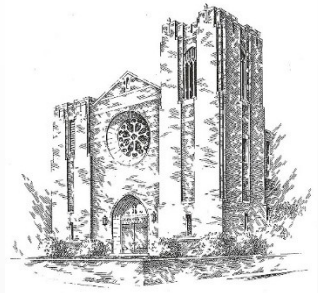


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



August 2009

UPCOMING AT FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wow, where did July go? We Pattens enjoyed a great week at Caswell Beach and I am now back at my post, sporting my newly acquired tan even as I prepare this message of relevant updates for you. We hope that each of you has enjoyed some personal time with people, hobbies, travel and interests that are dear to you this month, wise self-care being one of the true keys to happiness. Also, allow me to thank publicly the **Rev. Jerry Moore** and the **Rev. Mike Hooper** for their services to our congregation during my absence; they have been great friends and able colleagues over the years and I feel blessed to be able to call on them from time to time.

CONTINUATION OF TRANSITION TEAM REPORTS: Even though our Transition Team conducted its last official meeting on June 22, 2009, their views and perspectives continue to spread across the pages of *First News*. 1) In our July *FN*, we heard from a number of Team members as they addressed the subject of “teamwork” and how some of their insights might apply to the larger life of our congregation. We’ve had a couple of new Team submissions on this subject since then and have included them in this issue. 2) Notice that we have also compiled a number of Team responses to the question: “*What Are Your Goals and Visions for Our Church at the One, Three and Five Year Markers?*” As before, these articles which we have received are listed by name in alphabetical order and span here from pages two through page seven. *I commend these insights of the Transition Team you chose to your careful review and I encourage you to engage these Team members and each other with your own questions and thoughts about reasonable goals for FRUCC within these time-frames.* I remind you that the Transition Team was created not simply as an end in itself, but to be a catalyst for the widest possible congregational dialogue--a dialogue which will certainly be serviceable to your Search Committee, which has already begun to function, meeting with the **Rev. Larry Walser** last Tuesday night to get an overview of the search process within the UCC. *(By the way, Dawn Shaak has been selected as the Search Committee Chairperson and has written a “Search Committee Update” which may be found on page eight, which I highly commend to your attention.)* We hope that these reports will form a cumulative body of documents, along with the April and May 2009 editions of *FN*, which may be referred to again and again as the “search” dialogues get under way.

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED ON AUGUST 16: We continue to be blessed and excited by the people who wish to join our communion: They are: **David and Glenyce Fulton; Brian McKerlie and Mike Price; Doug and Barbara Sink, Jan Smith and Amy Smith (Jan’s daughter).** Please plan to celebrate our reception of these new members into our church on August 16, participating as well in our luncheon after the service in the Fellowship Hall. We will publish their autobiographical sketches and photographs in our September *FN*.

RALLY DAY AND HOMECOMING SERVICE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: We enjoyed an incredible turnout at this service last year, and we expect to do even better this year. Also, we will celebrate our “Liturgy of Closure” for our Transition Team on this occasion, even as we witnessed the beginning of the Team’s life in worship last year. **The Rev. Mike Hooper will be our guest preacher and we will enjoy a luncheon afterwards,** so let’s definitely put this event on your calendar. More later.

Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt

TRANSITION TEAM THOUGHTS

What I've Learned About Teamwork and How It Applies to This Church

CONTINUED FROM JULY *FIRST NEWS*

Being on the Transition Team has been very rewarding to me. I never dreamed that twenty people could work so well together. There were many discussions about different issues, which our leader, Rev. Patten, helped us to understand and come to a solution. This was what this Team was organized to do, so our Church Members could get back on the right Christian bases of loving one another and working together to build a better Church.

Peggy Bates

Our Transition Team has realized our few differences and appreciated our many similarities and common goals.

Roy Bevan

What Are Your Goals and Visions for Our Church at the One, Three, and Five Year Markers?

Listed in alphabetical order:

Goals—Mary Berrier

One Year:

- ◆ Increase in membership by at least ten people, hopefully couples with children.
- ◆ More activities for the entire congregation.
- ◆ Wednesday night dinners once a month.
- ◆ Utilize fellowship hall for more activities—exercise and indoor walking, open during the day in winter for people from the Crisis Ministry Shelter.

