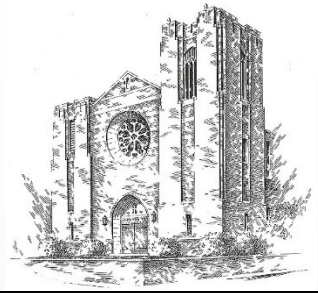


# First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



October 2009

## PASTOR'S NOTES...

Well, summer is officially over and autumn is opening upon us, with "Indian Summer" days sprawling ahead along with the lovely spectacle of the full-spectrum leaf show we've come to love, commencing in the mountains and flowing downhill, as it were, toward the sea. This is also the time, as you know, when the pace of church life begins to quicken, and we are no exception. I would like to mention chronologically some dates and times which hold special significance for us, inviting you to reflect and to meditate prayerfully upon your responses to the events which fall on those dates and upon relevant dates subsequent to them, inviting you as well to peruse all of these pages carefully: for our appreciation of things past; for our anticipation of things to come; and for our celebration of the present moment, all as gifts from our gracious God who showers us with blessings beyond counting..

### 7:15 p.m. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>: "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"

This particular date is hard upon us by the time you read this, so please take note. It's been a while since I moderated our special six-session study of William Paul Young's phenomenal book, *The Shack*, and I remember those classes with great affection and appreciation, for we averaged some 35 persons per evening then. Now, **we are beginning, on October 1, a new seven-session study series called "Living the Questions," which is open to our entire congregation and to friends of our church.** Our overall emphasis will be upon **the spiritual life as a journey**, one with many paths to take and many cross-roads of decision. "Living the Questions" (LTQ) has a "seeking" quality about it, and is the first of three study series that we will conduct here over the next nine months or so. LTQ will always open with an engaging, thought-provoking, stimulating twenty minute DVD presentation, to be followed by our discussions and questions, possibly involving some "journaling" for those of you who are interested in that way of meditation. **We will meet for all five Thursday evenings in October (either in the Parlor or in the FH), October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, and going through the first two Thursdays in November, November 5 and 12.** In sequence, our themes are:

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1) "An Invitation to Journey"                                      | October 1, 2009   |
| 2) "Taking the Bible Seriously"                                    | October 8, 2009   |
| 3) "Thinking Theologically"  | October 15, 2009  |
| 4) "Stories of Creation"   | October 22, 2009  |
| 5) "Lives of Jesus"  | October 29, 2009  |
| 6) "A Passion for Christ: Paul"                                    | November 5, 2009  |
| 7) "Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians." | November 12, 2009 |

I expect our classes to be concluding no later than 8:30 each evening. While it would be great for you to attend as many of our sessions as you can, each unit can be experienced pretty much on its own, so if you miss one or more, do not count yourself out because of that! A nursery will be available. As you are moved, please call the office (248-2617) or me (420-2728) to express your interest in these classes, as that will help me to prepare for our first evening together. I look forward to seeing you then.

PASTOR'S NOTES CONTINUED ON NEXT TWO PAGES...

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: WESTERN NC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

### **7:00 P.M. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4: “COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP” (CYG)**

We have now conducted three meetings related to the formation of this new, ecumenically-based, junior/senior high youth group (grades 6 through 12), the first one being an “in-house” meeting with FRUCC members and friends who share a vision for this kind of ministry. Having made a number of phone calls and contacts, we met again here on Monday evening, August 31, with clergy and lay representatives from area churches who wanted to learn more about this project. We began to compile a phone number and email data base, encouraging these participants to share their enthusiasm with other local friends and colleagues, generating then a third meeting here on Monday evening, September 14, where yet more new people from different churches attended and signed on for further inquiry and study. We now have well over thirty persons in our database who have either been present at one or more of our CYG meetings or have expressed strong interest in the CYG process but have had scheduling conflicts. Now, **our fourth meeting here at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 4 is different from the first three in that it is a planning session for our first CYG “Track I” meeting (signifying participating churches with youth programs that are too small to be effective on their own), tentatively scheduled for Sunday evening, October 18, with the location to be determined.** *As before, we offer an open invitation for any of our FRUCC members to attend these meetings, observing and asking questions as you are moved, offering insights and suggestions as they occur to you.* I will be in a position to give a full report to our Consistory on Sunday afternoon, October 11, making sure that we have good provisions for personal liability issues and such. Please keep our CYG process in your prayers, for we are beginning to engage an important ministry that has been too long regarded as insoluble by too many well-intentioned congregations who simply did not know what to do, what with such small-to-no numbers of young people. Now, for this to work, we will all have to trust each other, in Jesus Christ.

