

# FIRST NEWS

January 2009

## RESOLUTIONS

Where are you with the ol' "New Year's Resolution" thing? You know, that little voice within that prompts you to speculate seriously upon that depressing pile of bad habits you have acquired, or that have acquired you, and how wonderful your life would be if you could, somehow, strike off a few of those nasty rituals with some willfully maintained resolutions. Maybe like losing a few pounds, or perhaps more than a few, especially after the recent holiday "eatfest" wherein too many of us took in far more calories than we expended. Or, how about this one for leaner times: resolving to spend no more than we take in, forswearing addictive credit excesses? Ouch! Or maybe tackling something really seriously addictive, such as smoking or other tobacco use habits? Or, possibly, giving up "gossip" entirely? Ummm. I feel some of those toes beginning to curl up. Gone to preachin' now!!

Dr. Samuel Johnson, one of my favorite literary figures of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the first successful and highly influential compiler of the English language dictionary, exacted resolutions from himself about this time every year, though sometimes, he engaged this exercise around Easter as well. While Dr. Johnson attended church with some regularity, when he could get out of bed on time, and even served as a lay preacher on occasion, the historical fact is that he had acquired a number of habits through the years for which he repeatedly took himself to task, albeit unsuccessfully. He had something of a reputation for late-night partying and for other nefarious errands of the evening which would make a black cat blush, some of which you may read about at length in Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, if you are so disposed. If that is a teaser to get you to read one of the best English biographies of all time, then so be it, since so much of it is comprised of direct quotations from Johnson himself. This book is also very, very funny, at least to me.

Yet, Johnson was honest enough to admit his own inner contradictions and inability to follow through with any of his fervently held resolutions: "I have, all my life long, been lying (in bed) till noon; yet, I tell young men, and tell them with great sincerity, that nobody who does not rise early will ever do any good." Indeed, in the *Idler*, Johnson was absolutely despondent over the incapacity of resolutions to do any good: "...most men may review all the lives that have passed within their observation, without remembering one efficacious resolution, or being able to tell a single instance of a course of practice suddenly changed in consequence of a change of opinion, or an establishment of determination." Also in the *Idler* he wrote: "There is nothing which we estimate so fallaciously as the force of our own resolutions, nor any fallacy which we so unwillingly and tardily detect." This is sobering news from a man whose indomitable will was never more in evidence than in conversation and debate, not to mention the written word, a person who made a huge reputation as a "man of letters" through his disciplined resolve on all sorts of issues. Mercy, what is a Christian to do with this bondage of the will?

Well, first of all, we need to get a few basics straight. At the risk of presuming to correct a man as luminous as Dr. Samuel Johnson, I contend that, with the best of intentions, he made a grave theological mistake in this matter. On the matter of forgiveness, another problem area for him when *resolving* to forgive, he wrote in the *Rambler*: "Of him that hopes to be forgiven, it is indispensably required that he forgive....On this great duty eternity is suspended: and to him that refuses to practice it, the throne of mercy is inaccessible, and the Saviour of the world has been born in vain." Well. Dr. Johnson is indeed ascribing extraordinary powers to human beings, to our great peril, for it seems that we are so powerful that in our abject failure to resolve to forgive, as Johnson had

*continued*

to admit repeatedly that he was himself unable to do, it seems that we are all damned and doomed through our own weakness...we are without hope and Christ has been born in vain! It seems that he listened rather too literally to John the Baptist, who also does seem to set the exactly same harsh duty of *our being able to repent and forgive and reconcile before we are empowered to do so*. In my second Advent sermon on the Baptist, it was my conviction that it is Jesus the Christ who gets past John the Baptist to get to us, relieving us of the burden of perpetually failing the impossible morality/duty test that the Baptist places upon us before we can approach the Christ-Child, before we can become righteous enough to get past the Baptist to be in the presence of the Christ.

