

# The CHIMES

The monthly newsletter of Franconia United Methodist Church  
 Volume 43, Issue 2 "where there are no strangers" February 2010

## FUMC Welcomes 2010 with Commitment and Renewal



Pastor Carter (center, shaking hands with Council Chair Jeff Sheldon) thanks some of the 2010 leaders (l-r): Youth Coordinator Ara Carboneau, Missions Chair Suzanne Ackley, Jeff Sheldon, Stephen Ministry Leader Dorothy Cross, Nurture & Member Care Chair Bruce Bartolain, Worship Support Chair Meg Hoyt, History Committee Chair Peggy Brown, Church Treasurer Frank Ackley, and United Methodist Women's President Vikki Beaty.

On Sunday, January 3, FUMC members began the new year by installing the 2010 church leadership that was elected at the November 1, 2009 Charge Conference. The flow of fresh volunteers and fresh ideas is important in any church. If you feel called to help in any of our ministries or other areas, please contact the pastor or any of our church leaders. All of the FUMC doors are open to its community!

Also on January 3, the congregation participated in renewing their commitment to God via Wesley's Covenant Service, a ritual first celebrated in 1755 by the earliest followers of John Wesley's movement. More on the covenant service can be found in the Pastor's article, which appears on pages 2-3 of this issue.

## Refresh Your Spirit with a Lenten Study!

Discovering God's Vision For Your Life; You and Your Spiritual Gifts; Tuesdays 7-9 PM; Pastor Carter
A Season of New Life; Bible Study for Lent ; Wednesdays 11 AM – noon; small kitchen; Frank Cocuzzi
Twenty Four Hours That Changed The World (DVD study); Saturdays 9 –10:30 AM; stage room; Frank Cocuzzi
Easter From The Backside; Sundays @ 9:30 AM (starting Feb. 14); The Seekers' classroom; Frankie Todack
Three Simple Rules for Christian Living; A Wesleyan Way of Living; Sundays @ 9:30 AM; the small kitchen; Malinda Langford
Three Simple Rules 24/7; a six-week study for youth; Sundays @ 9:30 AM; the Youth Room; Jean Lynch and Roy Miller
Contact Frank Cocuzzi (703-971-5151 or DCE@FranconiaUMC.org) for more information or to sign up for any of these classes.



## Who We Are and Whose We Are

by Vernell M. Carter, Pastor

On January 3, FUMC started the new year with Wesley's Covenant Service (listed at right). It is a covenant that will cause toes to curl from saying ouch! On January 10, we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord, and water was symbolically used to remind us to, "Remember our baptism and be thankful." Now Lent is almost upon us.

The penitential Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, (February 17). Wesley's Covenant serves to renew us and help us identify areas in our lives where we need help, and all of us need help!

Regardless of the kind of help we need: help in not using words that hurt, or behavior that bears false witness, or failure to assemble ourselves with the saints for worship, or help in identifying ways we are not bearing the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and SELF-CONTROL (Gal. 5:22)), we need to be bold enough in the Lord to enumerate our shortcomings!

Let us commit us to God; renew our minds through the power of the Holy Spirit; and be transformed by it. God can do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

*Pastor Carter*

### Wesley's Covenant Service

*The United Methodist Book of Worship* states that John Wesley celebrated the first Covenant Service in the Methodist movement in August of 1755. In his Journal, he recorded: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing: (October 1765); "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences...I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, ether for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775).

The present Covenant Service follows today's basic pattern of worship and enables the congregation to participate more fully. The heart of the service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God.

#### INVITATION

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray: *Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.*

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

*Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.*

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. He will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing. Confirm this by a holy covenant. To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions: First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God. Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence. Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power. Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God's power, never go back. And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

#### COVENANT PRAYER

*O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.*

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

*See Covenant Service, (Continued on page 3)*

**Covenant Service** (Continued from page 2)

*I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.*

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

*Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.*

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

*Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.*

**Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.**

*I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.*

**God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.**

*I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.*

**The almighty God searches and knows your heart.**

*O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God. O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature) "We are advised to make it covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing. Therefore with all reverence, lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed. And when you have done this, sign it. Then keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you that you may remember it during doubts and temptations." - From *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

## Franconia United Methodist Orientation Class

What you always wanted to know about

Franconia United Methodist Church, but haven't asked\*

(\*or didn't know who to ask.)

