

A Beacon of God to all People

Growing in Christ.....Sharing God's Love.....Reaching Out to the World



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

The Newsletter of the Parkwood United Methodist Church  
Proudly serving the Parkwood Community for 55 years

Mark 1: 14--15

January, 2017

January 2017

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ! 2017 is here! It is hard to believe that 2016 is in the rearview mirror and new adventures await us in this new year. I pray for blessings and God's continual presence in your daily lives today and always.

January is shaping up to be a busy and full month. First, I would like to invite you to a bible study on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm starting on January 3. For four weeks, we will work to better understand God's Mission in light of our sacramental practices. I pray that you will set aside the time to join me for this study.

Second, I am so thankful for the faithfulness of our congregation. Because of this faithfulness, we are blessed to welcome new persons into our community, those who have been worshiping with us at Parkwood UMC. I will lead a special gathering called "I want to be a part of Parkwood UMC." In other words, this will be a New Member Introduction and Information opportunity for those considering membership at Parkwood UMC. We will explore what it means to be a part of the covenantal community of Parkwood UMC while also being part of The United Methodist church. Details about when and where coming soon!

Third, [Bishop Hope Morgan Ward](#) and the Cabinet of the NC Conference call clergy and laity to prayer for our church and to conversation as the new year begins. Each clergy-person, along with a key leader from his/her church or charge, is asked to participate in [Circles of Abundant Grace](#) the week of January 9-15, 2017. Circles of Abundant Grace are facilitated conversations that will focus on the future of the United Methodist Church. A "[Commission on a Way Forward](#)" has been configured by the Council of Bishops and has begun studying matters of human sexuality and unity in the United Methodist Church. The Circles of Abundant Grace in the North Carolina Conference will offer opportunity to gain clarity about the decisions of the [2016 General Conference](#) and the Commission on a Way Forward, as well as the unfolding of processes in the new year. The Circles will be sacred spaces to speak to one another out of our hearts, to listen well and to grow in grace. I will need one person from Parkwood UMC to join me in this sacred conversation. Please pray to see if God is leading you to participate in this holy work. If you feel a nudge from the Holy Spirit to participate in this, please let me know either in person, by email, phone call or text.

Let us anticipate God's mighty plans for Parkwood UMC that we may glorify God in all things.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Anita



## The Seekers Class

Since October 2, the Seekers class will be studying "Broken and Blessed" by Jessica LaGrone. "How God Used One Imperfect Family to Change the World" This is a study

of Genesis. Everyone is welcome. Please let Bob Newlin know if you want to join so that he can get a book for you.

## the Jacob Class

Herb will continue his study of 2 Samuel

the Jacob class meets in Room 1 at 9:30 and Herb Schwarze is the facilitator.





January, 2017  
Bob Jones Jan 14  
Alexander Nelson Omburo Jan 17  
Susan Clark Jan 28  
Jandy Mooney Jan 28  
Laura Denny Jan 29  
Henrik Ronni Jan 30



Bob & Betsy Newlin 1972  
Bill & Linda Youngblood

Send birthdays and anniversaries to:  
[crabbyron@yahoo.com](mailto:crabbyron@yahoo.com)



### Hospitality Greeters:

### Refreshments:

Jan 1, 2017 No Refreshments  
Jan 8, 2017 Janie Henderson/Priscilla Thompson  
Jan 15, 2017 Betsy Newlin  
Jan 22, 2017 Pam Skidmore  
Jan 29, 2017 Jan Schwarze



Jan Schwarze

## The next Egg Sunday is in... January 22

### EGG SUNDAY IN JANUARY

On Sunday, January 22, we will be collecting eggs for Urban Ministries' food pantry clients. Our record so far is 75 dozen. You can bring eggs that morning or place them in the refrigerators during the week. It is very special for these people to have fresh eggs and I want to thank you for your continued support of this effort.

### VOLUNTEERS MAKE SANDWICHES FOR URBAN MINISTRIES CAFÉ

In January, there is a fifth Tuesday on Jan. 29. PUMC is scheduled to make sandwiches for the bag lunches given out in the Café, every 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. If you would like to help let Jan Schwarze know. We will carpool down at 9:00 am and finish no later than 11 am.



