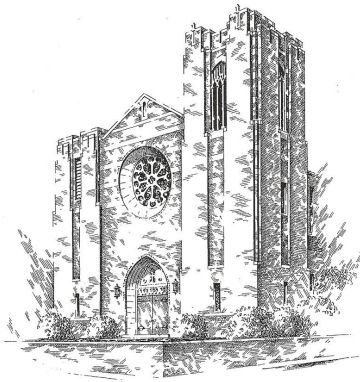


FIRST NEWS

October 2008

I. Celebration and Thanksgiving



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First, as I greet you all in the Name of Jesus Christ in these opening days of October, I wish to thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, emails and personal exchanges as I and my family have gone through my rigorous dance with the rolling stones! Those bad boys ("Jagger" and "Jigger" as I called them) have been zapped with lithotripsy therapy and are well on their way toward some place other than my left kidney, to a better place, as we say. My excellent physician, Dr. Marc Nesi, gave me his preliminary opinion today (September 29) that my illness has resolved satisfactorily and that I should experience no further difficulties or restrictions, though I suppose, as some of you who have had this problem might do as well, that this problem could recur later. At this rate, I am due for another bout around my 120th birthday. Something to look forward to!

I repeat here what I said Sunday, September 28, by way of appreciation to Dr. Lee Jessup, who stepped up to the leadership spot on very short notice on the Sunday of our Homecoming, though he was already scheduled as our guest preacher. While I regret profoundly not being able to be with you in person on that occasion, I was with you in spirit and in prayer, adopting, as the Apostle Paul advises us to do when we are apart one from another, the mind of Christ as he describes it in Philippians 2:1-13. My joy was indeed complete upon learning of your tremendous turnout for this special celebration, with approximately 160 persons in attendance. I promise you that we will have more and more such uplifting and joyous occasions of worship and fellowship.

I thank my dear friend, the Rev. June Grubb, for leading worship in my stead on the following Sunday, which we had designated as "Assembly" Sunday. I thank as well our outstanding Transition Team (with a special nod to Walter Hoffman) who conducted their final meeting of preparation without me and discharged our planning to the letter with grace and appreciation for all of you who shared your knowledge and love of our congregation through the process of your answering the six questions which, while deceptively simple, are key to the building of our future foundations in ministry. Under better circumstances, I would be sharing some of those results with you now, in this space, but the TT and I have not yet had

a chance to assess and refine your responses, so that report will have to wait. Lastly, I thank everyone in the congregation who attended our first Assembly, reminding you of our covenant to each bring one member to our next Assembly who was not present at this one, but whose insights we truly need. Our next two TT meetings are scheduled for consecutive Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. October 7 and October 14, each meeting starting promptly at 7:00 and concluding promptly at 8:00 p.m.

Finally, I thank The Women's Life Fellowship for their vision in sponsoring and planning our outstandingly successful fundraiser, The Corner Café Mystery Dinner Theatre, with a huge "tip of the hat" to Carolyn Spivey, whose commitment to this project was contagious as she lead, prodded, cajoled and encouraged her amateur thespians in myriad ways. While some of our players really had lots of dialogue to learn and to keep straight, I think the "Player With the Most Heart" award goes to Peggy Bates (as "Jill," of "Jack & Jill" fame), who was really sick during the several days leading up to and including the evening performance—yet, she was very funny and even ad-libbed here and there, in an appropriate and creative way, as indeed a number of us had to do! While I do not think that the Academy Award crowd will take much interest in what happened here, you certainly did through your obvious enjoyment of the play and your enthusiastic, generous and occasionally wild bidding at the auctioning of clues to solve the mystery. Thanks to you, we raised far more money than we had hoped to do, and we will share the figure with you when it's tallied up. These are funds that will be used to support all sorts of ministries within and beyond our congregation, funds that we would not otherwise have had. Finally, thanks to Yarborough's

Restaurant for our delicious meal and to all “behind the scenes” servers and support persons, certainly among them the indefatigable Paula and Cliff Lopp. (PS--I even heard several guests from other churches comment that they would like for us to do this play for them! I’m not sure that we’re ready for the road, yet.)