Three Years:

- ◆ Have a junior youth group—some of the children currently in church should be in their early teens by 2012.
- ◆ Increase membership by at least 25—hopefully young couples of child-bearing age so that we have a group of small children continuously.
- ◆ Make plans for use of Chamber Building (for our use).
- ◆ By now, we should have a children's choir.
- ◆ In addition to the Bell Choir, perhaps a band made up by people of all ages.
- ◆ Resume "Family Night Out."

Five Years:

- ◆ In 2014, there should be enough children to make up both a junior and senior youth fellowship.
- ◆ Create a "Church Scholarship" by donations from individuals in memory or in honor of others. If inflation continues as it has in the past few years, the young people will need help for college.

I hope I'm still around in 2014 to see all of our plans accomplished!!

Goals—Roy Bevan

One Year:

- ◆ After a thorough search by our appointed committee and congregational appraisal, a call is issued to a minister. The person selected should be ordained and have qualifications to serve our congregation effectively with a strong commitment.
- ◆ Church members should assist the minister in learning our membership and the location of their homes. Also assist in familiarizing the minister with our current programs.
- ◆ Obtain publicity in local media with information on the new pastor. A community reception welcoming the new family.
- ◆ Our Christian education programs continue to be evaluated with competent people challenged for all age groups.
- ◆ Our present effective/inspiring music continued. Consideration given to beginning a children's choir.
- ◆ Minister should be visible and active in the Lexington community. Example is the other local downtown churches.
- ◆ The new pastor should be active in the WNC Association and the Southern Conference.

Three Years:

- ◆ Minister and church members should seek spiritual and membership growth.
- ◆ Minister will have visited in every local church member's home. Inactive members, if local, should be visited by the pastor/lay persons in an effort to re-activate them.
- ◆ Church roll should be *carefully* assessed for any revisions.
- ◆ All of our church related institutions should be supported with information provided to the congregation.
- ◆ Continue strong support with the Association and Conference.
- ◆ Family retreats at Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds or similar locations.
- ◆ Strong emphasis on youth programs.
- ◆ Ecumenical programs/worship services with other local and area churches.

Five Years:

- ◆ Continue with established programs.
- ◆ Established a tutoring program after or in school with Lexington public schools.
- ◆ Consider mission trips with other churches.
- ◆ If possible, support or help support a missionary family.
- ◆ Outreach to the un-churched without discrimination.

Goals – Lynn Brown

One Year:

- ◆ Focus on continued growth
- ◆ Restructuring of the by-laws and boards completed
- ◆ Stewardship committee in place and working
- ◆ Strong support among all members

Three Years:

- ◆ Our minister is settled in
- ◆ New groups are up and running (youth fellowship, young adult Sunday School class, community outreach programs etc)
- ◆ Mentor assigned to each of our youth
- ◆ Youth choir in place
- ◆ We have a growing number of new families

Five Years:

- ◆ Membership has grown and is steady
- ◆ Youth programs are established and strong
- ◆ We are known in the community as the church that is thriving and doing great things!
- ◆ We are strong and growing

Goals – June Grubb

One Year:

- ◆ That the Search Committee will be well on its way in identifying a permanent pastor;
- ◆ That the membership will continue to support the church through its attendance at worship and financial giving;
- ◆ That prospective new members will be encouraged to join the church;
- ◆ That new programs will be explored to further our mission into the Community.

Three Years:

- ◆ That the ministry staff team will be in place and guiding the congregation in a goal setting and long range planning process for a vital ministry that addresses the needs of the city, community and beyond our walls.
- ◆ That mission projects will be identified and mission trips (local, national perhaps international will engage members of the congregation)
- ◆ That the Christian education ministry of the church will continue to provide quality programs for all ages; and that additional Bible studies will offered at other times for youth and adults;
- ◆ That use of our educational facilities will have programs for the community, i.e. "Community in Schools" tutoring programs or other programs that may be needed to help others;
- ◆ That a vital junior high youth program will be available for our youth on a regular basis;
- ◆ Church membership will continue to grow.
- ◆ That a way to introduce the congregation to the New Century Hymnal will provide for the learning of some of the new hymns--- language, cultural diversity, etc.

