

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER ROCKINGHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

MAY 2008

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. ALLISON COLTRANE

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!"*

**A**pril showers bring May flowers. Spring is my favorite season because with its approaching, signs of new life surround us. We are vividly reminded of God's beautiful creation with colorful blooming flowers, lush foliage, and new crops ready for harvest. As we experience God's creation in its fullness we can understand why at the end the creation story God called His creation "good."

I like the month of May for many reasons with one important being it marks the time that strawberries are ready for picking which means a trip to Uncle Jr.'s farm. It is in his huge strawberry patch that I find the most delicious strawberries, and it's hard to fill my basket for tasting and testing along the "picking path" - something you're not supposed to do by the way. As I admire the full grown green plants adorned with plump berries, I am reminded that just months earlier they were young tender plants most vulnerable to the harmful elements of the winter cold. I've heard the *Uncle Jr.*'s stories about how the strawberries have to be protected with special coverings, and there are even times on freezing cold nights that the farmers have to stay up through the night to protect the plants and keep them alive.

I recently visited Ms. Christine Yow, one of our faithful church members. We strolled through her yard as she gently pointed out each flower that is now in full bloom. I don't know how she does it, but her yard looks like it belongs in a magazine. It was during our visit that I was inspired to write this article. Just a couple of days before my visit with Christine, she brought me a beautiful Iris in an elegant vase. With her Christine-like wit, she told me to enjoy the flower but to return her vase. While the Iris was gorgeous for a couple of days, it quickly died because it wasn't connected to its source of life. During our visit, Christine reminded of what life is like when it is connected to its root source. Of course, the blooming flowers, green grass, and the water that trickled through the creek were all reminders, but Christine herself was the truest example. Christine exemplifies one who is connected to the Source of life- her Savior and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Her life is a sincere testimony of the new life we have in Christ. Physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, she has been nourished by the love of Jesus and chooses to nourish the lives of others in the same way.

We serve a Risen Lord who protects us during the winter seasons of our lives and gives us new and abundant life when we choose to stay connected to His unconditional love, grace, comfort, strength, and peace. But, as we are reminded in the Gospel of John, chapter 15, apart from Christ we can do nothing. We may appear beautiful on the outside, but like the Iris, we can't sustain true life if we aren't connected to our Source of life. In our First Place group that meets on Monday mornings, our Bible study is entitled *Putting Christ in First Place... Surrender*. As we choose to surrender to the call of Christ upon our lives to allow Him first place, we can and will experience the fullness of life through the One who gave us life eternal. May we be grateful for the strawberry patches, flower gardens, and especially the Christines in our lives who bear witness to the new life we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.

**"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10**

**Church Office Hours:**  
**Mon-Thu, 8am-5pm**  
**Friday, 8 am-1 pm**  
**Phone: (910)895-4027**  
**Fax: (910)895-4028**

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**R'ham Superintendent**

Leonard Fairley

**Resident Bishop:**

Alfred Gwinn

**Sexton**

Al Floyd

**Nursery Worker**  
**(Position Open)**



## CONGRATULATIONS

*TO OUR NORTH CAROLINA  
UNITED METHODIST  
ALL-STATE YOUTH  
CHOIR MEMBERS.*

*By Ms. O*



## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Mark your calendar for

May 7, 14, 21, & 28

### **Scripture for May**

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except thru me.

John 14:6

### Spring Fling

Everyone is invited to the Wonderful

Wednesday Spring Fling

**on Sunday, May 18**

at 3:00 in the Bynum Building

The children will present singing, reciting scriptures of the months, and performing skits of the Ten Commandments written by Will Wright.

Ms. O has done an outstanding job with organizing, scheduling volunteers, singing, and teaching these children they are special. **A HUGE THANKS to All Volunteers!** Our church could not have provided this ministry without you. These children are excited to come here on Wednesday and they leave here singing songs and learning scriptures that *Jesus is the Way of Life!*

**A special thanks to ....**

The Wonderful Wednesday volunteers for April. Peggy Andersen, Angie Capel, Will & Chuck Wright, Melinda Tincher, Martha Hamer, Nicole Johnson, Diane Stafford, Allison Coltrane, JD Heath, Nicole Griffith, and Keith & Sandra Nanney.

