoy fresh tomato sandwiches with all the fix-ins', compliments of Covenant Community Garden, immediately after the 10:50 service today. We will gather under tents next to the garden.

If you would like to bring a side dish item, please feel free to leave it in the kitchen labeled for the Tomato Sandwich Party.

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship as we celebrate the third year of our garden!



Ministry Opportunity for Many

With Promotion Sunday (Aug. 23) comes the beginning of a wonderful new year in Children's Ministries and the opportunity for many volunteers. We are in need of Sunday school teachers at both 9:30am and 10:50am on a rotating basis. Teachers alternate with another teacher every other week or by month depending on what fits their schedule. The curriculum is very user friendly and little preparation is required in advance. Our current Sunday school teachers will tell you that they enjoy spreading God's word and love with the children.

Today and August 2, visit the table in the lobby full of information on Children's Ministries and ways you can serve within nursery, Sunday school or Children's Church. If you feel this is an area where you would like to serve, please stop by and ask questions or sign up to volunteer. Contact Stephanie Weeks at sweeks@fvumc.org if you already know you'd like to volunteer.



Food of the Month for July

The F-V Emergency Food Pantry requests that our church collect Peanut Butter and Jelly. Other types of food items are appreciated as well. A collection container is in the church lobby.