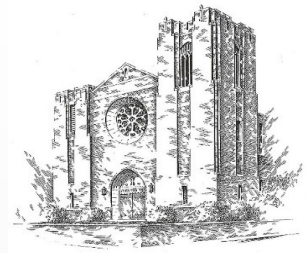


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



August 2010



Since my present IIM contract with First Reformed UCC concludes on Friday, October 15, 2010, it is time for us to begin to evaluate our IIM experience together. After consulting with the Reverend June Grubb, I have chosen to initiate our reflections by sharing several statements about this process as found in the IIM *Training and Resource Notebook* (copyright 2006) which I have used frequently throughout the various phases of our work together. The first article is entitled “**Evaluating Interim Ministry**,” by David L. Odom. While this statement is technically addressed to the minister, it demonstrates the logic of the evaluating process reasonably well, leading as it does into the second article, entitled “**Cautions in Evaluating Interim Pastors**,” by Jim Davis. Finally, I think you will be interested in the last entry for our purposes here, namely “**Exit Interview with Intentional Interim Minister**,” by B. Leslie Robinson, Jr., known to some of us as “Les.” If you spend some thoughtful, prayerful consideration upon each of these pieces, I believe that you will have begun your “intentional” preparation to participate in this important evaluation process, the venues for which will be determined shortly. I conclude with a quotation from Jim Davis, lifted from his next to last paragraph: “It is not just the interim pastor who should be evaluated but rather the whole interim ministry, including the roles of the judicatory and the congregation. We are helped when we think of evaluation in this broader context.”

Blessings and Shalom, Rev. Walt

EVALUATING INTERIM MINISTRY

David L. Odom

How do you know when you have helped a church? Such a simple question. Such a difficult question. It is so difficult that most ministers resist a formal answer to it.

Most of the evaluation of pastoral ministry comes at the Sunday dinner table, in the church parking lot, or the back row of the pastor’s conference. Is it possible that a more formal evaluation of ministry that is shared between pastor and church leaders could facilitate conversation that might improve the health of the congregation and its ministries?

Evaluating is one of the process tasks of the interim pastor. This task is part of bringing closure to the interim pastor’s ministry with the church. In the following article by Jim Davis, you can read the reflections of an experienced interim pastor on the challenges of evaluation. Such activity should be done with Davis’ cautions in mind. But, it should be done.

Evaluating the interim time is good for the interim pastor, the church, and the arriving pastor. The interim pastor will discover the people’s impressions of the pastor’s work. The church leaders will have the chance to share their feelings of appreciation and regret. The new pastor and church will have the chance to continue the conversation about “how things are going.” Everyone can learn the advantage of talking to each other instead of about each other.

The format of the evaluation conversation can be very simple. It would work best if someone outside the church came to facilitate the conversation. The “fresh ears” of an outsider will require people to tell more of the church’s story. Participants in the evaluation will vary based on the circumstances of the church. The situation might require that the interim pastor conduct several evaluation conversations with various church groups. Three basic questions form the outline of the conversation:

What has gone well during the interim time in the church?

What has not gone well during the interim time?

What we would like to do differently in the future?

These questions focus on the experience of the church. To give an opportunity for specific feedback, the facilitator could rephrase the same questions in terms of the work of the interim pastor.

What have we appreciated about the interim pastor and his/her ministry?

What have we regretted about the interim pastor and his/her ministry?

What do we hope for the interim pastor in the future?

Church members often find it difficult to talk about “what has not gone well” or regrets. At least it is difficult to say these things in a meeting. What a wonderful gift to a church to say, “You can share your regrets with me in an open meeting.” This can be an important step in honest dialogue with a pastor.

In my work of facilitating evaluations of interim pastors, I have found it important to begin the conversation with questions about the experience of the church. Then attention can be turned to the work of the interim pastor. Evaluating what has happened in the church is very important for the development of the church.

