

CHURCH CHAT



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHINA GROVE, NC

MARCH, 2010



March 14 -- Daylight Savings Time

March 20 -- First Day of Spring

09



PASTORAL PONDERING Greeting:
It has been around for a while, but it still amazes me. I am talking about the heart catheterization procedure. As you probably know they run a scope up through an artery in your leg and push it all the way up into your heart. This enables the doctor to take a look at your heart. Any blockages in your coronary arteries can be seen. They can also tell you how severe these blockages are.

If they are severe and there are only a few, they use a balloon method on the end of the scope and put stents in that hold your arteries open. In cases where there is drastic blockage in many arteries, open heart bypass surgery may be required.

So many people have had this done or know someone who has. I do not understand the whole procedure, but I do know it is a physical way to look deep into your heart to see if there are any problems there.

I believe this is also what we are called to do during Lent. Lent is a forty day period before Easter during which we are invited to take a look deep within our hearts to see if sin has caused any problems there. Spiritually, sin can cause big problems in our hearts. The main problem is a kind of blockage. Romans 5:5 tells us that: "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy spirit that is given to us." The trouble is that sometimes our hearts get blocked up and the love of God does not flow through us! What are the things that block the flow of the love of God through us to others? That is a good question to ask for Lent.

Or as the psalmist writes in Psalms 139:23: "Search me o God and try my heart. Try me and know my thoughts." Lent is the time to ask the Great Physician to do a spiritual heart cath on each of us!

Grace and Peace
Vance



SALKEHATCHIE: All youth and adults who plan to go to Salkehatchie this year need to fill-out your paperwork and get it to Hope or Vance by **March 15**. We have to make a payment for our group by March 31 so we need to know if you are going. Thanks! The church will pay the \$200 cost per person and you will give the church back \$100. If you or your parents have questions, please contact Hope or Vance.



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY: Our collection of **one ton** of peanut butter and jelly (in plastic containers please) continues. So far, we have collected over **1400** pounds in 8 months for RHM.



MORNING BIBLE STUDY: A Bible Study led by Rev. Lowe will meet at 10:30 AM every Tuesday in the library. The study is on Genesis and everyone is welcomed to come.



BUS PAYOFF: We need your help so that we can reduce our debt to one source. We still owe over **\$10,000** on the mini-bus. Contributions have still **NOT** come in very well. That means we will not be making much progress on paying off the loan. We are paying interest that I believe we could avoid if we all would dig in our pockets and help pay the bus loan off. The bus and the roof project loan are like having two credit card balances. We want to reduce them to one so that we only have to make our \$5,000 a month loan payment.

The campaign to pay off the bus will last through this month. Please do all you can to help reduce this debt even if you have never had a ride on the bus. Please make all checks to the "FUMC Transportation Fund."



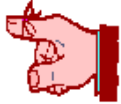
3-D DAY: It's 3-D day at FUMC! What is this? It stands for Disposable Diaper Day. On **March 21** we will collect disposable diapers for infants and toddlers (all sizes) to support the The Rowan County **One Church One Child** program. OCOC is a joint program between Rowan County DSS and local churches to help care for foster children in our country. This ministry is funded, not by DSS but by local churches. We have been a member OCOC since last Fall, but this is the first **BIG** project we have undertaken to support them.

On **March 21** please bring the diapers you wish to donate and put them on the front two pews (just like we do with the soup). I am counting on you to make this M&M project as successful as you always do! Call Vance with any questions.



CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin with an introductory meeting on **April 11** during Sunday School. All youth 5th grade and up who want to explore joining our church, are invited to be a part of this class. We really need to know how many we will have so that we can do some planning. Please let Hope or Vance know by **March 15** if you will be joining us for confirmation class. We will meet during Sunday school except for one weekend when you will go on a retreat at Lake Junaluska in the mountains (more details about this will be coming to you later).

The Class will end **May 9**. The day you will join, if you choose to, is **May 23**.



