

The Lamplighter

Well Done, Indeed!

March 2025 • Volume XVIII • Issue II

"...Well done, good and faithful servant..." (Matt 25:21, RSV)

We all know the power of first impressions. Allow me to share with you the first encounter I had with Lyda Talley. Prior to my coming here as pastor, I was invited to come and meet the staff. After our meeting, Lyda asked me about sending a photo of my family and some opening remarks for the new photo directory that was about to be printed. I told her that I would be sending this to her shortly. With all the grace and charm and utter seriousness of a true "Steel Magnolia," Lyda said to me, "That'd be nice" (you know in a way that sounded nice, but made me know she meant business). When I got back to Chapel Hill, someone asked me about the staff at First Church. I said "They are all nice, but I am telling you I am not going to get on the bad side of Mrs. Lyda. She means business." And yes, I did get the requested information to her (and quickly).

In nearly forty years of ordained ministry, I have had the privilege of working with many different people. Some have been very proficient; some have been very personable, but without a doubt Lyda Talley has been possessed of the highest qualities of both personality and professionalism. She has published a monthly newsletter while at the same time encouraging staff members to get articles to her on time; she has published bulletins for funerals while answering the church phone at the same time with a pleasant demeanor; she has handled various requests from church members and vendors while at the same time making everyone feel as if they have been heard and cared for. She has been the first face many have seen, the first voice to whom many have spoken and she has been a wonderful and faithful ambassador of First Church to our membership and to the Washington Community.

I would say all these things to anyone who would ask, but I am taking the opportunity to put this in print because at the end of March, Lyda will retire from her duties at First Church. No doubt, she is looking forward to spending more time with Seth and of course, taking on more "grandma duties." While we will miss her greatly, she has certainly earned this opportunity to take on this new phase in her life. Rest assured that the Staff Parish Committee is already at work searching for someone to take on the administrative duties, but of course, no one will ever replace Lyda. I know that I speak for everyone in saying we are thankful for the blessing Lyda has been to us and wish her Godspeed in this new phase in life. Who knows? Maybe she'll even check in from time to time to make sure us staff members are behaving! To quote a great lady "That'd be nice." See you in church Sunday.



"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." Peter 5:6

Inside This Issue...

Senior Pastor's Article	1
Christian Sympathy	1
Associate Pastor's Article	2
Family Night Dinner Menus	2
Birthdays	3
Family Ministries	4
In Memoriam/Buckman	4
Preschool	5
Childcare	5
Children's Ministry	6
Children's Lenten Series	6
Youth Ministry	7
In Memoriam/Tanner	8
Matthew 25	8
Missions	9
Letters	10
Methodist Women News	10
Calendar	11
Methodist Men/Mt. 25	BACK

Christian sympathy is expressed to the families of:

Danny Howard
Mike Koplín



Methodist Men serve the Matthew 25 meal in February—See article on page 8

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From Your Associate Pastor of Missional Discipleship

What are the "Roundups" all about?

At the end of February, we initiated a new quarterly event here at FMCW called "Roundups." I've fielded many good questions surrounding this event, and thought it best to write an article to help us all understand the purpose behind this endeavor.

The number one question I've gotten about these events has been, "Can I come, even though I'm not new to our church?" The answer, of course is, YES! The aim for these roundups is to help all of those who are part of our church family, become more familiar with our greater life together. We are a growing church. We host two worship services each Sunday, both of which are growing. We have several classes, and small groups, and discipleship opportunities going on all the time. We host programs that aim to grow and service our church and community in specialized ways. And we are always amid discovering new ways to reach people for Christ. There are many moving parts to a church like ours. And this is all good. We are able to offer many different people who come from many different church backgrounds and experiences a place to call their spiritual and missional home base. However, it can be difficult in a large church for everyone to understand how it all works together. Many of you, who have been a part of our church family for a while, have learned over time how things get done and who to go to for most things.

