

**Our journey through the season of Lent** is not just a countdown to the resurrection. This is a path full of deep meaning and symbolism for our modern lives.

**Palm Sunday MARCH 20** We welcome Bishop Hope



Morgan Ward in worship and remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem with the traditional palm branches. But Palm Sunday is also Passion Sunday.

In contrast to the celebratory palms, the somber narrative of the Passion scripture speaks to the deep suffering of Jesus. As noted in the *United Methodist Book of Worship*, "There is no triumph without suffering, no crown without a cross."

**Holy Thursday THURSDAY, MARCH 24 7PM**



Our worship embodies the night before Jesus was betrayed and the new commandment he gives in John 13:34 to "love one another." Just as Jesus washed the

disciples' feet and told them to eat the bread and drink the cup in remembrance of him, our service includes an optional foot or hand washing time to express our own servant hearts, and our remembrance of the Lord's Supper through Communion. At the close of worship is the "stripping of the church" where all candles, banners, paraments, and other items are removed to signify that desolate time.

**Good Friday Tenebrae FRIDAY, MARCH 25 7PM**



Beginning with 14 candles burning on the altar, this deeply moving service uses scripture readings from John 18 and 19 to move step by painful step as Jesus moves toward the cross. As each passage is read, a candle is extinguished, symbolizing his journey toward darkness. This is where the service gets its name — *tenebrae* is the Latin word for 'shadows' or 'darkness'. All depart in silence as we begin our wait for the coming resurrection.

**Easter Sunday MARCH 27** We have four Easter



services planned. At 6:30am is our Sunrise Service held in collaboration with First UMC. This year, the Sunrise Service will be held in our outdoor

amphitheater, weather permitting, followed by a light breakfast. At 8:00 is worship in the Centrum combining traditional and contemporary music styles and Holy Communion. You are encouraged to consider attending at 8:00 so that we might have more seating available for guests at 9:30 and 11:00. Worship at 9:30 is in the usual contemporary style, and worship at 11:00 is in the usual traditional style.

**Palm Sunday**  
Hosanna to the King

**Holy Thursday**  
Remember His Sacrifice

**Good Friday**  
It Is Finished

**Easter Sunday**  
Celebrate the Savior



## Read and Feed Draws Strong Volunteer Support

The Fuquay-Varina Community Read and Feed program, part of our Congregations for Children outreach, is off to a fabulous start! This is a collaborative effort with Sunrise UMC, First UMC and F-V UMC as the primary partners.

Students from Lincoln Heights Elementary School were identified and invited by school staff to take part. Every Tuesday, the students, their parents, and siblings gather for dinner in the Fellowship Hall at First UMC. Food and non-tutorial support volunteers from the three churches coordinate the meal and the evening.

After dinner, the students work one-on-one with their volunteer tutors while the parents attend informational sessions led by Lincoln Heights staff to help them support their students' success.

Because of the overwhelming outpouring of volunteers, the program has added additional children from the waiting list, to the maximum permitted by the Read & Feed program per session. Read & Feed is a non-profit based in Cary that provides the overall system, training and resources for tutors and students. Learn more at [readandfeed.org](http://readandfeed.org).

Congregations for Children is an initiative of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church that encourages churches to partner with local schools in an effort to help improve K-3 literacy rates, meet basic needs, and encourage parental support.

Our church is partnered with Fuquay-Varina Elementary School and Lincoln Heights Elementary School. We have people helping in classrooms and in other ways to support the students and teachers. If you're interested, please complete the form at [fvumc.org/C4C](http://fvumc.org/C4C) or call Amanda Rackley, Director of Children & Family Ministries at 919-552-4331, ext. 113.

## Youth Life Group in Mission

On Saturday, February 13, the girls from one of our middle school Life Groups volunteered at the Brown Bag Ministry, a nonprofit serving the homeless in central North Carolina. Prior to this trip, the girls collected items for hygiene kits to take with them. That Saturday, they met at St. Andrew's in Apex to help assemble the brown bag lunches, and then traveled to Oak City Outreach Center in Raleigh to distribute the lunches and hygiene kits.



We are proud of the hard work of this Life Group, sharing Christ's love in the community! We also extend a warm thank you to the parents who helped make this mission opportunity a success, especially their Life Group leader Becky Subat. One of our students, Erin, shared: "While serving at the brown bag ministry I loved seeing all of the people that needed help. I truly believe that it helped many people, between the sandwiches and the toiletry kits, I think that we did our job for the quarter. I loved seeing people not being needy and instead being grateful and taking what they need. The most meaningful thing was seeing how many people cared about the homeless outside of the church. This day I felt very good and definitely did my part to help as a Christian."

