



# Cullowhee United Methodist Church

*A Christ-Centered Community -- Growing together*

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## *February/2009 Newsletter*

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### Construction Updates ...



We enjoyed hosting a chicken-n-biscuits dinner for you on Wednesday; thank you for supporting the Recreational Therapy Association so generously. **We will be hosting another CUMC Wednesday night dinner on March 18th with Irish food (and live Irish music!)** in honor of St. Patrick's Day. We would be honored to have you as our guests! On behalf of the students in RTA, thank you again!

- Jennifer Hinton



*Installing the Drop Ceiling (Left) and Tiling the Bathrooms (Right)*

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The VCT floor (Vinyl Composition Tile) in the new preschool wing is now installed in addition to the ceramic tile in all of the 4 big bathrooms and new Wesley kitchen. The drop ceiling looks nice in the preschool hallway. Very soon excavation for the walkway bridge between the new building and Central Drive will begin.

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### **CUMC's Active Stephen Ministry!**

The Stephen Ministry is a group of our lay people who have received extensive training and on-going education designed to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around our congregation. **More details on Page 6**

## Methodist Men's Annual Pine Straw Sale

This is an annual fundraiser for UMM mission  
Projects and programs.

Cost: 1-10 bales, \$5.50 each  
Over 11 bales \$5.00 each

Contact Dan Pittillo, Jim Wallace, Norman West  
or the church office to arrange for deliveries, 293-9215.

Donations for delivery would be greatly appreciated.



## March's Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Laura-Clare Moore
- 3 Domanique Haney
- 4 Lisa Bacon,  
Brooklyn Hensley
- 5 Reneé Beutell Campbell  
W.A. Harris
- 7 Carlton Bostic  
Dale Cox
- 8 Savannah Burgess
- 9 Sarah Williams  
Laura Spaulding
- 10 Sam Yates
- 11 Dave Hepp
- 12 Lili Acheson
- 16 Debbi Madill
- 18 Charlee Haney
- 20 Evelyn Rooks-Weir  
Rylee Williamson
- 21 Ivy Ayling  
Edward Madill  
Kendall Wike  
Zachary Esco
- 23 Jean Pittillo
- 25 Warren DuPree  
Jim Medlin  
Keely Moll  
Noah Hinton
- 27 Elijah Metcalf
- 30 Susie Ray

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- 18 Pat and Lili Acheson
  - 19 Pete and Kris Bates
  - 30 Randy and Susan Cooper  
Charlie & Pam Myers



## Save the Date: April 26, 2009 Annual Silent Auction

Our youth are soliciting donations for the Silent Auction, April 26. If you have something you would be willing to donate (art, antiques, new or slightly used items, a service you can perform, monthly desserts, a dinner, beach house or mountain cabin rental or any other attractive service or merchandise), please contact the church office. As offerings come in they will be placed on the church website.

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will help support the youth on their mission trip to Puerto Rico in July where they will paint a church in Lars, PR.

## Recent Births

Olive Anne Graham was born on Feb. 7. She is the daughter of Bill and Sarah Graham and granddaughter of Chuck and Penny Graham.

**Thank you to CUMC for all of your help and support, prayers, cards and love throughout this trying time in my life. God has gone beyond answering my prayers. Thank you so much! Love always, Megan Worley**

## A Big “Thank You” from United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual Pledge Luncheon—time, energy, food, pledge or donations. Pledges and donations totaled over \$1000, and we are so grateful for your generosity.

Know that every penny of your pledge or donation goes to missions. United Methodist Women support 103 institutions across the United States, including health care facilities, schools, colleges, and community centers. International programs include health and nutrition, alleviating violence, aid to refugees and displaced persons, education, and alleviating poverty. Because of you, life will be better for many people locally and around the world.

## UMW Sunday to Celebrate 140 Years of Mission - March 29

On March 23, 1869, a small group of women met on a rainy night in Boston to address concerns about women and children in India. The Women’s Foreign Missionary Society was formed that night, and a doctor and educator were sent to India as the first missionaries.

Over the years, the name of the group changed as denominations merged, becoming the Ladies Aid Society, the Women’s Society of Christian Service, and finally, United Methodist Women.

Please join us during the 11:00 worship on Sunday, March 29, as we recreate that first meeting and share the Biblical basis for the mission works of UMW.