Jim Davis is right in the following article. Timing is critical in the effects of the evaluation. My encouragement is to begin early in the interim. Ask people what is going well, what is not going well, and what we need to do differently. When the end of the interim time arrives, the church leaders will not be surprised by the questions during evaluation.

CAUTIONS IN EVALUATING INTERIM PASTORS

Jim Davis

Sometimes they love you and sometimes they hate you. Fortunately, it is more often the former and less often the later or there would be fewer interim pastors. Still, it is disconcerting to receive the anger of congregational members as they go through their grieving process or when they react negatively to an unpopular stance the interim pastor takes for the long-term welfare of the congregation. And, so much harm can be done when one or more of those unhappy parishioners bend the ear of the leaders in the next congregation with which the interim pastor is interviewing or they complain to the judicatory person responsible for making recommendations.

In spite of the significant concern of almost everybody in interim ministry about evaluation of interim pastoral ministry, no standard for evaluation has emerged. Still, evaluations are constantly being made, if not formally, then informally.

Part of the reason it is difficult to evaluate interim pastors is that the church has difficulty evaluating installed parish pastors. Since the church is not clear about the evaluation of usual parish pastors, no wonder it is confused about interim pastors.

Part of the confusion probably comes from the fact that pastoral evaluation as we think of it is a recent import into the church. The field of organizational development has influenced the church in recent decades to look at itself with an objectivity that is new. As business has looked to organizational development principles (including evaluation), the church has followed at a distance. Some denominations have even modified their organizational processes to follow a style of management by objectives.

Meanwhile, the laity of the church has developed not only a stronger voice but also a greater involvement in the role of the pastor. No longer are they impressed just because we stand in the pulpit on Sunday mornings. Living in an activist, success oriented culture, they bring those values into the church and apply them to their pastors.

Finally, the complexity of the pastoral role makes evaluation difficult. It's no longer just preach, teach, and visit the sick and shut-ins. Now pastors are expected to be motivators, administrators, entertainers, and what-ers. And, every congregation packages their expectations differently.

Though it may be difficult, the evaluation of interim pastors can be done with careful attention to three areas: what is evaluated, who does the evaluation, and when it is done.

What is evaluated becomes the criteria and standards by which the interim pastoral ministry will be measured. This should go beyond recordings of vague opinions and impressions. Words such as "helpful" and "useful" do not describe a ministry but are opinions of that ministry based on unknown standards.

Measures of popularity also are inadequate. I may not like my dentist or the pain the dentist causes me - but my dentist does the important task of keeping my teeth healthy and working. Sometimes the task of the interim pastor is to remove an abscess that has been hurting the life of the congregation for a long time; or maybe the interim receives the anger of the congregation's grief process but doesn't get to stay long enough to be part of the resolution of that grief. In both of these instances, the interim will probably be unpopular and receive a poor evaluation from the members; but the interim will have done a very therapeutic ministry for the congregation.

A better measure is the "Five Developmental Tasks" developed by Loren Mead and familiar to most trained interim pastors. They can provide a framework for evaluation (which may be all we can hope for). Many congregations have probably found the concepts of these tasks helpful; but for other congregations the tasks are too abstract and removed from the concerns the people feel.

Often neglected are the unique standards of the church, it's theology, doctrine, and polity. Unfortunately, some current pastoral evaluation tools can just as well measure the leader of any kind of organization. A professional intentional interim pastor needs to be measured by the unique standards of his or her field; so it is with medical practitioners, psychologists, and even auto mechanics and so it should be with interim pastors. They should be measured as theologians, spiritual leaders, etc. as they apply their skills to their interim ministries.

The most important criterion for measuring the ministry of an interim pastor is the ministry that the congregation later has with its next pastor. After all, an interim pastor's goal is not just for the present ministry but also for the long-term ministry of the congregation. A good question to ask is, was the congregation better able to become involved in ministry with the next pastor because of the ministry of the interim minister, and to what extent?

This may not be an easy question to get answered, but popularity, "Developmental Interim Tasks," and everything else are valueless if they don't facilitate the next ministry.

