

theConnection

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CARY

Sharing the Heart and Making Disciples

For 101 years, First UMC Cary has staffed a little diner at the annual North Carolina State Fair. White Plains UMC joined us about fifty years ago. Our fair booth provides funds for special or extraordinary projects or ministries which impact the communities regularly served by First UMC Cary that are not supported by our budget. The fair booth proceeds committee has identified two ministries (Pardoned by Christ and A Place at the Table) to be supported by this year's proceeds.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE is a pay-what-you-can café serving the Raleigh area. Maggie Kane, Executive Director, said, "Our mission is to provide community and healthy food for all, regardless of means. We are using the successful pay-what-you-can café model created by the One World Every Body Eats Foundation. There are more than 60 of these unique cafés successfully operating in the US. The model allows patrons to pay for their meal in one of five ways: to pay what they can afford, to pay a suggested donation, to pay what they would typically pay plus a donation, to pay specifically for someone else's full meal, or to pay by volunteering. We are currently assessing locations with a goal to be operating at a permanent location in 2017."

Pastor of Outreach Ministry, Rev. Colin Snider, said, "A place at the table is a ministry after my own heart. I believe that table fellowship is transformative. As Christians we gather around the Lord's Table and experience grace, we gather around dining room tables for fellowship, and we should always be on the lookout for ways to extend the table. This ministry is an opportunity to extend the table as it provides community, and affordable, healthy food for all God's children."

PARDONED BY CHRIST'S mission is to reach out to people who, directly or indirectly, are affected by incarceration, and want to receive the love and provision that is found in Jesus Christ. Church member John Peters, said, "Several years ago I saw an article in the News & Observer about PBC and my wife and I got engaged in their Family Support Ministry, which helps people with an incarcerated family member or friend. I now provide administrative support for both the board and the executive director, and am also responsible for the annual celebration and fundraising breakfast, and provide Internet Technology support for the Transition House – a residence for newly released offenders. Our volunteers work with several correctional institutes in the greater Triangle area. We lead weekly bible studies and Sunday services, coordinate Community Pass volunteers (who mentor and accompany adult inmates on community leave), and we offer a Family Support Ministry. This semi-monthly meeting gives parents a knowing, loving, Christian support group to talk to.

"PBC currently has one Transition House for newly released Christian offenders. We have a house manager to help them get their lives back on track, get job and technical training, and assist in job hunting. We partner with several other groups in the Wake area to provide training, clothing, and mentoring. The Transition House has Bible studies four nights a week and we provide assistance for substance abuse. Our request for support is for our second Transition House, which will give eight to ten newly released offenders a home to go to upon release from prison."

Additional ministries to be supported will be identified after the NC State Fair. If you or your group has a funding request, please email it to committee chair Maureen Sawchak, mwsawchak@gmail.com by December 31, 2016.

– Lori Barmer



*Sharing the heart
of Christ from the
heart of Cary.*

OCTOBER 14, 2016

WORSHIP:

Sunday Sanctuary:
8:25, 9:45, & 11:05am

Sunday Celebration:
11:11am

117 South Academy Street
Cary, NC 27511

Sunday 1st on Chatham:
9:45 and 11:05am

The Cary, 122 E. Chatham
Street, Cary, NC 27511

office:

(919) 467-1861

pastor on call:

(919) 467-1862

firstcary.com

Lori Barmer
Communications Coordinator

OUR MISSION

*To make disciples of
Jesus Christ who grow in
faith and love through
worship, fellowship, service
and witness to one another
and the world.*



Church Council: Christian Formation Chair

Steve Simpson is the new chair of the Christian Formation team. The team's purpose is to lead adults, in all stages of life, to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God. They assist others by providing opportunities to relate to God, and each other, through worship, prayer and discipleship.



"Christian Formation is the process of change that happens within the heart, mind and soul of a person as God works to make them more Christ-like," said Steve. "There are many ways in which we can be formed as Christians, and our team is currently working on a discipleship plan that will help to ensure that the people in our church 1) fully understand Christian Formation, and 2) have guidance and assistance in finding the ways that will most *naturally* help them engage in the process of positive change."

