

FIRST NEWS

February 2009

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE AND SCHEDULED ASSEMBLY

Our *Transition Team* and I wish to use this opportunity to give you an update on our work, especially since we are converging on a point where we will need to enlist your explicit support by asking you to participate in another “*Assembly*.” Remember that this is a part of our covenant with you, the congregation, that we draw you into our discussions about the “transition” challenges we face as we prepare for the immediate and more distant future; particularly as this dialogue relates both to your congregational “Profile” which will be circulated through our UCC system *and* through your pastoral “Profile” which the Search Committee can use to screen applicants toward the identification of a high probability pastoral candidate. While it is not the explicit job of the TT to formulate either “Profile” (for that is the *Search Committee’s* task), it is our responsibility to lay such preliminary groundwork as is possible for the accurate and expeditious completion of such documents and others as the Search Committee deems appropriate. If we do our job well, the Search Committee can “hit the ground running,” as we say, wasting little time in your pastoral search while building upon our careful work.

For example, we have been in the process of completing a meticulous examination and editing of our governing documents, such as the By-Laws and the Operating Manual, to mention two. Some of this material was outdated, reflecting procedures that perhaps were once in place, but have changed significantly, and some of it may need to be re-thought and re-written entirely; of course, all at the Consistory’s discretion and approval. We are even examining the possibility of creating a new committee altogether, provisionally entitled the *Pastor/Parish Relations Committee*, along guidelines suggested by The Alban Institute’s Roy Oswald, an established expert in such matters. We have also completed a thorough examination of our congregation’s “history” and have “cleared the decks” of potentially lingering problems that could afflict a subsequent pastorate, including our crash course in the Christian basics of forgiveness and reconciliation, which many of you will remember from my earlier months here.

We are now engaging the twin tasks of “congregational analysis” and “pastoral leadership expectations.” *For the first task*, we are using an instrument from the Center for Congregational Health entitled “Four Lenses of Congregational Analysis,” with four major headings or “frames”: the Ecological, the Cultural, the Resource, and the Process. The Ecological frame involves the social context of our church, the “where” of our congregation, the neighborhood and placement within the larger community. The Cultural frame includes the activities we do together, representing the “who” and the “why” of our congregation. The Resource frame defines the “what” of our congregation, what are the resources we use to carry out our mission, our reason for being. This analysis can include such factors as demographic information, levels of commitment within the congregation, financial issues, assessment of facilities and the feasibility of community partnerships to meet needs through our sharing of space. The Process frame examines the “how and “when” of our congregation, about how and when we get things done, or do not get things done. Process thinking is the lively interaction that links behavior and beliefs, values with action, or with inaction, calling attention to the profound differences between formal and informal processes. We acknowledge the tricky reality that most congregational process remains unwritten and frequently even unconscious. **Our TT’s homework assignment is to work through these frames and to complete a “Program Assessment Tool,” which states exhaustively all our ministries and the present level of their effectiveness. Then, that done, they are each to identify five new possibilities, hopes and dreams for ministries not yet engaged at First Reformed UCC.**

continued

The second task, the one involving “pastoral leadership expectations,” is included in pages 3 and 4 of this copy of *First News*, entitled “*Pastoral Leadership Expectations Sample Survey*.” It contains 42 items “...that represent a wide range of pastoral leadership qualities. All the qualities are important. However please place an ‘X’ beside the 12 items that you feel a new pastor needs to give priority to at this time. Do not rank the items.” **I am asking both our TT and you, the congregation, to fill out this form as best you can, drawing upon all of your knowledge of our congregation. You may also add qualities that you think are important that are not explicitly listed on this survey, for instance: “Our church needs a pastor who...is a person of faith.”** This quality appears frequently on such surveys, but it is absent here, unless you want to put it there. Though, remember, this is still a forced choice: *only 12 qualities can make the cut, and this is harder than it looks, for all of them are desirable.* **Also: I am asking both the TT and you to spell out, in some detail, what these 12 special qualities mean to you, and why, both positively and negatively (i.e., what damage is done when these qualities are missing?). You will need extra paper for this exercise. This, too, is harder than it looks, but slog ahead anyway.**

Our “Assembly” is scheduled for Sunday, March 1, 2009, immediately after worship in the FH. As before, we will enjoy a simple meal together and then turn our attention to this sample survey. If you put off doing this exercise, come on and participate with us anyway, as I am sure that some people will be seeing this survey for the first time then. Though you, dear reader, have seen it now, and you do have all month to work on this. So summon your discipline and give your TT the vital feedback we need to do the best possible job we can to equip our Search Committee and our congregation to prepare well for our immediate and our distant future.

Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt, IIM

PS. Our next TT meeting is from 9:00 a.m.--12:00 p.m. Saturday morning, February 14, 2009, in the parlor.

Thanks to the efforts of many, we were able to raise \$4,225.00 for The Perrell Family to assist with medical expenses.

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

Catawba College	Southern Conference	Salvation Army	UCC Retirement Homes
Johns River Camp	Hospice of Davidson County	Elon University	Crisis Ministry
Nazareth Children’s Home	Communities In Schools		

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Social Concerns Commission at Grace Church, I’d like to thank you for helping us serve Sunday lunch during the month of November. We look forward to working with you again next November! *Sincerely, Chris Hodges*

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS SAMPLE SURVEY

The following list contains 42 items that represent a wide range of pastoral leadership qualities. All the qualities are important. However, please place an "X" beside the 12 items that you feel a new pastor needs to give priority to at this time. Do not rank the items.

Our church needs a pastor who...

___ is an effective preacher/speaker.

___ continues to develop his/her theological and biblical skills.

___ helps people develop their spiritual life.

___ helps people work together in solving problems.

___ is effective in planning and leading worship.

___ has a sense of the direction of his/her ministry.

___ regularly encourages people to participate in denominational activities and programs.

___ helps people understand and act upon issues of social justice.

___ is a helpful counselor.

___ ministers effectively to people in crisis situations.

___ makes pastoral calls on people in hospitals, nursing homes or confined to home.

___ makes pastoral calls on people not in hospitals, nursing homes or confined to home.

___ is a good leader.

___ is effective in working with children.

___ builds a sense of fellowship among the people with whom he/she works.

___ helps people develop their leadership abilities.

___ is an effective administrator.

___ is effective with committees and officers.

___ is an effective teacher.

- ___ has a strong commitment to the educational ministry of the church.
- ___ is effective in working with youth.
- ___ inspires a sense of confidence.
- ___ works regularly at bringing new members into the church.
- ___ regularly encourages support of the Cooperative Program.
- ___ reaches out to inactive members.
- ___ works regularly in the development of stewardship growth.
- ___ is active in ecumenical relationships and encourages the church to participate.
- ___ writes clearly and well.
- ___ works well on a team.
- ___ is effective in working with adults.
- ___ organizes people for community action.
- ___ is skilled in planning and leading programs.
- ___ plans and leads well-organized meetings.
- ___ encourages people to relate their faith to their daily lives.
- ___ is accepting of people with divergent backgrounds and traditions.
- ___ encourages others to assume and carry out leadership.
- ___ is mature and emotionally secure.
- ___ has strong commitment and loyalty to the denomination.
- ___ maintains confidentiality.
- ___ understands and interprets the mission of the church from a global perspective.
- ___ is a compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others' needs.
- ___ deals effectively with conflict.

Consistory Highlights—January 2009

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The Consistory met for the 1st time in 2009 on Sunday January 11th. Scott Frye welcomed all new members, Mike Brown, Betty Link, Eddie Yates, Calvin Odom, Eddie Miller and Albert Evans.

The new officers for 2009 are as follows: Scott Frye, President, Sauni Johnson, Vice President, Melody Evans, Treasurer and Vicky Gray, Secretary.

The financial report stated that all bills were met for 2008. The average offering for the year was \$4747.46 weekly; \$5490.08 is needed weekly to make the budget.



