

# FIRST NEWS

April 2009

## PASTORAL QUALITIES SURVEY REPORT FROM OUR ASSEMBLY OF MARCH 22, 2009

I would like to share with you the most important results of our IIM Assembly of March 22, where, as you will recall, the Transition Team led us through the list of 42 qualities that are most desired in pastors of local churches. We created randomly selected groups of about eight people each and sat at ten different tables in the fellowship hall, where we completed the “forced-choice” survey of twelve qualities out of the total of forty-two. We then focused our table discussions upon the largest concentrations of answers at each table, which we called “clusters.” Each table had at least one and often two Transition Team members to coordinate these conversations and to be responsible for record keeping, as they conveniently created a poll of votes from each table.

I have used these TT polls to help me compile and collate the results, although I have included as well nine extra surveys that some of you either mailed to the office or hand delivered to me. I also checked each individual Assembly sheet to double-check the results for accuracy at each table, so I do believe that, taken together, these results are very reliable. Some of these results will not surprise those of you who were present, for we could identify some broadly common themes as each table reported their key findings before we adjourned for the day. Still, I do believe that this is worthwhile information to share with our congregation as our TT begins to wind down and our Search Committee begins to function soon.

1) The largest vote-getter was pastoral quality number one, which states: **“Our church needs a pastor who is an effective preacher/speaker.”** From all sources, this quality received 60 votes. Using personal notations, some people made a connection between this quality and quality **number 19**: *“...is an effective teacher,”* thus identifying an important quality for them without using an extra “forced-choice” option. (Though, it is interesting that number 19 did not otherwise make the cluster-cut on its own.) Yet other people let **number 3** piggy-back onto number 1, the quality that *“...helps people develop their spiritual life.”* However, here, number 3 did very well on its own, garnering some 41 votes, the next highest “clustering” of votes. More about that later.

Virtually every table that commented on number 1 emphasized the importance of preachers “not reading sermons.” **A quotation sampler:** Sermons should be “understandable,” “challenging,” “reachable by people.” Pastors should evidence “strong pulpit skills, based on scripture, make us stop and think, preach from the heart.” Sermons/speaker should “keep you interested, touch you, come full circle and tie it all together.” “When he finishes the sermon, you don’t have to wonder what he said, there’s no nodding off...it relates to current life events...exhibits dignity from the pulpit...sermons should not be read.” “Allots appropriate time and planning to complete the service and tie it all together.” “Speaker should be articulate, understandable, relate to varied (congregational) background with Biblically-based sermons.” A preacher should “...be able to communicate a spiritual message relative to Biblical scripture.” “One who can get the attention of the congregation and talk or speak directly to them—need a minister who does *not read* sermons—can have an outline or notes but be able to deliver message without reading every word...needs to stop soon after reaching the point of the sermon and not go on and on.” “Keeps your interest; good message; uplifting not condemnation; not hell-fire and brimstone; challenging us to think outside the box; doesn’t talk down...a bit entertaining; not monotone; not reading sermons; fresh twist on old Bible story; not set in ways; encourages us to learn...”

Some personal notations associated number 1 with number 2 immediately below it: "...continues to develop his/her theological and biblical skills," though again, number 2 received very low vote totals and did not "cluster." One said that the pastor "...needs to keep learning (sabbatical important)...would be natural to 'burn-out' easily." (*Pastor's note: while I am generally restricting my editorial comments on this material, I find myself strongly agreeing with this observation. I am puzzled how the understandable desire for preaching excellence is to continue over time if there is little-to-no congregational encouragement for the honing of theological, biblical and homiletical skills associated with it. Yes, there is a continuing education item in the annual budget, but that might not be enough if the linkage between preaching excellence and educational refinement is not understood clearly. No one is beyond improvement, and since this is clearly the number one priority of this congregation, for the time being, some thought should be given to these connections, in my view.*

