

*Serving Jesus Christ by being his heart,
hands, feet and voice.*

UG UMC
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We're on the web!
www.ugumc.com

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Daylight
Savings
Time
Begins
**Sunday,
March 14**

Church Photo Directory



Photo Makeup Day Thursday, March 11

Call the church office at
704-539-4394 to schedule
your appointment.

Thank You!

Special thanks to Amanda Bridges
and Amanda Loftis for heading up
the effort to create a new pictorial
directory, to all the volunteers
who helped with the directory
process in any way, and to our
members for taking time out from
their busy schedules for a photo
appointment.

Easter Egg Hunt—UMW Meeting—Veterans' Group—
Comedy Performance at Sonshiners—Church Council Meeting—
Easter Egg Hunt—Supper Club—Ladies' Night Out—
UMW Sunday—Girl Scout Sunday—
Cub Scout Pinewood Derby—Scout Crossover Ceremony

See inside for details on all these events & more!



Union Grove Methodist Minute

Serving Jesus Christ by being His Heart, Hands, Feet and Voice

Volume 23, Issue 3

March 2010

Parson to Person...

Alan Jones, retired Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, begins his new book with these words: *I owe a great deal to many great human beings who shared with me their vision of the fully human life. Three of them were great Christians: Hugh Bishop, Anglican priest and monk; Monica Furlong, novelist and journalist; and Fielder Cook, movie director. All three were generous artists of the soul and taught me a generous form of Christianity.* (from *Reimagining Christianity: Reconnect Your Spirit without Disconnecting Your Mind*).

Needless to say, after reading only that much, I was hopelessly hooked. Jones is a particularly intelligent priest, with an outstanding mind and a warm heart, whose writings never fail to stir something deep within me. I was especially struck by these opening words.

First, he speaks of “the fully human life” rather than “the Christian life,” as if they are one and the same. I believe they are, and that that is one of the things Jesus came to teach us and to demonstrate.

Second, I love the phrase “generous artists of the soul,” and although I don’t know any of the people he so eloquently describes, I know intuitively exactly the kind of person he is talking about! It has been my privilege to know such people myself.

Third, the phrase “a generous form of Christianity,” makes me wish that there were no other way to describe our faith. It is terribly unfortunate that there exist, within Christianity, many expressions of it that are anything but generous. Far too many are narrow, mean-spirited, stingy, dogmatic, and often downright unkind. Tragic, but true.

We United Methodists pride ourselves on being a people of *Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors*, and I don’t know of a better description of “generous Christianity.” Now if we could just live up to it! (and don’t you just love the title of Jones’ book????!)

Blessings...Steve



Bert Gibson	2
Laura Sax	2
Denise Wells	3
Stanley Watkins	3
Cristy Dyson	4
Taylor Gabinelli	4
Betty Lunsford	5
Jayden Gantt	6
Jack Templeton	7
Polly Johnson	8
Craig Thomasson	11
Trent Gaither	11
Madelyn Rutherford	12

Lucas Ledbetter	12
Anita Baldwin	13
Greg Wilson	14
Garrett Kiser	14
Ethan McKay	14
Eddy Hoots	15
Marcia Wooten	15
Shaun Hester	15
Mari-Katherine Webber	16
Jenny Mann	17
Amie Gregorio	18
Jean Thomasson	20
Kiley Cass	20
Nathan Cantrell	22
Andy Johnson	22
Sandra Gantt	24
Paulette Osborne	24
Eleanor Wilson	24
Jesse Ledbetter	26
Len Robinson	26
Kenny Edmisten	27
Lillie Blanche VanHoy	28
Macon Shore	28



Randy & Barbara Simmerson	7
Jerry & Dianne Brown	21
Scottie & Tara Brown	22
Jack & Evelyn Connor	24
Jim & Snookie Staley	24

Green Committee Meeting



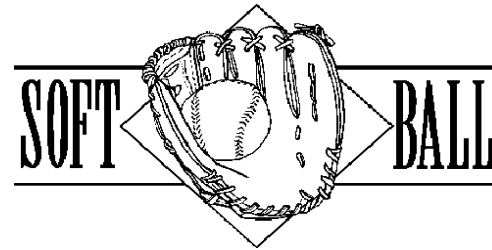
Monday,
March 8
6 p.m.

