

The Connection

Volume 1 Issue 6

February 2015

"Being the Church" in the Snow Hill Community

A Word from the Pastor

February has become the month that we associate with love: romantic love, love of brother, sister – love of neighbor. This month long emphasis probably began with the Feast of St. Valentine on February 14th and just expanded over time. But, it is a great idea to have some special time to focus on love in our world.



Since "God is Love", we celebrate this month best by observing God at work in the world and by joining with him in that work. Our Church Council is engaging in the work of establishing the Vision for SHUMC – and what our efforts during the next five years will involve in making the Vision a reality. A major part of that Vision will include carrying out the ministry of the Church through Outreach, Evangelism, Worship, and Congregational Care.

I encourage everyone to be in prayer for the Vision and for the ministry of this part of Christ's Church. Please talk with members of the Church Council and with me about your dreams for all that this congregation can mean to the community and ultimately to the world. Next, be in prayer about where and how God is calling you to serve in ministry. Finally, contact the ministry leader of an area that seems to match your interests and volunteer to serve.

To assist you with providing input and in identifying ways in which you can serve, I am including a church council framework along with a brief explanation of ministry areas enclosed with this newsletter.

Please call or email me to discuss any of this framework.

Finally, let me remind you that I am available to talk with you any time I can be of service. All you have to do is call me or email me and let me know how I can help. I will pray with you by phone, meet with you, meet you at the hospital, or support you in any other way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I also invite you to continue notifying me of family and friends who need prayer and support.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Pat

Lenten Bible Study *The God We Know*

This seven-week study will meet each Wednesday evening at 6:15 in the fellowship hall, beginning February 24th. God wants us to know him and this study will help us grow in that knowledge and in our faith. During our time together we will explore what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the Bread of Life; the Light of the World; the Good Shepherd; the True Vine; the Way, the Truth, and the Life; the Resurrection and the Life.

Make plans to schedule time for this study and let it serve as a meaningful guide for your Lenten preparation.

THE SACRED SEASON OF LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 18

This year Lent begins early, with Ash Wednesday on February 18. This sacred season is one in which we make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ.

Ash Wednesday Service: February 18 at 7:00 p.m. This worship service is a holy time where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our love of God. During the service the pastor will impose ashes upon our foreheads. Why ashes? In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. The small amount of ash is smudged upon the forehead in the sign of a cross that reminds us of Jesus' resurrection and forgiveness. It is a powerful non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

How Do I "DO" Lent? Are you searching for something more? Are you tired of running in circles but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a time to repent – to return to God and refocus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. There are a number of practices that can help. You may wish to try one of these during Lent.

Fasting: Fasting can mean going without food for a period of time, but that is not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians fast from a certain food or activity as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. You might give up some activity like worry or reality TV to spend time enjoying God's creation. Consider what you need to let go of. What clutters your calendar and life?

Service Some Christians take something **on** for Christ during Lent. You can volunteer to help at the Food Pantry, contribute items to the East Stokes Thrift Shop, make monetary donations, help a stranger, co-worker or friend in need.

Prayer: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or spent more time in quiet listening to God.

UMW Chicken Pie Sale

Between Feb. 1 and 21 the United Methodist Women will be taking orders for Mrs. Pumpkin's Moravian and vegetable chicken pies and spaghetti. You can see any member of the UMW, call Judy Fain at (336) 593-8397, or click [HERE](#) to go to the church's web site for complete information and a printable order form.

Money raised through the sale will be used to support the UMW's mission ministries.

Did You Know?

Most Christians are aware that the season of Lent is 40 days long. But, did you know that those 40 days do not include Sundays? That's right. Each Sunday is considered a remembrance of Easter and as such is not included in Lent.

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.

Ila Mae Overby
 Jacqueline Priddy
 Billy Shelton
 Elsie Sisk
 Mary Tilley

Due to privacy concerns, we will not publish contact info. on the web. You may call the church for this information.

Caring for Each Other

The Snow Hill UMC family extends its sympathy to the family of Rachel Lawson Martin. Rachel was a beloved part of our church until her death on January 22. Her service was held in the Sanctuary on January 25 and burial was in the SHUMC Cemetery.

