



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

The Newsletter of Parkwood United Methodist Church

March 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



**WALKING THE WAY OF THE CROSS.** As we move toward Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, it is fitting for us to refresh in our mind the meaning of the cross: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.” (Phil 2:5-8)

As a Christian, Jesus calls you to walk that same way of the cross: “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27) But what does this mean for us in an age when crucifixion is no longer used as a means of execution? “Although Jesus is God’s Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.” (Heb 5:8) The way of the cross is obedience in spite of suffering. That is what Jesus expects of us. “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to **obey** everything that I have commanded you.” (Mat 28:19-20) Yes, learning obedience can be painful. But Jesus calls us to that same way of suffering that He walked as an example for us.

**Have you walked the way of the cross in prayer?** From the Gospel accounts we can see that Jesus spent many hours alone in prayer. The Gallup organization has discovered that the average Christian spends less than 3 minutes a day in prayer; the average Pastor spends less than 8 minutes. I was convicted five years ago to spend an additional hour in prayer every morning. It was difficult at first, but has become a great comfort and has transformed my life.

**Have you walked the way of the cross in study, fellowship and worship?** I’m amazed at the long-time members of our congregation who never come, but seem to believe they are entitled to some sort of privileged seniority. YES, you DO need to go to church to be a Christian! “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.” (Heb 10:24-25) “The body does not consist of one member but of many. You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Cor 12:14 & 27).

**Have you walked the way of the cross in tithing?** Yes, Jesus maintained the tithe as a minimum offering to God: “Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and herbs, but neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you should practice, without neglecting the other.” (Luke 11:42) Yes, tithing may seem too painful to contemplate, but it

becomes a joy through obedience. Those who rationalize that their service is their tithe are cheating themselves of a blessing and refuse Jesus' way of the cross.

**Have you walked the way of the cross in serving others?** Jesus set the example by washing His disciple's feet. The church is not here just to serve you. Our American ideal has come to be a vision of people waiting on us hand and foot. While this might bring temporary happiness, it quickly becomes unsatisfying. Real joy is found in serving others. Our God is a selfless, giving heavenly Father; and He has made us in His own image.

The way of the cross is a lifetime journey. What area of obedience are you convicted of? God does not expect you to be obedient in your own strength, but to be willing to die to your self and to live in Christ. When we are willing, then God's Holy Spirit gives us the strength we need. "While we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh." (2 Cor 4:11)

After the way of the cross comes the resurrection! **Pastor Bob**

**MARCH LECTIONARY TEXTS:**

03/02/08 -1 Sam 16:1-13. Ps 23. Eph 5:8-14. Jn 9:1-41.

03/09/08 -Ezek 37:1-14. Ps 130. Rom 8:6-11. Jn 11:1-45.

03/16/08 Palm Sunday -Mt 21:1-11. Ps 118:1-2, 19-29.

03/20/08 Holy Thursday -Ex 12:1-14. Ps 116:1-4, 12-19. 1 Cor 11:23-26. Jn 13:1-17, 31 b -35.

03/21/08 Good Friday -Isa 52:13-53:12. Ps 22. Heb 10:16-25. Jn 18:1-19:42.

03/23/08 Easter -Acts 10:34-43. Ps 118:1-2, 14-24. Col 3:1-4. Jn 20:1-18.

03/30/08 -Acts 2:14 a , 22-32. Ps 16. 1 Pet 1:3-9. Jn 20:19-31

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*A 'grassy' compilation in  
honor of Red Jones.*

*The grass may be greener on the other side of  
the fence,*

*but you still have to mow it.*

- *Anonymous*

*I always thought a yard was three feet,  
then I started mowing the lawn.*

- *C.E. Cowman*

*Grass is the forgiveness of nature - her  
constant benediction.*

*Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish,  
but grass is immortal.*

- *Brian Ingalls*

*Every blade of grass has it's Angel that bends  
over it*

*and whispers, 'grow, grow.'*

- *Talmud.*

*God Bless the grass*

*That grows through the crack*

*They roll the concrete over it*

*To try and keep it back*

*The concrete gets tired*

*Of what it has to do*

*It breaks and it buckles*

*And the grass grows through.*

*God bless the grass*

- *Malvina Reynolds (1900-1978)*

*From her song God Bless the Grass*

## 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](http://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.  
\* \* \* \* \*

**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 March, we will focus on Abraham. 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.

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## **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The regular monthly meeting of the United Methodist Men was held on February 16th. There were nine men present.

The search continues for a young person to send to one of the three area Methodist camps. This is a fully funded week paid for by donations and work projects benefiting the Kevin Bruce Memorial Summer Camp Scholarship.

Coming events for the UMM are the Spring Parkwood Flea Market Hot Dog and Popcorn sale, a Summer church cookout and Flag retirement ceremony ( a ceremony where old, torn and tattered American flags are disposed of in a

respectful manner); and a field trip in May to the NC Baseball Museum in Wilson.