Relief for Victims of the Earthquake in Haiti



The WNCC Office of Mission/Outreach and Disaster Response acknowledged UGUMC's contribution of \$2,631 for Haiti Earthquake Relief.

Thank you all for your generous donations!



Softball Tournament

Friday & Saturday,
April 9-10

Lone Hickory Softball Field

**Proceeds to benefit
North Iredell Emergency
Training Facility**

for use by northern Iredell fire and rescue personnel.

(Volunteers in our church family include Kelly & Kari Welborn, who serve at the Wilkes-Iredell Dept.)

Tournament open to churches, businesses, etc.

Entry Fee: \$100/team

For more information, call
704-902-6405
or 704-252-7350.



Justin Riley Black Feb. 10, 2010

Congratulations from the UGUMC family to proud parents Tracy Black & Kelli Davis and grandparents Tara & Scottie Brown!



Friday, March 19

Dinner & A Movie

Time & Location:
TBA

Saturday,
March 20

Welcome, Spring!





**Saturday, March 28
2:00 p.m.**

All Preschool
& Elementary Age
Children Are
Welcome!



Funeral Meals

Special thanks are extended to all those who have helped prepare, serve, and clean up at the meals for the families who have lost loved ones in our church in recent weeks.

In this time of tremendous loss, you have truly lived up to our church mission statement.

**Palm Sunday
March 28**

All children are invited to be a part of the procession of the palms during the 11:00 worship service.

If you would like to participate, just meet in the vestibule prior to the start of the service.







**Church Council Meeting
Monday, March 15
7:00 p.m.**

**Monthly Supper Club
Thursday, March 18
Boxcar Grill**



March 2010

ESL & GED Classes
Tues. & Thurs., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fluffy Exercise Group
Tues. & Thurs., 7-8 p.m.
Sundays, 6 p.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 UMW Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Chicks with Sticks, 7 p.m.	2 Veterans Meeting, 9 a.m.	3 Wonderful Wednesday, 6 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.	4 Sonshiners, 11 a.m.	5  World Day of Prayer	6
7	8 Green Committee Meeting, 6 p.m. Chicks with Sticks, 7 p.m.	9	10 Wonderful Wednesday, 6 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.	11	12	13 Scrap Metal Drive at the Church
14  Girl Scout Sunday	15 Chicks with Sticks, 7 p.m.	16	17 Wonderful Wednesday, 6 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.	18 Monthly Supper Club—Boxcar Grill, 6:30 p.m.	19 Ladies' Night Out, TBA	20 Miss Union Grove Pageant, 6 p.m.
21  Women's Sunday Lunch served by UMM following worship service	22 Chicks with Sticks, 7 p.m.	23	24 Wonderful Wednesday, 6 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.	25	26 Cub Scout Parent's Race & Pinewood Derby Check-In, 6-9 p.m.	27 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Race, 6-9 p.m.
28  PALM SUNDAY	29 Cub Scout Crossover Ceremony, 7 p.m. Chicks with Sticks, 7 p.m.	30	31 Wonderful Wednesday, 6 p.m. Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.			



Infant

- March 7:** Annette Campbell
- March 14:** Jenny Mann
- March 21:** Linda Shaver
- March 28:** Amanda Loftis

Toddler

- March 7:** Sue & Tommy Gaither
- March 14:** Penny Ledbetter & Jeanne Gaither
- March 21:** Denise & Carey Reeder
- March 28:** Alice Combs & Denise Wells

March Video Delivery Schedule

- March 7:** Sue Gaither
- March 14:** June Herring
- March 21:** Gene Shaver
- March 28:** Paulette Osborne

March Visitation Team Schedule

- Week Of:**
- March 7:** Kenny & Meme Edmisten
 - March 14:** Mike Loftis & Todd Somers
 - March 21:** Mike York & Tony Key
 - March 28:** Joe Mann & Dennis Sharpe

March Methodist Meals Delivery Drivers

- March 2:** Paulette Osborne & Madelyn Rutherford
- March 4:** June Herring & Dennis Dowell
- March 9:** Paulette Osborne & June Herring
- March 11:** Anne & Noel Weisner & Harry Ruddy
- March 16:** Paulette Osborne & June Herring
- March 18:** Anne & Noel Weisner & Dennis Dowell
- March 23:** Paulette Osborne & June Herring
- March 25:** Anne & Noel Weisner & Harry Ruddy
- March 30:** Paulette Osborne & June Herring



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

to deliver canned goods collected at UGUMC to Matthew 25 in Harmony once a month on Wed. or Sat. 9 a.m.—12 p.m. *Contact the church office.*



Monthly Veterans Meeting

Tuesday, March 2
9:00 a.m.

