



A Celebration of Faith

The Messenger

Edenton United Methodist Church

March 2010

Thoughts from our Pastor

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Peggy and I have done a bit of traveling in the last month, visiting our daughter Anna and son-in-law Jonathan in Louisville, Kentucky. It is a beautiful drive when the weather is good; to see the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, and the bluegrass knobs of Kentucky is a real treat. Even the snow was beautiful – until we had to drive back home in it! I personally am ready for spring (how 'bout you?).

I've heard that life can be likened to a journey, with its beginning, middle and end. So it is with the Christian faith. We can keep time with the gospel along our journey of faith and life, through the cycle of the church year. At the heart of the Christian worship experience is our participation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The cycle of the church year focuses on two great mysteries; the incarnation of God in Christ which is celebrated in the nativity at Christmas, and the Paschal mystery of death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Both of these mysteries point to the truth of God's presence in the world to seek and save the lost.

What is this *Paschal* mystery? The term comes from the same word [*pesah*] used in the Hebrew Bible for *Passover*, the ancient Jewish agricultural spring festival which commemorates the deliverance of the children of Israel from slavery and bondage in Egypt, recounted in the book of Exodus. In the story of the tenth and final plague God inflicted upon the Egyptians (Exodus 11-13), the Hebrew people were instructed to take a lamb from their flock to be the centerpiece of their Passover meal. This lamb, sacrificed to God in memory of that night of deliverance from death, became the central symbol of redemption for the Jewish people. Jesus took this Passover meal, known to this day as a *Seder*, and transformed it into the sacrament we celebrate and variously know as Eucharist, communion, or the Lord's Supper.

When one considers the significance of the whole liturgical half of the Christian year which begins with Advent and moves through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and concludes with Pentecost, one can see that the center of our worship is brought to focus by the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. It is these events which give shape and meaning to our worship every Sunday, indeed to each day of the devoted Christian's life.

We are now well into the season of Lent. The name for this season comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word *Lencten* or *Lenchthen*, which refers to the lengthening of the days as spring appears. It consists of forty days, exclusive of Sundays in Lent, which recall the forty years of desert wanderings of the Hebrew people prior to their entry into the Land of Promise. This is further symbolic of the forty days of our Lord's wandering in the wilderness of Judea immediately following his baptism at the beginning of his ministry. It was during those forty days that Jesus Christ fasted and prayed, and was tested by the Devil.

This is a time then for us to do some serious soul-searching, to consider implementing the various spiritual disciplines available to us as Christians in our daily lives: prayer, fasting, faithful attendance at worship, sacrificial giving to meet the needs of others, avoiding evil and doing good. In all these ways we know that God bestows upon us his grace and empowers us with the same Holy Spirit that was evident in the life of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to participate in these spiritual disciplines in your private devotions, with your family and loved ones, and corporately with our faith community and also in the events we will do in unity with the other congregations of Edenton and Chowan County. These are listed elsewhere in our newsletter and calendar, and as we move into Holy Week between Palm Sunday and Good Friday we will serve the community as hosts for the noon unity worship/luncheon experiences with St. Paul's, St. Anne's, First Presbyterian and Edenton Baptist churches. Later that week on Thursday here at Edenton United Methodist Church we will reenact a traditional Jewish *Seder*, and on Friday evening view the mystery of the Stations of the Cross as presented by several members of our congregation. I want to encourage your participation in church each Sunday as together we journey with Christ towards the cross of Calvary, and beyond to the promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom.

Charles

The Messenger

Please leave your items for the April issue by **Thursday, March 25th** in the Messenger Mailbox in the church.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We never close!

Do you remember seeing signs like that on businesses that remained open 24 hours? In many ways, that is true of our church. While the building may not be open 24 hours every day, the Pastors, Trustees and others are available at all hours to meet the needs of our church family and our community.

At the end of January, we had a rare event—because of icy conditions following a snow storm, we had to cancel the church services and activities for January 31. This meant the cancellation of many activities planned for the day. I suspect that many of you cannot remember a time where this has happened.

Although we didn't have church that day, our expenses didn't stop. We still paid the staff, heated the building and continued our work. However, with no service, there was no offering, and no collection to deposit on Monday! As you prepare your giving for the month of March, please consider the fact that we didn't receive your offering for January 31.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

For the last two years, our Stewardship campaign has revolved around a series of neighborhood gatherings where you've had an opportunity to hear from Pastor Charles about the work of the church and our financial needs for the coming year. This year, we're taking a more traditional approach.