That being said, I'm always trying to put myself in the shoes of those who might be coming to church for the first time in their life, or who have never been a part of a larger church before, but who are sensing in their spirit that this is the place for them. It can feel quite daunting to feel connected. And even long-time members can get lost from time-to-time.

The purpose of these roundups is to help meet this need by presenting a pragmatic forum where all of us can learn more about our life together. This will be achieved by focusing on relationships and giving information. So, each roundup will highlight a specific focus.

In February, our Church Staff led the way, giving you a chance to meet face-to-face who helps serve our church on a day-to-day basis.

In May, our plan is to highlight the Administrative Functions of our church leadership. Leaders of our Church Council will be present to help us understand the lay leadership structure of our church and how you can get involved.

In August, we plan to highlight our various discipleship ministries including Sunday School Classes, Small Groups, Missional Communities, and Church Missions.

Finally, in November, our pastors (Ken and I) will choose a topic to highlight.

In each of these roundups, we hope you will find time to connect with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, learn more about our church, and have a place to ask questions. We look forward to your participation as we continue to know, grow in, and share Christ to the fullest.

In Christ,
Stephen Bazan

Family Night Dinner Menus

- Mar 5 Baked Chicken, Mac 'n' Cheese, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert
- Mar 12 Turkey/Cheese Sliders - Ham/Cheese Sliders, Pasta Salad, Mixed Salad, Dessert
- Mar 19 Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Cabbage, Rolls, Dessert
- Mar 26 Childcare Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

First Methodist Church Meetings & Activities Calendar

2025

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2	9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	9:30 AM Methodist Women Executive Board 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	4 Circle Meetings 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	5 Ash Wednesday 9:30 AM WWBS "Revelation" by Jen Wilkin 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Children & Youth Ministries 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM Praise Team	6 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:30 PM Pack 99	7	8 8:00 AM Cub Scout Pinewood Derby 11:00 AM Matthew 25 Fellowship Meal
9	Daylight Saving Time Begins First Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Yahoos	10 Newsletter Deadline 5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	11 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Weekly Lenten Service 12:30 PM Circle of Kind Blessings 7:00 PM Wiccan Order of Arrow	12 9:30 AM WWBS "Revelation" by Jen Wilkin 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Children & Youth Ministries 7:30 PM Praise Team	13 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:00 PM SPRC 6:30 PM Pack 99	14	15
16	8:00 AM Methodist Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	17 5:30 PM Child Care Board Meeting 6:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	18 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Weekly Lenten Service 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	19 9:30 AM WWBS "Revelation" by Jen Wilkin 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Children & Youth Ministries 7:30 PM Praise Team	20 First Day of Spring 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:30 PM Pack 99 7:00 PM Finance Committee	21	22
23	9:00 AM Blended Worship and Children's Church 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Traditional Worship	24 Preschool Teacher Workday (No school for students) 1:00 PM Matthew 25 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting	25 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Weekly Lenten Service 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	26 4:00 PM Men of Redemption 4:30 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner 6:15 PM Children & Youth Ministries 7:30 PM Praise Team	27 7:00 AM Men at the Table 6:30 PM Yahoos 6:30 PM Pack 99	28	29
30	10:00 AM Combined Service in the Sanctuary	31 7:00 PM Troop 99 Meeting					

**Methodist Women
Circle News**

Monday, March 3, 2025
MW Executive Board Meeting
9:30 AM, Asbury Conference Room

Tuesday, March 4, 2025
MW Circle Meetings:

Agape Circle
9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall, Backpack Pals
and Childcare Snacks
7:00 PM, Meeting in the Parlor

Circle of Kind Blessings
9:00 AM, Wesley Hall and Kitchen

Circle of Mary and Martha
9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall—Backpack Pals
and Childcare Snacks
10:00 AM, Meeting in Asbury Conference Room

Circle of Joy
1:00 PM, Asbury Conference Room

SONshine Circle
TBD

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the heartfelt love and kindness extended to our family through your texts, cards, food, and prayers during the illness and passing of my husband, Danny. You have touched us deeply, and I feel so blessed to be a part of FMCW. Thank you again, and God bless you.

