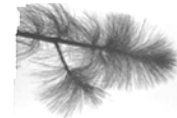




The Evergreen Bough



Volume 1, No. 9, December, 2006

A monthly newsletter for the congregation and friends of Evergreen UMC

“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”—*Maya Angelou*

Times they are a'changing!

Seven “Wonders” of the World:

So, given Jesus' teaching about change let me share some questions that we might ask as we face the challenge of change. Lets call them “The 7 ‘I wonders’ of the world of change.”

1. ***I wonder how I can best love my brothers and sisters in the midst of change?*** Recognizing that change is difficult, it is also an opportunity to really love someone. Often encouraging one another to make it to the other side is the best way to love.

2. ***I wonder how best I can glorify God in this new thing?*** As persons called to worship our Lord and Creator it is always a correct response to glorify God. The discipline to seek God, especially in difficult, painful things, has the benefit of focusing our trust in God, not ourselves. Further it helps us to not see ourselves as victims if God has a hand in it.

3. ***I wonder what part of my life will be better as God brings about his change?*** We are quick to claim “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:27-29) except when we don't like how things change. Again looking for God's positive presence is key.

4. ***I wonder how glad I'll be five years from now that this change happened?*** Beginning to anticipate the other side of any change is helpful because it puts our imagination to work looking for positive ways to respond to change and it diminishes the intensity of the decision or change at hand.

5. ***I wonder how I can participate with God in this change?*** Rarely do we pray enough in the middle voice that invites God to participate with us. To cooperate with God is our design and taking an active role alongside God is an empowering position, not that of a victim.

6. ***I wonder why (if this change is upsetting) do I feel this way?*** Good self reflection helps us to identify places of hurt or anger that may or may not be associated with the change itself. To ask God to heal a pain or give us strength to forgive, or be willing to accept forgiveness is the most important response to a time of change.

7. ***I wonder how the scripture tells us God's people handle change?*** Time spent in the word (the Psalms are especially helpful) considering how God continually calls us to new life, different places, and, certainly, a deeper relationship is a focusing and holy task. Remember God is present in those times!

(From a recent sermon)

Pastor Jeff

Evergreen Ministries: Issues and Needs: Sunday School

The junior high sunday school class has been studying about God's justice recently. In response to His word, the class has decided to physically glean a farm field to provide food for those in our community. Jimmy Watterson, Julie Watterson, and Thomas Duncan would like to invite all members of Evergreen to join them on Saturday, December 9th. They will be working with the Society of St. Andrews and will probably be gleaning a field of collards or turnips! You may contact their Sunday School teachers for more details. Paula Applegate and Stan Koziol

Financial:

Through October 31, 2006

Total Receipts	\$140,161.08
Total Disbursements	\$142,177.69
Net	(\$ 2,016.61)

Our weekly average giving is \$2,960 per week. This is an increase of over \$100 per week from last year! Remember in order to meet our budget we must average **\$3,500** per week.

We still owe **\$9,278** to our apportioned mission giving for the year. We pray that God will work in all of us to meet this important part of our work in the world. We are called to give out of what we've received. Truly we are blessed and we will reflect this as we finish the fiscal year on a strong note!

Please return pledge cards by Dec. 3!

Scouting

Scouting is strong at Evergreen!

Boy Scout Troop 951

The scouts have plenty of fish stories from their trip to the Core Banks last month. During November and December, each of the patrols (group of 5 to 8 boys) will plan their own trip and adventure. We all enjoyed the celebration at two Eagle Courts of Honor during November.

Congratulations once again to **Randy Miller** and **Nick Lassiter**. Thanks to all of you who stopped

by to have their car washed by the Scouts at Cole Park Plaza. The boys raised over \$700 to go toward their Northern Tier High Adventure Camp, Canada in August 2007. And also they are thankful for all SIXTY of you who purchased their Christmas tree from the Troop.

Cub Scout Pack 951

Pack 951 is excited about all the activity that each of the dens have been doing recently. Check out the Cub Scout bulletin board to see which Cub Scouts have earned their Bobcat rank already. Everyone (especially parents) are looking forward to the Holiday Star Party to be held at EUMC on December 8th. Cub scouts will have a full evening of FUN activities while their parents get a "night out" to run those special errands. The next Pack PowWow will be held at Evergreen UMC on November 27th at 7:00 pm. **Stan Koziol**

EUMYF

Hey, Evergreen, have you noticed how bright and shiny our youth are? This is because we recently spent a weekend in Fayetteville learning how to be a Candle in the Darkness! This was the theme of Pilgrimage 2006, a North Carolina conference event that brought over 6,000 youth together to worship, learn and laugh together at the Crown Coliseum. Thanks to Pastor Jeff and Robbie Dirks for joining us for this amazing weekend.

"You are the light of the world...Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel...Let your light so shine before men, that they may...glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5: 14-16

Lisa Yebuah, a dynamic speaker, compared the world's view of teenagers as "dead people" with God's view that we are not dead but sleeping. He wants to wake us, put His light in us, have us shine before men.

In a powerful worship led by Chris Hughes, we sang about letting our light shine while we each held up a tiny pen light. Looking out at a sea of thousands of pen lights, each representing a youth desiring to shine the light of God in the world, was awesome.

We concluded the weekend with Eric Williams carrying our Evergreen banner in the Processional of Banners and broke the bread of communion with the community of worship that we had created over the three days. When you encounter one of our youth at Evergreen please voice support for what is a call to us all to be a Candle in the Darkness. **Lorah Bond**

Food Pantry:

Please donate your Lowe's green points to the Food Pantry for items we can't get at the food

warehouse. If you have 3000 points or more, you can donate them to Evergreen by calling 1-800-435-5674. Ask that your points be transfer-red to account 4202 2751 6625. You will need to give your account number from the back of your Lowe's card. **Brenda Moore**

HELP WANTED.

Evergreen needs volunteers to greet and usher every Sunday of the month.

QUALIFICATIONS: (1) Attendance at the 10:30 AM worship service and ability to come 15 minutes early one Sunday a month.

(2) A smiling face to greet people as they walk into church.

(3) Willingness to fold the bulletin if it has not been done.

(4) Ability to pass around the offering baskets and bring in the Communion elements.

(5) Willingness to clean up the sanctuary after the service -- collect paper, straighten hymnals, etc.

If you would like to be added to the usher list, please let Velma know --

jvgrose@mindspring.com. Thanks.

P.S. If you would like to help in the worship service in some other way -- Bring bread, serve communion, read scripture -- please indicate so on your "Connect" card or let Velma know.

Chapel Hill Community Chorus Concert.

Dec. 15, 16; 7:30 p,m, Hill Hall, UNC Campus
Bach Christmas Oratorio Plus arrangements of lesser known carols See Pat Ryan for details.

December Church Events:

Our Advent theme is "**Return of the King**"

Sunday December 3 7 pm Cantata "Advent Anew"

Saturday December 16 6:30 pm Children's Christmas program and Birthday Party for Jesus.

Sunday December 24 Special Music Worship Services at 9 and 10:30.

Sunday December 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Service

Worship Schedule:

"Early at the E": 9:00 am (Contemporary Worship)

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship: 10:30 am

"The Connection" 6:00pm (Contemporary Worship/Singing/Preaching/Testimony) **This service will conclude at 6:30pm on Dec. 3 ONLY for the "Cantata" presentation.**

Evergreen website: (www.evergreen-umc.org).

You'll really love it!!!

Bough Editors: Mary Kay and Herman