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### Mini School of Christian Mission 3/28

The annual Waynesville District UMW Mini School of Christian Mission will be held at Peachtree UMC on Saturday, **March 28, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** This year’s studies are “I Believe in Jesus” and “Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival”. A light breakfast will be provided during registration. Bring a bag lunch, and Peachtree UMW will provide drinks and dessert.

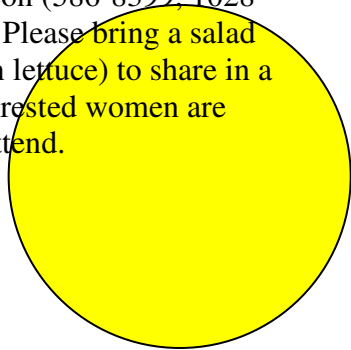
Please contact Lisa Bacon (586-8399) or Ruth Anderson (293-2331) if you are interested in joining us.

Directions to Peachtree UMC: From Lake Junaluska, follow US 19 to Maggie Valley, 8.5 miles. Turn right on Black Camp Gap Road .4 mile.



### UMW Nurturing Circle Meeting

The UMW Nurturing Circle will meet from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2**, at the home of Lisa Bacon (586-8399, 1028 Old Cullowhee Rd). Please bring a salad ingredient (other than lettuce) to share in a light supper. All interested women are cordially invited to attend.



## Cullowhee United Methodist Church Family Responsibilities for March/2009

The following is the list of nursery workers. If you cannot serve on the day assigned, please contact Bonnie Stephens at 293-1154 as soon as possible. Please review the procedures policy both for workers and for parents. We want to make every effort to keep our children as safe as possible. **Thank you for your willingness to serve CUMC in this way.** If you have any questions or concerns, contact Bonnie Stephens.

**AGE CRITERIA:** **Infants & Crawlers** – newborns through children who have not begun to walk.

The regular attendant is Wendy Murtagh

**Toddlers** - children who have begun to walk through young threes.

The regular attendant is Nina Webb

**Preschoolers** - Age 3 through children who have not begun kindergarten.

The regular attendant is Angela Killian

	Infants & Crawlers	Toddlers	Preschoolers
March 1	Carol West	Ruth Anderson	Pam Myers
March 8	Kari Hensley	Rose Bauguess	Greg Bauguess
March 15	Bonnie Stephens	Eleanor Macaulay	Alex Macaulay
March 22	Juanita Phillips	Lloyd Phillips	Gael Debnam
March 29	Danielle Haney	Mary Holliday	Mark Holliday

**PAGERS for our NURSERY!!** Restaurant-style pagers are available for our nursery. If you would like to use one, just stop into the infant room and the attendant there will help you. If we need to contact you to come back to the Nursery area, the pager vibrates. The nursery workers will not have to enter the Sanctuary during church to look for you.

### Children's Message for March

3/1 Lisa Bacon  
3/8 Kathy Wooten  
3/15 Sheri Turk  
3/22 David Reeves  
3/29 Kathy Wooten

### Acolytes for March

3/1 Lindsey Turk  
3/8 Aaron Hensley  
3/15 Yasi Dehdashty  
3/22 Spencer Stone  
3/29 Keri Davis

### Liturgists for March

3/1 Ronnie Mau  
3/8 Yasi Dehdashty  
3/15 Lindsey Turk  
3/22 Rusty Mau  
3/29 Ronnie Mau

### Greeters for March

3/1 Senior High Youth  
3/8 Sue Heckert  
3/15 Gloria Wallace  
3/22 Susan Mackenzie  
3/29 Lili Acheson

**Head Usher for March** – Earl Black

### Children's Church for March

3/1 Shannon Cowan  
3/8 Marilyn Chamberlin  
3/15 Christy Rowe  
3/22 Debbie Burke  
3/29 Sandy Railsback

### Sanctuary Flowers for March

3/1 *Open*  
3/8 Fulk family in memory of Dennis Fulk  
3/15 Joyce Turk in memory of husband  
Lindsey and granddaughter Faith Anne  
3/22 *Open*  
3/29 *Open*



## Youth Groups' March Schedule

The Junior Highs meet 6-7:30 p.m. on Sundays unless otherwise noted.  
The Senior Highs meet 5:30-7:30 pm on Sundays unless otherwise noted.