II. Looking Ahead Toward “Stewardship”

In looking ahead, the month of October presents us with many opportunities to explore the vitally important themes of Biblical “stewardship,” including our participation in the CROP Walk, scheduled for Sunday, November 2nd. For years now, I have lamented the modern tendency for congregations to reduce the extraordinarily rich idea of Biblical stewardship to the mere considerations of “money.” Biblical stewardship expresses the entire range of our responses to God’s gracious initiatives to us in and through Jesus Christ, a reckoning of how we use all of our resources, faithfully, those of time, talent and service, as well as those of fiscal resources. The subject covers, literally, everything we do and everything we use, and how we use it, and for what purposes and motives, acknowledging that every good thing that we receive is itself a gift from God, the Giver. How we “manage” those gifts, including our “stewardship” of the created order, then becomes very important, as an expression of our gratitude for receiving such gifts and our commitment to their proper use, as individuals, as families, as congregations, as denominations. This is why we will be asking you to complete a “Time and Talent” sheet, along with what I prefer to call an “estimate of giving” card, though some prefer the term “pledge.” However this may be, we will be asking each of you to become “intentional,” one of our favorite words these days (as in “taking on the mind of Christ”), about the appropriateness of your own expressions of stewardship to the life of our church and for the good of humankind. I will be preaching sermons that will invite you and us to self-examination as to whether we are expressing our faith in optimal ways that are genuinely pleasing to our Lord, calling perhaps for new covenants with our Lord if they seem to be needed and indicated. As always, these are both private matters of the heart, but they are also public matters of congregational interest, since the Bible does not really acknowledge a “solitary” Christian: We are Christians by being part of the Body of Christ, and we intend to become very intentional about that fact.

III. Our National and Global Financial Challenges

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that, even as I write these thoughts to you, our nation, indeed, the entire world, is facing a financial emergency comparable to the fiscal dangers posed to our country in 1929. As of this writing, Congress has failed to pass the bill which was designed to ease us past the immediate lending crisis which is at the heart of this problem. Asian, European and North American markets have plummeted, and I understand that on this day, Monday, September 29, Wall Street posted a loss of approximately \$1.2 trillion—a record. I hope and pray that by the time you read this, Wednesday and/or Thursday Congressional decisions will have created this necessary, if profoundly unpopular, bill, with bi-partisan wisdom and input and fairness to the taxpayers. I think it is fair to say that we are in for a bumpy ride with our economy, for a while, regardless of what Congress does, though I believe that it will be much better, in the short and the long run, if some such bill can be crafted and implemented ASAP, with both presidential candidates supporting it, whatever their private reservations—without the gratuitous blaming and name-calling which is making political co-operation so difficult just now.

As I indicated in my sermon yesterday, balanced research (cf. *The New Yorker*, September 29, 2008, p. 26) reveals that the financial de-regulation unraveling began approximately in 1978 during the Carter administration, with reduced or abolished restrictions on the airline industry. This encouraged an emerging doctrine of unconstrained free markets of all kinds, including financial markets, within both parties. The Reagan years saw an easing of the restrictions imposed by the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act, which monitored financial entities; the Clinton years finished this job, with bi-partisan support. The Bush administration has simply continued this spiral out of fiscal control, where the principle idea seems to have been that all of us can really continue to borrow forever, without ever having to worry about paying it back. The result created virulent Wall Street competition and ever-increasing pressure for financial institutions to do ever more lending with ever less stable clients. The sub-prime crisis pushed this house of cards over the edge, with many of these firms that have fallen recently having only one dollar of capital for every \$30, \$40, \$50 or \$60 invested in securities

and “derivatives” of original mortgages, whose value had become very problematic. With such values being essentially questionable and unknown, banks simply refused to lend to one another, and if they cannot or will not lend to one another, they cannot or will not lend to you and me, to us, to churches, to small businesses, to other markets. They cannot lend and the flow of money seizes up. Only this time, the crisis is truly global in scope.