Linda P. Howard and Family

Church Family-
I cannot get over this new feeling I have of standing in front of a large door, not knowing what lies on the other side as it opens fully. I only know I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, with much hope and confidence, and a general feeling of relief and POSITIVITY about our Country's near future.

A quote from the noted British author and poet, Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), seems to reflect for me this even stronger, new-found sense of national encouragement: "We are (at) the opening verse of the opening page of the Chapter of Endless Possibilities." May God continue to Bless our wonderful country.

Lee Hemink

Letters

Dear Church Staff,
I appreciate the ministry of the church. Thank you for the church bulletins and The Lampighter. I am blessed by the homebound communion services.
With Love,
Ann Warner

Dear First Methodist Church of Washington,
On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Purpose of God Annex Outreach Center, thank you for your continued, generous support of this organization.
Sincerely,
Mother Regina Jones
Chief Admin Officer

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for opening your hearts and doors to Younglives for the last 10+ years. You provided a safe and welcoming place for adolescent parents, their children, and their families to gather and be in fellowship, and hear about the God who loves them and has a plan for their lives. Many of them heard this for the first time under these walls. They will not forget the many donations, great meals, and warm feelings from the many who babysat their precious little ones, so they could have some time to themselves with others who were in their same situation in life. Since COVID there has been a decline in the number of adolescent parents identified in our county schools, health department, and pregnancy center so we are putting a pause on our ministry. (Praise the Lord for His goodness.)

Thank you doesn't seem like enough, but know from the bottom of my heart you have been a blessing to me and many teenagers all over Beaufort County!
In His love,
Sheila Tanner
Younglives Volunteer Coordinator

Celebrating the gift of life during the month of March:

1st	Beth Litchfield
6th	Muriel Moore
7th	Walker Heath
8th	Ross LaBarbera
9th	Betty Harbor
10th	Ginny Taylor, Thomas Griffin, Kailey Harris
11th	Shirley McPherson
12th	Brenda Bernhardt
13th	Dee Dee Anderson
14th	Gayle Morgan, Brent Glover
17th	Shirley Rouse, Pat Haltigan
19th	Justin Ingalls
20th	Kathleen Taylor, Randy Wynne
21st	CeeCee Carroll
23rd	Tatum Haselden
24th	Gretchen Beasley
25th	Kari Hall, Haley Copeland
26th	Cherri Howdy, Susan Nash
28th	Sam Taylor, Patricia Moore, Lyda Talley, Delaney O'Brien
29th	Laura Gerard
30th	John Wallace

Family Ministries

On Saturday, February 1, I had the great opportunity to attend a great event, the Nineteen20 conference that was held for young adults ages 18 to 35 at Hollands Church in Raleigh. It was a wonderful conference that was aimed at reaching out to young adults to give them encouragement and reinforce our call from Christ in the Great Commission to go out and make disciples for Jesus.

We had the joy of starting in worship with wonderful songs that gave glory to our Lord and then dove into reading of the great commission in Matthew 28:16-20. The first speaker, Malcom James shared what happens when we are called to follow Christ. He shared the calling of the first disciples in Matthew 4:18-22 and how they literally dropped everything, got out of the boat, and followed Christ. We read those verses and were reminded that they didn't ask questions, they didn't argue why it couldn't work, they didn't have time to pack a bag or give a forwarding address. Malcom's challenge to everyone is, "Are we listening to God and are we willing to drop our nets, leave our families and go when he calls us?"

The Next speaker, Amanda Dodson, shared that God has given us the essentials for the journey; in giving us the Bible as our shield, he gave us a sword in the church community in which God plants us. She shared Proverbs 27:17 which says, "Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another." How important it is for us to make sure that we are with people that can help us grow in our faith and can strengthen us for doing God's work. And God gives us the nourishment that we need, in reading and studying the scriptures; spending time in quiet meditation; and worship, seeking God's strength in our lives.