*(While I have emphasized our CYG ministry here, October 4 is also “World Communion Sunday,” so we hope that you will make every effort to worship with us on that Sunday morning, giving prayerful attention to our “Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering” which will be received on that occasion. Please notice our bulletin inserts related to our Special Offering)*

### **12:00 NOON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11: “LUNCH AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING”**

Since we have added thirteen new members to our roles recently, I thought it might be a good idea to inform them, as well as to remind us, of how we function around here at budget and stewardship time. This process actually started some weeks ago when various meetings took place to propose a functioning budget for 2010, a proposed budget which was in fact adopted at the last scheduled meeting of our Consistory (September 13). **The Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 11, is designed to present this budget for 2010 to you for consideration. Then, after a suitable period for Q & A, we will bring the officially moved and seconded motion for you to adopt this budget to a show of hands by members only, this vote requiring only a simple majority of the quorum to pass.** Assuming its passage, Paula will mail our “pledge” cards (or as I prefer to say, our “estimate of giving” cards) and our newly minted “Time & Talent Sheet” for you to complete and to prepare to offer up **during worship on Sunday, November 8, “Pledge Sunday.”** It is also on this Sunday, November 8, that we will receive any “nominations from the floor” for the available seats on the 2010 Consistory, the Nominating Committee already having made its selections known on the previous Sunday, November 1, during a brief congregational meeting after worship. Please keep in mind a few common sense rules if you wish to nominate someone from the floor: *check with the person first to get permission to submit their name; a person to be nominated needs to have been a church member for a full year; husbands and wives cannot serve on the Consistory at the same time; a person needs to have been off of the Consistory for at least a year before receiving a nomination to serve again, etc.* I do ask each of us to be prepared to participate to the full in these vitally important processes wherewith we govern ourselves, sustain ourselves and function as harmonious members of One Body with order, integrity and faithfulness.

## 2:00 p.m. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>: “CROP WALK”

A “CROP Hunger Walk” brochure that I received at a recent GLAMA meeting states: *“Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. We walk because they walk! ... Neighbors from different faiths, cultures, and ages (are) walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as for local hunger-fighting agencies. Some 2,000 communities across the country take part each year. ... Up to 25% of what a CROP Hunger Walk raises can assist food banks, pantries, community gardens, and other local hunger-fighting initiatives. In the last 20 years, Walks have raised over \$264 million to assist those struggling to feed their families.”* Our own



**Edgar Miller**, Chair of our Community Outreach Committee, has agreed to help coordinate our participation in this year’s CROP WALK, **scheduled to be a 5 K (about 3 miles) walk which begins at the First Baptist Church here in Lexington.** Please be planning now **either to walk with us as we ask for sponsorship** from our members and friends **or to give generously to your favorite “walker.”** I can virtually guarantee you that at least some of your shared time and dollars will save someone’s life, somewhere in the world. *“If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel far, travel together.”* African Proverb

## 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>: “STEPHEN MINISTRY WORKSHOP”

I had my first direct experience with a functioning Stephen Ministry Team while I was the minister at Peace UCC in Greensboro, and their work was remarkable. Their published materials state: *“Stephen Ministry is a proven system for training and organizing lay people in congregations to provide high-quality, distinctively Christian care to people who are experiencing tough times. While pastors care deeply about people who need extended, regular care and will always be the ‘front-line’ caregivers in a congregation, Stephen Ministry expands care and outreach through well-trained lay caregivers who visit, listen, pray, encourage and offer a caring presence. Stephen Ministry is designed to equip lay people for Christ-centered care, creating a ‘Team’ of pastor (s) and lay persons to ‘share the care.’ ”* **A Stephen Ministry Workshop, which introduces the entire concept, will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 14, 2009 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 820 Ross Avenue, Greensboro, N.C.** There will be three sessions:

1. **“Ministering to Those Persons Experiencing Grief”**
2. **“An Introduction to Stephen Ministry”**
3. **“How To Care in a Distinctively Christian Way”**

The cost is \$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more, though we will sponsor a group of our members/friends to this Workshop at no expense to the participants. I will be contacting people who might be especially suited to a lay caring ministry of this nature, though please feel free to contact me if this opportunity interests you. Your attendance to this Workshop does not imply your commitment to the formation of a Stephen Ministry Team here at FRUCC; although clearly, I do have that idea in mind. For now, we are just exploring promising ministry possibilities which could make a significant difference in the quality of this congregation’s life and ministry for many years to come.

*Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt*

# Consistory Highlights—September 2009

**Financial Report:** Paula Lopp stated that the average weekly offering for the month of August was \$3,208.00. General Fund balance is \$26,314.31, Building Fund is \$36,837.52, and Music Fund is \$7,557.73.



A church audit was discussed and will be looked into.

**Pastor's Report:** Reverend Patten handed out his 5-week report from August 10 to September 13, 2009.

**Community Youth Group (CYG)** organizational meetings are going very well. The churches involved want to make sure this approach is ecumenical, meeting with other city and area church youth groups periodically. As many as 12 to 13 churches may be involved, at the present time. The next CYG meeting will be Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO THIS CHURCH'S FUTURE. (Editor's Note: The new CYG meeting is scheduled here at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 4, 2009. You are invited to come and see for yourself what we are doing. WP)

**The Crop Walk will be on November 1<sup>st</sup>** and will be headed by **Edgar Miller** and **Paula Lopp**. (Editor's Note: CROP materials are now in our church office. WP)

**Website Update:** We need to be thinking about what kinds of things should go into the church web site. The Community Youth Group photos and news would be one thing to be included in our new and improved web site.

A **Stephen Ministry Workshop** is being conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 14, 2009 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 820 Ross Avenue, Greensboro, N.C. (Editor's Note: "Stephen Ministry is a proven system for training and organizing lay people in congregations to provide high-quality, distinctively Christian care to people who are experiencing tough times." Please consult the Pastor's Notes in this issue of *First News* for more detailed information about this event, or better yet, speak to me in person about it. WP)

(Editor's note: **In October, Rev. Patten will start a new study series called "Living the Questions,"** a seven-session opportunity which is open to the entire congregation and to friends of our church. We will meet all five Thursday evenings in October, starting at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, October 1, and going through the first two Thursdays in November, November 5 and November 12. Please see the Pastor's Notes in this issue of FN for more details. WP)

(Editor's note: Our **delegates** for the **annual meeting of the WNCA** of the Southern Conference of the UCC, which occurs on Saturday, October 3 at Holy Covenant UCC in Charlotte, are: **Eulene Shepherd, Barbara Sink, and Doug Sink**.

## BOARD REPORTS

### Board of Christian Education:

- ◆ **Kids' Club** will meet on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Children's Church** will be on October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Roads to God** will begin on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> with two new rotation leaders this year. **Heidi Hutcheson** will be in charge of video and **Harriette Murphy** will do computers. The following leaders will return: **Alice Gray** – games, **Keri Hartle** – art, **Amy McNeill** – story, **Alisa Johnson** – cooking, **Carolyn Spivey** – science, and **Cathy Waitman** – music. *The Creation* will be the theme and will also be the theme for Rally Day. Rally Day started with Rev. Walt's reading of the poem "The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson. Everyone was welcome to rotate through the classrooms to participate in activities much like the children do during the 8 week rotation of each lesson. The activities correlate to the six days of creation as depicted in The Bible.
- ◆ **Homecoming was September 13<sup>th</sup>** with luncheon served in the fellowship hall, with 158 persons in attendance.
- ◆ Walt gave an overview of the new **Community Youth Group 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades**. All the churches involved will share resources and leaders. The meetings will rotate among the churches.
- ◆ **Three new Sunday school classes will start this year**. Starting on **September 20<sup>th</sup>** a **nursery is available for little ones under age 2**. Volunteers will help keep the nursery during Sunday school. **"Two By Two" for the 3-5 year olds** will be taught by **Nancy Robbins**. Starting on **Sunday, September 27**, **Walter Hoffman and Birke McNeil** will lead the first group of lessons for the young adults or anyone who is interested in the new class called the **"Seekers."** We now have classes for everyone.

**Congregational Life:** Thanks to everyone who had a hand in the planning, set-up, cooking (especially Mike Brown), and cleanup for the **New Members Welcoming Lunch on August 16<sup>th</sup>**.

