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# Connections

to fayetteville first united methodist church

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## Lnay on the Kanye

Rev. Mark Westmoreland

The news cycle has peddled on, I know, but I'd like to rewind to the distant past of a couple of weeks ago when Kanye West made headlines for his behavior toward that sweet, cute Taylor Swift. West, who is a phenomenally successful and impressive rapper, a somewhat less impressive, albeit electronically enhanced, singer, and who is equally famous for his ego and his strange behavior at awards shows, crossed the line this time when he interrupted the 19-year-old country star's acceptance speech during the MTV Music Video Quasi-Awards Show. He wanted to point out that Beyonce's video for "Single Ladies" (choreographed by a guy who went to high school with my sons, a guy who has probably bought HIS parents a house by now) was one of the greatest ever (Personally, I rank Madness' "House of Fun" and Johnny Cash's "Hurt" ahead of it, but I'm old-school). Beyonce seemed mortified, and the audience reacted with all the moral outrage they could muster given the restraints of their tight gowns, fitted tuxes or, in some cases, fashionably filthy jeans.

Booed by the offended crowd and lambasted by celebrity tweets, Kanye had to amscray. Since then he has issued 10 or 12 apologies and mumbled something to Jay Leno about needing to take some time off to "analyze how I'm going to make it through the rest of this life, how I'm going to improve."

I don't know; maybe the whole debacle was just a charade orchestrated by a network known for stupid stunts and followed up on another network desperate for higher ratings; but I suspect Kanye's comment to Leno was sincere. He's probably feeling a little lost right now. He gets paid to push limits by a public that lives vicariously through celebrity limit-pushers; then one day he pushes too far and ends up vilified by the same public that adored him last week. Granted, they'll come back around, but maybe Kanye wants more than that. He hasn't told me, but I'm guessing that in the midst of the circus that is wealth and fame, even Kanye must wonder right now who Kanye really is.

If any of you know him, please let him know he's welcome to come down to Fayetteville First UMC to do his thinking. He can come to Wednesday night dinner (first one's on me), try out Sunday School, sing in the choir if he wishes (no electronic enhancement necessary), and think all he likes.

He'll find out pretty quickly that there's not a one of us here who hasn't messed up at least as badly as he did, just with fewer witnesses. And he'll be reminded by some good folks that, in the quiet that remains when the circus leaves town, and in the silence of his own soul, Kanye is who Kanye always has been—a loved, flawed, forgiven child of God.

### Inside This Month's Connections

Happenings	pg. 2
Announcements	pg. 3
Calendar of Events	pg. 5
Kristin's Kids Korner	pg. 6
Staff Contacts	pg. 8

Dear Fayetteville First UMC,

Thanks for fixing us lunches. Thanks for all volunteers that helped donate the food and prepare the lunches. *Angie*

Thanks for fixing us the lunches it was good lunches by Ebenezer  
Thanks for the food by Angelina

Thanks for the lunches. The kids enjoyed getting them. *Mary Ann*

**About Our Church Family**

In Memoriam:

Bill T. Smith  
August 25, 2009

Roy Moore  
August 31, 2009

Herman Miller  
September 9, 2009

Gloria Giles  
September 19, 2009

In Sympathy:

- Mr. & Mrs. Pope Hood upon the death of their brother-in-law, Frank Gibbs, on August 16.
- Mrs. Faye Livingston and family upon the death of her father-in-law, J.R. Livingston, on August 19.
- Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bellury and family upon the death of Tim's father, Norman Bellury, on August 19.
- Mr. & Mrs. Raney Price upon the death of Peggy's father, Mr. Hanshew, on August 20.
- Dr. and Mrs. Dave Lee and family upon the death of Cheryl's father, Bill T. Smith, on August 25.
- Mrs. Barbara Blake and family and Mr. & Mrs. Orrie Grainger upon the death of their son and grandson, Stephen Blake, on August 25.
- Mr. Emory Holbrook upon the death of his brother, Al Holbrook, on August 31 and his brother, Bill Holbrook, on September 20.
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Turner upon the death of LaNeva's father, Roy Moore, on August 31.
- Mr. & Mrs. Monty Goza and Drs. Ferrol and Helen Sams and family upon the death of Monty's mother and Ferrol's sister, Sara Goza, on September 4.
- Mrs. Thomasina Miller and family upon the death of her husband, Herman Miller, on September 9.
- Mrs. Mary Dettmering and family upon the death of her sister, Elna Whitlock Couch, on September 17.
- Mr. Gabriel Dutra upon the death of his aunt, Ezilda Brasser, on September 21.

