

Happy Birthday

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| May 02 | Simon Hudson-Smith | 17 | Tyler Wavra |
| 03 | Bob Becton | 18 | Julie Shumpert |
| 04 | Sue Fetner | 18 | Trey Holley |
| 04 | Kristen Harry | 19 | Margaret Hawes |
| 05 | Joni Wavra | 20 | Beatrice Bryson |
| 05 | Linda Sims | 20 | Lilly-Kate Bryson |
| 06 | Douglas Odell | 21 | Graham Somerville |
| 06 | Jane Dunaway | 22 | Joyce Chisolm |
| 08 | Katie Morris | 23 | Chris Godsey |
| 08 | Ashlynn Parker | 24 | Dale Coward |
| 09 | Christopher Johnson | 24 | Rich VanderMay |
| 10 | Vicky Robson | 26 | Susan King |
| 11 | Betty Gene Alley | 26 | Mary Virginia Jones |
| 12 | Todd Dillard | 26 | Donald Peters |
| 13 | Rick Robson | 27 | Ezra Branham |
| 13 | Matt Smith | 29 | Jo Ann Pyle |
| 15 | Jim Stuber | 30 | Jan Gallaher |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 02 | Joe & Tammy Harrold |
| 03 | Jim & Ellen Perkins |
| 09 | Howard & Carolyn Dinsmore |
| 12 | Todd & Sandy Taylor |
| 13 | Ken & Susan Hawkins |
| 16 | George & Pamela Pierce |
| 22 | Stu & Betty Bishop |
| 23 | Maurice & Wanda Gebhardt |

Our sympathy is extended to the Warva family in the death of John who died on April 17, 2012.



Many Thanks

- **To the lunch crew** for a delicious and bountiful lunch at the Thursday Community Holy Week service held at CUMC. We fed over 65 worshipers and everyone enjoyed the lunch and fellowship.
- **To Jimmy Branham** for relining the front church parking lot with angled spaces. It is so much easier to navigate in and out of the spaces in that parking lot now.
- **From the Parker family** for all the prayers for their family and especially for little JoJo. They also want to thank everyone for the yummy dinners. They really appreciate all the love and kindness that everyone has shown them.

Congratulations to Jeremy and Julie Hughes on their recent marriage at Cashiers United Methodist Church.

THE CASHIERS UMC MINISTRY TEAM

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Senior Pastor | Randolph Harry | randolphharry@gmail.com |
| Pastor | Matthew Smith | matthewsmith76@gmail.com |
| Church Administrator | Peggy Hormann | peggyhormanncumc@gmail.com |
| Office Assistant | Sue Jones | suejonescumc@gmail.com |
| Choir Director | Tom Adams | tomadamscumc@gmail.com |
| 8:30 Music Leader | Betty Morris | BLMorris1201@gmail.com |
| Pianist | Bryan Heller | bryancheller@gmail.com |
| Church E-mail | Sarah Henry | cumcmain@gmail.com |



The Neighbor



Cashiers United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter
 P O Box 162, Cashiers, NC 28717 828-743-5298
 Website: www.cashiersumc.org Fax 828-743-5428

MAY 2012

Pastor's Pen

I don't read poetry all the time, and I don't like every poem I read. But between now and Pentecost Sunday on May 27, I'm making it a point to find at least one poem a day that I do like. Some of the poems are explicitly Christian and some are irreverent, some are simple and some are nearly inscrutable. Some are by famous poets like Pablo Neruda and Emily Dickinson and some come from relative unknowns like Wislawa Szymborska. The common denominator is that each one says something I find to be beautiful and true.

If we will live as Easter people with our heads held high, we will be able to see signs and wonders of God's glory all around us.

