

Pastor's Corner

April 2010

It has long been established that the Christian church is losing young adults between the ages of 18 and 34. In the past we have excused that by saying that they “go off to sow their wild oats.” However, many of these young adults, for whatever reason, never return. Now we have a generation gap within our churches. This gap is composed of people who no longer have church or God as a foundation in their lives. We see this pattern in all denominations of the Christian church. The average age of church members is increasing, and if it continues, many churches will no longer exist as their members die out.

There is speculation that people are moving to the “mega” churches; however, while those churches show rapid growth, there are still a large number of people not associated with any church. Based on the increase in population, there are enough people to fill existing churches and to require us to build additional churches. Reaching the people is the problem.

The United Methodist Church is committed to reaching these young adults, and as your pastor, I want to commit myself to reaching them. I hope that you, as a member of the congregation of Ebenezer United Methodist, will join me, the Western North Carolina Conference, and our resident Bishop Larry Goodpaster, and commit to reaching these young adults, too.

On **June 5th, 2010**, all United Methodist Churches within the Western North Carolina Conference, will attempt to reach the “un-churched” young adults between the ages of 18 and 34. In Caldwell County, all United Methodist Churches will gather for an event called “**Impact Community**”.

The pastors of Caldwell County met and chose a mission project by an organization called **Stop Hunger Now**. This organization is committed to providing food for third world countries. The cost per meal is 25 cents. This is a hands-on project where 50 volunteers package 10,000 meals in just two hours. We have committed our churches to provide funding to package 20,000 meals. We need to raise \$5,000.00 between **NOW and May 27**. This should not be an impossible task for 17 charges, which represent 25 individual churches (though some are very small).

We can all take part in the fundraising without great sacrifice. If each one of us takes the money that we spend on only (1) meal a week and put a matching amount into the project, we could easily raise the money. I challenge us, as the Body of Christ, to think of creative ways to raise money for this project. In the weeks to come, I will be sharing how we will be involved as a Church. There will be donation buckets in the classrooms and located elsewhere in the church. You may write a check, also, and mark it *Impact Community Event*, then place the donation in the offering plate.

This project is a way for us to reach out to people within our own community. In our May newsletter, I will provide more complete details on the event.

God Bless you!

Rev. Eric Lane