Who does the measuring? The evaluator must have knowledge of the subject, i.e., interim pastoral ministry, and have objectivity. This excludes as evaluators the parishioners of the congregations being served. Their knowledge of interim ministry is limited and they will be subjective since they were personally involved in the ministry. However, they are a source of hard data about what happened in the ministry. One or more knowledgeable objective evaluators can then review that data, along with any opinions of theirs, which might be collected.

The evaluation of the data needs to be on the basis of general goals, which were agreed to by those doing the evaluating and the interim pastor prior to the beginning of the interim ministry. This means that the evaluator and the interim pastor must agree on the broad goals of the interim ministry before it begins. As the ministry progresses, the interim pastor needs to keep in mind how the various aspects of the ministry fit into these broader goals of the interim ministry.

When the evaluation occurs also is significant. The temptation is to do the evaluation shortly after the interim ministry concludes. The advantage of this is that fresh information can be gathered and with great detail. The disadvantage is that the interim pastoral ministry has not yet ended. Interim ministry is like a fruit that takes time to ripen; the ministry, which was planted and grown during the interim period, develops and ripens with the beginning of the next pastorate. There can be no interim pastoral ministry without an installed pastoral ministry to follow it. If the interim pastoral ministry is measured and evaluated before it has time to develop and ripen, it is liable to have a lot of green apples. This suggests that some data might be obtained at the conclusion of the interim pastorate but that other data can only be obtained six months, a year or two years later.

The evaluation of interim pastoral ministry is something we are just beginning to learn about. Let me conclude with the broader question. It is not just the interim pastor who should be evaluated but rather the whole interim ministry, including the roles of the judicatory and the congregation. We are helped when we think of evaluation in this broader context.

SPECIAL NOTE: Since the writing of these articles, the Center has formed **YCORE**, and has established the Reflections process to help address many of these comments/concerns (Chapter 2). Likewise, the Center just completed an extensive survey of churches that completed Intentional Interim Ministry within the last 5 years, measuring the continued effects of the interim period (see Chapter 1). This research will be on-going.

EXIT INTERVIEW WITH INTENTIONAL INTERIM MINISTER

B. Leslie Robinson, Jr.

YCORE members who wish to maintain their designation as an intentional interim ministry specialist are required to participate in a Reflections session at the end of each interim experience. In addition, however, it could be a valuable experience for both the interim and the congregation, to engage in an exit interview. This provides an opportunity to address matters that are not necessarily a part of the Reflections experience.

Following are some questions the interim can give to the key leaders to be used in conducting an exit interview.

1. What are some of the things that attracted you to this congregation?
2. In what way(s) was our congregation different from what you expected when you first came to serve as the intentional interim minister?
3. Are there special pastoral concerns or griefs that need to be attended to?
4. What could the church leaders have done to better prepare you for the existing church climate/environment?
5. What do you see as the congregation's strengths today?
6. Were there things we did not accomplish that you hoped we would? If so, what could we have done to accomplish them?
7. What ministries and/or missions do you believe this congregation is ready to launch/develop?
8. If you could have been a candidate for the installed position, would you have submitted your profile? Why or why not?
9. How would you describe this congregation to the next pastor?
10. What will be the easiest part of your leaving this congregation?
11. What will be the most difficult part of your leaving this congregation?
12. What is your greatest hope for our next pastor?

NOTE: there will not be enough time to cover all of these questions. A 90-minute interview might include as many as six questions.

Search Committee Update

Since our last report we have received three new profiles. At our July 26th meeting we retained only one of those. We have had one phone interview and listened to one recorded sermon. We are in the process of checking references of two candidates and setting up an interview. We also keep in touch by phone or email with all the candidates whose profiles we have retained.



With your input — survey—, reading profiles, and checking references we have retained six impressive profiles. Their references range from teachers, professors, classmates, friends, colleagues, neighbors, community leaders, church members, etc. We also do some reference searches of our own.

