



THE CONNECTION

Someone said that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. I really enjoyed my first step this past Sunday and I am looking forward to this journey that we will share together for the next four months. You have made my beginning warm and welcoming.

Let me tell you a little bit about me and my family. My wife Ruth Ann and I have been married just about fifty years. In fact, we will celebrate our fiftieth on June 11, while we're with you. Ruth Ann and I are both originally from the Midwest. I was born in Chicago and was part of a family of five boys. Ruth Ann was born in Goshen, Indiana, and has one sister. Her father was a United Methodist pastor who served for sixty years! We met in college in Illinois. Ruth Ann is a gifted writer whose articles you'll be able to read in this issue and in the months to come. Ruth Ann's sister lives in Clemson. My brothers are in Illinois, Colorado, and Wisconsin. We don't get together nearly often enough!

Ruth Ann and I have two children who are ten years and one day apart. Kristin is a tax attorney practicing in Greensboro, North Carolina. She and her husband Bill and their children Andrew (11) and Tessa (9) just moved to Greensboro from New York City. The kids are

experiencing a new life in a neighborhood with lots of yards that are accessible without pressing a button in the elevator to come down from your 18th story apartment!

Our son Ted and his family live in Sumter. Ted is with the Third Army group at Shaw. His wife Amy is the secretary at Bethel/Oswego United Methodist Church. Amy also has a non-profit spay and neuter assistance and animal rescue organization called Pawsitive Directions. Their son Christian (19) is a student at Central Carolina Tech and their son David (15) is a freshman at Lakewood High.

Since coming to South Carolina thirty years ago Ruth Ann and I have served in Greenwood, Johnston, Mullins, Clinton, and Anderson. Now we can add Cheraw!

A verse of Scripture that I have claimed throughout my life is Isaiah 40:31 "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." I look forward to waiting on the Lord and flying with you!

Paul Frey

Our Staff

Rev. Paul Frey, Interim Pastor
(pdfrey44@gmail.com)

Angie Smith, Administrative Assistant
(fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)

Sara Sanderson, Director of Children and Youth
(saralsanderson@hotmail.com)

Mimi Coffey, Director of Pre-School and Nursery
(fmpsn2212@yahoo.com)

Dr. Shane Robertson, Director of Music
(srobertson@chesterfieldschools.org)

COMING UP

*United Methodist Women Quarterly Meeting, Sunday, March 6, 3:00pm, Parlor

*Blood Drive, Monday, March 7, 2-7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

*United Methodist Men Breakfast, Sunday, March 13, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall.

*J.O.Y Club, Thursday, March 17, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

*Newsletter Deadline, Friday, March 18

*Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, March 24, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

*Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 26, 10:00am, Fellowship Hall/Church grounds

*Sunrise Service, Sunday, March 27, 6:30am

LIFE IS A JOURNEY

Before Paul retired in 2014, he served Trinity UMC in Anderson, S.C. For many years, the members of Trinity had presented what they called The Journey to the Resurrection for people in Anderson and the surrounding area.

As the days drew closer to our move to our retirement home in Dalzell, I found myself experiencing one of many "lasts." The Journey to the Resurrection was one of those. I was assisting Brenda and Judy (two precious friends and givers of God's love) in the Sanctuary, which was the last stop of the tour. The last stop provided a time when the tour groups could reflect on what they had experienced and even more importantly, to take the step to open themselves to Christ. In the Sanctuary, we witnessed many people who gave their lives to Jesus Christ for the first time and an even greater number who came back to the fold.

Matthew 25:40 says, *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"* Most of the time, I think we relate this verse from Matthew as what we can do for someone else in a physical way, such as food, clothing, etc. We may even think of it in how we relate to them --do we speak, do we acknowledge that we have even noticed them? But the most important thing we can do for them after feeding, clothing, and housing them, is to make sure they know about Christ. This was what our congregation prayed and worked for during the week of The Journey to the Resurrection.

