

# FIRST NEWS

March 2009

## TRANSITION TEAM ASSEMBLY WITH OUR CONGREGATION

(Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>)

Please recall that an "Assembly," during an *Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM)*, is an official **gathering of your Transition Team (TT) with our entire congregation**. Specifically, your TT and I are asking you to come to church this Sunday, March 1, first of all to worship the Living God in Jesus Christ, then to share a delicious lunch together in the Fellowship Hall, and then to examine carefully our "Pastoral Leadership Expectations Sample Survey" sheets--sheets which have both been printed in our February *First News* and distributed during a recent church service. (If you are unfamiliar with this process or perhaps misplaced your own sheet, we will provide more at the Assembly.) *We have been engaging in a "forced choice" of 12 of some 42 highly desirable pastoral qualities that you would like to see in your new, permanent pastor, once our IIM period has run its course.* Obviously, it would be ideal for your new pastor to express consistently well all 42 of these qualities, but the human truth is that 12 pastoral qualities are much more realistic and achievable, *hence the importance of us identifying the "clusters" of choices for this congregation.* After a brief introduction and overview, we will break up into smaller groups at our various round tables, as before, with at least two TT members at each table to moderate and guide our discussions. We will need a "recorder" at each table to take simple minutes of the discussion; we would also like to collect these sheets and any papers you have used to unpack what these qualities mean to you, both positive and negative, should that apply.

Notice that we are also interested in identifying your understanding of what your 12 choices "mean" to you, moving beyond the simple phrases from which we choose. For instance, there is a quality listed which reads: "\_\_\_\_\_ is a compassionate and caring person, sensitive to others' needs." At first glance, we do generally suppose that all of us mean the same thing when we read such a simple, apparently clear statement. But pastoral counseling, for instance, has become a specialty of ministry in itself, requiring years of training for particular certifications. Do you expect that level of training, or say CPE units, from your new pastor? Or suppose that a "compassionate and caring" new pastor concludes that a "Toughlove" approach is necessary for complex problems such as addictive behaviors, for instance. Suppose a "clinical intervention" is thought to be necessary, a treatment which, in the short term, may not seem "compassionate" or "caring" at all to the troubled person, or to his/her family. Suppose that a "systems" approach to family counseling is thought to be appropriate, and not everyone agrees. ("Systems" therapy means that the entire family unit participates in the counseling, not just the person who is thought to be "dysfunctional.") Is this congregation and are you prepared to understand and to accept such approaches to ministry as being "compassionate" and "caring," even wise, which I believe them to be in certain circumstances? Or, does the "compassionate" quality simply mean that the pastor must/should agree with whatever the parishioner says that he or she needs or wants, offering unconditional sympathy and support, but is not "challenging" in any way? Perhaps we can all agree that a "compassionate" pastor should definitely "meet people where they are," without judgment or condemnation, as safely as possible: but still, the way forward from there is not always clear, or without cost.

I hope that this simple example reinforces the point that your Search Committee, when it begins to function, is going to need to know, with some precision, what you mean by these pastoral qualities, both positively and negatively, if they are to conduct a responsible "vetting" of serious, appropriate candidates for your consideration. Otherwise, they will be "flying blind," which is not good for anybody.

Your TT members will ask you open-ended questions about the qualities you choose. Please be candid and honest with them in your responses, and listen to those of others at your table. We also ask that you include your name on the Sample Survey and upon your comments, which will help with follow-through processes, should they be necessary. However, we (TT) will accept unsigned Surveys and use them as best we can to create useful information which your Search Committee can then use to fashion an appropriate profile of your new pastor, for doing this now saves much valuable time. And speaking of time, we hope to reconvene to hear briefly from all tables and to be adjourning by 2:00 p.m. Please plan now to participate.

*Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt*

# LENTEN STUDY WITH PASTOR PATTEN THE BIBLE AND THE SHACK

(7:00 P.M. ALL Tuesdays in March, concluding April 7<sup>th</sup> of Holy Week.)

