

The Cumberland Network

Volume XIII
Issue 4

January 2009 -
May 2009

Special points of interest:

- Graduation Sunday, May 31
- Welcome our new members
- UMC 2009 South Carolina Annual Conference, May 31-June 3

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Penned from the Pulpit

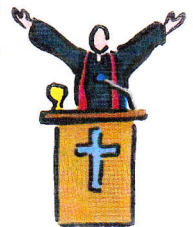
Rev. J. Jeannette Cooper

As I ponder this time of year, I am drawn to the well of remembrance, as well as to the dreams of the future. My memory serves me to think of the bountiful accomplishments of our church, during this conference year. The finance committee has gotten us to a place of comfortable computerized record keeping. New officers, in various places are working into their positions of ministry. We had a turn over in some strategic places. Carrie Lawrence passed the mantle to Evelyn Heyward as layleader. After MANY fruitful years, Wallace Felder passed the mantle to Joe Hannah, Jr. as chair of trustees; Yvonne Jones has lovingly worked with Zenobia

Perkins, in her leap into chairing PPRC. Of course, let's not forget Josie Douglas, who has chaired the "Feed the Hungry" project, since its inception, has now passed this responsibility to Glen Richardson. There are countless people who give beyond the call of duty, in order to make Cumberland a successful ministry. I have only mentioned the administrative changes. If the truth be told, each one of us is indebted to Minder Hamlin, our secretary of one year, who has continually been a significant part of the team

My most tender remembrance is that we lost Mr. Andrew A. Huggins, the father of our church. His pass-

ing leaves a void in me, as well as he leaves a gap in the historical



God has a plan for us.

journey of this church. He was born in 1911, the year the old sanctuary was built; and leaves the year that the church is rebuilt, 2009. He leaves with us a legacy of love and hope. I will miss "Brother", "Horse", "Mr. United Methodist." In remembering this legacy, it brings me to a place to honor my dreams.

(cont. page 6)

Father of the Church, Andrew A. Huggins, Passes Away

Mr. Andrew Alonzo Huggins was born in Florence, SC to the late Andrew and Lizzie Huggins on May 8, 1911. He died on Sunday, March 22, 2009 at Carolinas Hospital System after an illness. He attended the public schools of Florence County graduat-

ing from Wilson High School. Later he graduated from Livingstone College of Salisbury, NC.

Mr. Huggins taught at Wilson High School. He also served as principal at Cartersville School. He served as Direc-

tor of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Mr. Huggins was married to the late Altowiese Lester and this union was blessed with two girls, Margaret and Eleanor, now deceased.

(cont. p.2)

Father of the Church, Andrew A. Huggins Passes Away



(cont. from p.1)

He joined Cumberland UM Church at an early age, and was a dedicated Christian worker. He served in many positions in the church. He was known for his smiles, humor, jokes, and an eagerness to share his experiences. He was a great historian and listened intensely.

Mr. Huggins was an out going person and had a lifelong motivation for service. He served the community in many civic and social affairs such as the NAACP, Masonic Lodge, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Wilson High School Alumni,

American Legion Post 228, Florence Historical Commission and Elite Social and Savings Club.

He served in the United States Navy during World War II and received an honorable discharge

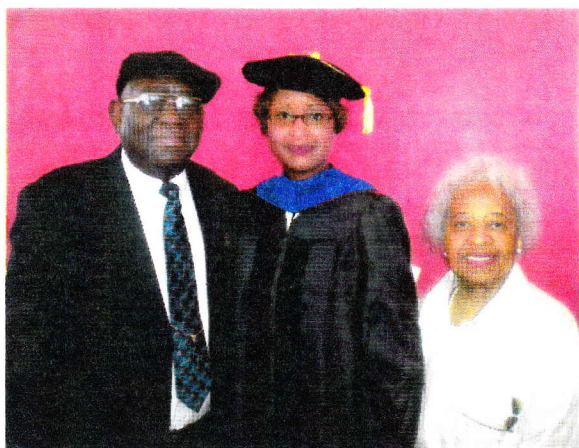
We remember fondly Rev. Samuel Henry Johnson, who passed away this April.



Members in the News

- College Graduates Clifford Parr-USC;
- Allen Toney-Miami University at Oxford
- Samantha Toney wins Miss Wilson High School 2009
- Christopher Parr to attend the USA Naval Academy
- Sam Montgomery to attend LSU on a full football scholarship (grandson of Lillian Adams
- Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Stuckey-transferred Membership.

