



The First United Methodist Church of
Pine Mountain

The Wesleyan



Open Hearts, Open
Minds, Open Doors

April 2017

A Note from the Pastor.....

FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

Several years ago, we all joined in a wonderful church-wide study on being a more effective and welcoming church. We wanted to think about what it would mean to be a church that captured people's hearts with the love and joy of Jesus Christ. In short, we were seeking ways to open our doors, to involve all in ministry, to grow disciples and to change the world.

Since that study, we have come far. We have been involved in mission in a mighty way, both locally through FOCUS, Open Door, Family Connections and others, but also regionally and even internationally, through ministry with Henderson Settlement and the Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador. Our Children and Youth programs are vibrant; Wednesday night meals are a mid week highlight; worship is the center of who we are; our Sunday School and Bible studies are effectively growing disciples in those who participate; and, while our financial situation is always a challenge, many are giving from their hearts in love and generosity. Thank you!

But, as Jesus and later John Wesley reminded us, we are always a work in progress. There is always room to grow, room to learn, room to be! We are walking with Jesus on this salvation journey of sanctification. The kingdom of heaven lies in our midst. The fig tree grows from the seed. The yeast rises into bread. Jesus pushes and pulls us in ways we never expected! So we keep walking!

I pray that you will find your little book by Bishop Robert Schnase, pull it down from the shelf, dust it off and give it another read. If you don't have one, there are several in the church library. Come help yourself!

And as you think about hospitality, think about what it would mean for it to be **RADICAL**! As you think about worship, **PASSIONATE**! As you ponder your faith, how could your growth be **INTENTIONAL**? What about mission and service.! What would that look like if it were **RISK TAKING**? And your giving, your generosity in both money and stewardship? How could you make it **EXTRAVAGANT**?

This season of Lent and Easter is a perfect time to ponder these things in your heart. What can you do? How can you serve? I will pray for you every day as you pray for your church!

Grace and Peace,
Martha



United Methodist Women will meet **Monday, April 3rd @12:00 noon** in the FLC. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Hamric

Please join us for Tiger Tuesday's coming this month. Come and volunteer with the local community children as they prepare for their end of year testing. You can help read, tutor or serve dinner. It will be **April 4th** from 5:00p.m.-7:30p.m. Contact Rev. Kim Evans if you have questions.

We are only a couple of months away from Vacation Bible School. This year our theme is HERO Central. In the next month plans will get into high gear. If you would like to go ahead and sign-up to volunteer and let us know your area preference please go to: <http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/firstumcpinemountain> and click on the Volunteer tab to sign up; or email Rev. Kim at Kimberly.evans@ngumc.net Dates for VBS are **June 19th-23rd** 5:30p.m.-8:00p.m.



Come join us on
Sunday April 9, 4:00 - 5:30p.m.
 for our annual Easter egg hunt, games, crafts, & hot dog dinner. The congregation can help us by providing plastic eggs and candy, filled or unfilled. Bring your child and celebrate the Easter season.

In Service To Those Less Fortunate

Is there someone in your family that you admire because of what he or she has taught you? My mother was a great seamstress, and she made many clothes for her five girls. She taught me many things about constructing clothes. She also taught young children in Sunday school at Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. In her later years, she visited Wesley Woods in Atlanta to help elderly ladies in their household tasks. She taught me many things, but most of all she taught me to care about others less fortunate than myself.

Are you grateful for God's blessings in your life? Most of us in the Pine Mountain Methodist Church have many things that we can share with those less fortunate than us. Many young and old need encouragement and support. Those who are sick or hospitalized really appreciate a short visit or a phone call. The elderly are always eager to receive a visit from a younger person in our congregation.

In Matthew 26 Jesus talks about the kingdom of heaven and those blessed by God. "I was hungry and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me." Jesus also said "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

What do Jesus' words mean for us in how we live our lives? We have many opportunities to be of service to those in need, both locally and globally. Locally we can help by giving food and clothing to FOCUS (Fellowship of Christians United in Service). Within our church, we collect food for Pastor's Pantry to be shared with those in need within our congregation and our nearby community. Family Connections, located in Hamilton, works with teens and younger children by providing school supplies to children who can't afford to buy them. Crossroads, an addiction recovery program for men (sponsored by Valley Rescue Mission), welcomes our encouragement, and gifts of t-shirts and socks.

Members of our congregation gather supplies for health kits to send to UMCOR, our Methodist Committee on Relief. The organization also collects flood buckets to send to disaster victims throughout the country and around the world. Our congregation also fills Christmas Child shoe boxes with gifts to children in many countries around the world (sponsored by Samaritan's Purse).

These organizations are but a few of the groups who try to brighten the lives of needy adults and children. Jesus is calling us to be a compassionate church and serve the least and the lost in our community and world. **WHERE IS HE CALLING YOU TODAY TO SERVE?** -Carol Hamric