A donation to the Building Fund was given by the Fellowship/Discipleship Class in honor of Estelle Howard and Eleanor Wiley, and in memory of Bill Smith, Frank Gibbs, Al Holbrook and Roy Moore.

Keep Them In Your Prayers:

Millie Arnold  
Joe Byers  
Carolyn Clark  
Carolyn Croft

Annis Harrell  
Tim Horner  
Estelle Howard  
Mary Ellen Jones

Robert Kyzer  
Angie McClanahan  
Mary Pierson  
Dot Smith

Jimmy Watkins  
Bill Weinmeister  
Eleanor Wiley  
Lynne Wood

Note of Thanks:

Dear Friends, We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the cards, calls, and sympathy extended to us during the illness and death of my mother, Betty Wade in May and my father, J.P. Wade in August. How lovely to have such wonderfully caring friends. Thank you for your kindness, Ray and Suzan Wade Cole

Thanks to my wonderful church family for the love and concern shown to me during my recent down time. The prayers, calls, cards, and visits meant so very much. I love you all. Eleanor Wiley

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers. They really meant a lot to me. Our church is the best there is. Estelle Howard

<b>Attendance:</b>			
<b>Aug. 31</b>	<b>Sept. 6</b>	<b>Sept. 13</b>	<b>Sept. 20</b>
Worship: 525	Worship: 456	Worship: 571	Worship: 537
Sunday School: 258	Sunday School: 262	Sunday School: 303	Sunday School: 302
Church Membership: 2006			
<b>Our Giving, September 6 - 20:</b>			
Budget: \$77,095.33			
Building Fund: \$3,010.00			
2009 Budget: \$1,424,006.00			
Shortfall: \$84,996.74			

**BLOG**

Check out the new youth blog! Everyone is welcome to visit and comment to add to the conversation of this body of Christ! The site is [www.ffumcyouthblog.com](http://www.ffumcyouthblog.com) and can also be accessed by our church website. Go there and subscribe so you will be notified when new posts come up!

**Thank You**

Thanks to all of our adults that are willing to spend time weekly building relationships with our students. They don't do it for fame or acclaim, but I want to thank them and want you to see their names so you can thank them personally!

Solomon's Porch Shepherds:

Penny Erbe, Linda Lewis, Heather Peterson, Susie Keaton, Dawn Horner, Paula McMahan, Laurie Brooks, Frieda Everritt, Brenda Parker, DeeDee Caldwell, Jane Gough, Tami Kemberling, James Caldwell, Tim Horner, Josh Parker, Fred Ring, Evan Trivett

Sunday School Leaders:

David and Lynn Deason, Julie Palin, Tim and Dawn Horner, Beth Alexander, Bobby and Kathe Anderson, Bobby Hamil

Also, a big thank you to the Ethel Taylor Circle for providing snacks for 8th Period once a month! We still have two available spots if anyone can help provide snacks for our students following their study time after school on Wednesdays.

**Heiden, Westmoreland to lead Thursday evening study**

Two simple truths: (1) God calls all of us to a life of wholeness, joy and service. (2) Life is complicated. Realizing the first in the midst of the second is a challenge, to say the least.

What would it be like to have more balance in our lives? What would change if we had a renewed sense of faith and health? And how can all of that happen right now, in the midst of our busy days?

Join Mark and Kristin for a study that invites us to explore and discover change and renewal in our lives. Focusing on five key areas - devotion, lifelong learning, key relationships, vision, and healthy lifestyle, Momentum for Life challenges us to be our best selves, to develop our leadership potential, and to move forward into the future God has planned for us as individuals and a church community.

This six-week study will begin Thursday, October 1 from 7 – 8 p.m. Contact the church office to sign up and receive a workbook.

