



the **WORD**

A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Hendersonville, Inc.

February, 2015

The Pulpit: The Hardy Helm **Reverend Dan Martin**

I believe the roots of the church pulpit run to the core of the earth. Usually made of wood, and sometimes made of plastic, regardless of the material it is the pulpit of the church that is at the front of the world leading life and soul into the storm and foul weather that is always ahead.

Please know that these thoughts come from a recent e-reading of "Moby Dick," and of those favored early chapters where Ishmael sits in worship with Father Mapple. If you have not recently read this masterful piece of most excellent English literature then put it on the top of your stack and jump into it.

However, in our world where on any issue or topic there are pundits, critics, web voices, blog opinions, twitter remarks, and scandalous attachments, there is the one pulpit of our faith that must be the "prow" of the sailing ship. The pulpit is the source of our direction and strength leaning ahead of the following main body of the world. The pulpit is the mettle required for the first contact of the waves and carefree current that would gladly rip away at the fabric of our existence and leave us as just so much flotsam in the chaotic wake of turbulence.

I offer a great defense of this societal place not because I have the sacred "honor" of weekly standing in this edifice. I write this because I, and others, "bear the sacred responsibility" of standing with this advancing and invasive connection to the sacred where the tragedy of life meets the source of salvation. The awesome opportunity found in sacred worship centered around a unique place of revelation, made of the raw created materials of the earth, is like no other place in society.

Father Mapple has put it best when he says, "Shipmates, God has laid but one hand upon you; both his hands press upon me." To be ordained to "preach the word" is no great imbuing of privilege or selfish power but is the awesome onus to forget self, to abhor popularity, to ignore favor, and to proclaim the hard truth for a world in denial of its need for reconciliation.

We have so many assumed pulpits in our society today. These other voices of authority speak with eloquence

and half truth. Talking heads on the TV, appealing side bars on the computer monitor, self-promoting blogs seeking self-justification, tilted political self-interests defenders, and public shapers of the fiber in our homes all blast their opinion usually beginning with the words, "I think." I am of the belief that the words, "I think" are never the prelude to information as important as the information that follows the words, "God says."

I recognize that Teddy Roosevelt referred to the White House as being the "bully pulpit." Today we associate this quote with the common word "bully" meaning harassment or intimidation. In reality, Roosevelt meant that the White House was a splendid or wonderful place from which a President could have a world voice. So even though the sacred pulpit may become a place of intimidation and harassment, it is when the pulpit becomes a splendid and wonderful place for the voice of God that souls are touched and hearts are changed.

The sanctuary is like no other place in our common world. The holy altar refutes the idle touch as of the base implements of casual life. The pulpit is no place for the words of the public forum but is set apart for sacred words and prayers. To finally quote Melville, "Ah, noble ship...beat on, beat on thou noble ship, and bear a hardy helm; for lo the sun is breaking through; the clouds are rolling off – serenest azure is at hand." From the pulpit we meet God: the sacred Word of life. From the pulpit the weight and healing of God's pressing hands rests on our thoughts and intentions. Our sacred worship in a sanctuary and worship area is no idle place of folly.

On the Inside

2 Worship/Music / Congregational Care

3 Children's Ministry

4 Youth / Spiritual Formation

5-6 Missions

7 Administrative / Financial

Sunday Worship Schedule

7:00 a.m. Chapel open for prayer

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

9:30 a.m. SONday Praise! Worship
(BCLC)

10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

9:00-10:45 a.m. Hospitality Coffee

11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all

Children's Celebration Worship

Communion Sunday: Children
exit the sanctuary at the end of the
last verse of the first hymn

All Other Sundays: Children exit the
sanctuary during the passing of the
peace

Children's Choir

Wednesday, Room 209
5-5:30pm

Four year olds - First Grade
(Must turn 4 on or
before August 31)

Contact Kelli Mullinix for more
information 233.1951 or
kelli@hvfumc.org

New Members Class

The next new member class will be
Sunday, February 8, 8:30-10:30am.

