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January 18th—Human Relations Day

“The 1972 General Conference established Human Relations Day to “recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other.” Every one of God’s children deserves justice and equality. Every one of God’s children deserves to open doors to success.”

Visit www.nccumc.org to learn more

Help Needed

“Volunteer teams are needed at the MERCI Warehouse in Goldsboro. Teams will collect, sort and pack **response kits**, organize inventory to prepare for immediate response, become trained to better respond to emergency situations and make a commitment to join a team to serve in the most awesome ministry of caring! To schedule a team of one or more, contact Ann Huffman at 1-888-440-9167.”

Visit www.merciumc.org to find more information on the Merci center and other ways you can help.

ANNUAL REVIVAL
JANUARY 25TH THROUGH 28TH
7:00 EACH EVENING
 Sunday through Tuesday, our preacher will be Tim Reaves
 On Wednesday, Brian Rogers will bring the message
SPECIAL MUSIC EACH EVENING

From the Pastor:

I hope that you have read the entire newsletter before getting to this last article. If you have, then maybe you noticed, as I did, that there is a common thread running throughout. Now, if you remember that each section is submitted by a different person, then this thread is really a God-thing.

The common thread? Garris Chapel is reaching out in 2009. From our outreach projects, to inviting people to family nights, to loading up your car for the ladies meeting, to reaching out to the community with pancake suppers and fun runs, it’s all about reaching out. If you don’t mind me saying so, I think that God likes that.

If you agree, let’s think about our New Year’s resolutions. Not our Garris Chapel resolutions, but our personal goals for the New Year. Surely you have already made yours. If so, look at them again. How many of them are all about you? (Losing weight, exercising, taking a course, being more organized, attending church more regularly)

Why not try something a bit different this year. Instead of making goals for things that you want to accomplish this year, why not make some New Year’s resolutions about what God would want you to do? It may take some serious thinking and planning, and possibly some additional praying. But I believe that when you get to the end of 2009, you will be glad that you did.

Lord, let it begin with Jerry.

Happy New Year to all!
Pastor Jerry



Garris Chapel UMC
Newsletter
Celebrating 100 Years

January 2009



Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry is dedicated to reaching outside our immediate church family to reveal the love of God. Throughout the year, we are actively involved in many ministries and are always looking for additional ways to show God’s love to those around us. Listed below are some of our on-going projects. If you would like to get involved, please speak with the listed coordinator.

The Sterling House: On the 5th Sunday of each quarter, we go to The Sterling House in Goldsboro to visit with the residents. These visits have included homemade ice cream, homemade cookies, as well as catered meals from McCalls. Sometimes we provide entertainment while they are enjoying their snack. Sabrina Paphitis coordinates these visits.

Wayne County Relay for Life: Garris Chapel is always an active participant in the annual Relay for Life that raises funds for the American Cancer Society. The relay is traditionally held during May. Fundraising activities will begin in February/March timeframe. Lynn Crumpler is the coordinator.

Cancer Care Packages: In 2009, we would like to begin a Cancer Care Package ministry that will provide care packages to folks recently diagnosed with cancer. If you have ideas of items to be included or if you have a person you would like receive one of these packages, please contact Susan Spengler.

Operation Christmas Child: Each year, we provide empty shoeboxes for the congregation to fill with Christmas goodies for needy children. In addition to the shoeboxes, the church covers the cost of the shipment. Shoeboxes will usually be available during the month of October since the shipment is due the week before Thanksgiving. We have traditionally sent about 100 boxes. Contact is Susan Spengler

Airmen Cookie Drive: During the holiday season,

folks who are able can bring homemade cookies in non-returnable packages to the church to be taken to SJAFB for delivery to airmen overseas. This is usually the first weekend in December.

Needy families: If at anytime during the year, you know of a family in need, please speak with the pastor. He has been given a discretionary fund to be used for such purposes.

Care for Bereaved Families: Garris Chapel has a wonderful reputation of taking care of grieving families. Rosa Wiggins heads up this ministry and will be glad to offer the church’s assistance.

Partnership with Educators: At the beginning of each school year, school staff are granted a fixed dollar amount to be used to provide classroom accessories, or to help children identified by the guidance counselors at their schools. Susan Spengler heads up this program.

Alzheimer’s Memory Walk: Garris Chapel has traditionally provided a donation to the memory walk. Due to the increasing number of families affected by this disease, we would like to increase our participation in this project. If you have knowledge about this program, please contact Susan Spengler.

Mission Work Teams: Garris Chapel sent a work team to Louisiana in the summer of 2006. We would like to take another work team during the summer of 2009. If you are interested, please contact Susan Spengler.

Vacation Bible School Mission Projects: During VBS, the Outreach Ministry provides a mission-focused opportunity for the children. Past projects have included Stop Hunger Now, Heifer International, Nothing But Nets, raising funds for wheelchairs, etc. Sabrina Paphitis will be working with VBS this year to determine the project focus.

Blood Drive: We have two blood drives during the year. Donna Smith heads up this project.

