

theConnection

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CARY

Third Grade Bibles

2 Timothy 3:14-15 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

This year's Third Grade Bible Class tried a few new things, and it really paid off for the children, as well as the teachers! They learned so much and had a great time doing it. Kellie Petty created a new program with a ton of hands on learning activities. The children learned the parts of the bible, how to use and look up scriptures, and learned the books of the bible with a super fun song! Christie Brown and Kellie split the children into two groups, and were assisted by parents of third-graders. They then sectioned the Bible into parts so the kids could really understand the different sections. We had one of the largest classes ever this year—30 kids, and we were thrilled to have so many parents participate with us to model the importance of learning about the bible.

Christie said "I enjoyed getting to know the children. They used their bibles every week and were amazingly smart. They know more than we give them credit for." Kellie said that "their enthusiasm was infectious! They seemed to enjoy the guide within their bibles that help navigate the scripture, with additional historical information, personal connections to their lives and struggles, and application to modern problems."

One of the new activities they did while studying the "letters" sections of the bible, was to write letters to the second-graders telling them about their Learning My Bible Class. They gave these letters to the second-graders, and they were so special. We were given permission to share a couple of these letters with you. (See page two to view the letters).

Christie said, "I am looking forward to expanding the curriculum next year with more lessons and more fun, with a new set of third-graders." Several children told her that they were sad for it end because it was the best Sunday school of the year!

Every stage of Christian formation is important, and can also be fun. We want our children to feel this level of excitement every time they open their bible, come to church, or talk about God, because learning about God is exciting!

– Alicia Shelton, Family Associate for Children



Blessing of the third grade bibles during Sanctuary worship



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

DECEMBER 14, 2018

WORSHIP:

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

117 South Academy Street
Cary, NC 27511

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

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

office:
(919) 467-1861

pastor on call:
(919) 467-1862

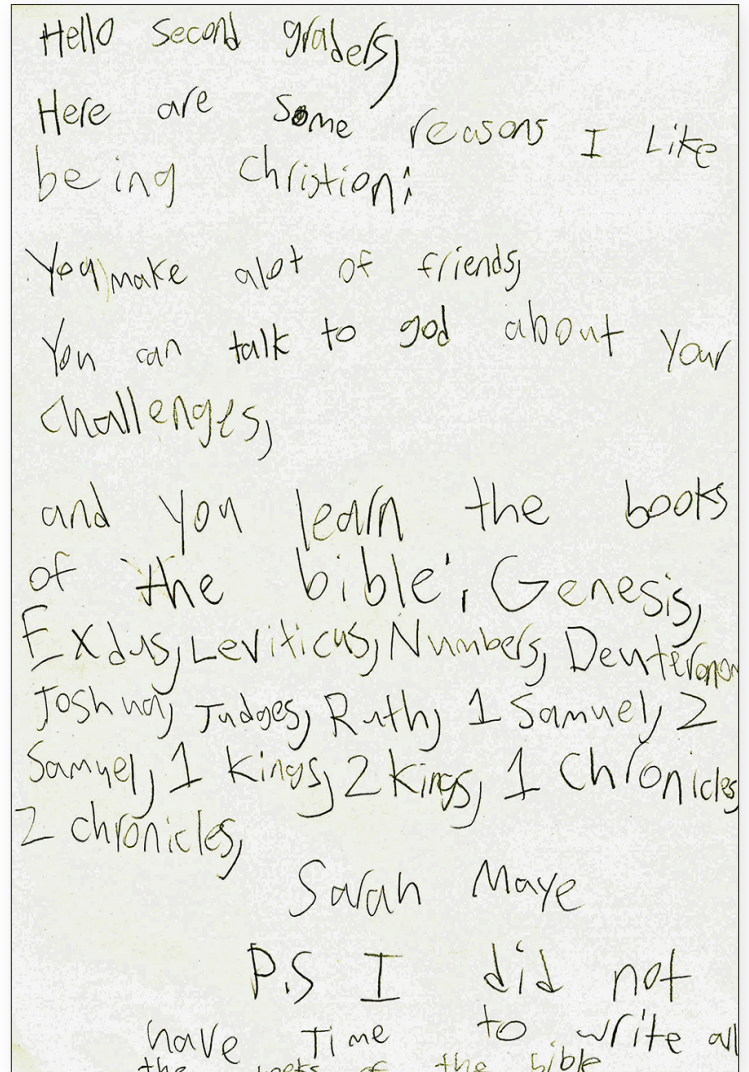
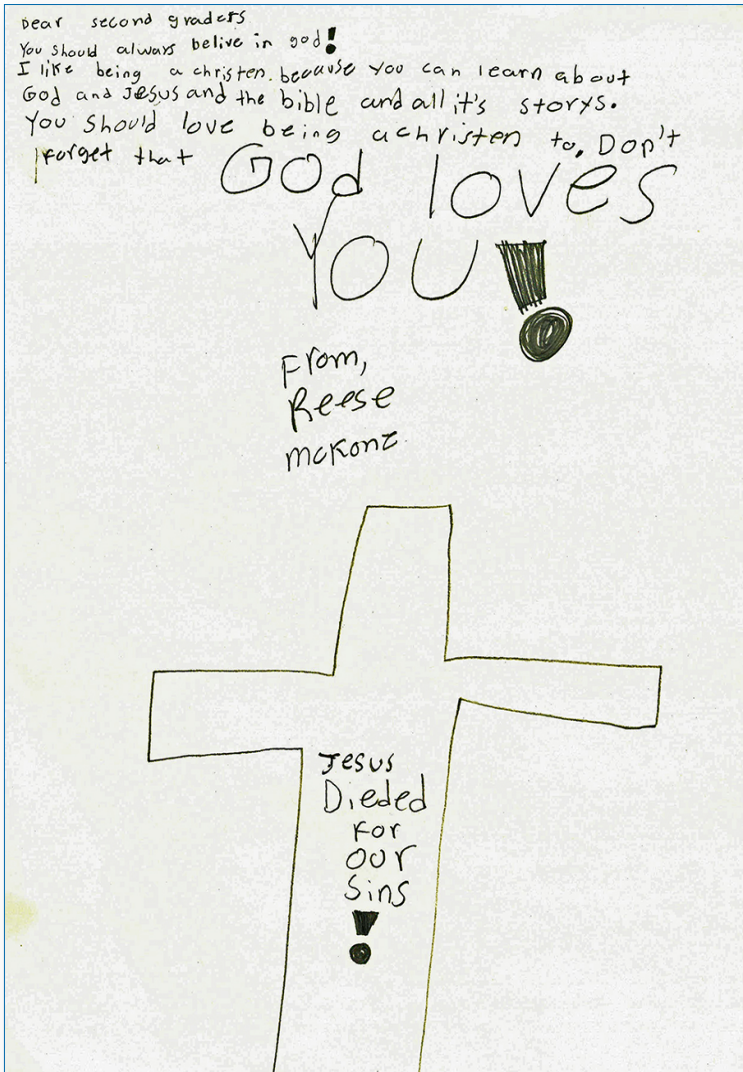
firstcary.com

