



# NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting Point  
February 2012

Dear Church family,

We can never emphasize unity and love enough. They are the conduit through which the power of God flows to the body of Christ, which is the church. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus explained that the gates of hell would not prevail against the church. This statement presupposes that though it will not prevail, hell will rage against God's church. We recognize these attacks from without the body - every time a prayer or Christian symbol is removed from a public place or when the body of Christ is demeaned or belittled in the media. Since we know these attacks are coming, the church should be a sanctuary where we are safe. We need to guard our minds, bodies, and spirits when interacting with our brothers and sisters in the church, so that we won't find ourselves asking God to forgive us when our words or actions threaten His body from within. Make no mistake . . . the enemy understands the concept of "divide and conquer." To ensure that God's power and present with us through His Holy Spirit continues to flow, we should never, through spiritually divisive choices, allow Satan an inroad into our sanctuary. May it never be!

One of the most precious examples of Christian unity is found in the first chapter of The Acts of the Apostles. The disciples and other followers were in the upper chamber, or room, of a building. The scripture says that they were ALL in one accord. The body of Christ gathered in that room was in perfect unity. The Holy Ghost descended upon each of them and a cloven tongue of fire was seen above each person's head as a mighty wind blew through the assembly. Unity had ushered in the presence and anointing of the Lord God!

This story took place atop a hill in Jerusalem near the temple complex called Mt. Zion. We do not know for sure if the building and upper room there today is the exact same one described in the first chapter of Acts. We can be sure that it is atop the same Mt. Zion which is very significant. Mt. Zion represents God's presence. It is called His holy mountain in the city of the Great King, who is Jesus. One of my close friends left for Israel this past Wednesday with a group from his church. I remember my last time there. I had many wonderful, memorable, and life changing experiences. I still remember my time in the upper room. Just like the early believers, we were all praying for unity while quietly waiting on the Lord. Suddenly there was a tangible presence among us. Everyone was in tears and trembling under God's holy anointing. I will never forget that moment. Unity is worth it all - even if sometimes preserving unity means we may agree to disagree. As long as we make the choice to agree, as long as we love, as long as believers are edified, and as long as Christ is glorified, His power will flow in and through us as individuals and as His body, the church.

Praise be to God for allowing us to go forward in unity, love, and forgiveness.

Grace and His peace,  
Pastor Ralph

Pastor: Ralph A. Brown  
Ministers: The Baptized of this congregation  
Worship Leader: Joanna Hale  
Minister of Music & Worship: Gary Rapp  
Director of Children's and  
Youth Ministries: Luke Whitehead  
Minister of Visitation: Jim Boehm  
Rocky Mount District Supt. Caswell Shaw  
Bishop of the N. C. Conference: Al Gwinn  
  
Who to contact @ NUMC  
Bookkeeper: Dot Binkley  
Administrative Assistant: Dana Nethercutt  
Weekday School & KIDSPACE: Janet Binder  
  
Church Office Hours  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mon. through Fri.  
  
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*This newsletter is sent with a  
blessing and a prayer to...*

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# Belarusian Ministry

Time has come to be in prayer about your participation in the Belarusian Ministry. The need is still great to provide the children of Belarus and chaperones an opportunity to come to Nashville and receive a reprieve from their everyday radioactive living conditions, access to medical/dental/vision evaluations and necessary treatment. These children also receive a renewed hope for the future and most importantly, exposure to Jesus Christ and His love through our generosity.

If you feel led or would like more information on hosting a child/chaperone in your home for six weeks, beginning approximately the second week of June, please see Kevin and Denise Calloway or Robin Miller. Deadlines for host family applications will be February 20th. Please continue to support this outreach as a host family, a day host friend, through financial gifts marked Belarusian Ministry and most importantly prayer.

The Pairs & Spares Sunday School class will host a *"Soup & Dessert Fellowship"* on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 1pm in Braswell Hall. There is no cost to attend but donations will be greatly appreciated to help support the Belarusian Ministry.