Reverend Patten's 5 week report included:

- 252 people were helped from the discretionary fund since April 15, 2008, Reverend Patten's first day
- Transition Team has met 17 times and will have a provisional documents report for the Consistory by February.
- The Search Committee may start as early as April 2009.
- Kivi Miller is working on our website. Reverend Patten recommends a website to check, nonprofitmarketingguide.com.
- Food Inspection Services director, David Hennesie, will visit to setup our main kitchen for regular inspections for the "Meals On Wheels" program.
- Responses to our 9 o'clock Christmas Eve Service has been overwhelmingly positive.
- The \$1000.00 OCWM challenge (above budget) has been met.
- Sat. January 17, 2009 at the 1st UCC in Burlington, a meeting will be held to discuss the future of the Southern Conference.
- Potential new members to join the church.

The Board of Christian Education met Monday Jan. 12, 2009. The painting in the downstairs Sunday School classes is going well and looks good.

Board of Community Outreach will need someone to stay overnight at the shelter in February. Contact Eddie Yates if you are interested.

Nancy Robbins reported the current membership is 407.

Sauni Johnson and the Property Committee are still looking into something to keep the birds from flying into the windows in the breezeway.

Mark your calendars for the next consistory and congregational meeting on Sunday February 8, 2009.

Touching Davidson County With Love

Mark your calendars for the third annual "Touching Davidson County with Love" community outreach day which will be **April 25th, 2009**. This community-wide service day was a huge success last year as over 800 volunteers from area churches spent the day serving the community. There will be both construction and non-construction projects done during the day for all ages and skill levels to participate. Please mark your calendars for this special day as our community comes together in service. We had many participants last year and hope to have more this year. Volunteer sign-up forms will be distributed to the congregation in February. We also need project managers who will head both the construction and non-construction jobs. If you are interested in being a project manager (both construction and non-construction) please call Birke McNeill at 580-1753.

Women's Life Fellowship

President Sauni Johnson



Women's Life Fellowship met January 20th and enjoyed an enlightening program presented by our guest speaker, Kathy Berrier, Director of Financial Development at the American Children's Home. In anticipation of Kathy's visit, the circle had purchased several items to donate to the American Children's Home.

Women's Life along with the Church Choir sponsored a fund-raiser for the Perrell Family on Sunday, January 25th. We would like to thank everyone who donated food for the lunch, items for the auction and money to the family.

The project was a huge success, raising over \$4,000.

With Women's Life focusing on community service this year, Joann Poston with Pastor's Pantry will be our guest speaker at our meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 17th.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come to our meetings. Kid's Club meetings coincide with Women's Life Fellowship.

United Friendship Club

President June Grubb

The United Friendship Club met Wednesday, January 28th. Reverend Patten updated our group on members who are in need of prayer. He then blessed the food and we enjoyed a delicious covered dish lunch.

After lunch the group was informed that the landscape committee had met and decided at this time to ask the church grounds-keeper, Mike Stegal, to plant double knock-out rose bushes along both sides of the sidewalk in front of the education building and some white azaleas in front of the irises. Small azaleas are to be planted around the sign in front of the education building. This will give color but should not require a lot of maintenance.

Melody Evans gave a timely devotion that touched each of us referencing our brokenness. She then presented a program on sugar content in beverages. The information she provided made us stop to think about the amount of sugar consumed in the drinks we choose each day.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, February 25, 2009**. Lib Sink, Joyce Price, Nancy Robbins and Camille Morgan will decorate and setup. Nancy Robbins will lead devotions.

Men's Brotherhood

By: Clifford Lopp

**MEN'S
BROTHERHOOD**



The Men's Brotherhood met on January 15th in the fellowship hall. Eddie Yates and Clifford Lopp provided a meal to the brave souls who came out on a frigid night.

Reverend Chris Burr presented a program about India and the need to provide clean water to rural areas. Reverend Burr hopes to raise enough money to help with this project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19th in the fellowship hall. If you can assist with the meal, please contact Clifford.

January Memorials

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JEAN LOHR MORGAN {Camille Morgan's Mother}

Aurelia and Jerry Smith

NELLIE MAE SMITH {Lynn Klopp's Mother}

Wanda Daye

MARY LOUISE LEONARD

Teenie Sink Tilley and Woody Tilley

MARIE CROUSE

Marilyn Lohr



RALPH PARKS BAILEY, SR.

Myrtle Latimer

Ruth Essick

Marilyn Lohr

MR. AND MRS. L.O. WALSER, SR.