The poet describes the world in rich, precise, evocative detail. She or he makes you see the raindrop clinging to the daffodil petal, makes you hear the sharp retort of laughter off a cinderblock wall, makes you smell the musty photo books in your aunt's basement. Reading such rich description translates into a new appreciation of the riches in our lives. When I am in the habit of reading poetry, I also see, hear, and smell things more vividly. I'm more aware of minute details that I would otherwise miss. Reading poetry is a spiritual discipline I've adopted during the Easter Season.

Many people observe Lent, the season leading up to Easter, by abstaining from something they like or rededicating themselves to spiritual practices. They scrupulously mark the forty days of Lent with a

contrite spirit, which is a great thing to do. Unfortunately, fewer people recognize that *Easter is meant to be a fifty day celebration of joy and hope*. No single day can contain the glorious celebration of the Risen Christ in our midst. In fact, every Sunday of the year is a little Easter where we might observe signs of the empty tomb, the risen Lord and the transformed life.

While the Christian life will always be marked by an element of critical self-reflection and repentance, it is mainly about joy, hope, love, peace, hospitality, mercy and justice. We should dwell on the fact that in giving us Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen savior, God has given us everything we need to live a life that's full, abundant and everlasting. We no longer have to fear the sting of death or the myriad other lesser trials and troubles that we face, for God's love is the strongest force at work in the universe. If we will live as Easter people with our heads held high, we will be able to see signs and wonders of God's glory all around us.

Reading poetry during these fifty days of Easter is what's keeping me attentive to those signs and wonders. I hope that you also will find something that will make you more aware of God's immeasurable, unstoppable grace at work in the world.

**God's peace,
 Matt Smith**

Financial Update

| | |
|--|------------|
| Monthly Budget | \$ 50,762 |
| Tithes & Offerings through April 22nd | \$ 22,344 |
| April Shortfall with one more week to record | \$(28,418) |
| YTD Tithes & Offerings Received thru 04/22 | \$112,506 |
| YTD Budget thru 04/22/12 | \$199,138 |
| Year-to-Date Shortfall (through 04/22) | \$(86,632) |

Figures updated weekly in the church bulletin.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Susan Yarski. Susan is our faithful Administrative Assistant for the Waynesville District and is getting married on Sunday afternoon, May 6th. She'll now be Susan Trantham. Here's the happy couple's address if you wish to send a card:

Gerald and Susan Trantham
 PO Box 713
 Canton NC 28716

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day.



Welcome Dusty Brockhouse, Our Summer Duke Intern

Dusty joins us on Sunday, May 27th for a summer of fun and learning. She is pursuing a Master of Divinity at Duke Divinity School with an emphasis on crisis ministry and hospital chaplaincy as she believes God has called her to this particular ministry. She feels that crisis associated with illness, trauma, and death, along with the joy that comes from recovery and births, are where she is most useful as a member of the Body of Christ. Please join us in welcoming Dusty and her husband.

