

The Connection

Volume 1 Issue 1

September 7, 2014

"Being the Church" in the Snow Hill and Lawsonville Communities

A Word from the Pastor

Dear SHUMC faith community,
I am excited to provide you with this first edition of our new church newsletter, **The Connection**. The purpose of the newsletter is to help keep us connected regarding the opportunities for worship, service, and witness within the church. In addition, it will provide a way to be aware of concerns and news within the church family. Finally, it will provide a space for information that can support and uplift the spiritual growth and commitment of our congregation.

The newsletter will be distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Copies will be available the following Sunday as well. Members who are not in attendance will have the opportunity to sign up to have the newsletter emailed to them (or US mail if no email exists).

Each of you is invited to provide suggestions for information that may be helpful. The newsletter will be evaluated after three months to look at its effectiveness.

It is my privilege to be your pastor and I want to support each of you in your spiritual growth as well as in the day to day experiences of your lives. Please let me know any way I can be of help.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Pat

Back to Church Sunday

Sunday, September 14

Summer is over –school is in session. No matter what may have kept us from regular attendance at church, this is the time for us to gather together as the Snow Hill community of believers. Take note of special events that day:

Sunday School classes will be in place for Nursery-preschool, kindergarten-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, middle school, high school and college, adults up to 50ish, adults 51-75ish, and adults 75ish and up.

A light breakfast will be prepared and ready at 9:20 in the fellowship hall. You don't have to prepare breakfast. Just get the family dressed and come on to church.

At 9:45 –assemble in the sanctuary for the kick-off celebration of Sunday School.

10:50 – Worship Service: Special music will be provided that day.

At 5:00 p.m. all high school students are invited to join the pastor in the fellowship hall for pizza and a movie.

Membership or Attendance?

People often ask "How does someone become a member of the church?" As in most mainline denominations, Methodists have a process. The first step is to be baptized, either as an infant, or as a professing adult. When you are baptized you enter into the universal church of Jesus Christ, but you do not become a member of a local church congregation. Any baptized adult (generally considered 13 years of age and up) can ask to become a member of a local Methodist Church. They talk with the pastor and let them know their desire to become a member. A date is set in which the person will come forward and declare their faith and commitment to Christ and to the ministries of the local church.

What if you have not been baptized? If you believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Christ as your Savior you can be baptized and accepted into membership of a local Methodist church. Again, all you have to do is talk with the pastor about your intentions and desires. In the Methodist Church you can be baptized by a small amount of water on your head, a pouring of water on your head, or even by total immersion. You simply talk with the pastor about your preferences.

Frequently asked Questions:

1. **Since I joined a church when I was a teenager, I thought I was a member of any church I attended.** No. Membership is within a local congregation. When you move to a new church you will need to transfer your membership to be a member.

2. **What if I don't know how long I will stay here?** Membership is transferrable to any mainline church that you attend. You are not altering your faith or commitment to Christ, you are establishing a commitment to a local congregation.

3. **Will the new pastor join SHUMC like her husband did?** No. United Methodist pastors are members of the total conference in which they serve and cannot be members of a single congregation.

4. **I don't see why it matter whether or not I am a member of a congregation as long as I participate.** That may sound reasonable, but you may want to consider how many organizations or clubs you have been a part of where you just showed up for meetings, but never became a member. The local church is a community of believers who worship, serve, give, grow and witness as a family. Making a public commitment to that family is a special blessing and responsibility for true membership.

Have more questions? The pastor will be happy to talk with you about baptism and/or membership (336-314-1276).

Did You Know?

Did you know that the founder of the Methodist movement, [John Wesley](#), never became a Methodist?

He was an Anglican priest who observed that members were not living out their faith by growing spiritually, being accountable, and serving the needs of their communities. He established groups (called classes and bands) that provided for a deeper commitment to living the Christian life. These groups met each week in addition to the regular worship services. Over time the "Methodist" way of Christianity became so strong and well received that it became a denomination (1784 in America).

Wesley had three general rules for living the Christian life: 1) Do no harm, 2) Do all the good you can, 3) Stay in alignment with the commands of God.