Five Years:

- ◆ That elements of the long range planning of the congregation will be in place and new goals will be set for the future growth and vitality of the congregation.

Goals – Kivi Miller

One Year:

- ◆ Clear sense for church-wide direction on new campaigns/projects, whatever those may be (not just something Women's Life or one of the other fellowship groups does – something all contribute to). Would like to see one campaign focused on community outreach/membership growth (like a new online campaign, e-newsletter, podcasting, etc.) and one church-wide community service project (like sponsoring a community garden).
- ◆ New structures for decision making that empower people. Current committee structure/everything going through consistory bogs things down (e.g. no significant progress on website while waiting for a committee to be approved?)

Three Years:

- ◆ Known as a church actively engaged in the community, as much as Grace Episcopal is now.
- ◆ Many more lay people empowered to make great things happen.

Five Years:

- ◆ More diversity, especially in age groups, but also in ethnicity, singles/married, etc.
- ◆ Average attendance over 300/week (or whatever doubled would be from today)

Goals – Janette Neal

One Year: Reverend Patten has led us in a healing process which has brought us to become a closer church family. The Children's Sunday school program "New Look" has been very successful.

Three Years: I see our church having a minister to lead us in our growth of faith and spirituality. Our congregation will continue to grow in attendance. I hope our support within the community continues to grow.

Five Years: We have a Youth Fellowship Program and a Youth Choir in place.

Goals—Susan Odom

One Year: I would like to see a stronger, more supportive church with strong spiritual connection; beginning some new ideas for youth programs and spiritual growth of the entire congregation.

Three Years: Some youth programs running and growing and looking for and doing mission work for others, with ongoing spiritual growth.

Five years: Above programs stronger and attractive to others who are coming to be a part of it all. Growth in all age groups.

Goals—Nancy Robbins

One Year:

- ◆ A permanent pastor in place or imminent.
- ◆ Some growth in membership.
- ◆ More consistent attendance in church and Sunday School.
- ◆ More participation in groups (i.e., Circles, etc.)

Three Years:

- ◆ Five to 10% increase in membership.
- ◆ More community outreach.
- ◆ More membership involvement.
- ◆ Established youth group, choir, etc.

Five Years:

- ◆ Continued membership growth.
- ◆ Newly established groups to promote various aspects of church involvement in local community, etc.

Goals – Eulene Shepherd

ONE YEAR:

First of all, I should like to characterize First Church as a “learner” church. One year from now I would like to see First Church grow in our understanding of what discipleship means in the 21st century in Lexington, N C. I have chosen a “theme hymn” for this first phase: It is “Once to Every Man and Nation,” no. 99 in The Hymnal -- written by James Russell Lowell in 1845 and set to the tune of a Welsh hymn melody

I would like for our members to be willing to study the history of the Reformation. After all, we carry the name “Reformed” in our church’s title. So that future generations could know their history, I would like to see our young folk once again be familiar with the Heidelberg Catechism -- at least to memorize the first question. The words may be archaic, the concept of “the devil” may need some philosophical examining, but when memorized, these words may be a lifelong creed. This is not to say that our institutional church should remain “just like Momma and them did it,” but we need to recapture the Spirit which led our ancestors in the past. Our modern church needs to be flexible, open, able to meet new challenges with new ways of organizing, but let us not throw out “the baby with the bath water.” Let’s make sure that all of us know what “reformed and reforming” truly means.

THREE YEARS:

The theme hymn for the next section is “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,” by John Greenleaf Whittier in 1872, no. 226 in The Hymnal, set to the tune, Elton.

In three years from now (or earlier) I would like to have our congregation incorporate a “mission moment” at least once a month in our Sunday morning worship service. This would involve lay leaders taking part. There could be readings from the UCC Calendar of Prayer, or updates from Global Ministries. I believe that our evangelical spirit needs to reach beyond Lexington and Davidson County, IMPORTANT AS THAT IS. Our Lord said “Go into all the world and preach the gospel.” As for preaching, actions speak louder than words.