CONNECTION NEWS

Transition Team Completes "New Districts" Task

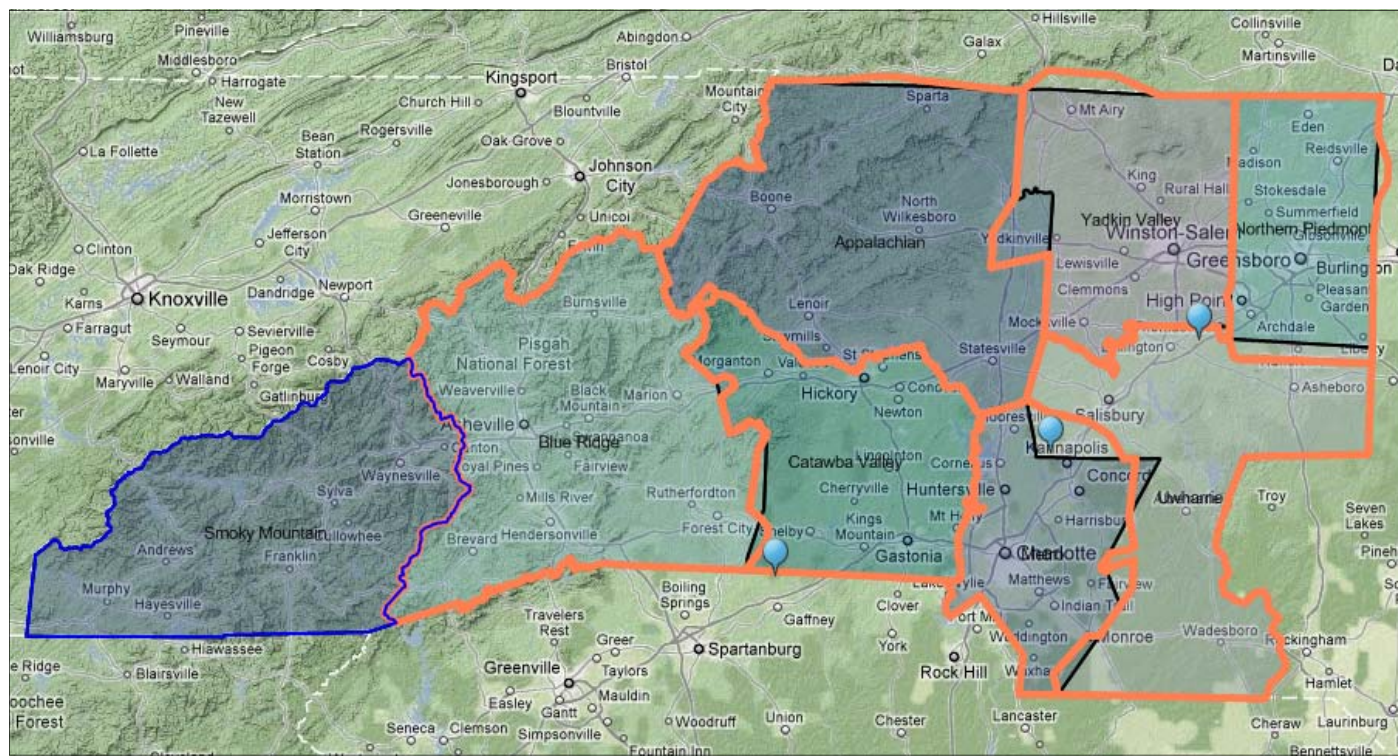
The Sub-Committee of the Transition Team that worked diligently on the boundaries and names of the eight new districts was composed of four lay people and one clergy person (Randy Harry). The task assigned them was to propose the lines of the new eight-district configuration (from 15 districts) for our Western North Carolina Conference.

The guiding principles of the sub-committee included geography (natural boundaries), traffic patterns, community identities, current population and population growth projections, county lines, density of churches within a region, number of churches per district, diversity, and financial health of congregations. Using these principles along with technology and face-to-face meetings, considering many pieces of email feedback from lay and clergy, feedback from district superintendents and district lay leaders, and feedback from the full Transition Team, the new districts and names were affirmed and announced in February 2012.

One of the first decisions that had to be made related to our district, the Waynesville District, soon to be renamed Smoky Mountain District. The Team concluded that this district, due to its vast geographic and travel challenges, would best be left unaltered, even though that meant it would have fewer churches than each of the other seven districts. From that point, they developed a proposal for the boundaries of the remaining seven districts, applying the aforementioned guiding principles. They attempted, as much as possible, to balance the number of churches (rather than charges or clergy) among the districts and to place churches in the districts that included the urban areas toward which most of the constituency generally oriented themselves.

Through this process, they did their best to pay attention to feedback from a variety of individuals and groups (as noted above). They made many revisions based on this feedback knowing that small adjustments will continue in the location of charges in the coming years. This is not unusual, and The Book of Discipline provides for a process of attending to these various changes and reconsiderations over time. The focus will always be on the mission, and how we can encourage churches and charges to be deeply committed and passionate about that mission, regardless of where a district line is placed.

