

LJ's LETTER

According to Wikipedia (thank you, internet!!), the month of January is named for Janus, a god of Roman Mythology. Janus was noteworthy in that he was believed to have two heads or two faces, facing in opposite directions. One legend states that Saturn bestowed this gift on him after Janus offered him hospitality. This gift allowed him to see into the past as well as the future.

Now for some of us, that sounds truly strange or bizarre. I guarantee that if someone with two faces were to walk down the street today he or she would get LOTS of attention!! Most of us would surely gawk! If you think about it symbolically, though, it has some wonderful possibilities. We talk about people being two-faced, or talking out of both sides of their mouth, but we never mean it literally. What if we could see this image in a positive light? What if we saw the church in this way – as having the gift of looking forward while also being able to see and remember the past?

I believe this IS one of the greatest gifts of the church – our church and the greater church of followers of Christ. We have this amazingly rich history of the scriptures which remind us and teach us of the men and women from long ago. We read about their lives, their families, how they worshipped and believed, and how they experienced God. We read about how God acted from the very beginning of time, changing and creating and loving this amazing creation. As we learn about the history of the United Methodist Church, we learn about how we began as a denomination and how we've progressed and adapted through the years. We learn about where we get some of our greatest hymns as well as our tenets of beliefs.

That is the gift of looking back and being able to see the past. It grounds us in where we've come from and who we are. It gives us our identity and foundation.

It prepares us so that we can look forward.

I find it very relevant that Janus/January was chosen as the name of the first month of the year. It's a time of looking back over the last year, bidding a fond farewell (or, in some cases, good riddance!) and moving forward into a new year full of possibilities. It is a time of standing on the precipice of what has been and what will be. It is the position in which the church finds itself now and always – of claiming who we have been while continuing to look forward to what we can be.

Inside This Issue	
United Methodist Women	2
The Runabouts	2
Children and Youth Page	3
Our Mission Notes	4
The Bulletin Board	5
Donations	6
Upcoming Sermon Series	6
Mark Your Calendar	7

As we stand in this most sacred of places, who do you believe God is calling you to be? Who is God inviting our church to be?

Here's to a new year full of wonder and possibilities...
Happy New Year!!

Blessings,

Lauri Jo

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women held their annual Christmas luncheon December 10. Although many members were in Boone, North Carolina working on the Christmas boxes, we had a very nice attendance with loads of delicious food. The officers for 2010 were installed by Jim Hardin. Each year the UMW presents a Special Recognition Pin to someone who has given in abundance of his/her time and talents. This year's recipient was Jim Hardin. Jim has been a faithful choir member for many years, works diligently with the prisoners, teaches the Disciple Bible Class, is always willing to help when and wherever needed.

The UMW officers for 2010 are:

President, Phyllis Lovette
Vice-President, Gwen Chambers
Secretary, Corinne Sharp
Treasurer, Ruth Ritchie

Mission Coordinators:

Spiritual Growth, Alice Sharp
Social Action, Linda Davidson
Education and Interpretation, Marie Geisler
Membership, Nurture and Outreach, Pat Blankenship

Secretaries:

Program Resources, Mary Sharp
Communications Coordinator, Maxine Davidson

Our next meeting will be held January 14. We encourage all women of the church, as well as anyone interested who is not a church member, to join the United Methodist Women. The Afternoon Circle meets every second Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in the King's Daughters Sunday School Classroom. Circle 6 meets the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in various homes.

The organization of Methodist Women has been in existence for over 135 years, with their main focus on missions. Without them there would be no clinics, homes for women, children and youth, schools, and hope for better lives in all parts of the world. We do make a difference.

The Runabouts (Adult Ministries)

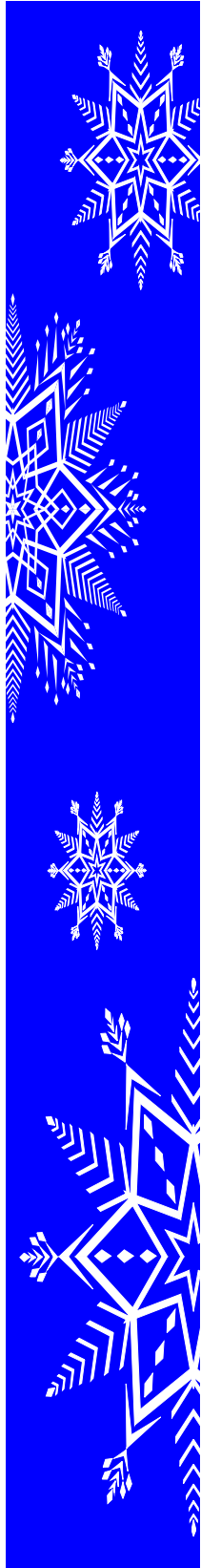
So that we can get our new year started well, the Adult Ministries Committee has scheduled a planning meeting for Friday, January 8th, at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the church. We ask that all committee members mark this date on their calendars and join us so we can plan our activities for the year.

