

Daddy's "Empty" Chair

*The following is an old but true story told many times.
May it speak to you as it did to me.*

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" said the father. The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because He promised, 'I will be with you always'. Just speak to Jesus in the same way you're doing with me right now.'"

"So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though if my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm." The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later, the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon. "Did he die in peace?" he asked. "Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?" The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I pray we could all go like that."

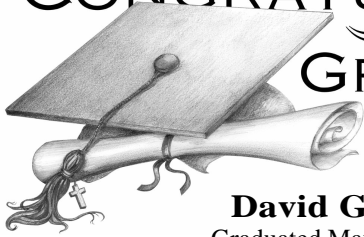
Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive...I asked God for water, He gave me the ocean. I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden. I asked God for a friend, He gave me you...If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, Thank God! "Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, Faith looks up." See you in worship on Sunday!

Peace and Blessings,



Rev. Aron

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



David Gibson

Graduated May 12, 2006
University of North Carolina-Greensboro
Master of Science in Information Technology and Management

Cortney Honeycutt

Graduated May 20, 2006 (Magna Cum Laude)
Elon University
BA in Sociology

Tom Meisenbach

Graduated December 2005
University of North Carolina-Asheville
Major in Sociology
Graduated June 2006
Basic Law Enforcement Training
Guilford Technical Community College-Jamestown
He will seek employment in Law Enforcement.

Susan Rhue

Graduated May 12, 2006
University of North Carolina-Greensboro
BS in Music

Jennifer Ann Rust

Graduated May 15, 2006
Wake Forest University
Doctor of Philosophy in Analytical Chemistry
She is currently in Oslo, Norway fulfilling an internship position with the pharmaceutical company, Alpharma. After returning to the US, she plans on accepting a post-doctorate position at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico or enter the consulting field.

Jessica Walker

Graduated June 9, 2006
Western Alamance High School
Plans to attend Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC and pursue a degree in Biology.



TAKE NOTE

★ *Loaves and Fishes* - For the month of July bring rice and canned meats.

♂♂♂ The Men-in-Mission, Men of Macedonia's will not meet again until September.

✂ The N&N's will not meet again until September.

🎯 M&M's will not meet again until September.

🚗 Macedonia's turn for the Alamance County Meals-on-Wheels Week is July 10-14.



The WELCA Circles will not meet again until September, please check the August newsletter for updated information.

The **WELCA Bible study** will meet on Tuesday, July 18, at 9:00 a.m. at the church.

The **WELCA Board** will not meet again until September.

Thank You!

"When I was in want . . . my needs were supplied by the people who came from Macedonia." This verse from Corinthians truly is our church family at Macedonia.

Diane and I would like to thank all of you who have included us in your prayers, brought us food, sent us cards, checked on us from time to time and simply had us in your thoughts. God has blessed me with friends, good doctors and a very strong, caring wife; without which I could not have survived this ordeal. Currently, I am cancer free and enjoying my retirement and granddaughter, Burkley, as well as lots of golf (and too much yard work.) Life is wonderful. "Health is Wealth." Thanks be to God.

Dave Robinson

**The Fellowship Committee
is sponsoring a trip to the
Indians Baseball
Game!**

Sunday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m.

**Tickets \$11.00 per person
and includes all you can eat hotdogs, pizza,
chips, popcorn, soft drinks and bottled water.**

Please call the church office at 227-5554,

**MACEDONIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL FUND
May 31, 2006**

	Current Month	Year To Date	Annual Budget	(Over) Under Budget
BEGINNING BALANCE	(14,908.06)	\$ 160.98		
TOTAL RECEIPTS	27,515.58	116,566.08	-	(116,566.08)
DISBURSEMENTS:				
Benevolence	2,808.08	12,360.32	42,000.00	29,639.68
Total Staff Salaries	16,030.96	82,190.53	191,554.00	109,363.47
Total Property & Managing	5,246.73	36,426.83	93,375.00	56,948.17
Total Serving	-	25.35	600.00	574.65
Total Worshipping	127.26	3,161.57	17,700.00	14,538.43
Total Nurturing	26.82	1,976.42	14,200.00	12,223.58
Total Proclaiming	185.88	173.57	1,215.00	1,041.43
Total Unbudgeted Disbursements	335.36	(7,433.96)	(7,433.96)	
Total Disbursements	24,761.09	128,880.63	353,210.04	224,329.41
ENDING BALANCE	<u>(12,153.57)</u>	<u>(12,153.57)</u>		

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Mark 12:31

Love takes effort. Are you struggling to love someone?

