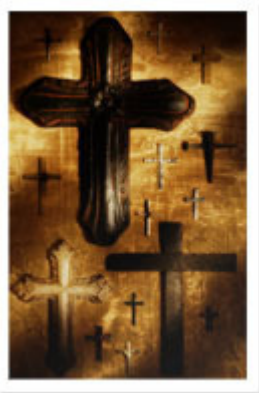


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First United Methodist Church of Greensboro

February Newsletter

2012

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Congregations have been doing a lot with teenagers, but it isn't always leading to consequential faith, maintains Kenda Creasy Dean in *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* (Oxford University Press, 2010). Urging congregations to move beyond emphasizing self-fulfillment and entertainment, Dean invites them to embody self-relinquishment and a missional imagination. "Mission means participating in the very life of God, taking part in the 'to die for' love of Jesus Christ, which is the purpose of the church," writes Dean. For missional congregations Jesus Christ has ultimate significance, and participating in Jesus' self-giving love shapes consequential faith.

Simple? Not quite. What keeps Dean awake at night is an alternate faith that is dulling the imaginations of teenagers. As a participant in the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), Dean interviewed many of the more than 3,300 American teenagers surveyed in this research. She found that American teenagers largely confess a faith that Christian Smith and Melissa Denton call Moralistic Therapeutic Deism. Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) has little to do with God or a sense of a divine mission in the world. It is a

page. This group is for members, visitors, and those who are curious about the church.

On Facebook - search: First United Methodist Church of Greensboro. Or click on the image below:



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QUICKLINKS

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self-emolliating spirituality aimed at achieving personal happiness and helping people treat each other nicely. It offers comfort, bolsters self-esteem, and helps solve problems by encouraging people to do well and feel good while keeping God at arm's length.

This faith has two significant purposes for teenagers in American culture. It supports relationships in a pluralistic society by deemphasizing Jesus and any other Christian peculiarities in favor of a benign faith. Second, MTD provides a safe religious experience to foster happiness and self-fulfillment.

The NSYR revealed something else. American teenagers, for the most part, mirror their parents' religious faith. MTD is the default faith for teenagers because it is essentially the default faith taught and practiced in congregations. While this keeps Dean up at night, oddly enough, it also provides a substantial ground for hope. "The best news about MTD is that teenagers do not buy it as faith. They buy into it - it shapes them nicely for fitting into American society, since it conforms so neatly to American dominant cultural ethos." The good news is that teenagers and the adults that surround them do not really buy this pseudo-faith, but neither are most connecting deeply with the authentic traditions of their particular religious faith.

Dean considered the small percentage of American teenagers who are highly devoted to religious faith, found primarily in "Mormon, conservative Protestant, and black Protestant communities."

Parents matter. The NSYR found that parents who share the story at the heart of their faith are more likely to have children who do the same. Dean suggests that adults convey the good news of Jesus Christ as love, not as information, and that teaching moments revolve around trust more than content. Talking about Jesus is very different from falling in love with Jesus. "The question lurking beneath the data surfaced by the NSYR is," says Dean, "'Do we as adults love Jesus enough to want to translate the Christian conversation for our children?'"

Highly devoted teenagers have a faith language because they hear a faith language spoken by their families, in their congregations, and among their friends. For instance, 74 percent of Mormon teenagers have families who talk about religious things every few days or weeks, compared to 23 percent of Mainline Protestant teenagers. Further, teenagers participate in faith practices because they are offered the opportunity to particulate meaningfully in the practices with

their families, in the congregations, and with their friends. Among Mormon teenagers, 65 percent spoke publicly about their faith in a religious service or meeting in the past year as compared to 33 percent of Mainline Protestant teenagers. Dean invites congregations to "look for places where adults can move beyond their comfort zones and talk about their faith in teenagers' presence."