I would like to see us be even more hospitable than we are now, so that persons, whoever they are, might feel welcome here.

I would like to see us be even more ecumenical than we are now. Our divisiveness is sinful.

Goals – Eulene Shepherd *continued*

FIVE YEARS:

The theme hymn for this last section is “In the Midst of New Dimensions,” no. 391 in The New Century Hymnal and written in 1985 by Julian Rush, who wrote both words and music. Julian Rush is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, “who has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of ‘diversity’ for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).” [quoted from The New Century Hymnal].

2014 -- Five years from now I would like to see some of our young people consider Christian vocation -- commissioned Christian Education Director, medical missionary, or full-time parish minister -- either male or female.

My husband Banks sometimes asked churches where he preached “Have you used up more ministers than you’ve raised up?” When asked to preach here, he realized he could no longer say that because First Reformed has had only six full-time ministers in her 108 year history, and there have been six persons from the congregation to enter full-time Christian service. However, only one of those six, Zack Mabe, has answered the call in the last forty years. Should we be challenging some of our youth to consider this vocation?

We might consider a parish nurse position in our congregation. In this day of health care reform, this would be a very timely program. We might consider an after-school program for “latchkey” children, or those who need extra tutoring to keep up their grades.

We might sponsor an overseas child.

All of these programs are challenging, but as Dr. Ben Herbster, the first president of the United Church of Christ is quoted as saying, “We are a risk-taking fellowship.”

Goals – Lib Sink

ONE YEAR:

It is my hope that First Reformed UCC will have a new minister that will meet the needs of our congregation. With Rev. Walter Patten’s leadership the Transition Team has completed its work and given the Search Committee material that reflects the views of our congregation. This should facilitate the hiring of a new minister within the coming year.

I hope we can have more opportunities for members to get together and share their thoughts and different opinions about issues that pertain to the church. By listening and talking, conflicts can be worked out with agreement or compromise before it divides the church. The Transition Team must have a positive attitude and communicate with members to let them know we are willing to work together to make this a church that works together to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

THREE YEARS:

A new minister will be here and by this time know our congregation. I hope that the communication with the members that began during the transition period will continue. If changes are to be made, it must be with the church members’ knowledge. I don’t want an agenda issue to arise, and from past experience, I know it can.

I hope that we will see our membership grow and inactive members return. Also, as our youth become older, they need to be provided youth activities that will help them grow spiritually as well as fun – such as: Music, Youth Fellowship, Scouts, etc. The adult organizations, Women’s Life Fellowship, Morning Glory Circle, Friendship Club and Men’s Brotherhood, need to continue to grow and give us opportunities to develop projects and help people in need. I also want more of our members to attend Sunday School. It is not just for children. The children do have “Roads to God” which I hope will continue to grow and expand.

Goals – Lib Sink *continued***FIVE YEARS:**

First of all, I hope the new minister that was hired around five years ago is still here (I hope I am too.), and that the minister has been an inspiration to our congregation and has made us aware of our Mission Statement – “That we are a people who discover The Love of God, The Power to Love Others, and The Ability to Love Ourselves.” This has been our goal for some time, but through the years, I think we have lost that vision, but now I hope it is back.

P.S. By this time maybe most of our Long Range Plans from January 2002 have been fulfilled: New facilities at the back of the Sanctuary or a remodeled Chamber of Commerce Building for a nursery during worship services, choir practice and storage rooms, bell practice room and a Bridal room.

Goals – Mark Smith**ONE YEAR:**

Our church has hired a new minister, adjusting to him/her, and is generally enthusiastic about a fresh start. There is a buzz of new ideas and activity with newer members taking some leadership roles within the church.

THREE YEARS:

Our church has had ample time to adjust to the new minister and individual members have shaped their own opinions about him/her. With the additions of a new minister, new ideas, and new members our church has developed/joined more community outreach programs where we participate with other local churches. There is also a focus on youth and youth related church functions and groups. This focus serves as a recruitment tool in evangelism for our church. There have also been some changes to the traditional worship service which some people applaud and others are not so crazy about.