Christ says, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Who is our neighbor? A colleague, congregational member, someone who lives blocks, miles or a nation away? We are quick to make excuses, such as hectic schedules, rude people and different values and lifestyles, to justify our inability to love. When we are physically, emotionally or spiritually exhausted, it is even more difficult to love our neighbor.

Being well, socially and interpersonally, begins with knowing and loving ourselves. Caring for our body, mind and spirit and nurturing our relationships with ourselves, our neighbor and God helps us live a balanced life. Increasing our physical activity, decreasing caloric intake and living prayerfully balances our lives and equips us to love more fully.

Relationships are difficult and require nurturing, prayer, energy, time and care. We all need people who support, protect and love us. We are a lean-to for others. When we struggle, it is easy to lose sight of Christ, our lean-to, who walks with us and strengthens and loves us unconditionally. Christ shields our hearts, minds and souls from life's daggers.

Summer is a time of recreation, vacation and family reunions. Reach out to someone who works, worships or lives beside you. Imagine a world in which each of us pray for and connect with our neighbor, extending Christ's arms in this world. Live well. Love your neighbor as yourself!

Tammy Devine, *Diaconal Minister and ELCA Wellness Coordinator*

**What do you feel when you hear
Christ laid down his life for you?**

Regina died at age 92, more than 50 years after her older son was classified as missing in action, and nearly 10 years after her younger son succumbed to cancer. At any mention of her sons' deaths she would say, “If only I could have gone in their place . . .” Though she lacked the power to give her life for her children, she experienced a love that understood such sacrifice.

The Bible presents the shepherd as a compassionate guide who protects his sheep with a parent's fierce devotion. Before shepherding his people through the wilderness, Moses shepherded sheep. David played his lyre in the pastures before he soothed Saul with his music. Both leaders tended sheep before they were entrusted with people.

Sheep in the ancient world were not fenced in or left alone to gaze—they were utterly dependent on the shepherd's care. Relying on the shepherd for their every need, the sheep followed him faithfully and responded instinctively to the sound of his voice. Psalm 23 relates the abundant comforts of a shepherd's capable leading.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Providing far more than the skills of a trustworthy caretaker, he lays down his life for his sheep. While Regina was without power to lay down her life for her sons, she did have the power to take up her grief and seek out others who needed protection. For the next 50 years, she cradled her losses and her new lambs with tenderness, just as the Good Shepherd cradled her.

Happy Birthday!

7/02 Richard Johnson
7/02 Gordon Kidd
7/03 Zayn Nicola
Violet Patton
Alyse Tickle
7/05 Shannon Harris
7/06 Eric Neal
7/07 James Brannock, Jr.
Jacob Ingle
Jenni Rust
7/08 Les Van Fleet
7/09 Harry Boley, Jr.
Tut Davis
7/10 Lib Jones
Meghan McDermott
Liz Peter
7/12 Carlton Boland
Addie Cobb
Carol Davis
7/13 Ron Reeger
Sarah Beth Schumacher
7/14 Jane Cleary
LaVonne Rhue
Zane Van Fleet
7/16 Amy Bozeman
Chet Efird
7/17 Jerry Bryant
7/18 Mary Barbara McClintock
Julie Rhue
7/19 Geneva Hawley
7/20 Jason Bryant
7/21 Joel Rust
7/23 Michael Lynch
7/24 Boyd Black
7/25 Pastor Rust
7/26 Elizabeth De Loache
Sylvia Harris
John Owen
7/27 Dylan McGuire
7/28 Maura Easter
Maddie Johnson
7/29 Estelle Garrison
Salvatore Knapp
Rune Simeonsson
7/30 Frank Ebert
7/31 Robert Bossons
Paige Moore

Memorials & Honorariums

Below are listed gifts
received since May 14, 2006.

Designated for the General Fund:

In memory of Alice Sigmon by Theresa Greene and family; Macedonia's Ladies Bible Class.

In honor of Dollie Horn by Macedonia Ladies Circle #5.

Designated for the Organ Fund:

In memory of Carolyn Martin by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fogleman.

In memory of Edna Fuqua by Mr. and Mrs. Terry Woodings.

Designated for the Lewis Bowling Fund:

In memory of Lewis Bowling by Mr. and Mrs. Charles DeBoard; Mr. and Mrs. Terry Woodings; Jacque and Tommy Britt; Estelle Evans; Phyllis George; Mrs. Louise Dodson; Macedonia Women's Group #4; Mrs. Eloise Bryan; Mr. and Mrs. Ira Murrie.