We only met twice in July. Vacations have made a quorum difficult. However, not meeting nor vacations have slowed the search. We continue to work at home and keep in touch by email or phone. No decisions are made until each committee member has had an opportunity to be heard and we all agree.

Keep in touch with us. We are listening. We are most grateful for your prayers, your support, and your patience.

Search Committee Members:

Dawn Shaak, Chairperson

Eulene Shepherd, Chaplain

Sauni Johnson

Mark Smith, Vice Chairperson

Vicky Gray

Birke McNeill

Clifford Lopp, Recording Secretary

Walter Hoffman

Tony Peele



The Finance Committee of First Reformed United Church of Christ will sponsor a dinner and mystery theatre fundraiser at the **Corner Café Dinner Theater** (fellowship hall) on Saturday, October 16, 2010. Auditions for male and female actors will be held in August. Proceeds from the dinner and play will assist the First Reformed UCC general fund. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carolyn Spivey for details.

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

First Reformed UCC members can be proud of our benevolent gift of the use of our kitchen for preparing meals for the Lexington Area Meals on Wheels program. We have provided this service to our community for many years. Seven routes are delivered daily with eight downtown churches participating in delivery. Each church has a route coordinator who seeks volunteers from their church to deliver the meals on a daily basis...five days a week, 52 weeks a year with 5 holidays during the year. First Reformed UCC has been very fortunate to always have qualified coordinators to visit clients and assemble volunteers to deliver. Our coordinator for many years, Marguerite Leonard is passing the torch to two qualified replacements. Alisa Johnson will now be handling the client interviews and processing. Bill Walser will handle the scheduling of volunteers. Currently we are in need of substitute volunteers who will be called to fill-in if a regular carrier is unable to deliver on his/her designated day. If you can assist with this rewarding project or have questions, please contact Bill Walser at 247-3942.



CONSISTORY

O *By: June Grubb, Consistory President*

R This past Spring, the Consistory voted upon the recommendation from the Evangelism Committee, to enroll our congregation with the national body of Stephen Ministries. We have paid the one time fee to enroll which provides many benefits, some of which include:

- N**
- ◆ A step-by-step system for establishing a lay caring ministry that works and lasts;
 - ◆ Access to high quality training and resources; and
 - ◆ Free ongoing consultation and support.

E This past Sunday Dave Fulton, co-chair of our Board of Evangelism, and I provided a formal introduction to the Stephen Ministry program as a dialogue sermon. The following comments are from that dialogue.

R **Why is this ministry called the Stephen Ministry?**

Stephen was one of the first lay people commissioned by the Apostles to provide a caring ministry. His story can be found in Acts 6 and 7 of the New Testament. The Disciples felt they should spend their time praying, preaching and teaching the word of God, not be administrators of the church. Stephen was one of the first Deacons of the church, and as such he distributed food to the needy. He was known for his spiritual qualities of faith, wisdom, grace, and power and for the Spirit's presence in his life. One of the many lessons that can be learned from Stephen's life is that real understanding of God always leads to practical and compassionate actions towards others.

There are two types of people who are involved in the Stephen Ministry. **What is the difference between a Stephen Leader and a Stephen Minister?**

Stephen Leaders are pastors and/or lay leaders who direct Stephen Ministry in their congregation and community. They attend a one-week Leader's Training Course where they learn how to:

- ◆ Build support for Stephen Ministry;
- ◆ Recruit, select, and train Stephen Ministers;
- ◆ Find people in need of care; and with their consent, match them with Stephen Ministers; and
- ◆ Provide Stephen Ministers with regular support and supervision.

Stephen Ministers are laypeople who receive 50 hours of Christian care giving training in their congregation---and then after commissioning from the congregation, provide one-to-one Christ-centered care to hurting people. Each Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour. They also meet with their Stephen Leaders twice a month for ongoing support and continuing education.

In our congregation, who will be trained as our Stephen Leader?

