



Believe.....Belong.....Serve

The Newsletter of Parkwood United Methodist Church

April 2008

Our Mission

We are a family of believers celebrating and embracing God's grace and seeking to answer Christ's call to care for and transform the lives of all people.

From the Pastor

The Heart of Our Faith

Do you know what beliefs are at the heart of our faith? Do your children? Where are the borders between "Christian" and "non-Christian"? Your eternal destiny depends on not being deceived!

Oprah Winfrey's XM Satellite Radio program, "Oprah & Friends" is offering a year-long "Course in Miracles."

A lesson a day throughout the year will completely cover the 365 lessons from the Course in Miracles

"Workbook." *A Course in Miracles* (also referred to as *ACIM* or "*the Course*") is considered by its students to be their "spiritual path". Columbia University Professor of Medical Psychology Helen Schucman says that one day she heard an "inner voice" stating, "This is a course in miracles. Please take notes." For seven years she took spiritual dictation from this inner voice that described himself as "Jesus." Was it the Jesus of the Bible?

The Course teaches that we are all equally Christ, Jesus is not the only Son of God, and Jesus did not suffer and die for man's sin. According to the Course, sickness, hate, pain, fear, guilt, and sin are all illusions. The Course eliminates accountability for sin and any need for salvation by simply making sin and the resulting guilt a Christian might feel, an illusion that is only there because people allow it to be in their minds. Volume I of the Course reads, "Innocence is wisdom because it is unaware of evil, and evil does not exist. So, evil is only real if you believe in it." It also claims, "no one is punished for sins". This eliminates any need for Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

The Apostles' Creed affirms, "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again."

Article II of our United Methodist doctrine affirms, "The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father... truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men."

Article III of our United Methodist doctrine affirms, "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day."

Interestingly enough, long time teacher of *the Course*, Hugh Prather, admits that he and his wife Gayle, "...had ended up less flexible, less forgiving, and less generous than we were when we first started our path!"

In Galatians 1:7-8, the Apostle warns us, "There are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. Even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed!"

Have you put your faith in some popular new teaching about Jesus? The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ attested to in the Scriptures are the Gospel; the heart of our faith. Through them we have healing, forgiveness, and the promise of resurrection after our death. Each Friday Christians fast to remind us of the cross and we worship on Sunday instead of the Sabbath to celebrate Jesus' resurrection!

Blessings, *Pastor Bob*

APRIL LECTIONARY TEXTS:

04/06/08 -Acts 2:14 a , 36-41. Ps 116:1-4, 12-19. 1 Pet 1:17-23. Lk 24:13-35.

04/13/08 -Acts 2:42-47. Ps 23. 1 Pet 2:19-25. Jn 10:1-10.

04/20/08 -Acts 7:55-60. Ps 31:1-5, 15-16. 1 Pet 2:2-10. Jn 14:1-14.

04/27/08 -Acts 17:22-31. Ps 66:8-20. 1 Pet 3:13-22. Jn 14:15-21

February General Fund Income: \$11,763

February General Fund Expenditures: \$15,171.

The General Fund Balance: -\$17,512.

We have been spending more than we have been receiving for about a year.
In January and February 2008, our giving to the general fund was way down.
I don't like to sound harsh, but what parts of our budget we should cut?
Our giving is below the national average of 2.8%
Many of our "members" give nothing or very little.

Are we people who come to church and profess faith but are not willing to act?
We need a large number of our members to increase their giving by \$15 a week.
We need to give regularly, not just when we are present or in December... as regularly as the salaries and the light bill have to be paid.

Please join me and be one to put your time and your money and your prayers where your faith is.

Blessings, Bob Newlin

Walked in the CROP Walk

Now collecting to fight hunger and poverty

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE JACOB CLASS -The Jacob class will continue it's study on the book of James until we feel we have done it justice! Sometime in March, we will begin our study in the book of Galatians.

Want a treat? Want to sample our summer study called "Tales from the Madhouse"/ go to www.visionvideo.com and in the search box type in 'tales from the madhouse' When you get to the 'Madhouse' page, click on trailer and watch a segment of one of the studies we will have. And make plans to joins us in the Summer of 2008. Of course, you don't have to wait till this summer to come to Sunday School!

The Jacob class meets in classroom 1 every Sunday morning.

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THE SEEKERS CLASS -

The second Sunday in January, the Seekers Class began a long term study of the Bible. We will cover a large part of the Book. In the month of April, we will focus on the enslavement in Egypt, the Exodus, and the time wandering in the wilderness. As a people of one Book, we can never spend enough time studying the Bible. Every time we read a passage, something fresh and new should come to us. There will be ample time for class participation, but lessons will be structured for those who prefer instruction to encounter. Please pray about this and consider whether this is something that God is calling you to do. We plan to try to start class promptly at 9:30 and limit caring and sharing time to fifteen minutes so that our study will be the focus of the class. Please consider joining this class and inviting friends and neighbors to join the class.

Blessings, Bob

UNITED METHODIST MEN

April 4th: The UMM will be cooking the dinner at the Friday Feast. They are going to reach deep into their recipe books and pull out their famous Hot Dog and Baked Bean recipes. Chips and salad will round out the dinner. Stick around after dinner for the Friday night movie at 7:30. The movie will be "Purgatory" starring Sam Sheppard.

April 12th: This is a Saturday and it will be a UMM/Church wide clean-up day. Meet at the church at 9:00 am. Bring your gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, chain saws, and put them to good use.