Everyone is to blame, then, Democrats and Republicans, including those of us who elected the above leaders and their congressional counterparts. We liked all that easy money too, right?! We could buy stuff that our parents could not buy, right?! So why point fingers now?! These were not evil men set out upon destruction; they were simply trying to use the incredible engine of capitalism to create wealth which would ultimately benefit everyone, at least in theory, though capitalism has its casualties and victims, just like other economic schemes. While it is true that all of the above changes were legal, they unleashed the twin vices of greed and gullibility in an unprecedented fashion, not really having repealed the law of human nature, after all, but simply the good laws of chastened people that were wisely written to protect us from ourselves and our avarice.

In my sermon, I invited us to remind ourselves that, as Philippians 2:1-13 teaches us, part of the richness of our faith-inheritance is to assume the riches of the mind of Jesus Christ: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...” I urge you to read the rest for yourself, over and over, realizing that here is the true antidote both to greed and to gullibility, stating for all eternity the true foundations of the world in and through Jesus Christ, *both in terms of His humility, servanthood and “emptiness” and in terms of God’s validation of His choices on our behalf.* In times of secular, political and financial uncertainty, we can do worse than to go to our knees in fervent prayer that these truths may be written upon our hearts forever, including the security that comes from knowing that God in Jesus Christ is sovereign over you and me and all that is: “...*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*” That God is sovereign even over this potentially precipitous calamity. This wisdom is also the antidote to our fear, which is shortly going to be in even greater supply than it is now, in the culture at large, as the full implications of this seizure of the flow of funds become more readily apparent, and as political fear-mongering heats up.

These bracing facts may even require us here to recalibrate some of our own stewardship commitments that were made well before this crisis was upon us, though both presidential candidates, in their own ways, and others, have been warning us of this looming crisis for at least two years. We may well have to reckon this situation as a rod of chastisement and a consequential judgment by God who will not be mocked indefinitely as we chase mindlessly after our elusive gods of wealth and conspicuous achievement and financial buffers from the world, as we worship at the altar of a mindless and soulless capitalism which bestows numbing wealth while chewing people and institutions up, when left unchecked. In faith and in truth, we may well have to recalibrate our sense of our “wealth” among ourselves, finding consolation and strength by being the Body of Christ in the midst of this profound uncertainty, gladly embracing a sense of “stewardship” of our resources which may be more personal and spiritual in nature and less financial, relatively speaking. It may be that in our relative, cultural success financially, we may have missed some of the deeper resources that our loving and caring God has placed within and among us, resources that are governed less by our bank accounts and the illusion of self-sufficiency and more by the mind of Christ: “*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.*”

Could it be that, at long last, God is offering us a difficult gift, a way out of aspects of our self-imposed bondage, our enslavement to the dictates of our own, unchecked egos (however successfully hidden from others), our persistent pride of place and accomplishment, our entitlements? Perhaps we may yet learn, intentionally, assuming the mind of Christ, *the profoundly hard lesson that, at the end of the day, the best wealth and the surest protection we have is each other, in Jesus Christ, if we learn to trust and depend upon each other in new ways, in Him.* If we remember and practice these truths, amid the opportunities for ministry and service which will surely emerge, we will not only be fine in the emerging environment, we will prosper.

Blessings & Shalom, Pastor Walt

Consistory Highlights

Sept 2008

From the Pastor's Report:

- Reverend Patten handed out a list of the six questions to be distributed in advance of the upcoming Congregational Assembly. These questions will guide the Assembly. He discussed the manner in which these questions have been utilized by the Transition Team. He noted that this discussion involved spending a great deal of time grappling with the challenges this church faced during 2003-2005. It is the position of the Transition Team that First Reformed UCC will not revisit these issues again — in Transition Team or as a congregation.
- Reverend Walt gave an update from the Annual Gathering.
- Forms are available for lay delegates to the upcoming 41st annual meeting of the Western NC Association of the Southern Conference in Greensboro, Saturday, October 4, 2008.
- The October Consistory meeting has been moved to immediately following the October Congregational Meeting, Sunday, October 19, 2008.



Tom Danze reported that estimates of close to \$30,000 have been obtained for flood damage over the summer. This amount has been submitted to the insurance company, but there has been no response yet.

The Board of Community Outreach is in need of volunteers to stay at the shelter for the remainder of 2008. Contact Ted Smith if you can assist.