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.*

Two Letters from Third-Graders to Second-Graders



Christmas Eve Offering

Hurricane Florence was devastating for many communities and for our churches. This year's Christmas Offering will support the restoration of parsonages and church facilities that were centers of ministry for many of these communities.

When wind and water had closed many doors, our churches were open, in spite of damage, to meet the needs of their communities.

Thank you for supporting the local ministry of our movement with a financial gift to help restore churches to their places of worship and ministry by giving generously in our 2018 Christmas Offering.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief website states that, "In the North Carolina Annual Conference, Early Response Teams continue to work across the affected areas. The teams are engaged in ongoing mold remediation, identifying recovery center locations and constructing shower trailers. In partnership with UMCOR, the Conference will be launching recovery programs in January 2019."

Stephanie Purdy, Director of Outreach Ministry, is organizing work trips to New Bern beginning in January. We are partnering with Pastor Rick Moser and The Centenary UMC community in New Bern, NC. According to Rick, they are still desperately in need of work teams to assist in clean up efforts in the area, and will for many months to come.

Sign up information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yafcarb6>



New Year, New You!

Just as we renew our Covenant with God, this coming January will be a time to renew our commitment to living a healthy, balanced life. We are multidimensional servants of God, and this means we can, and should, focus on all dimensions of health in order to live in the light of God.

This challenge allows you to focus on what is important to you. What aspects of your overall health would you like to focus on? Beginning January 1, you'll log your points daily based on your healthy activities. Prizes will be awarded to the top three participants.

No, this isn't just about physical health and well-being. Eating healthier and exercise are certainly important. In this challenge, you can earn points for things like performing acts of kindness, attending a small group, keeping a gratitude journal, practicing mindfulness, and sleeping seven to eight hours each night, and more!

If you would like to participate, simply register on the church website (go to the registration link and look for the Health Ministry Covenant Challenge 2019 link). You'll receive more details as the challenge gets closer!