Our first BUNCO game day will be Monday, January 25th, at 1:00 PM in the church Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join us for a fun social gathering. Light refreshments will be served.

Our thanks to our committee and all of our participants for making 2009 a fun year for all of us. Lets hope that 2010 will be even more enlightening and enjoyable.



Children & Youth News



Acolyte Schedule

Jan. 3: Briana & Kali
Jan. 10: Emily & Julia
Jan. 17: Will S & JJ
Jan. 24: Sophie & Breanna
Jan. 31: Chelsea & Mason

Youth Activities

Jan. 3: UMY Snacks: Geagley's
Jan. 10: UMY Snacks: Hannah
Jan. 15-17: RESURRECTION 2010
Jan. 24: UMY Snacks: Briana
Jan. 31: UMY Snacks: Chelsea

Coolager Activities

Wed, Jan. 6: Coolagers
Snacks: Will & John
Wed, Jan. 13: Coolagers
Snacks: JJ & William
Wed, Jan. 20: Coolagers
Snacks: Julia & Lydia
Wed, Jan. 27: Coolagers
Snacks: Breanna
Sat, Jan. 30: Hands on
Museum Outing
Time: 9:30-12:00
Cost: \$2.00/child
Sign up in Advance!

RESURRECTION 2010

January 15-17
Gatlinburg, TN

Theme:
Jesus is...
Colossians 1:15

Speaker:
Justin Lookadoo

Band:
Kristian Stanfill

26 youth & adults will be
Attending from our church!

Our Mission Notes

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD FILLER PROJECT 2010

We will once again be collecting filler items for OCC beginning in January. At the processing center in Boone, the shoe boxes are inspected for inappropriate items by volunteers. Any inappropriate item is removed and boxes that aren't as full as they could be are filled up using donated filler items. Items are never taken from one box to another. The inappropriate items are donated to another worthy cause. Inappropriate items include liquids, such as shampoo, lotion, etc., war toys, mirrors, porcelain dolls, toy snakes, Harry Potter items, Pokemon, crackers, chips, chocolate, tootsie rolls, etc. We will have a different filler item each month. Although if you run across a bargain that will be appropriate for the shoeboxes, buy it. When you are processing over 600,000 boxes it takes thousands of filler items to fill them. Please remember the items **MUST** be able to fit into a shoe box. In this case, bigger is not better. Thank you to all who were so faithful in supporting this worthwhile project. We are hopeful that this year we will have an even greater participation from the congregation.

Below is a list of the items FUMC collected and hand delivered to OCC in Boone on Dec. 10th. The filler items can be put in the red container at the bottom of the steps.

Please help us make a difference in a child's life.

This is a completely different project than packing the shoeboxes in November.

2009 Collected OCC Filler Items

January	118 stuffed animals
February	37 cars & trucks
	32 jump ropes
March	63 coloring books
	62 crayons & colored pencils
April	23 yoyo's
	30 balls
May	15 packs socks
	34 t-shirts
June	42 packs pencils 8 packs pens
	5 packs erasers 24 pencil sharpeners
July	29 pair flip flops
August	52 toothpaste 69 toothbrushes
September	39 combs and brushes
October	63 soap and washcloths
November	147 small packs Kleenex
Miscellaneous items donated	
2 pairs scissors	1 pair shoes
4 plastic dolls	2 Slinkys
1 playdoh	1 skort
1 set jacks	1 child's pants set
2 sets marbles	

OCC FILLER ITEMS 2010	
January	stuffed animals
February	small cars, trucks, jump ropes
March	crayons, colored pencils, coloring books
April	small balls, yo yo's
May	socks
June	pens, pencils, sharpeners
July	dolls
August	toothbrush, toothpaste
September	combs/brushes
October	soap in ziplock bag, and washcloth
November	gum

The Bulletin Board

*You are cordially invited to attend an Open House
Wedding Shower/Reception honoring the Newlyweds,
Michael and Erika (Dick) Thornton
on Sunday, January 10, 2010
in the Church Parlor at FUMC
from 1:30 to 3:30.
A Money Tree will be available to help start
these two in their new life together.*

Help **SURPRISE** Dude celebrate his 80th
on
January 16, 2010
at
420 Airport Road
drop in anytime 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm.
No gifts please, but may bring donation to
(ARM monetary or non-perishable food items).

Thank each of you for making my Christmas!
The gifts, calls, and cards were all so nice.
Once again First United Methodist Church has
made me feel so loved. Victoria and I so
appreciate you including us in your wonderful
church family. We wish each of you a very
Happy New Year!!

Love, Robin

For every expression during the
Christmas Season and all during the
year we are grateful and say thank
you. Your gifts, cards, greetings and
words of love and encouragement
are deeply appreciated. Thank you
for being such a loving and caring
church and allowing us the honor to
serve you. It is with great joy and
expectation that we look forward to
2010 to see what God is going to do
at First United Methodist.

With love and great appreciation,
David and Becky Hale

Thank you for your kindness and support at our time of need. The sandwich tray, rolls, potato salad, and pound cake hit the spot for several meals, but the visit was more important. Thank your women's group also. Your friendship and expression of sympathy will be remembered.