### Attention Childrens Council

**\*\*CORRECTION...**The Children's Council will meet on Tuesday, May 13th.

Nicole Griffith and Chuck Wright have been selected to participate in the NCUM All-State Youth Choir. This choir is now in its fourteenth year and is comprised of students from United Methodist Churches all over the state. Nicole and Chuck will be staying on the Greensboro College campus June 15-18 and will have music rehearsals, private instruction, a talent show, and a trip to Wet'n Wild Emerald Pointe. The tour is scheduled for June 18-22 with performances in North Carolina Churches and a final afternoon concert for families and friends at Greensboro College on Sunday, June 22. Students from First United Methodist Church in Rockingham that have participated in this prestigious choir include Laura Alexander Linker, Tommy Leak and Elizabeth Greene. Nicole and Chuck want to thank you for giving them this opportunity to serve Christ through their vocal talents.

### May Circle Meetings

Circle # 2	Tuesday, May 13 (M.E. Kindley)	1:30 pm
Circle # 5	Tuesday, May 6	11:00 am
Circle #9	Tuesday, May 6	1:00 pm
Circle #3	Tuesday, May 6	2:00 pm
Circle #8	Tuesday, May 6 (Las Palmas) (Meet at Las Palmas)	6:00 pm
Circle #10	Thursday, May 8	
<b>*Correction</b>		
<b>* Clemma Skreen Reading Circle</b>		<b>27th at 11 am</b>

# Breakaway

## **Tuesday Nights**

**May 5, 12, 19, 26**

**6:30-7:10 PM**

*First United Methodist Church  
Praise & Worship Building*

All Youth are invited to attend!

# Here's what's happening!

*In May*

## UMW General Meeting

*The United Methodist Women's General Meeting will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, May 4th at 2 pm.*

## You Are Invited

### **The "Apostle's Build" Habitat for Humanity**

**Project** on Bryan Street is complete.

The Dedication will be Saturday,

May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm.

*We are all invited to attend, as our church is one of the local churches that supported it.*

## Merry Makers Will Visit Duke Gardens

**May 8th**

The Merry Makers will travel to Duke Gardens and Duke Chapel on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. All members need to sign up with Ann Webb. We will meet at the church at 8 am and return by 4:30 pm. Anyone else interested please see Ann Webb as well, to see if there are seats available on the bus. The is .....and you will need to bring money for lunch.

## Second Saturday Night Service—May 10th

Please join us for an Old Fashioned Hymn Sing from the old Cokesbury Hymnal on Saturday, May 10th in the Worship Center at 6 pm. If you have a special song request please contact Statha Osborne or Keith Nanney @ 895-4027.

There will not be a Second Saturday Night Service the months of June, July, and August.

## Clemma Skreen Library Committee

The Clemma Skreen Library Committee will meet on May 27th at 11 am in the Church Library.

## Children's Church Council

The Children's Church Council will meet on Monday, May 12th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



**YOUTH PRAIZE  
TEAM NEWS...**  
*FROM Ms. O*

## I've Surrendered

The Youth Praize Team will give their final program on Saturday, May 24th at 6 pm in the Bynum Building. The entire Praize Team will be a part of this very meaningful service also. Please mark your calendars. You don't want to miss this one. Their theme this year has been "What's Prayer Got to Do With It? Everything"...and they have finally "surrendered"! Please come and support our youth. This will be an evening filled with music, skit, and testimonies. We would love to have standing room only...

## BreakAway

BreakAway has been such a success these last two months. We have averaged 10 youth attending each week. On Tuesday evening, March 11, this group ate dinner with the college youth from the University of Dayton, Ohio and then they all attended BreakAway together. On Thursday evening, our BreakAway youth surprised the College youth with an ice-cream party. These youth came to work with Habitat for Humanity on their Spring Break. They truly exemplified the body of Christ.

A special thanks to Mary & Lee Griffith and Chuck & Sally Wright who have given of their time to support this meaningful program. Will Wright had a dream, he prayed about it and made it a reality. Thank you Will, for your leadership role in forming this spiritual journey of "Facing our Giants".