To read the report in its entirety, please log onto the Western NC Conference at www.wncumc.org and click on "Transition Report" or pick up a copy at either entrance to our church sanctuary.



Evangelism



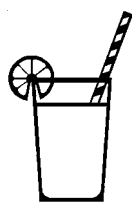
Elijah's Portion

The Mission and Evangelism Ministries have started a new outreach program called Elijah's Portion. We are asking members of our church to package leftover portions of their meals into single serving containers and to label, date, and freeze the containers. These containers are then taken to people in our community who are in need of homecooked food.

There are many ways to participate. You can provide clean containers to be used for the food or provide the food in containers. Just as importantly, if you know of someone in need, you can take some of the food to them. Join us in helping others by helping with this outreach program.

Lemonade Social

The Evangelism and Worship Ministries will be hosting Lemonade Socials once a month beginning Sunday, May 20th after the 11 am service. Come and join the fellowship and invite a first time guest to join us.

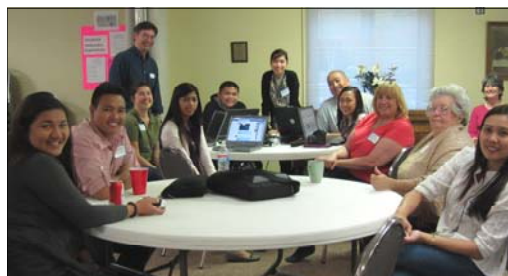


International Student Ministry a Success!

Our church's new outreach ministry to international students working in Cashiers began Sunday night, April 22, with an Internet Café and Game Room in our fellowship hall, and it was a big success! Eight college-aged students from the Philippines and three members of the High Hampton staff were our guests for fun, food, and fellowship that evening. Numerous members of our congregation welcomed the students and made them feel at home. We're already making plans for our next event, which will be Monday, May 21. Please contact Pastor Randy at 743-5298 or randolphharry@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Each One Ask One

This is such an exciting time for our church. Ministries are beginning to reach out to each other and work together on different projects and programs. The Evangelism Ministry wants everyone's help with the **Each One Ask One** project. At our last long range planning session, one of the projects named was to ask each member of the church to ask one person they know or they meet to attend our church home. The Evangelism Ministry has designed calling cards which will be distributed to our church family. These cards identify our church home, its address and offer information about our church services. We are challenging each of you to offer this card to someone you know. It could be someone you know who doesn't attend church or someone you know who has fallen away from attending. It could be the icebreaker for you in talking about what your church family means to you. It could be a calling card you leave for your server at a restaurant. It could be the BEST seed you have ever planted in someone's life. During this time of Eastertide, plant a seed of God's love in someone's life by sharing one of these cards.



Missions & Outreach



Summer Lunch Program For At Risk Children

During June and July, Cashiers United Methodist Church will be working with Manna to distribute lunches to children on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the Cashiers Community Center. Approximately 1 in 6 families fall below the poverty line in Jackson County. During the school year these children are provided with a meal but this is not the case for the summer. We as Christians are charged with feeding the hungry. We can help at no cost—all we have to provide is a minimum of two adults for each of the three days to serve the food and to spend time with the children as they eat their meal. We are looking for one person to oversee this effort in coordinating the volunteers as well as recruiting people to help serve. These are our children and we have an opportunity to serve God by helping others. Open your heart and serve. If you are interested in being the volunteer coordinator or in serving, please call Larry Morris, Missions Chair, 828/743-0770.

Local Fix-it Team

The Local Fix-it Team had some unusual help a few weeks ago when the Women's Monday Bible Study class helped clean and organize a few rooms of a home where the Local Fix-it Team had already done some work. Not only did they help the homeowner, but they provided a meal and friendship.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

The Kairos Prison Ministry Team will be at Tyger River from May 3rd—6th. How you can help:



- Please be in prayer for the inmates, that this might be a powerful time of spiritual awakening or renewal for them, and for members of this church and others on the leadership team.
- A contribution of \$5 will pay for a meal during the weekend for an inmate.
- If you would like to bake cookies for the participating inmates, please bag them in baggies by the dozen and bring them to the church by NOON on Wednesday, May 2nd.