Baptisms—Antonious Nesmith, Bi'ael Nesmith, Dreshon Jackson, Makaio White, Zi'hon McKithen, Zi'honanna McKithen, Yakea Muldrow, Kierstyn Muldrow, Dewayne Jarvis McClary, II
New Members—Mary Adams, Joye Evans



On May 9, 2009, Vivian Gallman-DeRienzo graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a concentration in Educational Administration in Higher Education.

Vivian (Vickie Lucas) is the daughter of David Isaiah Lucas and Ruth McClain Lucas.

Vivian is married to J. Michael DeRienzo – they have three children: Jennifer Gallman, Matthew Gallman, and Jamie DeRienzo.



Sisters of Praise – CUMC Adult Praise Dance Ministry

We are proud to announce “The Sisters of Praise,” Cumberland’s adult praise dance ministry, under the direction of Beverly Woods, Karen Phillips and Yakea Muldrow. The members are as follows: Lenolia Bryant, Linda Cooper, Brenda Frazier, Louise Frierson, Jacqueline Graham, Marilyn Harrison, Sandra Holloway, Thelma Muldrow,

Yakea Muldrow, Andy Nesmith, Karen Phillips, Gloria Plowden, Gloria Cooper, and Renee Robinson.

The only true requirement to be a praise dancer is a willingness to be empty of self, so that you can be full of Him. Ability, training, talent, or gracefulness are not required, just a heart that truly wants to worship the Lord.

Additional information regarding the praise ministry is forthcoming for all of you who are interested.

Nelson, Women in the Pulpit Speaker

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women celebrated Women in the Pulpit Sunday, March 22. The speaker was Angela Ford Nelson. The theme was “Stepping Out on Faith and Celebrating Success.” The Cumberland UMC Adult Praise Dancers made their debut.

Angela is a Certified Candidate for Ordained Ministry and a Certified Lay Speaker. She is the daughter of Albert and Dorothy Ford. Angela is married to the Reverend Ken Nelson, Congregational Specialist for the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Angela

began to discern her call to ministry in 2001. **Angela encourages us not to look upon the accomplishments of people, but to instead focus and believe on Jesus Christ – through whom ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!**



Angela Ford Nelson



CUMC Youth attend Spiritual Life Retreat

Cumberland United Methodist Youth attended a Spiritual Life Retreat in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The retreat was held at Springmaid Beach February 27 through March 1, 2009. The following youth members attended this retreat: Aaron and Amaron Barr-Cook, Darius and Kendra Cooper, Matthew Gallman, Kyle Bruce, Sheena Wright, and Brandia Cooper. Mrs. Myrna Barr-Cook and Dr. Deidra Robinson (Youth Director) served as chaperones. The theme for the retreat was "Broken". This theme was carried out through all worship services. The youth attended a total of four sessions. All sessions were led by Stacey Foster who is the pastor (alongside his wife) of a church in Detroit called Life Changers International Ministries. Youth members from various United Methodist churches in South Carolina had opportunities to reflect on where they had been "broken" in their faith. Youth members participated in small group sessions to connect the theme to their daily lives. They also listened to testimonies of the main speaker,

youth leaders, and other teenagers about where they had been broken in their lives and how they survived those periods in their lives. The youth enjoyed free time at the beach, shopping at the mall, and attending a talent show.

The Spiritual Life Retreat was a wonderful experience. Cumberland United Methodist Youth received valuable spiritual messages that they will use to improve their lives. They are very grateful to the church for making this trip possible.

Deidra L. Robinson

Building Restoration Fundraising Task Group

Projects underway:

Memorial Garden/Walkway

Plans to erect a memorial Garden/Walkway, remembering our devoted ancestors, as well as honor members and friends are underway. The deadline for purchasing a brick at the cost of \$500 has been extended to May 25, 2009. As of March 16, 33 brick have been purchased.

United Run/Walk is scheduled for May 2. All members were encouraged to participation as well as

Organizations, friends and family to help make this **HEALTHY** effort a success.

Fish Fry— A BIG THANK YOU to the Methodist Men for planning this effort.

Lunch to Go— Many thanks to Mary Bostic, Marilyn Harrison and Andy Nesmith for their hard work. An average monthly profit of \$500 has been realized. Thanks to all the members who support this effort. We encourage

Other of you to participate.

Birthday Contributions—

Thanks to all persons who are supporting this effort.