The last speaker was Rev. Sarah Williams who reminded us that the call of God is not a one-time thing, but He is constantly calling us to follow him and to go forward and make disciples for Christ. God does not just call people to ordained ministry or to work on a church staff, but he calls ALL people to share His love with others. Everywhere we go, God promises to be with us - "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b

It was wonderful to be with young people who are living their lives for Christ and looking for encouragement that there are others their age who are seeking after Christ, and there is strength in community with other believers. The speakers all shared great reminders for all of us as followers of Christ.

Here's a reminder of some fun things coming up for our church family:

Sunday, May 4 - Church Family Picnic at Paige and Laura Davis' house

Wednesday, May 14th - Last Family Night Dinner - Family Fun Night

Blessings,

Sarah Beth Wood

In Memoriam Melanie Latham Wallace Buckman

The Methodist Women of the First Methodist Church, Washington, North Carolina, wish to pay tribute to Melanie Latham Wallace Buckman. Melanie passed away on August 8, 2024. Melanie was a devoted member of First Methodist Church and The Methodist Women.

Melanie was born in Washington, North Carolina, on September 3, 1941. Melanie is survived by her husband, Thomas Franklin Buckman, Sr., her four sons, two sisters, a brother, and six grandchildren.

Melanie considered herself a writer and a teacher. She completed a Bachelor of Science Degree at East Carolina University. Melanie was a devoted member of the Methodist Church. She was actively involved in her church, serving as a member of the Women's Society, the Church Board of Directors, and the Missions Chairperson. Melanie was a member of the Ester Earnhardt Circle and the Mildred Mann Circle. Melanie, also, volunteered at the Soup Kitchen, as well as Bread for the World.

Melanie's passion was reading, writing, and spending time with her loved ones at the River home.

We request that a copy of this Memorial be read to First Methodist Women and recorded in the minutes, a copy be published in the Lamp lighter, and a copy be sent to her family.

In God's Love,

Jane Dockins
Kay Smith

Missions

The Missions Committee would like to share with our Church Family the many opportunities you will have to participate in Missions this year. Please mark your calendars and save the dates that you will be available to serve. We are off and running.

During Lent, we will have dinners which will take place each Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm from March 5 through April 16. After dinner, we will have guest speakers who will speak to us regarding their efforts to meet the needs in our community.

March 5 - April 20, 2025 Special Lenten Offering benefitting the Barnabas Fund

April 20, 2025 Happy Resurrection Sunday

April 27 - May 3, 2025 2025 Yard Sale Prep and Sale (See more details in the article below)

May 18, 2025 Rise Against Hunger - Last year we had over 60 people join us from six different churches in our community. We packaged 15,000 meals. PTL

Church Has Left the Building Sunday, October 26, 2025

Fall Fling Friday, November 21, 2025 (More details to follow)

Wanted: More Faithful Servants to serve on the Missions Committee. We meet the second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Asbury Conference Room. (Except June, July and December) You will enjoy the fellowship and be blessed in your service to our Lord, King and church family. Pray about it. Then contact George and Bonnie Isovitsch for any questions you may have.

George - 724-822-4749, email - geoisojr@suddenlink.net

Bonnie - 724-822-1529, email - boniso@suddenlink.net

Save the date... FMCW Annual Yard Sale

We are so excited to announce the annual Yard Sale will be Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, for 2025. What a great event for both the church and the community. The money we raise goes directly to the Missions budget to help support local ministries in our own community.

We will be providing enclosed trailers again this year to store your donated items beginning April 1, and we also have the use of a storage unit in Chocowinity for furniture and larger items. We will set up weekly drop-off times as we get closer and items can be brought in early the week of the sale, also.

We're excited just thinking about all the Priceless Pieces and Fabulous Treasures that will be donated. As you continue your spring cleaning, you can contact Debbie or Bonnie below to arrange drop-off at the church or storage unit and we can hold your items until the sale.