## Join the Covenant Community Garden

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Covenant Community Garden, regardless of your "green thumb" (or lack of one) or your level of experience. We provide fresh, organically grown produce to our garden member families and community outreach ministries. To participate, members pay a \$10 annual fee per family, which includes a lidded compost bucket for home use. Each member family agrees to work one hour a week or 4 hours a month in the garden. Contact Joy Brown at [gardenladyccg@gmail.com](mailto:gardenladyccg@gmail.com) or visit [fvumc.org/community-garden](http://fvumc.org/community-garden) to download the 2016 Covenant Community Garden Membership Form.





From Pastor Gene

## The Journey Continues

A little later Jesus went to a city  
called Nain.... Luke 7:11

As we continue together through the season of Lent, we are also journeying through the Gospel of Luke in the daily readings we are receiving each Sunday via email. As I write these words today we read, "A little later Jesus went to a city called Nain." We are reminded again that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem; he has "set his face" and has resolved to fulfill his mission to die on the cross for the forgiveness of the sins of the world! Praise be to God!

Moving ever so closer to Holy Week, I encourage you to continue in your own spiritual journey in these 40 days through the scripture readings and reflections, growth groups, Bible studies and Sunday school classes, Sunday worship, noonday Lenten communion worship and other places in your journey.

Here is what I have learned: As we draw near to God, we experience not only God's presence but God's

*Continued on page 5*



## Build Starting in Fuquay

Calling all handy men and women, cooks, youth (16+), and anyone interested in getting involved with Habitat for Humanity.

FVUMC has the privilege of working alongside a coalition of local churches, businesses and community groups to build a home in the Consolidated Pines neighborhood located in Fuquay-Varina close to Lincoln Heights Elementary School.

We have reserved several dates for our congregation to participate: March 19 - Wall Raising; March 27 - Framing; April 9 - Siding; April 23 - Interior Trim; May 14 - Paint and Exterior Finish. There are many ways to serve beyond construction.

Signups are now open online at <http://vhub.at/fuquayvarina2016>. Please reach out to Michelle Canada by email at [mfcanada1@aol.com](mailto:mfcanada1@aol.com) or call her at 812-219-5553 for any questions.

## We Welcome Bishop Hope Morgan Ward Palm Sunday, March 20

We are honored to welcome Bishop Hope Morgan Ward to FVUMC as our guest preacher for all three worship services on Palm Sunday, March 20. She serves as Resident Bishop for the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

A native North Carolinian, Bishop Hope was raised on the Morgan family farm in northeastern North Carolina in the community of Corapeake. Her home church, Parkers United Methodist Church, is on a three point charge where one pastor serves three churches. Bishop Hope attended Duke University and Duke Divinity School. In 1975, she met her future spouse, Mike, on a volunteer in mission work team to Bolivia, and they were married in 1977. Together, the Wards served as teaching parents at the Methodist Home for Children

*Continued on page 5*

The graphic features a background image of a disaster-stricken area with rubble. A red banner at the top right says "Sunday, May 6". A red circle on the left contains the text "special SUNDAY" and "PLEASE give generously". The text "UNITED METHODIST" is visible in the background. The main title "ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING" is prominently displayed. Below this, a green banner reads "your GENEROUS GIFT TODAY" and "HELPS FAMILIES RECOVER, COMMUNITIES REBUILD AND HOPE TO BE RESTORED AFTER DISASTER STRIKES". A red box at the bottom left contains the text "Learn more and give online: umc giving.org/OGHS". A photo at the bottom right shows a man and a woman talking on a phone, with the "UMCOR" logo and "umc giving.org/OGHS" text overlaid.

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umc giving.org/OGHS  
Your gift helps millions of people receive immediate relief, rebuilding, pastoral counseling and support for survivors of trauma.  
UMCOR  
umc giving.org/OGHS



## Mondays starting March 21 7-9pm in room 127

- Weekly meetings for a 13-week program offered continuously throughout the year.
- Open to all members of our church and community dealing with separation or divorce—whether recently or in the past.
- Join the group at anytime and repeat the program as you continue to need help, support, and encouragement.
- Sessions include videos featuring experts on divorce and recovery topics and time for group discussion.
- Childcare available upon request and DivorceCare for Kids program available for 5-12 year olds (see below)
- Registration open at each meeting.
- Learn more at [fvumc.org/divorcecare](http://fvumc.org/divorcecare).



