



NASHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting Point January 2012

Dear Church Family,

The “New Year” is such a wonderful time. It’s a time for fresh starts and new beginnings. All of the resolutions are made and new promises are given. We start the New Year feeling as though the past is left behind and we can prove that a leopard **can** change his spots and a zebra **can** change his stripes. God is a God of the new. He challenges us with new things forever, Isaiah 43:19. This promise of the new is true in the now, for time with God is now. This promise of newness is true yesterday, today, and forever.

God is not a God of a second chance, and I’m so glad. He’s the God of **another** chance. Jesus taught Peter in Matthew 18:21-22 that we should forgive our neighbor seventy times seven. In other words, there should be no limit to the number of times we forgive others. Would God be any less gracious than He asks us to be? Of course not! If the New Year is a time for newness, then God is right there with us rejoicing over us and supporting our efforts as we seek to be more like Him.

We must not look at the world for examples. The world as a whole will never “get it right” without God’s intervention. This is not the first time that the world has “run off the rails.” In the days of Noah, God intervened. People were Godless and selfish, seeking their own wills and pleasure. Only Noah and his family were spared. They were given salvation from God’s wrath. John the Baptist asked, “Who hath warned you of the wrath to come”? He was referring to the end of grace when there will be no more chances only judgment and retribution.

Today salvation and another chance is available for all who will call on the name of Jesus and give Him their life. It is so simple. Jesus said in John 6:47, “Verily, verily I say unto thee, he who believes on me hath everlasting life.” What could be better than a God who shows us His love with the ultimate gift – life eternal with Him? We only have to choose to believe! Choose Him today and know Him as the God of another chance. Things do go better with Christ. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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 Nethercut
Weekday School & KIDSPACE: Janet Binder

Church Office Hours
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*This newsletter is sent with a
blessing and a prayer to...*

The Wesleyan Way/United Methodist Way

An Overview of the meaning of the Wesleyan Way

The following was published in the November issue of the *NC Conference Christian Advocate*. We share this overview with you in hopes that our congregation will be one to fulfill the conference vision statement, "Healthy Congregations and Effective Leaders in Every Place Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World".

Covenant discipleship

- Accountability in small group ministries that empower and support lay leaders in congregations.
- Group accountability requires an explanation of a person's conduct, duties, and spiritual practice. The aim is support and mutual growth in faith, not judgment.

Means of Grace - Wesley's guide for a life of faithful discipleship. It includes:

- Works of Piety - prayer, worship, the Lord's Supper, scripture, and fasting or abstinence and....
- Works of mercy - feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting the prisoners, faith sharing, peace-making.

Practicing the UM Way - Living the Christian life in covenant with Christ and one another. "A Rule of Life:"

- Do no harm, avoid evil of every kind (examples: taking God's name in vain; drunkenness, fighting, quarreling, brawling, returning evil for evil; and doing what we know is not for the glory of God).
- Doing good as often and as many times as far as possible: (examples - giving food to the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting or helping the sick or in prison).
- Following the means of Grace: Regular worship attendance, private and family prayer, Bible reading and study, the support of the Lord (Holy Communion), and fasting or abstinence.

Small Groups

- Small group ministries for leaders and participants. Primary mission is faith formation and disciple-making, and
- Understanding the whole church as a system or connection with many groups working to fulfill the ministry of the whole church as a result of what happens in the various groups. Includes "A Rule of Life" in Practicing the UM Way.

Responding to World Events

- Discipleship through acts of compassion and justice. (including drought, famine, earthquakes, tsunami, terrorism, violence, scandal, war, and poverty).

(Taken in part from Living The United Methodist Way on GBOD.ORG, and Small Groups & Accountability: The Wesleyan Way of Christian Formation by Steven W. Manskar (search by title on GBOD.ORG))



La Estrella Resplandeciente

“Shining Star Ministry”

La Estrella Resplandeciente, the “Shining Star Ministry”, is a Hispanic outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church in the Rocky Mount district. This district wide mission formally began in 2005. Its goal and mission is to reach out to the children of Hispanic families who have migrated into the area through promises for work in the abundant tobacco, cotton and soy bean fields.

Each week the children are picked up from migrant housing to spend the morning at La Estrella for Christian devotion, language instruction, tutoring in school studies and a hot lunch. Through its initial goal was to simply offer these services as a mission outreach, the ministry’s director, Rev. Lucho Reinoso states that, “In the hands of the holy spirit, La Estrella has become much more. It is a transformational force for cultural reconciliation and hope. Barriers of culture, language and social-economic status have been crossed. As a result, whole families are being impacted by the love of Christ through our work with the children. We celebrate the gift of God’s diversity and creation in every person, their worth and place in the Kingdom of God. While our focus is on the Hispanic community, La Estrella is open to all persons and welcomes everyone in a partnership of acceptance, reconciliation and love.”

La Estrella meets in what once was Stanhope United Methodist Church. The same church building which once housed their congregation, is now home to a thriving evangelistic mission. Located on the same stretch of rural road and operating in the same physical structure, the site has been reborn.

