

First United Methodist Church

Office Hours

Mon.—Thurs.
8:00am—3:30pm
Friday—8:00am—12:00pm
Lunch 1:00—1:30pm

117 Third Street
Cheraw, South Carolina 29520
Phone: 843-537-7002
Fax: 843-537-7220

February 15, 2012

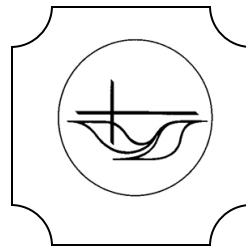
Volume 7, Issue 4

Address Service

Requested

Rev. Dr. Paul A. Wood, Jr., Pastor (woodtz1955@gmail.com)
Jonathan E. Kroepel, Director of Music (jkroepel@bellsouth.net)
Brandon Buchanan, Director of Youth and Children
(Brandon@fumccheraw.net)
Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant (angie@fumccheraw.net)

Brian Enoch, Custodian



NON-PROFIT
PRSRT STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHERAW, SC

OUR MISSION

The mission of the First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.

FUMC STAFF

THE CONNECTION

First United Methodist Church, Cheraw, SC

February 15, 2012

Back Home

In late January, Kay and I went for a fun swim in the Dead Sea. “Swim” is not really the right word. We floated around, never daring to put our heads underwater. A sign posted on the beach warned in three languages that if you put your head under the surface or so much as swallowed one drop you should seek immediate medical attention. The Dead Sea, located at the lowest spot on the planet, truly is dead. It is super saturated with salts, other minerals, oils and “who-knows-what-else.”

Along with our bishop, Mary Virginia Taylor, her husband, Rev. Rusty Taylor, and 37 others, we toured Israel and the Palestinian Territory. Despite lots of rain and a nasty fall

which I took on a Jerusalem sidewalk, it was a delightful tour. We learned a lot, had powerful experiences in locations important to biblical stories and were blessed with a splendid guide and a warm bunch of South Carolina United Methodists.

Kay and I appreciated your prayers and good wishes for the trip. We are anxious to share some of what we learned and experienced with the congregation and others in the Cheraw area. As soon as we put together a schedule, we will announce it through the bulletin and “The Connection.”

Paul Wood

Changes in “The Connection”

Angie Smith is making changes in the appearance of “The Connection.” She

would be happy to hear your comments.

Remember our Shut-Ins and Sick

HOME

Robin Motley, Angela Motley, Sabrina Tucker, Gene Huckabee, Michael Motley, Frances Laney

CONVALESCENT CENTER

Laura Stubbs

NURSING HOME

Sara Cook, Elaine Motley

RETIREMENT HOMES

Polly Edwards, Patsy Rushing, Margie Wannamaker



Our Visitors

January 29 — Emily Beck, Carol Crouse, Tom Davidson, Jeff Faulkner, Maria Faulkner, Paul Ludlow, David Rohde, Jacob Rohde, Michelle Rohde, Avery Sherman.

February 5 — Tim Adair, Ok Yo Chang, Marie Davidson, Tom Davidson, Nathan Rogers, Jacob Rohde, Michelle Rohde, Rebekah Williams

- www.cherawfirstumc.org -

The church's web site is a rich source of information including recent articles about the church and its ministries. You can also find Pastor Paul's sermons at the site.

Wednesday At the First

*The meal begins at 5:30, is cooked by Carolyn Gary, and costs only \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 years old (Maximum \$21.00 for a family). Watch the Sunday bulletin each week for the menu. Sign up on the worship attendance sheet, or ask that your name be added to the list of "regulars."

**The youth meet in the youth hut 6:00pm. (doors open at 5:00pm).

**Children's Bible Study — 6:15pm.

**Handbells — 6:30pm (3rd—5th Grade).

**Arts and Crafts with Janice Moore at 6:30pm. (K — 2nd grade) and 7:00pm (3rd — 5th grade)

**Children's Choir — 7:00pm.

**An adult study begins at 6:30 — 7:25pm. We are studying Paul's Letter to the Romans. Newcomers are always welcome. The study is held in the fellowship hall and taught by Paul Wood.

Clothes Dryer Needed

First UMC is still trying to assist an area resident who needs a clothes dryer. Members of First UMC and a local agency recently provided her

with a refrigerator and a stove. If you can be of assistance with a dryer, please contact Rev. Paul Wood at the church office.

Newsletter Deadlines

March 1 Newsletter

Deadline February 21

March 15 Newsletter

Deadline March 7

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Friends, since late fall we have received only a few contributions to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. For New Year's, Angie Smith and I have been turning away everyone who approached the church with needs for assistance (power bills, mainly). But a young woman came to us in early February. She and her eleven year-old son were homeless, but she had put together enough money to rent a trailer. She still needed money to start water service and power. First UMC helped her with water

service, but the last I heard she still needed money for Progress Energy. It is this kind of assistance which I know you want your church to be able to render. I keep some money in the fund for church members, and fortunately this need has not presented itself recently. But we cannot help persons and families outside of the congregation at this time. Please consider making a contribution to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Thank you.
...Paul Wood

Wednesday At The First Menus

February 15

Curry chicken, cabbage, rice, cornbread, dessert and tea.