Finally, Dean advocates that congregations embody a contemplative spirit, offering children, youth, and adults opportunities for spiritual pause and wonder. Contemplative experiences open spaces for reflection that blur the distinction between people we know and people we are coming to know. A contemplative spirit might not react to difference but could explore the nuances of difference in an act of self-giving. And this act of the contemplative spirit is closely akin to a missional imagination that ultimately conforms to Jesus Christ, whose self-giving love shaped consequential faith.

Thus to cultivate consequential faith among our teenagers, at least two elements are necessary: parents and a missional imagination. "What Christian adults know that teenagers are still discovering is that every one of them is an amazing child of God." Teenagers need to hear this confession and together with adults live into the good news of a self-giving love that is sent forth through the church into the world. This is the consequential faith that lets us all wake in the morning after a deep sleep.

I look forward to seeing YOU this Sunday as we develop consequential faith in our lives as well as the youth of the church, through worship and service of God. In this month of love, may we not talk about our love of God but may we live it.

Joe

Welcome our newest members!

Chuck and Helen McGregor

Catherine and Charlie

**FUMC GREENSBORO'S YOUTH presents
the 3rd Annual**



February 26

5:00 p.m.

Carey Station Road

Doors open at 4:30

Tickets are \$5. (can be purchased from a member of our youth group or the office)

Show starts at 5:00

This is an evening of *AMAZING* talent!

Join us for a fantastic show, and support the youth.

Want to be in lights?! Performance Forms are available in the office or online at www.fumcgreensboro.org (click on Original Amateur Hour)

Wednesday Night Spaghetti Dinner

February 15, 2012

Fellowship Hall - Carey Station Rd.

sponsored by the Nelson Circle

to benefit the Alliance for Smiles

Reservations: Peggy Hall

peggy@fumcgreensboro.org

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22

7:00 p.m.

FUMC Carey Station Rd.

Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Please come and join us. A nursery will be provided.

Nelson Circle News

The Nelson Circle will meet on February 13th at the North Campus (Broad Street location) at 10 AM with fellowship and food followed

by a program with Joyce Daniel speaking to us about the "Threads of Love" program and sharing with us the history of Christening gowns. Joyce does beautiful, creative sewing and I'm sure this will be a very interesting meeting. We'd love to have you join us. The Nelson Circle will host the Wednesday night dinner on February 15th at the South Campus (Carey Station Road location) with a program benefitting Alliance for Smiles.

Chander Circle News

The ladies of the Chandler Circle continue to receive God's blessings at our meetings. We would love for you to join us! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30 pm in the downstairs fellowship hall at the Carey Station location. We will start with a delicious snack provided by Cheryl Laine and Sheila Connelly, followed by a study led by Peggy Borchelt of Chapter 14 in Debbie Macomber's book, "One Simple Act."

We welcome all women of our church and any friends you would like to invite. Please note that child care will be provided. We hope to see you on February 21st for fun, fellowship, and learning more about God generosity!

For additional information, please contact Laura Dent at 706-347-1160 or Pam Luke at 706-474-0242.

United Methodist Men (UMMen) News

The UMMen of FUMC invite you to join us for our upcoming breakfast on Thursday, February 9 at 8:00 a.m. Carey Station Campus. Each breakfast features a wonderful breakfast and a guest speaker that delivers a meaningful and enjoyable message. Look for our informational signs in the gathering areas of each campus as they announce the speaker for the meeting and also see the announcements in our Church bulletin. Our UMMen is a creative and supportive fellowship of men who attend our church and who seek to know and serve Jesus Christ while engaging in events and activities that impact the mission of our church and community. Please join us for this opportunity to grow in your faith, engage in fellowship with friends and definitely have some fun! If you have questions, please feel free to call Bob Hummell at 706.817.3754 or email at hummellrl@yahoo.com.

"Parenting and Children" Class

Beginning February 12

This course is designed for those parenting children up to 10 years old.