Scott Frye presented the proposed 2009 budget for consideration. The budget proposal was accepted by the consistory and will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational meeting in October. Make plans to be there and vote.

(Prefacing Note: I have asked our Consistory President, Walter Hoffman, who is also a VP with the Bank of North Carolina, to share his perceptions of our current credit lending crisis. I have already quoted some of his remarks during last Sunday's sermon. We are grateful to him for his insights on this national and global problem which will eventually impact us all, in varying degrees. Blessings and Shalom. Pastor Walt)

Over the past week or so, I've listened to many financial experts, more intelligent than I, debate the merits of the huge bailout proposal. Several experts I respect agree that the proposal is quite distasteful, but any plan is better than no plan. This bailout will allow the Wall Street firms to get out from under this mountain of bad debt and release much needed cash into our financial system. The current gridlock will stop the free flow of money in our economy, thereby halting lending and depressing commerce and the stock market. The bailout should restore confidence in Wall Street, and stocks and housing prices should begin to stabilize. As consumers regain confidence, their spending will help jump start our economy again.

It certainly is not a perfect proposal, and none could be. We all resent that some scoundrels will make off with tens of millions of dollars (those "golden parachutes"). And financial institutions such as mine that have played by the rules and operated properly will be punished (through higher FDIC insurance premiums, etc.) to pay for the sins of others. But it seems to be a case where it is important to do something, even if it isn't perfect. This situation highlights how inter-related all of us are in this economy, and I agree that this is global to a large degree. It is significant that several other nations have agreed to take their own steps to add liquidity to their national economies. We must all work together and have trust and confidence in each other. Sounds almost Biblical, doesn't it?

I think it is CRITICAL to keep in mind that the proposal is not for expenditures. Rather, the funds will purchase the troubled assets (primarily mortgages, which are backed by real estate) and hold them until values stabilize or rise. They will then be sold at a profit for our nation (and probably used to reduce the deficit). This is not breaking new ground. They used a very similar approach in the 1980's (the Resolution Trust Corporation or RTC) to deal with the savings and loan crisis. Ultimately, the RTC made a profit for the taxpayers, in addition to keeping the system flowing. So it is likely to work this time too.

Walter Hoffman, Consistory President



Women's Life Fellowship

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Women's Life had our second meeting of the year in September and we are off and running. We have lots of events in the works for the upcoming year. Keep your eyes open for bake sales and fundraisers for the church. We are planning community outreach projects this year. Announcements of events will be in The Dispatch as we plan to keep you and the community privy to all the activities.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make The Corner Café Dinner Theatre a huge success. Special thanks to Carolyn Spivey, the director; and the wonderful cast who put in many hours memorizing lines and rehearsing. Great Job! Thank you to Women's Life members who served in the kitchen and as waitresses; to the young ladies who provided child care; to Clifford Lopp for working the sound system and Eddie Yates and Rich Johnson for their assistance in the kitchen. Thank you to Yarborough's Restaurant for providing the delicious food. And finally, thank you to the audience for your wonderful participation during the bidding for clues. We hope everyone who attended had a wonderful time...you made the night great!

Women's Life members, along with several church members have restocked the kitchen with towels and dish cloths. Thank you to everyone who supplied these much needed items.

Women's Life meets the third Tuesday of the month (7:00 p.m.) in the church parlor. We invite any woman who would like to become more involved with the life of our church. Our meetings include a devotion, short program, food and fellowship. Additionally, we provide child care. We have a great time! Our group includes women of all ages and backgrounds. Come and see what we are about!

Thank you and God Bless! Sauni Johnson, Women's Life President

Men's Brotherhood

Secretary, Clifford Lopp

The Men's Brotherhood met on Thursday, September 18 in the fellowship hall. After taking the summer off it was good to get back together and have good food and lots of fellowship. President Frank Leonard had a short program that was enjoyed by all.

We are checking the possibility of hosting a blood drive here in the future.

Thinking ahead, our group set the date for our Christmas Party to be held at Yarborough's on Monday, December 15th. Mark your calendar now!

Meetings are held on the third Thursday in the month at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Our next meeting is on October 16. Our meal is being catered by Yarborough's...please tell Clifford or call the church office by the Tuesday prior to the meeting so we can give the count to the caterer.