The Evangelism Committee asks Macedonia members to remember the following people and their care-givers in their prayers.

Home Bound Member:

Mary Barbara McClintock

Nursing or Assisted Living Facilities:

Members: Margaret Foster, room 306B, Twin Lakes Health Care Center; Rev. Frank Ebert, room 304B, Twin Lakes Health Care; Charlotte Bivens, Apt. 106A, Twin Lakes; Elizabeth Pickard, room 227, The Homeplace; Sara Norcom, room 116, Britthaven of Guilford; Maurice Peace, room 258, Twin Lakes Health Care Center; Lena Fisher, room D3, Presbyterian Home of Hawfields; Bunny Webb, room 319, Twin Lakes Health Care; Evelyn Apple, room 228, Twin Lakes Health Care; Helen Hollingsworth, room 276, Twin Lakes Health Care..

Friends: Beulah Stone, Twin Lakes Center.

Visits would be enjoyed by many of these, but please check before visiting.

If you know of those whose names should be added to this list, please call the church office at 227-5554. Your help would be appreciated.



CRUZANDO

Journey with Jesus

WOW! It is here! Hard to believe! One year ago we were talking about starting our journey with Jesus ... and now it is TIME TO GO TO SAN ANTONIO! We will leave from Raleigh-Durham at 6 a.m. (yep, 6 AM) on Wednesday, July 12 (maybe you can help drive us to the airport??!!), and we will return on Monday, July 17 at 1:00 p.m.

To give you an idea of what we will be doing on our Journey with Jesus, here are the daily themes that will guide our Bible studies and activities:

Day 1: Jesus nos encuentra (encounters us), based upon Luke 1:46-55. The focus phrase is WAKE UP! The theme is that God humbles us and God exalts us.

Day 2: Jesus encounters us in our prójimo/a (neighbor), based upon Luke 10:25-37. The focus phrase is LOOK AROUND! The theme is to love the stranger.

Day 3: Jesus encounters us en la Cruz (on the Cross), based upon John 20:19-29. The focus phrase is TURN AROUND! The theme is that we view the world through the cross.

Day 4: Jesus encounters us en la Frontera y en la Fiesta (on the border and in the feast), based upon Exodus 14:1-14, I saiah 43:16, 18-19. The focus phrase is CROSS OVER! The theme is with Jesus we travel into the unknown.

Day 5: Vaya con Dios (Go with God), based upon Acts 2:1-21. The focus phrase is GO WITH GOD! The theme is that journeying with Jesus changes the world.

As of June 15, we still need \$7,363.85 toward our goal of \$24,698.80 for this trip for 21 people. We will continue to accept contributions for this spirit-filled trip until we leave in July. We give thanks for the support of the Macedonians as we worked our way towards the goal! Thank you!

Please keep these kids and kids-at-heart in your thoughts and prayers as we JOURNEY WITH JESUS!

Josh Gibbons
Peter Gunyan
Grey Hunley
Mikhala McMasters
Kalan Neal
Melissa Reeger
Brian Schumacher
Spencer Voelkert

John Greeson
Landis & Reid Huffman
Meghan McDermott
Erin, Greg and Julie Myers
Artie & Ashley Pryer
Joel, Joy and Pastor Rust
Ben Scott

Stay tuned ... we will share our journey with you when we return!

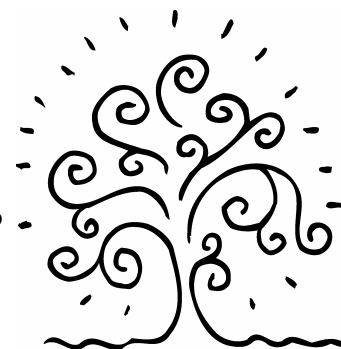
GREY WHITTAKER HUNLEY, a lifelong member of Macedonia, is a rising sophomore at Williams High School. His favorite part of the school day is lunch, and homework is his least favorite. He enjoys youth group, reading magazines, and loved traveling to Alaska. He hopes to visit Hawaii someday. Rock music is his favorite, and crab legs are his favorite food. John 3:16 is a special verse to Grey, and blue is his favorite color. "The Simpsons" is Grey's favorite TV show, and he is happiest when he gets good grades. Bad grades creates sadness in his life. We give thanks for Grey and his witness, and for bringing his friends to youth group with him.