This class will be held at the Carey Station Road Campus on February 12, 19, March 4, 11, and 18 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Childcare and meals will be provided.

There will be nursery workers for young children; Traci Martin for

older children; and Amanda for 11 and up if there are any in that age group.

Lynn Bowers, Larry Bowers and Cathy Rhodes will be leading this course. The cost is \$7.00 for the book.

Please let us know by contacting peggy@fumcgreensboro.org or signing up at either church if you're interested in this class. You may also call 706-453-7064 with your contact information (name, telephone number and email address), so that we have sufficient preparations in place.



First UMC Preschool News

Our theme for the month of February is Family Love. Our preschoolers enjoy their families. You can see the love and closeness as parents drop their children off or pick them up at noon. They are learning to include their preschool friends in their "school family". It is fun to watch children greet each other after a long weekend. Our preschoolers are beginning to experience caring for others as they care for members in their families.

February is the month the groundhog sees or doesn't see his shadow. We hope spring is not far whatever he does! Valentine's Day is Tuesday, February 14th. The post office mailperson will show us where our Valentine's will go after we mail them. Also, we will have a dental presentation to help us understand the importance of good dental health. Preschool registration will begin on February 15th for new students. Please tell your friends about our program.

God plans for families to love and care for one another. Our classes are like a family.



Children's News

We have some new things for the children in the works. Starting Feb. 12, the church is offering a Parenting class from 5-7:30 at Carey Station Road. Children are encouraged to come with their parents as we will provide activities for them during the class. I am looking for

volunteers to help with the children. I need 1-3 volunteers to help out with the 5 week study. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP.

We are also starting to plan VBS 2012 which will be held June 18 - 22 at Carey St. road. I need a volunteer to be the VBS Chairperson. You will have plenty of help along the way & it should be lots of fun. If you are interested please contact me.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped out during 2011 & continue to help in 2012. Your help is much appreciated :) If anyone has any suggestions for more activities we can offer our young children, please let me know. My door is always open for new ideas.

B.I.G - next meeting Feb. 12th - Carey St.

Donations Needed:

- 1 - baby swings
- 2 - blankets/sheets for play pens
- 3 - boppy + boppy covers
- 4 - any infant/toddler toys

- 5 - outdoor toys - tricycles, cars, etc.
(Donations may be gently used or new)

IMPACT

*Sunday School: Carey Station Road Campus: 10:30
Sunday's from 5:30-7:00: Carey Station Road
For youth 6th-12th grades*

*FEBRUARY Upcoming Dates
12: Original Amateur Hour Dress Rehearsal
26: Original Amateur Hour 5:00*

Seekers

Young Adult Ministry

Bible Study and fellowship for young adults without children.

Current Study: Who is this Guy?!
Discovering who God really is.

6:30 -7:45 Tuesdays

For more information e-mail

amanda@fumcgreensboro.org or 706.453.7064



Search: Seekers - Greensboro, Georgia



Let's Go to the Movies... Join the JOY CLUB (Just Older Youth) on Wednesday, Feb. 8th at the Spotlight Theatre (105 Parkside Main) to see the famous 1942 classic "**Casablanca**" starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and Paul Henreid The movie starts at 10 a.m. with lunch (\$8 per person) at the theatre after the movie. If you need a ride, please call Bonnie Anderson Black @ 706.467.2038.

Mission News

Work has begun on our Union Point project of replacing a rotten floor for a family. We have braced the floor and are in the process of putting down floor sheeting. Once the floors are finished we are going to install new paneling in the kitchen and living room. We can always use more help, so if you are interested in working on this project, please call Paul Guillette at 706-338-2845.

Several of us will be attending Mission Training in Augusta on

Saturday, February 4th that will give us certification for mission leadership, disaster response, shelter volunteers, etc.. We hope to bring back lots of valuable information to our church membership.