## 3rd Annual NUMC Camp 4 Kids Golf Tournament April 27, 2012

Come out for a fun day of Golf, Food and Fellowship on April 27th. This year's tournament will be at Birchwood country Club and will have lots of fun activities. Cash prizes will be awarded. Monies raised in this tournament will help send the kids of NUMC to camp this summer. Brochures are on the counters in the gathering area or see any Camp 4 Kids member for more information.



Confirmation classes will be held on Wed. nights, beginning Feb. 29th at 6:00pm for 5 weeks. All youth are invited to attend the classes that will prepare them for membership into our church.

## NUMC 101

Rev. Brown will be offering NUMC 101 classes on Sunday evening, Feb. 5th & 12th at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. Everyone that is interested in learning more about the Methodist Church or would like to join into the body of Christ at NUMC is urged to attend.

A special offering will be taken on February 19th for the Methodist Home for Children. Gifts made will go directly to the Methodist Home for Children and are not included in your tithes to NUMC.

***"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10***



## Faith Christian Ministries

Faith Christian Ministries, located on the corner of Washington and Barnes Street is a unique outreach and support ministry for our community. In 2011, they extended help to 1,182 clients by supplying 7,253 meals from their food pantry, 4,878 clothing donations, \$20,147 toward utilities, \$4,173 for rent, \$2,846 for various other needs and many donations of furniture. Their annual report, showing a break down of donations, can be found in the gathering area.

Faith Christian takes their stewardship of God's gifts very seriously by researching the needs of requests through Social Services, Schools and Church referrals. They use discernment and historical records to ensure that all funds are distributed evenly to those in need. They are funded from sales in their 'Unique Triftique', which sale gently used clothing and household items, along with donations from the community.

You can support Faith Christian Ministries by bringing food to our food box located in the gathering area or giving to the communion offering on Sunday morning.



On Jan. 22, Stephen Ministry training began for a group of 12 lay people from our congregation. This training for caring ministry was developed by Stephen Ministries St. Louis. Using it, congregations all over the world have implemented lasting programs of lay caring ministry.

Over the next few months, our Stephen Minister trainees will receive extensive training in Christian caring skills. Some of the areas they will cover in the training include listening effectively, dealing with feelings, confidentiality, using the resources of Christianity, being assertive, and a number of topics dealing with specific life crises. Throughout, the training will emphasize the theology of caring for the whole person.

Following the training, these men and women will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers to carry out ministries of caring within our congregation and community, with people experiencing such problems in life as hospitalization, grief, depression, loneliness and many other life crises. Working under the guidance and supervision of our Pastor and Stephen leaders, the Stephen Ministers will extend the capacity of our congregation to care.

The people who are attending this training and committing to 2 years as Stephen Ministers are: Dawn Allen, Fay Compofelice, Reid Hildreth, Sherri and Wayne Lamm, Nancy LeHardy, Robin Miller, Dot Smith, Janice Smith, Jackie Swindell and Al and Susie White. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers as they receive this training for caring ministry.

If you have any questions about Stephen Ministry training and care giving, please feel free to contact Ralph Brown, Lynne Hobbs or Ellen Ward.

## Methodist Men's Events!

### Annual Valentine's Banquet

United Methodist Men cordially invite all couples and singles to their Valentine's Banquet on Saturday Night, February 11th at 6:30pm. Come for fine dining, music, door prizes, entertainment & fellowship. Watch for sign-up inserts in the bulletin or call the church office for reservations.

### Methodist Men Breakfast

Methodist Men have a breakfast each month on the second Sunday at 7:30am. All men are invited to this time of food, fellowship and discussion of upcoming events. February's breakfast will be on the 12th, so mark you calendars!