WANTED Stationary Bicycle

Call Lee Hebbard
704-592-4878

Donations Sought For Growing Church Bus Fund



We now have over \$5,000 in our bus fund. Money continues to come in on a regular basis, and we are grateful for any and all contributions.

We would love to have all the money and the bus purchased by the time the youth leave for their mission trip this summer.

Please Help Us Meet Needs While Being Good Stewards: Alert Church Staff When Planning To Use Our Facilities

If your group is planning to cook on the church gas stove, please contact the church office so we can be sure the gas is turned on for you to use and also arrange for you to turn it off before you leave. (In an effort to conserve gas, we turn it off when not in use.)

If you are in a group that meets on a regular night of the week (such as ESL/GED, Scouts, Fluffy Women, etc.), please contact Steve or call the church office so that we can program the thermostats in the rooms being used. All too often, Steve and Jeanne find the heat left on several days after groups have met. We are trying to be good stewards of our resources in addition to going green!

Kerry Wooten Studying In Spain; Check Out Her Blog

Our own Kerry Wooten is a graduate student at UNC-G, currently studying in Spain.

If you would like to learn more about her experiences in Spain, visit Kerry's blog about her trip at kerryleeinspain.blogspot.com.



Scrap Metal Drive Saturday, March 13

Please begin collecting your scrap metal, and bring it to the church that morning. If you need help with larger items, please contact Bill Wooten or call the church office.



Sonshiners
Thursday, March 4
11:00 a.m.

"How to Marry a Preacher"
A comical play
Presented by drama group from
Statesville Center for Seniors

New Phone Tree System Needed

Our church is in desperate need of a new phone tree. Have you experienced all the glitches in our current one? Sometimes it rings and you hear nothing. Sometimes it says, "Hello, this is Jeanne" and then stops. Sometimes it calls several times before you finally get the message. And sometimes the message is hard to understand.



We want to improve our communication. It is key to the life of our church. If you feel led to make a donation toward a new phone tree, please earmark an extra donation toward that cause!

Vacation Bible School Director(s) Sought



NEEDED

Our church is still looking for a volunteer to serve as our VBS Director.

This year, as planned, our VBS will be held at Friendship UMC. You will remember that last year we hosted VBS here as part of a team effort. This year it is Friendship's turn to host at their church. Our director will be working with the director at Friendship.

If you feel called to help with this ministry, please contact Gene Shaver or Mike Loftis, or call the church office.

Light Sensors Installed In Bathrooms, Other Areas



Special thanks go to Jamie Gilbert, member of the Green Committee, for the installation of sensors in our church restrooms and other high traffic areas.

These were recommended by the Green Committee in an effort to save energy and to further the effort of our church going green. If you fail to turn off the lights when leaving a room, they will now go off automatically.

The sensors were paid for with proceeds from the scrap metal drive.

United Methodist Churches Teaming Up To Impact Hunger

On Saturday, June 5, 2010, churches throughout our conference are being asked to volunteer to make an impact in their local communities. I have been asked to participate on a committee with the Statesville District to plan for this event in our district.

Our committee members have decided that we wanted to focus on hunger. We will be asking local churches in each county to collect 8 different pantry items. These items will be delivered to a central location in each county (still to be determined), and volunteers will help distribute these items to those who request assistance. If we have any food left over, the food will be divided and delivered to local missions in the county. We anticipate the event will end by early afternoon.