We are very excited about initiating a "Need a Ride?" program. If you are interested in getting a ride to any of our Worship Services or activities, please contact Merry Grayson through the church office. If you are willing to share a ride and pick someone up, also contact Merry. The church office #706-453-7064.

Food Bank Needs for February

Hearty Soups, Tuna Fish, and Grits

Grocery carts are located at each campus for you to place your donations of food. Paper bags are also needed if you have some extra. Thank you so much!

Read below and see how you are making a difference in Greene County.

Greetings Congregation,

As we enter into this New Year, we would like to pause and say "thanks" for helping us successfully complete the last quarter of 2011. Over the past few months, our client database has increased by nearly 30% compared to 3rd quarter. With your help of 510 lbs., we were able to provide food to 320 families in October and 369 families in November. You are truly a blessing to the Food Pantry and the clients that we serve. We are thankful for the partnership that we share; WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! It is my prayer that God will bless you 100 fold for you generous contributions.

Sincerely,

Angel Weaver

Food Pantry Coordinator

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking to expand the group to knit or crochet for those in need of prayers.

If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, we have teachers for you! Just come to the Bridal Room at Carey Station Campus on February 22, at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome! Any questions can be answered by Kathy Topken @ 706-453-4582 or Robin Miller @ 706-453-7957.

If anyone wishes to support this ministry by donating yarn, etc., please bring it to a church office.

Music Notes

Around the throne were twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads... The twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp...and

they sang a new song saying, You are worthy...

Revelation 4:4, 5:8,9

What is our desire as Christians at Greensboro FUMC in our music ministry? I believe if you asked a member of the Chancel Choir, the Spirit Singers, or the Handbell Choir, they would say that their desire is to sing, and play, new songs and old, that give glory to God Almighty.

During this season of Epiphany, we sing songs that praise the Name of Our God and renew our commitment to Him. In the back of our minds, and during every choir rehearsal, we are preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter.

We invite you to join us in one of our exciting groups as we do the important work of leading the congregation in song.

Current Rehearsal Schedule:

- * Children's Music: Every Sunday during Children's Church
- * Hand bell Choir: Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 pm
- * Spirit Singers: Wednesdays from 5:45-6:30 pm
- * Chancel Choir: Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm

We would like to start a new recognition, the "Above and Beyond Award." This month's award goes to Cedric Salisbury. Cedric is in every ensemble that the church offers. He has spent countless hours moving bells, and does what needs to be done without being asked. Thank you, Cedric, for being a dedicated church musician!

We appreciate the dedication and hard work of ALL our choir members, and look forward to sharing the Above and Beyond Award with you in March!

Thank you, Amanda, for the inspiration for this award.

Joyfully Yours,
Mark and Dawn Ruppelt



Arbor Day Celebrated at FUMC Broad St.

This year on Friday February 17 at 10am, the Greensboro Tree Board will celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree between the Family Life Center and the Church. It will take many years for this replacement to grow as large as the beautiful Willow that had to

be taken down but with love and care we will plant the new tree and watch it grow. Come celebrate Arbor Day and join the festivities with Mayor Glenn Wright, The Greensboro Tree Board and the Greensboro Garden Club.

Thank you...

We give special thanks to our church family for the many expressions of love and support following the death of our daughter Heather. Your cards, memorial gifts, food, flowers, and presence at Heather's funeral service were comforting and very much appreciated. We thank you for the many, many, many, other ways you helped us during Heather's 2 ½ year battle with brain cancer. We thank you for your prayers, especially those who made the additional effort to call Heather's prayer pager. The Greensboro First UMC prayer pager ministry is a wonderful and powerful ministry! Thank you so very much for being the Body of Christ to Heather, as well as to us.

In Christ's Love, Gary & Marsha Nicholas



Join our Facebook fan page. This group is for members, visitors, and those who are curious about the church. On Facebook - search: First United Methodist Church of Greensboro
Become a fan of FUMC Greensboro on Facebook!

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