## (“Rumors of Glory”)

I must confess to you that I have been wrestling with *The Shack*, by William Paul Young, since Christmas. To outward appearances, it is a book written by one William (“Willie”?) Paul Young (who “...was born a Canadian and raised among a stone-age tribe by his missionary parents in the highlands of what was New Guinea. He suffered great loss as a child and young adult, and now enjoys the ‘wastefulness of grace’ with his family in the Pacific Northwest..”, from the book jacket). I presume that the “Acknowledgements” at the very back of the book are written by “Willie,” though his name does not appear there as it does in the Foreword of the book. The Foreword explains that *The Shack* is about the experiences of Mackenzie Allen Phillips (a close friend of Willie), who, suffering through the tragedy of his murdered little daughter (“Missy”), received a typewritten note (p. 16) from God (“Papa,” his wife’s favorite name for God), responded to the note’s invitation for “Mack” to return to the scene of the crime (the shack of the title), and upon doing so, experienced a weekend (and profoundly transformational) encounter with God in the three persons of the Trinity: “Elousia” and “Papa” (God the Creator/Father), “Jesus,” and “Sarayu” (The Holy Spirit, pp. 86-87). We learn much later in the book that Mack was in an automobile accident on the same Friday evening that he was experiencing his miraculous encounters, so we are invited to suppose that he was in a comatose state while these things were taking place. In the Acknowledgements, it seems that Wayne Jacobsen and later Brad Cummings collaborated with Willie and Mack to write out Mack’s “recollection” of his experiences: “He and Brad bore the lion’s share of work in the three major rewrites that brought this story to its final form, adding their insights into the ways in which God works and keeping the story true to Mack’s pain and his healing.”

Again, I must confess to you that I have been wrestling with *The Shack*, for it seems to have been “ghost-written” (pun intended—“Holy Ghost”) in several ways, over several drafts, though with Mack’s tragic, poignant, transformational experiences at the center of it all. At first, I was both intrigued with and skeptical of the complex process which brought this story to light: and yet, upon reading it, I was deeply impressed with its many Biblical insights, particularly the healing qualities that Mack experienced with every fresh conversation and encounter with “God,” expressing the gospel story that a loving relationship with God can overcome every heartbreak, every wound, every tragedy, every sin, every shackle and inhibition and hobbling of the soul. I found myself deeply wanting this story to be “true,” even if there are fictional and imaginatively re-constructed elements in it. The book itself actually confronts this point. In addressing Mack’s own skepticism about the Garden of Eden story, about what people say of it, that it is only a “myth,” Sarayu, the Spirit, replies: “Well, their mistake isn’t fatal. Rumors of glory are often hidden inside of what many consider myths and tales.” (p. 134) Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, one of the “founding fathers” of the UCC, said essentially the same thing when referring to the “myth” of the Garden of Eden, saying that he took the truth of this myth seriously, but not literally.

This insight about “rumors of glory” seems, to me, to be an important key to understanding this amazing story, one that can tap into our deepest longings and yearnings about how things ought to be, about how poignantly wrong we have too often been about what we thought loving relationships were/are supposed to be. We have often settled for so little, when so much more was and is possible! Time after time, this story, which is such an evocative echo of the Gospel, pulls tears from you at the most

unexpected moments, moments when God's grace overcomes Mack's pain, lies, sin and tragic loss, and in so doing, accomplishes vicariously the same for a faithful, hopeful, attentive reader. Some people are calling this a "transformational" book, and the longer I linger with it, the more I understand why. At some point, if you almost "suspend disbelief," as we do on a regular basis to enter into the world of a movie or a work of art, *you find yourself wondering what sort of conversation you would and should be having with God, if, by grace, you were in Mack's place.* You develop an instinctive awareness that *this is the way to recover what has been lost, not through a fear of a wrathful, all-powerful god, but through a loving relationship with God which/who teaches you about the miracle of trust, of faith properly reposed in God who is rest from all weariness, who is joy from all sorrow, who is the hope of every tomorrow.*

For some time now, I have been trying to write a "syllabus" of our six session course, one that connects us properly and appropriately with Biblical texts as we journey through *The Shack*. There is no index, no footnotes in *The Shack*, so we will have to pick our way along, but Biblical connections abound on virtually every page from Chapter five on, and we will find them as we need them. But I came to realize that, in fashioning a syllabus, I was treating these sessions like many another pastor or teacher might: like outlining the structure of the Book of Romans, or the themes in Ephesians, or the imagery and situation-in-life considerations of the Book of Revelation. Now, these are all very important goals for any study session for a congregation. But the people who seem to be most interested in *this* study are focused more upon its emotional and personal power to bring the gospel story to life in a profoundly new way, in a way that draws us in and will not let go, like God's love itself. So why write a syllabus, and thus attempt to control and micromanage a session, when people want to begin to explore with others the spiritual impact of this book upon them as persons, as people of faith, however limited our faith may yet be? I have concluded that I should be, at best, a moderator of our discussion; we shall be each other's teachers in the spirit, in the loving relationships which become possible when people trust one another in Jesus Christ, as we catch and share "rumors of glory."