If you are interested in joining First
United Methodist Church, please contact
Rev. Christy Sharp (828.674.0721
or christy@hvfumc.org). You can
also register for the class online at
fumchvnc.org. Childcare is provided
for the class.

Easter Flowers

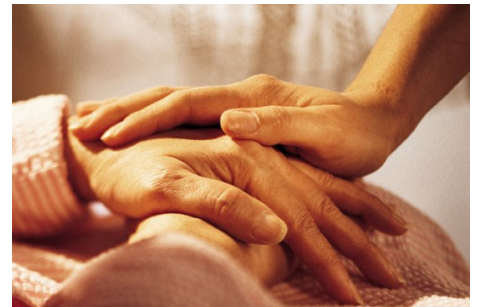
The congregation is being given the opportunity to contribute to the purchase of our special Easter flower display. On Easter Sunday the sanctuary will be adorned with a variety of spring blooming flowers to create a beautiful worship atmosphere. If you wish to contribute, please complete forms available in the pew pads and Narthex. Attach a check for \$10 per form payable to FUMC with "Easter Flowers" noted on the memo line. You may place this in the offering plate or mail to the church, Attn: Finance Office, no later than Sunday, March 22nd, for inclusion in the bulletin.



Caregiver Support Group February 17, 3:30-5pm

Join us for discussions on topics related to Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease. We'll focus on caregiver questions and concerns as well as special guests to discuss various issues that face caregivers caring for their loved ones.

A care-receiver program is provided at the same time for loved ones in the Royal Allen room. For more information, call Lisa Kauffman, 696-9799.



Family Life Program Calendar

Wednesday, February 4 ~ Water R Us

Wednesday, February 11 ~ Land of Sky Chorus

Tuesday, February 17 ~ Shrove "Tuesday"

Wednesday, February 25 ~ Lenten Message



Singles Social

The Singles Dinner Group Will gather at Sol Y Luna, 321 Main St Hendersonville, for food and fellowship on Friday, February 13 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Sue Nations, 698-0068 or Steve Webb 697-9548 for more information.

UMW Meetings

- ♦ Executive Officers
1st Sunday - Monthly
9:30 AM Library
- ♦ Esther- 3rd Tuesday (Sept-May)
10 AM Room 117 (Gettman)
Contact: Dottie Franz 696.9015.
- ♦ Grace- 3rd Wednesday (Aug-June)
7 PM Homes of Members
Contact: Anne McClintic 775.1241
mcclintics@gmail.com
- ♦ Lydia- 2nd Monday (Aug-June)
6:30 PM Room 117 (Gettman)
Contact:
Betty Kay Brookshire 674.3415
Leone Alexander 697.1732
pauleone@gmail.com
- ♦ Miriam- 3rd Wednesday (Aug-June)
7 PM Room 113 (Conference)
Contact: Lucy Cumston 674.1563
Kim Jordon 329.9501
kimberlysJordan59@gmail.com
- ♦ Ruth- 3rd Monday (Aug-June)
10 AM Room 117 (Gettman)
Contact: Gloria Paul 693.3371



Children's Ministry News

Vacation Bible School 2015

June 22 – June 25 (four days)

Theme: G-Force Adventure Park ~ Wheels Up!

God's Love in Action

God wants us to move!
 God wants us to act!
 God wants us to care!
 God wants us to follow!
 God wants us to share!
 Let's go!



Spring 2015 Children's Sunday School ~ *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!*

We love having the children on Sunday mornings, as they come together for Sunday School to learn the Bible stories, and to apply the Bible message to their lives. We want the children to Grow in Faith, Proclaim the Word of God and Serve God and neighbor! Below is the Spring curriculum.

March ~ Preparing for Easter

Bible Verse: *My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.* (Psalm 121:2)

Leap of Faith: God is with me in difficult times.

April ~ Easter and Beyond

Bible Verse: *But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.* (John 20:31)

Leap of Faith: Jesus is with me now and always.