Teams— Many of you have expressed the desire to resume the team concept. This is now in place; each member, active and inactive, has been assigned to a team. Team leaders are to serve as encouragers. They are to keep in contact with the members of their team encouraging them to support our efforts.

We encourage you to support our projects with both your prayers and your finances. The end is in sight.



The children's choir, under the direction of Mrs. Eileen Young, participated in the restoration project through the collection of pennies. Thus far the program has collected over \$1000.00. Members are encouraged to continue saving your pennies, and drop your rolled pennies in the collection basket on any Sunday. The finance committee will record how the pennies have accumulated. The children are pleased with the response and thank you for your participation.

(Mrs. Eileen Young)

Musicians Recognized for Service

Church musicians, Mrs. Eileen Young and Dr. Dedire Robinson were recognized with plaques and verbal accolades after announcing they were stepping down as the Children's and Youth Choir Directors.

Mrs. Young has worked with the children for many years. Under her tutelage the children

have participated in song in Christmas, Easter and Bible School programs.

Not be left out of our restoration drive, Mrs. Young spearheaded the Penny Drive. After their Sunday singing, the children collected change from the congregation. Their efforts resulted in over \$1000.00.

Dr. Robinson served as Youth Director. She assisted the youth in restoring the UMYF and served as the youth choir director. Our youth choir grew and many new talents were discovered. They have attended several spiritual retreats including the 2008 Harambee Conference in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Mrs. Eileen Young and Dr. Dedire Robinson have touched the lives of many of the children and youth at Cumberland through music . . .

College Corner

Where has the school year gone!! It seems that we were just sending our students off to begin another year of higher education. The freshmen were so excited to begin their college careers. Now it won't be long before they will be wrapping up another year. We, at Cumberland, give thanks to God for these wonderful and very capable young people.

United Methodist Student Day was observed on December 21, 2008. The service was led by college students and music was provided by the youth choir. A beautiful performance was presented by the Children's Praise

Dance Team. Our speaker for the service was Charles Conner III, who currently serves as Director of Youth and Leisure Ministries at Trinity United Methodist Church in Spartanburg, SC. The student Day offering, which supports the United Methodist Student Loan and Scholarship Programs was received. Coincidentally, three of our college students, Clifford Parr, Taylor Harrison, and Jennifer Gallman were presented with United Methodist scholarships!

At this time of the year, our high school seniors are making final decisions on college choices and receiving

acceptance letters. At least one of our seniors, Christopher Parr, has made his final choice and will be attending the United States Naval Academy in the fall. Did you see the beautiful article and handsome picture of him in the Morning News?

Be on the lookout for future updates on the achievements of our current college students and high school seniors.

Geraldine Barr
Chairman Higher Education and
Campus Ministry



Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April

Team Cumberland completed its fifth year of participation in Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April. This program offers housing rehabilitation to the elderly and low income home owners at no cost.

On Saturday, April 25, we met

on Ingram Street. We undertook the task of repairing wooden siding, wooden railings, painting the home's exterior and installing floor covering in the living room. The team consisted of one youth, one female and twelve men.

Coming together in this type of activity is one way of putting our beliefs into practice.

Helping others is just one of the things Christ asks of us.

We will continue to serve our community in hopes of bringing all mankind closer to Christ.

Mr. Woodrow Lyde

Penned From the Pulpit (cont. page 1)

My dream is to experience a more forward sight, for our church. For the last few years, we have concentrated on brick and mortar. I'd like to experience a church that has set its mind on times beyond the completion of this church. I dream of an overflowing church school, with teachers volunteering. I dream of new programs being born, as members

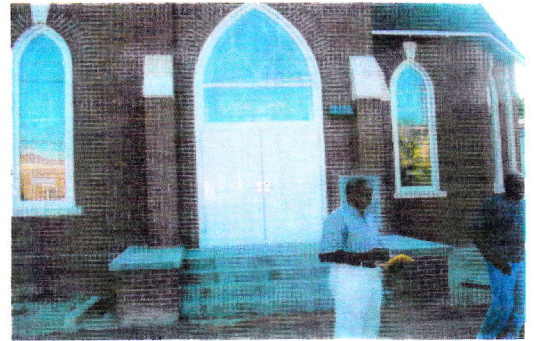
claim and demonstrate their passion for ministry. I dream that ministries like the Praise Dancers under the leadership of Beverly Woods, Karen Phillips and helper Borah McClary and others might be given new emphasis and support. I dream of a powerfully present Christ in our midst.