Starting February 21, 2010 a four-week class is being offered to provide information about our church; our missions, organizations, and activities, which are available to all. The class will be held each Sunday, 9:45 - 10:45 AM in the Church Parlor. This class is open to everyone having an interest in learning more about Franconia.

Please let us know if you will attend by filling out the form below and dropping it in the offering plate, or by notifying the church office (703) 971-5151 (email: Admin@FranconiaUMC.org). If you would like more information about the class, contact Pastor Carter @ (703) 971-5151 or Audrey Davis @ (703) 924-0722.

YES, I would like to attend the orientation classes beginning February 21.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information (phone #, email): \_\_\_\_\_

Any specific questions or areas of interest you would like addressed by the class:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Volunteers Needed for the June 4 Franconia FunFest!



FUMC's Church Council recently voted to continue our tradition of a springtime community funfest. It has been decided that we'd move it from the certainty of May showers in search of those beautiful sunny Saturdays in early June. Hard to

picture in late January, but we are people of faith...

We need the FUMC family to step forward and help make this tradition happen. If you can be part of a vision/planning committee for this event, please contact Ese at the church office (703-971-5151 or

Admin@FranconiaUMC.org). Some areas that need volunteers and creative input include:

- Food concessions
- Games for children, youth and adults
- Live music
- Logistics
- Fundraising such as sales of crafts and other items

The first meeting should happen by mid-February. Please contact Ese today if you can help uphold yet another Franconia tradition.

## Discovering Your Vocation - from the Inside Out

by Bradford L. Phillips

Peter van Breeman, a German theologian, tells the story of a woman who went into a restaurant for a quick lunch. She bought a bowl of soup and a sandwich and carried them to an empty table. She put her purse underneath and went back to the counter to get a spoon. When she got back a dark-skinned stranger was standing at the table, happily eating her soup. At first she was shocked, then furious. Within seconds she thought if this man was this bold, she would be also. She stood at the opposite side of the table and began eating from the same bowl of soup. But instead of being embarrassed or intimidated, the man continued to eat.

He did not speak German so he could not understand what the woman was saying to him. Seeming to provoke her further, the man offered her half of the sausage sandwich. When they got finished, he, still smiling, offered his hand across the table in a handshake.

The man left the restaurant. The woman looked under the table for her purse, it was gone. She knew it. He was a thief! All of her money and cards were stolen by this brazen man. As she scanned the room to call out for help, she noticed a nearby table, with a now cold bowl of soup, a sausage sandwich, and her purse underneath. It had never occurred to her that she had gone to the wrong table. The man, although he could not understand what was being said about him, made room at his table. You and I are invited by God to live vocationally. This means that wherever we are and whatever we are doing we are doing the king's work. You and I have holy orders. We are to make room at our table for others. We are to love extravagantly. As the rock star Bono once said, "We are to find out what God is already doing in the world and participate in that." An occupation is what we pursue. Our vocation is a result of

listening to our lives. They can be one and the same.

Our vocation is revealed by God from within. Vocation comes from the inside out. It is a means of discovering our true selves and our true purpose in the world.

As we enter into this New Year and new decade, it is a great time to not so much set New Year's resolutions, but it is a great time to remember and to redefine our vocation. It is a great time to remember what God is calling each of us to do and to be.

May 2010 be a great and wonderful year in many ways, but especially as you live out your vocation for Jesus Christ.

*Editor's note:* Rev. Bradford L. Phillips is the District Superintendent of the Norfolk, Virginia District. This is a reprint of his January, 2010 article from their District's newsletter, *The Norfolk District Beam*.

## News About Our Missions Work

**Haiti Earthquake Support** - A special offering totaling approximately \$2,000 was collected on January 17 and Franconians came together to make 113 health kits to send to UMCOR for shipment to Haiti.

**Koinonia** – Because of the snow, FUMC donated \$600 in Giant/Safeway gift cards to Koinonia in lieu of our eight food baskets that were due the week prior to Christmas. Koinonia was able to help 150 clients with food baskets and gift cards. The \$600 in gift cards were available due to a joint effort by Missions and Evangelism in promoting the scrip program. All of the food we collected was donated to Koinonia. In some sad news, there was a break-in at Koinonia and two laptop computers were stolen.

Remember that our collections of pantry items for Koinonia is on-going; please place your donations in the marked box in the mission station in Cokesbury Hall. Koinonia continues to serve a record number of people in our community during these times of financial hardship.