May ~ In the Spirit

Bible Verse: *But me! I am filled with power, with the spirit of the Lord.* (Micah 3:8)

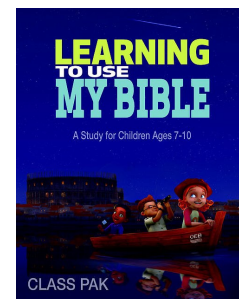
Leap of Faith: The Holy Spirit is always with me.



From Fall 2009 through December 2014, our church has been very blessed to have Tracey Parker serve as the Chairperson for the Children's Ministry Team! Tracey's time, positive spirit, dedicated efforts, and her love for the children is deeply appreciated!! How grateful we are to Tracey for her faithful leadership! Also, many thanks...to her family who has been a wonderful support as she served in this capacity.

3rd Grade Sunday School – *Learning to Use My Bible*

This 8 week study began on Sunday January 4. We have so enjoyed having our 3rd graders participate in this new study about the Bible. It has been exciting to see the children using their Bibles to learn basic Bible skills with fun hands-on activities, games, small groups as well as building friendships! We are thankful to our 3rd grade teachers for leading this study and to the families of our 3rd graders for all your support! All 3rd graders are welcome to join in on any Sunday – be sure to bring your Bible!





SOUPERBOWL Sunday: February 1

Please support our youth's mission to help feed the hungry. We will be collecting cans of soup that will be donated to IAM food pantry.

We will be collecting donations towards our local IAM food pantry and for our international mission to **STOP HUNGER NOW**. Our students need to raise **\$2500** to pack 10,000 meals on Sunday, March 1 to feed families worldwide. Each meal costs .25 cents. Please pray about how many meals your family will sponsor.

- 10 meals - \$ 2.50
- 25 meals - \$ 6.25
- 50 meals - \$ 12.50
- 100 meals - \$ 25.00
- 200 meals - \$ 50.00
- 400 meals - \$100.00

The youth will be at all services with Soup Bowls where you can donate to fight hunger.



Super bowl Parties

Sunday, February 1, 6:30pm

Please sign up to attend by Wednesday, January 28. Students will need to bring an appetizer.

Middle school and high school students will be at separate homes.



High School Ski Trip

Friday, February 20 thru Sunday, February-22

Our students will ski/snowboard at Sugar Mountain, NC.

There is NO YOUTH on Sunday, February 22 due to the ski trip.



Spiritual Formation Weekend

Friday, February 20 thru Sunday, February 22

Author, spiritual director, public speaker and retreat guide, **Phileena Heuertz** is passionate about spirituality and making the world a better place. She holds a Masters of Christian Spirituality from Creighton University's department of theology and is a certified spiritual director in the Ignatian contemplative evocative method. With a rare gift for communicating the dynamics of the inner life, Phileena gracefully guides others toward interior growth and bringing harmony to their outer life.

Phileena has spent her life in social justice work among the world's poor. A member of the New Friar movement, for nearly 20 years she and her husband Chris served with Word Made Flesh in more than 70 countries building community among victims of human trafficking, survivors of HIV and AIDS, abandoned children and child soldiers and war brides.

Plan on registering and attending the Spiritual Formation Weekend this year.





IAM always needs used prescription bottles, aspirin bottles, and other little bottles that you think "ought to be good for something" when you get ready to throw them away. They are filled with 3 or 7-day supplies of shampoo, dish detergent, etc. to be given out to clients who come to the food pantry. Personal information can be marked out with black markers. To donate, deposit them IAM container next to Youth Director's office.

The Clothing Closet at IAM is very low on boy's clothing in all sizes and women's winter clothing including coats in Plus Sizes 2X-5X. Clothing can be dropped off at IAM, 210 Ehringhaus Street & Third Avenue West, Monday-Friday, 9-3:30. If there is a large amount, someone from IAM can pick it up. For more information, call 697.7029 and ask for the Clothing Closet Manager.