## Mondays starting March 21 7-9pm in room 204

- Weekly meetings for 13 weeks offered in the spring and fall.
- Open to all children ages 5-12 who are healing from the pain of divorce or separation.
- A safe place where children learn to understand their feelings, express their emotions appropriately, feel better about themselves, and develop coping skills.
- Please register online at [fvumc.org/DC4K](http://fvumc.org/DC4K).
- For questions, contact Amanda Rackley, Director of Children’s Ministries, at [arackley@fvumc.org](mailto:arackley@fvumc.org) or 919-552-4331, ext. 113.



## Mondays starting March 17 7-9pm in room 117

- Weekly meetings for 13 weeks offered in the spring and fall.
- Program is designed for adults experiencing the loss of a loved one—whether recently or in the past. Members of the church and community are welcome.
- Includes videos with both professional counselors and grief “survivors” talking about their experiences and what can and did help.
- One-time \$20 materials fee requested.
- It is helpful if you pre-register. Please contact Kerry Vitkus Averette - [Kerry.vitkus@yahoo.com](mailto:Kerry.vitkus@yahoo.com) or Kathy Davis - [whipschip@gmail.com](mailto:whipschip@gmail.com).
- Learn more at [fvumc.org/griefshare](http://fvumc.org/griefshare).

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We offer our prayers and sympathy to:

- ✦ *John Chambers, upon the death of his mother*
- ✦ *The family of Robert Kinton, upon his death*
- ✦ *The family of Addison Tompkins, upon her death*
- ✦ *Edith Meus, upon the death of her sister*
- ✦ *Diane James, upon the death of her father*
- ✦ *Jim & Becky Alexander, upon the death of their granddaughter*

Becky Estep, Clarence Byrd, Sadie McLeod, Kurt Johnson, Craig Judd, Lewis Cockerill, Tim Moff, Kathy Olson, Carole Drake, Anne McCandlish, Bruce Wynne, PJ Ramsey, Nathan Ter Meer, Derrell Sapp, Katharine Kinton, Rolf Wuerfele, Coy Jones, Gus Prince, Christy Carver, Maxine Senter, Betty Palmer, Glenna Eargle, Anderson Ward, Doug Bennett, Mike Tucker, Joan Leshner, Nancy Patrone, Jim Cleary, Bob Pavone, Ron Richardson, Dan Sass, Mary-Anne Hatch, Koyla Knox, Judy Dolan, Cornelia Coble, Vicky Croft, Tom Myatt, Carol Chambers, Lois & David Stuart, Jakob Kish, Mario Marchese, Rob Matney, Iris Brown, Logan Thomas, Dee Chisenhall, Jeff Fox, Emily Ashworth, Clay King, Jill Zatyko, Sue Simkiss, Bill Young, Howard Hanmann, Fran Applegarth

## Bishop Ward from page 3

in Raleigh. She has served as a youth director, Christian educator, pastor, Director of Connectional Ministries and district superintendent in the NC Conference. She was elected to the Episcopacy in July 2004 and assigned to the Mississippi Conference in 2004 and 2008. In 2012, she was assigned to the North Carolina Conference.

Bishop Hope serves as president of the General Board of Global Ministries, president of Just Peace which is the Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation of the UMC, and is the bishop giving oversight of the Vietnam Mission Initiative.

Her husband, Mike, has been a high school teacher, coach, principal, local school superintendent. From 1997-2004, he served as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for North Carolina, an elected position. Mike is on the faculty of Univ. of Southern Mississippi, consults and is an advocate for children.

The Wards have two children and two grandchildren. Brooke Ward is a PhD student at University of Wisconsin. Jason Ward and his wife, Alison Greene, and grandsons, Amos and Theo, live in Starkville, Mississippi. Jason and Alison are both professors of American History at Mississippi State University. She and Mike enjoy sailing and other seaside joys, jogging, and reading.

## The Journey from page 3

unmerited, sacrificial and unconditional love. I'm reminded of our Ash Wednesday service this year when a little boy around 6 or 7 had his head down and it was hard for me to put the ashes on his forehead. When I asked him to look up, he had this little look on his face that said, "Is it going to hurt?" Well, I put the sign of the cross on him and said the words, and thought to myself, "No son, it's not going to hurt. This is just a sign of how much God loves you, and one day you will know just how much!"

I invite you to join us for Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on March 20. Bishop Hope Morgan Ward will be our guest preacher (see page 3). We will gather again on Holy Thursday and Good Friday for services at 7:00pm. We are also hosting our annual joint Easter Sunrise Service with our sisters and brothers from First UMC. Come and join Jesus on the journey.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!  
Pastor Gene Tyson, gtyson@fvumc.org

## ¡Nueva Casa!

*Update from the Page family missionaries*

THANK YOU for all the prayers as we have searched for a new home. Houses are scarce, but God is good. However, it has been a bit bittersweet. Our friend Amos found out in January that he had to return to the US. This made the home he was staying in available.