*And, while we're at it, since my own habits in the matter of preaching without notes are well known, I will simply make this observation: most of my colleagues will not consider preaching this way on a regular basis because it usually does mean a loss in precision of language and expression, and possibly a distortion of content. Moreover, human memory is fallible and many seasoned ministers actually consider such preaching to verge on being irresponsible; the chance of a garbled or confusing misstatement is significant and is simply not worth the risk. It is considered to be "flying without a net," as clearly it is, and many wise and effective ministers avoid it. For me, personally and professionally, the "gain" with such preaching is in its emotional impact, its sheer immediacy and the connection of unbroken eye contact. Everyone there knows that this is not easy: there is respect to be gained from people who know that you have taken the trouble to speak as closely from the heart and mind as one can about ultimate, spiritual matters. It becomes "testimony" of a kind, and I do find that this approach is well worth the "risk." It also approximates the feeling of an actual, intimate conversation between two or three people, as opposed to a public oration which, of its nature, creates a "distance" between the speaker and the audience. So, I am saying that reasonable and faithful people of good will can and do differ on this subject: it would be a shame, though, to give too much negative weight to this business of "reading sermons" when an effective and promising pastoral candidate has already concluded, through years of experience, that s/he would like to have a set of notes around for a sermon, at the least! Frankly, that's just smart!*

**2) Now, pastoral quality number 3 ("...helps people develop their spiritual life") and number 39 ("...maintains confidentiality") are tied for second place with 41 votes each. A quotation sampler:** "Helps people develop their spiritual life' means plan Bible studies and seminars, book studies, etc., so members can develop their spiritual life by participating in discussions and activities." "Spiritual growth in all areas, prayer, Bible study, connecting life with spiritual growth..." A comment which was applied to quality **number 34** ("...encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives"), which gathered 31 votes and thus is one of the smaller but still significant cluster subjects, reads as follows: "Bible study applications, taking a message home we can use, encouraging awareness of service opportunities...encourage us to ask ourselves what kind of people we are, how do we look at others from different backgrounds..." As for **number 39** about confidentiality, we read: "...walls of the office, foundation for trust; discretion..." "A member should feel confident that by confiding problems with the minister or talking with him/her that the problem would be confident between them...when talking with others, a danger would be to let a confidence be told..." (*Pastor's note: Recent and understandable concerns about personal privacy issues have tightened the laws which regulate what medical and other professionals may share with clergy who are inquiring about parishioners. This legal nervousness about confidentiality has tended to make clergy more nervous as well, which may not be a completely bad thing, but it can pose problems within a local congregation when people ask us for certain kinds of information. It takes a new pastor a while to learn where the lines are from family to family and situation to situation.*)

**3) We have a three-way tie for third place in the pastoral quality sweepstakes: Number 11 (“...makes pastoral calls on people in hospitals, nursing homes or confined to home); number 41 (“...is a compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others’ needs”); and number 42 (“...deals effectively with conflict”) each pulled down 38 votes, creating for us a kind of “super-cluster.”** As for **number 11**, one person writes, referencing a context in which the pastor visits not only under these conditions, but generally: “People in these circumstances—hospital, nursing homes or confined to home—need spiritual guidance, prayers and comfort...it means a lot to them. Pastoral calls are also needed for people not confined to the above—personal guidance and the feeling that someone cares.” **Number 41** seems to call forth the pastoral qualities of being a good listener: “Be able to ‘walk a mile in his shoes,’ empathy, open, good listener...” Someone else said, simply, “a must!” A TT member, in responding to the “sensitive” aspect, reflected some of our own TT rules about dealing with each other: we must have a “safe place which acknowledges the need for forgiveness, asking and receiving.” Concerning **number 42**, one person, a TT member, had this to say: “If conflicts arise, don’t try to hide it but keep the congregation informed of the problem and communicate with the people to find a compromise or solution...problems arise when conflicts are kept secret...they don’t go away... there is a tendency for the minister to take sides.” Another TT member had this to say: “Take the punches; stand your ground, explain your position; accept different positions; find a win/win solution.” Still another TT member wrote: “...putting it on the table, deal with it, do not be afraid of it, time for truth-telling...face the possibility that someone will be hurt, but you can’t help that... need for agape love, but some people may leave.” We will hear about **number 10** soon (“...ministers effectively to people in crisis situations), which overlaps number 42 somewhat, so we definitely have a focus on conflict resolution skills for a new pastor.