Now, do understand that this book has had its detractors. Charles Colson, of Watergate fame & later an effective and conscientious advocate for Christian prison ministry, has been critical of *The Shack* and wrote an article entitled, "Taking *The Shack* to the Shed." Oops! There have been questions such as: does the book promote universalism; does it devalue scripture; is this God too nice; does the book distort or demean the Trinity; is this a feminist God; has it touched people too deeply (i.e., is it intentionally "manipulative" emotionally); does this book promote Ultimate Reconciliation (UR); is/are the author(s) promoting the "emergent" movement; does the book promote new age philosophy or Hinduism; is the book fair to the church and to institutional religion? And so on. We'll deal with all of that and more, if you wish. Mainly, for now, either read or re-read the book, identify such scriptural connections as you think apply to this or that section, formulate your questions, making note of how this book moves you, if indeed it does. If it doesn't, that's okay: nothing wrong there. We will come up with provisional assignments as we go, but for starters, we'll get a sweep of the entire book, with all us being pupils, we trust, of the Spirit. This is the way that Sarayu would do it. (Though, for March 3, if we assume that we shall touch upon at least Chapters 5 and 6, it would be helpful to read Genesis 1-3, 32-33; Luke 15:11-24; John 1:1-14, 3:16-21, 8:31-38; and Matthew 11:4-6, 27:45-47.)

*Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt*

P.S. Please let us know if you need a ride to and from these evening sessions. Childcare will be provided.  
Visitors are welcome.

# Touching Davidson County With Love

## April 25, 2009

Local churches are coming together to reach out in providing acts of love and kindness in the community as a witness to Christ. Working with local social service agencies, potential projects have been identified. Each participating church will enlist individuals to provide the many varied skills needed for these projects. You have an opportunity in many areas to participate in this wonderful day. Below is a list of areas of work needed. If you can assist with this project please request a form from the church office or contact Birke McNeill at 243-1420.

**→ FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY MARCH 3, 2009 ←**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE**

- \_\_\_ Carpentry & Repairs
- \_\_\_ Plumbing
- \_\_\_ Electrical
- \_\_\_ Roofing
- \_\_\_ Painting
- \_\_\_ Carpet Cleaning
- \_\_\_ Yardwork

**NON-CONSTRUCTION**

- \_\_\_ Delivering meals
- \_\_\_ Choral Singing
- \_\_\_ House Cleaning
- \_\_\_ Visiting Nursing Homes
- \_\_\_ Children's Programming

**BEFORE APRIL 25**

- \_\_\_ Cooking
- \_\_\_ Knitting
- \_\_\_ Crocheting
- \_\_\_ Sewing
- \_\_\_ Quilting

I AM WILLING TO BE A PROJECT MANAGER:      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

I have professional experience or expertise in this area that might be relevant for April 25:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am working on this project already and do not need a volunteer assignment:

\_\_\_\_\_

### **MONETARY DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED**

To donate please make your check payable to **First Reformed UCC** and write **TDCWL** on the memo line. These can be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. You will be given credit on your giving statement for tax purposes.

# Consistory Highlights—February 2009

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The Consistory met on February 8<sup>th</sup> after the congregational annual meeting.

The financial report stated that \$5,490.08 is needed weekly to make the budget.

Reverend Patten's 4 week report included:

- There is approximately \$6,400 in the discretionary fund.
- The Transition Team has scheduled an Assembly for March 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be an opportunity for the congregation to engage in "congregational analysis" and "pastoral leadership expectations" tools that will benefit the Search Committee. Reverend Patten hopes everyone will be able to attend.
- Explained the need for a back up person for Paula Lopp.
- A "Web Page" planning meeting has been set for February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Food Inspection Services expert David Hennesy examined our main kitchen for Meals on Wheels program and added it to the list for upcoming inspection.
- Reverend Patten attended the Southern Conference meeting that was held in Burlington to discuss issues including healing conflicts in the Southern Conference and the impact of current economy on church finances.
- A potential new members meeting has been set for this month.