Univ. of Delaware students who worked with Ed and Jay



Bayboro North Carolina, Take Two by Malinda Holley

Though few in numbers, CUMC was well represented by Bill Tyler, Ed Jones, Larry Morris, Jay Webster, and myself in this recent trip to Eastern NC.

The North Carolina Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Group is the clearinghouse for relief work in the area. We returned to see old friends and make new ones. During the week, students from the University of Delaware's Alternative Spring Break program were there, along with several smaller groups. Living with 40 college students was a challenge at times, but oh so rewarding.

Larry, Bill, and I worked on a house that had been flooded. Hilda Lott was the home owner, a single woman who was becoming very frustrated with FEMA. All FEMA trailers are to be moved out by the end of April but the FEMA officials agreed that she could move in her home if three rooms were finished. We were able to finish her bedroom except for the flooring, one half of the kitchen and the bathroom. Some plumbing and electrical still needed to be done. Every time Hilda would come through, the smile would get bigger. Once I started painting she asked "can I help?" She told us we needed to stay another week!

Bill was noted as the "missing worker"—either he wasn't around or he narrowly missed hitting Larry on the head. I had a "meeting" with the door on the trailer and saw a few stars. Ed slipped on a ladder with which he got a foot massage. Jay got a tan but we all got the joy of reaching out to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Until next time, may God be with you.

Adult Ministry Opportunities

LAY READER TRAINING/REFRESHER SESSION

will be held on Sunday, May 20 following the 11:00 worship service. All current lay readers are asked to attend this brief session and anyone who is interested in becoming a lay reader is welcome. Not sure of the difference between a *lay reader* and a *lay speaker*?

A *Lay Reader* is a professing member who periodically assumes a leadership role in the Sunday worship services by welcoming the congregation, making announcements, offering prayer, leading The Apostles' Creed, reading scripture, and assisting with the offering. A lay reader should be friendly, a good speaker, and well prepared.

A *Lay Speaker* is a professing member who is growing in the knowledge and love of God and who desires to become a stronger leader of the church taking initiative in giving assistance and support to the programs of the church. Lay speakers will occasionally preach, usually at the Wednesday night service. Lay speakers may preach in their local church after completing a beginner's training course. They may also go on to take an advanced course to become certified in preaching at other local churches as a substitute for the pastor.



Singles Together

The *Singles Together* May gathering is a fun evening of BINGO. We will meet at the Albert Carlton Cashiers Library at 7:00PM on Saturday, May 26. We will have snacks and game prizes. Our own Ed Jones will be the caller — you will not want to miss this treat!

Adult Sunday School

On Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45AM, we offer Sunday School for all ages including four adult classes:

- *Friendship and Lydia's Companion Classes* will continue to meet together as they begin the study of Genesis. They meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Truth-Seekers Class* follows the Sunday lectionary each week. They meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Young Adults Class* continues their study of the Gospel of Mark with how to live their faith in the everyday world. They meet in the Children's Wing.

Disciple I, Part 2 will begin on Thursday, May 31st @ 3:00PM.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Worship in May

- May 6:** "Grapevine Theology"
John 15:1-8; Holy Communion
- May 13:** "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"
John 15:9-17; Mother's Day
- May 20:** "After the Ascension"
Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53
Ascension Sunday
- May 27:** Acts 2:1-21
Pentecost Sunday

National Day of Prayer

Observance at the Village Green at the Crossroads.
Thursday, May 3rd from 12:15-12:45.
Hosted by area churches for a time of prayer for our country, its leaders, and future.

Worship On Wednesdays

We continue with the second four weeks of our 5:30 p.m. Wednesday night series, *Resurrection Hope* as we look at various New Testament affirmations of the hope that Christ's resurrection sets loose in the world.