**Chancel Choir practice  
Wednesdays @ 7:30**

*Wanna voice in Church? Join the choir*

*Knit-Pray-Pray*

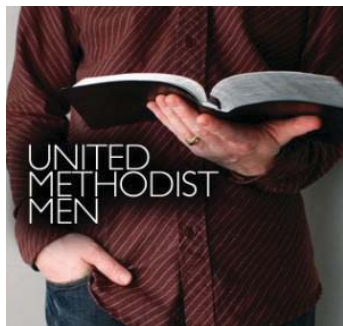
Parkwood United Methodist Church

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2<sup>nd</sup>.and 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday



If you are an experienced knitter/crochet, beginner or a novice, you are welcome. We all have our own level of expertise and love to share



## Parkwood United Methodist Men

The Parkwood UMM meet on Saturday morning January 21st at 8 am for breakfast at Benetis restaurant in the Greenwood Commons shopping center off Sedwick road at 8:00 a.m.

Here it comes!!!!!!



The Great UMM Buzzards Breath Chili and the Great Chili cookoff.

Bring your competition Chili and enjoy a fine bowl of UMM chili. Competition chili means you bring your chili in a crock pot and the attendees will judge them by donating money to the competition chili they like the best. The winner is crowned Chile Person of the Year.



The UMW will kick off the new year on Thursday, January 26 at 7:00pm (weather permitting) in the Fellowship Hall. This will be our planning meeting for the upcoming year. ALL ladies of the church are

invited and welcome to attend!! Please mark your calendars for a great meeting and exciting fun filled year!

A planning meeting for UMW officers for 2017 is scheduled for Thursday Jan 5 at 7:00 pm (weather permitting) in the Family room. Looking forward to planning another great year.

The soup making night has been postponed until early January. Please watch announcements for a new date and time. After Christmas, if you feel you would like to make a casserole or dish for the freezer project, recipes are available. Please talk to Jan or Pam for details.

There is still time to read the book for the PUMC book club. We are reading *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff. It's a true story that is wonderfully written. We will get back together to discuss the book on Feb. 7 at 7:00 pm in the Family Room. You don't have to read the book to be a part of this wonderful fellowship. Please join us!

Looking forward to a great 2017!

Pam Skidmore  
UMW President



December has been busier than ever for our youth! The first meeting in December was spent making beautiful Christmas ornaments. They were sold to church members for only \$5. If you didn't get yours, check with Lauren or Andrew to see if they have any left. You can always use them on your tree next year!

The progressive dinner was a big success as the youth traveled to four of our church members' homes to enjoy food, fellowship and lots of laughter. It was also fun for the host families as they enjoyed getting to know our youth better. A special thank you to the Youngblood's, the Abbotts, Pastor Anita and the Farmers, and the Stephans families for hosting.

Saturday, December 17 was another special day as the youth served cocoa and greeted families at the Christmas party for residents of the Urban Ministries of Durham.

Looking ahead, January has a lot of exciting events planned, including game night, bible study and making plans for the annual Valentine's dinner.

Remember, if you know anyone in grades 6 to 12 please encourage them to join our youth group!

**All youth from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome!**



## State Fair Celebration Dinner January 28, 2017

Please mark this date on your calendar, at 6:30 p.m. for our NC State Fair Celebration. Our friends at Creedmoor United Methodist Church will be hosting this year.

Address: 214 Park Avenue, Creedmoor

Directions: From Durham:

Take Hwy 85 North to Exit 186A for Hwy 15. Turn Right onto Hwy 15 towards Creedmoor. Turn Right on Fleming Street. Turn Left on Main Street. Take an immediate Right onto Park Avenue. The Church will be on your right.

As in past years, this will be a pot-luck event, so plan to bring your family, a dish to share with all, and of course your stories from the fun-filled 11 days and nights spent in the booths in October.

To those of our congregation that invited friends and neighbors to help staff the booths and contribute their support: Please be sure to invite those folks to the celebration, and bring them along!

Thank you all for your record-breaking participation numbers this year, in the most successful annual fundraising event that PUMC has conducted to date!

Sincere thanks to Janice and Roger Jarrell for their annual leadership with the State Fair events, as well as for their original authorship of this celebration notice, upon which this newsletter article is based.