John Barber has graciously agreed to attend the Stephen Leader's Training Course which will held August 1-7 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After his training, he will join the Rev. Cyndi Burns, pastor of New Friendship UCC, in enlisting potential Stephen Ministers. Rev. Burns is already a Stephen Leader. She and John will be conducting the training of the Stephen Ministers from both our church and New Friendship. As time goes by, other selected individuals will be sent to the Leadership Training program as the ministry grows.

What qualities and skills is the Stephen Leader looking for in someone who might be interested in being a Stephen Minister?

The potential Stephen Minister should be someone who is compassionate, full of faith, willing to learn the care-giving skills, trustworthy, able to maintain confidentiality, willing to make a potential long-term commitment to your care receiver, and lastly but most importantly one who is Christ-centered.

Consistory Corner, *continued*

The ability to listen is one of the most important skills that a Stephen Minister has. You will be trained in the Art of Listening. Listening is caring. You will have the ability to listen as a care receiver shares his/her painful feelings---feelings of joy, feelings of hope, and eventually feelings of gratitude to God for healing.

What types of care-giving situations are Stephen Ministers used in?

Those individuals of our church who complete the 50 hour training and are commissioned by our congregation to be Stephen Ministers will be equipped to provide one-to-one care to individuals who may be facing many challenges or crises---grief, divorce, cancer, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, loss of a job, disabilities, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles.

Not only will the Stephen Ministers provide care to members of our own congregation, they can also provide care to nonmembers. This means that Stephen Ministry can be a powerful outreach ministry of our church to unchurched people in crisis.

The Rev. Kenneth Haugk, founder of Stephen Ministry, states in his book *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*, "You may never be more Christ-like than when you participate in the suffering and sorrow of a hurting world, wrestling with the pain and providing the comfort of community. Christ set the pattern: death, then rebirth; dying, then living again; suffering, then consolation. As you model the life of Christ in ministry to others, you become Christ to hurting people....So when you care for those in need, you are offering a doubly powerful witness to the presence of Christ in the world---Christ alive in you and in the one to whom you are offering care."

The Board of Evangelism will be working with John Barber when he returns from the national training. They will begin the process of selecting, recruiting and training laypeople within our congregation for this exciting new ministry opportunity.

First Reformed Congregation,

If you've been paying attention to financial information that has been printed in the newsletter for the last few months, you know that we have a budget shortfall. Of course we have to pay utility bills, phone bills, general maintenance bills, salaries, etc.; and thankfully we have been able to meet these obligations. However, benevolences for the first two quarters of the year have not been paid. Although budgeted, benevolences are not a necessity to keep our church operational; however, they are a necessity to the non-profit organizations that rely on people like us to assist the community. We have always prided ourselves for allotting a high percentage of our budget for benevolent giving. It cannot just be a number on a paper.

Many of First Reformed United Church of Christ's leaders who provided financial stability are no longer with us. We do have those who are stepping up; however, to meet all budgetary needs, including our benevolences, we ALL need to do our part. We must commit ourselves, individually and as a congregation, to take responsibility for protecting the heritage, set forth by our forefathers, for our children and those who are yet to come.

Everyone needs a vacation to relax and refresh. During this time of relaxation, please do not forget to send your pledge.



LIVE IT Up
LIVE IT with love
LIVE IT with forgiveness

LIVE IT! **IN LEXINGTON**
NC 2010
LIVE IT to share

For to me, living means living for Christ.
- Philippians 1:21



The first year of Davidson County Outreach's "Live It in Lexington" work camp hosted by First Reformed UCC was a huge success! Several youth from the Community Youth Group participated alongside twenty seven youth and adults from Ohio. The week began with five work crews traveling to the homes of three local residents to do repairs while one crew remained at the church to host a Galactic Blast VBS. Throughout the week the repair work crews completed a laundry list of home repairs ranging from roofing, painting, vinyl siding, repairing porches to building steps. The VBS crew transformed the Education Building into an outer space adventure full of craft stations, singing and dancing and cool galactic games.