Morning Glory Circle

Secretary: Mary Berrier

The September meeting opened with a prayer by Lib Sink. Minutes and treasurer reports were read and approved. Lib advised us of a group of events taking place in the life of the church: homecoming, play, first Assembly Meeting.

Peggy Bates presented the program "Hang In There". Life is tough but things get better as we grow. She compared our growth to the growing of a garden.

Carolyn Spivey was a special guest. She gave a short program, with demonstrations on yoga.

Group dismissed followed by lunch at newly reopened Southern Lunch.

CROP Walk

Sunday, November 2, 2008

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Starting Point: First Baptist Church

WHAT IS THE CROP HUNGER WALK? Neighbors from different faiths, cultures, and ages, walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting agencies. *This will be a 5k walk averaging approximately 3 miles.*

WHAT DOES CROP MEAN?

Communities

Responding to

Overcome

Poverty



WHY DO WE WALK? People in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because they walk!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? CROP Hunger Walks help fight hunger and poverty around the world, including the United States. Locally, 25% of what we raise stays in our community.

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY? Put our faith into action by walking. If you are not able to walk...SPONSOR a walker.

United Friendship Club

President: June Grubb

The United Friendship Club met on Wednesday, September 24th for good food, great fellowship and an interesting program on Blue Birds, given by Chuck Bliss from Asheboro. He is a member of the NC Blue Bird Organization and travels all over the state giving programs about Blue Birds. He had made four bird boxes which were given to four of our members (by a selective process of a hidden bird sticker on a placemat at each table.)

The Club also surprised Camille Morgan with a pantry shower as we celebrated her move into her new home.

We are continuing to discuss a landscaping plan for the front of the educational building. A subcommittee of club members will be meeting in the next few weeks to prepare a first-stage plan for landscaping.

At our meeting, Wednesday, August 27th our club members discussed a proposal which we believe will not only be beautiful, but will also lessen the area of our responsibility to the education building flower beds. **We are asking for assistance from individuals to help us enhance the beauty of our property. If you would like to make a donation for this project, please designate on your check "landscape" and drop it in the offering plate or come by the church office.**

Next month's meeting will be Wednesday, October 22nd. Devotions and program will be given by club member, Banks Shepherd.

- **HURRICANE RESPONSE CONTINUES...**Church World Service is responding to the recent spate of hurricanes with support for vulnerable communities from Haiti to Texas. CWS kits are desperately needed. To find out more on how to assemble kits and provide help to those in need go to <http://www.churchworldservice.org/kits/health-kits.htm>
- **CORN FLAKES...**First Reformed United Church of Christ is responsible for providing boxes of Corn Flakes for the grocery bags that Crisis Ministries distributes to families in need. This is a non-budgeted item. To date the church has spent \$1,077 for Corn Flakes. Monetary donations received have been \$665. I have just ordered more! If you forget to bring Corn Flakes to church, please drop a check in the offering plate designated "corn flakes" to assist with purchasing cases. Thank you.
- **TABLECLOTHS...**Two of the large white tablecloths for the round tables are missing. Please check to see if you have laundered and accidentally put in your closet.

CHURCHES RELATED - Forty Year History of CHURCHES AND RELATED MINISTRIES

1965-2005, United Church of Christ, Western North Carolina Association

Churches Related is a forty-year history of the United Church of Christ churches, clergy, institutions and special ministries located in the former geographical area of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This area now covers the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the UCC. From Tryon, NC in the west to Burlington, NC in the eastern Piedmont, congregations tell their stories of mutual covenant relationships. Their traditions are those of two denominations, the Evangelical and Reformed Church in the US and the Congregational Christian Churches, that were the result of mergers. These four streams came together to become the United Church of Christ in 1957. The authors of *Churches Related* trace the changes that have taken place and the persons who guided those transitions from 1965 through 2005.

The publication price of *Churches Related* is \$39.50. Because of the generous contributions of interested individuals and churches, the book is being offered to United Church of Christ members and congregations for \$25.00 (plus any shipping costs) through 2008. Contact Eulene Shepherd #472-2045 for more information or to purchase a book.

