



Sparta United Methodist Church  
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Non Profit Organization  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
Permit No 36  
Sparta, NC 28675

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



# *The* Circuit Rider

January 2011

Rev. Bob Miller, Pastor



The moon marks  
off the seasons,

and the sun knows  
when to go down.

Psalms 104:19

**Sparta United Methodist Church**

PO Box 697, 190 N Main Street, Sparta, NC 28675  
Phone: 336.372.4441 Email: [office@umcsparta.com](mailto:office@umcsparta.com)

## Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

- Sunday Prayer-8:30 in the Sanctuary
- Sunday Worship-9 & 11 am
- Sunday School -10 am
- UM Youth Fellowship-5:30 pm, Sundays
- Nursery available on Sundays for children under 4 years of age for both services and during Sunday School.
- Fellowship Supper (6:30 pm - Last Wednesday)
- Mission Meals (Noon - 2nd Sunday)



# Ministry Opportunities!

**Hospice Volunteer Training Program**—Hospice is presenting a training program for potential volunteer team members.

**Dates:** February 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17, 2011

**Location:** Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Day Health Care Center, 1915 W. Park Drive, Suite 200, North Wilkesboro, NC.

**Time:** 6:00 pm—9:00 pm

For more information and to register, contact Hospice at 903-7700.

**Alleghany Connections Tutoring Program**—Looking for volunteers with Bachelor's degree to tutor 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Tutoring will take place at the Alleghany County Library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 pm. For more information and/or if interested, please contact LeAnn Joines at 657-1453.



**Sparta United Methodist Church Youth**—Our Youth are selling discount books for \$10.00 as a fund raising event. All coupons are for local Sparta businesses. If you are interested in supporting our youth program, please see any of the youth after church on Sunday or leave your contact information with the Casey McKenna or the church office and someone will get a book to you.

## Prayer Concerns ~ Please let the office know of any updates.

- Ongoing: Peace in the world; our pastor and our ministries; our Stephen Ministry leaders; Our country & leaders; Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan; Homeless; Oil Spill impact; Peggie King; Shirley Howell-cancer; Holmes Wilson; Ed Brady; John Boyer; Reiner; Cindy Blackburn-cancer; John Kilmartin's sister, Kathy-chemo; Ellen Church-health; Martha Thompson's sister, Carolyn; Karan Durham-cancer, Terry Marsh—cancer; Bobby Dean Caudill—cancer; Katy Finney—health/chemo; Walt Green—health; Jane Farr-health; L Roe Boyer-health;
- December 19: Bill Peters—mass in lung; a friend's mother; Gabriel Billings—kidney disease; Danny Boyer—health; Valerie—bipolar/depression;
- January 2: Camille Green—recovering from surgery; Charlie Pugh—health; J. D. Higgins—health; Gray Sloop's mother—surgery; Ann Braun—Karol Boyer's sister; several unspoken requests.
- January 16: Lisa Hawkins—additional upcoming surgery; William Hines—health; Ozzie Goulden—surgery; Dorothy Reeder—surgery; Unspoken.
- January 23: Larry Prince's friend, Terry; Scott Walker; Faye Reeves' great grandson—hospital; Charles Rudy's mother—biopsy; Sue Finney—cancer; Bill Barker—heart attack; Ellen Church—rest.

### Those HOMEBOUND or in NURSING HOMES

Jack Aycock	Sunbridge Retirement-Sparta
Lewis Bobbitt	Sunbridge Retirement-Sparta
Judy Church	Dobson
Boyd Farmer	Woodland Terrace, Cary NC
Arlene Heffley	Homebound
Thelma Jordan	Grayson Nursing/Rehab-Independence
Lou Landreth	Sunbridge Retirement-Sparta
Thomas Myers	Dobson
Tim Myers	Dobson
Arville Saintsing	Lexington, NC
Bobby Saintsing	Triad Nursing/Rehab-High Pt.
Margaret Saintsing	Lexington, NC
Virginia Setzer	Sunbridge Retirement-Sparta
Betty Turner	Blue Ridge Highlands -Galax
Josie Wilson	Sunbridge Retirement -Sparta