We will need your donated items (with the exception of clothes and shoes) boxed and labeled, but more importantly, we need your help as we prepare, organize and put this all together. There will be a job for everyone that can donate time either the week before or during the event. The church needs your talents and gifts to enhance the overall success of this sale and it will be a fun week of fellowship getting ready.

Stay tuned and for more information contact:

Debbie Branch 828-719-8804 or Bonnie Isovitsch 724-822-1529

In Memoriam Joan Luessen Tanner

The Methodist Women of the First Methodist Church Washington wish to pay a loving tribute of honor and respect to the memory of Joan Luessen Tanner who departed this life on February 27, 2024.

Joan was a member of this church since September 15, 2013, and joined the Ruble Sunday School class. She served her church in many ways. Joan enjoyed the Matthew 25 ministry and was a member of the Methodist Women. She was a faithful member of the Circle of Hope and the Circle of Joy. Joan was a leader in the ministries of making prayer shawls, journals, and Chrismons. She loved to sew, paint and design greeting cards. She also loved to be a prayer warrior for her family and for her church family.

Joan was born in Chicago, Illinois and graduated from Glenbard West High School in 1953. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was married to William Lewis Luessen for 54 years and had two daughters, Deann and Babette. She was a bookkeeper for many years.

Joan moved to Washington, NC in 2013 where she met and married her Sunday School teacher, Fritz Tanner, in 2016. She was loved and enjoyed by the entire Tanner family.

We give thanks to God for her years with us. We feel the loss of our sweet, caring and gifted friend. We are so grateful for having known her.

We extend love and sympathy to her children, Deann, Bob, Babette, and her grandson Michael and wife Erin.

We request that a copy of this memorial be mailed to her family and a copy be entered in the minutes of the Methodist Women and a copy be published in the First Methodist newsletter, the Lamplighter.

In God's Love,

Kay Smith
Sheila Tanner
Tish Moore

Matthew 25

On February 8, nineteen Methodist men were in full swing preparing and providing the meal of homemade chili, a baked potato with sour cream, cheddar cheese, and butter along with a green salad. Those assisting the cook team leader of Paige Davis were George Isovitch, Kevin O'Kane, John Hauser, Wayne Oestreich, Ken Matveia, Reid Brodie, Tom Willey, Ray Peede, Les Sheridan, Steve Toler, Chris Smith, Lawrence Mallard, Will Jefferson, Ron Branch, Derek Gifford, Jerry Cessna, Rev. Stephen Bazan and Tim Copeland. Not only did they prepare the food but packed the meals for the homebound and carried them to the drivers' cars. Adding to this warm meal on a chilly day were cakes that were provided by the Circle of Kind Blessings and were sliced and wrapped by Cathy Oestreich, Judy Griffin, Kathy Burdi and Barbara Buckalew.

The 64 guests gathered at the tables decorated by Sally Brodie with a valentine theme for the devotion and blessing provided by Paige Davis. Kay Smithwick was playing hymns and providing music during their lunch.

Other activities were going on before and after lunch: Kim Copeland was providing a story time to the children, John Gunnels was available for prayer requests, and the nurses, Sharon Williams and Wanda Lilly, were busy checking seven blood pressures. Susan Zachary distributed cold weather items and hygiene supplies. We thank our church family for donations of hats, gloves, and socks to support our Head to Toe project. Your faithful generosity to all aspects of this ministry is greatly appreciated.

Barbara Smith, Diana Tew, Missy Deaner and Jane Weaver made deliveries to the 19 homebound. They always return with smiles on their faces because of the blessings received from their heartwarming visits. Ann Cherry again provided special valentine desserts for each of the homebound.

A total of 83 meals were served, and those that helped in the Fellowship Hall were Pam Deese, Beth Litchfield, Janie Hauser, Bruce and Ann Mears, Susan Zachary, Bob and Kay Smithwick, Cathy Oestreich, Ashlee Rasmussen, Briseyda Juarez, Yetzbe, Juarez De La Cruz, Kaylynn Dunn and Joselyn Trejo-Cota.