Thank you for your concern,
Abe F. Hart, Jr. Family
Helen, David, Steve, Cindy, and Madison

Donations

Thanks again to our family and extended family for their contributions as well as for honoring and remembering their loved ones.

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO:

GENERAL MEMORIAL

Frank Harrill by Lou Howell

The Memory Garden received a wonderful donation of labor and material by Tim Orloff . Mr. Orloff donated the labor and time in the installation of our new Peace Pole, planted two rose bushes, fertilized, mulched, weeded, and transplanted perennials. Please help convey our appreciation to the Orloff's for their act of kindness.

2010 A New Journey Begins

STEPPING STONES: QUESTIONS ALONG THE PATH OF FAITH

January 10th – Step One:

Beginning (Grace – what is it? How does it exist? What does it mean?)

January 17th – Step Two:

Decisions (Who's Right? Wrong? How do I know which way to go?)

January 24th – Step Three:

Direction (What is Heaven, and why would I want to go?)

January 31st – Step Four:

Questioning (Why do bad things happen?)

February 7th – Step Five:

Refocusing (Prayer – what is it and why do it?)

February 14th – Step Six:

Visioning (What is God's role in creation?)

February 21st – Step Seven:

Visioning, part 2 (What is God's will?)

February 28th– Step Eight:

Continuing (What does God want from me? and where do I go from here?)

*Mark your
Calendar*

	USHERS	SOUND	VIDEO	SCRIPTURE	ACOLYTES
01/03/10	Team 6	Wesley Bradley	JD Livingston	Phyllis Lovette	Briana and Kali
1/10/10	Team 1	Wesley Bradley	Rachel Hulshult	Rachel Bentley	Emily and Julia
1/17/10	Team 2	Wesley Bradley	Doug Hulshult	Jennifer Bradley	JJ and Will S
1/24/10	Team 3	Wesley Bradley	Sage Geagley	Richard Lovette	Sophie & Breanna
1/31/10	Team 4	Wesley Bradley	JD Livingston	Richard Bradley	Chelsea & Mason

1st	All church offices are closed.....Happy New Year!!
3rd	Undeck the Halls soup & sandwiches then work! After Sunday School.
8th	Adult Ministries Planning Meeting 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall
10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship Committee Meeting after worship in front of sanctuary • Open House Reception for Michael & Erika (Dick) Thornton in the church parlor 1:30—3:30 pm. • Monthly Meetings—Trustees Meeting and Administrative Council
13th	Wednesday Night Bible Study resumes
14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UMW Meeting 1:00 pm in the King's Daughters Classroom • Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in conference room.
15th-17th	Youth Resurrection 2010 in Gatlinburg, TN
17th	Knitting Ministry in church parlor 4:00 pm—6:00 pm
18th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - All church offices are closed.
25th	The Runabouts—BUNCO!! 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

*All the Coolager and Youth Activities are not included in this schedule, please refer Children and Youth section of Newsletter each group's schedule of events.

Happy Birthday to....

Gayle Hood 1/1
Barbara McElroy 1/1
Karter Geagley 1/1
Katie Geagley
Larry Thompson 1/2
Clara Taylor 1/5
Nancy Fleming 1/5
Trudy Tait 1/5
David Hale 1/7
Lourean Hughes 1/7
Debbie Fields 1/7
David McNeely III 1/7

Austin Canter 1/8
Sharon Holland 1/8
Ann Wood 1/8
Mary Carolyn Heaton 1/9
Tommy Horton 1/10
Richard Bradley 1/11
Joyce Broome 1/13
Dude LaPorte 1/13
Kathryn Dugger-Edwards
Carol Bowers 1/14
Bob Kane 1/18
Stan Bentley 1/19
Charles LaPorte, Jr. 1/20

George Simmons 1/21
Wesley Bradley 1/21
Austin Guinn 1/22
Diane Walter 1/22
Taylor Corbett 1/27
Randall Birchfield 1/30



First United Methodist Church
325 East E Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Non Profit Org.
 U. S. Postage
PAID
 Elizabethton, TN
Permit No. 157



Place label here

Our Staff and Services

PASTOR:

Lauri Jo Cranford
 revlj@embarqmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Robin Gray
 soblessed@embarqmail.com

MINISTER TO CHILDREN/YOUTH:

Debbie Fields
 fumckids@embarqmail.com

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

David Hale
 dhrhhale@chartertn.net

CONTACT US:

Phone: (423)543-3505
 Fax: (423)543-2168

WEBSITE:

www.elizfumc.com

STATED MEETINGS

Weekly

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:55 a.m.
Children's Church	
Fellowship Time	11:00 a.m.
Sunday School	11:20 a.m.
United Methodist Youth	6:00—7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Coolagers	3:15—4:45 p.m.
Mid Week Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8:00 p.m.

Monthly

Administrative Council	2nd Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
Trustees	2nd Sunday, 6:00 p.m.
Worship Committee	2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Women	
	2nd Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
Circle #6	3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.