# First United Methodist Church Woodbury

Newsletter Jan 2013

# A Word From our Pastor:

“Greater Things”

Are you familiar with John 14:12? Jesus told his followers that they would do the things that He had done but that they would also do “greater things”! Our people have certainly been a testimony to that verse this past year! Here are some of the numbers:

68 – Services of Worship (This is our primary contact point and way we impact changed lives)

8 – People were baptized this year and joined by Profession of faith in Jesus

10 – Others joined our church by Transfer of membership

158 – Attended Easter Worship and for the first time ever we released live butterflies as a sign of new life!

176 – Attended our 200th Anniversary Service, the first United Methodist Bishop ever to attend and delivered the morning message

116 – Attended Youth Sunday

117 – Attended our Musical Gifts for Christmas

122 – Attended Christmas Eve Service

261 – Attended our Christmas Nativity Displays

We sent two missionaries to Guatemala

We sent 16 kids to Summer Mission Camp

Over $10,000 worth of Food given away in 4 major food distributions

100 kids each week, who would normally be hungry over the weekend, were given a back pack of food each week during school.

Now that is what I call some pretty great things!

We just finished our 200th anniversary year long celebration. But I can truly say that I don’t see anyone around here dwelling on our past, but I do see a lot of people excited about our future. Or to put it another way we are “expecting greater things!” This is very encouraging to me as the spiritual leader of the church, because expectation yields hope and this will help our faith to grow and develop. Why? Because, “faith is the substance of things hoped for.”

So now we turn the page and begin a new year, 2013. Let our expectations be high, let our hope rise, let our faith grow, and let us all expect even “greater things”.

Blessings,

John Wesley

**Upcoming Youth Meetings:**Jan 20th at 4:30

Warmth in Winter – Jan 25-27th

**Planning Retreat for New Officers and Committees**

We will have a workshop and orientation on all the committees of the church and the kinds of things that each committee is responsible for, on Saturday morning Feb. 2 at the Piedmont Girl Scout Camp group lodge (located just a few miles from the church just off Woodbury Hwy.). We will begin at 8:45 with breakfast served for all! Then we will meet as a whole group for a time and then break down into committees. If you are not serving on a committee you will be welcome to visit with different groups, learn about their plans, and share any ideas or input you may wish.

As we begin this new Church Year, here are some basic explanations that may help new members understand the various committee and leadership functions:

**Chairperson of Administrative Council** – This person works to keep the “business affairs” of the church in order by administratively seeing that committees function properly and that they bring new program items to the Council for information of for consideration. This person is responsible for preparing and communicating the agenda of the council meetings in consultation with the pastor, lay leader, and other appropriate persons. This person shall also provide leadership for the council in the areas of planning, establishing objectives, and goals. The Church Council Chairperson is entitled to attend meetings of all committees of the local church. The Council should meet at least quarterly but may meet more frequently as program and leadership issues may dictate.

**Lay Leader-** The Lay Leader is the primary representative of the laity in the local church and is responsible for encouraging, identifying, and recruiting laity to participate in worship, on committees, and in the overall ministry of the church. This person shall meet regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the needs for ministry within the church. This person should along with the pastor help interpret the programs and ministry opportunities of the annual conference the local church. The Lay Leader is also a member of the committee on Finance, the committee of lay leadership, and the PPR Committee.

**SPR Committee** - The primary responsibility of this committee is to encourage, strengthen, nurture, and support the Pastor and his/her family. This committee should help to promote unity in the church, to confer with and counsel the pastor on matters relating to the effectiveness of ministry and relationships within the congregation and to provide annual ministry assessment in order to help determine continued effectiveness of ministry. The committee should consult with the pastor regarding continued education and spiritual renewal events and help provide support for attendance to such events. The committee shall also consult on matters of pulpit supply, compensation, travel expense, vacation, insurance, pension, housing, and make appropriate budgetary recommendations to the Finance Committee and the Church Council. This committee also has oversight of any paid staff of the church.

**Chairperson of Finance** – This person shall convene and oversees Finance committee meetings as needed. The committee shall compile annually a budget of the church and submit it to the church council for review and adoption. The Finance committee is also responsible for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient funds to meet the budget.

**Chair of Trustees:** This person will help guide the Trustees in the oversight, care, and maintenance of all real and personal property of the church and the parsonage. They shall provide leadership for the oversight of any and all improvements, modifications, and new development. They shall make recommendations to the Finance Committee and Church Council any new budgetary requirements.

**Committee on Nurture & Membership Care:** (In-reach)

This committee is responsible for the Christian Education of our members and for their spiritual care and development.

Responsibilities include:

* Sunday School
* VBS
* Youth Ministry
* Confirmation Class
* Nursery care & Children’s Church
* Nursing Home Ministry
* Checking on sick members
* Food for Shut in or hospitals
* Food for families grieving a loved one
* Newsletter
* Church Calendar
* Special Short term Bible Study or other studies
* Prayer Shawl Ministry
* Special Worship Opportunities
* Spiritual renewal or retreat opportunities for our members

**Committee on Outreach**: (out-reach)

This committee is responsible for the way the church reaches out beyond our walls to reach new members and minister to the needs of our community and our world.

Responsibilities include:

* Increase awareness and create opportunities for members to be involved in Short Term Mission Projects
* Mission work –Local projects or Emergency Relief
* Work with our local food bank
* Back Pack Ministry
* Mobile Pantry Free Food Distributions
* Other Food outreach types of ministry
* Exploring new ways we can reach out to our community, which will increase Church awareness, or creating doors of opportunity for others to become a part of our church
* Evangelism efforts-Community visitation, outbound calling, outbound mail programs, etc.
* Coordinate with Worship committees for Evangelistic worship services such as “Bring a Friend Sunday”, or community Lenten Lunch services, etc.
* Community Outreach projects (Food Bank, S.A.V.E.,etc.)