Steve, his wife, Christin, and their two daughters have found many ways to serve First UMC Cary. "We have been members since 2004. Christin was Health Ministries chair from 2013 to 2016 and serves in a number of ways. Jordan is 13 years old and Hailey is 11 years old and they both serve as acolytes." Steve also co-leads the Wednesday night Foundations small group and is on the Transportation Ministry team for the members from Glenaire. He continued, "First UMC Cary plays a vital role in our family's life. God is working through the amazing people we have come to know and love in the church to mold and shape us into the individuals and family he envisions us to be."

Steve said that his passion is "for helping people experience the change in happiness, inner peace, faith, and overall sense of purpose that comes from turning towards God instead of away from him. This passion originates from my personal experience where God guided me out of a difficult place in my life. In 2011, all was well by societal standards...a beautiful family, nice cars, more house than we needed, a good job, etc.

However, I felt conflicted and empty inside!

"What was important to me up to that point was building my selfish little kingdom. My unhappiness was a direct result of my high level of ignorance to what life can be when we take God's hand and walk with him. I found I had been turning my back on him to protect what I had built. God made his way through my NASA-designed outer shell by helping Christin convince me to occasionally attend a Wednesday night small group (now our Foundations group, which is a vital part of my life). Over time, my thoughts about Christianity and taking the time to attend church events began to change. I began to see life in a different way, and after a few years of slow incremental growth, I agreed to attend the Walk to Emmaus.

"It was through the experience of Emmaus that God started to make sense of Christian Formation for me. My priorities changed, my relationships changed, and after some difficult self-examination, I was able to determine the things that were standing in the way of more significant growth. It is still very early in my Christian Formation journey and I have so far to go, but I want to help people experience what is possible when we stop saying 'no' or 'not now' when God nudges us toward a better life – a life of purpose that feels so right at a very deep level for those who have started to make sense of the journey and are making progress."

Steve is a retirement plan consultant for corporations and Managing Director for Veratis Institutional Advisors.

– Lori Barmer

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Friendship Put to Music

As many know, the church is more than just a place of worship, but also a place of celebration and fellowship. And that's exactly the tone at First UMC Cary on Thursdays when the Cary Cross Trailers Square and Round Dance Club of Cary, NC meet for their weekly club dances. Since its start back in 1960, Cary Cross Trailers have met in the church, as a mix of First UMC Cary church members and non-church members, to practice and learn different calls and dances every Thursday evening. "When it started, the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) parents initially wanted the young folks to take square dance lessons," said Sydna Martin, a long-time dancer with the club. "The kids didn't go for it, so the parents decided to take the lessons." Square dancing, much like it sounds, involves eight couples facing off in a square before moving through different moves and positions directed by the caller. Round dancing, on the other hand, is similar to ballroom dancing where couples pair up in a circle and then dance a waltz, rumba, or cha-cha with calls from the cuer. Not everyone in the group participates in the round dances, but it's a fun way to take a break from square dancing and try something new with perhaps a new dance partner. "Square dancing is friendship put to music," said Carolyn Wertz, a member of the club for nearly four years. The group encourages visitors and new members to try square dancing, and to have fun while doing it. Larry Apel, current president of the Cary Cross Trailers, said it best: "Just keep moving, recover the best you can, and keep smiling."

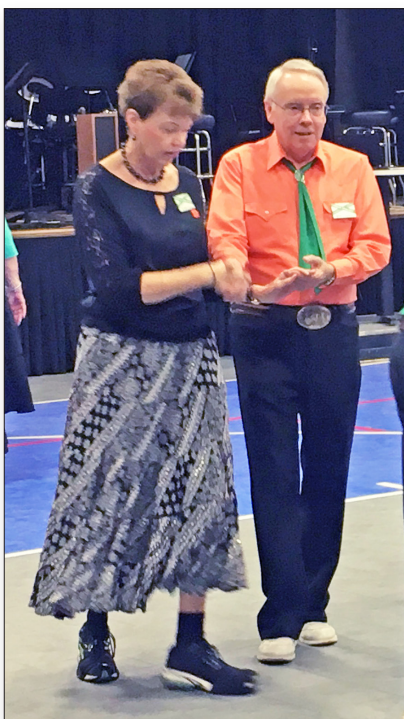
In addition to their weekly dances, the Cary Cross Trailers also participate in open dances with other local square dance clubs, state and national conventions each year, and monthly fun dances. Fun dances are held at the First Baptist Church