FIVE YEARS:

The youth focus of prior years has paid off in bringing in more families to the church. Recruitment of new members has been relatively successful although the aging population of the church has not gone unnoticed in the pews and in the financial obligations of the church. The traditional worship service of years past has changed in regards to music, format, and style to serve the changing congregation. The congregation continues to be actively involved in the community but struggles to keep up with financial obligations of general operations and benevolences. Cost cutting measures are thoroughly probed to become more efficient. Some of the enthusiasm of recent years has worn off as the church searches for renewed purpose. This natural cycle forces newer members and previously inactive members to take leadership roles and the process begins anew.

Goals -- Carolyn Spivey**ONE YEAR:**

- ◆ Attendance to church functions grows
- ◆ Search Committee has progressed in their assignment
- ◆ Congregation continues to become actively involved in all aspects of the church

THREE YEARS:

- ◆ All of the above
- ◆ New members have joined
- ◆ Young adults with growing families are active
- ◆ We are not a complacent congregation
- ◆ First Reformed is active in community functions

FIVE YEARS:

- ◆ We are challenged and active in our development and community.
- ◆ We continue to learn and practice Christianity.
- ◆ We are kind to all people.

Search Committee Update

Dear Congregation,

Your Search Committee is now meeting regularly. We have met with Reverend Larry Walser, Western North Carolina Associate Conference Minister, who is our professional guide through our search. The United Church of Christ has additionally provided excellent written guidelines.

Please know that we are also being guided by you. I refer you to two of our "First News" publications — April 2009 and May 2009. These are both a result of our March 22nd congregational meeting directed by the Transition Team. These provide us with the qualities we all hope for in our new pastor, as well as what we, as a congregation can do to help our new pastor fulfill our dreams and visions for our church.

The members of the Search Committee are good listeners. We welcome your constructive input.

We are grateful during this time for the excellent intentional interim leadership of Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D. Please remember us in your prayers as our church family begins this important spiritual journey together.

Respectfully,

Dawn Shaak

Search Committee Chairperson

Members:	Mark Smith , Vice Chairperson	Vicky Gray	Birke McNeill
	Clifford Lopp , Recording Secretary	Walter Hoffman	Tony Peele
	Eulene Shepherd , Chaplain	Sauni Johnson	

The following is a brief summary of the Search and Call process in the United Church of Christ.

1. We will use the information collected at our March 22, 2009 Assembly where we filled out the "PASTORAL LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS SURVEY" and members' discussed ideas about new pastoral leadership. These ideas will be incorporated into the "Local Church Profile" that we will develop.
2. Our vacancy will then be listed in "UCC Employment Opportunities."
3. Persons who have been authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile will submit profiles for our committee through the Conference/Association office. The Ministerial Profile includes information about the candidate's educational background, experience, a detailed faith statement, eight written references, a background check form, and a criminal background check.
4. While the work on the Local Church Profile requires the input of many in the congregation, the names of candidates are held in strict confidence within our committee; we ask you to respect the essential confidentiality of this process. We will make every effort to keep you informed --- on a regular basis --- about our progress.
5. We will share our Local Church Profile with candidates, and we will begin to follow up with persons in whom we have particular interest. The follow up will include telephone reference checks, telephone interviews, and requests for sermon tapes. While pursuing these steps, we will also continue to evaluate new Ministerial Profiles.
6. We will select a small number of candidates for personal interviews, following which we will make arrangements for our Search Committee members to worship with them, most often in a church setting arranged by our Conference/Association office.
7. We will invite at least two candidates back for second interviews, following which we will seek God's guidance and prayerfully make a decision on a candidate.
8. If the candidate we recommend chooses to accept, compensation arrangements will be clarified, and a date for a "candidating Sunday" will be established.
9. You will have an opportunity to meet the candidate (and family) that weekend in an informal setting as well as the formal worship service where the candidate will preach. A congregational meeting following the worship service will offer each member an opportunity to ask questions of the Search Committee, and to vote on the Call to our new pastor.

Please be patient with the process. The average search takes 1 to 1½ years.

United Friendship Club

President, June Grubb

The United Friendship Club invites all members of the congregation to their annual homemade ice cream social to be held on Wednesday, August 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. You are invited to bring your favorite flavor of homemade ice cream or a dessert. All kinds of toppings have been donated.