**4) Quality number 35 (“...is accepting of people with divergent backgrounds and traditions.”) received 35 votes, which puts it in fourth place, shared with no other number.** A TT member wrote: “Everybody has something to offer, makes people feel welcome...different cultures have different needs/understanding...congregations must also be accepting.” Another TT member says: “...reaching out to more people; new members...” Still another TT member, writing about the “direction” of a pastor’s ministry, had something very useful to say in this context: “The sense of direction could be Bible-based or socially based. If we follow the guidelines of the scriptures, our social problems will be easier to accept and correct, etc. I prefer the minister to be Bible-based and not political.” (*Pastor’s note: I think we are all aware of the changing demographics within our community and in the greater region. New opportunities for new types of ministries are on the horizon, and if FRUCC adapts to those challenges, her future will be more secure and more connected with the emerging community.*)

**5) Fifth place goes to two numbers, number 5 (“...is effective in planning and leading worship.”) and number 10 (“... ministers effectively to people in crisis situations.”), with each number posting 32 votes.** Concerning **number 5**: “The minister has to have a sense of the direction of his/her ministry...needs to have sermons based on Biblical scriptures and relate them to today and how we accept this challenge.” (*Pastor’s note: the rest of this passage appears in the preceding paragraph.*) “Keeping in tone with church seasons...do not want a lot of change (structural)...” Another person wrote a simple phrase to extend the meaning of the quality: “...and programs.” Still another says: “...allots appropriate time, planning complete service and tying it together.” “...hymns, communion, ‘feel’ of service; traditional worship service...” “...hard to keep up with service if you don’t have this quality; people will lose interest...” As for **number 10**, some people associated it with the immediately preceding quality, **number 9** (“...is a helpful counselor.”): “...important; good to know you can go to someone that’s impartial and confidential; would be honest with you...” They then wrote for number 10: “...feels like this goes with the one above.” A similar dynamic between numbers 9 and 10 played out when someone wrote, first, “...a good listener...” and then wrote “...would leave a void...” Someone else wrote: “Helps people in crisis by listening and helping them find a solution.” Finally, we have this: “Strong character, know his limitations, compassion (genuine), know how to tailor to each family situation.”

**6) Sixth place is held by number 13 (“...is a good leader.”) and number 34 (“...encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives.”), each quality earning 31 votes.** A quality sampler: For **number 13**, a TT member wrote: “...getting the message across; role model 24/7; help people work together; encompasses important other items (which imply leadership qualities)...” Another person wrote: “...relates to all topics, proactive, self-starter...” Someone added this phrase to number 13: “...and gets members of congregation to be ‘under-shepherds’...”, which is a way of suggesting that the “leader” equips and empowers lay persons for ministries themselves. A leader “...leads/encourages leadership/develops leaders...” (*Pastor’s note: this is obviously a very general category under which all other 41 qualities might reasonably be placed. Everyone knows that, and yet here it is, signifying the critical, broad-spectrum “leadership” role that the next pastor will be expected to assume.*) As for **number 34**, see this entry: “...help us relate what we hear to the rest of the week...” Then there is this: “...fair play for all, more communication...” and “...where the rubber meets the road...”!

**7) Finally, in seventh place, all by itself, bringing up the last of our official cluster choices--this making the 12<sup>th</sup> “forced-choice” selection for us--is number 24 (“...is a person of faith.”), weighing in with a respectable 27 votes.** (*Pastor’s note: I suppose that most of us regarded this one as a rather obvious, self-evident quality for a minister to have, but the Assembly still wanted it posted on the board, kind of like the “leader” quality. Personally, I think that a rich word of this nature requires some clarification, for it does indeed cover a vast terrain. It is completely thinkable for me to imagine a “person of faith” passing a polygraph test on this quality with flying colors and still be woefully ill-suited to this congregation, and you can too. Still, it is important as a starting point and it does indeed belong among the qualities definitely worth talking about.*) For a brief sample of comments for **number 24**, read this: “...should be a given for all ministers, should believe what they teach, it is their reason for calling...” “Felt like it was a given.”

