

## Opportunities to Worship, Fellowship and Serve

**TIME CHANGE** — Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before retiring this Saturday evening, March 14!

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE** — Today, 3 p.m., Billy Raley Classroom.

**LAITY GATHERING** — Today, 4:30 p.m., Trinity UMC (Hwy. 38). Harmony will sing.

**UMYF and YOUTH HANDBELLS** — Cancelled for today due to Laity Gathering.

**THE GATHERING** — Today, 7 p.m. in The Gathering Room.

**WINTER BIBLE STUDY** — Tuesday, 7 p.m. in the Billy Raley Classroom.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN NOON WORSHIP** — Join us in the Sanctuary for a 30-minute worship service, followed in the Methodist Family Center gymnasium with a soup and sandwich lunch sponsored by The Energetics. Our speakers are: *This week: Barbara Segars, Bethel-Sandy Grove, Bethune; March 17: Preston Grimsley, Shiloh, Chesterfield; March 24, Ben Gafford.*

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP** — This week's schedule is *Supper line opens, 5:45 p.m.; Program, 6:30 p.m.; Chancel Ringers rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.; Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.* Use the form in the bulletin to make a reservation today.

**MISSIONS ACTIVITY GROUP** — Monday, March 15, 10 a.m., Billy Raley Classroom, meeting with Debbie Jones Stewart.

**ART SHOW** — Wednesday and Thursday, March 17 and 18. Showing the work of our preschool children in The Children's Center. The "Art Sell" will be on Thursday evening, March 18. You are invited!

**ENERGETICS' BAKE SALE** — Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m. until ?. Your donations will be appreciated.

**LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES** — April 11, 18, 25, 4-8 p.m., Main Street UMC, McColl. Courses: Basic, Lead in Worship, Evangelism, Go Preach, Spiritual Gifts, Lead in Bible Study, Teaching Adults. Cost, \$25. Pre-registration encouraged. [www.sclayspeaking.org](http://www.sclayspeaking.org), or contact office for form.

**NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT** — is an evangelism program authorized by the SC Conference of the UMC to help churches discover their strengths and weaknesses so that strengths can continue and weaknesses be strengthened. We are enrolled in the NCD Program and will ask a small group to meet together to fill out a strengths and weaknesses survey. The NCD Program is a good continuation of the consulting work we did a few years ago.

**ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED** — April 11, 18, 25, May 9, 16, 23, 30. Call or email the church office to reserve a Sunday.

## Participating in Worship Today

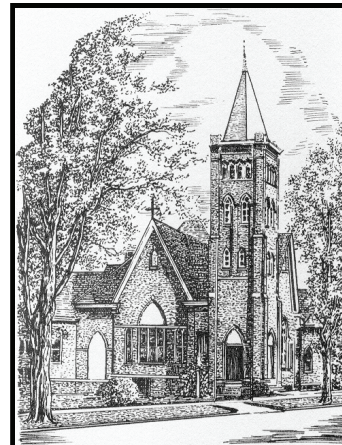
**Crucifer**—Chris Aubrie; **Acolyte**—Ruth Lawson Fowler;

**Ushers**—Ricky Sheets, Chuck Black, Hub Meggs, Dick Lail;

**Nursery Volunteer**—Ann Moody (SS and Worship);

**Greeters**—The Seekers Class; **Altar Guild**—Vicki Fowler, Terrie Sheets

Rev. Mary Virginia Taylor .....	RESIDENT BISHOP	Joann Hart.....	FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Rev. Quay Adams .....	DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT	Rev. J. Leon Newton.....	RETIRED UMC MINISTER
Rev. Dr. Ben Michael Gafford .....	SENIOR PASTOR		
Rev. Jim Hepler ....	DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES	Office Phone .....	843.479.3231
Beth Hepler .....	EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR	Office E-mail .....	BvilleFUMC@bellsouth.net
April McCall .....	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Website .....	<a href="http://www.BennettsvilleFUMC.net">www.BennettsvilleFUMC.net</a>



**First United Methodist Church**  
**Bennettsville, South Carolina**

*The Third Sunday in Lent*

*March 7, 2010*



# THE PARABLE OF THE FRUITLESS FIG TREE

Luke 13:6-9

# The Church in Worship



## WELCOME AND PARISH CONCERNS

Please sign the attendance folder and pass it down the pew for each person to sign. As the folder is returned, note the names of others in your pew. Extend a welcome to our guests!

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

arr. Michael D. Costello

**“If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee”**

*Please meditate on the text of this hymn, number 142 in our hymnal.*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The table is set. The banquet is laid.

**Our souls hunger and thirst for God!**

The Host is ready to welcome us here.

**Our souls hunger and thirst for God!**

“Return to Me, return to Me,” says the Lord.

**Our souls hunger and thirst for God!**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE 163

HENDON

**“Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know”**

## \*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## \*THE GLORIA PATRI 70

MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55: 1-9

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we are so thirsty!

Yet when offered refreshment from the waters of life,

we rely on our own means and end up drinking sand.

Heal our hardness of heart and help us seek You while You may be found,

that we may abide in Your steadfast love,

now and forevermore. Amen.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

based on 1 Corinthians 10, Luke 13

God is our help in times of trial.

If we put our trust in Christ, God will help us stand.

Even if we have not borne good fruit in the past,

Christ works to help us bear good fruit in the time before us.

## THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer in Unison

## THE OFFERING OF THE PEOPLE

## THE OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

William H. Harris

**“Prelude in E-flat Major”**

## \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

HAMBURG

**“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small.**

**Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

(TEXT BY ISAAC WATTS, 1707; MUSIC BY LOWELL MASON, 1824)

## \*SONG OF PREPARATION “Open Our Eyes”

Worship Chorus

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,**

**to reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.**

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

## THE ANTHEM

**“Wondrous Love”**

Larry Shackley

*The Chancel Choir*

## \*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 13: 1-9, pg. 71 NT

## THE MESSAGE

**“Looking Down on Others”**

Rev. Dr. Gafford

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION 357 “Just As I Am”

WOODWORTH

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Théodore Dubois

**“Christ, We Do All Adore Thee”**

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

arr. Michael D. Costello

**“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

**We welcome all who worship with us today!** Whether you are a member of this congregation, or a visitor, you are not meant to be a stranger. Let us extend a hand of friendship to one another. Please join us in worship any time you are able!

**The altar flowers** were given last Sunday in memory of Pledger Hodges by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hodges.

**An infant and toddler nursery** is provided during the worship service. It is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building, and the elevator is available to access the nursery. **Personal hearing devices** are available for those who have difficulty in hearing the service.