

# The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, FEBRUARY 2016

## From the *Pastor's Perspective*



Love. Grow. Serve.

These three words capture our life and ministry as a church. Love: God, others, self. Grow: in Christ, in holiness, in God's plan for you. Serve others by: reaching out in word, in actions, in attitudes. Love. Grow. Serve.

Our church's senior leadership decided last fall to use these three words to convey our identity as Forest Hills United Methodist Church. They include our church's Purpose Statement (Love God. Love Others. Grow in Christ. Serve Others. Share Faith.) They include our Mission Statement (We are a church that seeks to reach people for Christ and make disciples by being the visible love of Jesus Christ in our communities.). They include the Greatest Commandments ("Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" -Luke 10:27). They include the Great Commission ("Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." - Matthew 28:19-20).

*continued on page 2*

## Church Events

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Feb 1</b>  | 6:30 p.m. LLMT Meeting                                       |
| <b>Feb 2</b>  | 6:30 p.m. Capital Fund Drive Mtg.                            |
| <b>Feb 3</b>  | Butter Braid Fundraiser Starts                               |
| <b>Feb 4</b>  | 12:00 p.m. Sarah Circle<br>9:00 a.m. UMM                     |
| <b>Feb 6</b>  | 10:00 a.m. Red Rock Board Meeting<br>10:00 a.m. UMC Workshop |
| <b>Feb 8</b>  | 7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting                                    |
| <b>Feb 10</b> | 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service                              |
| <b>Feb 13</b> | 9:00 a.m. Festival Meeting<br>6:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship     |
| <b>Feb 14</b> | 5:00 p.m. Valentine's Day Date Night                         |
| <b>Feb 15</b> | 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting                                   |
| <b>Feb 16</b> | 10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle                                    |
| <b>Feb 17</b> | 11:30 a.m. ROMEOS  |
| <b>Feb 20</b> | 7:00 a.m. Community Care                                     |
| <b>Feb 21</b> | Dulac Mission Trip Starts<br>10:00 a.m. Hymn Sing            |

## *Pastor's Perspective* (continued)

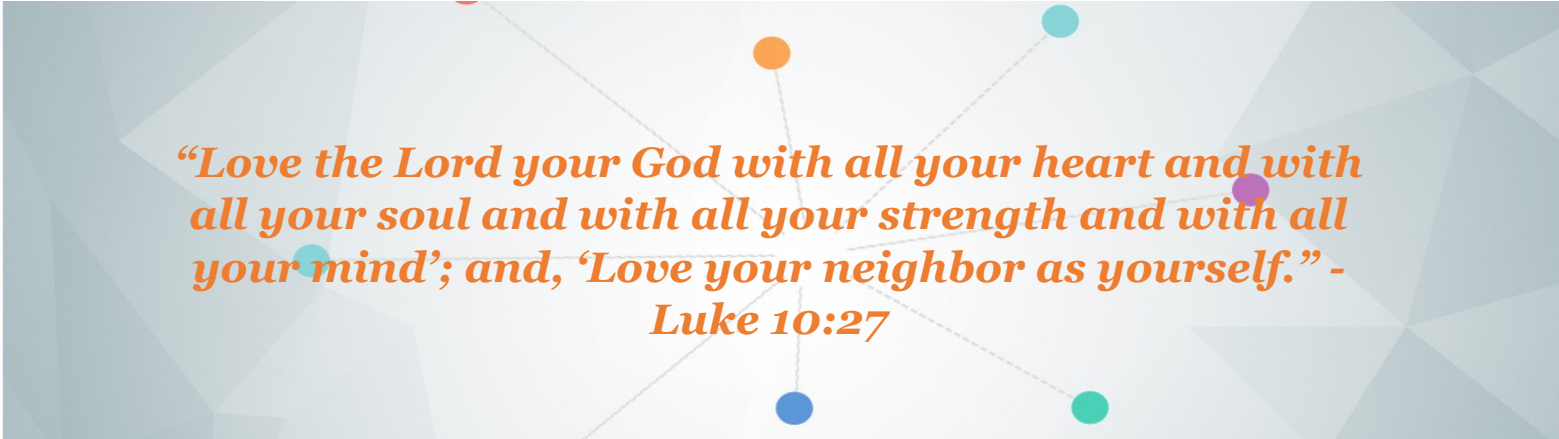
These three also express how our church is organized. We have four main ministry areas: Worship, Nurture, Outreach, and Resource. Worship is an expression of love. Nurture is a calling to continue to grow. Outreach pushes us to serve others. Resource cares for and helps interpret how we are able to do these three foci of ministry.

These three are not separate and distinct. Everything we do as a church must have components of worship, nurture, and outreach. Everything we do must be able to be explained in terms of Love. Grow. and Serve.

We're going to start using these three ideas, along with the new icons and colors assigned to each, all over the place: on our web site, in our lobby, in printed materials, in all the ways we communicate.

Perhaps these can also help you evaluate your own personal ministry. How can you show these three in your life and witness to others? Do others see these in your life? Are they your motivation? How can they help you frame what you do every day?

Love. Grow. Serve. Sounds like what it means to be a Jesus-follower!  
From one to another,  
Pastor David



***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ -  
Luke 10:27***

## Kid's Korner

Marriage is an amazing thing. It is much more than a social institution. It is a sacred bond that comprises the foundation of family and, in turn, society at large. It is a magnificent way of creating and sustaining important relationships. It makes sense out of a confusing mass of humanity. Marriage sets up a brilliant framework that allows people to thrive. The genius of marriage should come as no surprise. It was God's idea after all.