Come join the fun as we enjoy some licking good homemade ice cream and fellowship with one another!



Morning Glory Circle

Secretary, Mary Berrier

The Morning Glory Circle has a real treat in store! Members and friends will be gathering at the home of Morning Glory President, Lib Sink. Lib is hosting a **COVERED DISH LUNCHEON** at **11:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 5th**. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends.



If you've been thinking about joining a circle that meets in the morning, now is a good opportunity as we kickoff a new season. If anyone needs more information or directions, please contact Lib Sink at 731-2871.

Women's Life Fellowship

President, Sauni Johnson

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! Women's Life Fellowship is providing lunch on **New Member Sunday, August 16th**. Free-will donations for lunch will be used to support the ongoing community service projects that Women's Life Fellowship is sponsoring this year. Please come get acquainted with our new members and enjoy Sunday lunch with your church family.

Tuesday, August 18th at 6:30 p.m. Women's Life Fellowship members will be enjoying a **COVERED DISH PICNIC** at the home of Nina Smith. Please bring your favorite dish to share and a lawn chair. Drinks will be provided. **ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED!**



Director of Christian Education

Amy McNeill

Sunday School

July 2009

- Wanda Daye
- Jo Hudson
- Betty Bates
- Doris Flynt
- Nancy Robbins
- Mary Berrier
- Eulene Shepherd
- Adena Wall
- Marguerite Leonard
- Carolyn Spivey
- Joyce Price
- Elizabeth Sink
- Butch Bouchard
- J.W. Bates
- Earlie Hartley
- Don Leonard
- Cliff Lopp
- John Potts
- Banks Shepherd
- Camille Morgan
- Cathy Waitman
- Clifford Lopp
- Paula Lopp

Wow!! The summer has flown by and I can't believe school is almost starting back up. I hope everyone has had a great summer and enjoyed time with family and friends. I know my family has and it feels good to be back at home and back at church. We have one more big event to participate in before the school year starts, **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!** It is at Second Reformed UCC this year and the dates are August 14th -15th. On Friday August 14th we will start off at 5:30 p.m. with a family dinner and then the program will start at 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Second Reformed UCC will also be having an adult class for anyone interested from 7-8 p.m. This will be lead by their interim minister, Rev. Joe Coltrane. On Saturday August 15th we will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The kids will be treated to a pizza lunch half way through the day. The ages for this year's VBS are preschool thru 5th grade. If you have any older youth who would love to participate we can always use help leading the children in all their different activities. I'm so excited to be doing the second half of Power Lab: "Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Powers" and finding out what happens to Chadder the chipmunk. I know the children will love it too, so I hope everyone has marked their calendars and I can't wait to see you there!!!



I would also like to remind everyone as we start making our plans for the new school year about Sunday School. This year **RALLY DAY** will be on **Sunday September 13th** to kick off the new Sunday School year. We will also be beginning two new Sunday School classes that I'm very excited to share with you all. There will be a new preschool class lead by Ms. Nancy Robbins for ages 3-5 years old. They will be working with a program by Cokesbury called 'Rock Solid' and it looks like they are going to have a lot of fun discovering the Bible. Also, we are going to start a young adult class. I'm in the process of finalizing all the details on this and will share them with you as soon as possible. I'm very excited about this class and what we will be studying. We are going to have a class for everyone now so I can't wait to see you all on Sunday mornings before worship service!!!

If anyone has questions about Vacation Bible School or Sunday School please feel free to contact



Congratulations!!!

Congratulations are expressed to Maria Elise Yocum and Josef Emil Carlson upon their marriage on Saturday, the eleventh of July at Second Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Coventry, Connecticut. Maria is the daughter of Carolyn Yocum and The Late Reverend William Yocum.

“FIREPROOF”



The New Way Class is sponsoring the showing of the movie “Fireproof” at our church at **5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 30th**. “Fireproof” is a movie about Caleb (a fireman), his wife, and their dissolving marriage. When Caleb tells his dad that he is getting a divorce, his dad asks him to wait 40 days before moving forward. Dad’s challenge: work a day-at-a-time through a handwritten book he calls The Love Dare. Caleb agrees to try but is met with increasing frustration as his wife continues to reject him. Pastor Walt will moderate our discussion of “Fireproof,” and if there is sufficient interest,

we may offer subsequent sessions on such topics as honoring your spouse, forgiveness, building marriage on prayer and God’s word, and unconditional love.