**Small Group Rosters**

If you are in a church-related small group such as a Bible study, Sunday School class, book club, work team, or otherwise, we would like to make sure we have your group in our database. Please help us update our records by submitting your group roster to the church office. This will be helpful on many levels. Thank you!

**Pictorial Directory**

Our new pictorial directories are scheduled to arrive at the end of this month. We will let you know when they are here.

**Kristin's Kids Korner**

During the current rotation in Sunday School, the students are learning about David, the boy. Each week they discover a new part of the David story, particularly surrounding the story of David and Goliath. Below are a few books you can read to or with your children to explore the story even further.

*The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*, by Eugune Trivizas and Helen Oxenbury – This new take on the classic story of the Three Little Pigs turns the wolves into the victims with the pig as the attacker. Read how the wolves learn to make friends with the enemy rather than try to outsmart him.

*Hooway for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester – This is a tale of young Rodney Rat who is made fun of in school for not being able to pronounce his 'R's'. When a new bully joins the class, however, Rodney becomes the hero. Note: This story will need discussion following your reading about bullying in general and the best way to handle certain situations.

*David and Goliath* by Sekiya Miyoshi – Accompanied by beautiful chalk illustrations, this book tells the story of David the shepherd boy conquering the giant, Goliath.

These books and others are available in the Children's Library on the shelf labeled, "Pastor Kristin Recommends."

**Kids FLIP – Room Change and Upcoming Activities**

Due to the growth of the Kids FLIP program, we will now meet in two separate rooms. Children in Preschool through 1st Grade will meet in C-160. Children in 2nd through 5th Grade will continue to meet in C-280.

As we began last year, Kids FLIP will periodically have pajama party movie nights benefiting Gracie's Closet. On these nights we invite children to wear their pajamas to church and bring a pair of new or gently used pajamas to be donated to Gracie's Closet. Our first Pajama Party will be on October 14.

**YOUTH NEWS: GodView**

Spell the word "HOST" out loud. Now spell the word "TOAST". What do cows drink? Did you say milk? Notice how our perception can alter our response. Have you ever thought about how this applies to God?

How we view God directly affects our response in life to Him. I have studied and seen many awful things in this world that were done "in the name of God". For example, the forming of the Ku Klux Klan, the Holocaust, or in my lifetime, the David Koresh travesty and the 9/11 plot. How could these things be of God? Is it possible that the way the people behind these things viewed God effected how they responded?

I have met a lot of people who choose not to follow Jesus. Many of them have tried it before and "it didn't stick". Something may have happened: an unanswered prayer, a person representing the church did them wrong, or they hated the guilt they felt trying to be righteous. Could it be that these responses are also due to their view of God? I believe that most of us have a view of God that is far too small. Sometimes the church can be partly responsible for providing this small view of God. We like to put him in a nice package that looks nice and fits well into our lives. The truth is that God shatters any box we try to put Him in. God is bigger than any of us will ever know. He is big enough to handle loss, big enough to handle the church, and big enough to handle our sin. I wonder if many of the people I know that left Jesus would have had a different experience if their view of God were bigger?

What does your GodView look like? Is it possibly too small? The way we view God is the most important thing about us. Take some time to consider your view of God. Let God shatter any box that we may have put him in!



ministry to families with children  
fayetteville first umc

**Christmas Tour of Homes 2009**

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church will sponsor the annual Christmas Tour of Homes on Saturday and Sunday December 5 and 6, 2009, from 1 – 5 p.m. each day.

Among the homes to be on tour this year are:

- \*Debbie and Doug Walker
- \*Shelley and Rick Halbert
- \*Susan and Sam Burch
- \*Connie Thomas (An Eco-Friendly Home)
- \*The Travis House (downtown Fayetteville)

Tickets will be \$15 (donation) each, with the proceeds going to benefit the completion of the Fayette Counseling Center on Bradley Drive, Fayetteville, with work accomplished by Square Foot Ministries. This Center will benefit the entire Fayette Community. Tickets may be purchased starting October 1 from Connie at the Church Office (770-461-4313, 175 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville).