In a word: Dr. Johnson and John the Baptist got it backwards, the cart before the horse, as we say. The Gospel teaches that it is ***Christ who first forgives us, and in our acceptance of His forgiveness, we are, in turn, granted the supernatural gift of being empowered to forgive others, for Christ has already done so, and being so resolved in Christ, we will not wish or desire to do less, for to do so diminishes our fellowship with Him and with each other. Forgiveness is no longer a "requirement" or an "eternal duty" to be accomplished on our own, by autonomous will; but rather it is our expression of joyful, relieved gratitude that we are able to do through Him that which we could not do through ourselves alone. Dr. Johnson cannot hope to be forgiven because he is himself unable to forgive, not realizing that in his prideful, egotistical independence from God, he has refused the complete fellowship and communion with Christ which would enable him to forgive.*** For all his talk about Christ, Samuel Johnson has not fully received Christ; he is not resolved with Christ and in Christ, and for all his brilliance, his impotent, ineffective resolutions reflect the bondage of his solitary, unaided will, however well-intentioned they may be. The Aid has been offered and he has refused it. Ironically, he recognizes his perilous condition but insists, tragically, that it resolve through his own effort, alone.

To the extent that we are guided toward "resolutions" of one sort or another this season, this year, let us be clear about our actual Source of empowerment for the fulfillment of those resolutions. God the Father, God the Son in Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit have already modeled for us a community of relationships which we may call "lived love, living love, forever living love." God, Three-In-One, invites us to be a part of that extraordinary community of forever living love, that "family of God," as it were, which offers us all the healing, cleansing empowerment, guidance, support and reconciling meaning that we will ever need, in this world and in the world to come. Faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ is not a solitary business. May we resolve in Christ, together, to make this a genuinely "new year" at First Reformed UCC.

*Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt*

## THOUGHTS OF A TRANSITION TEAM MEMBER

Serving on the Transition Team has been a humbling experience for me. As a team, we are and do many things. First and foremost, this has been an opportunity for spiritual growth among team members. Instead of only being acquainted, we have gotten to know each other on a different level. Through our Bible studies and discussions of difficult issues, we have witnessed that each of us holds a piece of the truth. It is important that each voice be heard. The Transition Team has provided the appropriate forum for all voices of our church to be heard, with the Team members as your representatives. By listening to each other, really listening, we have made progress in understanding different points of view and healing old wounds. We hope to spread this method of effective communication to the larger congregation as a model for working through future issues we may face.

In addition to "clearing the decks" of past issues and disputes, the Team will try to discern the vision for the future of our church. Again, input from all members of the congregation is critical in this process. This vision, including our strengths and weaknesses, our ministries needed for the future, and our goals and hopes, will help determine our church Profile and will assist the Search Committee in calling our next pastor. The Team will seek guidance from the Holy Spirit as we continue our work. We continue to ask for your support, prayers and input as we journey together in the coming months. Together, we will capture the best of our splendid past and build an exciting future at First Reformed.

*Walter Hoffman*

From the Pastor's Report:

- Reverend Patten reported that the Transition Team has been reviewing the church governing documents. Hopefully, a provisional report will be presented to the Consistory by the end of January.
- The Transition Team will be examining the church's oversight of the "Meals on Wheels" program.
- A combined Transition Team and Consistory meeting with Kivi Miller will be held soon to see how our website and other free/cheap online tools can be used to facilitate communication and the more effective management of committees.
- A copy of the UCC Search and Call materials will be given to each Transition Team member to help them with Profile discussions.
- The earlier time for the Christmas Eve Service was discussed.
- January 4<sup>th</sup> is Covenant Sunday. We will have Communion and the Installation of the New Consistory Members.



Lisa Nelson reported that the Board of Christian Education is continuing work on New Look. She reminded everyone about the Children's Christmas Program and covered dish meal on December 21. The Advent workshop was very successful.

Tom Danze's report for the Property Committee stated that we should be able to complete remodeling projects and still have some money left in the building fund. A discussion was held about the Eternal Flame in the Sanctuary. The Consistory voted to move it to the Chapel, along with the Plaque which is associated with it..

Ted Smith reported that the "Touching Davidson County with Love" project for next year is scheduled for April.

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, Reverend Patten will have an orientation at 6:00 p.m. for new Consistory members before the Consistory meeting.

An ultrasonic device was voted on and approved to help alleviate the problem of birds crashing into the windows in the breezeway.