One of the things I noticed immediately that year was how many children went through the Journey. Children are like sponges and they soak up what they see. I saw this first-hand in the very first tour group. Brenda was explaining this precious gift God gave us (His son), and picked up a beautifully wrapped present. She selected a child in the group and told the child to pretend it was her birthday and they were having a birthday party. Immediately, she had that child's attention. Then she pretended to knock on her door and wished her "Happy Birthday!" as she held out the gift. Brenda

then asked the question, "What did you do to get this gift?" The little girl, gifted with stage presence, leaned forward with a huge smile on her face and eyes wide-open as saucers, shouted, "Oh, I am so glad you came to my party! Thank you so much!" and then she took the gift. The next thing that Brenda explained was that children understand that the way to get the gift is to reach out and take it. Judy spoke to the last group that night and the child she picked out was named Miracle. We started out with this little wide-eyed girl eager to take the gift and ended the evening with a child named Miracle. God couldn't have done it any better if He had written the script--oh, wait, maybe He did!

As adults we try to make God's message fit our lives, instead of fitting our lives to fit God's message. Another scripture tells us: *He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 18:2-3. Recalling this scripture reminded me of our daughter Kristin when she was about four. I had a doctor's appointment on a day close to Easter, and late that afternoon Paul, Kristin, and I sat in the waiting room. There was only one other person, a man, at the other end of the room. I knew that Kristin would eventually get to that end to satisfy her curiosity about the man. They began speaking. All of a sudden, the man raised his voice, took Kristin's hand and pointed to her palm and said "There were nails driven into Jesus' hand and he died on a cross because of your sins!" Paul and I both tensed up and were on our way out of our chairs when we saw Kristin pat the man's hand and say: "It is okay, Jesus rose from the dead three days later!"

Little children get what Jesus did for us, they really get it. Do we?

God Is Good, All The Time! All The Time, God is Good!

Ruth Ann Frey

From the Director of Youth and Children

As most of you know by now, Easter is my favorite holiday, and it always has been. I was thinking the other day about what used to be my favorite “things” about Easter when I was young, and how my favorite “things” of Easter differ as an adult. I do not really think the difference has anything to do with growing older in age, but it does have a lot to do with growing more mature in faith. I still get excited about Easter Egg hunts, candy on Easter morning, freshly blooming flowers, and sometimes a new dress to wear on Easter morning.

But as a more mature Christian I know that these are very minor things compared to what Easter is really about. Just like Christmas happens each time Jesus is born in someone’s heart, Easter is celebrated afterward, because Jesus is alive, He is no longer dead in the heart...He is alive! So anytime a person believes, and begins to live for Jesus, I get excited, because I know...Jesus is alive!!!

Sara

MKF (Methodist Kids Fellowship)

For the Lenten Season, each child was given a devotion book on Ash Wednesday, and we have been discussing Lent each week, as well.

March 23rd will be a special day for us, because we will recreate the Lord’s Supper. This **year we will make it a little different.** We are going to have this special supper in an ‘upper room’. If anyone in our congregation would like to join in, please let me know so I can make preparations for you.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 26 at 10:00. Please make plans to attend, and feel free to bring a friend!

Also the Kids are getting ready for a special Easter Sunday! ...

Well...That is all I can say; the rest is a surprise. Hope all can attend our worship service on Easter Sunday!

MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)

Winter Jam 2016 will be in Charlotte N.C. on March 26th. If you would like to go, ticket price is \$32.99, and the full amount needs to be paid by March 18th. This price is for Jam Nation Group Pass into the concert. We need 10 people to sign up to get this group ticket price. Again, let me know by March 18th.

The youth recently enjoyed a bowling outing. We had about 15 to attend, and what a great time we had!

The youth did a super job at the Valentine Banquet. Everyone was very impressed with each of them. Thank you guys for your hard work!

