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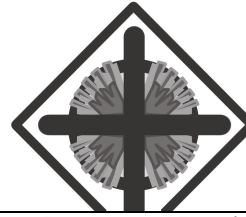
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Connections
to fayetteville first united methodist church

Vol. XII #8
August, 2010

August Arrives Bearing Broom and a New Fall Theme

Mark Westmoreland

I was there for its arrival the other day—minding my own business, waiting to cross the street from the office to the church—when it came through, all pomp and circumstance. It was August in all its glory, leading a parade of vacation returnees, sweeping up the last vestiges of summer, while its loudspeaker blared news of 'back to school sales' and warnings to would-be lolligaggers of the impending return of routine. August always was a little heavy-handed with its work, if you ask me. Still, I'm glad to have it (and you) back in town.

Here at Fayetteville First, August's arrival brings with it a new theme that will guide us through the fall—"Living Faith Fully." Simply put, what does it mean to give our whole being—flesh and blood, mind and soul, heart and hands—to the mercy and grace of Christ? And how does our life in Christ shape our life in the world?

We are physical beings; we are spiritual beings; we are servants and learners, teachers and friends. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and the Body of Christ, and we are more-or-less ordinary folks going about our business, day to day. In other words, we are Christian disciples, with lives to live and bills to pay and a wondrous calling to fulfill. And every time we gather we affirm, in one way or another, the faith that shapes us as followers of Christ, the faith that makes us something more than just ordinary folks.

Over the next four months, we're going to hold up that faith like a diamond and consider its beauty and indescribable worth. Each month we will examine a different facet of our faith, a different dimension of our identity, message and joy:

September: "A Faith of Mind and Soul"

October: "A Faith of Heart and Hands"

November: "A Faith of Hope and Memory"

And it will all begin with our **August** theme, "A Faith of Flesh and Blood." At the heart of our salvation, at the heart of our faith, is an amazing and miraculous message—that God chose to reveal God's love through the flesh and blood of a human being. And even more amazingly, God chooses even now to work through you and me, fallible though we might be, for transformation of the world.

That is good news worth proclaiming and claiming again and again. My sermons this month will be:

Inside This Month's Connections

Happenings	pg. 2
Announcements	pg. 3
Calendar of Events	pg. 5
Kristin's Kids Korner	pg. 6
Staff Contacts	pg. 8

August 1: "A Faith of Flesh and Blood"
August 8: "The Word Made Flesh in the World"
August 15: "As With Christ, So With You"
August 22: "Your Place in the Church"
August 29: "The Church's Place in the World"

I hope to see you—flesh and blood in all your glory—in worship Sunday.

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Blessing Our Schools

In preparing for the coming school year, our church will offer a number of opportunities to reach out into the community and express our appreciation for the teachers and educators in our midst as well as support and encourage the students in our congregation.

During the week of pre-planning, August 2-6, we will gather groups to go into a local school to help teachers with any preparations and setup they may need in getting ready for the first day of school. Teachers will have the opportunity to sign up during the first of the week, and then our groups will arrive at the end of the week to address the needs the teachers have identified. Please contact Kristin Heiden or Laura Cox to sign up to be a part of this ministry.

In addition to our hands-on work, we will offer a Blessing of the Teachers and Blessing of the Backpacks service on Sunday, August 15 at 11 a.m. All students are invited to bring their backpacks to church that morning to receive a special prayer as they enter a new school year. Teachers from our congregation and our community are invited to come as we celebrate them with a time of prayer and a gift to help them with their classroom supply needs. We will gather together after the service in the courtyard for a time of fellowship.

About Our Church Family

In Memoriam

Richard "Bud" Stratton July 20, 2010	Chris Keaton July 21, 2010
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In Sympathy:

- Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Hartley and family upon the death of Hampton's mother, Eleanor Hartley, on June 14.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones upon the death of Jack's brother, Milton Jones, on July 3.
- Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harris and family upon the death of Marilyn's father, Richard "Bud" Stratton, on July 20.
- Mrs. Susie Keaton and family in the death of her husband, Chris, on July 21.

Keep Them In Your Prayers:

Emma Anderson	George Copeland	O.C. Hendrix	Connie Walton
Ed Bishop	Carolyn Croft	Susie Keaton and family	Brad Wilkinson
Charles Berrong	Annis Harrell	Louise Pearce	
Ambrose Burch	Jen and John Price	Dot Smith	

Church Membership: 2027

Our Giving, July:

Budget: \$ 107,312.46
Building Fund: \$ 3,432.50

2010 Budget: \$1,423,874.00

Shortfall: \$ 52,673.55

What's for Supper?