PETER JAMES GUNYAN is a rising sophomore at Williams High School, where he dislikes the food, and most likes the bells! He has attended Macedonia for 11 years, and really enjoys the youth group. If he could change something at our church, it would be the time of the early service (earlier??). He has enjoyed visiting Myrtle Beach, and hopes to someday visit Hawaii. In the meantime Charlotte is his favorite place to visit. He enjoys reading fiction, and likes any kind of music except country. Peter's favorite hymn is "Amazing Grace," and Psalm 23 is special to him. Mexican food is his favorite, soccer is one of his talents, and red is his favorite color. "24" is Peter's favorite TV show, Tom Cruise his favorite actor, and Al is his favorite friend. He is smiling a lot right now because he is happiest when the end of school signals the beginning of summer! Guess when he is saddest? (Yes, you're right! When school starts again!) We are thankful for Peter's rock solid faith and his participation at Macedonia.



We look forward to once again welcoming a group of men from The Triad Harmony Express to Macedonia on July 16. Our own Roger Meisenbach is a member of this group. They came last year and were well received at Macedonia, and we are thrilled they will return once again.

Another Burning Bush



A church youth group in Arizona went to New Mexico to fix up homes for low-income Native-Americans. When they returned, one of the teenage boys spoke during a worship service. He told the congregation about the good the group had done, but he also told about a unique spiritual experience that he'd had.

The group had held vespers outdoors each day as the sun set. One day as dusk approached, he noticed a dead bush that seemed to demand his attention. He was fascinated because the bush glowed as though it had a large glistening ruby in its branches. For him it was an epiphany, a unique memorable revelation of the presence of God. It was a spiritual event that burned deeply into his spirit.

From a burning bush, God once summoned Moses to do his bidding. Like Moses, this boy experienced something special. His heart and mind were open to the call. Are we prepared to notice burning bushes along life's way?

Congregational Meeting Sunday, July 23

Schedule for the day will be as follows:

Early Service 8:15-9:00

No Sunday School

Congregational Meeting 9:00-10:15

Late Service 10:30

Bishop Bolick will be here to preach at both services and to conduct the congregational meeting. During the meeting he will share the results from the Synod Lead Listening Post. Please make plans to attend.

A Barrier to Truth

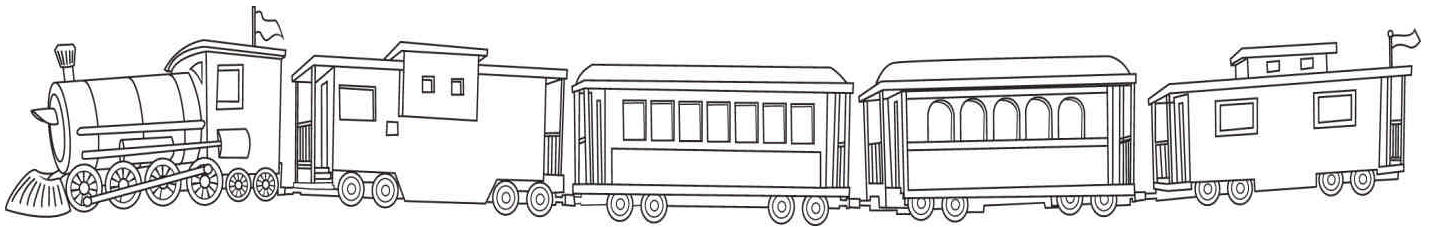
Some people want to see God with their eyes as they see a cow, and to love Him as they love their cow — for the milk and cheese and profit it brings them. This is how it is with people who love God for the sake of outward wealth or inward comfort. They do not rightly love God, when they love Him for their own advantage. Indeed, I tell you the truth, any object you have in your mind, however good, will be a barrier between you and the inmost Truth.

—Meister Eckhart



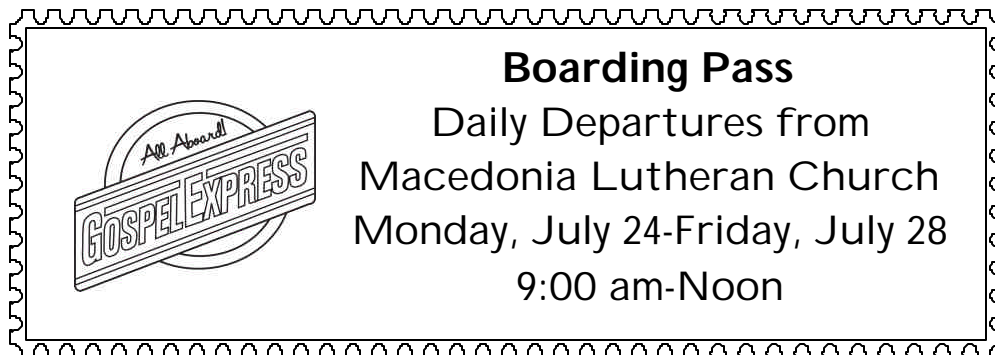
Congratulations!