Lawrence Walser

LOIS BECK LEONARD

Nancy Robbins

Aurelia and Jerry Smith

Holton Davis

Peggy Bates

Hilda Leonard

Ruth Essick

Ike and Vicky Green

Janie Lohr

Mary Frances Edens

Clark and Patricia Smith

Jennifer Moffitt Carbee

Paul Streetman, Jr.

Gerry Hill

Banks and Eulene Shepherd

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Smith

Marguerite Leonard

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wegwart

Mike and Lynn Brown

Pattie Everhart

John and Vicky Gray

Myrtle Latimer

Cloyd Philpott, Jr.

Eileen Moffitt Batchelor

Holy Angels, Inc.

Bruce Streetman

Louise and Jack Michael

Roy and Anne Bevan

Doris Frye

Wanda Daye

David and Regina Moody

Lee Ann and Tony Peele

Gladys Snider

Maxine Lohr

Roger and Vanessa Webb

Elwood and Dianna Cherry

Debra Moffitt Coyle

Dorman and Jean Hartley

Diane S. Hedrick

Cliff and Eloise Lopp

JOHN R ROBBINS

Henry and Juanita Beck

Don Leonard

Peggy Bates

Roy and Anne Bevan

Aurelia and Jerry Smith

John and Lynn McCarn

Cliff and Eloise Lopp

Merle and Jerry Hodges

Banks and Eulene Shepherd

Gladys Snider

Nancy Robbins' Heart Sister

Holton Davis

Esther M. Thomas

Katherine Skipper

John and Vicky Gray

Bob and Dawn Shaak

Elizabeth Sink

Wanda Daye

Charles and Steve Murdock

January Honorariums

PAUL AND DEBRA FREEMAN

Nancy Robbins

LEE ANN AND TONY PEELE

Nancy Robbins

JOYCE PRICE

Heart Sister

GERRY HILL

Aurelia & Jerry Smith

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2009

President: Scott Frye
Secretary: Vicky Gray

Vice President: Sauni Johnson
Treasurer: Melody Evans

ELDERS

<u>2007-08-09</u>	Scott Frye	Buddy Lohr	Adena Wall
<u>2008-09-10</u>	Nancy Robbins	Cheryl Walser	
<u>2009-10-11</u>	Albert Evans	Calvin Odom	

DEACONS

<u>2007-08-09</u>	Sherry Bonner Myra Thompson	Vicky Gray Joe Yarbrough	Sauni Johnson
<u>2008-09-10</u>	Jeff Hutchens	Ramona Yarbrough	Eddie Yates
<u>2009-10-11</u>	Mike Brown	Betty Link	Edgar Miller

TRUSTEES

<u>2009</u>	J.W. Bates	<u>2010</u>	Steve Smith	<u>2011</u>	Roy Bevan
<u>2012</u>	Jerry Smith	<u>2013</u>	Jim Swing		

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Chairperson: Eddie Yates

Hospitality Committee: Chairperson: Eddie Yates

Anne & Roy Bevan, Raeann & Brad Biesecker, Lynn & Mike Brown, Beth & Frank Callicutt, Melody Evans, Anne Fletcher, Alice & James Gray, Vicky and John Gray, Keri and Casey Hartle, Ann & Walter Hoffman, Mary Jo and Lee Jessup, Lena and Rich Johnson, Lynn Klopp, Clifford and Paula Lopp, Amy & Birke McNeill, Kivi & Edgar Miller, Janette Neal, Lisa Nelson, Susan & Calvin Odom, John Potts, Nicole & Mark Smith, Nina & Ted Smith, Myra Thompson, Cheryl & Bill Walser, Sylvia & John Walser, Belinda & Eddie Yates

Historical Committee: Chairperson: Katherine Skipper
Merle Hodges, Arlene Swing, Clifford Lopp

Bereavement Committee Captains: Team #1-Lynn Brown; Team #2-Marguerite Leonard;
Team #3-Belinda Yates; Team #4-Betty Bates; Team #5-Doris Sink; Team #6-Melody Evans

Correspondence Committee: Janette Neal and John Potts

Visitation Committee: Chairpersons: Sylvia Walser and Belinda Yates
Butch Bouchard, Pattie Everhart, Aurelia Smith, Gladys Snider