Through prayers and referrals from the director of the Institute and Amos, we were offered the house. We moved in the second week of February and love our new home nestled in the cloud forest above Monteverde at around 5,000 feet.

We spent our last weekend at our old home hosting a birthday party for a local girl who lives with her grandparents.

Our first weekend in the new home, her grandparents showed us a trail system that runs along the ridges and down to the river.

This is a shortcut to the institute where Karen and Les study Spanish as well as to the road to Angelee's new school.

Angelee and her youth group have been busy. They spent one Saturday afternoon raising funds for the Santa Elena Public Library (for which FVUMC purchased the furniture last fall).

They sold baked goods and lemonade at the ultimate frisbee game held each week in Monteverde.

For a service project, the youth group spent the next Sunday morning helping a local artist in his eighties. He creates mosaics and had broken pieces of tile and glass scattered around the outside of his studio. The youth sorted all the pieces into buckets by color and cleaned up for him. Afterward, they walked to and attended the Quaker meeting. Following the meeting, they sold out of their baked goods and lemonade, raising over \$80 for the library.



*Angelee's youth group recently spent the morning helping a local mosaic artist in his 80's as a service project. They sorted all of the broken pieces of tile and glass and cleaned up around his studio. They've also been raising funds for the local library.*



# Thank You

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our church family for the many acts of kindness shown to us upon the recent death of my sister. It helped us so very much to have the evidence of your support, caring, and most especially prayers during our time of both grieving and celebration. What an amazing church family FVUMC is! *In Christ's Love, John and Linda Bridgers*

## Circle of Faith Meetings

UMW Circle of Faith meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. All women are encouraged to attend! This is a community of women whose purpose is to know God, to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Tuesday, April 5 ~ 10:00am Room 117

## March Book Club

*Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* by Sheri Fink

As the floodwaters rose after Hurricane Katrina, patients, staff, and families who sheltered in New Orleans' Memorial Hospital faced a crisis far worse than the storm itself. Without power, an evacuation plan, or strong leadership, caregiving became chaotic, and exhausted doctors and nurses found it difficult to make even the simplest decisions. And, when it came to making the hardest decisions, some of them seem to have failed. A number of the patients deemed least likely to survive were injected with lethal combinations of drugs—even as the evacuation finally began in earnest. Fink offers a stunning re-creation of the storm, its aftermath, and the investigation that followed (one doctor and two nurses were charged with second-degree murder but acquitted by a grand jury). She evenhandedly compels readers to consider larger questions, not just of ethics but race, resources, history, and what constitutes the greater good, while humanizing the countless smaller tragedies that make up the whole.

To join the dinner and discussion on Friday, March 18 at 6:30pm, contact Suzanne Jones at [dsjones@nc.rr.com](mailto:dsjones@nc.rr.com) or Matilda Storm at [matildastorm@embarqmail.com](mailto:matildastorm@embarqmail.com).

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# Interested in Audio Visual Operator Training?

Use of the audio visual systems in the Centrum requires the presence of a FVUMC Trained Operator. Training sessions for anyone wishing to be trained for the first time, or to receive a refresher course, will be offered:

- Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00 pm

All sessions will begin with Level 1 training, and proceed through Level 3 training as needed. Attendance at only one session is required.

Effective March 15, access to the Audio Visual Booth will be restricted and an access code required. Access codes will be distributed only to FVUMC Trained Operators.

NOTE: Anyone who has been previously trained, but has not actively served as an Audio Visual Operator in the last 6 months, should attend one of the March Training Sessions and be re-trained in order to receive an access code.

Register to attend either session online at [fvumc.org/avtraining](http://fvumc.org/avtraining) or call Jennifer Harrenstein at [jharrenstein@fvumc.org](mailto:jharrenstein@fvumc.org) or 919-552-4331 ext. 105.

## Columbarium Construction

Phase 1 construction starts in the next few weeks! The price of each two-person niche is \$3,000 until construction begins and then increases to \$3,500 (installment plan available). Visit [fvumc.org/columbarium](http://fvumc.org/columbarium) or email [kentate@embarqmail.com](mailto:kentate@embarqmail.com) for more information.



## Fuquay-Varina Food Pantry

*March Requests:* Canned Meat, Macaroni & Cheese, Fruit Cups, Disinfecting Wipes

Donations of other food and household items are always welcome. Bring donations to the baskets around the corner from the Welcome Center.