REMEMBER: We're saving, selling, or giving away many items. See other areas in this or earlier *Church Chats* for more information.

- ONE TON of PB&J by June 30, 2010 for RHM.
- COUPONS, CHRISTIAN LITERATURE, STAMPS, PHONES, USED EYE GLASSES: Containers are kept in the Narthex and outside the church office.
- CHURCH COOKBOOK are \$10. See Diane.
- OLD PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES: From the office on a "first come, first serve" basis.
- ALTAR FLOWERS start at \$40. See Diane.
- EXTRACTS are \$2.50. See Diane.
- DANNY DUZITS are \$2.00. See Diane.



STEWARDSHIP: Did you know that we need \$7,310 each week to cover our general budget. Through Sunday, February 14, we received \$48,402 for a **shortfall of \$2,769!**

Many thanks to those of you who have started (or continued) using your envelopes and making out separate checks for each fund (general, transportation, building, etc). It solves a lot of problems for the Sunday counters as these donations go into separate accounts. Also, it is **not** necessary for you to write separate checks by date if it is your custom to give several weeks (or months) at one time. Again, thank you.



MISSION SEEKERS' CIRCLE: The **Sweetheart Banquet** sponsored by the Mission Seekers Circle raised **\$834.50** for youth scholarships to Salkehatchie. If you want to know more about Salkehatchie, we have a book in the church library that is part of the UMW Reading Program entitled - SEND ME! - The Story of Salkehatchie Summer Service. A big thank you to the Mission Seekers Circle!



YOUNG AT HEART: The Young-at-Heart group will meet in Langford Hall on **March 1** at 10:00 AM. Following a brief business meeting, the group will be entertained by **Jim Burgess** singing some of our favorites. Following this, the group will enjoy a "poor man's" lunch (pinto beans, slaw, cornbread, and dessert). Come enjoy the entertainment and the food.

Another outing for the month is being planned and will be announced in the bulletin. Watch for further information.

The **April 5** Young at Heart meeting will be held in Langford Hall at 10:00 AM. Following a brief business meeting, **Sue Wortman** will talk with us about the need for rescuing of dogs and cats, the process involved, puppy mills, etc. She will bring some special friends to meet everyone. come and join us to learn more about a very important program concerning our furry friends.



RECYCLE: The congregation can bring recycle items from home and place them in the containers located under the shelter in the parking lot.

--**PLASTIC:** Plastic bottles (one and two only), packaging (outer wrap, cooky trays), empty pill bottles, microwave meal trays, hair spray lids, wipe

containers, etc. Please empty liquids from bottles and rinse them out before placing in their container.

--**PAPER:** Cereal boxes, magazines, telephone books, scrap paper, junk mail, and envelopes (even those with windows).

--**NEWSPAPERS:** Anything that comes in the newspaper, the grocery flyers that look like newspaper that come in the mail.

--**CARDBOARD:** Break down all boxes and place them in their marked container.

--**TIN CANS:** Please rinse out and crush the cans (if you have the strength) and remove the paper label. Place the label in paper container or if it's Campbell's remember to save it for the UMW!

--**ALUMINUM:** Drink cans (crush them if you have the time and strength). Pie pans and foil are no longer being accepted.

--**GLASS CONTAINERS** (clear, green, or brown) should be rinsed and placed in their recycle bin.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: **February 16 - April 4:** Call to Prayer and Self-Denial campaign "Property Makes Mission Possible" the 2010 offering will fund various capital expenditures at mission institutions related to the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. Did you know that "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" offerings helped build the Bethlehem Center in Charlotte many years ago?

Sunday, **March 21** from 2:00 - 6:00 PM: District Bible Study - The Beauty and Courage of Sudan - "Why a Dream of Peace is Possible" with leader **Martha Phillips** at Bethpage United Methodist Church in Kannapolis. A \$2.00 registration fee and the Hands-on-Mission project is to bring items for Rowan Helping Ministries and the Cabarrus Cooperative Christian Ministry. They need diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5, 6), canned goods, pasta, crackers, anything along the food line. Also needed are detergent and shampoo. You name it and they need it. This is a very desperate time for them.