In case you are curious, the next cluster of votes (23) settled around quality **number 9** (“...is a helpful counselor.”), but this represents the 13<sup>th</sup> “forced-choice” selection and is technically not included in our informal profile of most desirable pastoral qualities. Still, remember that we referenced number 9 in our fifth place paragraph above which included our discussion of quality number 10, the one about ministry “to people in crisis situations.” Now, if your gathering curiosity continues to get the better of you, the next set of cluster votes, at 21 each, is on **number 19** (“...is an effective teacher.”), **number 21** (“...is effective in working with youth.”), and **number 37** (“...is mature and emotionally secure.”). The next cluster of votes (18) collects around **number 14** (“...is effective in working with children.”), with 16 votes going for **number 20** (“...has a strong commitment to the educational ministry of the church.”). The numbers scatter pretty quickly after that.

I close with an observation that one of our members wrote on the Survey: “The ‘right’ minister could solve many of the issues facing the church such as stewardship, attendance, and youth participation.” It is a virtual certainty that an exercise such as this one will produce a statement of this nature, for it is an idea that many members quietly, even desperately, hope is true. It clearly is a call to everyone to take the Search process seriously, for there is an element of truth in the assertion: if we just get the “right” person, well, that person will “solve” our problems with charisma and experience and insight and savvy! However, there is a pitfall in hope such as this: if the minister buys into it, even sells himself/herself as the “right” person, trots out an impressive track record and such--then, the needful focus has shifted dangerously, in my view, to his/her “performance,” while the congregation is tempted to breathe a collective sigh of relief, that they have somehow slipped off the primary hook of responsibility for helping to find and to implement solutions as well. A wise candidate will understand that such “solutions” as come about will happen *only through a resilient, honest, candid, and trusting partnership with the entire congregation.*

*Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt*

# Consistory Highlights—March 2009

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The Consistory met on March 8, 2009. Reverend Walter Patten reported that the Bible study involving "The Shack" is being well attended.

The financial report stated that \$5490.08 is needed weekly to make the budget. The average weekly offering for the month of February was \$3,638.39.



Reverend Patten's four week report included:

- A joint meeting will be set in the future with the Consistory, Transition Team, Kivi Miller and Myra Thompson regarding the church's new web site. All ideas are welcome. (Edited Note: That joint meeting has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. WP)
- A "back up" for Paula is needed only in case a situation should occur where she would not be able to work for some unforeseen reason. A code book containing computer security information and a competent substitute might be needed. This would be a "Just in Case Plan".
- There are 18 potential new members.

Board of Christian Education gave special thanks to everyone who helped in making "Roads to God" a success. The board will estimate a budget for the rest of the year and submit an account of monies already spent.

Congregational Life had several events for the month of February that deserve thanks:

- Soup and sandwich lunch for the originally scheduled Assembly March 1, 2009 with the meal and cleanup provided by Women's Life Fellowship (WLF).
- Thanks to WLF for providing the meal for the homeless shelter on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2009.
- Thanks to the bereavement teams for serving meals at recent funerals and thanks to Myra Thompson and Melody Evans for the rescheduled Sunday School social.

## Upcoming events

- Transition Team Assembly meeting and lunch on March 22, 2009. (Edited Note: This Assembly was very productive. WP)
- The April social will be moved to April 12, 2009 in conjunction with the Easter Sunday social.

Tom Danze, Property Co-chair and Paula Lopp attended the meeting to advise the Consistory on the early stages of money spent toward the ongoing project of education building renovations. The goal is to keep \$25,000.00 in the building fund. About \$20,000.00 of building fund dollars has been spent along with the insurance money from the basement flood. We have been able to accomplish more for the money because some of our members are assisting with the work. The insurance inspector was pleased with the outcome. It looks beautiful! Thanks to all who are making this happen.

