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First United Methodist Church of Greensboro

January Newsletter

2012

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Our country is much older than we think.

Four centuries old, as a matter of fact.

The year 2012 is the 405th anniversary of the first English colony in the "New World."

Don't be confused, now. This milestone has nothing to do with the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Instead, this anniversary goes all the way back to 1607 when the first permanent English colonists arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, beating the Pilgrims to the New World by 13 years.

One of the three ships that brought the colonists to Jamestown was Godspeed, a three-masted square-rigger that sailed the Atlantic for nearly five months to get to Virginia. The ship was just 88 feet long - about the length of a double tractor-trailer - and had a top speed of about 4 miles per hour. The colonists endured what we would consider to be intolerable conditions, with 13 crew members working on the deck and 39 passengers stuck in the cargo hold with 40 tons of supplies.

FUMC Greensboro on Facebook!

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. Or click on the image below:



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The smell? It must have made grown men cry.

Imagine yourself on board the Godspeed, pulling out of London on a cold winter day, December 20, 1606. You cruise down the Thames River without any problems, but then hit the English Channel, which is being raked by stiff winds from the ocean. It takes you six full weeks of sailing to clear the channel.

Today, we can jet to London in six hours. Four centuries ago, it took six weeks to make it down the channel and out to the open seas.

Then you cross the Bay of Biscay and turn south toward the Canary Islands. There you replenish your water supply, and catch the strong trade winds which push you across the Atlantic Ocean.

The weeks pass slowly, with nothing to look at, nothing to do. Boredom takes over. Food rots. Tempers flare. People stink.

Finally, you sail into the Caribbean. The island of Dominica becomes your first landing site, and from there you hop to the Virgin Islands, where you do some hunting and fishing. According to the records of John Smith, the most famous passenger aboard the ship, you feast every day on iguanas, tortoises and pelicans, as well as "Parrots and Fishes."

Delicious.

You sail north in search of Virginia, but find that your destination is not so easy to reach. Although your calculations indicate that you should be there, for three days you search, but see no land. Then a violent storm strikes your ship, and you have to drop sail and ride it out. There is no way to steer the ship in such conditions, and you fear being blown onto the offshore bars of North Carolina's Outer Banks. There, all crew and passengers would be washed into the sea and drowned.

But God is with you, and you are driven by the wind into the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. On April 26, 1607, you make landfall at Cape Henry, and then on May 14 you finally reach your destination - Jamestown.

You have been delivered by Godspeed, a ship whose name means "May God cause you to succeed."

That's a good name to keep in mind as we begin our 405th year.

Water as a metaphor for chaos. A passage from Isaiah 43 contains a promise from God: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:1-2). This is the kind of promise

that the crew of Godspeed must have lived by, especially as violent winds howled around them and towering waves crashed over the deck of their ship. "Do not fear," says the God of earth, wind, water and fire; "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

There are few things more terrifying than the watery chaos of the sea, especially to colonists on an 88-foot sailing ship, and to the people of Israel who first heard this promise from the prophet Isaiah. The Israelites, you understand, were a nation of people who absolutely hated the sea. They were like cats - they avoided water whenever possible. That's why their Scriptures speak of a wind from God sweeping "over the face of the waters," bringing order out of chaos on the first day of creation (Genesis 1:2). That's why their deliverance from captivity in Egypt is on dry land created by the parting of the Red Sea, a sea that shows its destructive power by swallowing up the Egyptian armies (Exodus 14:26-29). And that's why water is an image of judgment in Isaiah, such as when the prophet says, "the Lord is bringing up against [this people] the mighty flood waters of the River ... it will sweep on into Judah as a flood, and, pouring over, it will reach up to the neck" (8:7-8).

Water. It's a fierce and fear-inspiring force.

God is present in the crisis. In the face of such danger, God reaches out to us with the assurance, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you" (v. 2). When you move through the thing that scares you the most - "I will be with you." When you struggle through job loss, academic failure, personal betrayal, disease, depression or divorce - "they shall not overwhelm you." God promises to give us help and protection and peace, in the face of the worst terrors and trials that life can throw at us. As we are being hit with the most daunting of personal challenges, the One who formed us promises to preserve us.