– Jenn George, Health Ministry

Fellowship Set to Music

You may know us from the raucous noise coming from the Fellowship Hall on most Thursday evenings, or as hosts of a Fellowship Feast, or serving a shift at the fair ham biscuit booth. We are the Cary Cross Trailers square dance club, and we're famous for our broad smiles as we dosido and circle right the night away. We are the friendliest folks you have ever met.



Square dancing is a cultural activity created in America, but based on courtly social dances from Europe. Frontier Americans needed an activity that was more suited to the mobility of fiddle, banjo and guitar, and square dancing was created. Today's square dancing is done all over the world, to non-country/western tunes from Elvis, the Beatles, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and Styx. In November, we hosted a group of 11 dancers from Japan at First Cary. We all danced, and three of our guests were callers. They called the dances in English. (Square dancing is always called in English, all over the world.)

The Cross Trailers has been around since around 1966 when a group of parents of MYFers were looking for an activity for their teenagers. Square dancing didn't stick with the kids, but it did with the parents. The Cross Trailers have been dancing in First UMC Cary's fellowship hall ever since.

Health Benefits of Square Dancing

Exercising to music doubles the benefits. Dancing can burn as many calories as walking, swimming or riding a bicycle. During a half hour of sustained dancing you can burn between 200 and 400 calories. Regular exercise can lead to a slower heart rate, lower blood pressure and an improved cholesterol profile. Experts typically recommend 30 to 40 minutes of continuous activity three to four times a week. Square Dancing twice a week for two hours each time provides a large part of this recommended activity. Dancing also contains a social component that solitary fitness endeavors don't. It gives you an opportunity to develop strong social ties which contribute to self-esteem and a positive outlook.

(Source: <https://nexgen-sd.org/health-benefits.html>)

The Cross Trailers want to put ten squares (a square is made up of four couples) on the floor of the fellowship hall. Do you want to be part of one? Square dancing is perfect for couples looking for an activity that they can do together; something that is healthy and fun. You can experience the fellowship of the Cross Trailers at free open houses on Thursdays January 10 and 17, and lessons begin on Thursday January 24. Have no rhythm? No problem! If you can breathe and walk, and know your right from your left, then you can square dance. So, find some folks that you already know and bring them along and give it a try. Come as you are...you don't have to be in square dance attire. You can find more information at carycrosstrailersnc.org, or contact Walt Wheeler at walt.wheeler44@gmail.com.

– The Cary Cross Trailers



Favorite Scripture

1 John 4:9-12 (NRSV)

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Pastors On-Call

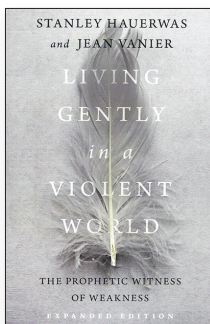
Your pastors continue to seek ways to provide you with quality pastoral care while balancing the other demands of ministry. In an effort to be available, we have an "on-call" system. If you need to reach a pastor in an after-hours emergency situation, you may call 919-467-1862 to reach the on-call pastor 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 at 919-467-1861.



New Library Offerings

Living Gently in a Violent World: The Prophetic Witness of Weakness, Expanded Edition

by Stanley Hauerwas and Jean Vanier.

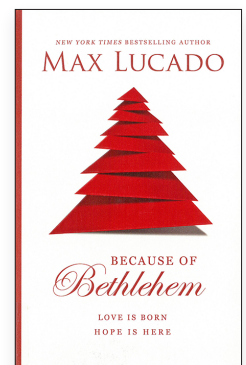


"Theologian Stanley Hauerwas and L'Arche founder Jean Vanier discuss how these caring communities for persons with disabilities can teach the church about peace and acceptance. Full of personal experiences, this easy read makes profound observations about acceptance of suffering and disability, the importance of relationship over power, and the slow daily work of creating peace in everyday

life." (from the Mennonite Brethren Herald) c. 2018. Study Guide is included in the book. [248.4 Hau]

Because of Bethlehem Love Is Born, Hope Is Here
by Max Lucado.

Each year, the Christmas season compels people to ask the Christmas questions. What's the big deal about the baby in the manger? Who was he? What does his birth have to do with me? Of all the responses to these questions, there is one that stands out from the rest: Because of Bethlehem, God knows what it is like to be a human. When we talk to God about our challenges, our struggles, and our tough times, he understands, because he's been there. He's been here. c. 2016. [263 Luc]



**Wednesday Night Connections,
(including Fellowship Feast, Table
Talk, Youth Talk, and
Small Talk) will resume on
Wednesday, January 9.**

**wednesday
night
Connections**

Dinner begins at 5:00pm

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

**Table Talk begins at 6:30 in
the fellowship hall**

Please RSVP by noon the Tuesday before at firstcary.com or call 919-467-1861.