"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with this kind of sacrifice."
Hebrews 13:16

Preschool

The month of February always goes by so quickly, but it is full of lots of love! Some highlights of our month included a mini field trip to the Post Office where our Pre-k students were able to go behind the scenes and see how the post office operates. This was such a special time and the staff did an amazing job showing them around. They also mailed a special surprise to their families. We really appreciate all that USPS does for our community.

During chapel, students learned all about the love of God and being kind through the stories of Zaccheus and the Good Samaritan and learning about the Golden Rule and the Fruit of the Spirit (our favorite!)

The preschool is blessed to be able to tell the congregation that, at this time, our program is already full with 56 spots filled for 2025-2026 school year. I am beyond grateful for the love, support, and positive word of mouth that this congregation has given us to allow our reputation to reach to the greater community. While I do not like to say no to those still knocking at our door to be on our waitlist (always the hardest part about this job), we are thankful that our preschool families feel they are part of our church family as well and continue to return to our program. I am still keeping a waitlist for each classroom, so if anyone wants to fill out a registration form for that possibility, please ask them to contact me at fmcwpreschool@gmail.com or visit our website <http://fmcwashington.com/preschool-registration/> to fill out a registration form.

Finally, please put April 6 on your calendars as Preschool Sunday. More details will be shared about this soon, but it is a great time to connect with some of our students and families as they will be attending our services on that day. We hope to share a little about the preschool in both services. As always, thank you for all of your prayers and support of our program.

Amanda Bazan

Preschool Director
Cell: 252-532-7604
fmcwpreschool@gmail.com

Childcare

As the seasons change, we ask God to cover our staff, families, and children in His protection and grace in the days ahead.

Over the next couple of weeks at FMC Childcare, we will be nurturing the children with the teachings of "How God Takes Care of Us." Our guiding verse is Philippians 4:19 - "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Through Bible stories, songs, and hands-on activities, we will explore the many ways God provides for our needs and watches over us.

As we entered the month of February, we were excited to invite you to our Valentine's Day Family Breakfast on February 14. This special gathering was an opportunity for our Childcare families, children, and staff to come together and celebrate God's everlasting love.

We ask those who know the power of prayer to continue lifting us up as we grow in His purpose. Thank you for being part of our FMC family!

Blessings,

Jessica Powell

Director's Contact: (252) 947-2836
Email: fmcwchildcare@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

Did you know Josiah was only eight years old when he became king of Judah? Can you imagine what it might be like to suddenly have everyone looking to you for answers at your age? When he was 18 years old, after he'd already been king for ten years, he discovered the Scriptures and realized his people had not been listening to God for a long time. The LORD told him, through a prophetess named Huldah, "because your heart was penitent and you humbled yourself before the LORD...I also have heard you" (2 Kings 22:19). He quickly did all in his power to point his whole country back to God! Even at such a young age, Josiah knew that in order for his people be the best they could be and have the best life they could have, they had to turn to the LORD. They needed to worship and serve Him, repent of their bad behavior, and rely on God for all their needs. 2 Kings 22: 2 says that Josiah "did what was right in the sight of the LORD...he did not turn aside to the right or to the left." In what ways do you do what is right in the sight of the LORD? What ways do you need to change so that you're walking straight with the LORD? As we enter into the Lenten season, we're going to learn about repentance and forgiveness in all of our children's programs. Let us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter together! ~Mrs. Leslie

This month in Children's Ministry:

March 5: Ash Wednesday Service

March 12: Easter Love Letters From God by Glenys Nellist — activities-5:30pm-7:30pm

March 19: ELLFG activities-5:30pm-7:30pm

March 26: ELLFG activities-5:30pm-7:30pm

Looking Ahead:

April 2: ELLFG activities-5:30pm-7:30pm

April 9: ELLFG activities-5:30pm-7:30pm

April 13: Easter Egg Hunt-3:00pm

April 16: ELLFG activities-5:30pm-7:00pm

April 19: Easter Egg Hunt rain date

May 4: Family Picnic at Paige and Laura Davis' house

May 14: Last Wednesday Night Supper and Family Fun Night! 5:30-7:30pm

June 16-20: VBS-9am-12pm daily

In Christ's service,

Leslie

Leader of Children and Youth Ministries

252-945-1222

lkeely@fmcwashington.com

Children's Lenten Series

This Lenten season, our children, K-5th grades, will be reading Easter Love Letters From God by Glenys Nellist. Each week, we'll be doing fun activities while learning about the events leading up to Jesus' Resurrection.