in Raleigh and are open to the public as an opportunity for curious dancers to try square dancing and see if they may want to join a club (hopefully the Cary Cross Trailers) after taking further lessons. Several club members joined after attending a fun dance, realizing, like Barbara and Keith Harvey eight years ago, that square dancing was a fun activity they could do together and meet new people. Then there are others, like Jack and Lois Snyder, who found the club after moving to the area thirty-two years ago and wanted to continue the square dancing they did back home.

But the fun doesn't stop there. As a way to thank First UMC Cary for use of the Fellowship Hall every Thursday evening, the Cary Cross Trailers use their talents for service as well. Each year members of the club can be found setting up and helping with the Women's Circle consignment sale, hosting and serving at occasional Fellowship dinners, and like many at the church, they can also be found at the First UMC Cary/White Plains booth at the North Carolina State Fair. One of the group's biggest service projects is their Hospice Dance where members join with other local clubs for a night of dancing and donations. The callers and cuers contribute their services to the event, and all proceeds go to hospice. Church members and nonmembers alike unite for the love of dancing and the joy it can bring them and others. "We try to show our faith through fellowship and friendship," said Sydna Martin.

All levels of dance experience are welcome with the Cary Cross Trailers, and open houses for anyone interested are planned for January 19 and 26 of next year. From there the real fun begins with lessons kicking off in February. As Walt Wheeler told Larry and Debbie Apel when they first joined, "'two left feet' isn't a good enough reason not to try it."

- Joanna Sherron



Favorite Scripture

DEUTERONOMY 8:17-18 (NRSV)

"Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day."

Pastors On-Call

Your pastors continue to seek ways to provide you with quality pastoral care while balancing the other demands of ministry. In an effort to be available, we have an "on-call" system. If you need to reach a pastor in an emergency situation, you may call (919) 467-1862 to reach the on-call pastor for that week. There is also an option to dial this line directly when calling the church office. When you call this number, the pastor on call for the week will respond as soon as possible. Please be mindful when calling this number, as it is for true emergencies only. This includes a death, sudden critical hospitalization of a member, or other such situations. Pastoral care for non-emergencies, such as scheduled hospitalizations, can be arranged through the front office.



Health Ministry News

Join us as we live our First UMC Cary vision: *Sharing the Heart of Christ from the Heart of Cary!*

This inaugural Cary Unity Walk is a historic event to celebrate citizens working together to support local first responders and create a safe, unified, and nurturing community for our youth and our future.

As a unified community, we will walk together from downtown Cary to Wake Med Soccer Park. Participants will enjoy a Unity Festival and Races (5K, 10K and mile), honoring local police, sheriff deputies, state troopers, firefighters, EMS and our military.

This event will also benefit local non-profit organizations that serve many needs in our community. One is the 200 Club of Wake County, which provides immediate financial help for the families of police officers, sheriff deputies, firefighters, EMS squad members, and North Carolina highway patrol serving in

Wake County who lose their life in the line of duty.

Read and Feed gives low-income elementary school children an appetite for reading by strengthening their literacy skills. Using mobile classrooms, Read and Feed provides meals to eliminate hunger, mentors to help children learn to read, and books to build home libraries.

The fun kicks off near the steps of First UMC Cary with a greeting from Cary Mayor Harold Weinbrecht and a Prayer for Peace from Reverend William Green.

How can you participate? BE A PART OF THE FIRST UMC CARY TEAM by visiting firstcary.com! There is something for everyone: walk as a team, run, volunteer to help, or just attend the festival at Wake Med! Bring your kids—there will be many activities at the festival (fire trucks, police cars, bounce house, etc.).