SHUMC Feeding Ministries

1) **Weekend Back Packs** for students at Piney Grove Middle School: Approximately 16 students receive a back pack every Friday that contains enough food for 6 meals. Students are selected for participation in this program by the school's child nutrition department. Gladys Martin is the contact person for this ministry (336) 871-2631. You can assist with this ministry by making a donation – it costs about \$10.00 per child per week to provide a Weekend Back Pack.

2) **Northern Stokes Food Pantry** in Francisco provides food for approximately 70 families every week. 7257 Highway 89 West in Francisco—adjacent to the Francisco Presbyterian Church

How can you help? Contact Joel Moorefield at (336) 593-3757 if you would be willing to help members of our United Methodist Men's group pick up food at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Winston-Salem and deliver it to the food pantry. Our pick-up day is the third Wednesday of each month – 8:00 a.m. – approx. 1:30 p.m. Help is also needed every Wednesday around 12:00 p.m. to unload the trucks that deliver food to the pantry.

If you are available between 8:30 and 5:00 on Thursdays help is needed distributing food to the families in need of this assistance. Please call (336) 351-3416 for further information.

The food pantry can purchase food for about 19 cents per pound, they appreciate donations of non perishable food items, but a monetary donation can go much farther. You can drop your donation by the church or place it in the collection plate on Sunday. Please make the check payable to: "Northern Stokes Food Pantry."

3) **East Stokes Outreach Ministry** located in Walnut Cove provides food, clothing, etc. for individuals and families in need in eastern Stokes County. You can make donations (in good condition) of clothing, furniture, kitchen items, etc to the East Stokes Outreach Ministry Thrift Store. Money raised in the store is used to fund the food pantry.

February Birthdays

The Following church members birthdays are on record. If you are aware that one is missing or incorrect, please call the church office and leave that information.

Feb. 5	Josh Manning
Feb. 5	Betty Pendleton
Feb. 11	Lisa Overby
Feb. 15	Jessica Amos
Feb. 20	Kathleen Albee
Feb. 21	Dawn Smith
Feb. 28	Austin Foster
Feb. 28	Helen Spencer

Congratulations to Josh Manning

Josh won the Lawsonville Spelling Bee this past week. Josh, we are all very proud of you and your accomplishment.

Mission Meal—February 22

Following the 10:50 Worship Service on Feb. 22, the Outreach Ministry area will be sponsoring this year's first Mission Meal to support our Weekend Backpack Ministry for students at Piney Grove Middle School. Our first meal will feature Soup and Salad.

Please mark your calendar and join us on the 22nd for a wonderful meal, fellowship, and a chance to support this vital ministry of SHUMC.

February Calendar

Feb. 1*	Coffee Time: 9:20 a.m. Sunday School Assembly: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes: 9:50 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. UMW Chicken Pie Sale Begins
Feb. 4	Morning Prayer: 6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Modern Parable Study: 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Third Sunday Band rehearsal: 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 6	Fifth Quarter, North Stokes HS following Basketball Game
Feb. 8	Worship Service: Gideon Message Youth Fellowship and Lessons: 6:30—8:00 p.m.
Feb. 9	UMW Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 11	Morning Prayer: 6:30—8:00 a.m. Modern Parable Study: 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	Third Sunday Band Rehearsal: 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 15	Worship Service- 3 rd Sunday <i>Format</i> UMM Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.
Feb. 18	Morning Prayer: 6:30—8:00 a.m. UMM Pick up food for Northern Stokes Food Pantry: 8:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 19	Third Sunday Band Rehearsal: 5:00 p.m.
Feb. 21	UMW Chicken Pie Sale ends
Feb. 22	Worship Mission Meal: Following 10:50 Service, Soup and Salad – in support of Piney Grove Middle School Back Pack Ministry Youth Fellowship and Lessons: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Feb. 25	Morning Prayer: 6:30 – 8:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study: 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	Third Sunday Band Rehearsal: 5:00 p.m.

* Standard Sunday morning schedule, will be used every Sunday unless noted.

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