



**WORSHIP
 FOR
 FEBRUARY**

8:45 AM: Early Worship
 9:45 AM: Sunday School
 10:55 AM: Morning Worship

Sunday, March 7
Sunday, March 14
Sunday, March 21
Sunday, March 28: Cantata
No Early Service
Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 7
First Food Sunday

Sunday, March 7
Communion

You Are the Christ



Cantata
Chancel Choir If you would
Orchestra like to help
 defray the cost of the Orches-
 tra please make your contribu-
 tion to the Music Memorial
 Fund and indicate to whom you
 would like listed in the bulletin.

March 28
10:55
Worship
Service

Sunday, March 28,
9:00 AM

Our men provide
breakfast for
everyone.



The First Grapevine

THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

By

J. Christian Wilson

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

You will be hearing a lot about the *Five Practices* over the next couple of months. What is it? First of all, *Five Practices* is a book by Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. Second, it's a program for churches seeking ways of doing better in every major aspect of church life. It is not a program for struggling churches or churches with major problems, but a program strong churches seeking to get stronger.

Our *Five Practices* Leadership Team has selected April 18 through May 23, the season of Easter in the Christian Year, as the time for our study. During that time our worship services, sermons, and many church activities will revolve around the *Five Practices*. Two Sunday School classes, Faithful Friends and Lamplighters, have already begun the study. New Horizons class has committed to doing the study during the time we will be doing it church-wide. We hope other classes will take up the study as well. Our Evangelism committee has already been using exercises in the study during their meetings.

Five Practices Saturday Morning Breakfasts for United Methodist Men

During the period of the study we will be offering Saturday morning breakfasts for United Methodist Men, every Saturday beginning April 17, and going through May 22 (but no breakfast on Merlefest Saturday). The breakfasts will be off-campus, at the homes of different church members.

Other Opportunities

We are also looking to offer at least one five week, one hour a week, class on the *Five Practices* for those who are not members of Sunday School classes. Other activities will include our annual church wide work day, and a culminating covered dish lunch on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, at which we will also honor all our new members who have joined the church since last year at Pentecost. None of the opportunities require that you read the study book, but if you're interested in reading it, we would be glad to get you copy. *Five Practices* will also be providing a daily devotional book for every family in the church for the five weeks of the study.

You will be hearing more about each one of the *Five Practices* as we go along. The *Five Practices* are: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. Our leadership team is Beth Lovette, Danny Reece, Kyrie Krenz, Ann Absher, Frances Casey, Julie Hamilton, and Dan Pardue.

We have a great church, greatly blessed by God. We have a beautiful campus, a talented and committed church staff, and a lot of wonderful people. We are solid financially and have no debt. We have activities going on in our church at least six nights a week. We have increasing opportunities for mission. We have a joyful harmony among our members. As blessed as we are, we can't just sit on our blessings. God wants us to do better. God wants us to grow, both spiritually and numerically. *Five Practices* may well give us that extra spark.

Chris

March Worship Assistants

Ministry & Coordinator	DATE March 7	DATE March 14	DATE March 21	DATE March 28
Acolyte-Crucifer Gina Ortiz March Crucifer: Daniel Shinaman	Avery & Josh Van Noy <hr/> Leader: Joanna Van Noy	Henry & Sarah Grace Shepherd <hr/> Leader: Neil Shepherd	Henry & Sarah Grace Shepherd <hr/> Leader: Neil Shepherd	Harrison Wilson & Stephanie Shinaman <hr/> Leaders: Ellen Wilson Mel Shinaman
Children's Church	N/A	Leigh Shepherd	Lisa Casey	N/A
Communion Assistants: Ann Absher	Tim and Ellen Wilson Keith & Pam Lenderman Matt Harrold	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial Assistant Coordinator: Joe Brank				
Greeters: Lisa Casey				
Lector Coordinators: David & Teresa Minton	Mike Kennedy	Kyrie Krenz	David Hale	N/A
Nursery Coordinator: Laura Phillips	(8:45 AM) Laura Phillips <hr/> (10:55 AM) Lisa & Molly Casey	(8:45 AM) Laura Phillips <hr/> (10:55 AM) Marjorie & McLain Rigdon	(8:45 AM) Lisa Casey <hr/> (10:55 AM) Holly Hall Lee K. Cornett	No Early Service <hr/> (10:55 AM) Brett & Kyrie Krenz
Sound Coordinator: Brad Shinaman	Brett Krenz	Brett Krenz	Brett Krenz	Brett Krenz
Usher Captain: C. K. Smith	Lee Herring	Lee Herring	Lee Herring	Lee Herring
Altar Guild: Ginny Moore	St. Martha Chapter	St. Martha Chapter	St. Martha Chapter	St. Martha Chapter
Attendance & Offering	January 31	February 7	February 14	February 21
Sunday School:	No Services	No SS (snow)	130	121
Worship Service:	(Snow)	Services in Chapel	262	185
Offering:	0	\$ 13,305	\$ 19,723	(see next month's Grapevine)

Have you met Janice?