Are we living a Godspeed life? The question for us is this: Are we living a "Godspeed life"? A life in which we really believe that God will help us to succeed? A life in which we are convinced that the Lord who created us is going to care for us? The colonists on the little square-rigger Godspeed believed this, and they were able to reach their destination.

How about us? Right here. Right now. In the year 2012 ... not 1607.

It's pretty clear that the word "Godspeed" has nothing to do with velocity - the colonists' ship topped out at a blistering 4 miles per hour. In this case, speed comes from the Middle English word "spede," which means "prosper." So to wish someone Godspeed is to wish that God will help them to prosper, or cause them to succeed.

One source says that the word is an expression of respect and good

will, used when someone is about to go on a journey or embark on a daring endeavor. Anne Brontë uses the term in her book *Tenants of Wildfell Hall* - "I'm wishing you God-speed," says one character to another, "and aiding you with my prayers." And in *Roderick Hudson*, by Henry James, "Rowland at the garden gate was giving his hostess Godspeed on her way to church."

It's an antiquated term, very Old School, one you would never hear uttered on MTV, *The Man Show* or in casual conversation today. But even though we might not say it, we can learn from it. Godspeed living is a life in which we trust God - really rely on God - to give us success and good fortune.

This is no puerile prosperity gospel, in which faith in God is said to translate into showers of material riches. No, Godspeed living is about a different brand of success and good fortune. After all, the Israelites were never given an easy life - they still had to pass through waters, rivers, fire and flame. Their wealth was found in the promise of God, "Do not fear, for I am with you" (v. 5). And the residents of Israel today are not particularly rich in a worldly sense. They sit on the only sliver of land in the Middle East that has no oil.

The marks of Godspeed living. How does one recognize the signs of Godspeed living? The success and good fortune of Godspeed living are far more spiritual than material. It always has been; it always will be. We know Godspeed living when:

* We hear God, say, "You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you" (v. 4);

* We realize that we're part of a compassionate community of faith, one that God is constantly forming and reforming when he promises, "I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you" (v. 5);

* We discover that we're nothing less than children of Almighty God - "whom I created for my glory," says the LORD, "whom I formed and made" (v. 7).

This is our success. This is our good fortune. We are precious, honored and loved. Part of a community of faith. Created for God's glory. Formed and made by a loving Lord.

Can't get anywhere in calm waters. Are you in calm or troubled waters right now. Calm water is often a relief and can be a respite from the storm. But you can't get too far sailing in calm water. It's only when we "pass through the waters," when we encounter the rough water, that we can know anything about the meaning of "Godspeed."

Our good fortune as Americans has always been more spiritual than material, although shows like *The Fabulous Life of Celebrity Super-Spenders* can cause us to lose sight of this fact. About 200 years ago, Alexis de Tocqueville visited America in search of the greatness of the United States. He looked for it in our fields and mines, our schools and government buildings, but he couldn't find it. Finally, he went to our churches, and there it was - the secret of our genius and power. "America is great because America is good," he concluded, "and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

This is Godspeed living - a focus on being God's people, in the face of any obstacle, any failure, any challenge, any terror, any trial. If we keep our eyes on the Lord, he will give us success. If we rely on his care for us, he will offer us good fortune.

That's the right direction to head as we sail out onto the uncharted waters of the year 2012.

I look forward to worshipping God with each and every Sunday at FUMC Greensboro.

Joe

Welcome our newest members!

Gene and Kathy Kirby
David and Sylvia Leeseberg
Sam McGaughey



Worship Service with Lane Marie Stough

January 22, 2012

6:00-7:00

Carey Station Road

Join us for an evening service
of worship - open to all.

Nursery provided (infants - 4

years)

Classes for the New Year!

2012 will ring in with several interesting studies.

- Disciple I: Monday evenings, Broad St Campus, led by Rev. Joe Watson
- "The Parables of Jesus, Earthly Thoughts with Heavenly Meanings: Mon., Jan. 9, Easter Sunday School Room, Carey Station Campus, 6:00 PM, facilitated by Joey McQuaig, men and women invited.
- "James: Mercy Triumphs": Beginning Wed., Jan. 11, 10 a.m., a study by Beth Moore for men and women, Spotlight Theater, facilitated by Jane Lang, \$20 book fee.
- "Parenting and Children": An Alpha study for parents of children birth to 10 years beginning Sunday, January 8, facilitated by Cathy Rhodes (location will be determined by sign ups), 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. with dinner, \$5 book cost. There will be a nursery and activities for children.
- "Faith Lessons on the Life and Ministry of the Messiah": Beginning Tues., Jan.17, 10 a.m., facilitated by Merry Grayson, Conference Room, Carey Station Rd..

