

The Varnell Voice
newsletter for Varnell UMC, Inc.

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HIGHLIGHTS FOR WEDNESDAYS THIS FALL:

- ***THE DINNER BELL IS RINGING AGAIN! WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS WILL START BACK ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 WITH FAMILY AND KID FRIENDLY FOOD BEING SERVED BEGINNING AT 5:45 UNTIL 6:30 P.M. RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ON THE TEAR-OFF TAB ON SUNDAY, OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 706.694.8023 BY TUESDAY AT 12 NOON. COST: ADULTS \$5.00, CHILDREN 12 & UNDER \$2.50, FAMILY MAX \$20.***
- **KIDS KLUB WILL BE IN FULL SWING BY THIS DATE, SO REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR KIDS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17. LOOK WHAT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IS COOKING UP! TURN TO PAGE 2 TO SEE OUR MENU OF FUN.**
- **YOUTH ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN GOING ON ALL SUMMER AND HAVEN'T STOPPED OR SLOWED DOWN. HOWEVER, STARTING SEPT 7, YOUTH WILL BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY FOR "COURAGE." SO COME BE A PART OF THE "FACTORY - CREATING AND BUILDING THE YOUTH TO BECOME MORE CHRISTLIKE." FOR MORE DETAILS, READ PAGE 3.**
- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE! - COME JOIN US FOR INSPIRATIONAL WORSHIP, SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT, AND FELLOWSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS. FOR ALL AGES 6:45 – 7:45 P.M. (NURSERY PROVIDED.)**

Survival Series

August Sermon Series: SURVIVAL

August 14: "Surviving Parenting"
Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15:21-28

August 21: "Surviving Life in This World"
Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

August 28: "Surviving Temptation"
Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

Meet Our New Pastor & Family

Rev. Stephen Streett, Karen, Melodie & Stephen, Jr.



Varnell United Methodist Church (VUMC) welcomed our new pastor and his family June 26, 2011. We are so excited to have this super and enthusiastic family here!

Rev. Stephen Streett has served God in the United Methodist Church for 18 years. Stephen comes from Dunwoody UMC after serving there nine years. Originally from Florence, South Carolina, Stephen served nine years at Covenant UMC in Greer, South Carolina.

Stephen is married to Karen. They have been married 15 years and have two children, Melodie (11) and Stephen (8, aka S.J.) Karen holds a music degree from Columbia College. She spent the last seven years directing youth music at Dunwoody UMC. She was also on staff at the church as the Youth Ministry Program Assistant. Karen sang professionally with *The Lake Junaluska Singers* and *Glenn Draper Singers* located out of Chattanooga, TN. Karen has also directed preschool music over the years.

Melodie just entered the 6th grade. She loves playing softball, basketball, and the piano. She attended Camp Glisson this past summer.

S.J. is in 2nd grade. He loves fishing, baseball, and basketball.

Interesting things you might not know about Pastor Stephen and family:

- 1) They have two pets – Jinglebell (dog) and Charlie (cat).
- 2) They are a house divided. Karen and Melodie are Game Cock fans. Stephen and S.J. are Clemson fans.
- 3) Stephen played basketball in college.
- 4) Karen is a PK - preacher's kid.
- 5) Melodie loves bacon!
- 6) S.J. likes hillbilly hand fishing.
- 7) Rev Streett believes God made sweet tea on the 8th day of Creation.

If you read this article and are the first person to call Tammy Burek at 706.694.8023, and can mention any of these interesting things about Stephen's family, you will get a FREE coffee at McDonald's.

DISCIPLE

Want to grow in your faith? Want to change your life? Discover DISCIPLE I. Already been through DISCIPLE I and ready for another spiritual journey? Then join DISCIPLE II this fall.

For more information on these special Faith Journey classes, please call Rev. Stephen Streett at the church office 706.694.8023.

You can also sign up on Sundays using the tear-off tab in the bulletin. COME GROW YOUR FAITH AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER AND ETERNALLY.



David Noll, Jr. & Kennedy Chandler are all smiles during VUMC's Vacation Bible School held June 20 – 24, 2011.