As most of you know, we made prayer beads and passed them out on Ash Wednesday. They turned out beautiful. I hope all of you are enjoying your prayer beads during this Lenten season!

Scouting at First Church

BOY SCOUT TROOP 655

Meets weekly on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30pm at the Dan Stowe Scout Hut.

CUB SCOUT TROOP 653

They have a number of Dens and Tiger Cubs. They meet on various

days of the week, at various times, and at various locations.

Yours in SCOUTING,

John Moore

Charter Representative,
Phone number 843-537-2553



Become a Boy Scout

UMM/Boy Scouts Bar-B-Que

The UMM/Boy Scouts Bar-B-Que will be on Saturday, April 2 from 11:00am—2:00pm in the fellowship hall. Please mark your calendar for this event and see an member of the UMM or Boy Scouts to purchase your ticket. Tickets are \$8.00 each.

From the FUMC Pre-School and Nursery

It's looking a little Irish in the preschool & nursery! That tells us spring is quickly approaching! We are starting to prepare for Preschool graduation and spring pictures. Elaine Barnette will be here the week of April 18 taking individual and graduation pictures for the school. If anyone in the church would like to schedule an appointment to have pictures taken, please call Holly or me during the month of March. Elaine does a wonderful job, and her appointment times fill up fast! If enough people are interested, she

might schedule an extra day or two with us.

The school continues to operate at full capacity with 81 children enrolled. The waiting list has approximately 75 names. We get calls almost weekly from parents needing child care.

We plan to have a summer care program again this summer. We can take 20-24 children. At this time, we plan to take children ages 5-8. It will start the first Monday in June and continue through the Friday before school starts in

August. If you need summer care for your children or know anyone who does, please give us a call.

It is a pleasure and a blessing to be able to serve the children and families in our school. I am truly grateful to be a part of such a wonderful ministry.

In Him,
Mimi

What Accounts can my Memorials be Put in?

If you give memorials to FUMC you can designate that they go to a number of different areas of the church. Listed below are areas that your memorials can be designated for:

Endowment Fund
Memorial Fund
Music Fund
Red Bird

Salkehatchie Summer Service
Bus Fund
Youth Ministries
Children Ministries
Contemporary Service Fund
Building Upkeep Fund
Parsonage Upkeep Fund
Wednesday at the First (WATF)
Relay for Life
Grounds Upkeep Fund

Memorials can be designated to go to a number of different areas.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Scholarships (Streete, Norton, Harris, Burr, Hook, Eutsler, Brasington, and Laney)

Good Neighbor

The Men's Class at FUMC is offering a helping hand. Do you need any help to change a light bulb, clean the gutters, rake the yard, wash the car, or go to the store? Whatever your need, give us a chance to be a good neighbor to you. We're not professionals and will not bill you for services, but

we are handy at doing many things. Our intent is not to take any work away from our local businesses and service professionals, but to simply offer a helping hand. This service is available to all FUMC members, and anyone you know who is in need of help.

You may contact Roger Wolfe at 843-537-7496.

..help change a light bulb, clean the gutters, rake the yard,.....

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Contributions are needed for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please share your surplus with those who have precious little on which to live. (Write a check to FUMC and designate it or part of it for "Pastor's Discretionary Fund.")



Giving to those less fortunate

Serving in March

Altar Guild

Bonnie Cundiff and Ruth Ann Jones

Hostess

Lib Norton

Head Usher

Rhett Butler

Acolyte and Cross Bearer

Austin Sanderson (A) Jayson Lewis (CB)

