

THE CHAPEL CHATTER

Pastor's Corner

And Are We Yet Alive?

General Conference began in worship on April 24, 2012 singing this Charles Wesley hymn as every General Conference begins, as every annual conference including ours in North Carolina will begin. In the midst of the transitions and reorganizations of the general church and our annual conference, as well as the fear of our death as a denomination, I believe many in the church hear "Are we STILL alive?" I hear the question, "And Are We Yet Alive" differently. In this time of change, I hear, "Have we YET come fully into the life we have been called to live?" It is for me the question of seeds becoming fruit. The seed holds the promise of the fruit not yet fulfilled as there is a journey it must take from seed to roots to leaf then flower then fruit.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Refresh</i>	2
<i>Basic Information</i>	2
<i>VBS</i>	3
<i>Amy & Karin</i>	4
<i>Reading List</i>	4
<i>Calendar</i>	5
<i>In His Service</i>	6

And are we YET alive?

Plank Chapel is also on the journey to becoming. The seed was planted long ago, the roots now run deep into fertile soil and give strong nourishment to the body, leaves have sprouted and trees have grown over the years, fruit has been produced in various seasons, as well as pruning to bring about new growth. We are entering into a season of not YET fully alive, but awakening to the life into which God is calling us.

The Church Council met and the visions flowed out of hearts. Farmer's fields turned into ball fields was one vision offered for youth and adults to learn cooperation and community through sports. A larger kitchen for creating community meals with care for those we feed was another. Expanding classrooms for additional students through rearranging rooms that currently exist was one offered for our growth. A complex large enough to house a basketball court for youth and adults to learn and grow together was yet another.

Can you imagine this church as the community source for healing, for growth, for the transforming love of God moving through the disciples of Jesus Christ witnessing to those whom we seek and bring to the foot of the cross that they may know the Savior?

From these visions hearts turned towards the people we would reach and the resources we need to reach them. Primarily I heard that first we need people, people with a love of God and love of community willing to give their time, their talent, their treasure, and their witness. Discussed was the possibility of a paid part time youth leader in our future. Discussed was the reality of our financial situation that the time for a paid youth worker is not now. As we head towards the future God has in store for us we have the work of planning and preparing for growth, seeking out leaders, projecting future budgets to incorporate the growth of programs, the growth of staff, and the growth of the physical plant, as well as

pledging and committing to those budgets and growth.

Our visions and our growth need to be grounded in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. For me this means we need to strengthen that relationship as we build relationships with the community. This spring and summer let us be in prayer together as the various committees and teams prepare events, programs, small group studies, worship, and outreach that will strengthen our relationship with God and open opportunities for new relationships in the community. Prayer is the power source for the ministry at Plank Chapel United Methodist Church. Continue to lift up prayers for those you have chosen to lead as they work to create opportunities for us to be disciples and seek out the lost. Continue to lift up prayers for how God can use you to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Pastor Carolyn



REFRESH

Thank you to all who volunteered their time of leadership. Without you, we could not have made Refresh what it was to each of us. "Refresh is a life changing experience. I loved all the laughs and smiles we all shared together. I am very blessed to have Refresh and get to learn all the different types of prayers and song." Olivia Williams

Refresh has been a time of sharing, study, music, and growth. As the summer approaches us, Refresh will be taking a summer sabbatical. Please continue to pray with us as we plan for our next time of being refreshed in the Spirit! We hope you will join us as we venture out to what the Lord has in store for this time.

BASIC Information

Lock In May 4th —7pm directly after the Spaghetti dinner at church. Join in the food and fun. Home and sleep Saturday morning at 9 a.m.

Youth meeting at Pastor Carolyn's house on May 20th at 6:00 p.m. We will be talking about future fund raisers and events the Youth will be participating in.

Conference Youth Events Breakaway – June 18th – 23rd
ACS – July 16th – 21st
Pilgrimage Nov 9th – 11th
– We will again go and again camp!



cess of this event.

CHANGE THE WORLD

May 19th and 20th is Change the World weekend. How can you help change the world in a positive way?

Our Missions Team and Youth will be doing a Stop Hunger Now event on May 19th in the Education Building. We are collecting to raise money to feed the hungry. This event will begin at 10 A.M. And will take approximately 2 hours. The goal is to package 10,000 meals.



We are 19 days away. People are coming and churches are planning! We need 40 volunteers to complete this mission and ten able-bodied volunteers to arrive at 9:00 a.m. to help with setting up. The excitement is mounting!

We are within \$200 of meeting the goal of \$2500! Let's make this a blessing to thousands of people! What can you do to help us beat this goal?

Change for Mission

Food banks for Eastern and Central NC



Thank you Bell Ringers!