The Board of Christian Education met on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dates were set for the Easter Egg Hunt and Sunday school picnic. Special thanks went out to everyone who helped in making "Roads to God" a success.

Eddie Yates, Congregational Life Chairman, thanked Cheryl Walser for the delicious food; Walter and Ann Hoffman, Belinda and Eddie Yates, Sylvia Walser and Lena Johnson for setup and cleanup of the congregational meal today.

The Board of Community Outreach is looking for volunteers to stay overnight at the Crisis Ministry shelter. If you are interested contact Birke McNeill. A church retreat is scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June at Blowing Rock Conference Center. If interested contact Amy McNeill. Communities in Schools need more mentors. Touching Davidson County with Love is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> and sign up sheets should be turned into the church office by March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Silent Auction for the Perrell Family went very well and some additional funds have been received since the last newsletter.

Nancy Robbins reported the current membership is 406.

## United Friendship Club

*President June Grubb*



The United Friendship Club met Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Nancy Robbins had devotions and presented an interesting program.

Seniors' Gathering

United Friendship Club members will participate in the Community Lenten Worship Service for its March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The service is held at First United Methodist Church at noon followed by a light lunch. Cost of meal is \$5.00.

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

## Women's Life Fellowship



We met Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Our meetings have been changed to the **third Tuesday of the month**. Child care is provided during meeting times. This Tuesday the children enjoyed Kids Club, hosted by Corinne Gray. If you are interested in coming and being more active with our church family, we would love to have you! New Members are always welcome.

Mr. Charlie Blount, Vice President of the Board for Pastor's Pantry was our guest speaker for the evening. He shared with Women's Life Fellowship members an overview of Pastor's Pantry significance in the community and details of the services they offer. We would like to thank Carolyn Spivey, Cathy Waitman and the Program Committee for this program. Special thanks to Cathy who purchased several cases of canned food and non-perishables for our group to donate to this organization.

Since choosing our goal of Community Outreach this year, Women's Life Fellowship has donated 49 cases of non-perishable food items to Crisis Ministries, much needed items to the American Children's Home, and non-perishables to Pastor's Pantry. We also worked on the fund-raiser for the Perrell family. Thank you for supporting Women's Life Fellowship and our fundraising efforts as we continue to help local agencies provide services and products for community families in need.

On that same line of thought, Women's Life Fellowship will be serving the noon meal for the Congregational Assembly to be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We plan to provide the popular: Vegetable Soup (not just veggies), pimento cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and wonderful desserts. Donations for the meal will help support our fundraising goals for Community Outreach.

Women's Life Fellowship is serving the evening meal at the homeless shelter on Monday *March 9<sup>th</sup>*. We will have our March meeting immediately following the homeless shelter meal. Members providing items for the meal please drop your food off at the church by 5:45 pm. **PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting is in place of our normal March meeting time. (Also, please mark your calendar for April...because of holiday schedules, our April meeting date has changed to **Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the Parlor.

Special thanks to Camille Morgan and Janette Neal for the wonderful refreshments they provided. We always have great food, fun and fellowship!

Thank you again and God Bless!  
Sauni Johnson, President

## Men's Brotherhood

*By: Clifford Lopp*

### **MEN'S BROTHERHOOD**



The Men's Brotherhood met on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed a great meal provided by Yarborough's Restaurant. Our guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Bob Rogers, shared some of his history as a B-17 pilot who was shot down over Germany. He told about the day he was captured and the 14 months he spent in a POW camp. He had lots of stories to tell, but he emphasized his thankfulness for all he had been blessed with.

**Mark your calendar for our next meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup>** when we will continue on the theme of our WWII history. **Donna Hurt** will come and share her "Amazing Story" of being a war orphan and her journey to find her past. We invite everybody to come and hear what she has to say. If you can help with the meal let Clifford know.