Discussions will be held with the Board of Trustees to erect a permanent "Wall of Fame/Remembrance" where the UMM will honor members of the military, past and present. The Board of Trustees will also be asked to consider a UMM clean up day for the natural areas in front of the church.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 15th at 8am at the Golden Corral on Hwy 55.

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## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

We held our second meeting of the year on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the church. The program was on Lent/Easter. We really had a good meeting.

We discussed our March fund-raiser -- St. Patty's Day buffet. Entrees will include Beef Stew, Corn Beef and Cabbage, Potato Soup, and Shepard's Pie. Please bring your appetite and helps us raise money for our UMW projects this year.

In May we will be participating in the Parkwood Flea Market with our Bake Sale. Come join us for an early morning of fellowship and fun and good eats!

One of our service projects this year is to support Urban Ministries with non-perishable items. On the list are spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, powdered milk, cereal, peanut butter & jelly. We will be collecting at each meeting in 2008, and adding to the food boxes in the church hall. Please help us feed the hungry and less fortunate.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> in the Youth Room at the church. The program for this month will be on Prayer and Self-Denial. We are looking forward to having as many women from the church as possible

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Byrd (544-1380) or Marietta Abbott (544-7305). If you want to attend any meeting and don't have transportation please let us know.

**XYZ's**

**eXtra Years of Zest Club News**

The XYZ Club met at the church on Thursday, February 7, for a covered dish luncheon. Club member Rev. Bill Witt led us in our devotions, relating how Lent offers a guide to putting aside distractions and to reflect on our lives and listen for God's voice in the midst of our everyday lives. Our program speaker was Dr. Ronald Gerbe, an Ear, Nose, Throat and Facial Plastic Surgeon. Dr. Gerbe, the son of Club member Gloria Gerbe, spoke on 'Hearing Loss, Cause & Correction'.

Our next meeting, Thursday, March 6, will be a Soup and Salad Luncheon prepared by the Social Committee. Cost will be \$4.00 per person. This will be a business and social meeting as we prepare for our club's new year; April 1, 2008 thru March 31, 2009.

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.

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Valentine's Dinner**

The PUMCYOUTH would like to thank all those who joined us for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentines Dinner. The youth really enjoy hosting this event each year and your support is greatly appreciated. Go ahead and mark your calendars for next year! If you had your picture taken at our Valentine Wall and have not yet received your souvenir print, please check with Laura Denny.

**Beach Retreat**

PUMCYOUTH will be going on a three-night retreat to Emerald Isle, April 3rd – 6th. It is very important that all youth that plan to go on this retreat participate in *all* of the events we have planned in March. If you are unable to participate in an event please talk to Laura.

**Upcoming Calendar for PUMCYouth**

March 2	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting
March 9	TBA	Details under development
March 16	9:30 am	Easter Egg Hunt for

**PUMC Children's Sunday School**

2:00 pm		CROP Walk
March 23		EASTER – No Youth Meeting
March 30	5:30 pm	Regular Meeting – Final Details for Beach Retreat
April 3-6		PUMCYOUTH Beach Retreat

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](mailto:laura@lldenny.com) with any questions about upcoming events.

**EASTER LILIES**

Once again it is time to purchase Easter lilies for the Sanctuary. You can order a lily in memory of or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God. The cost this year will be \$6.50 per plant. Order forms will be in the Sunday Bulletins March 2-March 16. The final deadline for ordering will be March 17th. Please make your checks payable to PUMC.



**CROP**

**(Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty)**

It's CROP time again. PUMC has a long history with CROP. For over three decades PUMC has been active in CROP. At one time, we sponsored a South Durham walk that stepped off from the parking lot across the street. Now the Durham walk is consolidated and about 3,000 folks from over 100 congregations and many businesses and schools will step off at 2:30pm, March 16 (Palm Sunday). And PUMC is still a big player in the walk both in terms of helping to organize it and in being one of the top contributors of congregations of like size.

Contd.

All of this is to fight hunger and poverty. The 3,000

walkers will raise about \$200,000 to fight hunger from Urban Ministries of Durham to famine and poverty in Afghanistan and in Louisiana. If you would like to walk, the sign up sheet is in the hall or you may contact me, bob.newlin@duke.edu 684-2331. I will get you the pledge envelope so that you too can raise money to fight hunger. Our walking team will leave PUMC at 1:30pm, March 16. (If you cannot walk at that time, you can still raise funds and arrange your own walking time.) If you can contribute, you can make checks payable to PUMC for CROP or to CWS (Church World Service) - CROP. You can even contribute by credit card securely on-line. Go to <http://durhamcropwalk.org> and click on the "Contribute" button. (Walkers should also do this and add their names to the PUMC team.) Contributions can be made in support of a particular walker or all walkers. 100% of all contributions go directly to Church World Service to fight hunger. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email or call me.

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## Byrd's Eye View

### M.E.R.C.I. MAUDE

Mercy Maude used to be one of my grandmother's (we called her Mom Mom) favorite sayings. When Mom Mom said 'Mercy Maude' it was a sign of shock, awe, and was usually follow-up by "I can't believe you."