Jack A. Leonard, Sr., took many of the pictures used in this publication. Reverend Banks Shepherd had mentioned his wish to have pictures of all the UCC churches. Jack, as his wife Frances said, "took the ball from there". Jack was a life-long member of First Reformed United Church of Christ where he was a very active layman. Over the years he served as deacon, elder, elder emeritus, youth leader, junior choir advisor, leader in United Friendship Club and general "fix-it" man. In retirement, he and Frances, and later his friend Butch Bouchard traveled to every one of the known churches in Western and Eastern North Carolina Associations, taking a picture of each and noting its address. This was a voluntary "labor of love" on his part. He presented the album of Western North Carolina Association churches to the Association in 1999.

SUBMITTED BY RITA TUSSEY FROM PEACE CALENDAR...

O God,...we pray for your church in the World...Empower its witness, heal its divisions, make visible its unity. Lead us...so that, united in one body by the one Spirit, we may together witness to the perfect unity of your love. **Prayer of the Fifth World conference on Faith and Order**

Thank-you...

Thank-you notes for benevolent gifts were received from:

Communities In Schools

Crisis Ministries

Nazareth Children's Home

Habitat for Humanity

Catawba College

The Pastor's Pantry

Davidson Medical Ministries

Lancaster Theological Seminary

Southern Conference

Blowing Rock Conference Center

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your kind donations during these hard times. We greatly appreciate all that you do for us. I am truly sorry it has taken me so long to write back, but with all the ups and downs we have had its been hard. Thankfully we seem to be getting back on track...thanks to you and God we are surviving. Thank you again.

God Bless each of you for what you do!

Gayle Whitehead, Director, Crisis Ministries

Dear Paula, the nice ladies who did lunch, and Walter,

It was just two weeks ago that we had the service at the church to celebrate momma's life. You all played such a vital part in that day which Merle and I deeply appreciate. Paula, you have a special gift in organizing everything so that it runs well and smoothly. We are deeply indebted to all you ladies who helped with the lunch. Aside from the fact that the food was great, it provided a special time for our family to be together, swap old memories and re-bond...one of God's healing gifts to us as we say goodbye to a loved one. And, Walter, you have been a rock to Merle and me...and to Momma. I'll never forget Momma opening her eyes when you sang "Amazing Grace". You could see a band of light from above shining on her face. Powerful! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! God Bless!

Rhonnie Leonard Newton

To the Luncheon Committee,

Thank you so much for the delicious lunch you prepared before Mother's Memorial Service. You made it possible for Rhonnie and me to not only enjoy a wonderful meal but to be with family and friends in a very relaxed and special atmosphere. We will always remember your kindness and caring at this sad time in our lives.

Merle L. Hodges

SEPTEMBER MEMORIALS

Donald W. Leonard, Jr. {Don and Lois Leonard's Son}

Barbara Schaeffer and Family

Mildred Clodfelter Hilton

Maxine Lohr

Jerry and Aurelia Smith



Mary Louise Moffitt Leonard

Frank C. Leonard, Jr.

Gladys Snider

Julia P Mauze

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Hardy

Maxine Lohr

Estelle and Charles McKinney

Jerry and Aurelia Smith

Nancy and John Robbins

Lee Ann and Tony Peele

Barbara Schaeffer and Family

Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

Alice E. Wrenn

Jack and Hattee Christian

Mrs. Sarah A. Redd

Mr. and Mrs. R. Davis Howser

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGirt

Bob and Kay Timberlake

Sandy and Terry Reynolds

Gerry Hill

Jimmy Haire

Nancy and John Robbins

Bob Crowell {Giles Crowell's Brother}

Holton Davis

Jean Lohr Morgan {Camille Morgan's Mother}

Merle and Jerry Hodges

Pattie B. Everhart

Banks and Eulene Shepherd

Marguerite Leonard

Holton Davis

The Midnight of My Soul

My heart cries out from deep within...my spirit strains to be set free...Yet this body still must hold it...

Oh! It is the midnight of my soul.

Just this way did Jesus suffer, those long hours on the cross...crying heart and straining Spirit...