**Announcements and Special Events**

**Fall Festival - October 25, 5 - 7:30 p.m.**

The fall season is officially upon us, which means it is time for our annual FFUMC Fall Festival. Along with the regular games, inflatables, Trunk-or-Treat, and cake walk, we will have new and fun opportunities for mission involvement as we seek to celebrate and serve together. We will also have a catered dinner with entertainment provided by a fun bluegrass band. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a fall evening with your church family.

Volunteers will be needed to help with setup and takedown, food, games, etc. If you would like to help, please contact Kristin Heiden (kheiden@fayettevillefirst.com).

**UMW Christmas Marketplace**

Sign up now to reserve a booth at this year's Marketplace, Nov 7. If you know of others who may be interested in a booth, please pass along the information to Carol Key, 770-461-9773 or email her at carol@pearllady.com. Also, we are hoping to have the biggest Bric-A-Brac sale ever this year, so please start saving those treasures now!

**A Good Use of Old Books**

The Cancer Support Group is seeking donations of used books for their Book Sale, October 11-18. The sale will be held upstairs in room C210. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or in the Education Building at the stairwells. Proceeds from the sale will go to the American Cancer Society.

**Preschool Chick-fil-A Night**

The FFUMC Preschool and Mother's Morning Out will be hosting Chick-fil-A night on October 27 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the southside Chick-fil-A. Be sure to ask for your receipt, and then put it in the designated box found on the inside counter or at the drive-through window. The preschool will receive 10% of the collected receipts. Thank you in advance for supporting our church and preschool!

**Bric-a-Brac Sale**

Please save your good used household items, such as kitchen equipment, dishes, linens, decorations, computer accessories, and furniture (no clothing) for the UMW Fall Festival, Saturday, Nov. 7.

**Blood Drive**

The next Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, October 4 in the Family Life Center from 8 am to 1pm. Sign-ups will take place in the courtyard on Sundays between services. There are new guidelines for giving if you have been treated for cancer. You CAN donate: If the treatment for your cancer was completed at least one year ago and you did not have leukemia or lymphoma. You CAN donate: If you have had skin cancer, if the skin cancer was diagnosed as non-melanoma skin cancer, and the cancer has been removed or fully treated. Youth 16 years and older can donate if their parent comes to the Blood Drive and signs approval forms. Identification is required. Donors may call 1-866-236-3276 for additional information.

**Missions Update**

Missions Cafe

Thank you to everyone that helped to make our baby shower for Gracie's Closet a huge success. We collected \$460 in cash and gift card donations, plus we had a generous outpouring of socks, underwear, diapers, clothes, and other necessities. Thank you for making this a meaningful event. Mark your calendars for our next Mission Café on November 29. Bring a homemade baked item or come to buy one to take home with you.

Great Day of Service

We are currently in the planning stages for our annual Great Day of Service 2010. We are going to need a wealth of excited volunteers to help run a multitude of committees. We are currently pulling together a steering committee in order to facilitate a successful day of outreach. We are looking for persons interested in the following positions: Project Captain Coordinator, Materials Coordinator, Publicity Coordinator, Recruitment Coordinator as well as several others. If it is in your heart to contribute to the success of Great Day of Service next year, please contact Lindsay Blythe at 770-306-8648 or lindsay\_blythe@hotmail.com. Our first Great Day of Service meeting will be in late September or early October.

Let's Stock the Food Pantry!

The month of October is our second opportunity to stock the Fayette Samaritans' food pantry this year. For your convenience, we are listing their most pressing needs here, plus you can pick up a bag with the needs listed on Sunday mornings or during the week.

- Juice
- Rice
- Peanut butter & Jelly
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, salmon, beef stew, sloppy Joes)
- Laundry Detergent & toilet tissue
- Hand soap
- Diapers, size 3 and 4
- Cereal
- Ramen Noodles and Pasta
- Ketchup, Mayo, Mustard

If now is not a good time for you to give, you can also find a list of items on their website (www.fayettesamaritans.org) on the Wish List page any time.

On a side note, Fayette Samaritan's clothing bank is in need of men's briefs (large and extra large), women's panties and socks all sizes, boys jeans from ages six through teenage, children's clothing, and extra large clothing for men and women. They are desperately in need of NEW CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR (4 through 16) and SOCKS.