Mom Mom would holler through the back door screen 'Ronnie, what are you up to?' I'd holler back that I was doing such and such, and all I heard was 'Mercy Maude'. I then had two options: stop what I was doing and stop what I was doing right now!!. Gosh, I miss my grandmother. She made the best pancakes in the world.

Now it's my turn to say Merci Maude.

I see that the Merci Center is in trouble. Money trouble. H. Gray Southern, our District Superintendent, reminded us in a letter recently that although the MERCI Center was founded as an outgrowth of our conference the operating money came from general church relief monies. 'Those monies no longer provide the sustaining funds that MERCI now needs'.

We need to do all we can to keep the MERCI Centers door

open. I'm asking you to please support the combined Durham, Raleigh, Burlington Districts fund raising banquet and silent auction. Each table costs \$400 and seats 8 people. This is a small cost to pay to help insure that this valuable disaster relief agency continues to operate. How important is the MERCI Center? Just ask Hurricane Fran victims. The least we can do as a congregation is to sponsor a table. You can buy a chair or you and four friends can contribute \$10 each for a chair. Our groups can sponsor a chair. We have to do something. What would happen if the next disaster strikes you and the MERCI Center isn't there to help?

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 talks about changes; seasons that change, lives that change, events that change people. All of us have to weather seasons in our lives and it's always been a secure feeling knowing that we have a safety net under us. Christ bears us up and carries us and our friends and family are the bearers of the physical comforts that helps us heal. In line with Ecclesiastes 3:1, the M.E.R.C.I. Center has season too: Hurricane season, tornado season, mudslide season, and wildfire season...need I say any more?

Mercy Maude

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**EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST**

This year we are going to do something a little different from past years. We are going to have "Easter Breakfast Out".

The Golden Corral opens at 7:30, and we are going to treat ourselves to the delicious breakfast buffet that the UMM are always raving about.

Please join us! We can carpool from the church, enjoy a leisurely breakfast with friends, and be back in time for 9:30 Sunday School.

If you have questions, please call Betty or Marietta.

## 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

## TICKLE MY FUNNY BONE !!!!!

### THE WATCH-WHAT-YOU-SAY COMMANDMENT

No one will remember everything a pastor says, but everything a pastor says will be remembered.

### COROLLARY

There will always be someone who remembers the pastor saying something the pastor never said.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>.

Also, don't forget to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

## TO ALL THE WOMEN IN OUR CHURCH

*We, the United Methodist Women are very active throughout the year in our mission projects, and would like to offer you, the women in our church the opportunity to join us on specific projects.*

*Many of you feel you do not have time to join another group, are just too busy with your job and kids, or are not a "meeting" sort of gal. We understand. Most of us have been there and done that too.*

*BUT - maybe you would be willing to help on a single project or two through the year. YOU did a wonderful job furnishing men's underwear for the Urban Ministries at Christmas. That was a mission project. (When I came back to the UMW several years ago, the group scared me to death talking about missions, and more missions. I really was not interested. Now I know that is only a name for helping others –in our church, our community, wherever there is a need.) We here at PUMC are so blessed to have so much, that I want to help those less fortunate, and that is what we do.*

*We have two bake sales in conjunction with the Parkwood Flea Market. Maybe you would be willing to bake some cupcakes. Or maybe you would be willing to furnish some school supplies for our school kits that we will be making in July for the children in Robeson County (one of the poorest counties in our state). When we are having fund raisers (our bake sales and church luncheons, etc.) these monies go toward our mission projects.*

*Please prayerfully consider helping us to help others. I will be sending more information to you before each event in case you would be willing to say YES.*

*God bless us all.*

**Betty Byrd**  
**President, UMW**

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

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Please have all newsletter information to the office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month**

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**THE WAY WE WERE.....1970**

AN EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE will begin as soon as possible arrangements can be made. Many applications were received and work has begun on this. The Worship Service will be in contemporary form in a different setting, at 9:00 am each Sunday. January 25th.

THE EASTER DRAMA "Family Portrait", rehearsal will be held Monday night at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The cast includes Mrs. Sonja Robinson, Mrs Mamie Burdick, Mrs. Trudy Kearney and George Ennis. March 8th.

THE FLOWERS placed on the Altar today by Mrs Ray Schirmer, in loving memory of her mother, Mrs Eloise Stanford. March 22nd.

WSCS: On Monday. May 11, the Evening and Morning Circles will meet together at the home of Mrs. Dodson, for their annual mission study. The topic is "The Inner Life". May 10th.

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF MISSIONS IN NY has awarded your Pastor a scholarship and expense paid trip to Lake Junaluska, July 20-24 for a Consultation Workshop on New Church Development in the United Methodist Church. June 14th.

WE WELCOME Mr. and Mrs James Roseberry of 1440 Sedwick Rd. as new members of our church. They will be formally received at a later date. July 26th.