# Please RSVP for PrimeTimers' Trip on 3/15

The PrimeTimers, our fellowship group for anyone 55+, is traveling to the NC Museum of History to see the Billy Graham exhibit. All are welcome on Tuesday March 15. We will leave the church at 9:30am, tour the exhibit, and have lunch in Raleigh.

Please let Debbie Corr if you are planning to attend so we can make sure there is enough transportation. Call or email Debbie at 919-557-7437 or [debcorr@nc.rr.com](mailto:debcorr@nc.rr.com).

## ¡Nueva Casa! from page 5

Karen and Les have attended their respective spiritual groups. Each is made up of a very diverse group of people. Discussion for February was centered around three questions:

- How are you feeling spiritually in your life right now?
- Do you have a goal/intention in mind you would like to develop during this session of the spiritual group?
- Do you have a spiritual practice that you nurture and/or needs nurturing?

Much of Les' first meeting was spent defining what "spiritual" meant to each as individuals. What does "spiritual" mean to you?

Plans have tentatively been made for Karen to return to *Pasada de Belen* to teach the girls infant massage in March. Please pray for this ministry, the girls, and their children.

In early March, Les joined Rob Pavone and ZOE in Guatemala to visit FVUMC's working group. Prayers for safe travel, the young people helping their families, and their communities.

Mid-March, the three of us will take a vacation to visit Machu Picchu in Peru. Please pray for safe travels and much-needed down time. We know that sounds weird... down time needed when you live in Costa Rica!

*¡Gracias por sus oraciones! Les, Karen, y Angelee*



*Les recently spent time digging post holes to help a local farmer who raises goats, pigs, and cows. Because the puma population in the area has spiked, the farmer needed to install an electric fence system to hopefully deter the pumas.*

# Annual Pine Straw Sale

Thinking about sprucing up those flower beds this spring? Make plans now to purchase your pine straw from the FVUMC Music Ministries! Pine straw will be for sale on Saturday, March 19 at the church, with home delivery available between 8am and 1pm. Pickup at the church parking lot is open from 8-10am. Pine Straw is available at \$4.25 per bale. Delivery is available at \$.50 per bale with a maximum delivery charge of \$20. There is a minimum order of 5 bales for delivery. If delivery address is over 10 miles away, please call to ensure delivery availability.

For an additional donation to Youth Missions, the FVUMC Youth will spread your pine straw on the morning of Saturday, March 19. Note that spreading availability is limited and will be completed on a first-come, first-serve basis. You will be contacted if we are unable to accommodate your request. If you do not hear from us, you can assume the spreaders will be at your home on the morning of March 19.

Orders are due by Monday, March 14. Orders placed after 3/14 will be filled only if additional pine straw is available. Place orders online at [fvumc.org/pine-straw](http://fvumc.org/pine-straw) or use the form printed on page 12.

Payment is due IN ADVANCE. After completing the order form, payments may be made online via [fvumc.org/online-payment](http://fvumc.org/online-payment) or via check made payable to FVUMC and mailed to 100 S Judd Parkway SE, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526. Be sure to note Pine Straw on the memo line of your check.

All proceeds will benefit Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church Music Ministries. Questions? Contact Jennifer Harrenstein at [jharrenstein@fvumc.org](mailto:jharrenstein@fvumc.org) or 919-552-4331 ext. 105.

## Prayer Requests

Non-confidential prayer requests may be submitted online at [fvumc.org/prayer-request](http://fvumc.org/prayer-request), by calling the office, or by writing them in the prayer request log located inside the Centrum entrance on Sunday mornings. Please specify whether or not you want the request included in the weekly churchwide celebrations & concerns email.

For confidential prayer requests, please call the office at 919-552-4331 and ask to speak with a pastor. Pastor Gene—extension 101 (or email [gtyson@fvumc.org](mailto:gtyson@fvumc.org)), Pastor Valerie—ext. 102 ([vtyson@fvumc.org](mailto:vtyson@fvumc.org)), Pastor Matt—ext. 103 ([mseaton@fvumc.org](mailto:mseaton@fvumc.org)).

# Planning for Palm Sunday Celebration

Our annual children's Palm Sunday celebration will take place on March 20 from 4pm-6pm. If you are interested in helping plan this event or would like to volunteer to help on that day, please contact Amanda Rackley at [arackley@fvumc.org](mailto:arackley@fvumc.org) as soon as possible! Looking for another way to help? Feed the hungry bunny on the children's wing – the Children's Ministry is collecting donations of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs for the egg hunt!