February 22

Fried chicken, sweet peas, rice and gravy,

biscuits, dessert and tea.

February 29

Lasagna, salad, bread, dessert and tea.

March 7 Chicken and dumplings,

green beans, cornbread, dessert and tea.

March 14 Pork loin, mashed potatoes, string beans, rolls, dessert and tea.

Perfect Attendance for the Year

Sunday School
Susan Eschenfelder

Worship
Jeff Allen

Nursery Help

The Nursery Committee is led by Dee Dee Pickrel. The committee is responsible for maintaining the nursery and its toys, cribs, etc. Also, the committee coordinates the schedule of volunteers who work alongside Rebekah Buchanan on Sunday mornings. More adults are

needed to be part of the rotation. We do not have enough parents to handle this responsibility. So members of all ages are asked to contact Dee Dee and become volunteers. Please call her at 378-3715 work or 337-9458 cell.



Worship

The sermon on February 19 will be on another of the Seven Deadly Sins, Wrath. That will also be the

main subject at the Genesis service. The sermon series continues on February 26 as Pastor Paul looks at

everyone's favorite Deadly Sin, Gluttony.

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Marie Fellenz Buckley

M&M Ellison Outen and Family

In Memory of Jim Clark

M&M Billy Wicker

In Memory of Donald Smith

M&M Billy Wicker

In Memory of Brenda Furr

M&M Billy Wicker

In Honor of Bob Lockey

M&M Jeff Johnson

In Honor of John Moore

M&M Jeff Johnson



Special Events

Sunday, February 19 Genesis Service in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30am.

Saturday, February 25 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00am.

Sunday School Perfect Attendance for January

Scott Eddins, Benson Stubbs, Brandon Buchanan, Jensen Tomberlin, Brant Thompson, Becky Thompson, Judy Dixon, Susan Eshenfelder, Martha Bentley, Jane Campbell, Carole Hennessee, JoAnne Morgan, Flo Outen, Sarah M. Therrell, Jackie McGee, Pat Barham, Keith Smith, Jeff Allen, Jerry Carter, Doug Wilson, Jerry	Turner, Keith Stubbs, Harold Lomas, Mary Lou Long, Leighton Becker, Allison Becker, Shannon Johnson, Sara Sanderson, Cindy Sanderson, Jimmy Duffy, Cheryl Postle- wait, Edith Quick, Brenda Rayfield, Lanny Rayfield, Drucilla Walker, Ed Davidson, Austin Sanderson, Sawyer Becker, Dawn Leach.
---	--

Worship Perfect Attendance for January

Jeff Allen, Sarah Allen, Chuck Barber, Beth Barber, Allison Becker, Leighton Becker, Todd Becker, Sawyer Becker, Martha Bentley, Jane Camp- bell, Gerald Carter, Bonnie Cundiff, Ronnie Cundiff, Ed Davidson, Judy Dixon, Jimmy Duffy, Gini Eddins, Greer Ed- dins, Scott Eddins, Susan Es- chenfelder, Anthony Harris, Lawton Harris, Margaret Jean Harris, Carole Hennessee, Kathryn Johnson, Shannon Johnson, Ruth Ann Jones,	Dawn Leach, Hannah Leach, Jay Leach, Harold Lomas, Mary Lou Long, Jackie McGee, Thomas McKinnon, Sharon McKinnon, Ruth Middleton, JoAnne Morgan, Flo Outen, Pete Owens, Cheryl Postlewait, Edith Quick, Cindy Sanderson, Linda Smith, Bobby Spears, Ethel Ann Streater, Sarah M. Therrell, Becky Thompson, Brant Thompson, Jerry Turner, Drucilla Walker, Margaret Wolfe.
--	--



From the Director of Youth and Children

Greetings in the light and peace of Christ,

During the winter months our students have been actively learning about our Christian roots. Our Wednesday nights have focused on a book study on Lauren Winner's "Mudhouse Sabbath." This book looks at the disciplines of Judaism and asks the question "How can these disciplines help me grow closer in my walk with Christ?" At UMYF for the last three months we have taken an in depth look at 1 John and the ways that love binds

us together as believers. Our student ministries are at an exciting period of growing in both community and Christian discipleship. The winter retreat this year was a clear reflection of that. Though it might have rained most of the time we were in West Virginia, it was a time you could see our students connecting and growing with each other. I am so thankful for all of our parents and volunteers who are making this growth possible.

Grace and Peace,
Brandon Buchanan

Life Saving Time Again

Time to roll up your sleeve and give the gift of life again. FUMC will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, March 19 from 2:00pm—7:00pm in the fellowship hall.

The American Red Cross is like all other organizations at this time however — they cannot send out a group of nurses for just a few units of blood. We have to have a least 21 committed to donating

or they will have to cancel this drive. Please make an appointment by either calling the church office, signing up on the sheet on the office door, or going online to www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code fumccheraw.