# UMW NEWS

Our United Methodist Women's Executive committee met in January to plan events for the upcoming year ahead. Our first decision centered around the question of circle groups. It was felt that we should leave our day and evening circle groups as they are, and make no changes this year. We made this decision so that no one will miss having a group they can be a part of. We encourage those who don't want to come out at night to join the day group meeting at 2:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month in the Woodruff classroom. Those who work or like to attend evening meetings, can come on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. to be a part of the evening circle that meets in the fellowship hall. Either way we invite you to join with us in our group of United Methodist Women! We would love to have you be a part of our group as we take part in missions work in the upcoming year.

Here are a few of the things we have planned. We will have two fundraisers for our missions work. The first will be a bake sale on Palm Sunday in April. In July, we will sponsor an auction in conjunction with our church family picnic. Our fall fundraiser, the Festival of Tables, will help to sponsor our UMW scholarship fund. We are planning a brunch or luncheon for a joint meeting in March, a tea in May to honor Mothers, and another day of hands-on mission work at the church in August. We will also serve one of the mission meals on the second Sunday.

In addition to these activities we have programs at our regular meeting times and encourage all our members to take an active role in our Reading program. New books have arrived for this year and Connie Amburn will be presenting our program on this topic at our February meeting. There are many District events you can be a part of as well. We are an active group and hope to have more women in our church participate with us!



\*We are delighted to report that two SUMC current Stephen Ministers, Jennifer Robinson and Larry Myers, attended the Stephen Series Leader's Training Course in Orlando, FL earlier this month. Before joining our congregation, Jennifer Robinson was a trained Stephen Minister for four years with her past congregation. Larry Myers was commissioned as a Stephen Minister by our congregation in May 2010. Larry serves as one of our Supervisory Facilitators. Jennifer and Larry will soon be commissioned as Stephen Leaders for our congregation. With the addition of Jennifer and Larry as Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministry Christian Caregiving program will be stronger than ever. Both Jennifer and Larry have strong leadership skills and the ability to function well on our Stephen Ministry team. With them on our team, we will be able to better serve our congregation and Stephen Ministers.

With the assistance of Jennifer and Larry, we will be organizing and completing plans for our second phase of in-house Stephen Ministry Training, which we hope to begin in February. Several members of our congregation are in line for the next training program. If you are interested in participating in the training program to become a Stephen Minister, please call Stephen Leader Delta (372-5838) ASAP for more details. There will be homework before the first training session.

There have been inquiries regarding the hand-painted tiles. For additional information, please pick up a flyer in the narthex. When you are ready to order, please complete the form on the flyer or the one below.

## **REQUEST FORM FOR DECORATIVE HAND PAINTED TILE(S)**

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

Number of tiles requested: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please include payment with request form.

Will you paint your own tiles? (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, you will be informed of dates for painting. All paints, brushes, etc. will be supplied.

I would like to have my tiles painted. (Yes or No) \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, call Delta to discuss your designs.

Please return your request form and payment to the Church Office or to Delta Peterson. If you have questions, call Delta Peterson at 336 372-5838.



# Methodists In The News!

- > Harry Snyder recalled his service in WWII in the Alleghany News. He was a co-pilot and pilot of a B-24. His first combat mission was an attack on Linz, Austria.
- > Director David Carpenter and Larry Prince, board member of the Solid Rock Food Closet, accepted a \$5,000 grant from Blue Ridge Electric Members Foundation and another \$5,000 from the Food Lion Charitable Foundation.
- > Yvonne Oliver, science teacher at Alleghany High School, told the County Board that a Wind Powering America Project was a "wind-wind" situation offered to Alleghany County Schools.
- > Forest Edwards is a new substitute teacher in the 21st Century Classroom.
- > Debbie Edwards taught a cooking class and Jane Calhoun taught math for the intersession activities week.
- > Everett and Rose Dukes helped the Lions Club prepare and deliver 14 boxes of food for visually impaired persons in Alleghany last month.
- > John Goudreau and Diane and Steve Zimmerman were part of the judging team for the Glade Creek students who participated in the "Vision of Peace" poster contest sponsored by the Lions Club International.
- > Jim Amburn is a new member serving on the Community Advisory Committee for Long Term Care.