Greeters

March 6 M&M Jerry Therrell

March 13 M&M Anthony Harris

March 20 M&M Harold Lomas

March 27 Linda Smith

Lobby Door Greeters

March 6 Robert Calhoun, Theodore Burns

March 13 Manfred Kollitz, Joey Mills

March 20 Jim Crawford, Rhett Butler

March 27 Herbert Watts

Nursery

March 6 Caroline Berry, Sarah Allen

March 13 Caroline Berry, Erika Kollitz

March 20 Caroline Berry, Amanda Carabo

March 27 Caroline Berry, Michelle Rohde

Children's Church

None during March

Lay Readers

March 6 Rhett Butler

March 13 Bonnie Cundiff

March 20 Micki Lockey

March 27 Ray Crouse

Flower Calendar

March 6 Communion

March 13 Gini Eddins

March 20 Palms

March 27 Easter lilies

Counters

March 6 Jane Mayhew, John Moore

Alternate: Mary Burr

March 13 Jim Crawford, Sammy Quick, Roger Wolfe

Alternates: John Straughn, Zenda Rushing

March 20 Jeff Johnson, Betty Hurst, Jerry Therrell

Alternates: David McLean, Walter Crosby

March 27 Robert Calhoun, Herbert Watts, Brenda Rayfield

Alternate: Doug Marsh

McArn Items

March 6 Baby items

March 13 Laundry & kitchen detergents

March 20 Canned goods

March 27 Drink mixes (Kool-Aid, etc.)

April Newsletter Deadline

Friday, March 18, 2016

Memorials/Honorariums

IN MEMORY OF WATT BAKER

Mary Burr, Jim Bennett

IN MEMORY OF CARL B. WATSON

Martha Morgan

IN MEMORY OF MIKE BECKER

M&M Roger Fisher, FUMC New Horizons Sunday
School Class

IN MEMORY OF REV. STUART NICKLES

Mary Burr, M&M Keith Smith

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW PEARCE

M&M Keith Smith

IN MEMORY OF R.E. MAYHEW

Jane Mayhew

Perfect Attendance for February

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jean Assef, Jim Bennett, Jerry Carter, Norma Cobb, Bonnie Cundiff, Jimmy Duffy, Scott Eddins, Mabel Foster, Carole Hennessee, Curtis Jones, Julia Jones, Harold Lomas, Pal Moore, Lib Norton, Ellison Outen, Pete Owens, Vincent Prevatte, David Rohde, Jacob Rohde, Michelle Rohde, Thomas Samuel, Linda Smith, Shep Straughn, Shari Stubbs, Jerry Therrell, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Jerry Turner.

WORSHIP

Jean Assef, Manuel Assef, Allison Becker, Ashton Becker, Leighton Becker, Sawyer Becker, Todd Becker, Jim Bennett, Jerry Carter, Mary Crouse, Bonnie Cundiff, Ronnie Cundiff, Jimmy Duffy, Gini Eddins, Scott Eddins, Carole Hennessee, Harold Lomas, Sharon McKinnon, Pal Moore, Lib Norton, Ellison Outen, Flo Outen, Pete Owens, David Rohde, Michelle Rohde, Syble Sanderson, Linda Smith, Bobby Spears, Shari Stubbs, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Jerry Turner.





Our Visitors

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

117 Third Street
Cheraw, SC 29520

Phone: 843-537-7002

Fax: 843-537-7220

E-mail: fumcangiesmith@gmail.com

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.

We're on the Web!
www.cherawfirstumc.org

January 17

Ok Yo Chang, Kevin Chapman, Linda Coffy, Lyle Coffy, Drew Copeland, Klint McManus, Christy Nelson, Olivia Samuel, Thomas Samuel, Cindy Veach.

January 24

Ok Yo Chang, Angela Holliday, Klint McManus.

January 31

Ok Yo Chang, Linda Coffy, Lyle Coffy, Angela Holliday, Danielle Robertson, Wayne Robertson, Olivia Samuel, Thomas Samuel.

February 7

Lyle Coffy, Angela Holliday, Hunter Lee, Olivia Samuel, Thomas Samuel, Dan Schier, Joe Schier, Mary Suza.