It was the midnight of His Soul.

He bore it all because He loved me.

Bleeding...hurting...finally dying...then in resurrection and ascending He sent "The Comforter" to me.

Dear, Loving, Gentle Jesus...My heart overflows. Thank you for releasing me from the Midnight of my soul.

Rita Clark Tussey, 1956

Director of Christian Education

Amy McNeill

I want to start by saying thank you to the Board of Christian Education for all of their help with Rally Day. Our church has a devoted group of women and I couldn't do it without you, so Thank You!!!! I think everyone had a great time on Rally Day and enjoyed hearing all the different reasons why we love our church home and our family home. We had a great start to a new Sunday school year. If you weren't able to make it that is okay because it is never too late to start Sunday school. We have a class for everyone and it's a great way to be involved in your church and get closer to the Lord. It starts at 9:45 am every Sunday and the first Sunday of every month we have a joint Sunday school class with a social in the fellowship hall afterwards. We would love to have you join us so come try it out!!!



The Board of Christian Education, along with Reverend Walt, are talking about a **"New Look"** for our youth Sunday school program. We are sorting out all of the details for a workshop rotation Sunday school and as soon as we finalize everything *Sunday School Start-up* I will update you. In order for us to make a change to a new and improved program we need help from all of our talented members. To get you ready for your "time and talent" sheet for Stewardship Sunday, I'm going to let you practice by filling out one of my own. Below you will find a list of opportunities possibly highlighting a talent you enjoy doing. Please read over it carefully, check off your area of expertise and fill your name in so we can consider you when putting together our new Sunday school program. I really believe this will be extremely fun for our youth and make them so excited to learn about the Lord. What is better than that?? In order for Sunday school to change to a workshop rotation we are going to need our church family's help and support. Fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office by October 12th. Also, please keep us in your prayers as we take on this Sunday school program transformation. Thank You!

Just a few reminders...

October 5th- deadline to let me know if you will be participating in the Christmas program.

October 12th- Children's Church

October 15th- First Christmas program practice at 6:30pm.

October 26th- Joint youth Sunday school for a Halloween celebration.

"New Look" Sunday School Volunteer

Drawing/Painting_____

Story telling/Drama_____

Cooking_____

Crafts_____

Photography/Video_____

Music_____

Organization skills_____

Computers_____

Other_____

Name:_____

*** We will also be in need of three computers so if you have any to donate please let us know. ***

September Perfect Attendance

Kalyssa Hutchens

Mary Lloyd Callicutt

Annabell Callicutt

Wanda Daye

Adena Wall

Betty Bates

Carolyn Spivey

Sandra Hutchens

Doris S. Flynt

Elizabeth Sink

Ramona Yarbrough

Cathy Waitman

Jeff Hutchens

Rich Johnson

Lena Johnson

Raeann Biesecker

Camille Morgan

Earlie Hartley

Cliff Lopp

John Walser

Kids' Club

Kids' Club is back again! The first year of Kids' Club was very successful, and we are all excited about the upcoming year! This month's meetings will be held on **Tuesday, October 21st**, at 7:00 p.m. in the music room, and **Sunday, October 26th** following the children's moment.



A Homecoming Litany

For the privilege of getting together with our church family and friends.

Father, we thank Thee.

For the memories we share on this homecoming day.

Father, we thank Thee.

For our health, peace and prosperity.

Father, we thank Thee.

For Pastor Walt and the Transition Team, working for a reconciliation of our church.

Father, we thank Thee.

For the excitement that exists in our church today.

Father, we thank Thee.

For the guidance and care you give us as we travel.

Father, we thank Thee.