To make this event as “user-friendly” as possible, supper and child care will be provided. “Couples and “Singles” of all ages are invited to attend. We hope to see you there.

Blessing and Shalom, Pastor Walt

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS!

As you know Meals-On-Wheels of Lexington operates out of the kitchen here at our church. There are seven routes that are delivered daily with eight downtown churches participating in delivery. Each church has a route coordinator who seeks volunteers from their church to deliver the meals on a daily basis...five days a week, 52 weeks a year with 5 holidays during the year. First Reformed UCC carries the Erlanger route and our coordinator is Marguerite Leonard. If able to volunteer you will only be responsible for carrying meals once or twice a month. If you can assist with this rewarding project or have questions, please contact Marguerite at 475-8044.



CORN FLAKES

In support of Crisis Ministries, each local church is responsible for providing an item that can help to fill a grocery bag that is distributed to families in need. First Reformed UCC is assigned **CORN FLAKES**. This is not a budgeted item, but rather a gift supplied by individuals in our church family. PLEASE bring your corn flakes on Sunday mornings and leave these boxes in the narthex or on the table outside the church office.

Also, monetary donations are appreciated. Just designate on your check that the donation is for corn flakes.

DO YOU LIKE OUR NEW SCHEDULE?

We have now moved through June and July with our 9:30/10:30 a.m. Sunday School/ Worship schedule. After Sunday, August 30, do you wish to return to our “regular” 9:45/11:00 a.m. schedule, or do you wish to retain the new one a while longer? Please give your favorite church leader your thoughts on this matter.

Blessing and Shalom, Pastor Walt



July Memorials

LILA SOSEBEE
{Rev Bill Sosebee's Mother}
Peggy Bates

CLEORA SECHREST
{Former church neighbor}
Sarah H. Morris



COL. LOUIS "IKE" GREEN
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey
Dr. and Mrs. James T. Welborn

EVERETTE "BUD" FRITTS

Henry and Juanita Beck
Merle and Jerry Hodges
K & M Wholesale
Bob and Dawn Shaak
Jerry and Aurelia Smith
Janie Lohr

Katherine Skipper
Peggy Bates
Gladys Snider
Cathy and Steve Waitman
Mary Crouse

Don Leonard
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Smith
Banks and Eulene Shepherd
Roy and Anne Bevan
Holton Davis

July Honorariums

LIB SINK {Happy Birthday}
Heart Sister

SANDRA

Memories of a Friend



Her constant smile and pleasant laugh,
Showing off her mother's pins,
Tooling around in her little green Ford,
Her love for flowers, plants, animals,
Children, and friends.
All those trips to Vegas!
Chauffeuring the big black truck,
Her blond-haired, blue-eyed "shadow,"
Helping out in any way she could,
Surprising people with little gifts;

The last one to me: a pink Elvis beanie, I'll always treasure:
Its name? "Bearing Love."

This poem was written by Nancy Robbins in loving memory of her friend and ours, Sandra Smith Hutchens.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you notes were received from the following for benevolent gifts from First Reformed UCC:

Davidson Prison Ministry

Family Services of Davidson County

Southern Conference UCC

Dear First Church Family,

Thank you for the graduation gift. I enjoyed quiet time at Barnes and Noble while shopping for a good read! Your love and thoughtfulness mean so much.

Fondly, Amanda Fulton

Dear First Reformed UCC,

Thank you very much for your consideration and assisting me. Again thank you.

Sincerely, Nichole Smith, Central Davidson Graduate

Dear First Reformed United Church of Christ Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, phone calls, visits, thoughts and prayers during my recent illness and rehabilitation. Thanks to Reverend Patten for the inspirational hymns he sang each visit. I am so blessed to have a wonderful church family. God Bless you all.