Homecoming Committee: Chairperson: Melody Evans
Mary Berrier, Lynn Brown, Alice Gray, Katherine Skipper, Joe Yarbrough

BOARD OF WORSHIP AND SACRAMENT: Chairperson: Ramona Yarbrough

Holy Communion: Chairperson: Lynn Brown

Sarah Brown, Lynn Klopp, Lynn McCarn, Joyce Price, Myrtle Latimer, Susan Miller

Holy Communion Servers: Chairperson: John Potts

Altar Preparation: Chairperson: Ramona Yarbrough

Debra Freeman, Gerry Hill, Sandra Hutchens, Elizabeth Sink, Gladys Snider

Music Ministry: Chairperson: Elizabeth Sink

Marguerite Leonard, Albert Evans, Gladys Snider, Mary Berrier, Jim Swing, Cathy Waitman, Susan Odom

(Lee Ann Peele, Paul Freeman)

Sanctuary Needs & Pulpit Supply: Larry Link

Usher: Chairperson: Peggy Bates, Ramona Yarbrough

Funeral Ushers: Peggy Bates, J.W. Bates, John Potts

Acolyte: Chairperson: Anne Fletcher

Flowers: Chairperson: Betty Link

Greeters: Paula Lopp

Decorating Committee: Co-Chairpersons: Scott Frye and Lisa Nelson

Brad Biesecker, Kathleen and Tom Danze, Rich Johnson, Clifford Lopp, Cheryl Walser, John and Sylvia Walser

Hanging of the Greens: Chairperson: Mary Jo Jessup

Raeann Biesecker, Paula Lopp, Susan Odom, Nicole Smith

Sound System: Chairperson: Tony Peele

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Co-Chairpersons: Vicky Gray and Cathy Waitman

Director of Christian Education: Amy McNeill

Committee: Alice Gray, Corinne Gray, Camille Morgan

BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Chairperson:

Blowing Rock: Gladys Snider and Mary Berrier

Catawba College: Richard Johnson

Nazareth Children's Home: Jim Swing

Retirement Home: Aurelia Smith

John's River: Beth Callicutt

Habitat for Humanity: Walter Hoffman

Crisis Ministry: Camille Morgan (Corn Flakes) Myra Thompson (Meal Coordinator)

Ted Smith (Shelter Coordinator)

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Chairperson: Nancy Robbins and Adena Wall

Prayer Chain Chairperson: Sandra Hutchens

Visitor Correspondence: Doris Frye

Peggy Bates, Doris Flynt, Kivi Miller, Joyce Price

BOARD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP: Co-Chairpersons: Scott Frye & Mike Brown

Finance & Budget: Chairperson: Scott Frye

Mike Brown, Vicky Gray, Nancy Robbins, Adena Wall, Cathy Waitman, Ramona Yarbrough, Eddie Yates Ex officio: Melody Evans and Paula Lopp

Property: Co-Chairpersons: Mike Brown and Tom Danze

J.W. Bates, Scott Frye, James Gray, Jeff Hutchens, Rich Johnson, Thomas Johnson,

Buddy Lohr, Clifford Lopp, John Potts, Dawn Shaak, Mark Smith

Insurance: Cliff Lopp Endowments: Trustees

Memorial Garden: Chairpersons: Mike Brown

Peggy Bates, Carolyn Spivey

Special Gifts: Chairpersons: Mike Brown

Merle Hodges, Dawn Shaak, Mark Smith, and Carolyn Spivey

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairperson: Scott Frye

Director of Christian Education

Amy McNeill

February is such an exciting month for our church, the children, and the Board of Christian Education. Our new Sunday School program "Roads to God" will start on February 15th. YEAH!!! The New Look we have been working on for the last few months is really starting to come together and we can't wait to share it with everyone. On February 8th after the Congregational lunch and meeting, we will have an open house for everyone to take a sneak peak. Hopefully a couple of the rooms will be almost finished and the others will still be under some refurbishment. We can't wait to get going on our new rotation model Sunday School, so we are going to go ahead and start as we finish up the last minute projects. There will be invitations to follow this newsletter inviting all the children to come and bring a friend along to participate in this fantastic new program. The rotation model is designed for ages 5-12 years, but no matter what age, we have a wonderful class for you. We are going to kick it off with the music and art rotations, so get ready to be creative and tune up those voices as we have a blast learning about Jesus. Just a quick reminder that *we are still searching for two storage trunks for our story telling and video room as well as used button down shirts for art smocks*. Please contact the church office if you have any of these to donate.