August 18

Baked Chicken
Creamed Potatoes
Green Beans / Rolls
Dessert

August 25

Chicken Tenders
Squash Casserole
Fried Okra / Creamed
Corn
Corn Bread or Biscuit
Dessert

Donations

A donation to the Building Fund has been given in honor of George Copeland by the Fellowship/ Discipleship Class.

Register Now for Preschool and Mother's Morning Out

We provide a Christian environment of learning for ages one through four years old. We have five basic goals. First, to provide time for social interaction with other children. Second, to provide experiences designed to develop both fine and gross motor skills. Third, to provide opportunities to develop basic pre-learning skills of math, reading, writing, science, and social studies in the day's activities. Fourth, to provide opportunities to succeed at tasks suitable for individual developmental levels. Last but not least, we want to provide opportunities for your child to hear about God's love in an environment of Christian love and concern. Contact Drew Greenberg for more information 770-719-9421. You can also print a registration form from our website. www.fayettevillefirst.com

Kindermusik and You

Enjoy Kindermusik with your child or grandchild starting August 23rd. Classes are open in this movement and music program for children ages newborn to 7 years old. Call Joan Aycock at 770-460-0053 for more information or to register.

Wednesday Night Children's Program

Beginning September 1, come join a group just your age every Wednesday night following the fellowship dinner. Choirs, handbells, and chimes will participate in worship through the year.

Choir, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Sonshine Singers – 4 year olds-Kindergarten
Joyful Noise Choir – 3rd-5th grade
Melody Choir – 1st-2nd grade

Kids FLIP, 7 – 7:30 p.m.

4 year olds – 5th grade join together for time of Fellowship, Learning, Imagination, and Play!

Learn and Play, 6:30-7 p.m.

Discovery Club – 4 year olds-1st grade
Children's Chimes – 2nd-3rd grade
Children's Handbells – 4th-5th grade

YOUTH NEWS

"I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbor. Do you KNOW your next door neighbor?" Mother Teresa

We are continuing our church-wide challenge this summer to reach out to our neighbors. It could be your direct neighbors that you don't know very well, or it could be your business neighbors, or even your neighbors that you regularly sit down the pew from. We want you to send in your stories of reaching out to help encourage and inspire others. Here is one story from one of our members...

This "being a good neighbor" challenge is both difficult and rewarding. I remember driving home one day and realizing I don't know these people that I've lived on the same street with for three years, and that just didn't sit well with me. So, I began doing something a little crazy - just walking over and saying 'hi!' That's all it took for whole conversations to take place. In speaking with one neighbor, I learned he was a pastor of a church. I told him I was involved in ministry too and we both shared a guilty look on our faces for not reaching out to each other sooner. Then I thought to myself, "Wow, this is really cathartic! I need to meet more people!" I spent a good deal of time simply walking up and down our street (often with my daughters) being more intentional about meeting people. Before I knew it, I had met about twelve families all living right around me - many of them in very much the same stage of life as my family. What I found along the way is that people want to be known. I used to tell myself "Now, Carson, they don't want to be bothered. They'll think you are crazy." The last part might be true, but I can tell you that reaching out to others around me has gotten nothing but a positive response.

I John 4:7 says "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." And later in verse 18 it says "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear..." I love that! We're not made to live in fear; and that's all that was keeping me from being a good neighbor.

Kristin's Kids Korner

"Are you there God?"

That is such a powerful question for anyone to ask, especially a child. So often we can feel like we are all alone, and we struggle with how to turn to God who we cannot see or touch. So, how do we encourage our children to be in conversation with God in all matters of life?

I recently reread Judy Blume's book, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*. It is a story of a young girl, Margaret, who has recently moved to New Jersey with her family and is beginning the sixth grade. The book documents her first year in the new place and her relationships with parents, grandparents, friends, and boys interspersed with her conversations with God throughout the book. Although she claims to be of no religion, she talks to God, tells God what's going on, and asks God for help and guidance. Beginning each prayer with the title phrase, "Are you there, God? It's me, Margaret," the young girl reaches out with hope that something greater exists, someone who offers wisdom and love when life seems messy and chaotic. Margaret struggles with the changes in her life (moving, new teacher, puberty) and struggles with God, getting mad when God doesn't seem to act the way she expects God to act. It is a beautiful thing to see some of the struggles we have as adults printed before us in the words of a sixth grader.

This is a great book to read with your older elementary children, as it will spark many conversations -- conversations about school, teachers, kissing, puberty, family, and, most definitely, faith.

Wonders of Worship

Wonders of Worship will resume in August in both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services. We are excited about a new curriculum this year that will continue to expose the children to the meanings behind worship symbols and rituals. If you are interested in serving in this ministry one Sunday each month, please contact Kristin Heiden. As the program grows, more volunteers are needed!