Walter Hoffman commended the Consistory members for their accomplishments this year and holding things together during the changes in the past year. He thanked the eight members for their service who are going off the Consistory this year.

## **A NOTE FROM THE 2008 CONSISTORY PRESIDENT...**

As we exit 2008 and head into a shiny new year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for making 2008 an excellent year at First Reformed. Faced with the challenges of transition from Reverend Hooper to an undetermined future, this year could have gone in many different directions. But thanks to the full support of our members, we have embraced the exciting and frustrating process of transition through our Transition Team under the capable leadership of Reverend Dr. Patten. As the Team was formed and organized and began its work, the Consistory and congregation stepped up to make sure that we did not miss a beat in our activities and programs. Again I thank each of you for your diligence and faithfulness this year.

I asked you to embrace the concepts of Unity and Service to guide us through 2008. I have been humbled to witness how effectively you rallied around each other in love and service to keep our church moving forward. Every week I learned of more and more members who quietly work behind the scenes doing God's work at First Reformed. And I cannot heap enough praise upon our professional staff for their tireless efforts on our behalf. I am in awe of their talents and abilities and dedication to First Reformed. Walter, Paula, Lee Ann, Paul, Amy - Since we cannot fully compensate you for your efforts, please know that we love and appreciate you!

In 2009, I know you will give your full support to Scott Frye and his Consistory as they confront the significant challenges of the new year. Please continue to support the work of the Transition Team and our process as a congregation as we move toward the work of our Search Committee. We need everyone's prayers, input and participation to make this transition successful. Best wishes to each of you in our church family for a wonderful year in 2009!

*Walter Hoffman*

## Women's Life Fellowship

*President Sauni Johnson*



Women's Life Fellowship is looking forward to a successful year in 2009. We would like to thank Carolyn Spivey for hosting our annual Christmas Party. It was a great time of food, fun and fellowship. Our bake sale on December 21<sup>st</sup> was a huge success. We would like to thank everyone who participated, baked, and purchased these delicious items, helping us to raise money for many great First Reformed UCC causes.

Kathy Berrier, the Director of financial Development at the American Children's Home, will be the guest speaker for the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Women's Life Fellowship. She will discuss how children are placed at the Children's Home, their ages, their needs, and some of the activities that involve the children. Any women of the church who are interested in hearing Kathy are invited to attend the meeting. Members of the circle will be asked to bring items that are needed to the meeting. **There will be a brief meeting Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 a.m. service to discuss these items.**

As always, our meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. Child care is provided during meeting times, with Kids Club meeting occasionally. If you are interested in coming and being more active with your church family, we would love to have you! New Members are always welcome!

## United Friendship Club

*President June Grubb*

The United Friendship Club's Christmas Luncheon was held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The group remembered Club members who had died in the past year—Ralph Bailey, C.H.Bates and Marie Crouse. Those with November and December birthdays were also recognized. June Grubb's father, Jim Grubb, entertained the group by playing several Christmas songs on the Harmonica. Cathy Waitman presented devotions and provided materials and instructions for members to make a Christmas ornament to take home.

We were informed that the church groundskeeper, Mike Stegal, had removed the bushes and items that the club had requested be removed. His crew will begin planting when the club finalizes a plan.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, January 28, 2009**. Joyce Price, Nancy Robbins and Vicky Green are responsible for decorations and setup. Melody Evans will lead devotions.

## Men's Brotherhood

*By: Clifford Lopp*

**MEN'S  
BROTHERHOOD**



The Men's Brotherhood held their Christmas party on December 15<sup>th</sup> at Yarborough's Restaurant with spouses and guests. A great meal was enjoyed by all. Our entertainment was Reverend Patten singing "Silent Night" in German with the whole group then singing in English. (I'm sure the rest of the people in the building enjoyed the floor show.)

Thank you to all of the men for their commitment to the Men's Brotherhood in 2008. We have enjoyed our dinners and fellowship and look forward to 2009.

Our first meeting of the new year is Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Dinner is provided and all men of the church are welcome...we would like to see some new faces.