The event will be highly publicized so as to benefit as many people as possible but also to promote interest in attending church and encourage new members to join. The conference is selling red t-shirts to all those that volunteer. They are \$5 apiece if ordered in the next two weeks. They will have our church name on them. They say "IMPACT COMMUNITY" on one side and "What if . . . church left the building?" (along with our church name) on the other side. This effort embodies our mission statement "to serve Jesus Christ by being his heart, hands, feet and voice." It will be an opportunity to partner with other Methodist Churches and make a big impact in our community. It will be an opportunity to show God's love to those in need.



Our church has decided to participate and will be collecting a different pantry item over eight weeks, in April and May, to donate to the event. Our church hopes to collect enough of each item so that we could serve 100 families with our donations. We will announce what items we are collecting each week and these will be collected on Wednesdays and Sundays of each week. For the next two Wonderful Wednesdays, I will be taking orders for the t-shirts and will have samples of the items we will be collecting for distribution.

We need all kinds of volunteers. We need: people to help collect, to help organize, to help distribute, to take registration, to take pictures, to video the event, to help deliver, to help clean up, to talk to those receiving food, to provide entertainment while people wait, etc. I would encourage you to make this a family event and set it as a priority on your calendar. Buy a t-shirt and join Methodist across the state, making a difference on June 5.

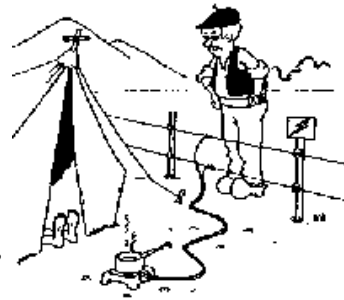
Thank you!
Lisa York



Stay tuned for more details!


BSA Troop 619 News

The scouts with Troop 619 have braved the winter weather this year and continue to work on advancements. Next week we will be practicing our outdoor cooking using Dutch ovens over coals and an open fire. Later in March we will be visiting museums in Raleigh. We are looking forward to seeing an exhibit on the 100 Years of Scouting at the NC History Museum.. Other activities in the works this spring are a hiking trip, backpacking, camping, and beach camping at Hammocks Beach State Park.



Cub Scout Pack 370 Plans For Busy March

Awards Presented To Cub Scouts At Annual Banquet

 Cub Scout Pack 370 celebrated the 100 years of scouting at their annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 20. Numerous awards earned throughout the year were presented to the scouts at the event. Cub scouts in our church family are Jake Gilbert and Trent Gaither. Members of the Webelos I den earned the God and Family pin.

Pinewood Derby Scheduled For March 27

The annual pinewood derby will be held at the church 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, March 27. Scouts may bring their cars for weigh in and inspection on Friday night. A parents' race is also planned for that evening.



Crossover Ceremony Planned In March

Members of the Webelos II den will cross over from cub scouts to boy scouts in a special ceremony on Monday, March 29. A meal will be served by other scout dens following the ceremony.

- Shortbreads
- Thin Mints
- Caramel deLites
- Thanks-A-Lots
- Lemonades

Girl Scout Cookies

for sale
NOW -
Get yours while you can
from one of the Girl Scouts
in our Church Family!
\$3.50 per box

- Peanut Butter Sandwich
- Peanut Butter Patties
- Reduced Fat Daisy-Go-Rounds



Girl Scout Sunday

March 14



United Methodist Women Meeting

Monday, March 1

Meal & fellowship—6:30 p.m.
At the home of UMW president Cindy Jones
Soup supper prepared by the officers

United Methodist Women Sunday

March 21

Special Speaker:
Penny Ledbetter
Certified Lay Speaker

UMW Mission Recognition Pins Presentation

Dedication of Prayer Shawls
by
Chicks with Sticks

Lunch following the worship service prepared by the United Methodist Men

Union Grove Ruritan Annual Spring Fest

Saturday, April 17
begins at 8 a.m.

Parade at 10 a.m.



Union Grove Ruritan Miss Union Grove Pageant

Saturday, March 20
6:00 p.m.

Kenny Edmisten Needs Our Help

Please help our Visitation Team Chairman, Kenny Edmisten, by making it a point to locate newcomers to our church, especially at our worship services. Please encourage them to sign the attendance pads, especially if they are sitting at the ends of the pews. Also, please find Kenny after church (or email/call him on Monday) and tell him of new people that you met so that we can be sure to visit them that week. He would rather have a dozen "informants" than none!