Members from multiple congregations have stepped out of their own church walls, without the motivation of growing their own memberships, and stretched out hands of Christian charity. Like Jesus bearing his marks of sacrifice to his disciples, the work done at La Estrella demonstrates the transformational power in people’s lives when work of sacrifice are offered lovingly on their behalf.

If you are interested in volunteering at La Estrella, contact Lucho at reinosol@nccumc.org or 919-495-2115



DivorceCare, a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced, will begin a new session at NUMC on Jan. 31 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. The DVD seminars feature some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics seen from a biblical perspective. Please contact Kathy Smallwood at 459-1878 for more information.



An Emmaus Gathering will be held on Friday night, Jan. 6th at 7:00 p.m. in Braswell Hall

Walnut Grove UMC will lead us in Worship, Fourth Day, and Clergy. Everyone is Invited!

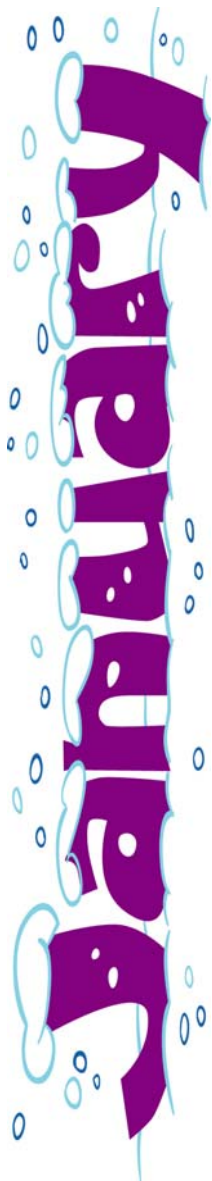
Coming in January



Get ready for delicious BBQ and Brunswick stew! Pathfinders will soon be selling tickets for a Brunswick stew fundraiser. Also, our Kairos team will be selling tickets for a BBQ fundraiser that will be held on January 27th. Watch for more information on both fundraisers in January bulletins.



Church Council plans and carries out programs that fulfill our congregation’s nurturing, outreaching, and witnessing ministries. We thank our chairs and those serving on committees for the excellent job they are doing to keep our church active and organized. A detailed listing of our church charge and the ministries under each committee is posted in the gathering area.

- Church Council: R.E. Collier
- Church Council - Vice Chair - Larry Whitehurst
- Witness Work Area - Melissa Lump
- Nurture Work Area - Nancy Leahard
- Outreach Work Area - Denise & Kay Coggins
- Staff-Parish Relations: Jim Boehm
- Trustees: TBD
- Committee on Finance: Rhonda Beal
- Parsonage Committee: Derek Gibson
- Weekday School & Kidspace Board: TBD
- Leadership Development Team - Ralph A. Brown



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p><i>1</i></p>  <p>9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Combined Service - Braswell Hall</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>10:15 - Nursing Home Ministry - Nash Grove</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>7:00pm - Trustees, Parlor</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>5:30pm - Day School Meeting -Parlor</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>7:00pm - Emmaus Gathering - Braswell Hall</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>8:30am - Ministry Leaders Meeting - Cockrell Hall</p>	
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>7:30am - Men's B-fast -Cockrell Hall</p> <p>4:30 - ASP - Basement</p> <p>Children & Youth Programs resume</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>7:00pm - Lay Leadership Team Meeting - Office</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>7:00 - Finance -Parlor</p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>Costa Rica Team Departs</p> <p>6:30pm - Kairos Meeting - Cockrell</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>Cockrell Hall Reserved in pm</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>8:30am - Kairos - Basement</p> <p>12:00 pm - Cockrell Hall reserved</p>	
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>No King's/Cov. Kids due to MLK holiday</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>10:15 - Nursing Home Ministry - Nash Grove</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>12:00 - Special People - Cockrell</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> 	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	
<p><i>22</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>7:00pm - Church Council - Cockrell Hall</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>9:00am - 2:00pm Kairos BBQ Fundraiser - Braswell Kitchen</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>8:30 - Kairos Cockrell Hall</p> <p>Pathfinders Stew Sale - Bus Garage</p>	
<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>7:00 - Divorce Care Resumes - Chapel</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Recurring Church Activities </div>				
<p><u>Bear Den</u> 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 - Cockrell Hall</p> <p><u>Tigers Den</u> 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 - Bus Garage</p> <p><u>Wolf Den</u> 2nd & 4th Sundays 2:30 - Bus Garage</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Scouting Schedule </div> <p><u>Webeles 1</u> 1st & 3rd Sundays 2:00 - Bus Garage</p> <p><u>Pack Meeting</u> 2nd Tuesday 6:00 - Cockrell Hall</p>	<p><u>Girl Scouts - Troop 1</u> Dec. 4th - 2:00pm Parlor & Men's Bible Class</p> <p><u>Girl Scouts - Troop 2</u> 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:00 - Cockrell Hall</p>	<p>Weekday School - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Kidspace - 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.</p>		<p>Sunday</p> <p>8:30am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:00am Sunday School/Cantata Practice 11:00am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:15pm Youth & Children's Activities</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>7:00am Prayers with the Pastor 8:30am Men's Bible Study - B. Garage 7:00pm DivorceCare - Chapel</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>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</p>	