May 3rd: Annual spring flea market Hot Dog sale.

May 17th: Trip to the NC Baseball Museum in Wilson. Meet in the parking lot at 9:00 am. Trip open to all the men in the church.

The next UMM meeting will be Saturday, April 19th at 8:00 am at the Golden Corral on Hwy 55.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women have some exciting program coming up. We will be participating in the District Mission Study – Globalization or Israel & Palestine. We have six women signed up. The course is at Creedmoor United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 29th. Anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Marietta Abbott (544-7305). We look forward to an enlightened experience.

We will also be looking at our plans for the Parkwood Flea Market on Saturday, May 3rd. We will be joining the men again this year. The men will be cooking luncheon and breakfast items. We will be having our Bake Sale. Anyone interested in helping to set up, accept bake goods or help the day of the Flea Market please come and join us. You don't have to be a UMW if you want to come and see what we are doing or just have some fellowship for just one activity, please join us.

We will be starting a study on Women in the bible scheduled for May. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 24th. at 7:00 p.m. A place for meeting has not been decided yet.

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the St. Patty's Day Luncheon. This event was a success and all had a good time.

We are looking forward to our joint UMW/UMM dinner in June. Please come and join us if you can.

This would be a good time for both men and women to see what our organizations are all about.

YOUTH NEWS

Beach Retreat Time is Here!!!

The youth will be on a 3-night beach retreat to Emerald Isle NC, April 3 – 6. Please keep the youth and all chaperones in your prayers as we embark on this weekend of spiritual growth, fellowship and fun.

Reminder to youth and parents, the final portion of payment is due *before* we depart on the retreat. Everyone attending this retreat has already turned in permission slips and deposits.

April Calendar

The youth will meet at our regular time on April 13th, 20th and 27th. We'll see you at 5:30 pm in the youth room!

Looking Ahead to May . . . Youth Sunday is May 11th

The PUMCYouth will lead the worship service on May 11th, Mother's Day. This is an opportunity we look forward to each year. Members of the youth will present and/or participate in all parts of the service. Please plan to join us.

All youth, grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us each Sunday from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm for our regular youth fellowship meetings. Please contact Laura Denny, laura@lldenny.com with any questions about upcoming events.

XYZ's

eXtra Years of Zest Club News

The XYZ Club met at the church on Thursday, March 6 @ 11:30 AM for a Soup & Salad Luncheon prepared by our Social Committee. The tables were beautifully decorated with a St. Patrick Day theme.

This was basically a business and social meeting to collect dues etc., and present the Club officers for year 2008-09. We were pleased to present all the officers from the previous year who had agreed to serve another year. They were presented and accepted by the Club members present as follows:

Coordinator: Jimmy Layman

Secretary: Florine Layman

Treasure: Arlene McCloskey

Telephone Coordinators: Jean Green

Vivian Seegers

Social Committee Coordinator: Beverly Whitmore

Member Care: Linda Jones

Our next meeting, will be a Covered Dish Luncheon on Thursday, April 3. Our program will be presented by Dr. Katrina Kuzyszyn, Clinical Psychologist with Lepage Associates, Durham, NC.

Interested seniors are invited to become part of this club. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise posted, with scheduled outings throughout the year. Please contact Jimmy Layman (544-2753) or Beverly Whitmore (544-2790) if you have questions.

CHAINSAW DAY and CLEAN UP DAY

In junjunction with the UMM and the Trustee, there will be a chipping and clean up day at the church on April 12th.

We need your body!!!! The front natural ares leading into the church need to be cleaned out and there are still plenty of limbs to be chipped in the area that was cleared.

We can only do it if you come out and help!

Remember, April 12th at 8 am.

Yom HaShoah



Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs on the 27th of Nissan. "Shoah", which means catastrophe or utter destruction in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II. This is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah.

May 1, 2008 at Beth El Synagogue

We will leave the church parking lot at 6pm. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Please join us for this moving service. Remember: Jesus was a Jew.

CROP

\$2,223.40 has been received in the first post-walk week. Pledgers, please fulfill your pledges. Walkers, please turn in your contributions. We are well on the way to top \$4,000 for the first time. We had 28 walkers this year.

Blessings, Bob

Walked in the CROP Walk

Now collecting to fight hunger and poverty

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Just a reminder if anyone is in need of the following medical supplies we have the following to loan out.

Wheel Chairs no legs	Extension toilet seats
Elevated Toilet seat w/arms	canes
Bath tub seat & bench	tub transfer bench
toilet commode	Folding walker w/wheels
Stationary walkers	Crutches
Four prong canes	Bed trays

Call the Church or Bev Whitmore (544-2790) if you are in need of any of these items.

TICKLE MY FUNNY BONE !!!!!

Baseball Psalm

The Lord is my Manager,

I shall not quit.

He maketh me to run

in green outfields.

He leadeth me along

the straight base paths.

He restoreth my place

in the heavenly lineup.

He leadeth me in reading

life's signals

for his game's sake.

Even though I walk up to

a volley of devilish pitches,

I will fear no strikeout,

for Thou art with me.

Thou dost promise me a bonus

in the presence of my opponents.

Thou anointest my sore spots

with balm; my locker runneth over.

Surely my statistics will be forgiven

me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in

the Eternal Hall of Fame.

to celebrate God's Saving Grace and

the opening of baseball season.

Play Ball!!!

PARKWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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