## Coins for Lent

This Lenten season, Quay Kids and Seeds of Faith Preschool families are participating in "Coins for Lent." All money received will go to our church-sponsored build for Habitat for Humanity coming up in a few months. This build is particularly exciting because it is happening right in Fuquay-Varina. This will give us and our Quay Kids a chance to have hand in making a difference for families in Fuquay while also observing this reflective season.

Over the course of the 40 days of Lent – beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday – we are encouraging each family to collect coins to help mark this season. Calendars are available for you to follow each day of Lent that will tell you how many coins to add to your container. (Example: one day asks you to contribute the same number of coins as light bulbs you have in your house.) Coin banks and calendars are still available. If your family needs one, contact me today!

*Amanda Rackley, Director of Children and Family Ministries, [arackley@fvumc.org](mailto:arackley@fvumc.org)*

## Seeds of Faith Preschool

Preschool open house and registration for next year's classes went well. We do have a few openings remaining if church members or friends are interested. Our preschool families are "FANTASTIC," and together we raised \$1000 supporting the Methodist Home for Children's 1K for 1Kid program. In March, we will be getting ready for Easter with the story *Benjamin's Box*, eggs hunts and spring break. We wish your family blessings as our children continue to grow in faith.

*Lynne Sorrels, Director  
Seeds of Faith Preschool (919) 557-1568*

## DivorceCare for Kids – Leaders Needed

DC4K provides children with a safe and neutral place to gain an age-appropriate understanding of separation and divorce.

For 13 weeks, children are involved in a caring group that meets simultaneously with the adult DivorceCare group. DC4K is designed for kids 5-12 years of age.

Currently, FVUMC offers the adult DivorceCare program on a 13-week cycle throughout the year. Our plan for the children's version is that it be offered twice per year – one session beginning in March and one session in the fall (date TBD). To learn more about DC4K and for registration information, please see page 4.

In order to make this new ministry possible, we are looking for interested DC4K leaders and volunteers. We provide all training and materials for those interested in serving. Please contact Amanda Rackley ([arackley@fvumc.org](mailto:arackley@fvumc.org)) if you are willing to serve.

For more information about upcoming sessions of DivorceCare (for adults) and DivorceCare for Kids, please see page 4.

## Vacation Bible School Seeks Decorators

Believe it or not, VBS will be here before you know it! Mark your calendars for June 19-24. VBS registration will be online only this year and begins on April 1 for active church families and April 20 for community members. The deadline for registering is June 13.

We are currently looking for those talented decorators among us. If you are artistic, like to make decorations, or enjoy decorating – we need YOU!

Most, if not all, of the work on this team will be done before VBS. So, if you want to help, but aren't interested in being a leader during the week of VBS, this may be the opportunity you've been waiting for.

Contact Angela Hinton ([tinkerbelle1969@hotmail.com](mailto:tinkerbelle1969@hotmail.com)) or Amanda Rackley ([arackley@fvumc.org](mailto:arackley@fvumc.org)) for details.



# Youth & Family Ministries

“March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb” – at least that’s how the adage goes. Nothing could be less true for FVUMC Youth this month! The first weekend of March is our rescheduled Discovery Weekend, where our middle school students will be taught and led by their high school peers. The following weekend, our youth lead us in worship on Youth Sunday, and, as we turn to our Holy Week services, our youth are serving our children by helping with the Palm Sunday Celebration.

Keep in mind that this is a busy time in the semester for many of our youth, both academically and athletically. I invite you to intentionally pray for our students in these last weeks of Lent.

When you are greeted by students and join them in worship on Youth Sunday, take a moment to pray for them and their families. And when we gather for our Holy Week services, note the students that worship alongside you – pray that the Good News of Christ is made especially real to them this year.

*Bobby Rackley, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, brackley@fvumc.org*

## Key March Dates

- Saturday-Sunday, March 5-6 – Rescheduled Discovery Weekend (No Lifeline)
- Sunday, March 13 – Youth Sunday
- Saturday, March 19 – Pine Straw Fundraiser (summer mission teams spreading straw!)
- Holy Week (note changes in normally scheduled Youth Events; all Youth encouraged to attend Holy Week Services!):
- Sunday, March 20 – Serving in Palm Sunday Celebration (No Lifeline afterward)
- Wednesday, March 23 – No Life Groups
- Easter Sunday, March 27 – No Lifeline

## Scholarship Applications Due by Sunday, April 3

The F.H. Eason and Estelle Tilley Memorial Scholarships were established to provide financial aid for students who excel academically, have some financial need, and are connected to the life of Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church. These scholarships are a one-time award and are used to pay for college expenses such as tuition, fees, or room and board that are necessary for a recipient enrolled full-time in an accredited two- or four-year post-secondary educational program.