Water R Us

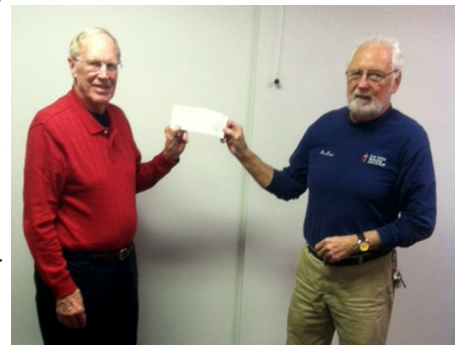
Imagine having to walk two miles several times a day to get water for all your basic needs. The water buckets you carry weigh 40 pounds each. After all this effort, the water you end up with is the same water in which others bathe, do laundry, and water their livestock. This is the reality for one-third of the people in rural Nicaragua. Water R Us is a group of First United Methodist Church members who have been called to address the lack of clean water and sanitation in developing countries. Our mission is to create an ongoing relationship with a community that has identified the need for clean water as a resource necessary to improve the lives of its people. We intend to be personally involved through mission trips and ongoing communication with the community. We have chosen to partner with El Porvenir ("The Future"), a group that has been working with rural Nicaraguan communities for 24 years to improve their lives through clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and reforestation projects.



We challenge you to put your faith into action by supporting and/or participating in our mission. We invite you to be part of a community-initiated water and sanitation project in Nicaragua. Of course clean water comes at a price. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to fund a 3-year initiative to provide complete water and sanitation systems for several villages. We are also planning to take a work team from FUMC to Nicaragua in October. If you are interested in more information about Water R Us or becoming involved in our leadership team, please contact Jim Hendershot at 828.697.1388 or jandth@bellsouth.net.

Church Donates to Help Launch Homes for Youth

The Missions Team recently allocated \$15,000 to Homes for Youth, a new nonprofit organization committed to helping homeless youth in Henderson County. Jim Heidebrecht, church member and Homes for Youth treasurer, gratefully accepted the grant. The grant was made possible through the generosity of the McCleery Fund. The McCleery Fund was established anonymously to lead the way in addressing the issue of homelessness of youth and adults in our community. This allocation allows our church to take the lead in reaching out to address the needs of under served youth, offering our time, talent, and treasures. Henderson County school officials have identified 235 homeless children this school year, 65 of whom are unaccompanied by an adult. Henderson County Churches United (HCCU) launched Homes for Youth to respond to the desperate needs of these young people. Homes for Youth is a non-profit organization committed to providing stable, safe and appropriate housing for homeless youth in Henderson County. It requested funding to support its start-up needs. For more information about volunteer opportunities with Homes for Youth or to schedule a presentation for your group, please visit www.HomesForYouth.org or call 828.551.0537. Your tax-deductible contribution can be mailed directly to Homes for Youth at 1643 Ransier Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28730.



Little Dresses for Africa

Wednesday, February 18, 1-4pm

We're off to a good start making Little Dresses for Africa. A second sewing session is scheduled for February 18 at 1-4pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. One yard of fabric and your basic sewing kit will get you started. Contact Carolyn Walberg at 828-290-8311 or cwwlbg@att.net for further information.



Backpack Kids Mission Team

The Backpack Kids Mission team would like to thank our congregation for the generous food donations given on the January First Sunday Food Drive. The mission provides a bag of food, every Friday, to each of the 180 hungry children at Bruce Drysdale, which is a year round school, so that they will have food on the weekend. In these cold winter months, as the number of children who need assistance have increased, we appreciate your help more than ever. Food donations may be placed in the bins marked BACKPACK KIDS in the storage closet adjacent to the coat rack area.

Monetary donations are appreciated also. Checks may be made payable to FUMC, memo line "Backpack Kids" and placed in the collection plate, the Front Desk or the Finance Office.



Joseph's Center Moves Closer to Opening

"We are ready for the plumbers; they will complete the installs by next week," stated our contractor, Norm Ehrike this morning as we stood in the future Joseph's Center. The framing for the women's and men's bathroom, the kitchen, laundry room and office have been completed. This progress on the Joseph's Center is only possible because of the gifts from the congregation of First United Methodist of Hendersonville and others from the community at large. The board of Joseph's Outreach Ministries (JOM) would like to thank the FUMC missions committee and all the individuals who have supported our getting the Joseph's Center operational. In addition we want to let you know that The UMC District Mission's Committee made a grant of \$3,000 toward getting the Center set up.