— Jenn George, Health Ministry chair

October 19: MOPS 1

Poppyseed Chicken, red potatoes, salad, roll

October 26: Youth Ministry

Spaghetti w/meat sauce, broccoli, salad, garlic bread

wednesday
night
Connections

Dinner begins at 5:30pm

Cost: \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors 65+, \$4 for children 12 and under, \$22 max

Small Groups begin at
6:30pm for adults, youth
and children

State Fair Booth

The State Fair will be at the fairgrounds in Raleigh October 13 through 23. We are asking individuals, families, Sunday school classes, circles and small groups to sign up for shifts to work at the Fair Booth. Visit firstcary.com for sign up information. See you at the fair!

Blessing of the Animals

A Blessing of the Animals Service gives witness to God's and the church's love and care for all creation. It is usually held on or near the Feast Day of Saint Frances, which is October 4. Saint Frances is known as the Patron Saint of Animals.

In the Call to Worship, we join with our pets to worship our Creator. In the Psalter Lesson, we call on all creatures to praise God. In our Confession, we recall how we may have brought hurt or harm to any of God's precious creatures. In the Scripture readings and Homily, we learn how animals are a part of the family of God and how God has entrusted them to our care. We also celebrate the special relationship that we have with our pets.

Our Blessing of the Animals Service will be held in the Templeton Courtyard on Saturday, October 15, at 5:30pm. You are invited to bring your pet for a blessing. The offering will go to Saving Grace Animal Adoption.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you." Job 12:7.

GriefShare

GriefShare is a 13-week program designed to encourage healing by walking with others who are also grieving. They share how they were able to find a "new normal" in their lives, filled with joy and hope for the future. If you have lost a loved one and are struggling with your grief, we encourage you attend GriefShare. There is a fee of \$15 for the GriefShare workbook. If you are repeating the series and already have your workbook, there is no fee. We will meet Thursdays, through December 15 at 7:00pm in room 125.

Prayer Request Forms

New prayer request forms are available in all worship services. Prayer requests can be turned in during the offering, or dropped off by the office.

Fall Festival 2016

The Fall Festival at First Cary will provide an exciting opportunity for the congregation to serve our community and fellowship together. From 5:00-7:30pm on October 30, our parking lot and Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a Fall Festival! All children of our church and our community are invited to join us for an evening of trick or treating, games and a puppet show. The entire congregation of First Cary is invited to participate in a chili cook-off and square dancing with a professional caller. A hot dog dinner will be provided free of charge during the event.

Anyone providing a trunk or treat vehicle is invited to park as early as 2:30pm to decorate the vehicle and be ready to hand out peanut-free candy/snacks or small prizes to trick-or-treaters from 5:00-6:30pm. You can also donate money for game supplies or donate food and treats (peanut-free candy, stickers, pencils, bubbles, glow sticks, etc.). Please drop off all donations in the church office by Wednesday, October 26.

The rain option is to move the event inside the church.

Please register at firstcary.com or call 919-467-1861 so that we can be prepared for the evening.

Attention High School Youth & Adults with a Youthful Heart

Interested in joining us in Bolivia next July? If so, you are invited to a meeting to learn more about our past trips and the logistics of a 2017 trip on November 6 in room 124 (Templeton Building West Entrance) from 12:30 to 2:30pm. Lunch will be provided. Contact Kelley Davis 919-244-9632 or kelsteph17@gmail.com with questions.

Wheels 4 Hope

Is it time for a vehicle change for you?

- Donate your used car to benefit those in need of transportation.
- Purchase your next vehicle from Wheels4Hope. Check out our vehicles for sale to the public on our website: www.wheels4hope.org/show-room/. (Some donated vehicles, are sold to provide funds to support our operations.)

Join us, volunteer and participate in changing lives!

- Car Runners assist in picking up donated cars and taking cars for inspection.
- Vehicle Assessors and Mechanics are needed to evaluate and repair vehicles.

We are turning donated cars into local blessings for our community.

For more information go to www.wheels4hope.org or call 919-832-1941.

Young Adult Ministry

18-35 year old? College-aged? Young Professional? Young Parent? Get plugged into our Young Adult Ministry, FOUNDRY. Visit firstcary.com/foundry or email Kollin Absher-Baer at kbaer@firstcary.com to find out how!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	October 2	October 9
SANCTUARY:	847	581
CELEBRATION:	72	69
1st ON CHATHAM	213	162
TOTAL:	1,132	812