The applications are evaluated by the members of the FVUMC Scholarship Committee. Their decision is final and is based on a combination of academic achievement, involvement in the church, financial need, and course of study to be pursued.

These scholarships are named for former teachers so some preference may be given to applicants seeking teaching credentials.

Awards will be announced in May, and checks are sent directly to the recipient’s college after he/she has provided a college letter of acceptance.

The Application Form is available online at [fvumc.org/scholarship](http://fvumc.org/scholarship). Completed applications may be returned to the Scholarship Committee by delivering to the church office (100 S. Judd Parkway, Fuquay-Varina NC 27526) or by emailing a complete PDF package to [scholarships@fvumc.org](mailto:scholarships@fvumc.org) by Sunday, April 3, 2015.

## Website Quicklinks

- *Current News* [fvumc.org/news](http://fvumc.org/news)
- *Subscribe to Churchwide Emails* [fvumc.org/subscribe](http://fvumc.org/subscribe)
- *Current Registrations* [fvumc.org/registrations](http://fvumc.org/registrations)
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- *Online Giving (tithes & offerings)* [fvumc.org/give-online](http://fvumc.org/give-online)
- *Online Payments* [fvumc.org/pay-online](http://fvumc.org/pay-online)
- *Space Usage Form* [fvumc.org/forms](http://fvumc.org/forms)
- *Financial Forms* [fvumc.org/forms](http://fvumc.org/forms)
- *Prayer Requests* [fvumc.org/prayer-request](http://fvumc.org/prayer-request)

# 2015 Year-End Budget Summary

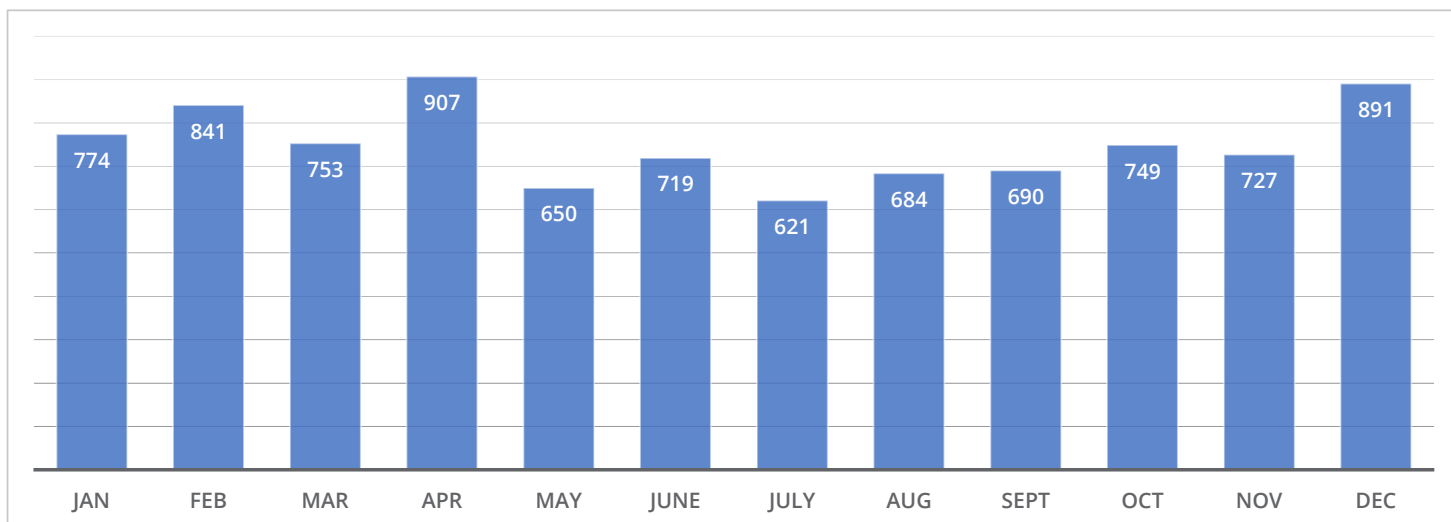
What an exciting time to be a member of Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church! We are positioned to make more and more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world as we grow in being Christ-centered, loving God, learning God, serving God and sharing God.

As a member of FVUMC, you are a partner in making God's call for 2016 a reality. Pray for God to guide us in the ways we use our resources and where appropriate, make changes as he directs. Let us rejoice and be glad in the ways God will do far beyond all we ask or imagine as we allow his power to work in us.