**Phoenix Rising** – Bagged meals are always delivered on the 4th Friday of the month, and the sandwich making and meal packing is on the Thursday prior to that 4th Friday (which is not always the 4th Thursday - January was an example of that).

**Heifer Project** – The children's Sunday school winter mission project will be receiving banks so that they can bring back their spare change as part of the Heifer Project. The banks are shaped like cows, chickens, sheep and pigs. Please save your spare change to help the children support the Heifer Project.

**Mission Breakfasts** - The following months/dates are available, if anyone is interested in hosting a Missions breakfast: March 14, July 11, August 8, and October 10. Thanks to the Franconia Women for hosting the January breakfast. Evangelism will be sponsoring the February breakfast, which will be on February 14 (Happy Valentine's Day!).

Thanks for your continued support!

-Suzanne Ackley, Missions Ministry Chair

### CONTINUATION OF THE SERMON SERIES: THE FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

- 1.) **Radical Hospitality** was presented on January 24.
- 2.) **Passionate Worship** was presented on January 31.
- 3.) **Intentional Faith Development:** refers to the purposeful learning in community that helps the followers of Jesus mature in faith, such a Bible studies, Sunday school classes, short-term topical studies, and support groups that apply the faith to particular life challenges. **Sermon date: 2/7/10**
- 4.) **Risk-Taking Mission and Service:** includes the projects, the efforts, and the work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ, whether or not they will ever be part of the community of faith. **Sermon date: 2/14/10**
- 5.) **Extravagant Generosity:** describes lavish sharing, sacrifice, and giving in service to God and neighbor. Every scriptural example of giving is extravagant, and churches that practice Extravagant Generosity teach, preach, and practice the tithe. The focus on the Christian's need to give because of the giving nature of God whom we worship. **Sermon date: 2/21/10**

**To get a copy of the Five Practices Devotional Booklet, please contact the church office (703-971-5151 or Admin@FranconiaUMC.org).**

## News from the Franconia Women

Every kid needs a bike! In the fall of 2009, the Women received a beautiful Schwinn 13-speed bike as a donation. On September 3, FUMW members Vikki Beaty and Elnora Markle delivered the bike and a new helmet to the youngest of “Our Girls,” the name given to the sisters who have been sponsored by the Franconia Women since 2004 through UMFS (formerly known as United Methodist Family Services) in Lincolnia. The sisters are the youngest of a family of five children being raised by their grandmother in southern Fairfax County. The Women support the girls with seasonal and birthday gifts, and other support. For more about this outreach, check out the “Our Girls” binder in Cokesbury Hall.

### FUMW Leadership 2010

The following women are points of contact for the different circles of the FUMW:

Barbara Lawrence, Bucky Circle  
 Patty Byrd, Julia Pullen Circle  
 Scottie Filipek, Susanna Wesley Circle  
 Elaine Keefer, Manchester Lakes Circle

## Special Worship Services to Open and Close Lent 2010

by Frankie Todack, Coordinator

Two special Lenten worship services are being planned for Franconia this year. The one on Ash Wednesday, February 17, will serve as the Gateway to Lent, and the one on Holy (or Maundy) Thursday, April 1, will remember the Last Supper and Good Friday.

“Ash Wednesday, The Day of Atonement” is a dramatic reading to be presented by members of the church. The Chancel Choir will sing part of the scripture from Psalm 51, “Create in Me a Clean Heart.” Narrators and Penitents will present the themes of Lent: Jesus taught us how to face temptation, betrayal and suffering. Ashes will be dispersed at the end of the service. The ashes are created from last year’s palms and our sins will be offered to God by those present.



FUMW President Vikki Beaty helps deliver the bike to a very excited recipient.

## Altar Flowers for 2010

To donate a Sunday’s worth of altar flowers in 2010, please see the sign-up calendar on the bulletin board in Cokesbury Hall. The cost is \$55 per Sunday.



On Holy Thursday, there will a short presentation by persons in costume representing those who knew Jesus; who wanted to tell what He had done for him or her. These will include such familiar characters as Peter’s mother-in-law, the Samaritan woman, the man with the withered hand and the boy with loaves and fishes. After the Tenebrae Service, the Pastor will bless the elements, and those taking communion will serve one another around a large table.

Be sure to mark your calendars for February 17 and April 1, so that you may begin and close Lent in worship with your FUMC family. Both services will begin at 7 PM.