**What's for Supper?**

<u>October 7</u>	<u>October 21</u>
Fried Chicken	Roast Beef
Creamed Potatoes	Baked Potato
Broccoli and Cheese	Salad
Bread	Bread
Dessert	Dessert
<u>October 14</u>	<u>October 28</u>
Meat Loaf	Chicken Parmesan
Choice of Vegetable	Noodles
Macaroni and Cheese	Salad
Bread	Bread
Dessert	Dessert

**October @ Fayetteville First UMC**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> (See left for normal schedule) Blood Drive: 8 UMC Exec. Meeting: 3 AA: 3 Financial Peace: 4:30	<b>5</b> Kindermusk: 9:30, 12 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 8 Almon: 8	<b>6</b> Bethany Circle: 11:30 Tutus II: 12 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 Emmanuel Board Meeting: 6:30 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 Ethel Taylor Circle: 7	<b>7</b> Intercessory Prayer: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusk: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 8th Period: 4 (see left for night schedule) AA: 8	<b>8</b> Hope Circle: 10 Walking Group: 1 Following the Path: 1 Class Pairings: 6:30 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30 Momentum for Life: 7 AA: 8	<b>9</b> Conversation Peace: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7	<b>10</b> AA: 8
<b>11</b> (See left for normal schedule) AA: 3 Financial Peace: 4:30	<b>12</b> Kindermusk: 9:30, 12 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 8 Almon: 8	<b>13</b> Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Trinity Circle: 7	<b>14</b> Intercessory Prayer: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusk: 10:30 8th Period: 4 (see left for night schedule) AA: 8	<b>15</b> Walking Group: 1 UMW Spirit's Night: 6:30 Momentum for Life: 7 AA: 8	<b>16</b> Conversation Peace: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7	<b>17</b> AA: 8
<b>18</b> (See left for normal schedule) AA: 3 Financial Peace: 4:30	<b>19</b> Kindermusk: 9:30, 12 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 8 Almon: 8	<b>20</b> Shaw Ministry: 9:30 Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30 Sq. Ft. Ministries: 6:30	<b>21</b> Intercessory Prayer: 9 Promise Circle: 9:30 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusk: 10:30 8th Period: 4 (see left for night schedule) AA: 8	<b>22</b> Faith Circle: 10 Mary Martha Circle: 10 Walking Group: 1 Momentum for Life: 7 AA: 8	<b>23</b> Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7	<b>24</b> AA: 8
<b>25</b> (See left for normal schedule) Southern Crescent Sym: 3 AA: 3 Financial Peace: 4:30 Fall Festivals	<b>26</b> Kindermusk: 9:30, 12 Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 8 Almon: 8	<b>27</b> Walking Group: 1 Seasoned Singers: 1:30	<b>28</b> Intercessory Prayer: 9 Body Recall: 10:30 Kindermusk: 10:30 8th Period: 4 (see left for night schedule) AA: 8	<b>29</b> Walking Group: 1 Momentum for Life: 7 AA: 8	<b>30</b> Body Recall: 10:30 Walking Group: 1 AA: 7	<b>31</b> AA: 8

**Normal Sunday Schedule**

- Choir Practice: 7:50
- Worship in Sanctuary: 8:30
- Wonders of Worship: 8:30
- Sunday School: 9:40
- Worship in Chapel: 9:45
- Orchestra Practice: 10
- Choir Practice: 10:15
- Worship in Sanctuary: 11
- Wonders of Worship: 11
- Worship Team Rehearsal: 2
- Open Court Basketball: 2
- Journey Bible Study @ It's a Grind: 6

**Normal Wednesday Schedule**

- Genesis Youth Choir: 5
- Wed. Night Dinner: 5:15
- Joyful Noise Choir: 6
- Melody Choir: 6
- Sonshine Choir: 6
- 1/99 Mid. & HS: 6
- Discovery Club: 6:30
- Bells: 6:30
- Chimes: 6:30
- YOGA: 6:30
- Solomon's Porch: 7pm
- FLIP: 7
- Chancel Choir: 7:30