Doris Frye

Dear First Reformed UCC Congregation,

I was pleasantly surprised to be honored as one of the fathers selected at our worship service on Father's Day. Thank you for honoring me and for the gift certificate to Yarborough's Restaurant. Nicole and I will appreciate a dinner night out.

Sincerely, Mark Smith

CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS...

- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pew.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
- It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
- People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.
- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?
- I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?
- We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

AUGUST STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Peggy Bates

Captain: John Potts

Ushers: Myra Thompson, Janette Neal, Cheryl Walser

Plate Attendant: John Walser

Sound Tech: Tony Peele

Adult Joint Sunday School: Responsible for lesson - - - Men's Bible Class

Social: Host/Hostess: Raeann Biesecker and Sauni Johnson

NOTE:
SUMMER SCHEDULE:
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:05 a.m. SS Social
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Greeters:

August 2	Myrtle Latimer and Pattie Everhart
August 9	Keith and Alisa Johnson
August 16	Buddy and Rita Lohr
August 23	Maxine and Marilyn Lohr
August 30	Rich and Lena Johnson

Nursery:

August 2	Cheryl Walser
August 9	Kay Crouse and Emily Leonard
August 16	Betty Bates
August 23	Keri Hartle and Ashlee Lopp
August 30	Amy and Birke McNeill

(Alston Brook) Betty Potts

(Centerclair) Jeanne Trexler

(Lexington Health Care) Louise Rollins

(Brookdale Place) Barbara Schaeffer

(Piedmont Crossing) Henry and Ernestine Kennedy, Frances Leonard, and Rita Tussey






Joel Reece (member now living in Hickory), Tom Danze, Hilda Leonard, Ronnie Durham, Henry and Juanita Beck, Jacqueline Leonard, Ethel Bailey, Sadie Bailey, Giles Crowell, Gertrude Jarvis, Catherine Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard, Micki Smith, Velna Swing, and Margaret Trexler. Also, please remember Joyce Bowie (Joyce Price's sister-in-law), Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier), and Susan Fletcher (Anne Fletcher's Mother). To add a name to the prayer chain, please contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office at 248-2617.

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

- Ruth Fritts and Ann and Walter Hoffman upon the death of their loved on, Everette "Bud" Fritts



August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30 a.m. {Chapel} Joint Sunday School</p> <p>10:05 a.m. {FH} Sunday School Social</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. {P} BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MTG</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. {P} SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING</p>	<p>11:30 a.m. MORNING GLORY CIRCLE Covered Dish Luncheon at Lib Sink's house</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class</p>		1
<p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>7:00 p.m. {VVV Classroom} CONSISTORY MEETING</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. {FH} Scrap-Book/Craft Class</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. {P} SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class</p>	<p>5:30 pm Family Dinner 6:30—8:30 p.m. Children's Classes 7-8 pm Adult Class</p>	8
<p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service, NEW MEMBER SUNDAY AND CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH </p>	<p>7:00 p.m. {Parlor} FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP PICNIC at Nina Smith's House</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class</p>	<p>9:30 am to 2:30 pm Children's Classes</p> 	15
<p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service and Baptism of Landon Leonard</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. {P} BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MTG</p>		<p>6:30 p.m. (FH) UNITED FRIENDSHIP CLUB ICE CREAM SOCIAL</p> 	<p>5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class</p>		22
<p>9:30 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>5 p.m. (FH) "FIREPROOF" Movie with supper & childcare provided</p>						29
<p>Upcoming: September 13 — RALLY DAY AND CHURCH HOMECOMING! LUNCH IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING WORSHIP</p>						

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

AUGUST 16, 2009

New members will be joining our congregation on Sunday, August 16, 2009 during the morning worship hour. Following worship Women's Life Fellowship is providing a welcoming luncheon for all in the fellowship hall. Please mark your calendar and plan to stay for good food and Christian fellowship.



Donations will be accepted for lunch to assist with on going mission projects of Women's Life Fellowship.

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

Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Minister.....Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D.
Email: wrpatten@earthlink.net or minister@frucc.org
Director of Christian EducationAmy McNeill
Administrative Asst.....Paula Lopp
Choir Director Paul Freeman
Organist..... Lee Ann Peele

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Worship Service10:30 a.m.

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