## Come Check Out Youth Group



Youth enjoy a frosty time on the ice at the Ice Skating at Fairfax Ice Arena this past December 6th.



The youth had a great time at two recent Bi-District events: the December 6 skating and broomstick hockey event at Fairfax Ice Arena, and the January 15-16 bowling lock-in at the Falls Church Bowl America.

On January 22, members of our youth group and a few of their friends (who hopefully will become a regular part of the FUMC youth) went to the movies for a showing of "To Save a Life," a movie created especially for today's teens that touches on how saving a life can be just a matter of opening our ears to the cries of those who are hurting; the kid who is alone at a lunch table, or on the sidelines in other activities. Discussion over ice cream sundaes followed. To learn more about this movie, go to [www.tosavealifemovie.com](http://www.tosavealifemovie.com).

**SUPERBOWL CHEESE BALLS!!!** The Youth are selling Cheese Balls throughout the month of January and they will be ready for pickup on Super bowl Sunday, February 7th. Please let a youth member, Meg Hoyt or Ara Carbonneau know if you are interested, or you can sign up for one after any Sunday service. They are \$6/each and come in cheddar or cheddar and pecan. All proceeds are going to support this summer's Youth mission trip.

**THE 30 HOUR FAMINE IS BACK!!!** The Youth will follow the well-respected tradition of participating in the 30-hour Famine on February 26-27, an event reaching the 10-year milestone this year. The World Vision event raises money and awareness of hunger. Youth all over fast from noon on Friday to 6PM Saturday. Our youth will join youth from other area churches to help save lives. During a lock-in at Friendship UMC on Gallows Road, the youth will learn about the problem of hunger in our world, participate in hunger-related community service, and take part in worship and devotions. Since the year 2000, more than \$70,000 has been raised locally through The Famine event and FUMC will continue to do its part. Youth fund raising that has been on-going since October's mission breakfast will contribute to this cause. The youth also will be raising funds individually.

Ara Carbonneau & Meg Hoyt  
Co-Leaders, FUMC Youth



### Regular YF Meetings:

The youth meet in the Youth Room on the first Sunday of each month following the 11 AM service. All FUMC Youth and their friends

are welcome to be part of the FUMC YF (grades 7-12). Spread the word!

To be part of the youth email distribution list, provide Ara or Meg with your email address.



### Summer Youth Mission Trip in the Works...

Plans are for the youth to spend August 8-13 (which includes two days for travel) at the United Methodist Relief Center located at Mt.

Pleasant, SC (10 minutes from Charleston and 5 minutes from the Atlantic Ocean). The volunteer accommodations will be in a camp-like facility with bunkhouses, kitchens, etc. You can learn a little more about it by going to [www.umrc.org/volunteers/volunteerhouse.html](http://www.umrc.org/volunteers/volunteerhouse.html)

Please support the fundraising efforts of our youth as they work toward their goal of a summer mission trip.

The  
Chimes



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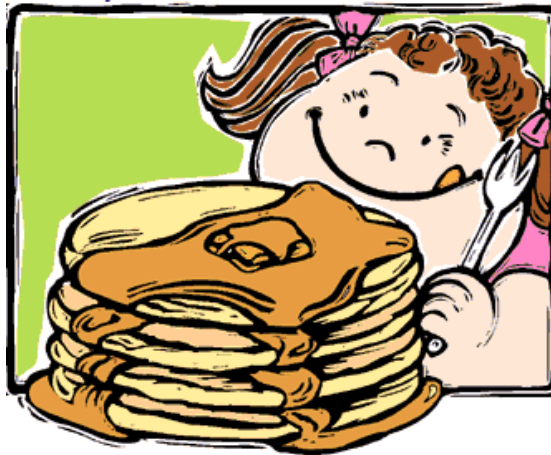
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**COME ONE, COME ALL...**  
**FUMC COMMUNITY-WIDE**  
**PANCAKE SUPPER**

**TUESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 16**



**6-8 PM IN**  
**COKESBURY**  
**HALL**

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**FUMC—OUR 114TH YEAR IN FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE LORD**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES...8:30 & 11:00 AM

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (AGES 3 & UP)...9:45 AM

SUNDAY NURSERY CARE: ...8:30 AM - 12:15 PM

WEEKDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS...9 AM - 2 PM, MON. - FRI.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN WEEKDAY PROGRAM ...9 AM - 1 PM, TUE.-FRI.

**1896**

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