There is one main problem with marriage and family...the children. They are demanding, draining and domineering. They have to be constantly led and fed, cleaned and reamed, protected and disinfected. There is no doubt that kids are a blessing, but the work they require can be mind-boggling.

Forest Hills is gearing up to host another Valentine's Day Date Night for busy parents who need a night off. We will take their little blessings from 5-8:00 p.m. on Valentine's Day and provide a safe, fun place for the evening. Help us be a blessing to families in our community! We need volunteers to help in the nursery, to cook up some pizza in the kitchen, to run some games and to watch some movies! Join us as we help parents reclaim Valentine's Day night!

If you are interested in being involved, contact Andrew Bonsell.

# Events

## Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Perkins Restaurant in Forest Lake. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Rozanne Foster for more information.

## UM Youth Super Bowl Sunday

Order sub sandwiches for the big game on Sunday, February 7th. The youth group are making and selling subs as a fundraiser for their two mission trips this summer—Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and Wildfire (Superior, WI). Place your orders by Sunday, February 7th and pick up your subs as you leave worship that day. (Subs can also be delivered for a \$3 fee in the FL area). Ordering info is available online at [www.foresthillsumc.net](http://www.foresthillsumc.net).

## Ash Wednesday Service

Join us on February 10th, at 6:30 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday service. On Ash Wednesday we begin the season of Lent and start on the journey with Jesus to the cross. Come on the 10th and experience how we have been Marked By Jesus.

## Valentine's Day Date Night

Valentine's Day is around the corner and Forest Hills is providing parents with free child care so they can enjoy a special date night. We need your help to make this important ministry possible! Please contact Andrew Bonsell if you are able to help out. The event runs from 5-8:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 14th

# Worship's Word

*1 John 2:6 - Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

How can we live as Jesus? That is one of the central questions of the Christian life. Our faith isn't just making a one-time profession of belief, it's the process of every day growing closer to God and becoming more and more like Christ. In order to live more like Jesus we have to know what he was like, and the way we learn what he was like is to look at how he lived.

In our new year we have been focusing on spiritual growth, and in the Lenten season we will continue that focus by looking more closely at the person of Jesus. How can the person of Jesus and his life affect our worship lives?

In Jesus' life and ministry we see the importance of time with God in solitude and time with God in community. It can be easy for us to have Sunday morning be our 'God time' for the week. It can also be easy when we're in worship on Sunday morning to approach worship as an individual. *I* am worshiping God. *I* like or don't like this song. *I* really connect with this sermon. Instead, our worship needs to extend past Sunday morning, and our Sunday morning worship needs to be about us *in* the community. I challenge you in this month to think about how you could worship God when you're alone, and to think about how you are worshiping in this community. As we continue to become like Christ, we need to maintain both of these in our lives.

Peace and blessings on our journey,  
Andrew Buschena



# Spiritual Growth

As we are emerging our way further and further into the new year we are taking some time at Forest Hills to contemplate and live out our Spiritual growth in new ways. With this topic heavy on my mind there is a quote in a book I'm reading called *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit* by Henri Nouwen that I find myself continually reflecting on over the past week or so. Early in the book speaking about the broad topic of growing spiritually Nouwen says, "In a society that over-values progress, development, and personal achievement, the spiritual life becomes quite easily performance oriented: 'On what level am I now, and how do I move to the next one?' – 'When will I reach union with God?' – 'When will I experience illumination or enlightenment?' Many great saints have described their religious experiences, and many lesser saints have systematized them into different phases, levels, or stages. These distinctions may be helpful for those who write books for instruction, but it is of great importance that we leave the world of measurements behind when we speak about the life of the Spirit." I think there is something profound in these words from Henri Nouwen, and I think there is something that is difficult for us to grasp in them.

These words bring questions to my mind, "Why do we feel the need to qualify and quantify everything about our lives?" – "If we shouldn't measure where the spirit is growing or how it's growing then is everything my job is about a waste of time?" These questions and more are the difficulty we have coming to terms with Henri's words. We do live in a society that is performance and achievement based, however his profoundness can be found in the reminder that we do not follow the world's understandings; a reminder that we follow a God who uses different measuring tools. This is not to say that growing spiritually and growing in love are not things that God wants from us. On the contrary they are the very things God wants from us so that as we grow in love we are continually motivated and renewed to go outward as well as inward on our spiritual journeys. After all, when asked what the Greatest commandment of all is, Jesus replied by saying, "you shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31a NRSV)

So, the more I sit with this quote from Henri Nouwen the more I am convinced it is exactly the reminder we need when we focus on our spiritual growth. It reminds us that while growing takes time and work, we are growing in love with the one who created us, with ourselves, and with others. This kind of growth, this kind of love is not about what we achieve but who we become and it holds a profound difference from the way the world would classify growth. It requires God to work in us and us to enter into that work with our hearts open and ready. So may we all throw out our check lists and our assumptions of what we must do or accomplish to say we are growing spiritually, and may we lean into the beauty of the spirit and let it take us where it will.

Many Blessings, Amelia Buschena

## Butter Braid Fundraiser for Bluegrass Festival

Your help is needed for the upcoming Bluegrass Festival. Our Kittelson Spring Butter Braid Pastry Fundraiser starts on February 3rd. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Hebrew's Coffee Shop or by calling Paulette Johnson at 651-208-0250. Easter is right around the corner and butter braids (available only through fundraising) are a must have for your Easter breakfast/brunch table!