<i>Sun. Mar. 1</i>	Regular Meeting times
<i>Sun. Mar. 8</i>	Regular Meeting times
<i>Sun. Mar. 15</i>	Regular Meeting times
<i>Fri. Mar. 20, 7:00 p.m.</i>	Rehearsals for Coffee House
<i>Sat. Mar. 21, 6-9:00 p.m.</i>	Set up, clean up and Coffee House in the Wesley Foundation Fellowship Hall
<i>Sun. Mar. 22</i>	No meetings
<i>Sun. Mar. 29</i>	Regular Meeting times

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## **Coffee House Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico**



You are cordially invited to a Coffee House featuring local music, story telling, magic acts and comedy. Elegant desserts, tea, coffee and hot chocolate will be served by our youth. The date is **Saturday March 21, 7-8:30 p.m.** in the Wesley Fellowship Hall. Admission price is a donation which will go toward the youth mission trip to Puerto Rico. Come out for a fun night!

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## **Youth Service Projects for Families**

A vital part of the CUMC Youth Groups is service. They are looking for ways to serve the church family. There are a variety of services that they could provide. Just a few of the many things are yard work, painting, cleaning, shopping etc.

To help in this endeavor, please call the church office, 293-9215, to let the youth know of your need. You will be contacted to schedule a day and time. Thank you for all your love and support.

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## **Cullowhee Kids to Have Lasagna Lunch**

After worship on Sunday, March 15, the parents and teachers of Cullowhee Kids Preschool will serve a fund raiser lunch in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be lasagna, vegetarian lasagna, salad, bread, dessert and drink. There will be peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available for non-lasagna eaters. Please come and bring a donation and a good appetite! The funds raised will be used to scholarship children.

## **CUMC family garden project, 2009: “Jack and the Squash Stalk” *Cullowhee United Methodist has an active Stephen Ministry!***



### **What is Stephen Ministry?**

The Stephen Ministry is a group of our lay people who have received extensive training and on-going education designed to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around our congregation.

If you are hurting, going through a tough time, struggling for understanding, or need a compassionate ear Stephen Ministry offers this unique gift:

- Quality, Christ-centered, confidential care for your hurts and needs
- Hope, healing, and a new sense of self-worth through the support of a Stephen Minister
- Know that you are remembered and supported by your congregation in times of personal difficulty
- Offers ongoing care for continuing needs long after the onset of a crisis, when it seems that others may have forgotten about them
- A chance to grow a deeper relationship with their Lord as they experience God's unconditional love for them through their Stephen Minister

If you or someone you know is currently facing one of life's demanding challenges, please consider turning to a Stephen Minister for support, comfort, and/or guidance. This is a valuable resource and it is offered at no cost by church members who have been well trained and believe that God has led them to be of service to you. Our services are completely confidential.

If you are interested please contact David Reeves, Jim Wallace, or Dale Cox.  
We'd like to get started helping you today.

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*As a recipient of the Stephen Ministry program, I wanted to let others know how much the program meant to me. I was at a point in my life that I felt the program was just what I needed to further my healing. Once I gathered the courage to speak to David, our pastor, about my need; the rest fell in place. For myself and others, trust and confidentiality are crucial in choosing the program. I cannot say enough about what the times with that special person meant to me. She was always extremely patient and compassionate. It was a growing and learning experience for both of us and I will always treasure the hours she unselfishly gave to help me through a process much needed. We both received a blessing! I highly respect and admire each and every one of the ministers in the program. They are well-trained and are willing to take precious time out of their busy lives to devote to others. I appreciate every moment that I was given by my minister and will gladly encourage anyone who might feel the need to make use of the Stephen Ministries program. May God bless the program and increase its growth and blessings to others.*

*Saved by grace*

## Easter Stations for Kids at Lenten Fair



There just might be an angel with a New York accent waiting at the tomb on **April 5**. Or how about munching on grape jelly sandwiches and juice in the upper room? A palm branch parade, the last supper, the cross, the tomb and just in case you need it, a foot washing station will all be part of the fun and learning for our children on Palm Sunday, April 5, during the Sunday school hour. You won't want to miss this!

