

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION



Reaching Up To Christ and Out To Each Other
April, 2024

From the Pastor:

It has truly been a joy recently to see attendance up, new regular visitors, as well as the reception of new Church members. Easter seems to be continuing and I am thankful that new life is happening here at Cornerstone. I'm also very thankful for those who devote so much of their time and energy to make Cornerstone a happening place. I just hope they're not having to work too hard!

As I shared in a previous newsletter, I still enjoy learning new insights from organizational behavior research and how they apply to church. A relatively new insight is that organizations should shore up strengths more than weaknesses. It's kind of a "rising tide lifts all boats" mentality. To me it sounds a bit counterintuitive. Why would you not want to shore up weaknesses if the strengths of the organization are doing fine??

Well, this seemingly common-sense concept works well -- until it doesn't. You're probably familiar with the Pareto principle as it applies to organizations – 20% of the people do 80% of the work and/or make 80% of the contributions. If we apply it to the "shoring up strengths" concept, a congregation of 100 people is basically carried by 20 in terms missions, ministry, and financial support. Therefore, the pastor, staff and leaders of the church should focus more on the 20 (of which they are a part) and spend less time and energy on the 80 who contribute little. In a business organization that may be the way it works. But in a church, if Christ is our teacher and example, everyone should be treated equally special, right?

But let's think a little deeper about this. Is it really fair for the 20 (%) to have to carry most of the load in the church? There's another interesting insight from family and organizational research and it has to do with stress. Ordained rabbi, family therapist and leadership consultant Edwin Friedman once noted that, "stress comes less from overwork than from taking responsibility for the problems (and apathy) of others." The "20" feel anxious as to whether the "80" are ever going to step forward and contribute, so they feel the need to do it themselves. This not only happens with mission and ministry, but financial support as well. There are people in the Church who are working hard, giving more and more and, as a result becoming more stretched and stressed because others are standing on the sidelines (if they're even in the stadium). This to me doesn't seem fair. Please don't choose to be one of the bystanders.

(Continued on next page)

(Pastor's letter, continued)

When we choose to become a member of a United Methodist Church, we take a vow before God and the Church to support our Church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. It's a choice, and some, unfortunately, choose not to uphold their vows. Some may be in need of help, and if that's the case, please let me or someone in the Church know. We need to develop an accurate picture of the real Church body called Cornerstone.

To that end, we will be conducting another audit of the Church roll later this year. Inactive members will be given a choice to renew their vow. Those who no longer contribute in any way in terms of their presence, service and financial support will be removed from the roll. This sounds harsh. But why would you want to be a member of something that you have no interest in participating or contributing to? Have you had a bad experience here? Don't like the worship service? Don't like the pastor? Think about your reasons. Let us know! But it really is a choice. If you choose to be a member at Cornerstone, please don't be a stress maker, be a stress reliever.

May the stress relief of God's Peace be with you.

Irvin

New study upcoming for devotional study class:

Our Devotional Study class will begin studying in the next week or two Season One of the video series "The Chosen." Each week we will watch an episode and then discuss. The study guides we will be using will cost \$11.00. Please contact Pastor Irvin if you would like to participate in the class. We will meet every week at Cornerstone, on Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

The United Methodist General Conference is taking place now through May 3 in Charlotte. If you would like to follow the proceedings online, go to UMCSC.org and click on the link, "2020 General Conference Information". From there you will find a link to livestream, as well as other information. You may also go to UMnews.org and click on "General Conference" for news and commentary.

Lectionary Study for April:



Sunday, April 7th:

Acts 4:32-35
 Psalm 133 (UMH 850)
 1 John 1:1-2:2
 John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 21st:

Acts 4:5-12
 Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)
 1 John 3:16-24
 John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 14th:

Acts 3:12-19
 Psalm 4 (UMH 741)
 1 John 3:1-7
 Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 28th:

Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm 22:25-31 (UMH 752)
 1 John 4:7-21
 John 15:1-8

April Birthdays:

9th Diane Brewer 23rd Ellie Mobley
 12th Leoda Starnes 24th Lynn Hayes
 16th Brianna Inman 25th Jim Pedersen

April Anniversary:

20th Patrick & Jeanine Stovall
 26th Steve & Steph Pilecki
 26th Glenn & Edith Blafield

Coming Up Next Month

May Birthdays:

1 st Ligita Hasenjaeger	16 th Kathy Starnes
4 th Daniel Sliva	19 th Linda McCallum
6 th Judy Penn	21 st Vicky Castro
10 th David McManus, Sr.	30 th Angela Constantine

Please contact Church office if there are any additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list.

For prayer e-mail and/or bulletin prayer list requests please notify the church office, 328-1496 or crnrstone@comporium.net (office hours are Mon-Thurs 9-2 p.m.). When the church office is closed, leave a voice mail on office phone or you may also email, call or text church secretary, Cary Bartelmo, cbartelmo@comporium.net; 803-372-7923.