# Thank-you...

- We extend a huge thank you to our Choir Director, Paul Freeman, Pianist, Lee Ann Peele, the choir, and orchestra for the WONDERFUL cantata presented on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- A special thank you to Janette Neal who sends cards to our church family throughout the year. This year she has mailed 470 cards. Also, along with John Potts, they have delivered 20-30 vases of flowers to our in-home/nursing home members.
- Due to the generosity of First and Second UCC church members at the Sunday night Thanksgiving Service (at Second UCC), 266 food items were donated. These items were distributed between the pantry at Second UCC and Pastor's Pantry. The offering of \$609.45 was donated to Crisis Ministry. Also, our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service offering of \$700.00 was donated to Crisis Ministry.
- Because of your support we will end the year with bills and benevolences **PAID!!!** Our church continues to be a giving church. We should be very proud that we are able to support our community through our benevolent gifts.
- Members representing First Reformed UCC by ringing bells at Belk's to assist the Salvation Army were: Alisa and Kelsey Johnson, Betty and J.W. Bates, Lib Sink, Lynn McCarn, Walter Hoffman, Walter Patten, Kivi and Ava Miller, Birke, Amy, Kaitlyn and Lucy McNeill, John Potts, Janette Neal, Adena Wall, John and Vicky Gray, Girl Scout Troop #984 (Corinne & Alice Gray), Steve Smith, Jim Swing, John and Sylvia Walser, Sandra and Kalyssa Hutchens, Katie and Callie Decker, and Clifford and Paula Lopp

Dear Church Family,

The First Reformed UCC Staff wishes to thank all of you for your generosity during the holiday season. Your gifts of love and appreciation mean so much to all of us.

*Thank you, Walter, Paula, Amy, Paul, and Lee Ann*

Dear First Reformed UCC,

Thank you so much for allowing the Candlelight choirs to use your beautiful facility year after year! Merry Christmas!

*Anita Bunce and The Community Candlelight Choir*

Elyse, Rachael and I wish to express our deepest appreciation for your many kind seasonal remembrances of us, including the thoughtful Christmas cards, the tasty treats of all kinds and the various gifts which were so carefully chosen or made. Since some of these gifts were anonymous, we thought we would express our appreciation in this format. We are especially thankful for the very generous financial gift which we received along with the staff at our Christmas party on December 21; we have one of the best church staffs anywhere and I am honored to be in their company. Time has passed quickly since our arrival here on April 15 of 2008 and many lasting bonds of friendship have formed which are dear to us. We hope that this Christmas season was a meaningful one for each of you, acknowledging that many people here face daunting challenges relating to medical and health concerns for yourselves and loved ones. Thank you, one and all, for the many expressions of mutual affection and support that have transpired among us during this Christmas and New Year season. May our ministry of transition continue to flourish in this new year as we continue to explore together the extraordinary mystery of Christian community within the Spirit of God.

*Blessings and Shalom, The Pattens*

**FROM MIKE AND BONITA HOOPER** After about a year of our retirements, Bonita and I want to send our best wishes to all the folks at First Reformed for a wonderful New Year. We hope also that the Christmas season was a blessed time for one and all. Bonita continues to share with her sister in caring for their mother. I have been busy doing supply work, one interim, and serving on three boards of directors. I will soon begin Sunday supply work at Beulah U.C.C. for a short duration as they began looking for a new pastor. We still reside in Lexington and will renew our efforts to sell our house this spring. Again we share with Laura and Will in sending to you our love.

# December Memorials

**MARIAN LAWRENCE CADWALLADER** {Anne Fletcher's Grandmother}

Aurelia and Jerry Smith

**MARY LOUISE LEONARD**

Jim and Arlene Swing  
Mary Berrier

**"CRASH" SMITH**

R.B. and Martha Ellen Smith



**JEAN MORGAN** {Camille's Mother}

Jim and Arlene Swing  
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.  
Mary Berrier

**JARED PERRELL** {Harriette & Clifton Murphy's Grandson}

Jim and Arlene Swing  
Gladys Snider  
John and Vicky Gray  
Wanda Daye  
Mary Berrier  
John and Lynn McCarn  
Shane, Katie and Callie Decker

**MILDRED HILTON**

Martha and Woodrow Perrell

**CHARLES HOLLIS "C.H." BATES, JR.**

Jim and Arlene Swing  
Mary Berrier

**RILEY BATES**

Frank C. Leonard, Jr.