Come and get involved in a study and make it a better year!

Wednesday Night Dinner - BINGO Night!

January 18, 2012 // Carey Station Road

Baked Potatoes and Chili

COST: \$5 (Children 7 and under \$3)

Each reservation comes with one BINGO card.

Each additional card \$1

RSVP to Peggy - peggy@fumcgreensboro.org

Sponsored by Seekers Bible Study

Chandler Circle News

Our Chandler Circle continues to grow in numbers and faith! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17th at 5:30 pm in the downstairs fellowship hall at the Carey Station location. We will start with a delicious snack, followed by a study led by Renee Gibson of Chapters 12 and 13 in Debbie Macomber's book, "One Simple Act." If you have not been able to participate in our study of this book yet, don't worry. You can catch right up with us!

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 January 17th 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.

January: Sunday School Membership Drive

IF you are not involved in Sunday School you don't know what you are missing! We have two adult classes and a children's class at the Broad St. at 10:00 and four adult classes, a youth and a children's class at Carey Station Rd. at 10:30. Come and join the fellowship as you enrich your life through study!

UMMen News

The United Methodist Men (UMMen) will have their monthly BREAKFAST at the Carey Station Campus, Thursday, January 12 at 8:00 a.m. Our guest speaker will be our Greene County Sheriff, Chris Houston. All FUMC men are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please confirm attending by calling Church office 706.453.7064 or signing the insert in the Church bulletin. As always, wear your Church name tag and bring a guest. For questions, call Bob Hummell at 706.817.3754 or email hummellrl@yahoo.com.

Worship - January 29: Volunteer Recognition

Join us for one service on January 29 - 10:30am

Carey Station Road

BBQ Lunch by Pastor Joe to follow

shuttle will leave Broad Street at 9:00, 9:45, 10:15

RSVP to Peggy - peggy@fumcgreensboro.org

First United Methodist Church Preschool News

We hope everyone had many Christmas blessings and are looking forward to a wonderful New Year! At FUMC Preschool we are going to get back to learning, discovering, and sharing with our friends. We are going to have some special days to help us keep warm in January.

- January 11 Wear your favorite warm hat.
- January 18 Wear your favorite sweatshirt or sweater.
- January 25 Bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal

Our Bible stories will begin with Jesus lost in Jerusalem. Our preschoolers really enjoy Bible time. I hope they are sharing Bible stories with you.

We would like to thank all parents who helped with Christmas.

Thank you for parties, decorations, pictures, and popcorn and generously giving to Baby Jesus for the First Call Pregnancy Center. Our parents are awesome!!!!

January is going to be a warm fun month!

Jo Ann Bradley and Preschool Staff



Children's News

2012 is going to be a GREAT year for Children's Ministry & our church. We hope it will be a year of growth and new opportunities to grow in Christian faith. We will have plenty of fun activities for our children throughout the year. To make this happen we will need volunteers so if you are interested in any aspect please contact me. Our current volunteers are awesome and would love more help :)

B.I.G - next meeting TBD in 2012

PHOTOS NEEDED - I have not yet received any photos. As mentioned in the December Newsletter - I have a special project I am working on for our kids. All families with infants to 5th grade children please send me a family photo with names & birthdays listed. You can email it to me at tmartin@fumcgreensboro.org or bring it to church.

Donations Needed:

- 1 - baby swings
 - 2 - blankets/sheets for play pens
 - 3 - boppy + boppy covers
 - 4 - pack & play/play pen
 - 5 - any infant/toddler toys
 - 6 - outdoor toys - tricycles, cars, etc.
- (Donations may be gently used or new)

IMPACT

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

JANUARY Upcoming Dates

- 8: Youth Council Meeting
- 5:00-7:00- Underground Church
- 22: Worship with Lane Marie - 6:00

29: Volunteer Recognition Worship Service 10:30

Seekers

Young Adult Ministry

Bible Study and fellowship for young adults without children.