Caring for Each Other

Please be in prayer for members of our church and community who are experiencing illness, grieving, or suffering in some other way:

Eddie and Amy Bennett
The family and friends of Charlotte Frye
Kaitlyn Green
Orel Robertson

Members Unable to Worship With Us

Please keep the following SHUMC members and neighbors in your prayers. If you have the opportunity to visit or send a card it would be most appreciated.

Joy Martin
Jacqueline Priddy
Elsie Sisk
Margaret Moorefiel
Billy Shelton
Lenora Smith
Mary Tilley

We will not publish addresses in the electronic version of *The Connection*, please contact the church for this information.

New Adult Class for "Under 50'S"

Are you under 50 years of age? Well if so we have a great new spiritual growth opportunity for you. Sunday mornings at 9:45 a class called "The Wired Word" will meet in the sanctuary. The Lessons are developed straight from the major news topics of the week. Scripture lessons that relate directly to the topic are studied and discussions will lead members to a better understanding of God's messages for them in an often confusing world. Come visit this class and see how it speaks to you. Over 50? We have two other classes that also provide outstanding biblical and spiritual growth. Questions? Call the pastor at 314-1276.

New Spiritual Formation Group Begins!

Join us for an enriching and spiritually uplifting experience as we examine some of the most pressing questions of life and faith. This eight-week study, beginning September 24th, will draw on Scripture and Christian tradition as we journey into deeper levels of faith, working by love.

We will be provided with an inspirational and comprehensive look at the key contributions of John Wesley to the world of Christian theology. This study is not just for Methodists, but for anyone seeking to be a follower of Christ. The sessions will be held each Wednesday through November 19th in the SHUMC fellowship hall (6:15-7:30) and led by our pastor.

UMW

RUMMAGE SALE FUNDS MISSIONS MINISTRY

The annual United Methodist Women's rummage sale is this Thursday and Friday. Please donate all items that you no longer need or use and help turn them into cash for ministry. Also – please attend the sale. You can pick up many "steals" and pick up some sweet treats in the deal. Call Cindy Roberts for more info.

Welcome New Members

Chuck Spicer—Aug. 24—Transfer Membership
Keith Lawson—Aug. 31—Reaffirmation of Faith
Sherrie Lawson— Profession of Faith / Baptism

Worship at Hanging Rock

On Sunday, September 28th we will gather at Hanging Rock Park for worship, fellowship and a great lunch together. Members of the United Methodist Men will grill hot dogs and hamburgers. The rest of the congregations is invited to bring side dishes or desserts. The service will begin at 10:50. The shelter under which we will meet does not require walking up steps, nor walking a long distance. If you would like to attend, but need assistance in getting to the park, please call the church office (593-3362) and let us know. We will make every effort to help get you to the park.

Staying Connected

Snow Hill United Methodist has added two ways of staying connected: the Snow Hill UMC Facebook page provides pictures and information about happenings at the church. Our website: www.snowhillumc.org provides a comprehensive picture of the total church ministry, its programs and events. You can check for calendar dates, explore ministry opportunities, and follow links for devotions, prayers, and numerous opportunities provided through the United Methodist Church at large. You can also find the Sunday Bulletins (in the Worship section of the site. Our website is brand new, so we ask for your patience as we develop it and we also ask for you input as to what you would like to see on the site. If you are responsible for an event or program at the church, please submit an article and pictures for inclusion on the web site.

Please email Pastor Pat (revpspicer@snowhillumc.org) with questions and suggestions concerning the church's Facebook page and web site.

In this newsletter you will find a form to update your contact information so we can communicate with you efficiently and effectively.

September Calendar

8	7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Women
10	6:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	6:15	Bible Study
	7:30	Choir
11 & 12		UMW Rummage Sale
14:	9:20	"Back to Church Sunday" Breakfast
	5:00	Pizza Party with the Pastor (high school)
17	7:30	Church Council
21	8:00	United Meth. Men's Breakfast
	10:50	"Third Sunday" Service
24	6:15	The "Wesleyan Way" Study Begins
	7:30	Choir
28	10:50	Worship Service at Hanging Rock
	4:30	Nurture Committee:
Oct. 4		UMM Brunswick Stew Sale

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www.snowhillumc.org
Facebook: [Snowhill UMC—Danbury NC](https://www.facebook.com/SnowhillUMC-DanburyNC)

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