March 5: Ash Wednesday service

March 12: "King of Kings: Ride into Jerusalem"

March 19: "What Love Looks Like: Washing Feet"

March 26: "The Secret Supper: Last Supper"

April 2: "The Gloomy Garden: Gethsemane" and "The Darkest Day: Crucifixion"

April 9: "The Quiet Cave: Burial"

April 16: "The Super Surprise: Resurrection"

From the back cover, "Jesus came to heal us from everything that hurts us, and to fill our lives with joy, hope, forgiveness, and peace."

What child doesn't love receiving mail? This book will take us through the most loving letter we've ever received: the Bible! Each week, the children will receive a love letter from God and do an activity related to that letter. At the end of the Lenten season, in time for Good Friday, we'll write our own love letters to God! I hope your child can join us on Wednesday nights from 5:30pm-7:30pm during Lent for this exciting opportunity! ~Mrs. Leslie

Youth Ministry

Jeremiah 1:7 "But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you."

What a calling out! So often we read in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, where someone tells God all the reasons they can't do what He's telling them to do (Moses with his speech, Gideon with being the youngest and most insignificant person of his tribe, Jonah with his fear, Thomas with his doubts, etc). Jeremiah told God, "I'm too young!" How often do we focus on our excuses? And every single time, ...but God. Moses couldn't speak well, but God sent Aaron to help him. Gideon was insignificant to those around him, but God used him to defeat thousands with only hundreds. Jonah didn't want to go, but God changed his heart and saved an entire nation from sin. Thomas had doubts about Jesus' resurrection, but God used Thomas to spread the word that Jesus was risen. And Jeremiah was too young, but God used him to be one of the greatest of prophets to Israel.

Paul says to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:11-12, "Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Paul knew that it doesn't matter how old you are, BUT GOD will provide and CAN use you for His glory! What a relief!

We use the term "youth" to describe our young people, specifically our 6th-12th graders, at FMCW. "Youth" group, "Youth" Sunday School, "Youth" activities. So, Youth, I ask you, what is God calling you to do where you've been giving excuses instead of action? Let's explore our callings together this Lenten season and prepare our hearts for Easter. ~ Mrs. Leslie

This month in Youth Ministry:

March 5: Ash Wednesday service 5:30pm-7:30pm

March 8: Youth serve Matthew 25 then Cookout-10:30am-1pm

March 9: Small group for youth, The Lent Experience 5-6pm

March 12: The Lent Experience begins-5:30pm-7:30pm

March 15: Small group for youth, The Lent Experience 5-6pm

March 16: Sawyer's-1:30-4:30pm

March 19: The Lent Experience-5:30pm-7:30pm

March 23: Small group for youth, The Lent Experience 5-6pm

March 26: Lenten Experience-5:30pm-7:30pm

March 30: Small group for youth, The Lent Experience 5-6pm

Sign-ups for VBS volunteers start this month!

Looking ahead:

April 14-17: Beaufort County Prayer Breakfast

April 19: Rain day for egg hunt

May 4: Family picnic at Paige and Laura Davis' house

May 14: Last Family Night Dinner and Family Fun Night-5:30pm-7:30pm

June 16-June 20: VBS, 9am-12pm daily

In Christ's Name,

~Leslie

Baby Book Program

A children's book is placed in the Church Library in honor of each child born to our church family. The following child was honored with the book listed below:

This I Know by Clay Anderson

In honor of: Heidi Jade Talley

Parents: David and Brandi Talley

Paternal Grandparents: Seth and Lyda Talley