Let us not let down those who need blood. We ourselves never know when we may be on the receiving end and not the giving end.



Sympathy

Our Sympathy goes out to Jon Kroepel in the death of his grandfather, Mr. Jim Clark, of Peoria Heights, Illinois. Mr. Clark died January 26.

Let's Get Real Marriage Conference

Cheraw First Baptist Church cordially invites you to join them for the *Let's Get Real Marriage Conference* on Friday, February 24, and Saturday, February 25. This life-changing conference will be led by nationally known marriage experts Dale and Jena Forehand of *Stained Glass Ministries*. The two days will be packed with special times of worship, a healthy dose of laughter, and awesome chal-

lenges from the excellent Biblical teaching. The conference begins at 6:00pm Friday evening with a catered dinner and concludes at 12:30pm on Saturday. Childcare is provided for children ages 10 and under. The cost of the conference is \$20 per person. To register or for more information, please contact the Cheraw First Baptist Church office at 843-537-3863.

Lenten Lunches

The Cheraw Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring Lenten Lunches at the First Baptist Church of Cheraw each Wednesday from February 22 until March 28. Each event begins at noon with a soup and sandwich lunch. A

Cheraw area pastor will bring a devotion, and the event will conclude by 1:00 p.m. Bringing the message February 22 will be Rev. Billy Lynch, pastor of Mt. Olivet and Pleasant Grove United Methodist Churches.

Genesis—Contemporary Worship

February 19 at 8:30am

In the fellowship hall

Thank You Notes

Thank you for the cards, visits, phone calls, prayers and food during my recent illness.

Lucille Gray

Thank you for the love and concern shown to Donald during his hospitalization and death.

Betty Hurst

*For the family of
Donald Smith*



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 22, begins the Season of Lent. For many years, observance of Ash Wednesday and the forty-day church season of Lent have helped Christians to prepare for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. First United Methodist Church will hold an Ash Wednesday Service on the 22nd at 6:30. This is a somber, forthright worship service. After

prayers of confession, scripture reading and the sermon, everyone will be invited to receive the Imposition of Ashes. A small smudge of ashes on the forehead represents both our mortality and our need for forgiveness of our sins. This service will be held following the Wednesday At The First meal in the sanctuary and take the place of our normal WATF programs.

Coming Up

Friends,
Kay and I are happy to have returned from our tour of the Holy Land. It was a wonderful venture. We want to share stories, impressions, information and pictures with each of you.

We are now planning to make two presentations at Wednesday At The First. These will be held March 7 and 14.

Paul Wood

February 2012

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Wednesday At The First Activities, 5:30pm

Bulletin Deadline

Thursday, February 16, 2012

J.O.Y. Club Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, 12:00pm

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Genesis Service, Fellowship Hall, 8:30am

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship Service, 11:00am

Confirmation Class, Kinsey Mulloy Classroom, 3:00pm

UMYF, Youth Hut, 5:00pm

Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting, Kinsey Mulloy Classroom, 5:30pm

Praise Singers Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:00pm

Monday, February 20, 2012

Caring Callers, 11:00am

Boy Scout Meeting, Scout Hut, 6:00pm

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Adult Bible Study, Kinsey Mulloy Classroom, 10:00am

Praise Band Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall, 7:00pm

March 1 Newsletter Deadline

Keep this page for reference
throughout the month.

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

Wednesday At The First Activities, 5:30pm

Bulletin Deadline

Saturday, February 25, 2012

Cub Scout's Pinewood Derby, Fellowship Hall, 11:00am

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship Service, 11:00am

Confirmation Class, Kinsey Mulloy Classroom, 3:00pm

UMYF, Youth Hut, 5:00pm

Praise Singers Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:00pm

Monday, February 27, 2012

Caring Callers, 11:00am

Boy Scout Meeting, Scout Hut, 6:00pm

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Adult Bible Study, Kinsey Mulloy Classroom, 10:00am

Praise Band Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall, 7:00pm

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Wednesday At The First Activities, 5:30pm

Bulletin Deadline

Bishop's Five Star Award of Excellence: A Worthy Goal

Each year the South Carolina Conference Board of Evangelism seeks applications for the Bishop's Five-Star Award of Excellence. At every Annual Conference, ten to twenty churches receive the award. There are five criteria:

1. Increase in Sunday School attendance and/or enhancement of Christian Education ministry.
2. A "new work" that impacts growth.

3. Members received by profession of faith or rededication – 1% increase.
4. Emphasis on youth ministries.
5. All apportionments paid in full for 2011.

First UMC nearly met the criteria for 2011. Can you guess the category on which we fell short? (See the answer below.) However, the Evangelism Ministry Team, led by Penny Quick, has set a goal for the congregation for 2012. We will meet all criteria and receive the award in 2013.

I am proud of the Evangelism Ministry Team for their many accomplishments over the past two years. And I am encouraged by the goal which the team has set for us. Please study the list and determine how you can assist in the achievement of this worthy goal.

Paul Wood

* We missed the mark in the third category – professions of faith.