- ◆ Thanks to the **New Way Class** for the presentation of the compelling movie, “Fireproof.”
- ◆ Thanks to **Cathy Waitman and to all others** who helped to make **Rally Day and Homecoming** successful. Thanks to **Cheryl Walsler** for another GREAT meal.
- ◆ On **October 11<sup>th</sup>** we will be offering lunch and our congregational budget meeting.

**Property Committee:** **Mike Brown**, Property Chair, said that the Chamber has paid the rent up to date. **Burr Sullivan** is the new acting president of the Chamber. The fence adjacent to the educational building has been repaired after being damaged from a fallen tree. Tree and stump have been removed. Canned food from pantry will be donated to the Crisis Ministries. The Property Community is planning to power wash the side walks.

**Board of Worship and Sacrament:** **Ramona Yarbrough** reported that everything is going well. Thanks to everyone on her committee for doing such a good job.

**Evangelism Board:** **Adena Wall** reported the average weekly attendance for August was 109. First Reformed UCC has added eight new members. Response from a recent letter mailed to inactive members has resulted in the request from twelve members to be removed from the roll because of various reasons. Current church membership is 403.

**New Business:** **Scott Frye, Finance Committee Chairperson**, reviewed the new proposed budget for 2010; very little change from last year’s budget. A 3% raise was given to all staff. Hours for the Director of Christian Education were decreased. This in no way diminishes all of the many wonderful accomplishments that Amy has brought to fruition this year. It merely brings the budgeted dollars more in line with the number of hours actually being worked.

NewBridge Bank wants to know if the church is interested in purchasing the Farmer’s Co-Op building located behind the church. More information is needed.

The Consistory’s next meeting will be **Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009** immediately following the congregational budget meeting.

## Search Committee Update

One of the most important processes of the search committee is in the final stages. The search committee has nearly completed our church profile that will give potential applicants a detailed and accurate description of all aspects of our church and community. Thanks to all church members who returned our surveys. We were given tremendous positive feedback from members of the congregation and we want everyone to be a part of this very important step in the growth of our church. We also would like to thank the Transition Team who paved the road for us to begin this journey. Information we obtained from the surveys as well as the Transition Team has been very important in creating our church profile.

Our next step is to review the final copy of the church profile and meet with **Rev. Larry Walsler**, our Associate Conference Minister, to discuss our next step. After Rev. Walsler’s review and feedback we can then begin advertising the position through the UCC and start the process of reviewing the profiles/resumes of potential applicants for the job. We want to thank everyone for their ongoing support of this committee, as we know this is a slow yet extremely important process.

Thank you to each board chairperson (s), sub-chairperson (s), and club leaders. We appreciate your input, time, and promptness. We hope as you wrote your descriptions you also realized, as we did, what a well organized, hard working, and caring church we are. First Reformed pat yourself on the back and keep up all your good work!

**Search Committee Members:**

- |                                   |                                      |  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Dawn Shaak</b> , Chairperson   | <b>Mark Smith</b> , Vice Chairperson | <b>Clifford Lopp</b> , Recording Secretary |
| <b>Eulene Shepherd</b> , Chaplain | <b>Vicky Gray</b>                    | <b>Walter Hoffman</b>                      |
| <b>Sauni Johnson</b>              | <b>Birke McNeill</b>                 | <b>Tony Peele</b>                          |

# Men's Brotherhood

*Secretary, Clifford Lopp*

The Men's Brotherhood met on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall. This was the first meeting after our summer break. Twenty men enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Yarborough's Restaurant. A sheet was passed to sign-up to provide meals. There was a good response with meals being provided through the end of the year.

A program was provided by **Frank Westmoreland** on his different displays and photographs throughout the year. Also, **Bobby Everhart** shared a presentation on the start of the Jewish year. He concluded the program by playing the trumpet of the ram which was the left horn of the ram, know as the "Shofar". This symbolizes the Hebrew tradition when the right horn of the ram was caught in a bush as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. **Eddie, Mike and Ron** will provide the meal. **Claude Underwood** from Lexington Senior High will provide a program. All men of the church are invited.

## Morning Glory Circle

*Secretary, Mary Berrier*

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Morning Glory Circle met with 13 members attending.

Lib opened the meeting with a prayer from "Good Morning, God", a daily devotional.

Members signed a card for **Barbara Schaeffer** who is recuperating from a fall.

A discussion was held concerning our annual Christmas party.