**Senior Circle
May 17
10:00 AM**



**RELAY FOR LIFE FUND RAISER
MAY 11TH
BBQ
PICK UP 11-2
\$7 PER PLATE
VANCE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
CONTACT
JODI BECKHAM
OR CALL
252-438-4119**



If you are looking for something to read this summer, here is one recommendation in addition to your study Bibles. Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations. By Alex and Brett Harris. Here is a quote from page 22 "Our uprising won't be marked by mass riots and violence, but by millions of individual teens quietly choosing to turn the low expectations of our culture upside down."



Opportunities to Serve

A.C.T.S.

- Volunteer at the YMCA
- Rebuilding Hope
- Volunteer at a Long Term Care Facility
- Volunteer at school
- Volunteer at church
- District or Conference Ministry
- Volunteer at the Library
- Help at a pet shelter
- Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteering with the Cancer Society

Community In Prayer

For... David Driver, James Deans, Jeanette McGhee, Teresa Hock, Faye Young, Sumner Smith, Charles Parsons Smith, Gerald Woodlief, Bo Fitts, Jane Owens, Henry Brown, Jackie Brown, Janet Bobbitt

For... Those facing medical procedures this month, lost and afraid, without food, jobs and shelter, healing and reconciliation.

For... our leaders, our teachers, our volunteers



Prayer Group

Plank Chapel prayer group meets the first Tuesday to pray for the Church, its members, the community and everyone who is in need.. The focus and method used by the group is adjusted as necessitated by the requests and movement of the Holy Spirit. Please join us in this very basic way of serving Jesus Christ.

Kay Deans

**Zeb Vance
Elementary School
BBQ Chicken
Fundraiser
June 1st**

ACTS FOOD PANTRY

Once again our supplies in the Food pantry are dwindling. We have been providing 7 to 10 voucher boxes of groceries per day to those in need and this is causing us a severe shortage. Our needs are as follows:

Canned Goods: Meat & seafood, soups (no broth), vegetables, spaghetti sauce, etc.

Peanut butter

Cereal, oatmeal, (both dry and hot)

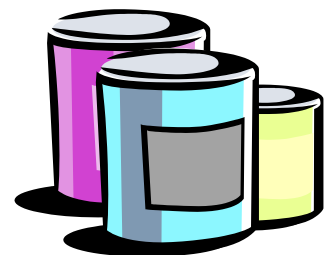
Pasta, Rice, Mac & Cheese, noodles, macaroni, etc.

Condiments: mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, etc. since we do provide both sandwich meat and bread to these clients.

Powdered or canned Milk

Thank you for your generosity and your continued support of the ACTS mission to feed the hungry.

Ann Jay
ACTS Chair of Church



Birthdays

3—Megan Young

8—Frances Woodlief, Jeanette McGhee

11—Joe Weaver

14—Hilma Smith, Morgan Oettinger,
Haywood Bumpass

15—Henry Finch, Scott Ritchey,
Bobby Newman

16—Matthew Denton

19—Karin Driver

22—Wayne Young

25—Arianna Fuller-Bell

29—Midge Smith, Tim Edwards

Anniversaries:

13—Bobby & Beverly Newman

21—Jay and Pat Fuller

**Vacation Bible
School—Coming June
18-22—Operation
Overboard—Dare to
go deep for God!**

**Volunteer Meeting—
May 20th 5:00 pm**





AMY



"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way because I hold you in my heart..." -
Philippians 1:3-7

I can hardly believe that just under a year ago, I was walking into your church for the first time. Across the past year, we have journeyed together, through VBS and Kerr Lake Kids Camp, through funerals and the birth of a child, through baptisms and confirmation and a new member, through youth retreats and events like 30 Hour Famine, through the BBQ Dinner, Christmas pageant, Valentine's Dinner, and Holy Week and Easter services. We have worshiped together for about 9 months, passing the peace of Christ, singing hymns and other songs to God, hearing the word of God preached, and sharing in Holy Communion. Through all of these things, I have gotten to know many of you. I feel so blessed by those who have opened your homes and your hearts to me, willingly sharing stories about your lives—your pas-

sions, your faith, your work, your family. And I also feel so blessed by your unwavering support and encouragement of me, one who was practically a stranger in your midst, yet you have loved me generously and have showed me more clearly what it means to be the Body of Christ called Church. Thank you so much for investing in my life, for giving me words of affirmation and challenges to grow as a person and as a future minister of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. As my field placement here ends, know that I will always remember you, and will carry you in my heart. May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Love in Christ,
Amy

K O R N E R
A
R
I
N'
S

Spring is such a wonderful time of year! It is a joy to watch the new growth, buds, blossoms and blooms. As I watch the new growth, I can't help but think of how God brings us through seasons of our Christian walk. We start out with a seed planted in our hearts by God. As our desire to know Him grows, we become like small seedlings, reaching out for His love and direction, perhaps with a little uncertainty to this new adventure, but God shows us His plan as we grow. Sometimes we may wilt a little but as he "waters" us, we grow stronger. Sometimes we feel "choked" from the "weeds" of sin but turn our eyes upon Him as our spirit is refreshed from His forgiveness. As we share His Word, the seeds are spread throughout His Kingdom and more "sprouts" grow. May your Spring be filled with many blossoms and beauty as God blesses each one of you!