I just want to thank everyone again who has donated their time and money to this great cause. A special thank you to Women's Life for their monetary donation and to Jeff Hutchens for purchasing the popcorn machine. Thanks again to Brad and his family for the fabulous paint job, it looks great!! There have been so many people coming together to help with this project and it is so appreciated because it couldn't have been done or even started without so many people contributing and coming together as a church family. It has been so fun and refreshing to see the basement come to life. Thanks again and I can't wait to see all the children on February 15th.

Sunday School—January

Katarina Strenk	Corinne Gray	Alice Gray	Gladys Snider
Jo Hudson	Ramona Yarbrough	Katherine Skipper	Betty Bates
Adena Wall	Wanda Daye	Eulene Shepherd	Marguerite Leonard
Butch Bouchard	J.W. Bates	Earlie Hartley	John Hudson
Don Leonard	Frank Leonard	John Potts	Banks Shepherd
Cliff Lopp	Clifford Lopp	Paula Lopp	Camille Morgan
Janette Neal	Walter Patten	Cathy Waitman	



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS...by Alice Gray, Teacher

We have been studying John the Baptist. As part of the study, we have made a special project using old construction paper from years past found in the art supply room. The project will be on display during the Congregational Lunch on February 8th. Please come to the lunch and view our beautiful and colorful "stained glass" portrait of John the Baptist and Jesus!

KID'S CLUB NEWS...by Corinne Gray, Leader

Kid's Club met on January 20th. Because Valentine's Day and the Congregational Meeting are soon here, the children made Valentine wall decorations as a service project for the lunch. We discussed the meaning of Valentine's Day and how we show our love toward our church. Be sure to come to the lunch to see the dancing Valentines!

February meeting dates are Tuesday, the 17th at 7 p.m. and tentatively, Sunday, February 22nd during worship.

THANK YOU NOTES

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Dear First Reformed United Church of Christ Church Family,

Thank you so much for awarding me the Hinkle, Sink, Swing, Smith Scholarship. My family and I are very grateful and truly appreciate the assistance. This scholarship will help me in the purchasing of books and other necessary supplies this year.

Sincerely, Lauren Klopp

Dear First Reformed UCC Members,

I would like to thank you for the Hinkle, Sink, Swing, Smith Scholarship. This means so much to me. I am so glad you are here for me, and for all the support you have given me.

Seth Klopp

Dear First Reformed United Church of Christ Church Family,

I would like everyone to know how much I appreciate your cards, calls, concerns, and prayers. I miss being among you!

Love, Carolyn Spivey

Dear First Reformed United Church of Christ Church Family,

Thanks to all of you for the many ways you have shown your love and concern for me and my family during the sudden loss of my mother. We have found a lot of peace, comfort and strength from your expressions of kindness and sympathy.

Love, Lynn Klopp and Family

First Reformed UCC Church Family,

Our family appreciates your loving thoughtfulness of the fruit basket you sent to mother while she was at Carolina House. We are at peace now knowing she is well again and with our Lord.

We also appreciate your loving thoughtfulness of the meal you prepared for our family. The food was delicious! Because of you, our family was able to visit together before mother's funeral. The church was such an important part of her life.

Sincerely, Don and Rochelle (Family of Lois Leonard)

Dear First Reformed UCC,

Thank you so much for the cards and prayers during my illness. Knowing that others are praying for you means so much.

Bob Biesecker

Dear Church Family,

Thank you is inadequate to express our sincere appreciation for all the many kindnesses expressed during the illness and death of John. The calls, cards, and especially the prayers, helped us through these last months.

The delicious meal warmed our hearts as well as our spirits. A special note of thanks to those who prepared and served us.