**Peggy Bates** reported on Crisis Ministries' kickoff project for the annual "Pennies From Heaven" fundraising campaign. We will participate by staffing the food collection boxes.

An inspiring program was given by **Gladys Snider** based on John 15:13..."Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for a friend." In elaborating upon the scripture, she read a passage from Norman Vincent Peale's book, "Have a Great Day Every Day".

## Women's Life Fellowship

Women's Life Fellowship met on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. We will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month. We are excited about having the new members join us and would still like to invite you to come and see what WLF is all about.

I just wanted to thank everyone who came out/cooked and helped support the Lexington High School Football team. Special thanks to **Mike Brown, Scott Biesecker** and all the **WLF group** who helped provide a healthy pre-game meal.

This was a working meeting. We have signed up for our new committees and are ready to start fund-raising for the upcoming year. WLF has been active in providing and supporting many community outreach groups over the last year. We look forward to carrying our community outreach efforts into the next year. We also plan to have many exciting and fun fund-raising events. Please watch for the events and contribute and support these awesome causes as you can.

As always, Thank you and God Bless, **Sauni Johnson**-WLF president



# United Friendship Club

By: *Eulene Shepherd*



*Seniors' Gathering*

The United Friendship Club members and friends met on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon in the fellowship hall for a delicious covered dish lunch. **June Grubb** had decorated tables with a colorful fall theme and train placemats. The train placemats assisted our welcome to **William Deal, Director of T.R.I.P.** (Tourism Recreation Investment Partnership) who provided an interesting power point presentation from the Davidson County Passenger Rail Advisory Committee about plans for the Lexington Train Depot.

After Mr. Deal's presentation Wanda Daye led devotions and there was a short business meeting.

Our next covered dish lunch and meeting will be **Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at noon in the fellowship hall.** Devotions will be lead by **Banks Shepherd.** The program will be presented by **Wayne Linville,** recent graduate of the PLD (Pastoral Leadership Development) program. The PLD is an opportunity of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ providing training for persons interested in entering the ministry, particularly second career persons. One must be over 35 years of age, and a student-in-care with the Western North Carolina Association to take advantage of this opportunity. Wayne is a member of First United Church of Christ, Winston-Salem and trains seeing-eye guide dogs. He plans to share with us information about his class's mission trip to South Africa, and the PLD program.

We will welcome Wayne, his wife and their present canine-trainee to our next meeting. You are invited to come join us!

## Community Outreach

*Chairperson: Edgar Miller*



### SUNDAY LUNCH PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS

November is First Reformed UCC's month to provide volunteers for **Grace Episcopal Church's Sunday lunch program for the homeless.** Each Sunday in November we need two couples or four adults to assist the Grace coordinator in preparing and serving a meal for approximately 25-50 individuals. The meal is served at 1 p.m. and volunteers should arrive at 12:15 p.m. There are five Sundays in November, so we need your help to make sure we cover each Sunday in the month. The five Sundays in November are November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. To volunteer or for more information contact **Edgar Miller** at 336-899-0660 or email at [edgarmiller@earthlink.net](mailto:edgarmiller@earthlink.net).

### CROP WALK, NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>.

#### WHAT DOES CROP MEAN?

**C**ommunities    **R**esponding to    **O**vercome    **P**overty

**CROP WALK**  
"We walk because they walk."

**WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?** CROP Hunger Walks help fight hunger and poverty around the world, including the United States. Locally, 25% of what we raise stays in our community.

**WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY?** Put our faith into action by walking. (**Sponsor sheets are available in the narthex.** If you are not able to walk...SPONSOR a walker.

### "PENNIES FROM HEAVEN" FALL CAMPAIGN

Participate in the Fall **Pennies from Heaven – Spare Change Changing Lives Campaign!** It's a fundraiser for Crisis Ministry of Davidson County to help meet operational costs. Collectively the change of many is helping to change the lives of those served by Crisis Ministry. What can you do to help? It's simple...**collect pocket change!** Drop donations in coin bottles located in the narthex and outside the church office.