Children's Ministry

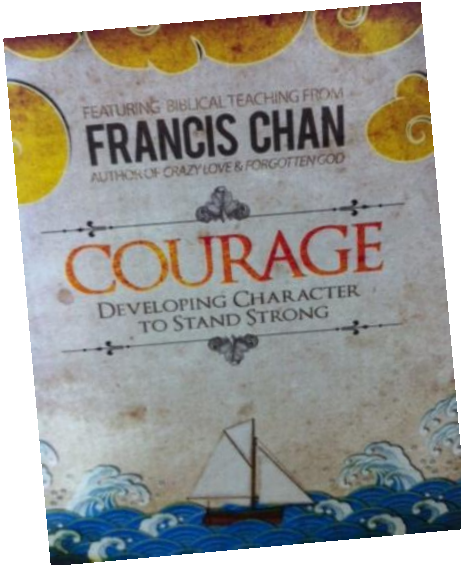
August/September Menu

Hello everyone! This is CHEF Ashley! I'm so excited about the array of Heavenly activities being served up. *Starting August 17th 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. come join us as we stir things up with a dash of music, games, scripture reading and more!

*Starting after Labor Day, the ingredients of hand bells and kids choir will be tossed into the mix.

* We will be stirring up family movie nights in September. Look for the scrumptious details to come.

I'm so excited about what's cookin' up in Children's Ministry! Please join us on Sunday mornings for Praise Kraze (10:45) and Wednesday night (6:30-8:00). Both are full of zest and spice and your kids will leave with a heart FULL of love for Jesus.



Youth – Ready for Courage?

Well, Oh My Gosh! Can you believe that it is already August and that school is starting back? Woo! What a quick summer that was. Well, we have some super cool things happening this Fall in the Youth Group.

First off, we are kicking it off on August 17th at 6:30 at our Wednesday Worship service with our praise band, games, and a message. This is going to be a blast, so you don't wanna miss out. We'll have a couple new additions to *The Factory* like a Chalkboard wall for announcements, prayer requests, and other awesome info. you want to put on it. We might even have a little coffee bar down there for you "Coffee Kids".

Second thing on the list is our September series, starting on September 6th at 6:30. We will be doing a four week series by Francis Chan called **COURAGE**. It will focus on students having the courage to stand up for the Truth and not being afraid to talk about Christ, really excited about it. Also starting up are our Small Groups. These will meet right after the message and will discuss and break down the message with in-depth questions and time to share thoughts. These groups will be led by Michael Hicks, Kenny Sheppard, and Andrea Woodason. These groups will meet all year long and will help grow our ministry.

Last but not least, my friends, the Youth room is no longer called the "Cave" - we are now "THE FACTORY". "This phrase ("THE FACTORY") is on our shirts and what it means is that *we are creating and building our lives to more like Christ*. So come check out our blue prints and be a part of our building process. If you would like to help or just have questions please contact me at 706-537-3582 or kurt@varnellumc.org.

KOOL BEANS,

-Kurt Baron or Kool Beans – HA! HA!

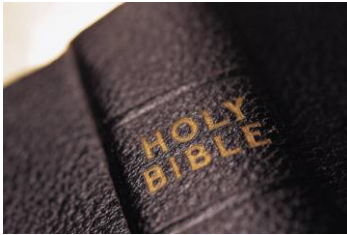


Some of the youth and children enjoy the slides, pools, and water activities at the Water Fun Day held at VUMC on Saturday, July 30, 2011.

Bibles & Basketball



All guys, young and young at heart, are invited to join Reverend Streett on Monday evenings from 8:15-9:15 for a brief devotion and pick-up basketball beginning August 15 at the VUMC gym.



Welcome Sharon Ewing! Varnell United Methodist Church New Praise & Play Preschool Director

Varnell UMC welcomes Sharon Ewing as the Praise & Play Preschool Director. Sharon, her husband, Phil, and daughter Olivia also attend church at VUMC. Sharon has worked for the Preschool since 2006, recently as the Financial Coordinator. She is excited to report that we are adding music with Karen Streett to the preschool curriculum this year.

Sharon states, "...Every year I have learned more and more from the children, things like, a hug can make your day, a smile is the best medicine, a kiss will heal a boo boo, playtime is the best time of the day, and a child's laughter and squeals could bring world peace if everyone would just listen. I try to bring this happiness home to my family, Phillip and Olivia, and share it with my daughter Amy, son-in-law Ryan and my grandson Bo. I feel honored and blessed to be given the chance to make a difference in a child's life by working at the Preschool."



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Janeth Madrigal Toddler Childcare Provider

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