Children's Sunday School

Summer Sunday School for children continues through August 8. Children in 1st thru 5th grades will meet in room C-280 (Handprint room) for a special series, J.W. and Company. Children will learn about John Wesley and the beginnings of the United Methodist Church. Children in Preschool and Kindergarten will continue with their regular schedules and Rock Solid curriculum while combining classes and meeting in room C-120.

August 15 will be Promotion Sunday when all children will promote to their new grade. Our regular Sunday School schedule will begin that morning with Preschool meeting in room C-100, Kindergarten in room C-120, 1st grade in C-130, 2nd grade in C-150, and 3rd - 5th grades in the Youth Lounge for Jubilation Station.

VBS Mission Project -- Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the VBS Mission Project supporting the Haiti Advantage Program. Joan Aycock and June Hanks boxed and shipped a bag full of hair bows and headbands, 170 pairs of socks, 31 hand towels, 27 bath towels, 11 washcloths, 4 dozen hospital grade towels, 20 hospital grade washcloths, 11 twin sheet sets, 4 full size sheet sets, 8 pair of children's casts/braces, and 1 pair crutches. This is all in addition to any funds raised. Thanks so much for your support of Advantage Haiti and for continuing to raise awareness and items needed for this program and the people!



Announcements and Special Events

Tour of Faith Brings Cyclists and Opportunity for Hospitality

Bicycles Unlimited and several area businesses and churches including Fayetteville First will once again host the Tour of Faith. This bicycle ride is held each year in Fayette County to benefit a local organization. The 2010 Tour of Faith will benefit Wellspring Living. Wellspring Living is located in Peachtree City, they help women and children who are victims of human trafficking. For more information on Wellspring Living visit www.wellspringliving.org. Fayetteville First will be hosting a rest stop on the ride. Spread a bit of Fayetteville First hospitality. Help provide needed donations for our stop.

Donations needed are: bananas, oranges, finger sandwiches, and salty snacks. We also need smiling faces to serve as greeters and cheerleaders to those participating in the ride. For more information or to volunteer contact Julie J Harp (jharp@fayettevillefirst.com).

Be There as the Braves Take On the Marlins

You are invited for an afternoon at the ballpark as the Atlanta Braves take on the Florida Marlins on Sunday, August 29. Tickets cost \$22, with an extra \$2 per person to ride the church bus. We will depart following the 11 a.m. service for the 1:30 p.m. game. To sign up, contact Kristin Heiden (kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com). Reservations must be made by Monday, August 16. Play ball!

Kick-Off of New Men's Ministry Set for September 1

The United Methodist Men's group at Fayetteville First will be reactivated in the near future. Plans are being made now for a great start-up meeting on September 1st. Watch for upcoming announcements regarding the plans for our first meeting including the place and time. We want to bring our men together in fellowship to provide inspiration, information, and direction for Christian service. We look forward to all of our men participating.

The United Methodist Men's group will be a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek daily his will. Our primary purpose is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men, to promote the spiritual growth of men through effective discipleship, and to model the servant leadership of Christ in our daily lives.

For more information, contact Danny Beck (770-461-4665), Jay Burton (770-486-9467), or George Hardison (770-460-8468).

Fellowship Dinners Resume August 18

We are now taking names for the permanent dinner list. The cost will be \$6 per adult, \$3 per child 10 and under with a family max of \$20. If you would like to be on the permanent reservation list, please fill out the registration card in the pew and drop it in the Sunday offering plate, or call the church office, or sign up online at www.fayettevillefirst.com. Reservations and cancellations are due in the church office Mondays by noon.

Taking Care of "Flesh and Blood"

To correspond with our August theme, "A Faith of Flesh and Blood," we will offer a number of seminars following dinner on August 18 and 25. Each seminar will guide us in taking better care of ourselves and others. Ranging from nutrition advice to exercise to athletics, there will be something for all ages. Sign up sheets will be available at the beginning of the month.

Titus II Returns in September

We do not have Titus II in August. The older adults meet the first Tuesday of each month for a hot lunch and entertaining program. Our next meeting will be September 7. Menu and program will be posted on the website and in September's Connections.

Opportunities for Fellowship and Growth

Disciple Classes Begin This Fall

"If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples." ~John 8:31

DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. It focuses on the disciple as learner, believer, follower, proclaimer, and servant while providing the fellowship of a small group for study, prayer, preparation, support, and servanthood. DISCIPLE assumes that the Bible is key to renewal in the church and affirms that the canon was formed as it is in order for God to speak to us. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God and draws upon the work of scholars to aid understanding of the Bible.