# Director of Christian Education

*Amy McNeill*



## September 2009

- Abbie Johnson
- Haylee Hutcheson
- John Hinkle
- Nancy Robbins
- Mary Berrier
- Betty Bates
- Carolyn Spivey
- Elizabeth Hinkle
- Butch Bouchard
- J.W. Bates
- Earlie Hartley
- Don Leonard
- John Potts
- Ashley Hinkle
- Clifford Lopp
- Paula Lopp
- Camille Morgan
- Walter Patten

We had a fabulous September with the kick off of our new Sunday School year on Rally Day. The three new classes: Two-by-Two, Seekers, and the nursery are all off to a great start!! I just want to remind everyone that we now have a class for everybody so please come out and try the one that suits you best. I am also still search-



ing for some extra volunteers to help with the nursery during Sunday School. If this is a service you would like to do for your church please let me know. "Roads to God" started a new study on Creation this month and we are going to be collecting a weekly offering to go towards "Crop Walk" on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is our mission project with the youth for this eight-week study. Our goal is to raise \$50 to donate to the walk on behalf of the church youth. I will let you know how we do!

We will be starting Kids' Club and Children's church this month. Kids' Club will be on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> and on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> during Women's Life Fellowship at 7:00 p.m. This is open to all youth of the church from Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade so please come and join us. Children's Church will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> immediately following children's moment during the worship service. The children will get to participate in acolyting, ushering, reading scripture, and learning a Bible lesson in a fun and exciting way. They won't want to miss it!! This is also open to all youth in Kindergarten and up.



Believe it or not it is time to start Christmas play practice again!!!! We will have it on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. starting on October 21<sup>st</sup> in the fellowship hall. This program is for all ages and the children have a fun time with it, usually too much fun. Mark your calendar and plan to participate in this wonderful church event.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Halloween and God Bless!



Special thanks to **Camille Morgan, Gladys Snider, Heidi Hutcheson, Doug Sink, Nancy Robbins, Kathleen Danze, Denise Durham, Vicky Gray, Janette Neal, John Potts, Ramona Yarbrough, Myra Thompson** and our special little wagon driver, **Claire Smith**. These people helped collect non-perishable food for the First Reformed UCC Booth on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the **Christian Fun Fest, sponsored by Crisis Ministry**. If you were unable to bring items that day and would still like to participate, you may bring your non-perishables on Sunday mornings to the narthex and we will see that they are taken to Crisis Ministry. Again, thank you for your participation.

*God Bless Each of You, Nina Smith and Peggy Bates, Co-Chairpersons*

**THANK YOU!**  
*THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!*  
**THANK YOU!**

To the Congregation and Staff of First Reformed UCC,

Thank you so much for affording us the use of your facilities for our wedding service! It was so special to be in the place where Josh grew up. The sanctuary is not only beautiful but also fitting for the sound of organ and choral music. Please know you have played a vital part in making our special day memorable and meaningful.

Since our wedding, we have made the move to Oklahoma and jumped head first into our jobs and life together. Josh is still an officer in the Navy, stationed at Tinker AFB, and Lori Beth is in her first year of teaching both middle and high school chorus. We know we are truly blessed with a smooth transition into marriage and life in Oklahoma. Our thanks goes to all of our family and friends from home, back in North Carolina; we couldn't do it without your support!

*Much love, Josh and Lori Beth Sink*

First Reformed UCC,

Thank you all so much for the use of your facilities on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Charles Holloway, Davidson County Community Action*

To the Congregation and Board of Christian Education of First Reformed UCC,

Thank you so much for the special recognition of my fifteen years of service here at First Reformed UCC. Although my position is challenging at times, I do believe that I am working where God wants me to be. I like the work I do and you, the members of the church, are all a part of my extended family.

*With Love and Appreciation, Paula*

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent gift in honor of Sunday School Teachers. Thank you for your continued support of Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic, Inc. Our economy is such that more and more people are asking for help from the clinic. We are grateful for those who remember us and give to the organization. We appreciate your care and concern for others.

*Sincerely, Laura Turlington, Davidson Medical Ministries*

Dear Members of First Church,

I appreciate so much your prayers and cards at this time of my illness and transition.