On 7th Avenue past the railroad station we often observe men standing in all kinds of weather waiting and hoping to be picked up for a day of labor. Having The Joseph's Center open will allow us to get to know these men and build relationships; relationships to better understand their lives and their needs. The JOM board believes having a personal relationship with others can open up new avenues sharing and growing for all parties. It seems to me that is what Jesus tried to do with all he met from which many were transformed.

We invite you to become one of Joseph's Centers' volunteers now that we were moving closer to opening the center. We have a new volunteer coordinator working with Sandy Cavanaugh to provide guidance to those who wish to join our outreach through the Center. Dee West would like to hear from you if you have interest in being part of the Center's programs. You can reach Dee at 1-402-490-7012 or email: ewestxd371@gmail.com. If you want to make a donation to JOM you can make a check to Joseph's Outreach Ministries and give it to the church or mail it to PO Box 2844 Hendersonville, NC 28744. Because we have received 501 (c) 3 status, your gifts will be tax deductible.



ZOE From our Amani Athi working group in Kenya, we have news of the children there who have been working the past year to raise their families out of poverty. One of these children is Erick, 18, who cares for his 11 year old sister, Melody. When he was 15, his father died, leaving the two children orphaned with no relatives to care for them. He struggled to find food for the two of them, but it was only enough to eat once a day. They had no money so Melody had to drop out of school because she didn't have a uniform or supplies. When he was invited to join the Amani Athi group last year, he got support for changing their lives.

Food security is the first focus of ZOE's empowerment program—helping children find a way to raise and/or buy food for their families. Erick's group helped him plant a farm plot last spring. He has harvested vegetables, which has improved his and Melody's nutrition and provided income through his business in town. ZOE provided a grant for him to start up his business and has taught him how to budget and manage his money. So this year he will be able to pay Melody's school expenses, as well as necessities for the family. The children have also received training on good health practices and have put them into practice. He built a dish drying rack to air dry dishes off the ground, and he dug a compost pit for his household waste. For his hard work, ZOE gave the family blankets and mosquito nets to reduce their vulnerability to disease.

Erick, like other children in Amani Athi, has come a long way in a year—a farm, a business, improvements to his home and his sister in school. In the next two years Erick will learn more about business and taking care of his family. He will also have the support of friends who care about him, pray for him and share in his successes. For these blessings he thanks God.

Anyone who is interested in visiting Erick and the Amani Athi Working Group in Kenya this summer please contact Carol Watson at 685-1089 or carolhwatson@bellsouth.net. We will be going with a ZOE Mission Team July 1-10, 2015.



In Memory of Jim Yarbrough
Dorothy Marlow
For ZOE

In Memory of Ruth Anne Veazey
Robin Prak
For the Memorial Fund
William and Margaret Penny
For the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Barbara J. Mitchell
William S. Mitchell
For the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Sarah B. Foster
William L. Foster, Jr.
For the Shepherd's Fund (Visitation)

In Memory of Wm. L. Foster and Sarah B. Foster
William L. Foster, Jr.
For Youth Ministries

In Memory of Christian R. Voegele
For the Christmas Fund
Margaret Voegele

In Memory of Fred Hawkins
Lois Stodghill
For the Memorial Garden

In Memory of Harold Jesse
Lois Stodghill
For the Memorial Garden

In Memory of John Williams
Lois Stodghill
For the Memorial Garden

In Honor of Bob Winters

Staff Announcements

Jim Kane, Assistant Chief Sexton, has announced that he will be leaving full-time employment from First United Methodist Church. Jim will leave his position at the church in late January. We will certainly miss Jim's skills and initiative on our staff. Jim joined the staff in 2005. During his time on staff Jim has provided key supervision for many major projects including the Sanctuary Air Conditioning upgrade and the replacement of the roof of the Administrative Building. He also has been very active in the operations and upkeep of the 5th Avenue Apartment Building.