Each day the worksite devotions and worship services revolved around a different way to live their lives through the Spirit of Christ. Morning and evening programs were filled with singing, dancing and opportunities for the campers to share how they had seen God at work during the week.

At the end of the week when the last nail had been driven and the rocket ship had been disassembled everyone took comfort in a job well done. Friday evening came with a celebration shared between the residents, campers and the congregation. A wonderful dinner was shared as well as a worship service that allowed everyone to reflect on the week and how to carry it into the future.



As we look ahead, please know that this work camp has carved a permanent place in our ministry and our community. As this article is being written, preparations are already being made for 2012, so get ready!!

A super sized THANK YOU!!!! goes out to all of the volunteers who helped make this work camp possible. It could not have been done without you. And to the Meals on Wheels ladies, another huge THANK YOU!! (for sharing the fridge).

If you would like your own "Live It in Lexington 2010" T-shirt, a sign up sheet is located outside the office. *Chris and Amanda Fulton*

Christian Education

Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education

July has been a very exciting month! The Youth Camp workers moved into our education building to live for a week and they transformed the third floor into a spaceship adventure for Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School. The workers were well fed thanks to Belinda, Mike, Glenyce, and church volunteers. The work they did in the community was greatly appreciated. The Dispatch website even has a video showing the busy workers at one site.

While most of the campers were working in the community, a group of the teenage girls held VBS here at the church. The 19 children who attended had a great time participating in Bible stories, science projects, crafts, and fun outside activities. They were able to play on the playground thanks to the property committee spreading the new mulch. Thank you to the church ladies who led the children from place to place: June Grubb, Lena Johnson, Amy McNeill, Harriette Murphy, Gladys Snider, and Carolyn Spivey, the playground "guard," Nancy Robbins, and the ladies who served the lunches: Anne Bevan, Lynn Brown, Vicky Gray, and Janette Neal. A special thank you is sent to the parents who made sure their children were here each day!

A huge thank you goes to Chris and Amanda for planning and pulling together all of the different aspects of the work camp. They did a tremendous job and the camp was very successful! Scott Mullens, the leader of the youth group from Ohio, also did a great job in planning and implementing the camp. Everyone who attended worshipped, worked hard, and had a great time! What a wonderful opportunity for our church to serve and for the community exposure we received!

Before you know it, summer will be over and the new school year will begin. Our Children's Church will meet next month, followed by Kids' Club in September. Roads to God will kick off a new study of the Bible on Rally Day (*September 12th*) and the Two by Two class will continue their lessons from Rock Solid. All of the adult Sunday school classes invite more of our church members to join them for learning and fellowship. We need lots of help to make our Sunday school successful. If you would like to volunteer to lead a class or one month of children's activities, please call me and I will be extremely happy to include you. Remember if you don't call me, I may call you!

Perfect Attendance!

Sunday School July 2010

Adena Wall	Katherine Skipper	Wanda Daye
Jo Hudson	Vicky Green	Ramona Yarbrough
Peggy Bates	Doris Flynt	Betty Bates
Nancy Robbins	Eulene Shepherd	Elizabeth Sink
John Barber	J.W. Bates	Butch Bouchard
Earlie Hartley	Don Leonard	John Potts
Banks Shepherd	Clifford Lopp	Paula Lopp
Camille Morgan	Cathy Waitman	

July 2010 Memorials

DINA ROBERTS {Sauni Johnson's Sister}

- Carolyn and Carroll Spivey
- Women's Life Fellowship
- Merle and Jerry Hodges
- Banks and Eulene Shepherd
- Doris Frye
- Cathy Waitman



JEANNE MOORE TREXLER

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Merle and Jerry Hodges | Henry and Juanita Beck |
| Katherine Skipper | Don Leonard |
| Holton Davis | John Potts and Janette Neal |
| Cathy Waitman | Roy and Anne Bevan |
| Marguerite Leonard | Banks and Eulene Shepherd |
| George and Nell Clifton | Frank C. Leonard |
| Doris Frye | Sam and Judy Fritts |
| Frank and Margaret Hunter | Mary Crouse |
| Janie Lohr | James and Norma Phillips |

Prayer Shawl/Quilt Ministry

The Board of Evangelism is starting a Prayer Shawl/Quilt Ministry. This is a ministry in which an individual or group would present to a recipient a shawl or quilt that has been handmade and blessed by prayers from members of this congregation. The recipient may be someone that is ill, having surgery, or in the midst of a crisis that might be helped by receiving a special gift of love and thoughtfulness. The recipients would not be limited to members of this congregation, but could include friends, relatives, co-workers, or family members.