*Sincerely, Barbara Schaeffer*

## September Memorials

### **WILLIAM G. SMITH**

Banks and Eulene Shepherd  
Merle and Jerry Hodges  
Don Leonard  
Katherine Skipper  
Henry and Juanita Beck

### **JANE SURRATT COFFEY {Lloyd Surratt's Sister}**

Banks and Eulene Shepherd



# OCTOBER STEWARDS

**Ushers:** Chairperson: Peggy Bates

Captain: Tom Danze

Ushers: Susan Odom, Roy Bevan, Jeff Hutchens

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:20 a.m. SS Social  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Plate Attendant:** J.W. Bates

**Acolytes:** Mary Lloyd Callicutt and Griff Smith

**Sound Tech:** James Gray

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

**Social:** Host/Hostess: Eddie and Belinda Yates and Walter and Ann Hoffman

<b>Greeters:</b>	October 4	Birke, Amy, Kaitlyn and Lucy McNeill
	October 11	John and Vicky Gray
	October 18	Raeann and Holt Biesecker
	October 25	John and Sylvia Walser

SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY

WORSHIP HOUR NURSERY

<b>Nursery:</b>	October 4	Harriette Murphy	Beth and Frank Callicutt
	October 11	Paula Lopp	Nicole and Mark Smith
	October 18	Glenyce Fulton	Nina and Ted Smith
	October 25	Mary Jo Jessup	Sauni and Thomas Johnson



*(Alston Brook)* Betty Potts

*(Centerclair)* Jeanne Trexler

*(Lexington Health Care)* Louise Rollins, Margaret Trexler

*(St. Martins in the Pines)* Barbara Schaeffer

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

Ethel Bailey, Sadie Bailey, Arlene Swing, Ronnie Durham, Joel Reece, Doris Frye, Mary Rhodes, Hilda Leonard, Henry and Juanita Beck, Jacqueline Leonard, Giles Crowell, Gertrude Jarvis, Catherine Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard, Micki Smith, and Velna Swing. Also, please remember Steve Waitman (Cathy's husband), Ernie Bonner, Spencer Wilson, Joyce Bowie (Joyce Price's sister-in-law), Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier), and Susan Fletcher (Anne Fletcher's Mother). To add a name to the prayer chain, please contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office at 248-2617.

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

- ◆ The family of **William Gerald Smith**.
- ◆ Lloyd and Laura Surratt upon the death of Lloyd's sister, **Jane Surratt Coffey**.
- ◆ The family of **Reverend Lynwood Hubbard**



# OCTOBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class 7:15 p.m. (FH) "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>WNCA Meeting</b> Holy Covenant UCC Charlotte, NC
<b>4</b> 9:45 a.m. {Chapel} JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:20 a.m. {FH} SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIAL 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION 2 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Choir Practice 7 p.m. (FH) COMMUNITY YOUTH ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING	<b>5</b> 6:30 p.m. {Parlor} BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING 7:30 p.m. (Parlor) NOMINATING COMM. MEETING	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00 a.m. {Parlor} MORNING GLORY CIRCLE 7:00 p.m. ADULT CHOIR	<b>8</b> 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class 7:15 p.m. (FH) "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH AND PRESENTATION OF 2010 BUDGET Consistory Meeting Following Lunch in WW Classroom 2 p.m. (S) Candlelight Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 5:30 p.m. {Parlor} Scrap-Book/Craft Class	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m. (Parlor) GLAMA Meeting 7:00 p.m. ADULT CHOIR	<b>15</b> 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class 6:00 p.m. (FH) MEN'S BROTHERHOOD DINNER MEETING 7:15 p.m. (FH) "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE 2 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Choir Practice COMMUNITY YOUTH MEETING	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 p.m. {P} WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP AND KIDS' CLUB	<b>21</b> Noon (FH) 7 p.m. ADULT CHOIR	<b>22</b> 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class 7:15 p.m. (FH) "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>BBQ Festival</b> Girl Scouts parking vehicles in church parking lots
<b>25</b> 9:45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH 2 p.m. (FH) Candlelight Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 p.m. (FH) Writer's Guild	<b>28</b> Noon (FH) FRIENDSHIP CLUB COVERED DISH LUNCH 7:00 p.m. ADULT CHOIR	<b>29</b> 5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class 7:15 p.m. (FH) "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Nov. 1 : DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS MEMORIAL SUNDAY AND CROP WALK Nov. 8: Dedicate Pledges

# Congregational Lunch and Meeting

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2009



Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 11th. Yarborough's Restaurant is serving a delicious lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship service. PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS by calling the church office at 248-2617 or filling out the form in your Sunday bulletin. Donations for lunch will be accepted at the door.

Following lunch the Finance Committee, chaired by Scott Frye, will present the proposed budget for 2010. All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of our church.



### First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ  
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**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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