This Fall, we will offer two opportunities to participate in a DISCIPLE study. Contact Kristin Heiden to register for either class:

Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

A 34 week study utilizing one theme each week to organize study and reflection featuring 17 weeks of Old Testament and 17 weeks of New Testament. No prerequisite required. This class will meet on Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning September 12. Martina Bober will facilitate. Cost is \$40.

Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life

A 32 week study which concentrates on the Writings of the Old Testament and the Gospel of John; 1, 2, 3 John; James; Jude and Revelation in the New Testament. Completion of Disciple I is required to take this class. This class will meet on Wednesdays, 6:15-8:15 p.m. beginning September 1. Barry Blair and Len Gough will facilitate. Cost is \$40.

Bring Financial Peace to Your Life in 2010

Beginning this fall, our church will offer multiple courses in Financial Peace University (13 week course) in the Fall of 2010. The course benefits couples/individuals of all ages -- those with or without debt!

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a life-changing program that teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. More than 1 million families have attended FPU with amazing results. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever!

Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Begins August 15 with Karin Shah	Wednesdays, 6:15-8:15 p.m. Begins August 25 with Mickey Seigle	Thursdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Begins August 26 with Pete and Charlcie Neal	Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Begins August 19 with Jack Wheeler
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Registration forms are now available around the church and can be returned to Kristin Heiden. The cost for the course, including all materials, is \$100 (a discounted rate). Once signed up, couples/individuals can retake the course without additional costs. For more information regarding the course, visit daveramsey.com/fpu/

'Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk' or Just Walk and Talk

The walking and talking group meets in the Family Life Center Gym on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of each week at 1 p.m. to walk and talk for an hour. We are inside and out of the heat. If you wake up and don't feel like walking, then you can just come and talk. You can come as often or as little as you like. Most choose to donate \$1 each time they walk, but this is not a requirement to participate.

In the 3 years that this group has been walking, they have donated a total of \$3024.00. These funds have benefited the building fund, the worship sound system, the regular church budget, and Heifer International Ark program. Currently funds will be donated to the FFUMC Preschool Scholarship Fund. Please come and join us, we are always excited to see new faces and not so new faces!

August @ Fayetteville First UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 UMW Exec. Board Mtg. 12:15-1:15 AA:8	2 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:8 Alanon: 8	3 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Spt. Ft. Ministers: 6:30	4 Women's Study Circle: 10 Body Recall: 10:30 Xpog: 6:30 Chancel Choir: 7:30 AA:8	5 Incessary Prayer: 12 Walking Group: 1 Walking Group: 1 AA:8	6 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:7	7 AA:8
8 (See left for normal schedule) AA:3	9 Friendship Circle: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:8 Alanon: 8	10 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Emmus Board Mtg. 6:30 Fring Circle: 7	11 Body Recall: 10:30 Xpog: 6:30 Chancel Choir: 7:30 AA:8	12 Incessary Prayer: 12 Walking Group: 1 Pre-School Open House: 4 Spt. Ft. Ministers: 6:30 AA:8	13 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:7	14 AA:8
15 (See left for normal schedule) AA:2 Financial Peace: 4	16 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:8 Alanon: 8	17 Shaw Ministry: 9:30 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Spt. Ft. Ministers: 6:30	18 Body Recall: 10:30 Wednesday Night Singers: 7:30 Xpog: 6:30 Chancel Choir: 7:30 AA:8	19 Incessary Prayer: 12 Walking Group: 1 Financial Peace: 4 AA:8	20 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:7	21 AA:8
22 (See left for normal schedule) AA:3 Financial Peace: 4	23 Kindermusik: 9:30-10:30, 1:15 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:8 Alanon: 8	24 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30	25 Kindermusik: 9:30-10:30, 1:15 Body Recall: 10:30 Wednesday Night Singers: 7:30 Financial Peace: 4:15 Spt. Ft. Ministers: 6:30 Chancel Choir: 7:30 AA:8	26 Fifth Circle: 10 Incessary Prayer: 12 Walking Group: 1 Financial Peace: 11:6:30 AA:8	27 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:7	28 AA:8
29 (See left for normal schedule) AA:3 Braze Games: 1:30 AA:3 Financial Peace: 4	30 Kindermusik: 9:30-10:30, 1:15 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA:8 Alanon: 8	31 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30				

Normal Sunday Schedule

- Choir Practice: 7:50
- Worship in Sanctuary: 8:30
- Sunday School: 9:40
- Worship in Chapel: 9:45
- Orchestra Practice: 10
- Choir Practice: 10:15
- Worship in Sanctuary: 11
- Open Court Basketball: 2

Normal Wednesday Schedule

Complete until fall