For several Sundays in February and March, we'll be hearing from members of Edenton United Methodist Church about how the church meets the needs of our members and the community. On March 21, our District Superintendent will share some thoughts about stewardship when he preaches at all three services. Finally, we'll ask you to make your pledge to contribute on Sunday, March 28.

Please prayerfully consider your contributions for 2010 to Edenton United Methodist Church.

Chair, Stewardship Committee

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FORMING

Beginning Sunday, March 7, Rev. Susie will be teaching a class on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. Using the book, "Changed from Glory into Glory; Wesleyan Prayer for Transformation" by Paul Wesley Chilcote, we will explore different types and methods of prayer during this 8 week study. If you feel like a novice in prayer, this class will assist you with your first steps. If you are experienced in the ways of prayer, you will find resources to deepen your relationship with God in Christ. Attentive prayer, responsive prayer, unceasing prayer and corporate worship are among topics explored through art, hymns, and reflections.

The books are available for order from the church office for \$15, but will not be necessary to participate in the class. Please see Rev. Susie for more information.



United Methodist Women
Women's Division

"Kudos" to everyone who helped make the UMW Sub-District Meeting a rousing success. Pastor Charles and Peggy Moseley played and sang "Reconciliation Song." Pastor Susie Fitch-Slater told everyone in her devotional to "Plug into the Power!" The kitchen and food preparers presented a delicious, eye-appealing luncheon. All of our people served as greeters, hand shakers, and welcoming committee. Thank you so very much!!

Dates to Remember:

- March 8** Walking Rainbow Circle at 10:30 a.m. at the Church
Susanna Wesley Circle at 10:30 a.m. at the home of a member
- March 11** Circle of Friends at 7 p.m. at the Church
- March 22** UMW Executive Board at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- March 22** Unit meeting at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a sandwich. Our special program will be Mike Fitch, who will talk about his missions trips and feeding people in Robeson County
- March 27** Missions Study at Wanchese, Bethany (previously canceled due to snow)
We will meet to carpool and leave our Church at 8 a.m.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

The Elizabeth City District will sponsor a Youth and Children's Ministry Workshop on Saturday, April 24, at Edenton UMC. This event is designed to encourage and inspire Sunday School teachers and anyone who works with children and youth.

The workshops will include such topics as:

Help, I'm a Sunday School Teacher!

The Nuts and Bolts of Youth Ministry

Spiritual Disciplines

Puppet Ministry

Mission Opportunities: How to Plan a Missions Trip

ABCs: How to Start Children and Youth Ministries

Safe Sanctuaries

Liturgical Dance

Vacation Bible School on a Shoe String

Registration will be held from 9:30 - 10 a.m.

Workshops, lunch and worship will be held from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person, and includes lunch.

Brochures and registration forms are available from Rev. Susie.

JOY CHOIR

Your Joy Choir has grown again, and has traveled, and will continue to travel to Elizabeth City (twice), to Hertford, Plymouth, Windsor (also twice), and of course to many sites in Edenton. Music is good for the heart and soul, but also for the brain. We are heartened to see smiles appearing, heads nodding, toes tapping, and voices emerging from people who struggle daily to do the tasks we all take for granted. We thank the Lord for the opportunity.

THANK YOU

My special thanks to all for your cards, phone calls, and prayers during my recent surgery. God bless you all.

Gloria J.

Edenton United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, food, and visits I received since my surgery. Carole and I are fortunate to have the support of our church family. Knowing you were praying for us helped us through this difficult time. Thank you again and God Bless all of you.

Sincerely,

Ronnie B.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP DINNER MENU

March 3	Fried chicken, potato salad, veggie, dessert
10	Ham and cabbage fundraiser
17	Pot roast dinner, dessert
24	Baked chicken, corn-on-the-cob, mashed potatoes/gravy, rolls, dessert

Hot dogs or chicken nuggets are available for children.

If you would like to help with dinner, or if your group would like to sponsor a dinner or hold a fundraiser dinner, please speak with the church office.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

The UMYF continues to meet every Sunday evening at 5 p.m. All youth from the community are invited to be a part of this fellowship.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Youth Events:

Sunday, April 25 - Conference Youth Rally Day at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount. ***Our youth will lead praise and worship!*** Go EUMC!

A special meeting with youth leaders and parents will be held Sunday, March 21, at 4 p.m. to discuss upcoming youth events and plans for the year. New information about a mission trip will be offered.

A CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

A one day retreat for youth ages 12 and up who are enrolled in confirmation or preparing for confirmation will be held at Edenton UMC on Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come meet our District Superintendent, Rev. Carl Frazier and learn about the Methodist Church. Learn what it means to give your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to God as a member of the church. Please see Pastor Charles or Pastor Susie for more information about this event and about confirmation classes.

ANNUAL DISTRICT LAY RALLY FEATURES WORLD RENOWNED EVANGELIST

Members and friends of Edenton United Methodist Church are invited to attend the annual Elizabeth District Lay Rally that is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Elizabeth City. The District Board of Laity has designed the event to be attractive for “believers of all ages”.

Among the highlights of the Lay Rally will be a message presented by Rev. Dr. John Ed Mathison, retired pastor of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and a world renowned evangelist. Under Dr. Mathison’s leadership as pastor for 36 years, Frazer Memorial grew from 400 to more than 8,800 members. In addition to Dr. Mathison’s sermon, a variety of music will be featured. In addition, outstanding lay ministries from across the Elizabeth City District will be lifted up. Also, graduating high school seniors from churches throughout the district will be recognized, and a district youth representative will give a personal testimony.

Circle March 7 on your calendars and plan to spend part of that Sunday afternoon in a spirit of worship and celebration in Christian fellowship at the annual Elizabeth City District Lay Rally. Let’s plan to have Edenton United Methodist Church well-represented at this event!

LANGUAGE BRIDGES

The Language Bridges Program continues to habla Ingles every Tuesday evening. Our beginning students, who barely responded with a head nod to our hellos in September, now stroll by saying “Hi!”


And the upper classes continue to hone their vocabularies, pronunciation, and verbs, and will all be ready for the next level of text-workbook by May.

Please note that we will present a short Spanish-Mexican music concert program performed by an adult classical voice student, on April 22 at 6:30 p.m., to be followed by light refreshments. We hope to see you there. Your continued support of this productive program is appreciated.



MARCH 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 *7 pm Albemarle Chorale Practice *8 pm AA *8 pm Al-anon	2 *10 am Exercise *11:15 am Prayer Shawl *12 pm AA 1 pm Blood Drive *6:30 pm Language Bridges Classes *7 pm Bible Study	3 *12 pm AA 5 pm Boy Scouts *5:30 pm Wednesday Night Dinner *6:15 pm Christian Ed Class 6:15 pm Witness Committee *7:30 pm Choir Practice *8 pm AA	4 *9 am Bible Study *10 am Exercise *10 am Weight Watchers *11:15 am Prayer Shawl *12 pm AA	5 *10 am Soaking Prayer *12:30 pm AA	6 *10 am AA
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9 am Men's Bible Class Breakfast 4:30 pm Celebrations practice *5 pm SOP & UMYF	8 10:30 am Walking Rainbows 10:30 am Susanna Wesley Circles 6 pm Girl Scouts	9	10 5 pm Boy Scouts 6:15 pm Outreach Committee	11 7 pm Circle of Friends	12	13 9 am CAFFEINE Youth Bible Study
14	15	16 12 noon Lunch Bunch	17 5 pm Boy Scouts 6:15 pm Trustees Mtg 	18	19 7 pm Healing Prayer Service	20 10 am Dist Youth Confirmation Event 1:30 pm NENC American Guild
21 8 am Methodist Men 4:30 pm Celebrations practice	22 10:30 am UMW Executive Comt 12 pm UMW Unit Mtg	23	24	25	26	27 9 am CAFFEINE Youth Bible Study
28	29	30	31 HOLY WEEK			

* denotes same time each week

THIS AND THAT	
<p>RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE -The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Tuesday, March 2, from 1 – 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Our collection goal is 96 units. Please come and “Give the Gift of Life”.</p> <p>METHODIST MEN’S YARD SALE -The annual Methodist Men’s Yard Sale will be Saturday, June 5, from 7 a.m. until noon. Please hold on to your sale items. We will start accepting items on Tuesday, June 1.</p> <p>FOOD PANTRY-In January, the Food Pantry served 220 families including 26 new families. In March, our church’s “product of the month” is PEAS. The next Food Pantry Sunday is March 14, so please give generously. The Food Pantry needs volunteers. If you can help, contact the church.</p>	<p>HOLY WEEK - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!</p> <p>Thursday, April 1 Seder Meal - Fellowship Hall - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, April 2 Stations of the Cross - FLC - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, April 4 Sunrise Service - Courthouse Green Worship Services: 9, 10, and 11 a.m. **More details to come**</p>