### Pork Chop Dinner

The Methodist Men will be having a Pork Chop Plate Sale on Feb. 24th. Pick-up will be from 11:00 - 2:00. Plates include: 2 Grilled Barbeque Chops, field peas, spiced apples, & hushpuppies for \$7. See one of the Methodist Men or call the church office for tickets. All Methodist Men are reminded to turn their tickets in by the 12th. (please note: parents will be picking up children at the day school from 11:45 - 12:15)





A new outreach service opportunity is coming our way. La Estrella Resplandeciente in Stanhope is beginning tutoring sessions for Hispanic students in the Bailey and Spring Hope areas. They are in need of volunteers to assist with the program. No Spanish is required and the commitment from the volunteers can be as small as one thirty minute session a month. More information will follow soon. You will be as blessed as you will be a blessing to God's children. Contact Dennis and Kay Coggins at 459-3933 to show your interest in this outreach service opportunity.

## Youth & Children's Sunday Night Meals

During Pathfinders, Youth PAC, King's and Covenant Kids, we offer fellowship meals for participants and leaders. All children and youth programs are packed with activities for spiritual growth. The fellowship meal is an opportunity for leaders to have one-on-one time with their group and get to know them personally.

We are in great need for groups to volunteer to prepare and serve these meals. If you or your small group would like to volunteer, contact Bobbie Smith at 904-3920. She is the coordinator for meals and can answer any questions about numbers and meal suggestions.

# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm - Day School Meeting -Parlor 7:00pm - Staff/Parish - Cockrell House	2	3	4 Helms'/Schaefer Wedding
5 Scouting Sunday 6:00pm - NUMC 101 Sanctuary Pathfinders - Super Bowl Party No King's/Covenant Kids or Youth PAC	6 10:15 - Nursing Home Ministry - Nash Grove	7 7:00pm - Trustees, Parlor	8	9 6:30pm - Kairos Meeting - Cockrell	10	11 Valentine's Dinner, 6:30pm Braswell Hall
12 7:30am - Men's Breakfast Cockrell Hall 11:00 - Belaruse Soup & Dessert fundraiser. 4:30 - ASP - Basement 6:00 - NUMC 101 - Sanctuary	13 7:00 - Compassion Café Meeting - Bus Garage	14	15 	16	17	18 Cockrell Hall Reserved 6:00am - Pathfinders leave for Ski retreat
19 Methodist Home For Children Sunday	20 10:15 - Nursing Home Ministry - Nash Grove 6:30 - American Legion Braswell Hall & Kitchen	21 12:00 - Special People - Cockrell 7:00 - Finance -Parlor	22  Time - TBD	23	24 11:00 - Methodist Men's Pork Chop Sale - Braswell Kitchen	25 8:30 - Kairos Basement
26 1st Sunday of Lent	27	28	29 6:00pm - Confirmation Class - Basement	Recurring Church Activities Weekday School - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Kidspace - 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.		
<u>Bear Den</u> 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 - Cockrell Hall <u>Tigers Den</u> 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 - Bus Garage <u>Wolf Den</u> 2nd & 4th Sundays 2:30 - Bus Garage	<b>Scouting Schedule</b>  <u>Webelos 1</u> 1st & 3rd Sundays 2:00 - Bus Garage  <u>Pack Meeting</u> 2nd Tuesday 6:00 - Cockrell Hall	<u>Girl Scouts - Troop 1</u> Feb. 12 & 26 2:00 pm - Parlor & Men's Bible Class  <u>Girl Scouts - Troop 2</u> 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:00 - Cockrell Hall	<b>Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:00am Sunday School/Cantata Practice 11:00am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:15pm Youth & Children's Activities  <b>Tuesday</b> 7:00am Prayers with the Pastor 8:30am Men's Bible Study - B. Garage 7:00pm DivorceCare - Chapel	<b>Wednesday</b> 6:45am Youth Shine On! - Bojangles 5:00pm Emmaus Reunion Grp - Library 6:30pm Choir Practice - Choir Room 6:30pm Signing Class - Basement 7:15pm Youth Bible Study - Basement 7:00pm Rockfish Practice - Braswell Hall 8:00pm Narcotics Anonymous - upstairs 8:00pm Nar-Anon - Cockrell Hall		