David W. Parks, son of Hugh & Sue Parks, was elected to the Dean's List at East Carolina University for the 2006 Spring Semester.



All Aboard God's Celebration Train!

*"We will celebrate and praise you, Lord!
You are good to us, and your love never fails." Psalm 106:1*



The ***Gospel Express*** is coming to Macedonia this summer! All kids from the ages of 4 through fifth grade are invited to Get on Board for a week full of fun, faith and fellowship. We'll be listening to bible stories, making crafts, learning new songs, and playing games. It's sure to be an amazing journey, bringing us closer together and closer to God. **REGISTER TODAY!**

Adults and Teens: Get on Board the ***Gospel Express***, too!

We need lots of rail workers to keep the train on the track! Jobs available include: Group leaders, Craft leader & assistants, Snack preparers, Bible story leaders, Games leader & assistants, and many more. **VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

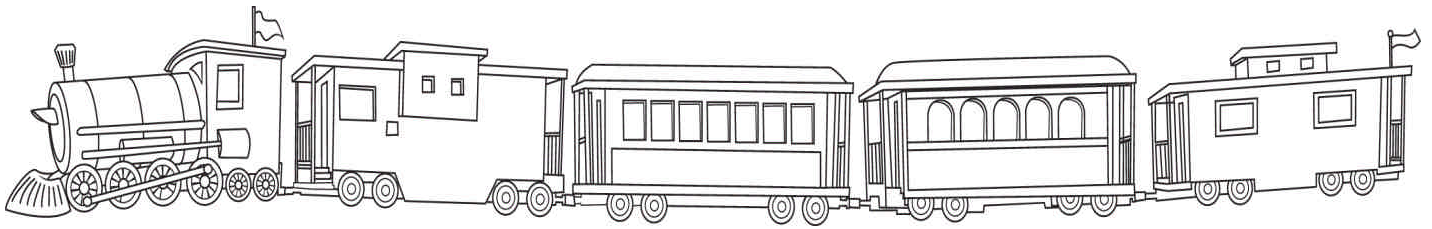
Register/Volunteer by completing the form on the back, then drop it in the collection plate or take it by the church office. Questions? Call Leah Bass at 584-0266.



Please consider also helping us out by saving/donating the following craft items:

- | | |
|--|---|
| large craft sticks | fabric ribbon |
| or tongue depressors | curling ribbon |
| index cards (3x5) | tissue paper (bright colors) |
| old puzzle pieces | non-latex balloons (not water balloons) |
| cardboard tubes (paper towel or toilet tissue) | |
| bags of various wrapped candies | |
| fabric paints | |

Please place items in the box marked "VBS" beside the church office. Thanks!



Gospel Express Registration/Volunteer Form

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Child's Age: _____ Birthday: _____ Last Grade Completed: _____

In case of Emergency (when Parent/Guardian can not be reached) please contact

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Relationship to child: _____

.....

Are you willing to volunteer during VBS? Yes No

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Please circle one or more of the following:

I want to teach.

I want to help with crafts.

I can help with serving/making snacks.

I will help with games.

Other



A NEW HYMNAL IS COMING!!

You may have noticed a large poster at church announcing the new hymnal of the ELCA: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). The Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW), frequently referred to as “the green book,” came out in 1978, so it has been almost 30 years since the ELCA has had a new hymnal. Before the green book we had “the red book,” the Service Book and Hymnal (SBH), which debuted in 1958. There have been several worship supplements, such as With One Voice (WOV) in 1995 and This Far by Faith in 1999, which are used to enrich worship. Over the past five years you have read and heard about the process of preparing a new hymnal, as well as songs from the book Renewing Worship, which has been part of the process to develop the ELW.

The new ELW becomes available October 1. The Worship and Music Committee, along with the Church Council, is excited about this new hymnal and the many possibilities it offers. We can take advantage of a pre-publication price until September 30. After October 1 the price increases \$3.00 per book.