**MARIE EVERHART CROUSE**

Jim and Arlene Swing  
Mary Berrier  
Darryl and Shelly Gentle  
Jean Purdee  
Doris Flynt  
Mildred, Greg and Sandy Whisnant

Keith and Alisa Johnson  
Cliff and Eloise Lopp  
Gregory and Angela Meredith  
John and Lynn McCarn  
Pam Garrity

Wanda Daye  
John and Kathy Rollins  
Martha and Woodrow Perrell  
Banks and Eulene Shepherd  
Maxine Lohr

**JANE "PENNY" WILLIAMS** {Cliff Leonard's Daughter}

Louise P. Ferguson  
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.

**NELLIE MAE SMITH** {Lynn Klopp's Mother}

Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Roy and Anne Bevan  
John and Vicky Gray  
Banks and Eulene Shepherd  
Cathy Waitman

**PEGGY MICHAEL**

Frank C. Leonard, Jr.

**LOIS BECK LEONARD**

Henry and Juanita Beck  
Jacqueline Leonard  
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.  
John Potts and Janette Neal

Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Bob and Dawn Shaak  
Marzell Crotts  
The Men's Bible Class

Katherine Skipper  
Elizabeth Sink  
The Jarrell Family  
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

# December Memorials

## RALPH PARKS BAILEY, SR.

Henry and Juanita Beck	Merle and Jerry Hodges	Katherine Skipper
Don and Lois Leonard	Jacqueline Leonard	Jerry and Aurelia Smith
John and Vicky Gray	Gerry Hill	Elizabeth Sink
Banks and Eulene Shepherd	Cathy Waitman	Roy and Anne Bevan
Ike and Vicky Green	Jim and Arlene Swing	Janette Neal and John Potts
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.	Wanda Daye	Bobby and Phyllis Rogers
Ed and Barbara Perrell	Mary Berrier	Cliff and Eloise Lopp
Doris Frye	Mr. and Mrs. Steve Smith	Martha and Woodrow Perrell
The 1947 Graduation Class of LSHS	Butch Bouchard	Holton Davis
Janie Lohr	Marguerite Leonard	Henry and Kay Crouse
John and Lynn McCarn	Sandra Hutchens	Bob and Kay Timberlake
Doris Flynt	Pam Garrity	Deanna Michael
Lee Ann and Tony Peele	Gladys Snider	Maxine Lohr
Ruth and Everette Fritts	Barbara Schaeffer and Family	Thomas and Joyce Phillips
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey		

# Angel Tree Donations

### *In Loving Memory of* - - -

Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Bailey  
 Norman Bailey  
 Ralph Bailey  
 Ralph Bailey  
 Ralph Bailey  
 Ralph Bailey  
 Ralph Bailey  
 Ralph Bailey  
 C.H. Bates  
 C.H. Bates  
 Ed Bates  
 Ethel and Murphy Bates  
 Jennie Berrier  
 Fred and Mary Biesecker  
 Ruby Bouchard  
 Marie Crouse  
 Marie Crouse  
 Marie Crouse  
 Dale Everhart  
 Laura Mae Everhart  
 Lori Lopp Floyd  
 Lori Lopp Floyd  
 Our Parents  
 John and Dorothy Gray  
 William P. Grimes

### *By*

Peggy Bates  
 Peggy Bates  
 Janette Neal and John Potts  
 Reverend Banks and Eulene Shepherd  
 Nancy and John Robbins  
 Mary Crouse  
 Wanda Daye  
 Peggy Bates  
 Nancy and John Robbins  
 Mary Crouse  
 Peggy Bates  
 Pattie B. Everhart  
 Mary Berrier  
 Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
 Butch Bouchard  
 Her Heart Sister, Betty Bates  
 Marie Crouse  
 Pattie B. Everhart  
 Pattie B. Everhart  
 Wanda Daye  
 The Clifford Lopp Family  
 Tony and Lee Ann Peele  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frank  
 John, Vicky, John E. and Sam Gray  
 Carolyn Spivey



# Angel Tree Donations

Thank-you to the many people who placed Angels on the breezeway Christmas Tree in honor or memory of someone special. Your generous donations raised **\$1,826.00** for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