Cornerstone's **Instagram** page: [Cornerstone UMC Rock Hill, SC \(@umc.cornerstone\)](https://www.instagram.com/umc.cornerstone) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

To view the worship service each Sunday on Cornerstone's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/CornerstoneUMCRockHill/>

UMM News:

The next barbeque and bake sale will be held Saturday, April 20 from 4-7 p.m. Carry-out only, \$12.00/plate; \$15.00 lb.

Year-to-Date Financial Status as of 3/31/24:

Undesignated donations: \$39,162.10	Apportionments Due
Overhead distributions: <u>38,262.01</u>	January: \$1,328.25
Bottom line for year: 900.09	February: 1,328.25
	March: 1,328.25
	Designated money paid: (575.00)
	Balance due: \$3,409.75

Memorials

In Memory Of:

James Vance

Given By:

Debbie Jackson

Honorariums

In Honor Of:

Pastor Irvin Plowden, Jr.

Given By:

Jean Plowden

Scripture reader schedule for April:

- April 7th: Diane Brewer
- April 14th: Steph Pilecki
- April 21st^h: Kenneth Jones
- April 28th: Randy Hayes

If you are interested in being a scripture reader for worship services, contact church office.

Acolyte Schedule for April:

- April 7th: Emery Sliva
- April 14th: Teresa Boehme
- April 21st: DeeDee Anthony
- April 28th: Elijah Henke

Schedule for offering counters (Sunday mornings):

- April 7th: Linda McCallum; Daniel Sliva
- April 14th: Debbie Jackson; Diana Deyton
- April 21st: Dale Williams; Randy Hayes
- April 28th: Debbie Jackson; Howard McCallum

Church Family,

Thank you for your continued actions of love and support as we mourn the loss of my father, James R. Vance. Your thoughtful prayers mean the world to us. We have much to be thankful for. God bless you. Greg and Valerie Lytton

Dear Cornerstone UMC,

Thank you for your generous gift to Pilgrims' Inn. Our mission is to serve the most vulnerable members of our community—women and children struggling with homelessness and poverty. Through our shelter programs, food pantry, Open Arms Childcare Center, and life skills training, the mission is being fulfilled. Your support and partnership is an encouragement to us.

Blessings, JaVonda Palmer, Executive Director

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday (office closed)	2	3 6:00 pm Choir practice	4	5	6
7 -9:45 S.S. -11 am Worship -12:15 Trustee meeting	8 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone	9 6:00 pm Wings of Faith Circle	10 6:00 pm Choir practice	11 6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle	12	13
14 Communion -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday Sch -11 am Worship -3-5 pm Leoda Starnes' bday party at CUMC -5:15 pm Finance meeting -6:00 pm Church Council meeting	15 10:30 am devotional study at Epworth	16	17 6:00 pm Choir practice	18	19	20 4-7 pm UMM BBQ sale at Cornerstone
21 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship -5:00 pm Youth	22 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone 6:30 pm UMM meeting	23	24 6:00 pm Choir practice	25	26	27
28 -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship	29 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone	30				
		<u>Offering Counters</u> 7th: L. McCallum Dan Sliva 14th: Debbie J.; Diana Deyton 21st: D. Williams Randy Hayes 28th; Debbie J.; H. McCallum	<u>Scripture Readers</u> 7th: Diane Brewer 14th: Steph Pilecki 21st: Ken Jones 28th Randy Hayes	<u>Acolytes:</u> 7th: Emery Sliva 14th: Teresa Boehme 21st: DeeDee Anthony 28th: Elijah Henke	<u>Opening & Closing:</u> Johnny Starnes <u>Altar Guild</u> Maxine Smith	<u>Sunday Worship Schedule:</u> 9:30 am Good Eats fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 pm Choir practice	2 National Day of Prayer 6:00 pm Addie McClintock Circle	3	4
5 Communion -9:45 S.S. -11 am Worship -12:15 Trustee meeting	6 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone	7	8 6:00 pm Choir practice	9 6:30 pm District Connectional Ministries meeting at CUMC	10	11
12 Ascension Sunday Mother's Day -9:30 Good Eats -9:45 Sunday Sch -11 am Worship Mother's Day Offering Sunday for Epworth Children's Home	13 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone	14 6:00 pm Wings of Faith	15 6:00 pm Choir practice	16	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am S.S. -11 am Worship -5:00 Youth	20 10:30 am devotional study at Cornerstone 6:30 pm UMM meeting	21	22 6:00 pm Choir practice	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday -9:30 am Good Eats fellowship -9:45 am Sunday School -11 am Worship	27 Memorial Day No devotional study Office closed	28	29 6:00 pm Choir practice	30	31	
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