First United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 637 ♦ Rockingham, NC 28380

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**Attention College Students**

College Scholarships...Resident Members of our church, or children of members, are eligible for our Mary Hadley Leath Scholarship. Guidelines for scholarship requests are available in the church office. Transcripts and letters of recommendation must be submitted before June 30th in order to be eligible.

*For more information, please call the church office.*

***First United Methodist Messenger***

***May 2008***

**PRAYER LIST**

***FUMC Members***

Frances Harris  
Statha Osborne  
Cathie Eason

Julia Ratliff  
Rae Nicholson  
Kim Adams

Robert Cain  
Connie Eteo  
Edna Covington

John Thomas IV  
Myers Waddell  
Louise Neal

***Others***

Alex Altman  
Patricia Ellis  
Robert Baxley  
Isabelle Lowe  
Lindsey Belcher  
Kim Haines  
Steven Dulin  
Thomas Davis  
Rita Hendricks  
Ray Payseur  
Jerry Sutton  
Bob Crouch  
Annie Dorsey  
Carol Gullede  
Genevieve Conner  
Wilson Hayes

Mitch McNair  
Wilma Leatherman  
David Ford  
Renee Diaville  
Marvin Enderle  
Susan Perry  
Beula Bennett  
Betty Howell  
Leslie Harrington  
Ott Simmons  
Mary Raper  
Arthur McDonald  
Cindy H. Lee  
Hilda White  
Jennie Wallace  
Vernon McDonald

Betty K. High  
Betty Lou Arnette  
Robert Wright  
Alene Webb  
Mary Pangborn  
Sharon Blue  
Audrey McCollum  
Buddy York  
Rosie Jenkins  
Charlie Joyce  
Thomas Freeman  
Dick Sherman  
Bobbie Sue Martin  
Dennis Pittman  
Jack McLendon  
Jack Berry

Joan Holmes  
Abbey Wright  
William L. Martin, Jr.  
Terry Singleton  
Gary Winstead  
Deana Carter  
Allie McClendon  
Sam Smith  
Tammy Jones  
David Woods  
Greg Shelley  
Hazel Cox  
Johnny Ormsby  
Dan Capps  
Nancy Thomas  
Kay R. Smith

Also remember our \* *homebound members, nursing home residents*, our missionaries, service men and women and those imprisoned.

*\*Jim McKenzie, Harold Clayton, Tom Beach, Frances Harris, Geneva Thrower, Jackie Page, Agnes "Mac" Bennett, Nancy Hinchliffe, Julia Ratliff, Villa Webb, Abe Abrams, Don & Nancy Smith, Burgoone & Pauline Carnes, Henry Roberts, Steve & Jayne Bennett, Maggie Reynolds, Warren & Jesse Teal, Emily Comer, Viola Allen, James Stubbs, Thurman & Ashby Scott, Sarah Reynolds, Nina McDuffie, Nell Long, Jams Stubbs, and Mary Jenkins.*



*In Loving Memory of.....*

**Mrs. Lorene Young**

Adelaide P. Blalock  
 Bob & Lana Donovan  
 Ms. Dotsy Reynolds  
 John & Martha Hamer

**Mrs. Madeline Lowdermilk**

Wayne & Mary Stogner  
 Ms. Dotsy Reynolds  
 Dr. & Mrs. A.M. Covington  
 Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Kindley

**Mrs. Benson Ledbetter**

Dr. & Mrs. A.M. Covington

**Mrs. Peggy Meacham**

James & Lib Iseman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Brent Neal

**Mr. Tommy Covington** ( Ella Mulkey's  
 Brother in Law)

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Hughes  
 Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Kindley

**Mr. Wesley Williams**

Charles & Margaret Barber  
 Marcus & Joan Comer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Myers Waddell  
 Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Kindley  
 Ms. Ella Mulkey

**Ms. Margaret Morse**

Barbara & David Morrison



*We Send Our  
 Heartfelt  
 Sympathy  
 to:*

The Family of Lorene Young upon her  
 recent death.