The Consistory has received a request from the Chamber of Commerce to lower their monthly rent. The Chamber's lease is up for renewal in June 2010. The Property Committee Co-chairs will meet with Radford Thomas of the Chamber.

The Consistory approved Phase III (replacing the ceiling down the fellowship hallway and around Paula's office). The nursery area still needs a French drain, a hood over the door and a new ceiling.

Thanks to everyone for turning in their sign-up sheets for Touching Davidson County with Love. The work date is Saturday April 25, 2009. Monetary donations will still be accepted.

The current church membership is 405, with an average weekly attendance of 116 and average visitors 10.

The Consistory's next meeting will be April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, *Vicky Gray*

## Women's Life Fellowship



The Women's Life Fellowship met on Monday March the 9th. Our meeting followed serving dinner at the Homeless Shelter. The meal this evening consisted of Chili, cornbread and a salad. Special thanks to Lena Johnson for cooking the Chili and to everyone who prepared food, brought items and served the shelter this evening.

Following the Homeless Shelter, we had a short meeting in which we discussed our role in community service this year. For our community service project this month, it was voted to make a monetary donation of \$1,000 to Davidson Medical Ministries. I am sure that everyone is aware of the hardship this fine organization is facing. Our Program/Community Service Committee is lining up non-profit agencies to present programs throughout the year. It is our plan to continue to help the Lexington Community in every way possible. Please continue to watch for and support our fund-raising ventures throughout the year. If you have any suggestions for organizations that we could assist in the Lexington community, we would love to hear from you.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our soup and sandwich meal on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, making it a success. We had a great turn out even with the rain/ice/snow. Wow! What a dedicated congregation we have.

Thank you again and God Bless!

*Sauni Johnson, President*



# United Friendship Club

*President June Grubb*



Twenty-four members of the United Friendship Club attended the Community Lenten Service at First United Methodist Church for our monthly meeting, March 25<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a wonderful service of worship followed by a fellowship lunch with our community friends.

Seniors' Gathering

Our April meeting will be Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Devotions will be given by Gladys Snider. The food and decoration committee includes Melody Evans, Paula Lopp and Cathy Waitman.

## Morning Glory Circle

The Morning Glory circle cancelled its February meeting because of icy wintry weather. The weather threatened again, but the snow did melt enough for us to meet for our March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Lib Sink opened the meeting with a prayer and devotional "Interview with God".

After attending to business, eight members and two guests met at First United Methodist Church for the Community Lenten service and lunch. We all enjoyed the message and fellowship of members from other churches in town. At our meeting, several members volunteered to help with preparation and serving of the community meal on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, when the United Church of Christ churches are responsible for the service.

The Morning Glory Circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Please join us on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at our meeting. This is not an "April Fool" invitation—we expect to see you.

*Lib Sink, Chairman*

## Men's Brotherhood

*By: Eddie Yates*

**MEN'S  
BROTHERHOOD**




The Men's Brotherhood met on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> with twenty-six members and guests present. We, along with our guests, enjoyed a great meal provided by Yarborough's Restaurant.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Ms. Donna Hurt, shared the story of her journey to find information about her father. Donna was left as a war orphan when her father was shot down during his 50<sup>th</sup> and final mission. It was an amazing journey and Donna emphasized how God was instrumental in her journey to explore her past as well as her father's.

Mark you calendar for our next meeting, Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

# THANK YOU NOTES



Special thanks to Birke McNeill for his time in organizing and coaching our church league basketball team. Our guys and gal (Birke, James Atkinson, Robert Danze, Harrison Danze, Ann Hoffman, Thomas Johnson, Clifford Lopp, Mark Smith, Frank Callicutt, Nathan Jessup, Ted Smith and Chad Walker) enjoyed the season. Thank you to the fans who supported their efforts. We look forward to another season.