February 14

Gamble Anderson, Ok Yo Chang, Beth Crowley, Carolyn Goodard, Craig Goodard, Eva Goodard, Fred Goodard, Gina Goodard, Jackson Goodard, Jacob Goodard, Linda Hall, Richard Holter, Chappell Hurst, IV, Kathy Johnson, Michael Johnson, Ashlyn Nelson, Carla Reid, Jed Reid, Olivia Samuel, Thomas Samuel, Becky Sides, Kenny Smith, Alex Tapp, Austin Tapp, Bethany Tapp, Larry Tapp, Michael Townsend, Daphane Wallace, Madeline Wallace.

February 21

Ok Yo Chang, Linda Coffy, Lyle Coffy, Susan Davidson, Angela Holliday, Hunter Lee, Thomas Samuel

Birthdays and Anniversaries in March

BIRTHDAYS

March 2 Jake Crouse, Christopher Frazier
March 3 Noah Williams
March 4 Trina Mills
March 5 George Adams
March 10 Beulah Threatte
March 14 Lois Baker, Ashton Becker
March 20 Mabel Foster, R. Walker Laney
March 21 Paul Miles
March 22 Margaret Stanton
March 23 Leighton Becker
March 24 Laura Adams McGriff
March 26 Jackson Rushing, Gabriel Watson
March 27 Kathryn Johnson
March 28 John Straughn

March 29 Rob Calhoun

March 30 Sandra Barbour

ANNIVERSARIES

March 3 M&M C.C. Quick, M&M John Straughn
March 10 M&M Homer Stanton
March 16 M&M Mike Starling
March 17 M&M George Adams, M&M Ronnie Cundiff
March 21 M&M Doug Carabo
March 27 M&M Jimmy Outen



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary

March Calendar

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Children's Activities (K-5th Grade), 4:30pm, Kid's Nook

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Meal, 5:30pm

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, March 6 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

United Methodist Women Quarterly Meeting, 3:00pm, Parlor

United Methodist Youth Fellowship, 5-7:00pm, Youth Hut

Monday, March 7, 2016

Blood Drive, 2-7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Boy Scout Hut

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Children's Activities (K-5th Grade), 4:30pm, Kid's Nook

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Meal, 5:30

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, March 13 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm

Sunday, March 13, 2016

United Methodist Men's Breakfast, 8:30am, Fellowship Hall

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

United Methodist Youth Fellowship, 5-7:00pm, Youth Hut

Monday, March 14, 2016

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Boy Scout Hut

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Children's Activities (K-5th Grade), 4:30pm, Kid's Nook

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Meal, 5:30

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Bible Study, 6:30

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, March 20 Bulletin Deadline, 12:00pm

Thursday, March 17, 2016

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

Friday, March 18, 2016

March Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

United Methodist Youth Fellowship, 5-7:00pm, Youth Hut

Monday, March 21, 2016

Boy Scouts, 6:00pm, Boy Scout Hut

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Children's Activities (K-5th Grade), 4:30pm, Kid's Nook

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Meal, 5:30

WATF Bible Study, 6:30pm

WATF (Wednesday At The First) Bible Study, 6:30

Handbells, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Adult Choir Practice, 7:30pm, Choir Room

Sunday, March 27 Bulletin Deadline 12:00pm

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Saturday, March 26, 2016

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00am, Fellowship Hall/Church Grounds

Sunday, March 27, 2016

Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am

Sunday School, 10:00am

Worship, 11:00am

United Methodist Youth Fellowship, 5-7:00pm, Youth Hut

Monday, March 28, 2016

Office Closed, Easter Monday Holiday

Lenten Luncheons

All Lenten lunches will be held at noon in the First Baptist Family Life Center. The meal is prepared by the speaking pastors church.

March 2 Billy Lynch,

Mt. Olivet, Pleasant Grove UMC

March 9 Sara Sanderson,

First UMC

March 16 Jerry Hardison,

Emmanuel Temple