As previously in Macedonia’s history, members are invited to purchase a hymnal(s) in memory or honor of a loved one. If the hymnal is paid prior to September 27, the price will be \$25 per hymnal. This includes the purchase of the hymnal, imprinting “Macedonia Lutheran Church” on the cover, shipping and handling as well as a small amount towards the other materials that need to be purchased for the use of the new hymnals. After September 27, the cost will be \$28.00 per hymnal.

What is this new hymnal going to look like? It will be the same size as the LBW, only it will be cranberry. The imprinting will be silver, and although the size of the book will be the same, there will be approximately 300 more pages in the new hymnal. There will be 10 liturgies in the hymnal: two settings from our current hymnal, one setting that has been “renewed” from the SBH (“the old red hymnal”), several new liturgies, one from the Latino culture and one from the African American culture.

There will be over 700 hymns in ELW, with 200 new hymns and worship songs that are not currently in the LBW and WOV. There will be hymns from the LBW (53%), With One Voice (20%), Renewing Worship (21%) and 6% from other cultures and styles. In comparison, our current hymnal has 569 hymns.

We must have at least 250 new hymnals purchased and delivered before we can begin using them. To order your hymnals prior to the price increase, please check the Narthex or stop by the church office for an order form. Please complete a form for **EACH** hymnal you want to purchase, making sure to indicate legibly how you would like the nameplate inside the front cover of the hymnal to read. Make checks payable to Macedonia, marking it for a new hymnal, put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or bring it by the church office during the week **no later than Wednesday, September 27**.

... and then some

Shortly after a business executive retired, someone asked him what had been the secret of his success. He chuckled softly, and then said that it could be summarized in three words: “... and then some.”

He explained that he had learned early in his career that the top people in any group were those who did what was expected of them ... and then some.

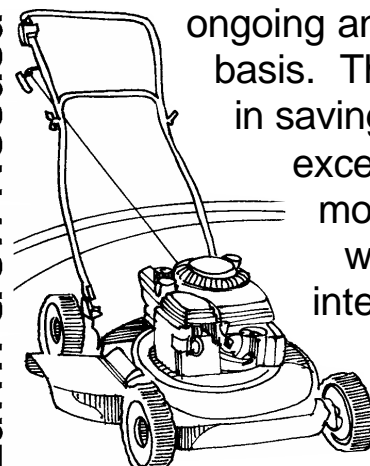
Such people worked diligently, efficiently, faithfully ... and then some. They were thoughtful and kind to others ... and then some. They were reliable friends who could be counted on ... and then some. If an emergency came, they tried to do their share to deal with it ... and then some. In short, they were more than ordinary people, they tried to be extraordinary.

That is precisely what Jesus expected and still expects of his followers. When he was teaching his friends about loving and serving others (see Matthew 5:43-48), he included these words, “What more are you doing than others?” (v. 47, NRSV).

Christians do what is required ... and then some.

The Property Committee is looking into establishing a **Grounds Committee** responsible for mowing, raking leaves, etc. The need for volunteers would be

Lawn Crew Needed



ongoing and on a weekly basis. This could result in saving the church in excess of \$400 per month. If you are willing, able and interested, please contact Bryan Pennington at 584-8514.

Did you know that the Cherub, Melody and Macedonia Ringers each had 36 practices this year? Wow! Sylvia and Joy met with a dedicated group of children (*thanks to very supportive parents*) a total of 36 Tuesdays from September to May! The only time we did not meet was when the school calendar had a Tuesday holiday (which was only three times!). The three choirs sang and rang a combined total of 24 times to enhance worship at Macedonia! We are grateful for the following children who gave their time and talents to glorify God through music:

- Tabitha Bass
- Maddie & Sarah Bass
- Bailey Claypool
- Marissa & Aidan Gibson
- Maddie Johnson
- Maren McDermott
- Ruthie & Sarah McGee
- Beasley, Hiatt & Sam Nester
- Will Owen
- Christine Perry



Just For Laughs

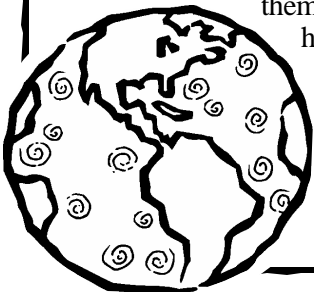
One day God was looking down at Earth and saw all of the sinful behavior that was going on. So God called one of the angels and sent the angel to earth for a time. When the angel returned, he told God, "Yes, it is bad on earth; 99% are misbehaving and only 1% are not."

God thought for a moment and said, "Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion." So God called another angel and sent her to earth for a time too.