Friends,

Thank you for preparing and serving the delicious meal following my Dad's service. It was great to enjoy "Southern delicacies". Our family also appreciated the opportunity to relax and share stories — and to renew old acquaintances!

Thanks again.

*Larry Walser*

Dear Church Ladies,

To all the ladies that cooked and helped serve the meal Saturday afternoon, March 7, 2009: Thank you so much for the delicious food! We appreciated it so much! Thank you again,

*The Family of Ila Swing*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to all who sent cards and food, phone calls, visits and especially your prayers during my recent surgery and convalescence. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this church family.

*Sincerely, Mary Berrier*

**THANK YOU NOTES FOR BENEVOLENT GIFTS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:**

UCC Retirement Homes	Crisis Ministry (Ash Wednesday Offering)
Hospice of Davidson County	Crisis Ministry (First Quarter Benevolent Gift)
Johns River Valley Camp	Blowing Rock Conference Center
Nazareth Children's Home, Inc.	The Pastor's Pantry
Lexington Area Habitat for Humanity	



**April 5, 2009**

**11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service and Holy Communion**

**11:50 a.m.** All churches in Lexington are invited to participate in a **Community Palm Sunday Celebration**. Some churches outside the immediate downtown area will meet at First Reformed UCC by 11:45 a.m. The procession from the church will begin at 11:50 a.m. and end at the Olde Courthouse where a brief service will be held that will consist of a Palm Sunday litany and a hymn. NOTE: Palm branches will be provided for our worshipers to wave during the procession. Please plan to participate in this inspirational service.



**7:00 p.m.** United Church of Christ congregations of the Davidson/Forsyth District will gather at 7 p.m. at Calvary United Church of Christ in Thomasville. Confirmands from all churches will be recognized in the service. A joint choir will sing for the service, directed by Jane Freeman, Director of Music at Hedrick's Grove, and Steve Craver will be the Organist. Everyone is invited to come enjoy this time of music, the spoken word, and good fellowship.



**April 7, 2009**

**7:00 p.m.** Final Lenten Study Session {Fellowship Hall}

**April 9, 2009**

**7:00 p.m.** Maundy Thursday Service of Foot Washing and Communion {Fellowship Hall}



**April 11, 2009**

**10:30—11:30 a.m.** Children's Easter Egg Hunt {Fellowship Hall}



**April 12, 2009**

**9:45 a.m.** Joint Adult Sunday School Classes in Chapel {Lesson: Willing Workers Class}

**10:20 a.m.** Sunday School Social {Hosts: Anne and Roy Bevan and Nicole and Mark Smith}

**11:00 a.m.** Worship Service with our choir sharing selections of favorite Easter Music



# Director of Christian Education

*Amy McNeill*

Our new children's Sunday school program, "Roads to God," had a great start. We have almost finished our first eight-week study of Jesus' "**Journey to the Cross.**" The children have had a great time learning about the events of Holy Week in so many different ways through our rotation curriculum. I want to thank all of the teachers again and hope you all enjoyed your time with our youth members.



The second eight-week study, "**Easter: Go and Tell**" will start Easter Sunday morning, April 12<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't had a chance to come to Sunday School yet, it is never too late and we love seeing new faces!! The children's mission project for this past session was to raise their own money for *One Great Hour of Sharing*. Through their collection of coins and dollar bills, the children raised a total of \$31.95. Way to go! Thank you to everyone who participated in this wonderful cause.

Easter is right around the corner and I want to remind everyone of our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, **April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30 a.m.** There will be games, snacks, prizes, and of course an egg hunt. We will have it rain or shine, so mark your calendars and bring a friend as well as an Easter basket. I have also heard there may be a special visitor hopping this way that you won't want to miss.



Thank you to everyone who has signed up for our June retreat to Blowing Rock. I'm really looking forward to doing something our church hasn't done in awhile in hopes we can start the tradition back up. There will be more information in the upcoming month and I am also going to schedule a meeting to go over everything and answer any questions you may have. I look forward to a weekend of fellowship with everyone.

I hope you all have a blessed Easter and happy April!!