Current Study: *Invitation to the Old Testament*

6:30 -7:45 Tuesdays

January 18: Wednesday Night Dinner Fundraiser

For more information e-mail

amanda@fumcgreensboro.org or 706.453.7064



Search: Seekers - Greensboro, Georgia

JOY CLUB (JUST OLDER YOUTH)

JOY CLUB: Wednesday, January 11, 11:30 a.m., Family Life Center at Broad St., covered dish lunch. A special guest is invited to help us get "charged up" for the New Year.

Mission News

We have the most generous congregation ever! We delivered 5 truck loads of toys and food to the Board of Education for the children from our Angel Tree. These were for children from Pre-School to High School that were not receiving gifts from the Christmas Stocking Fund. Thank you all so much for your over whelming response, every one of our angels were taken by our members. Thank you! Thank you!

The mission committee also sponsored another needy family in Greene County and purchased gifts for two children and delivered food for Christmas Dinner to them.

This January we are going to replace the entire floor for a woman with three small children that live in Greene County. They own their own trailer, and the floor has many holes in it. She has been covering

them up with rugs to make due. We made some temporary repairs, and then will replace the floor next month. We will be asking for volunteers as this will be a project that will take some time to finish. If you have carpentry skills and would like to help please let one of the mission committee members know.

Also, in the next two months we will be asking our church members to donate supplies such as soap, deodorant, shampoo and lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, greeting cards, pens, pencils, etc. for the prisoners in Hancock State Prison. Tracy Cornelius will be heading up this project and tell you more about this later.

Food Bank Needs for January

Beef Stew, Sugar(2 lb. bags), Mac & cheese

Music Notes

Happy New Year! Thank you to our Chancel Choir, Spirit Singers, and Bell Choir for making 2011 a Spirit filled musical experience! We look forward to 2012 and here are some of the exciting worship possibilities for our musicians to be a part of...

Instrumental Music: We welcome Devon who has joined our instrumental program. We plan to expand the instrumental program to include music in the narthex and have several new musicians join us for services throughout 2012.

Bell Choir: In addition to the excellent performance by the entire bell choir, a smaller group within the bell choir has been established and will be playing music in the narthex and during Sunday services when all bell choir members are unable to be present. There has been some planning and discussion about our Music Program hosting a Bell Choir Day in conjunction with the Presbyterian Bell Choir. More details will be shared as the planning continues.

Spirit Singers: This group continues to get bigger and better with every performance. We invite church members and non-members to join this group. We sing one or two Sundays a month at our Broad Street Location.

Chancel Choir: This group also continues to get bigger and better with every performance. We have recently had several singers express interest in joining the choir and look forward to expanding our membership in the Chancel Choir.

The King's Men, AKA The Gospel Grandpas: The Men's Quartet has gotten off to a great start with stirring performances in 2011. We look forward to working with this group of dedicated men to 2012 and expand their musical offerings.

As we go forward in 2012, our prayer is that all music is presented to the Glory of God, and to inspire meaningful worship.

Joyfully Yours,

Mark and Dawn Ruppelt
Mark 706-990-9634, ruppeltmark@hotmail.com
Dawn 706-201-1660, druppelt@gmail.com

FUMC Altar Flowers

We understand that there are many gardeners in our midst. If there ever comes a time that you would like to share your beautiful flowers for a loved ones' birthday, an anniversary, a memorial gift, etc. on a special Sunday we would love to place them in the Sanctuary. They don't always have to be purchased from a florist, of course, this is certainly still okay.

If you need or would like, you can even get together with someone else or a group to make an arrangement as well. This would be a very special way to pay your respects to your loved ones. You could also purchase the cut flowers or even a live green plant if you wish. Just have them in a container when you bring them to the church.

We all love to have fresh flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday's and would love to be able to honor the glory of God with some very special ones.

The same procedure that we have been using for years will remain. Just call Peggy Hall at the church, 706.453.7064 or email peggy@fumcgreensboro.org and let her know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin by the Wednesday before the Sunday. Also, please let her know if you will be taking the flowers after service or donating them to a nursing home, etc.



Kick Off Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

6-7:30pm

First United Methodist Church
Family Life Center Fellowship Hall

Join the community for a night a food, music and fellowship to kick

off Relay for Life.



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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