## *In Loving Memory of* ---

Archie Hodges  
Pearl and J.D. Holt  
Jacob C. Leonard, Jr.  
Mary Louise Leonard  
Jean Morgan  
Ida and Garrett Morris  
Robert H. Morris  
Jared Perrell  
Jared Allen Perrell  
Jared Perrell  
Jared Perrell  
Daniel Phillips II  
Vernon Price, Jr.  
Virginia Revelle  
Virginia Revelle  
Ray and Dot Shaak  
Jackie Sink  
Dot and Joe John Smith  
Eddie and Johnny Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Roby Swing  
Annie Tysinger  
Reverend William R. Yocum

## *By*

Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Mary Crouse  
Ann and Lennie Cooper  
Ann and Lennie Cooper  
Doris Frye  
Nanny and PapPaw Murphy  
Nancy and John Robbins  
Mary Crouse  
Adena Wall  
Joyce and Valerie Price  
Mary Berrier  
Wanda Daye  
Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
Wanda Daye  
Sandra Hutchens  
Sandra Hutchens  
Adena Wall  
Peggy Bates  
Carolyn Yocum

## *In Honor of* ---

All My Children  
All My Friends  
Betty Bates  
J.W. and Betty Bates  
Peggy Bates  
Henry and Juanita Beck  
Bob and Doris Biesecker  
MeEtta Biesecker  
The Choir, Paul and Lee Ann  
The Choir  
The Choir  
The Choir  
Mary Crouse  
Mary Crouse  
Wanda Daye  
Albert and Melody Evans  
Albert and Melody Evans  
Albert and Melody Evans  
First Reformed UCC Staff and Members  
Anne Fletcher  
The Frank Family

## *By*

Adena Wall  
Peggy Bates  
Your Secret Sister  
Peggy Bates  
The J.W. Bates Family  
The J.W. Bates Family  
Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
Doris Frye  
Bob and Dawn Shaak  
Calvin and Susan Odom  
Merle Hodges  
Your Secret Sister  
Peggy Bates  
Your Secret Sister  
Clifford and Paula Lopp  
Tony and Lee Ann Peele  
Paul and Debra Freeman  
Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
Lynn Klopp  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frank



*In Honor of* - - -

Paul and Debra Freeman  
 Paul and Debra Freeman  
 Paul and Debra Freeman  
 Paul Freeman  
 Paul and Debra Freeman  
 Pam Garrity  
 Virginia and Bunny Hill  
 Margaret Hodges  
 Walter and Ann Hoffman  
 George and Arnedra Horner  
 Mary Jo Jessup  
 H.C. and Rachael Koonts  
 Maxine Lohr  
 Paula and Clifford Lopp  
 Paula and Clifford Lopp  
 Paula and Clifford Lopp  
 Paula and Clifford Lopp  
 Paula Lopp  
 Paula and Clifford Lopp  
 Amy McNeill  
 Amy McNeill  
 Amy and Birke McNeill  
 Reverend Walt and Elyse Patten  
 Walter and Elyse Patten  
 Reverend Walter Patten  
  
 Reverend Patten and Family  
 Reverend Walter Patten  
 Reverend Walter Patten  
 Lee Ann and Tony Peele  
 Lee Ann and Tony Peele  
 Lee Ann Peele  
 Lee Ann and Tony Peele  
 Ashley Potts, Daniel Cook and Ashton  
 Joyce Price  
 Joyce Price  
 Mary Rhodes  
 Nancy Robbins  
 Bob and Dawn Shaak  
 Elizabeth Sink  
 Gladys Snider  
 Carolyn Spivey  
 Patsy Via  
 Wonderful Sunday School Teachers  
 Cathy Waitman  
 Cathy Waitman  
 Mark, Missina and Kaylee Waitman  
 Steve Waitman  
 Willing Workers Sunday School Class

