

FOREST HILLS
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

THE EDGE

FEBRUARY
2012

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

RETREAT!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 11	8:45am-2pm- Visioning Retreat 6pm Adult Fellowship	I find it ironic that we are hosting a retreat to help us move forward! Like the last two winters, we are again holding a Leadership Retreat for all the ministry teams of our church. We will be getting together on Sat., Feb. 11 from 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. to look backward ("see" where we have come from), look inward ("see" how we have been doing ministry), look forward ("see" where God is leading us in the future) and look outward ("see" how God is calling us to reach out to those who do not know Jesus personally).
Feb. 13	9:30-11:30am- Feed My Starving Children (adults)	
Feb. 15	11:30am- ROMEO's (retired old men eating out)	Two years ago we crafted our first Ministry Plan, which identified the two Action Statements that have directed the ministry of our church. They are:
Feb. 16	8-9:30pm- Feed My Starving Children (youth)	Action Statement 1: "We are committed to loving and serving families in our community with children, youth and young adults, and expect an increase in the numbers of these families that make Forest Hills their church home."
Feb. 17	Community Care set-up	Action Statement 2: "In seeking to serve the whole person, we will strive to provide basic, tangible needs for those in our communities and world."
Feb. 18	Community Care 9:30am- SonKIST	A year ago we pushed our Ministry Plan horizon beyond the immediate future. We began looking for what our ministry might be beyond just the year ahead. This year, we will be challenged to look even farther into the future, trying to catch glimpses of what God has planned for us up to three years from now.
Feb. 19	11:30am- <i>Honoring Our Heroes</i> Banquet 12:30pm- <i>Honoring Our Heroes</i> Seminar	That seems nearly impossible in our fast-paced, ever-changing world. It would be for us, but we don't look with our eyes, but with the eyes of our God. Our God sees the future and has a plan and purpose for us in it. Our desire is to discern our God's calling for our church and then faithfully move into it.
Feb. 22	7:00pm- Ash Wednesday Service No Wednesday night Dinner, AWANA, or Confirmation	For that, most importantly, we need the prayers of the church. I would like to ask everyone to pray over our leaders and the retreat on Feb. 11. Pray for the Holy Spirit to make clear what God's plans are for our church. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give us the excitement and passion for doing God's work together. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead the way, looking three years into the future but taking the first steps in the weeks right ahead of us.
Feb. 24-25	Confirmation Retreat	
Feb. 25-March 3	Louisiana Work Week	Pray that as we retreat, we will move forward!
		Pastor David

NURTURE NEWS

Praise God for a mild winter so far! I know this helps many who are struggling with finances in today's time. The Holidays have passed and we are now moving forward in a new year, which brings new roads in God's ministry. It's amazing to see that if we trust God totally in our ministries, where He sometimes takes them. They might at times seem very troubling and maybe even mysterious, however, if we truly trust in Him, he knows best where and how we need to grow.

As I am writing this we are getting prepared for another UMY'S (United Methodist Youth) weekend with some of the youth. This year for the first time we will not be meeting in St. Cloud, but meeting right here in the twin cities. A new look to this youth ministry.

For those who have children in AWANA, we are gearing up for the T&T (Truth & Training) Pinewood Derby car races, which we will be doing here at Forest Hills this year in the month of March. This will be a really fun experience for the kids as well as the adults.

All those who wish to be part of the Action Pack small group, will continue to have the opportunity to help with those in need in our community. Another opportunity to be a part of additional small group studies here at the church will be published soon.

God Bless,
Steve Ruter



WORSHIP'S WORD

Q: *What did the Valentine's Day card say to the stamp?*

A: *Stick with me and we'll go places!*

Happy Valentine's Day!

Are you familiar with the greatest love story of all? It's pretty short.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not die, but will live forever." (John 3:16)

God is saying to us here, "Stick with me, love me and we'll go places!"

Sometimes, just like our human relationships, we can feel like God is distant. It may seem that He doesn't even have your best interest in mind. "But God shows and clearly proves His love for us that even though we were sinners, He died for us." (Romans 5:8) And hear ye this!! "No power in the sky above or in the earth below- indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39)

Valentine's Day is all about showing the people around us that we love and care about them. Worship is about showing God how much we love Him back. Worship is stepping outside of ourselves to thank God for loving us and for letting us be with Him and be a part of His world. Stick with Him and you'll go places! Being in love with the creator of the world is the greatest adventure of all!

Higher up and deeper in,
~Julie Graham
Director of Music and Worship



~MISSIONS MOMENT~

As I write this, it is snowing outside. I love the snow (except when I have to drive in it). But it is a beautiful snow and it is one of the reasons I love living in Minnesota, where we have the change of seasons and see all the beautiful work that God has done and has given to us.

Christmas is over and what a blessed Christmas we had with 6 Missions Moments in December. The Missions Moments included: **The Giving Tree**, **Imagine No Malaria**, **Teen Challenge Christmas**, **Forest Lake Children's Clothing Drive**, **UMW: Gifts to Emma Norton Residence** and **The Action Pack**: Families from our church sponsored 10 families in need so that they could have a wonderful Christmas. When I think about all the giving the people in our church do, I know that I am truly blessed to find such a wonderful church family.

With that being said, it is still winter and our **Forest Hills Food Shelf** is in need of donations. Can you open up your hearts and wallets and bring in some much needed food for our Food Shelf here at church? We are pretty much running low on everything, but canned good, soups/chili, macaroni & cheese, cereal, oatmeal, and canned meats such as tuna and chicken are especially needed. The grocery cart is in the lobby and we would love to have as much food brought in as we can and hopefully enough to also help out **Community Helping Hands** because they are also in need of additional food.

Thank you very much and God bless. If you have any questions or feel the need to become more involved in missions, please see me or call me at 651-464-7918.

Joyce Buehner

VISIONING RETREAT

Everyone is invited to attend our upcoming **Leadership Retreat**, which will be held on Saturday, February 11th from 8:45am-2:00pm. Join us to review our Ministry Plan and help to evaluate how it has worked for our church this past year. We will also be visioning for 2012 and beyond!

* Thank You! *

It took until January, but my family and I finally got to enjoy the Pastor Appreciation gift this church gave us back in October. Compliments of you all, we enjoyed a wonderful stay at the Waterpark of America. Even though it was cold outside, we were inside drifting down the lazy river and zooming down water slides. The overnight in the hotel, entrance to the water park and two meals were all part of the wonderful gift: thank you for such a blessing. It is such a joy to serve the Lord with you all.

*Blessings,
Pastor David & Family*

\$ In The Black! \$

We celebrate the financial health of our church!

We cleared our church's 2011 expenses by over \$11,000 and so reduced our operating deficit to only \$3,041!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