Please pray for our missionaries in Zimbabwe - **Donald Jusu, Emmanuel & Florence Mefor, Maria Humbane, Larry & Jane Kies, Tendai Manyeza, and Ragnhild Sand.**



BLOODMOBILE will be at Langford Hall from 8:30 AM - 1 PM on Sunday, **March 14**. The last time you could have given and still be able to give with us was **January 16**. See **Telisa** after services to make an appointment. Give someone another birthday by giving the Gift of Life.



"IS IT I?": The Last Supper dramatic reenactment will be Thursday, **April 1** at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Please put this on your calendar and plan to come. Communion will be served as a part of this special service of worship. All cast members from last year are asked to let **Vance** know your intentions for this year as soon as you can.



SOUPE BOWL: We collected **1007** cans of soup! Thank you for your generosity.



SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to those who serve in this manner.

8:30 10:30 11:00

Sorry. We didn't receive any information.



CALENDAR: Be sure to save all of these dates.



Mon, **Mar 1**: Young at Heart - 10 AM
 Sat, **Mar 6**: Puppet Show @ Tyro UMC - 6 PM
 Sun, **Mar 7**: 8:30 and 11 AM Services
 Mon, **Mar 8**: Mission Seekers - 7 PM
 Sun, **Mar 14**: 8:30 and 11 AM Services
 Sun, **Mar 14**: Daylight Savings Time begins
 Sun, **Mar 14**: Bloodmobile 8:30 AM - 1 PM
 Mon, **Mar 15**: Deadline for Salkehatchie
 Sat, **Mar 20**: Easter egg hunt ??
 Sun **Mar 21**: 10:30 AM Service
 Sun, **Mar 21**: 3-D Day
 Sun, **Mar 21** District Bible Study 2-6 PM at
 Bethpage UMC Kannapolis
 Sun, **Mar 28**: 8:30 and 11 AM Services
 Sun, **Mar 28**: Palm Sunday
 Mon, **Mar 29**: Worship Committee - 6:30 PM

Thu, **Apr 1**: "Is It I" reenactment - 7:30 PM
 Fri, **Apr 2**: Good Friday
 Sun, **Apr 4**: Easter Sunday schedule
 6:30 AM: Sunrise Service
 7:30 AM: Breakfast
 8:30 and 11 AM: Worship
 Mon, **Apr 5**: Young at Heart - 10 AM
 Sun, **Apr 11**: Confirmation Class Intro
 Mon, **Apr 12**: Mission Seekers - 7 PM
 Mon, **Apr 12**: Finance Committee - 6:30 PM

REMEMBER:

UMW Call to Prayer: Feb 16 - Apr 4
 Every Tue, 10:30 AM: Bible Study
 Every Wed, ~5:30 Wonderful Wednesday
 Every 3rd Sun: New Members Sunday

If you have information for *Church Chat*, please e-mail it to WINECOFF1971@carolina.rr.com in the body of the e-mail (NOT as an attachment); or IF you do not have e-mail capability, put a hard copy in the folder on the door of the copy room. **Please, if you have typed your information on a computer and can e-mail, send it in the body of an e-mail so everything does not have to be entirely retyped.**

We need the information by the **20th of the month** if it is to be included in the next month's issue. Occasionally, if it does not cause massive editing and rearranging, we can add late information; but that is not the usual case. If you do have late information, please call (704-857-2770) **and** e-mail or leave a hard copy at the Church. We would really like to add information from all of the committees, circles, classes, and groups. Most would like to know what you have done, are doing, and will be doing. You might even get extra participation if you send this information!

Did you know that you can read *Church Chat* on-line? It's even in "living color!" Check-it-out on our website (www.chinagrovefumc.com).

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