# February Memorials

## LOIS BECK LEONARD

Jack and Lalah Frank  
Barbara Schaeffer  
Willing Workers Sunday School Class

## JOHN R ROBBINS

Janie Lohr  
Doris Frye  
Keith & Alisa Johnson  
Robert & Bonnie Bridges  
Pat Thompson  
Louise Parker  
Sandra Mayhew



# February Honorariums

## SANDRA HUTCHENS

Heart Sister

## JOYCE PRICE

Heart Sister

## MAXINE LOHR

Heart Sister

## Easter Lily Order Form

White Easter Lilies are an ancient symbol of the resurrection and our sanctuary will be adorned with the beautiful cross of lilies on Easter Sunday morning. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Lilies can be picked up immediately following the worship service. To purchase a lily in honor or memory of someone, fill in the appropriate spaces and place in the offering plate or call the church office at 248-2617. **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009.**



*In Loving Memory of*

\_\_\_\_\_

*By*

\_\_\_\_\_

*In Honor of*

\_\_\_\_\_

*By*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# THANK YOU NOTES

*Sometimes, God answers our prayers through special people like you. Thank you so much.*

We are so humbled by and appreciative for the very generous monetary gift from First Reformed UCC through the work of the Chancel Choir and Women's Life Fellowship Fundraiser. Your many prayers have supported us spiritually and now this monetary gift has helped us to ease the financial strains during this difficult loss of Jared. May God Bless You for sharing your love by reaching out to others. We have been so Blessed by God's Love. "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!"

*Christie, Jeff and Jackson Perrell*

Dear Church Family,

The Ralph Bailey family would like to express our sincere gratitude to Reverend Michael Hooper and Reverend Walter Patten for their inspirational Memorial Service. Reverend Patten for his visits to Ralph, also to all the members for their prayers, visits, the memorials, cards and flowers. The meal served by the ladies of the bereavement committee was appreciated. This is a very thoughtful act of kindness that allows families some special time together.

Ralph loved his church and was always here sharing his many talents during his life as a member.

Thanks again and God Bless each of you.

*Sons, Martin and Parks; Sisters, Mary Crouse, Peggy Bates, and Patsy Via*

Dear First Reformed Family,

I just wanted to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards and food before, during and after my recent surgery. Your support was greatly appreciated.

*Sincerely, John Smith*

Dear First Reformed UCC Trustees,

Thank you all very much for the scholarship. I will be using these funds to purchase textbooks next semester and toward monthly rent. Your financial support has helped me throughout the duration of my college career and I am very grateful to be a member of such a generous congregation.

*Sincerely, Allyson P. Frick*

Dear First Reformed UCC and Trustees,

Thank you very much for awarding me a scholarship. It will definitely be a great help in covering the costs of education and living at college. I would also like to thank the entire church family for their constant prayers and support.

*Jonathan Odom*

Dear Board of Trustees,

Thank you so much for awarding me a church scholarship. This will greatly help with college tuition and cost.

*Sincerely, Jordan McCarn*

Dearest Church Family,

I am so appreciative of the gift that was given to me to assist with my graduate studies. The scholarship will benefit me greatly as I pursue my studies and try to become a better teacher within the Lexington City School System.

*Love, Beth Callicutt*

**THANK YOU NOTES FOR BENEVOLENT GIFTS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:**  
Lancaster Theological Seminary                      Crisis Ministry of Davidson County



# **JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP**

## **2009 SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW**

A CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF OPPORTUNITIES ...  
TO EXPERIENCE ... TO DISCOVER ... TO PARTICIPATE

**June 14-17; INTERGENERATIONAL CAMP** dir. by Rev. Beth Kennett; \$146.00 / person with a family maximum fee of \$434.00; (*Children / youth must be accompanied by parent / guardian*); *Mainsite and Boger Site* Intergenerational units are given opportunity for wonderful opportunities of experiential learning, and faith formation amidst various outdoor settings of the camp, including the river, campfire circle, chapel, trails and porch. .

**June 14-20; SENIOR HIGH ADVENTURE** dir. by Rev. Nora Driver Foust; \$376.00; grades 9-12; *outpost site* Campers are challenged by high-adventure activities including white water rafting on the Nolochucky River in Tennessee, and an off site rock climbing experience in Pisgah National Forest.

**June 28-July 4; MID HIGH [Ultra]** directed by Rev. Phil Hardy; \$324.00; grades 7, 8 & 9; *mainsite* Youth build community through active play. Bike downhill section of Virginia Creeper Trail in Damascus, Virginia; Bikes and helmets provided for all campers on "Creeper Trail" trip. (Campers who can bring own bike / helmet will have option of electing additional afternoon bike trips. Camp can also make some bikes available for optional trips.)