Those of you who have insight for ministry, please step forward. "There's plenty good room in the kingdom." May you continue to be faithful in service at Cumberland UMC. I may not have mentioned your name; but we appreciate you.
Rev. J

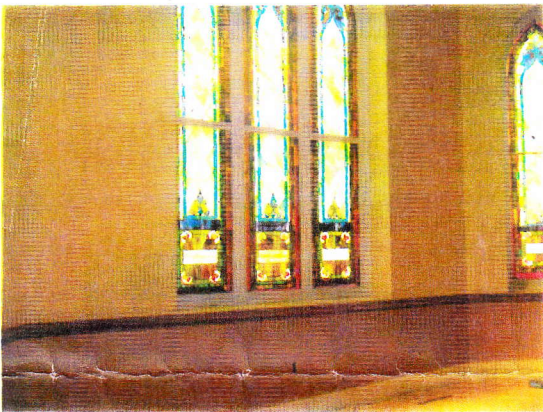
Pictorial Update



Steeple in place and reaching the sky.



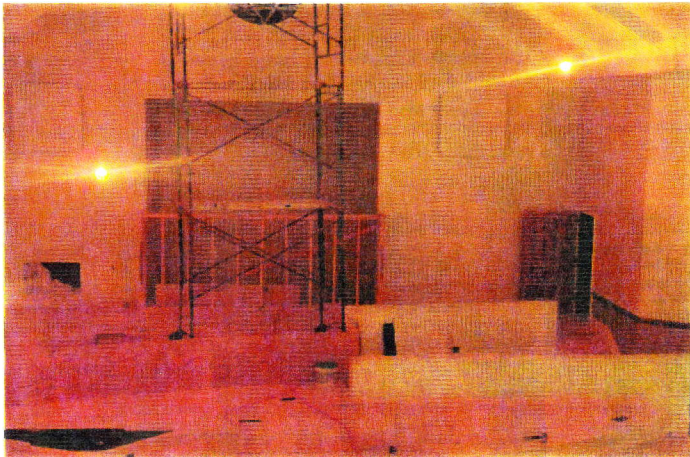
Stained windows and doors.



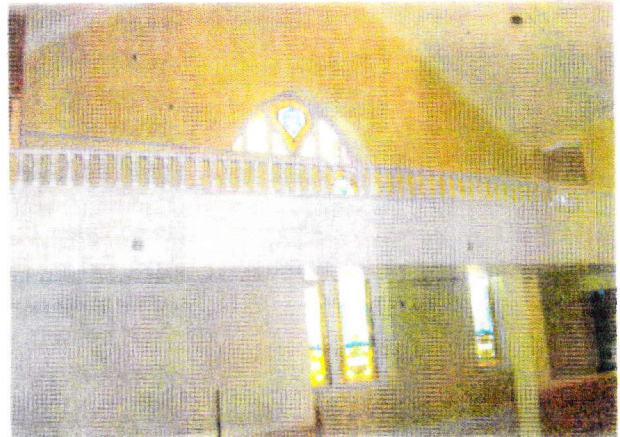
Finished walls and fresh paint.



Removable railings ready for placement.



Platformed Altar and Organ pit.



Balcony over main entrance.

We encourage you to continue to support this project with both your prayers and finances.

Cumberland United Methodist Church

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Florence, S.C. 29501

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We've opened our hands,
our hearts and our doors.

Cumberland United Methodist Church's vision statement is to love, share, care, and equip in order that God's will be done.

Restoration Project Update

The church project is in the final stages of preparation. We are awaiting Progress Energy to connect the church to the main power source in order for the contractor to test the air conditioner and the electrician to complete the work of pulling lines and testing receptacles. The sanding and the painting of the floor will take place once the air conditioning is tested. This is necessary in order to avoid problems that might occur because of the changes in the temperature. The pews are ready to be placed into the church once the floor has been stained, the altar area is being

finalized, tile is being placed into the restrooms, doors have been hung, the connector walkway between the sanctuary and the Educational Building has been finished and painting in the Sanctuary is basically completed.

Very soon the landscaping will begin. We have made the arrangements with Progress Energy to prepare the outside lighting for the front and the rear parking lots of the church. We encourage you to continue to support the project with both your prayers and your finances. The end is in sight.

Joseph E. Heyward, Chairman
Restoration Committee