In Christian love, Nancy and the Robbins Family

Dear members of First Reformed United Church of Christ,

I am writing to thank you for your part in my dad, John Robbins' funeral.

Thank you for providing the church and making it available for the service. Thank you also for providing our family with a meal before the start of the service. Grief is always a little easier to bear when your belly is filled with good food. What made the meal very special was the obvious love and compassion in your hearts in the care that you demonstrated toward Nancy and the rest of the Robbins family. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Richard Robbins

FEBRUARY STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Peggy Bates

Captain: James Gray

Ushers: John Smith, Henry Crouse, Mark Smith

Plate Attendant: Carolyn Spivey

Sound Tech: Tony Peele

Acolytes: Matthew and Kelsey Johnson

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

Social: Host/Hostess: Keri and Casey Hartle and Clifford and Paula Lopp

Greeters:

February 1	Vicky Green and Camille Morgan
February 8	Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker
February 15	Tom and Kathleen Danze
February 22	Roy and Anne Bevan

Nursery:

February 1	Nina and Ted Smith
February 8	Beth and Frank Callicutt
February 15	Anne Fletcher, Laura and Katarina
February 22	Belinda Yates



(Alston Brook) Mary Berrier, Catherine Leonard, and Betty Potts

(Lexington Health Care) Louise Rollins

(Centerclair) Jeanne Trexler

(Brookdale Place) Barbara Schaeffer

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



Carolyn Spivey, Velna Swing, Mary Rhodes, Henry and Juanita Beck, Jacqueline Leonard, Ethel Bailey, Sadie Bailey, Ike Green, Giles Crowell, Gertrude Jarvis, Hilda Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard, Micki Smith, and Margaret Trexler. Also, please remember Butch Arnold, Bob Biesecker, Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier), and Susan Fletcher (Anne Fletcher's Mother). To add a name to the prayer chain, please contact **Sandra Hutchens at 249-3001**.

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

- ◆ Nancy Robbins and Craig and Donna Coe upon the death of their loved one and our friend, John Robbins



FEBRUARY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:45 a.m. Joint Adult Sunday School 10:20 a.m. SS Social 11 a.m. Worship "SOUP"er Bowl of Caring	2  6:30 p.m. (P) BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED MEETING	3	4 11 a.m. (P) MORNING GLORY CIRCLE 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	5 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	6	7
8 CHILDREN'S CHURCH Noon (FH) CATERED LUNCH CONGREGATIONAL MTG 1:30 pm CONSISTORY	9 5:30 p.m. (P) SCRAPBOOKING-CRAFT NIGHT	10	11 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	12 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	13	14 9 a.m.—Noon TRANSITION TEAM MEETING 
15	16	17 7:00 p.m. (P) WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP AND KID'S CLUB	18 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	19 5:30 pm (P) YOGA 6 p.m. (FH) MEN'S BROTHERHOOD	20	21
22 11:30 a.m. (Music Room) KID'S CLUB 3 p.m. (FH) Charity League	23	24	25 Noon (FH) UNITED FRIENDSHIP CLUB Noon (FUMC) Community Lenten Service ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00 p.m. Chapel	26 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	27	28
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Mark your calendar for a CHURCH ASSEMBLY on Sunday, March 1, 2009 at Noon. </div>						

Upcoming Events

Please come prepared to “play” in the **SOUper BOWL OF CARING** Sunday, February 1, 2009. Members will be invited to give \$1 each on the way out of worship on the morning of the NFL Super Bowl. Every dollar donated at First Reformed UCC will be sent directly to Crisis Ministry of Lexington. Let’s join the effort and make a difference in our community.



CATERED LUNCH AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING... On Sunday, February 8th we will share a catered meal immediately following the worship service. Reservations can be made by filling out the form in the Sunday worship bulletin or calling the church office at 248-2617.

Following lunch the **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** of First Reformed United Church of Christ congregation will be held. Board chairpersons, and treasurers who served during 2008 will give year-end reports. All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of our church.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF IMPOSITION OF ASHES will be held **Wednesday, February 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. The service will offer a time to lift up our hearts in confession and enter into the season of self-denial.

First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ
104 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 27292
Phone: 336-248-2617
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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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