When the angel returned she went to God and said, "Yes, it is true. The earth is in decline; 99% are misbehaving, but 1% are being good."

God was not pleased. So God decided to e-mail the 1% that were good, because God wanted to encourage them, give them a little something to help them keep going.

Do you know what the e-mail said? Okay, I was just wondering. I didn't get one either . . .




Thanks, Choir!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Family Choir experiment in June. Based upon the feedback from everyone, congregation and singers alike, we hope to do it again in the future. We are also hoping that some of you might be inspired to join the choir in August when the Chancel Choir resumes its Wednesday night rehearsals.

A special "Thank You" to all who have participated in Chancel Choir throughout the 2005-2006 season (hopefully we haven't missed anyone's name – please let us know if we did):

- Howard Bond
- Mary Anne & Larry Dettman
- David and Sheila Gibson
- Mikhala McMasters
- Janet & Roger Meisenbach
- Bruce & Yoko Moore
- Zeta Mills
- Debbie Riggs
- David Schumacher
- Rune Simeonsson
- Ned and Lisa Thigpen
- Sharon Walker
- Yvonne White

Also, a "Thank You" to the Reformation Ringers who did a stupendous job throughout the year dazzling us with their ringing!

- Randi Dunn
- Cheryl English
- Peggy Fogleman
- Sheila Gibson
- Xylda Gee
- Pattie Graves
- Debbie Gunyan
- Kay and Maddie Johnson
- Ruth Matkins
- Gail McKee
- Kelly Schumacher
- Spencer Voelkert

The ringers also had "Super Subs" that we'd like to thank:

- Angie Gilliam, Mikhala McMasters,
- Joy Rust and Brian Schumacher.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the Music Ministry at Macedonia!

NORTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 1-3, 2006

Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, N.C.

THEME

“Living in God’s Amazing Grace—Celebrating the Ordination and Ministry of Women”

This year’s convention was filled with meaningful worship services and many celebrations of God’s amazing grace as various committees and boards reported on the different aspects of our life together as Lutherans in this place we call North Carolina. The business of the Synod moved along easily with little controversy. Total registration reached 754. This included 273 clergy, 12 associates in ministry, 2 diaconal ministers, 365 lay voting members and 85 visitors and guests.

WORSHIP: It seemed everyone was talking about the worship services! Using liturgy settings and hymns from the new ELCA hymnal due out this fall from Augsburg Fortress (our Lutheran publishing house), we went through the church year. We started with Reformation Sunday for the first service Thursday afternoon, and ended with Pentecost Saturday morning. The chancel settings changed with the different liturgical colors each time and were absolutely stunning and very worshipful. (See some pictures outside the church office.) We found the liturgies very easy and singable, and usually very familiar; the same for most of the hymns we used.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY: Since we were spotlighting women in ministry, both ordained and lay, women led the worship services as presiding ministers, preachers, and lectors. The Rev. Dr. Mary Havens, Professor of Church History at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, delivered the first sermon in which she pointed out two events in our Christian heritage that involved a hammer and nails—Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection, and Martin Luther’s bold witness with his 95 theses. Both events showed God’s wondrous love and grace, and both caused the world to change forever.

Dr. Susan McArver, associate professor of educational ministry and church history at Southern Seminary, led us in her keynote presentation through a thoughtful, historic journey of women in ministry, from the days of Jesus to the present ordained pastors. The Rev. Margarita Martinez, bishop of the Caribbean Synod of the ELCA, served as representative of the church at large and of Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. As such, she brought greetings and highlighted examples of the ELCA at work in various ways. Bishop Martinez also preached at the Friday night service where three women were designated for ministry—one ordained as a pastor, one consecrated as a deaconess, and one commissioned as a lay associate in ministry.

AGAPE+KURE BEACH MINISTRIES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: The Synod kicked off its three-year capital campaign for Camp Agape and Kure Beach outdoor ministries entitled “**Go Camp! Building What the Church Needs.**” The goal is \$2 million to build new facilities at both locations, with a challenge goal of \$2,570,000. Already, \$652,000 has been given or pledged. Agape is located in the Triangle area near Fuqua-Varina and has furnished counselors several summers for Macedonia’s Day Camp. We learned that North Carolina is the only synod in the ELCA with outdoor ministry locations at both the mountains and the coast. Watch for more details as the campaign unfolds.

HERE AND THERE: Exciting things are happening all over the NC Synod in many arenas, as we learned through reports from committees, agencies, institutions, and staff. A few of them we shall spotlight here. However, more information is available online from the synod website at www.nclutheran.org. Look for the link to the 2006 Assembly.