**June 28-July 4; SENIOR HIGH DISCOVERY** directed by Rev. Mark Burns; \$324.00; grades 9-12; *mainsite* Make sense out of nonsense, or discover the art of creating order out of chaos. Campers are offered a one-time glimpse into the energy of the universe (and it's not the Energizer Bunny).

**July 5-11; JUNIOR AGE 1 [Music / Art / Drama]** dir. by Rev. Jay Kennett, Rev. Steve Halsted and Rev. Jim Simonds; \$314.00; grades. 4, 5, 6; *mainsite*

Campers enjoy traditional camp activities (crafts, aquatics, hikes, archery, stories, games, vespers, campfires).

**July 5-11; MID HIGH [ OUTPOST/climbing]** directed by Rev. Kelly Barefoot; \$324.00; grades 7, 8 & 9; *outpost site* Campers live in A-frame cabins removed from mainsite area. Camp features canoe trip and climbing experience.

**July 12-18; MID HIGH [Apex]** dir. by Rev. Gary Owens and Rev. Bob Thompson; \$324.00; grades 7, 8 & 9; *mainsite* Unique experiences to this camp include day trip to Footsloggers Climbing Tower in Boone and Blue Ridge hike.

**July 19-25; JUNIOR AGE 2 [Classic]** dir. by Rev. Lisa Gaul and Rev. Jim Luck; \$314.00; grades 4, 5 & 6; *mainsite*; Campers enjoy traditional camp activities (crafts, aquatics, hikes, archery, stories, games, vespers, campfires).

**July 19-25; MID HIGH [ OUTPOST/caving]** dir. by Rev. C. L. "Curly" Stumb; \$324.00; grades 7, 8 & 9; *outpost* Campers live in A-frame cabins removed from mainsite area. Camp features canoe trip and caving experience.

**July 26-29; BEGINNERS** dir. by Ms. Sue Howell & Rev. Jim Humphrey; \$172.00; Grade 3 only; *mainsite*

First time campers get a sampling of JRVC. Campers enjoy traditional camp activities (crafts, aquatics, hikes, stories, games, vespers, campfires).

**July 26-August 1; EXPLORERS** dir. by staff; \$314.00; grades 5 & 6

Experience the best of both mainsite and outpost activities; spend a half week in each site (*mainsite & outpost*).

Campers spend Tuesday through Thursday nights in the Outpost setting, where activities include outdoor living skills including meal preparation.

**July 30-August 1; GRANDPARENT/GRANDCHILD** (*arrive Thursday 2:00-3:00 pm*)(*depart Saturday at 1:00 pm*);

dir. by Ms. Sue Howell; \$114.00 / person; Grandchildren should be rising grades 1-6; *Mainsite and Boger Site*

This special pairing offers unique intergenerational opportunities for experiential learning.

## Director of Christian Education

*Amy McNeill*



"Roads to God" is up and running with our music and art rotations completely done. The children have really been enjoying themselves with learning new songs and the pottery they made. I want to say a big thank you to Cathy Waitman and Lena Johnson for launching these programs as our first teachers. You did a great job! This month we will continue lessons titled "Journey to the Cross" with our remaining six rotations: science, computers, cooking, story time, games, and video. If you are a Kindergarten through third grade student and have not come to our new Sunday school program, please plan to join us this month.

Special thanks to the Property committee who came in on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and built the stage and stadium seating for the story and video room. It looks fantastic and I know the children will really enjoy it. Thank you for your time and support of our Sunday school project.

We have been spending a lot of time talking about "Roads to God" because we are all so excited! However, there is another exciting event we need to prepare for, our church retreat. All of our church family is welcome to participate in a retreat to Blowing Rock Conference Center during the weekend of June 5<sup>th</sup> —7<sup>th</sup>. We have reserved 22 rooms in Corriher Lodge (each room has two double beds and private bath). Currently 9 rooms are reserved. We are hoping to fill the remaining 13 rooms. To refresh your memory here are the prices:



Meals provided for the weekend include:

Dinner: Friday and Saturday

Breakfast: Saturday and Sunday

Lunch: Saturday

Room rates for 2 adults including meals is \$247.00 for the weekend

Additional charge for meals for children staying in room with parents:

Meals for ages 13 and up: \$45.00

5-12 years: \$28.50

4 and under: free

Also, there are currently three Cabins available (first come first serve basis). The cabins sleep six with one bedroom having a queen bed and the other bedroom has two twin beds and bunk beds. The cost for the cabin is \$295.00 for the weekend, **but doesn't include your meals**. If you are interested in a cabin please contact me immediately. We have a deposit on the lodge rooms, however, there is no deposit on the cabins. In order to get a refund on our deposit if rooms are not used, we **MUST** give them a definite count by **April 4, 2009**. We are collecting a deposit of \$85.00 per couple and \$50.00 per individual in the church office by **March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please make checks payable to the church. If you have already signed up for a room I still need a deposit. I really hope everyone will give this thoughtful prayer and plan to come to a great weekend of fellowship with your church family and some free time to explore Blowing Rock. We have raised some funds and hope to have another fundraiser to assist with any extra cost for the retreat. The Conference Center has an amazing facility with basketball, indoor pool, volleyball, hiking, a ropes course, and so much more. I am happy to answer any questions you may have and hope to spend a wonderful weekend with you all.



I want to remind everyone of our annual Easter egg hunt! Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 11, 10:30—11:30 a.m. You never know who you might see there! There will be snacks and plenty of fun for everyone!

# KID'S CLUB NEWS

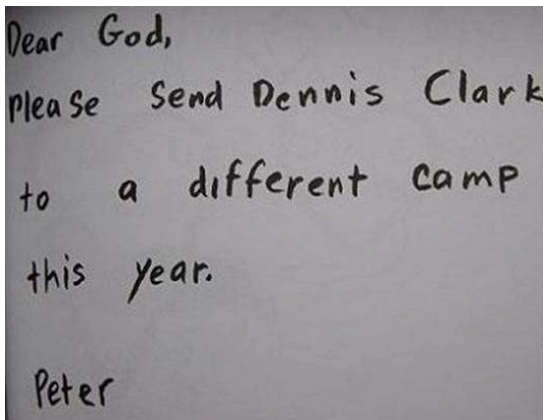
We hope everyone enjoyed the Valentine decorations Kid's Club made for the last Congregational Lunch.

When we met February 17<sup>th</sup> we played games and viewed videos to help us learn the importance of friends and to put our trust in God.

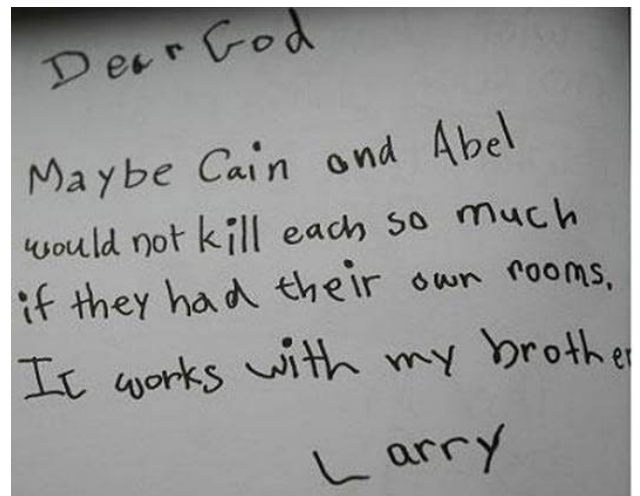
In March we will meet on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> after the Children's Moment during the worship service.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Corinne Gray, Leader



Letters to God written by children.



## CONGRATULATIONS...

**Matthew Johnson**—A/B honor roll at Central Davidson High School

**Kelsey Johnson**—A/B honor roll at Central Davidson Middle School. Also, Kelsey played on the basketball team at Central Middle that broke ALL records with NO losses. They went on to win the Davie/Davidson County Middle School Conference Championship. Great job!