## Sunday School—March

Kaitlyn McNeill

Katarina Strenk

Jo Hudson

Elizabeth Sink

Earlie Hartley

Banks Shepherd

Clifford Lopp

Kalyssa Hutchens

Alice Gray

Marguerite Leonard

Carolyn Spivey

John Hudson

John Walser

Paula Lopp

Corinne Gray

Sandra Hutchens

Ramona Yarbrough

Nancy Robbins

Don Leonard

Anne Fletcher

Camille Morgan

Laura Strenk

Wanda Daye

Peggy Bates

Butch Bouchard

John Potts

Jeff Hutchens

Walter Patten



# March Memorials

## LOIS BECK LEONARD

Mary B. Crouse  
Marilyn Lohr

## RALPH BAILEY

Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

## JOHN R ROBBINS

Mary B. Crouse  
Holton Davis  
Maxine Lohr  
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.  
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

## ROLAND KENNETH SWING

{Adena Wall's Brother}  
Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Holton Davis  
John and Vicky Gray  
Aurelia and Jerry Smith



## NELLIE SMITH

{Lynn Klopp's Mother}  
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

## LARRY LEONARD

{Sylvia Walser's Cousin}  
Aurelia and Jerry Smith

## JEAN MORGAN

{Camille Morgan's Mother}  
Marilyn Lohr

## LAWRENCE O WALSER, JR.

Don Leonard  
Katherine Skipper  
John and Vicky Gray  
Janie Lohr  
Men's Bible Class  
Employees of Adolescent and Family Enrichment Council of Rowan County

Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Banks and Eulene Shepherd  
Wanda Daye  
Naomi Everhart  
Maxine Lohr

Henry and Juanita Beck  
Holton Davis  
Doris E. Cranford  
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.  
Marguerite Leonard

## ILA BURRELL SWING

Don Leonard  
Katherine Skipper  
John and Vicky Gray

Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Banks and Eulene Shepherd  
Wanda Daye

Henry and Juanita Beck  
Holton Davis  
Janie Lohr

# March Honorariums

## MARY BERRIER

Heart Sister

## WANDA DAYE (Happy St. Patrick's Day!)

Heart Sister

## VICKY GRAY (Birthday Wishes!)

Alice and James Gray

# APRIL STEWARDS

**Ushers:** Chairperson: Peggy Bates

Captain: Brad Biesecker

Ushers: Adena Wall, John Gray, and Nicole Smith

**Plate Attendant:** Scott Frye

**Sound Tech:** Jordan McCarn

**Acolytes:** Laura and Katarina Strenk

**Adult Joint Sunday School:** Responsible for lesson - - - Willing Workers Sunday School Class



**Social:** Host/Hostess: Anne and Roy Bevan and Nicole and Mark Smith

**NOTE: JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SOCIAL WILL BE SECOND SUNDAY (EASTER)**

**Greeters:**

April 5	Joe Yarbrough and Jerri Russell
April 12	Betty Link and Ruth Essick
April 19	Jeff, Kalyssa and Sandra Hutchens
April 26	Lynn Klopp and Cheryl Walser

**Nursery:**

April 5	Keri Hartle and Ashlee Lopp
April 12	Kay Crouse and Emily Leonard
April 19	Alice and Corinne Gray
April 26	Nicole and Mark Smith



(Alston Brook) Betty Potts (Centerclair) Jeanne Trexler  
 (Lexington Health Care) Louise Rollins, Ike Green  
 (Brookdale Place) Barbara Schaeffer  
 (Piedmont Crossing) Henry and Ernestine Kennedy, Frances Leonard, and Rita Tussey


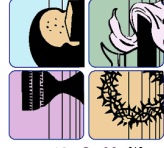

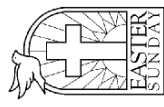

Chris Fulton, Ronnie Durham, Velna Swing, Catherine Leonard, Henry and Juanita Beck, Jacqueline Leonard, Ethel Bailey, Sadie Bailey, Giles Crowell, Gertrude Jarvis, Hilda Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard, Micki Smith, and Margaret Trexler. Also, please remember Don Fern (Sauni Johnson's Dad), Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier), Susan Fletcher (Anne Fletcher's Mother), and Mary John Allred (John and James Gray's Sister). To add a name to the prayer chain, please contact **Sandra Hutchens at 249-3001 or the church office.**