Men in Mission: For the past 14 years, NC Lutheran Men in Mission has been raising \$1 million to endow a Professorship in Bible and Mission at Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. They finally reached this goal and presented the money to the Synod. The next project for the men will be raising \$75,000 to renovate the Walter Yount Retreat House at Camp Agape.

Youth: Going to the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas this July will be 1,131 North Carolinians, including some of our Macedonia youth.

WELCA: The women supported three big projects last year: Costa Rican Lutheran Church, Camp Noah, for children traumatized by natural disasters, and Living Water Lutheran Church in Cherokee.

Lenoir-Rhyne College: Dr. Wayne Powell, president of the College and host for the Assembly, shared some accomplishments of the school, faculty and students that have received national recognition for academic excellence and for its “unparalleled quality of caring.” After Hurricane Katrina, L-R was the only Lutheran school out of 28 in the country to offer a college experience free of charge. Thirteen displaced students came to LRC last fall and were granted free tuition, room, board and books by the college. Lenoir- Rhyne also leads the way among ELCA schools for sending students on to seminary.

Lutheridge-Lutherock: These two outdoor ministries in western NC now have year-round facilities through a recent \$8 million expansion. A large multipurpose building at Lutheridge, the last piece of this building program, will begin in August following the camping program. Campfirmation programs can now be offered all year through week-end retreats.

Missions: With so many areas of North Carolina growing rapidly, the Synod is striving to plant new mission congregations. Four currently underway with pastors in place are Living Water Lutheran Church, Cherokee; Church of Light Lutheran, Knightdale; Grace Point Lutheran, Pittsboro; and Joy of Discovery Lutheran in southeast Raleigh. Three more areas have been approved for development: northeast Guilford County (Brown Summit area), southeast Charlotte (Mint Hill area), and uptown Charlotte (an African-descent congregation). Currently, there are 236 congregations, four missions, and four other synodically authorized worshipping communities.

Look for summary reports posted at Macedonia. Many more exciting things going on in the life of the church in NC and throughout the ELCA and the world can be found in reports of committees and staff. Please contact us if you have any questions we can help with.

Don and Ruth Matkins, Delegates

DETERMINED TO BE DETERMINED

"You gotta be determined to be determined." So said America's favorite philosopher, Yogi Berra. As usual, he makes a good point, and we are wise to remember that determination often spells the difference between success and failure, between achievement and disappointment. Consider these wise (or, at least, entertaining) words from some insightful men and women . . .

People of mediocre ability sometimes achieve outstanding success because they don't know when to quit. —George Allen

Don't get discouraged; it's usually the last key in the bunch that opens the lock. —Anonymous

It's easier to go down a hill than up it, but the view is much better at the top. —Henry Ward Beecher

Never give in! Never give in! Never, never, never, never—in great or small, large or petty. Never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. —Winston S. Churchill

What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog. —Dwight D. Eisenhower

The best way out is always through. —Robert Frost

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do. And what I should do, by the grace of God, I will do. —Edward Everett Hale

We will either find a way, or make one. —Hannibal

Fall seven times; stand up eight. —Japanese Proverb

Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. —Helen Keller

Nobody ever drowned in his own sweat. —Ann Landers

The Lord gave you a body that can stand most anything. It's your mind you have to convince. —Vince Lombardi

Never let your head hang down. Never give up and sit down and grieve. Find another way. And don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines. —Leroy "Satchel" Paige

It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But, above all, try something. —Franklin D. Roosevelt

The miracle, or the power, that elevates the few is to be found in their perseverance under the promptings of a brave, determined spirit. —Mark Twain

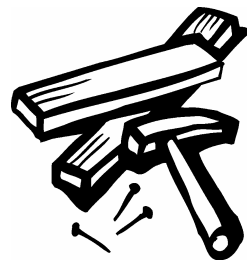
Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. —Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

Just A Thought

- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
- It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.
- Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.
- Peace starts with a smile.
- Why do some people change churches; does it really make a difference which one you stay home from?!
- We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

“Nails In The Fence”

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy drove 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.



Finally the day came when the boy did not lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone from the fence.

The father said, “You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like these scars on the fence.”



The Macedonian

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Church

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Twin Lakes Center

Executive Director—Mr. Charles Harris
Dir., Pastoral Services—Rev. Craven Ford

JULY, 2006

Deadline for August, 2006

Newsletter—7/15/06

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

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his home phone at 585-0666.

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Macedonia Lutheran Church

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