- Linda Smith, historian

(From Pastor Bob Continued from page #2)

didn't. As I am typing this and the Blood Mobile is here, I thought I heard her voice, but I didn't. Yet I believe she can hear my voice when I say "Linda, I love and miss you old friend and trust I will see you again."

Remember friends, *be careful how you live . . .*

In the love of Christ Jesus,

*Bob*



# UMM News



The Sparta United Methodist Men continue fellowship through work with ongoing projects although at a slower pace during the snow of winter. The wood project has shifted more toward delivering wood instead of cutting, splitting and stacking as compared with warmer months.

Our monthly fellowship breakfast on January 16 was well attended with more than 25 in attendance. Larry Prince opened the meeting and called on Max Cox who gave the treasurer's report.

Dr. Jeff Cox provided information on mentoring programs in Alleghany Schools that have impacted children in a powerful way. He invited everyone to participate in a popular program called Lunch-room Buddies. The adult volunteer gets to be a role model by eating lunch the first 30 minutes on a regular basis and then following lunch with another 30 minutes to talk or tutor. The mentoring programs will become more critical to Alleghany's children as anticipated budget cuts reduce teachers' time with students on an individual basis.

Reverend Harry Snyder gave an inspirational program that challenged each of us to do the right thing when we witness or are involved in situations that call for going out of our way to help. He gave several examples of people who became good Samaritans in the moment. We need to be role models by sharing examples of people who have helped us when we needed assistance.

In conclusion, SUM Men are not planning to host the Valentines' dinner this year; but another function is being considered for a later time when the weather is not a threat. Everyone is invited to come to the next Men's breakfast on the third Sunday of February at 8:00 am. Remember, wives are invited so we can make one trip and enjoy all the programs for the day at Sparta United Methodist Church.



## Ongoing Monthly Ministries

Every Monday	Prayer Group	1:00 pm
Every Wednesday	Choir Practice	5:30 pm
Every 2nd Wednesday	UMW Evening	7:00 pm
Every 3rd Wednesday	UMW Sunshine	2:00 pm
Every 2nd Sunday	Mission Meal	12 noon
Every 3rd Sunday	UMM Breakfast	8:00 am
Last Wednesday	Fellowship Supper	6:30 pm

## Sparta United Methodist Church

Phone: 336-372-4441

Email: [office@umcsparta.com](mailto:office@umcsparta.com)



## Location

Activity Building - AB	Sanctuary - S
Fellowship Hall - FH	Choir Room - CR
Kitchen - K	Library - L
Woodruff Class - WC	Parking Lot - PL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		February 1	2	3	4	5
		5:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 6:30pm Girl Scouts (AB)	5:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Choir Practice (CR)			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion Sunday 9:00am & 11am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 12:00pm Mission Planning (FH) 5:30pm Youth (Fellowship)	1:00pm Prayer Group (L) 6:00pm Trustee Meeting	5:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 6:00pm Boy Scout Committee (Open) 7:00pm Boy/Cub Scout Roundtable (WC)	5:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Choir Practice (CR) 7:00pm UMW Night Circle			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00am & 11am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 12:00pm Mission Meal (FH) 5:30pm Youth (Woodruff SS) (AB)	1:00pm Prayer Group (L) 5:30pm Daisy-Girl Scouts (AB) 6:00pm Stephen Ministry	5:00pm Weight Watchers (FH) 6:30pm Girl Scouts (AB)	2:00pm UMW Sunshine Circle (WC) 5:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Choir Practice (CR)			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES D 8:00am UMM Breakfast (FH) 9:00am & 11am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Youth (Bible SS)	1:00pm Prayer Group (L)	5:00pm Weight Watchers (FH)	5:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Choir Practice (CR) 6:30pm Fellowship Supper (FH, K)			
27	28					
9:00am & 11am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 5:30pm Youth (UMM) (AB)	1:00pm Prayer Group (L) 5:30pm Daisy-Girl Scouts (AB) 6:00pm Stephen Ministry					