Pete Stone, Food Service Assistant, retired from his part-time position at the end of December. Pete has been a long time member of the staff beginning his work in 1998. He has been a very dedicated staff member supporting the church and the many volunteers in the Kitchen on Wednesday night and other food service events. Pete will definitely be missed for the tasty muffins he prepares for the Sunday Hospitality program. Please join the staff in wishing Jim and Pete the very best.

The church is currently seeking applicants to fill the Food Service Assistant position. This position is part-time approximately 10 hours a week: Sunday mornings twice a month and other times as needed to assist with management of the kitchen, volunteer oversight and food preparation. If interested please submit in writing your letter of interest, qualifications and experience to Rick Stewart, Church Administrator, First United Methodist Church, 204 Sixth Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC 28739. A detail job description was published in the January edition of *The Word*, and can be made available upon request.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is working with the Church Administrator to define a strategy to fill or reassign the Assistant Chief Sexton job responsibilities.

Thank You
for your 2014 financial contributions to
First United Methodist Church. Your generosity
supported many church programs and missions!



**First United Methodist Church
Hendersonville
204 Sixth Avenue West
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(828)693-4275
www.fumchvnc.org**

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTRY STAFF

Dan Martin, Senior Minister, 828.674.5938
Christy Sharp, Associate Pastor, x103
Annie Fritschner, Minister of Visitation, Ext. 106
Colleen Schnitzer, Director of Youth Ministries, x109
Leslie Merrill, Dir. of Christian Education
& Children's Ministries, x105
Tammy Heatherly, Childcare Coordinator
Michael Brannon, Director of Music, x112
Julie Hora Williams, Director of Jubilee Handbells
Kelli Mullinix, Director of Praise Worship, X136
Deborah H. Kirkman, Dir. Of Weekday School x110

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rick Stewart, Church Administrator, x131
Caroline Easley, Financial Officer, x130
Gloria Summey, Office Administrator, x100
Deb Harris, Outreach Coordinator, x101
Lou Reeves, Food Service Director, x114
Lee Harney, Senior Sexton, x108
Sherry Lindsey, Denny McWilliams, Richard Brown,
Sexton Assistants, x108
Wayne Monroe, Security, x135

Care Line - 828.702.1454

March Word

**Article Submission Deadline:
10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, February 10**



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Hendersonville, NC
Permit No. 35

CAR-RT SORT

Make Your Fellowship Meal Reservations by Monday at Noon

Wednesday Fellowship meals are a wonderful time for us to spend time together sharing stories and visiting with current friends and making new friends. Did you know that we have been "breaking bread" together for more than 20 years?

There are five ways to make your reservation for the Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal:

1. Sign up on the pew pads on Sunday mornings.
2. Call the church at 693.4275 prior to the Monday noon deadline. You will speak with a volunteer at the front desk (or if the church is closed, you can leave as message). If you are traveling or unable to attend church on Sunday, did you know you can call or email (lou@hvlfumc.org) a week in advance?
3. Sign up on Monday by noon on the Church website, www.fumchvnc.org. Go to the web site, from the menu on the left select online reservations/Wonderful Wednesday/LAUNCH FORM. Complete the form select "Register". Your reservation comes to the Food Service Director and will be added to the reservation sheet on Monday morning.
4. The reservation sheet will be at the front desk each Thursday through noon Monday. You are welcome to sign yourself up at any time prior to noon deadline.
5. You can ask a friend to sign you up before the deadline!

Why the noon deadline on Monday? Food orders and purchases are finalized on Monday based on reservations received by noon. Effective February 1, if your reservations have not been received by noon on Monday, we will not be able to honor your request. Being mindful of the budget, we do not buy more food than needed. Your timely reservation is critical. Our Wednesday Dinners are a precious time for all of us to be together. Your volunteer kitchen staff and I truly appreciate your participation and your support! If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email me at lou@hvlfumc.org.

Happy New Year, Lou Reeves, Food Service Director