**MAY VOLUNTEERS**

**Ushers: May** David Andersen Team  
**Crucifer May** Patrick Ledford  
**TV Ministry: May** Don Covington  
**Greeters: May 4** Bill & Gwen Britt  
 David & Mary Jane Bankhead  
**May 11** Clint & Leigh Ann Ray  
 Sandy Ridley  
**May 18** Jerry & Barbara Thomas  
 Martha Scarborough  
**May 25** Thomas & Daphne Smith  
 Mary Ellen Kindley  
**Guild: May**

**Hedge Prayer (May)**

**First Sunday** Outreach Bible Class  
**Second Sunday** Alan Smith Class  
**Third Sunday** Cross Currents Class  
**Fourth Sunday** Ladies Bible Class  
**Fifth Sunday** Ladies Bible Class

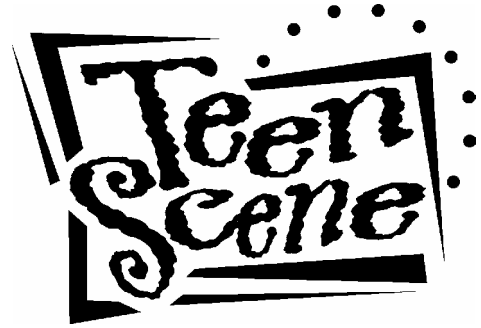
**Hermitage Ministry**

**First Monday** Buena Vista Coggin (Story Telling)  
**Second Monday** Sandra Nanney, Mary Ellen Kindley,  
 Hannah Cole Buie, Doris Sears  
**Third Monday** (Guest Speaker), Robert Cain,  
 Faye Poplin, Julia Ratliff  
**Fourth Monday** Robert Heath, John Foster, Doris Sears  
**Fifth Monday** Outreach Sunday School Class  
**Sun. Morning Fellowship** - Refreshments— Ladies Bible Class

**Soup Kitchens set to Re-Open**

Once again, the Rockingham & Hamlet Soup Kitchens will serve noon lunch meals every Monday and Friday (except holidays) each month beginning the week of May 5. FUMC has committed its support to provide a lunch meal the first Friday of each month beginning June 6. Suzanne McInnis will serve as the church's coordinator for soup kitchen volunteers and Connie Eteo will assist volunteer teams with meal planning. **A training session will be held for all volunteers at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 2 at the Rockingham Soup Kitchen facility.**

Anyone who wishes to participate in this community team effort to feed the hungry should contact either Rene Rohleder at 997-2298 or Suzanne McInnis at 895-1009.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 13-17

Please let Leone McLester (895-4027) know if you would like to volunteer. We have lots of areas and opportunity for everyone to help one hour, one night, and/or all week.



**A Special Thanks  
To First United Methodist Church  
Members**

The Richmond County Community Choir would like to thank First United Methodist Church for hosting our musical and for their generosity to Relay for Life. Our goal is to donate \$1000 to Relay for Life and your donations totaled \$410 toward that goal. We greatly appreciate all those who attended. Kay Lynch, Director

Thank you for graciously opening your church home to host our college volunteers from the University of Dayton. They had a wonderful time and felt welcomed and taken care of for the week—We truly appreciate all your compassion. We would not be able to accomplish what we are able to without such wonderful support and Christian partnership like yours. Thank you again!

Sincerely, Sarah Erdmon

Circle 10 extends a sincere appreciation for you support of our Spaghetti Lunch and Silent Auction last month. We raised over \$1,400.00 for our Circle of Hope Relay for Life Team. Thank you again for supporting this vital ministry of our church and community.

Circle 10 Members

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Meets May 12 at 8pm in the Bynum Building.

All youth are invited to attend to meet fellow Christians.

Praise band, devotions, and prayer.

(This gathering is for every youth, even those of us who are not sports gifted!)

### Honoring Seniors May 18

United Methodist Men will be honoring our 2008 Seniors and Lisa Ledford at breakfast on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. Everyone is invited to attend the breakfast.

*We need pictures of Seniors! Please bring baby through 12th grade pictures to Ann Crotts by May 4. We would like to do a presentation for UMM Breakfast.*

### Youth Sunday Service

June 8 - 11 am

Please attend youth on Sunday evenings as we prepare for this Service.

### MYF Schedule for May

May 4- No youth, returning from

Beach Retreat

May 11- No youth - spend time with the

special ladies who take care of

you all year long.

May 18 Youth at 3:00 - to attend Spring Fling

and practice for Youth Sunday

May 25 Youth at 4:00

Youth Choir at 5:00