Total 2015 Annual Budget	\$ 1,514,405.35
Budget needed YTD - 12/31/15	\$ 1,400,000.00
Received YTD - 12/31/15	\$ 1,366,431.27
Difference	<u>(\$ 33,568.73)</u>
Building Fund Restricted Account	\$ 80,255.56
Building (Brick & Mortar Expenses Only) Restricted Account	\$ 20,000.00
Total	<u>\$ 100,255.56</u>
YTD Budget Expenditures as of 12/31/2015	\$ 1,393,079.96

*Detailed monthly financial reports are always available in the church office for your review.*

## 2015 Worship Attendance Averages



# 2016 Budget Report

Total 2016 Annual Budget	\$ 1,552,922.00
Budget needed YTD - 2/28/16	\$ 218,728.99
Received YTD - 2/28/16	\$ 238,545.58
Difference	\$ 19,816.59
Building Fund Restricted Account	\$ 80,782.56
Building (Brick & Mortar Expenses Only) Restricted Account	\$ 20,000.00
Total	\$ 100,782.56
YTD Budget Expenditures as of 1/31/2016	\$ 108,612.67

## February 2016 Worship Attendance

	Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28	Monthly Average	Year-to-Date Average
8:00am	63	76	67	81	72	65
9:30am	392	388	429	372	395	349
11:00am	239	279	320	247	271	278
Total	694	743	816	700	738	692



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GTyson@fvumc.org



*Pastor of Welcoming  
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Valerie Tyson Ext. 102  
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& Missional Outreach*  
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*Director of Youth & Family Ministries*  
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BRackley@fvumc.org

FVUMC 100 S. Judd Pkwy, SE Fuquay-Varina NC 27526 919-552-4331  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30-5:00pm Friday: 8:30-1:00pm

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of Faith Preschool*  
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SeedsofFaith@fvumc.org

*Administrative Assistant -  
Seeds of Faith Preschool*  
Diane Chapman Ext. 109



# 2016 PINE STRAW SALE—SATURDAY, MARCH 19

FUQUAY-VARINA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
100 S JUDD PARKWAY SE FUQUAY-VARINA, NC 27526  
(919) 552 – 4331 WWW.FVUMC.ORG

Online Ordering Available at [www.fvumc.org/pine-straw](http://www.fvumc.org/pine-straw)

Cost: **\$4.25 per bale**

**\$.50 per bale delivery charge, up to \$20.00**

(Minimum order of 5 bales for delivery—if delivery address is over 10 miles away please call to ensure delivery availability.)

★ **Place your order on or before Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

★ **Payment is due with your order.**

★ **All orders must be placed in advance.**

Orders received after March 14<sup>h</sup> will be filled only if extra pine straw is available.

★ **Pick up your order on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 and 10:00 am.**

Orders may be picked up at the F-V UMC Parking Lot, 100 S Judd Parkway.

★ **Delivery will be on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 a.m. & 1:00 pm.**

If requesting delivery and you will not be home between 8:00 am & 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> use the order form to indicate where you would like your pine straw left (driveway, front yard, etc.)

★ **All proceeds will benefit Fuquay-Varina UMC Music Ministries.**

*Want help spreading your pine straw? The F-V UMC Youth are at your service! For a donation to Youth Missions, the F-V UMC Youth will spread your pine straw on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>! Use the order form below to indicate you would like to make use of this service!*

To place your order, complete the form below and return it with payment to the church office by **Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Checks should be made out to **Fuquay-Varina United Methodist Church—mark “pine straw sale”** on the memo line. Online payment is available via [fvumc.org/online-payment](http://fvumc.org/online-payment). Questions? Contact Jennifer Harrenstein at 552-4331 ext. 105 or [jharrenstein@fvumc.org](mailto:jharrenstein@fvumc.org)

*Please return only this portion of the form—keep the top part of the page for your reference.*

## PINE STRAW ORDER FORM—FUQUAY-VARINA UMC

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

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Bales \_\_\_\_\_ x \$4.25 each = \_\_\_\_\_ subtotal

\_\_\_\_\_ delivery (\$.50 per bale; \$20 max)

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Yes, I would like the F-V UMC Youth to spread my pine straw!\***

\*Note—Pine Straw Spreading availability is limited and will be completed on a first-come, first serve basis. You will be contacted if we are unable to accommodate your request. If you do not hear from us, you can assume the spreaders will be at your home on the morning of March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Not going to be home for delivery? Indicate where to leave the pine straw: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use: Order Date \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Data Entry \_\_\_\_\_