*By*

Clifford and Paula Lopp  
 Tony and Lee Ann Peele  
 Nancy Robbins  
 Merle Hodges  
 Walter and Elyse Patten  
 Your Secret Sister, Mary Crouse  
 Cathy Waitman  
 Merle and Jerry Hodges  
 Clifford and Paula Lopp  
 John, Vicky, John E. and Sam Gray  
 Clifford and Paula Lopp  
 Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
 Your Heart Sister  
 Tony and Lee Ann Peele  
 Cathy Waitman  
 Paul and Debra Freeman  
 Nancy Robbins  
 Merle Hodges  
 Walter and Elyse Patten  
 Merle Hodges  
 Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
 Walter and Elyse Patten  
 Clifford and Paula Lopp  
 Paul and Debra Freeman  
 Harriette & Clifton Murphy and  
 Christie, Jeff & Jackson Perrell  
 Gladys Snider  
 Elizabeth Sink  
 Merle Hodges  
 Clifford and Paula Lopp  
 Paul and Debra Freeman  
 Merle Hodges  
 Walter and Elyse Patten  
 Granddad Potts and Janette  
 Your Heart Sister  
 Valerie Price  
 Your Secret Sister  
 Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
 Brad, Raeann and Holt Biesecker  
 Your Heart Sister  
 Your Heart Sister  
 Wanda Daye  
 Peggy Bates  
 Amy McNeill  
 Clifford and Paula Lopp  
 Nancy Robbins  
 Cathy Waitman  
 Cathy Waitman  
 Carolyn Spivey

# Director of Christian Education

*Amy McNeill*



Thank you to all the parents and children again for an entertaining Christmas Program. There is never a dull moment when two year olds are involved. Special thanks to Katie Decker for all your help, to Lynn Brown for the wonderful meal, and to Raeann Biesecker for making our costumes look beautiful. It was a joyous night.

This past year has flown by and a lot of changes have happened here at First Reformed UCC. We have an Intentional Interim Minister, Reverend Dr. Walter Patten. A wonderful Transition Team that was elected by fellow church members to move the congregation smoothly into the future. And, renovations to the basement of the Education building are looking great as we introduce a brand new Sunday School program.

I would like to thank everyone who is helping with the new program, "New Look". I can't thank Cathy Waitman enough for her insight and help with this project. Also, this past month Alisa Johnson helped clean out rooms and Brad Biesecker and family began painting the classrooms. It is really exciting seeing the downstairs being transformed for our new adventure in Sunday School. Thanks Alisa and Brad! Again, I want to thank EVERYONE who donated monetarily to the "New Look" fund. Your generosity is much appreciated.



Our church is under a time of construction everywhere (in our hearts and buildings) and my hope and wish for us all in 2009 is that we find our place to fit into this rebuilding. I look forward to another great year with my church family and seeing what we accomplish in the New Year. I wish everyone a blessed and prosperous 2009! Happy New Year!

## Sunday School—December

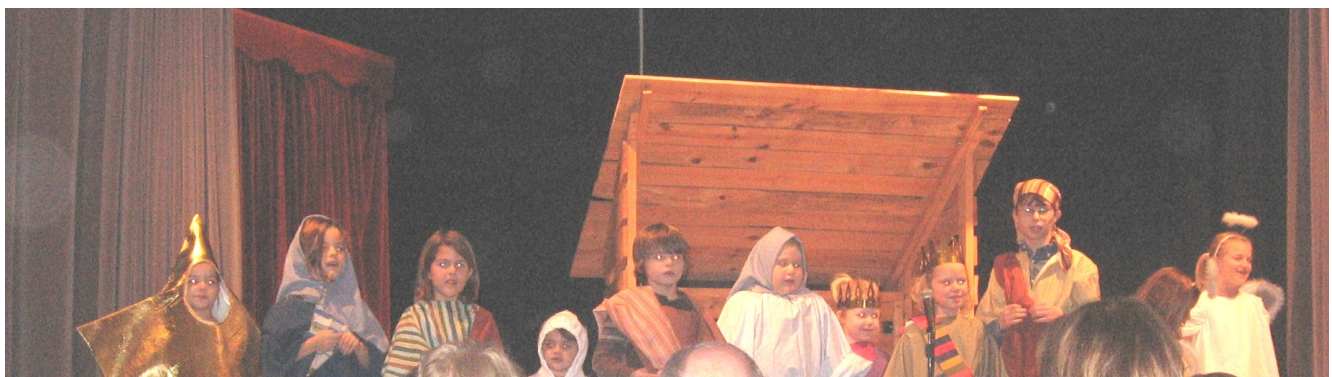


Holt Biesecker	Kalyssa Hutchens	Laura Strenk	Katarina Strenk
Corinne Gray	Alice Gray	Gladys Snider	Betty Bates
Adena Wall	Sandra Hutchens	J.W. Bates	Ramona Yarbrough
Earlie Hartley	John Potts	Frank Leonard	Jeff Hutchens
Camille Morgan	Cathy Waitman		