- May 2:** "The Great Commission"
Larry Morris preaching (based on Matthew 28:16-20)
- May 9:** "Hope in Adversity"
Tanya Branham preaching (based on Hebrews 12:1-12)
- May 16:** "Defeat of Death"
Sue Jones preaching
Holy Communion observed (based on 1 Corinthians 15:12-26)
- May 23:** "Salvation for Gentiles & Jews"
Jeanne Pickerel preaching (based on Romans 11:25-36)
- May 30:** "Boundless Hope"
Marty Jones preaching (based on Colossians 1:15-23)



A Time of Prayer

We invite you to a time of prayer for our pastors and worship leaders on Sunday mornings just prior to the services. We gather at the small altar table in The Commons to pray for the congregation and everyone who will be leading us in worship, that God might work in and through our leaders so that all might hear His message and feel the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.



Children, Youth and Families



Children's Wing Renovations

Pardon Our Mess. Throughout May and June, we'll be making improvements to the Children's Wing which will make it more inviting and more useful for the various ministries which use the space. If you can build, paint, tile, install floors or hold a ladder, we'll find a way for you to help. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or contact Jay Webster, project coordinator, at 506-3115 or jwebster76@gmail.com.



Mother's Morning Out

The summer session of Mother's Morning Out begins on Monday, June 11. This program offers parents with children under 5 a break to clean, run errands, work, or take a break while their children receive skilled and caring supervision. The children participate in indoor and outdoor activities and are given a midmorning snack, however they bring their own lunch. The program operates on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-1:00. Contact Barbie Nichols to register your child or with questions at 506-2224.

Youth Groups



- **Our Middle School Youth** continue meeting on Friday afternoons through May. They're studying God's mighty acts of deliverance in the Book of Exodus and holding one another accountable to a covenant they devised. This covenant is organized around John Wesley's General Rules for faithful living – avoid evil, do good, and stay in love with God.
- **Our Senior High Youth** meet periodically for fun and fellowship, usually on Sunday evenings. Contact Matt Smith for more info about our next gathering. Matt can be reached at matthewssmith76@gmail.com or 743-5298.

Memorial Day

All families with children and youth are invited to a Memorial Day Party at the home of Jimmy and Tanya Branham on Monday, May 28 beginning at 1:00PM. We'll have a potluck that afternoon and lots of time for the kids to play and the adults to socialize. Contact Tanya to RSVP or with questions at jamandtonj@aol.com or 508-4365.



Wonderful Wednesdays

We're planning a new Wednesday afternoon program for children 3 years of age through rising 5th graders in the early summer. Our proposed dates are June 13, 20, 27 and July 4 from 3:30-5:20 PM. Stay tuned for more details in the bulletin and the next newsletter.

Be a "Champion for Children"

Did you know there are nearly 10,000 North Carolina children in foster care? Each year, thousands of families are affected by child welfare issues. They live in our neighborhoods, attend local schools and worship in our congregations. These youth need stable, loving care until they can either safely reunite with their families or establish other lifelong relationships with a nurturing adult.



Goodness grows here
The CHILDREN'S Home
Celebrating 100 years of service
1909 to 2009

May is National Foster Care Month. No matter how much time you have to give, you have the power to do something positive that will "Change a Lifetime" for a young person in foster care. With your help, children and families who have weathered VERY difficult times can learn to believe in themselves and others. Whether the children you serve are part of your family for one night or a lifetime, you can make an immeasurable difference in their lives. For more information, contact The Children's Home, Inc. @ 828-349-6002 today.



**Cashiers Community
Vacation Bible School
July 16-20, 2012
9 AM - 12 PM Daily**

Save the date for Operation Overboard. The 2012 Cashiers Community Vacation Bible School is from July 16-20. We will be hosting again this year and need lots of adult helpers. Contact Carol Orr for more information at 727-744-7251 or carolannorr42@gmail.com.

A Joyous Easter Celebration