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

- The Swing Family upon the death of their loved one and our church member and friend, Ila Burrell Swing.
- Adena Wall upon the death of her brother, Roland Kenneth Swing.
- The Decker Family, Shane, Katie, and Callie upon the death of Shane's grandmother, Lula Mae Decker
- The Family of Cleora Roberts Sechrest of Georgia, former member of First Evangelical Reformed Church



# April 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>EVERY SUNDAY</b> 9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship Service			<b>1</b> 11 a.m. (P) <b>MORNING GLORY CIRCLE</b> Noon {First UMC} Community Lenten Service 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	 <b>2</b> 4:00 p.m. <b>Spread Pineneedles</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	<b>3</b> The Property Committee invites those who are able to assist with spreading pineneedles	<b>4</b>
<b>NOTE: Jt SS &amp; Social on 8<sup>th</sup></b> 11 a.m. <b>WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION</b> 11:50 a.m. <b>COMMUNITY PALM SUNDAY SERVICE</b> <b>OLDE COURTHOUSE</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00 p.m. (P) <b>LENTEN STUDY</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m. (P) Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Meeting 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>9</b> 7 p.m. (FH) <b>M A N D A T O R Y S E R V I C E</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  10:30-11:30 a.m. (FH)
 <b>12</b> 9:45 Joint SS 10:20 a.m. SS Social <b>WORSHIP AND SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	<b>13</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) <b>CRAFT NIGHT</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:30 pm (P) YOGA 6 p.m. (FH) <b>MEN'S BROTHERHOOD</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 
<b>WORSHIP</b> <b>CHILDREN'S CHURCH</b> 5:30 pm <b>WEBSITE WORKSHOP</b> 7:00 pm <b>CONSISTORY</b>	<b>20</b> JOINT TRANSITION TEAM AND CONSISTORY WORKSHOP	<b>21</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>TRANSITION TEAM</b> (Documents)	<b>22</b> Noon {FH} <b>UNITED FRIENDSHIP CLUB</b> 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>23</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) <b>YOGA Class</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>TOUCHING DAVIDSON COUNTY WITH LOVE</b>
<b>KID'S CLUB</b> After Children's Moment	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 p.m. (P) <b>WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP AND KID'S CLUB</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>30</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) <b>YOGA Class</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>Upcoming:</b>            May 10 — Mother's Day            May 24 — Memorial Sunday            May 31 — Graduation Sunday         </div>	

# Touching Davidson County With Love

## April 25, 2009

**Saturday, April 25, 2009** --- *Touching Davidson County With Love* is a joint commu-



nity effort to reach out in providing acts of love and kindness as a witness to Christ. Local churches are working with social service agencies that have identified potential projects for assistance. Each participating church has enlisted individuals to provide many varied skills needed for these projects. First Reformed UCC has had several volunteers step up to the plate. What is needed now is the funding for these projects.

**MONETARY DONATIONS**—please make your check payable to First Reformed UCC and write TDCWL on the memo line. You will be given credit on your giving statement for tax purposes. **All financial donations are due by Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

### First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ  
104 East Center Street  
Lexington, NC 27292  
Phone: 336-248-2617  
Fax: 336-248-6163  
Email: church@frucc.org

[www.frucc.org](http://www.frucc.org)

**Return Service Requested**

CHURCH STAFF	
Minister.....	Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D.
Email: wrpatten@earthlink.net or minister@frucc.org	
Director of Christian Education .....	Amy McNeill
Administrative Asst.....	Paula Lopp
Choir Director .....	Paul Freeman
Organist.....	Lee Ann Peele
SUNDAY SERVICES	
Sunday School .....	9:45 a.m.
Worship Service .....	11:00 a.m.

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