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

Blowing Rock Conference Center	Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic	Elon University
Family Services	Southern Conference OCWM	UCC Retirement Homes
Habitat for Humanity	Crisis Ministry	The Salvation Army

# Children's Pageant—2008



# JANUARY STEWARDS

**Ushers:** Chairperson: Peggy Bates  
 Captain: J.W. Bates  
 Denise Durham, Ramona Yarbrough, Peggy Bates

**NOTE:** If you would like to add your name to the 2009 usher schedule, please contact Peggy Bates at 249-0916



## Communion Stewards

Current and past elders and deacons...you are the communion stewards of the church. Elders serve the center aisle and Deacons serve the outside aisles. If you are not currently assisting with this important stewardship role and would like to serve, please contact John Potts at 248-6325. Holy Communion will be served Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> of 2009.

**Plate Attendant:** Buddy Lohr

**Sound Tech:** Jordan McCarn

**Acolytes:** Matthew and Kelsey Johnson

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

**Social:** Host/Hostess: Cheryl and Bill Walsler, Janette Neal, and John Potts

**Greeters:**

January 4	Maxine Lohr and Buddy Lohr
January 11	Jerry and Aurelia Smith
January 18	Earlie Hartley and John Barber
January 25	Pattie Everhart and Myrtle Latimer

**Nursery:**

January 4	Nicole and Mark Smith
January 11	Katie and Shane Decker
January 18	Kivi and Edgar Miller
January 25	Lynn Klopp



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

Velna Swing, Catherine Leonard, Mary Rhodes, John Smith, 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), Susan Fletcher and Randy Carter. To add a name to the prayer chain, please contact **Sandra Hutchens at 249-3001.**

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

- ◆ Lynn, Lauren, Seth and Ross Klopp upon the death of Lynn's mother, Nellie Mae Smith
- ◆ Betty Briggs Matthews of Columbus, GA upon the death of her husband, Allan Matthews
- ◆ Don Leonard and family upon the death of his wife and our friend, Lois Beck Leonard.



# January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Office Holiday		
4 Joint Sunday School Sunday School Social 11 a.m. COMMUNION Install Elders/Deacons	5	6 7 p.m. (P) TRANSITION TEAM MEETING	7 11 a.m. (P) MORNING GLORY CIRCLE 7 p.m. Choir Practice	8 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	9	10
11 CHILDREN'S CHURCH 6 p.m. NEW CONSISTORY- MEMBERS MEETING 7 p.m. CONSISTORY MTG	12 Morning Glory Circle Serving Meal at Shelter 5:30 Scrap Booking	13	14 7 p.m. Choir Practice	15 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class 6 p.m. (FH) MEN'S BROTHERHOOD	16	17
18 CHURCH ANNIVERSARY	19 10 a.m. (P) TRUSTEE MEETING	20 7 p.m. (P) WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP and KID'S CLUB	21 7 p.m. Choir Practice	22	23	24
25	26 5:30 Scrapbooking/ Craft Night	27	28 Noon (FH) FRIENDSHIP CLUB 7 p.m. Choir Prac-	29 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	30	31



The first Sunday of the new year, Sunday, January 4, 2009, Elders and Deacons joining the Consistory in 2009 will be ordained/installed during the eleven o'clock worship service.

Elders: Mike Brown, Edgar Miller, and Betty Link

Deacons: Albert Evans and Calvin Odom

Trustee: Jim Swing

Holy Communion will be served **Sunday, January 4, 2009**



Lunch and the annual Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday, February 8, 2009** immediately following the worship service.

# 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 Dr. Walter Patten  
 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.

Non-Profit Organization  
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