Myrtle Latimer

OCTOBER STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Peggy Bates
 Captain: Tom Danze
 Ushers: Sylvia Walser, Roy Bevan and Eddie Miller

Plate Attendant: J.W. Bates

Acolytes: Holt Biesecker and Laura Strenk

Sound Tech: Jordan McCarn

Adult Joint Sunday School: Responsible for lesson - - - New Way Class

Social: Host/Hostess: Belinda and Eddie Yates and Raeann and Brad Biesecker

Greeters:

October 5	Walter and Ann Hoffman
October 12	Rich and Lena Johnson
October 19	Susan and Eddie Miller
October 26	James and Alice Gray

Nursery:

October 5	Beth and Frank Callicutt
October 12	Nina and Ted Smith
October 19	Kivi and Edgar Miller
October 26	Anne Fletcher, Laura and Katarina



(Alston Brook) Betty Potts and Lorraine Lanning
 (Carolina House) Lois Leonard (Brookstone) Rita Tussey
 (Centerclair) Jeanne Trexler (Brookdale Place) Barbara Schaeffer
 (Piedmont Crossing) Eles Beck, Henry and Ernestine Kennedy, and Frances Leonard

Ralph Bailey, Henry and Juanita Beck, Jimbo Hinkle, Jacqueline Leonard, Ethel Bailey, Sadie Bailey, Ike Green, Giles Crowell, Gertrude Jarvis, Hilda Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard, Louise Rollins, Micki Smith, Margaret Trexler, and Riley Bates. Also, please remember Butch Arnold, Bob Biesecker, Cindy Crouse-Martin (Mary Crouses' daughter), Nancy Greene (Wanda Daye's daughter), Dorothy Lewis (Sandra Hutchens' Daughter), Jared Perrell, (grandson of Harriette and Clifton Murphy) and Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier)

We extend **SYMPATHY** to and share Christian Hope with...

- Camille Morgan upon the death of her mother, Jean Lohr Morgan
- Giles Crowell upon the death of his brother, Bob Crowell



Office Hours
Monday—Friday
 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11 a.m. {Parlor} MORNING GLORY CIRCLE 7 p.m. Choir Practice	2 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class	3 (Sanctuary) Wedding Rehearsal	4 WNCA Meeting 5 p.m. Sanctuary Wilson/Dublin Wedding
5 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:20 a.m. SS Social {FH} 11:00 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion 2 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Choir	6 5:30-7 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Youth Choir	7 7:00 p.m. {Parlor} TT MEETING	8 7 p.m. Choir Practice	9 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class	10	11
12 CHILDREN'S CHURCH 2-4 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Choir Practice	13 5:30 p.m. {Parlor} Scrapbook/Craft Night 5:30-7 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Youth Choir	14 7:00 p.m. {Parlor} TT MEETING	15 6:30 p.m. (FH) Children's Christmas Program Practice 7 p.m. Choir Practice	16 5:30 {P} Yoga Class 6:00 p.m. (FH) MEN'S BROTHERHOOD	17	18
19 CONGREGATION MTG Lunch and presentation of 2009 Budget 1:30 p.m. CONSISTORY	20 5:30-7 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Youth Choir	21 7:00 p.m. {P} WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP and KID'S CLUB	22 NOON {FH} FRIENDSHIP CLUB 6:30 p.m. (FH) Children's Christmas Program Practice 7 p.m. Choir Practice	23 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class	24	25
26 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Kid's Club 2-4 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Choir Practice	27 5:30 p.m. {Parlor} Scrapbook/Craft Night 5:30-7 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Youth Choir	28 {FH} Writer's Guild	29 6:30 p.m. (FH) Children's Christmas Program Practice 7 p.m. Choir Practice	30 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> UPCOMING EVENT: Nov 2 - MEMORIAL SUNDAY CROP WALK </div>

Catered Lunch and Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 19, 2008



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 19th**. Yarborough's is serving a delicious lunch in the fellowship hall immediately after worship service. **PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS** by calling the church office at 248-2617.

Following lunch the finance committee, chaired by Scott Frye will present the proposed budget for 2009. All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of our church.



First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ
104 East Center Street
Lexington, North Carolina 27292
Phone #336-248-2617
Fax #336-248-6163
Email Address: church@frucc.org
Web Address: www.frucc.org

Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Intentional Interim Minister..... Rev. Walter Patten
Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985
email: wrpatten@earthlink.net or minister@frucc.org
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. till noon Tuesday—Friday
Negotiable Otherwise

Director of Christian Education..... Amy McNeill
Administrative Assistant Paula Lopp
Choir Director..... Paul Freeman
Organist..... Lee Ann Peele

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Worship Service11:00 a.m.

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