Janice Burchette, the church's new Administrative Assistant began her work in December with an agreement that it could become permanent after a three month trial period for both her and the church. Well, it looks like she is here to stay! During this time she has proved an invaluable addition to our church family with her pleasant smile and cheerful greetings to all who enter the office area. She has worked in other churches in the area in this position and is a very active member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Ronda., where she is co-director of the Vacation Bible School, assistant director of Women's Missions and Sunday School secretary. She has organized and participated in several Church Mission Trips and this has become one of her family's favorite activities.

She and her husband David recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and have two daughters: Lauren, who is attending Pharmacy School at Campbell University and Abby, a student at East Wilkes Middle School. If you haven't had a chance to meet Janice just stop by the office or call to give your greetings.



March 2010

01	Keith Johnston
02	Stephanie Burke; Jack Hunter
03	Anne Marie Erhardt
04	No listing
05	Katie Hubbard
06	John Colvard
07	No listing
08	Ella Rhodes; Taylor Eldridge
09	Walt McColl; Erin Minton
	Katherine Minton; David Patton
10	Adam Ortiz
11	Greg Herring
12	Susan Ringo
13	No listing
14	Jane Conner
15	Becky Absher
16	No listing
17	No listing
18	Dave DeGruchy
19	Daniel Shinaman
20	No listing
21	Judy Hendley; Shirlee Steele
22	Mary Lee Culler
23	Chris Eckard
24	No listing
25	Lee K. Cornett
26	Barbara Casey
27	Walter McSwain, Jr.; Madison Mascorro
28	No listing
29	Ellen Wilson
30	Jackie Herndon; Jay Shinaman
31	Dan Edmiston
Anniversaries	
6	Tom & Ginny Moore
12	Bill & Karen Clifton
13	Roger & Karen Hamby
16	Tom & Kathy Boyette
21	Brad & Mel Shinaman
29	James & Libby Williams
30	Stan & Betsy Whittington
31	Glenn & Gladys Winters

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.FIRSTNW.ORG

U. S. Postage Paid Permit #3
First United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 1145
N. Wilkesboro, NC 28659
Non-Profit Organization

SAVE THE DATE!
First Feast—Wednesday, March 24
The UMW will host First Feast on March 24, at 5:45 PM
Specialties include recipes from their latest cookbook.
Have a favorite dish? It could be on the menu for that night.
Join us to see!

Circle Meetings for Tuesday, March 2

10:30 AM: Johnston-Hix & Frank Smoot / Fellowship Classroom
Project: Emergency Fund

12:30 PM: Franklin-Gardner / Fellowship Classroom
Project: Call to Prayer/Self-Denial

6:00 PM: New Light Fellowship / at Tipton's BBQ, Wilkesboro
Project: Money for Tutoring/Snacks

Keepers
March 9, 12:00 PM
Youth Arena (rescheduled from February)

Everyone is asked to bring their own bag lunch, a dessert or snack to share, their favorite card or board game and even a friend to join the Keepers in the Youth Arena of the church for a time of food, fun and fellowship. Please sign up on the sheet outside of Matt's office. Drinks will be provided.


No Altar Flowers during Lent, however sign-ups are needed for the Easter Season.

Preschool Registration

Registration for the preschool year 2010-2011 began on Jan. 12.
Cost: 4 yr. old—Tues., Wed., Thurs., & Fri.—\$105.00 monthly
3 yr. old—Wed. & Fri. —\$90.00 monthly
2 yr. old—Tues. & Thurs.—\$90.00 monthly

There is a \$40.00 registration fee and applications are available at the church office.

I have to be the world's most blessed person. I started to s
 most generous "Love Offering." I can never thank you enough for all you have
 given me. "My cup runneth over." You will always hold a special

Love, Helen

Prayer Requests:

DeDe Power	Pat Sansing	Joan Rhodes (Forsyth)	Noah Shumate (St. Jude)
Ebb Barnette	Asher & Samuel Etheridge	Gerald Hendley	Freda DeGruchy
Lynn McAulay	Helen Taylor	Bill Pearson	

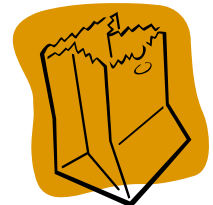
Bereaved family of: Ron Shoemaker

Lenten Devotion Books

Additional copies of the devotion book (daily devotions written by members of FUMC) are available in the Narthex.







RICE BAGS

It is again time to begin our Lenten privileges and disciplines. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, put the Rice Bag on or near the place where your family has its meals. In gratitude for our plenty, you are encouraged to daily put a gift of money inside – sufficient for a meal of rice for a neighbor in a third world country.



On Easter morning, we are invited to bring the filled bags to the foot of the cross near the altar. The offerings will go to One Great Hour of Sharing. Children and youth, remind your parents; parents, encourage your children and young people, and all be thankful.

MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Circles 10:30 Frank Smoot Johnston Hix (Fellowship Classroom) 12:30 Franklin Gardner (Fellowship Classroom) 6:00 New Light Fellowship (Tipton's BBQ)	3 5:45 First Feast (D. Carlton) Menu: Chicken pie, mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert	4	5 5:00-6:30 Wilkes Park/Rec. Girls Basket- ball	6
7 Communion First Food Sunday 12:15 Children's Council 	8 1:00 "loveknits"	9 12:00 Keepers 7:00 Boy Scouts (District) 7:15 Missions	10 5:45 First Feast (Smokehouse) Menu: BBQ sandwiches, baked beans, slaw, chips, cobbler	11 7:00 Stephen Min. (library)	12 5:00-6:30 Wilkes Park/Rec. Girls Basket- ball	13
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins Set clocks ahead 6:30 Finance 7:00 Church Council 	15 1:45 Worship Planning 5:15 Worship Committee	16 4:30 UMW Exec. 5:30 Trustees 6:30 Stewardship	17 5:45 First Feast (D. Carlton) Menu: Lasagna, salad, corn, garlic bread, desserts	18 6:00 Evangelism* *Date change	19 Faith Center Reserved (O'Dell) 5:30-8:30 PM	20 7:30 Arts Spiritoso Concert Randall Outland, tenor & Tony Deaton, baritone
21 	22	23 6:00-9:00 Relay for Life Team (Faith Center-reserved) Deadline for April Grapevine Articles	24 5:45 First Feast (UMW) Featuring great tasting dishes from their latest cookbook	25 5:30 Staff/Parish 7:00 Stephen Min. (both in library)	26	27
28  Palm Sunday Church Breakfast No 8:45 Worship: 10:55 Cantata 3:30: "Sonrise" Celebration	29	30 Grapevine Mailing	31 5:45 First Feast (Youth) Menu: Chicken Salad Croissants	April 1 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 PM Youth Arena 	 EASTER April 4 Sunrise Service 7:00 AM	
Every Sunday 8:45 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Morning Worship 4:15: Youth Praise Band 5:00 UMYF	Every Monday 10:15 Mothers to Mothers 11:00 NT Bible Study 5:00 First Feast Deadline 6:00-7:30 Wilkes County Parks & Rec. (boys) 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts	Every Tuesday Wilkes County Parks & Rec. 5:00-6:00 (girls) 6:00-7:30 (boys) 7:00-10:00 Tory Oak Twirlers (excluding 2nd Tuesday night-MMFH)	Every Wednesday 12:15 Noon Grace 3:45 Wacky Wed. 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 Disciple IV 6:30 Youth Bible Study 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Every Thursday Men's Basketball 6:00-8:00	Every Friday 7:00-10:00 Tory Oak Twirlers (MMFH)	

YOUTH NEWS

First Feast

Join the youth for First Feast on Wednesday night, March 31st, at 5:45 PM. We're serving Chicken Salad Croissants. Everyone is invited to join us. All proceeds benefit our youth programs.

Yard Sale



Youth Yard Sale—Saturday, May 15—Member preview sale on Wednesday, May 12. Accepting donations for the yard sale, if you can't bring your items to us, call Matt and the youth and they will get your donations for you. If bringing the items yourself, please leave them on the stage of the MM Fellowship Hall.



Arts Spiritoso Concert Saturday, March 20 at 7:30 PM Featuring Randall Outland, Tenor Tony Deaton, Baritone

These outstanding performers will present a varied program of Opera Arias, Art Songs and other genres accompanied by Steve Sensenig, Musical Director of the Barter Theater in Abingdon, Virginia. Randall Outland has been a member of the voice faculty of Appalachian State University since 1995 and has performed in major opera houses in Europe and the U.S.A. He was the voice teacher of our own David Brooks while David attend ASU. Mr. Deaton is



an Associate Professor of Music at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee and continues an active performance schedule throughout the Southeast.

The next concert in the series will take place on Saturday, May 15 and will feature the Phoenix Trio composed of faculty members from Elon University.



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 28

3:30—5:00 PM—Join us for this traditional celebration that includes games, an Easter Egg hunt, and mission project (Preparing Easter Baskets for Shut-ins) This afternoon of fun and fellowship is for children of all ages!

Needed: Plastic Eggs and Baskets are needed. If you have any type of medium size basket we could use, please bring it to the church office.



Wacky Wednesday Kids' Mission Work

Over the past few weeks our children have been very active helping to show God's love to both our own congregation and to others in the community. After a wonderful Sweetheart Supper (thanks for all your generous contributions to our children's ministry) our children (along with help from Lisa Casey and crew including several of our men who had made breakfast) made and delivered vegetable soup, corn muffins and beautiful pine cone flower arrangements to 18 permanent and temporary shut-ins of our congregation. Last Wednesday we visited Avante Nursing Center and presented the program that we had given at the Sweetheart Supper, served refreshments and presented paper flower arrangements to residents who were confined to their rooms. Our children are a blessing and continue to grow in many ways through Christ's love.

Congregational Card Ministry Report, January 2010:

2 Sympathy cards (no member deaths at FUMC)
16 Thinking of You cards
1 Congratulations card

12 Get Well cards
17 You're in the News cards

Respectively submitted: *Betty Link, Chairperson*