## Sunday School—February



Kaitlyn McNeill

Kalyssa Hutchens

Holt Biesecker

Wanda Daye

Amy McNeill

Jo Hudson

Peggy Bates

Betty Bates

Katherine Skipper

Nancy Robbins

Ramona Yarborough

Sandra Hutchens

Marguerite Leonard

Butch Bouchard

J.W. Bates

Earlie Hartley

John Hudson

Don Leonard

Cliff Lopp

John Potts

John Walser

Clifford Lopp

Paula Lopp

Camille Morgan

Lisa Nelson

Cathy Waitman

Jeff Hutchens

Janette Neal

Lena Johnson

Rich Johnson

Walter Patten

# MARCH STEWARDS

**Ushers:** Chairperson: Peggy Bates

Captain: Steve Smith

Ushers: Jerry Smith, John Hudson, Vicky Gray, and Ted Smith

**Plate Attendant:** Roy Bevan

**Sound Tech:** Tony Peele

**Acolytes:** Laura Strenk and Holt Biesecker

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



**Social:** Host/Hostess: Myra Thompson and Melody Evans

**NOTE: JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SOCIAL WILL BE SECOND SUNDAY**

**Greeters:**

March	1	Walter and Ann Hoffman
March	8	John and Vicky Gray
March	15	Birke, Amy, Kaitlyn and Lucy McNeill
March	22	John and Sylvia Walser
March	29	Doris and Scott Frye

**Nursery:**

March	1	Cheryl Walser
March	8	Sauni and Thomas Johnson
March	15	Raeann and Brad Biesecker
March	22	Betty Bates
March	29	Dawn Shaak









(Alston Brook) Juanita Beck, 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

Velna Swing, Henry Beck, Mary Berrier, 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 Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier), Susan Fletcher (Anne Fletcher's Mother), Edna Prentis (Lib Sink's Aunt), and Mary John Allred (John and James Gray's Sister). To add a name to the prayer chain, please contact **Sandra Hutchens at 249-3001 or the church office.**

We extend **SYMPATHY** to and share Christian hope with Reverend Lawrence O. Walser, Western North Carolina Association Conference Minister upon the death of his father and our church member and friend, Lawrence O. Walser, Jr.



# March 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> NOTE: Jt SS & Social on 8 <sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. Worship Noon (FH) LUNCH AND ASSEMBLY	<b>2</b> 6:30 p.m. (P) BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED MEETING	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m. (P) LENTEN STUDY	<b>4</b> 11 a.m. (P) MORNING GLORY CIRCLE Noon {First UMC} Community Lenten Service 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 9 a.m.—Noon TRANSITION TEAM MEETING
<b>8</b>  9:45 Joint SS 10:20 a.m. SS Social CHILDREN'S CHURCH 7:00 pm CONSISTORY	<b>9</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) CRAFT NIGHT WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP SERVE SHELTER & MEET- KID'S CLUB	<b>10</b> 7:00 p.m. (P) LENTEN STUDY	<b>11</b> Noon {First UMC} Community Lenten Service 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 p.m. (P) LENTEN STUDY	<b>18</b> Noon {First UMC} Community Lenten Service 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm (P) YOGA 6 p.m. (FH) MEN'S BROTHERHOOD	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 p.m. (P) LENTEN STUDY	<b>25</b> Noon (FH) UNITED FRIENDSHIP CLUB Noon {First UMC} Community Lenten Service 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir	<b>26</b> 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             Charity League Clothing Sale (Fellowship Hall)           </div>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> KID'S CLUB After Children's Moment	<b>30</b> 6:30 p.m. (P) BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED MEETING	<b>31</b> 7:00 p.m. (P) LENTEN STUDY	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">             Upcoming: April 5, Palm Sunday—Communion and Community Gathering              April 9, Maundy Thursday Service — April 11, Easter Egg Hunt              April 12, Easter Sunday — April 25, Touching Davidson County With Love           </div>			

# Transition Team Assembly

## Sunday, March 1, 2009



### Fellowship Lunch and Assembly

As you will recall, an **“Assembly”** during an *Intentional Interim Ministry* (IIM), is an official gathering of your Transition Team (TT) with the entire congregation. The purpose of the assembly is to invite you, our congregation, to participate in the work we (TT) have been doing on your and our behalf, both answering your specific questions about that work and inviting you to share your ideas and reactions with the TT. Please be prepared to talk about the qualities that you look for in a new pastor. Also plan to share your dreams for the future ministries and life of our congregation.

Our second gathering will be held Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. **(Please bring your “PASTORAL LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS SAMPLE SURVEY” sheets, though we have plenty more.)** Immediately following the worship service we will enjoy a delicious lunch of homemade vegetable soup, pimento cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Women’s Life Fellowship is providing lunch for the purpose of raising funds to help with Community Outreach projects this year. Donations for the meal will be accepted at the door.

## First News

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

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

**Return Service Requested**

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

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