Foundry (Young Adult Ministry) Christmas Parties

- Thursday 12/20 @ 6:30pm
Christmas Pizza Party (college students)
- Friday 12/21 @ 7:00pm
Christmas Taco Party (young pros)

For both parties bring a wrapped white elephant gift, and something for the Dorcas food party. A list of needed items for Dorcas, and all the info for the parties can be found at our Foundry Facebook Page (facebook.com/foundryyoungadults).

Financial Peace University (FPU)

What if you could be debt-free with an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses saved, all while investing for retirement and planning for your family's future? Sound impossible? It's not! With Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money.

We're offering the 9-week FPU class at First United Methodist Church Cary just for you, starting Monday, January 14 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

The first session is free, so come see what it is all about. You may purchase your membership kit online or we have a limited number of kits available for purchase at the first session.

If you are a graduate of FPU, remember you may attend any of the sessions. It is a great way to revisit that next Baby Step.

If you're interested in learning more about FPU, email Rick and Cheryl Randecker at: cherylincary@yahoo.com today! The group registration is: <https://fpu.com/1078466>.

A Delicious Way to Support

United Methodist Women have been committed to missions that support women and children throughout our community and around the world for over 150 years. Please support the UMW with our HoneyBaked Ham Fundraiser!

- 20% of the proceeds benefit our cause.
- They can be used at any HoneyBaked location nationwide, to shop online, or to order from the HoneyBaked catalog.
- HoneyBaked Gift Cards can be purchased in any denomination.
- They never expire and there are never any additional fees.
- In addition to Ham, HoneyBaked offers other delicious entrees like Turkey, BBQ and Pot Roast, side dishes, desserts, even lunch and party platters.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycnv4zx3> to place your order.

New Life Recovery

The Addiction Recovery Movement would like to invite anyone who needs support with addiction recovery for themselves or for a loved one to New Life Recovery. We hold the group in Room 124 on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00.

Hurricane Relief Work Team Sign Up Info

At First UMC Cary, we will continue to plug in to UMCOR's recovery efforts. The United Methodist Men and our Early Response Team are planning work trips for January. New Bern work teams can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/yafcarb6>.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Purdy, our Director of Outreach Ministry, at spurdy@firstcary.com.

Adult ASP 2019 WorkTrip – March 26-31, 2019

For more than 30 years, teams from First United Methodist Church have traveled to central Appalachia to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for families who live in substandard housing. For many ASP volunteers, this has been a life-changing and faith-strengthening experience. The Adult ASP 2019 WorkTrip offers great opportunities for adults of all skill levels to challenge themselves and help others who really need a hand. While helping to repair, improve and replace homes, you will:

- Make a real difference for families struggling in poverty
- Enjoy great fellowship and make new friends
- Pick up some valuable skills
- Gain a new appreciation of your many blessings.

To find out more: visit www.firstcary.com/serve/asp. Or contact Nancy Briggs at 919.815.8339 or nancy.briggs@BHHSYSU.com. To sign up for the work trip register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ya7wmdqd>

Commitments for the Adult ASP 2019 WorkTrip must be received by December 31, 2018.

Meals On Wheels

Join the community of people making healthy and independent lives possible for local seniors and people with disabilities. Our Meals on Wheels team is looking for a driver. The shift is on the second Friday each month, just once a month for an hour or two at lunchtime. We also need substitute drivers, if you are free Friday mornings and could pinch hit every once in a while. All you need is a car and a smile! Contact Gail Grimm, our church's Meals on Wheels coordinator, for more information or to sign up at gailgrim43@gmail.com.



Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent Morning Worship

Sanctuary: 8:25, 9:45, and 11:05am

Christmas Cantata “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

1st on Chatham at The Cary Theater: 9:45, and 11:05am

Worship Celebration of Las Posadas

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent Morning Worship

Sanctuary: 8:25, 9:45, and 11:05am

1st on Chatham at The Cary Theater: 9:45, and 11:05am

Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Christmas Eve Family Worship and Holy Communion

11:00am and 4:00pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Evening Worship and Holy Communion

6:30pm, 9:00pm, and 11:00pm in the Sanctuary

6:00pm–7:45pm, nursery for children birth through age four in 1st Cup

6:30pm, 9:00pm Worship via Livestream and Holy Communion: Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 30

First Sunday After Christmas

Sanctuary: 8:25, 9:45, and 11:05am

1st on Chatham at The Cary Theater: No morning worship (Theater will be closed).

The church office will be closed December 24 through January 1.