And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes. Gen 40:10

GROWTH THROUGH STUDY

Study Bibles come in many translations and many emphases. The Wesley Bible focuses on Methodism. The New Interpreters' Study Bible is academically oriented. Then there are study Bibles for Men, for Women, for children, and for youth. A study Bible is a good tool for spiritual formation and growth.

The Academy for Christian Witness suggests these as good reads for growth in disciplinmaking. Pastor Carolyn has a copy of each for you to borrow. *Not a Fan. Becoming a completely committed follower of Jesus.* by Kyle Idleman. From the back

cover, "Not a Fan challenges you to consider what it really means to call yourself a Christian. With a direct frankness that you're not likely to hear in Sunday school class, Kyle invites you to take an honest look at your relationship with Jesus. His call to follow may seem radical to us, but Jesus desires it for every believer."

Becoming a Contagious Church: Increasing Your Church's Evangelistic Temperature. by Mark Mittelberg. From the back cover, "Provides a 6 stage process and assessment tool for taking your church beyond mere

talk to infectious energy, action, and lasting commitment." *Chasing Daylight: Seize the Power of Every Moment.* by Erwin Raphael McManus *The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but Living as If He Doesn't Exist.* by Craig Groeschel *Catch: A Churchwide Program for Invitational Evangelism.* by Debi Nixon with Adam Hamilton (program guide with DVD ROM)

Preparing for the United Methodist Women's School of Mission Pastor Carolyn has come across *Taking It to the Streets: Using the Arts to Transform Your Community.* by J. Nathan Corbitt and Vivian Nix-Early



MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7pm Prayer Group	2 7:00 pm Choir Practice	3 1:30 pm Holy time Bible Study National Day of Prayer	4 7pm lock in Kerr Lake Ministries Spaghetti dinner fund raiser 4:30-7:00pm Tickets \$5	5
6 Celebration Luncheon for our Field Education Student Amy Aycock	7	8	19 7:00 pm choir 	10 Holy time Bible Study 1:30pm Kittrell Community Watch—7:00 pm	11	12
13 Happy Mother's Day Special offering for Methodist Retirement Homes	14 7:00 pm—Missions Cmte	15	16 10 a.m. Senior Circle 7:00 pm choir	17 Holy time Bible Study 1:30pm	18	19 10am Stop Hunger Now
20 UMM meeting 8AM UWM 3pm Lay Leadership 4pm VBS Mtg 5:00 pm Youth meeting at the parsonage 6:00pm Dinner provided	21	22	23 7:00 pm Choir	24 Holy time Bible Study 1:30pm	25	26
27 Pentecost Sunday	28 Memorial Day 	29	30 7:00 pm Choir	31 No Bible Study		

WORSHIP
11:00 A.M.

CHURCH SCHOOL
10:00 A.M.

Plank Chapel United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 507
3047 Bobbitt Road
Kittrell, NC 27544

Phone: 252-492-1919
E-mail:
plankchapelumc@gmail.com

**CHECK US OUT
ON THE WEB:**

**www.plankcha
pel.org**

OPEN HEARTS.
OPEN MINDS.
OPEN DOORS.

May 19th
Stop Hunger Now
10 a.m.
Fellowship Hall
*Pledges due May 6th and May 13th—make
checks out to Stop Hunger Now*

In His Service this Month

Welcome our newest member to Plank Chapel United Methodist Church

Richard Coghill!

Flowers:

- 6—Jeannette Weaver & Ann Finch
- 13—United Methodist Men
- 20—Kay Deans
- 27—Angie Rowland

Altar Guild:

- Susan Sears
- Joe Sears

Greeters:

- 6—Michelle & Matthew Denton
- 13—Judy Eaves & Gwen Ritchey
- 20— Thomas & Jodi Beckham
- 27— Marilove Spencer & Frances Roberts

Lay Readers:

- 6—Mike Ranes
- 13— Amy Smith
- 20— Janet Bobbitt
- 27—Kay Deans

Ushers:

- Ben Brown
- Scott Ritchey
- Ryan Rowland
- Mike Ranes

Nursery :

- 6—Nancy and Kallie Jo Sears
- 13—Midge and Amy Smith
- 20—Judy Wilson & Laurie Miller
- 27— Rachel & Olivia Williams



Outreach:

- 6—Faye Woodlief and Judy Wilson
- 13—John Rogers and Patricia Fuller
- 20—Joe Weaver and Joe Sears
- 27—Mac Wilson and Richard Coghill

**Kerr Lake
Ministries
Spaghetti
Dinner
May 4th
4:30—7 pm
Tickets \$5**