*Eli gets his feet washed by David Reeves at the Lenten Fair*



### **STARSHIP NEWS!**

STARSHIP rehearsals are at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays in the church sanctuary. We are currently learning some new music to sing during the worship services as well as rehearsing some new skit routines. Hope to see everyone for a meaningful and action packed 45 minutes of fun and music. We are also working with children who would like to do a solo during the 11:00 worship service before the end of the school year.

#### **Rehearsal Schedule:**

March 4 - NO STARSHIP WCU break,

March 11 – Regular Rehearsal 6:00-6:45

**March 18 – Regular Rehearsal 6:-6:45 &**

**Rehearsal w/ Adult Choir 6:45 – 7:15**

**March 22 – Skit & Anthem w/ Adult Choir for both services**

March 25 – Regular Rehearsal 6:00-6:35

April 1, April 8 - Regular Rehearsal 6:00-6:35

April 15 - NO STARSHIP School Spring Break,

April 22 - Visiting Shut-in

April 29 - Visiting Shut-ins & end of the year party

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### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, March 22, 2009**

On Sunday, March 22, we will receive a special offering to help fund UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, for its local and international work.

Working in more than 80 countries, UMCOR continues to be on site and be hope for millions of people, often the poorest in society, who suffer as a result of natural catastrophes and conflicts or wars. UMCOR responds to natural and civil disasters so massive that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. *(continued next page)*

UMCOR partners with local organizations and survivors with 100% of all designated gifts going to specific causes.

As an example, UMCOR is able to help our Cuban sisters and brothers in need due to three devastating hurricanes during this past fall. UMCOR is assisting in the rebuilding of homes and churches, providing food aid, preparing for long term recovery and training communities for disaster preparedness in Cuba.

**Your help is critical!** Your One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are imperative for UMCOR's important work to continue.

**United Methodist Men will have their monthly breakfast and fellowship time Sunday, March 1, 8:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall**

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### **When You are Sick at Sea**

You are standing on the deck, the sun is shining, the sea is calm; you have your bearings and are making good time. Suddenly, the wind picks up, churning white caps, then waves, huge and relentless, your boat heaves and rolls, waves crash over the bow, soaking you. Confusion and fear grip you. Hope is all but lost.

It's another day sailing on the ship of Life. Most of us (especially the honest ones) experience this way more than once in life. For some it's a daily battle.

When the pain of life's problems, sorrows and disappointments overwhelm me and I stand soaked, freezing and heaving, the best thing I know to do is get still and honest before God. It's then that God reminds me to keep my horizon fixed on Him.

Isaiah 26:3 (Amplified version) says "You will

guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You and hopes confidently in You."

Now, I'm a person who stays in motion and I'm grateful God knows that. He gives me stuff to do to keep my ship in good repair and headed in the right direction. Are you like that? If you are you'll like this verse because we get to do three things: commit, lean and hope.

God asks us to commit our past, present and future to Him. Living in the past can foster bitterness and causes us to miss the present. Obsessing about the future will not get us where we want to go because it's the trimming of our sails daily that creates a future with no regrets. It's that present living that is the gift we commit to God.

Leaning took some learning for me. I think it means to rest in His grace, and letting people help with the ship's work. You see, God made us to love and need each other. That's all well; as long as I'm mending someone else's torn sails. But when my rudder is broken and I'm drifting, God taught me there is great healing in letting the Nail Benders come aboard.

Hope. I nearly ship wrecked myself on its sturdy shores. I thought there was a crack in hope that gave room for "maybe not." But hope isn't founded on something you want to happen, but in Christ who never disappoints. I found this quote on a scrap of paper on my Bible shelf. I didn't write down who said it, but it's still true. "To retain hope while we suffer shows we understand God's merciful ways of relating to His people."

So, as the song says, "fix your horizon, there will be no letting go today!"

## **THE DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR VBS**

Cullowhee United Methodist will have Vacation Bible School, Saturday - Tuesday, July 11-14. Assembly starts 6:00 p.m. with singing in the sanctuary. The children will rotate through crafts, recreation, snack, Bible stories and classroom activities. Put these dates on your calendar and come have fun with us.

The VBS leaders will be needing lots of helpers. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to make this the best VBS ever!! Contact the church office for more information.