With that being said, the Board of Evangelism is looking for a "few good women" and even men who know how (or would like to learn how) to quilt, knit, or crochet. If you would be interested in this very meaningful and loving ministry, please contact either Janette Neal at 248-6325 or David Fulton at 956-1788 for more information.

You're Invited!



The **CONGREGATION** is invited to the annual United Friendship Club **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** on Wednesday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Bring a freezer of your favorite homemade ice cream, or a dessert to serve with the ice cream.

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

Many thanks to the **Property Committee**, chaired by Mike Brown, for the extra effort in several projects this past month.

Unless someone is in the building daily the many "behind-the-scenes" activities that take place go unnoticed.

Special thanks to those who participated in the July 14th project.

J.W. Bates, John Potts, Rich Johnson, Doug Sink,
Paul Freeman, Jeff Hutchens (and crew), Tom Danze
Clifford Lopp, John Smith, and Mike Brown



VBS Soup Project...

First Reformed member, Giles Crowell, called to thank those responsible for bringing a jar of potato soup to his home.

Those thanks are extended to the children who participated in the First and Second Reformed Vacation Bible School. One of their projects was preparing jars with the ingredients for making homemade potato soup. These jars were delivered to the shut-ins of both First and Second Reformed Churches.

First Reformed UCC,

Please convey our thanks to the lovely and generous ladies that prepared and served the delicious luncheon to our family after mother's funeral. Everything was perfect and done with such grace that we felt the love and comfort totally surround us. Having grown up at First Reformed and beginning my marriage there gave me an opportunity to revisit wonderful memories. Thank you all so much

Love, *Marion Trexler Rose*
Jeanne Trexler's Daughter

AUGUST STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Ramona Yarbrough

Captain: John Potts

Ushers: Ron Hutcheson, Myra Thompson, Janette Neal, Cheryl Walser

Plate Attendant: John Walser

Sound Tech: Jordan McCarn

Adult Joint Sunday School: Responsible for lesson - - - Seekers Class

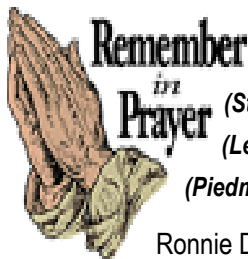
Social Host/Hostess: Mary Jo Jessup and Beth Callicutt



Worship Greeters:

August 1	Pattie Everhart and Marzell Crotts
August 8	John and Sylvia Walser
August 15	Janie Lohr and Janelle Bunn
August 22	Myrtle Latimer and Pattie Everhart
August 29	Bill and Cheryl Walser

	WORSHIP HOUR NURSERY	SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY
Nursery Caregivers: August 1	Lynn Klopp	Mary Jo Jessup
August 8	Anne Fletcher	Jessica Bentley
August 15	Amy & Birke McNeill	Sylvia Walser and Aurelia Smith
August 22	Raeann & Brad Biesecker	Heidi Hutcheson
August 29	Dawn Shaak	Paula Lopp



Remember (Alston Brook) Betty Potts, Catherine Leonard
Prayer (Sunrise Assisted Living) Elmer Morgan
 (St. Martins in the Pines) Barbara Schaeffer
 (Lexington Health Care) Mary Rhodes
 (Piedmont Crossing) Henry & Ernestine Kennedy, Frances Leonard, Rita Tussey

Ronnie Durham, Ernie Bonner, Sadie Bailey, Arlene Swing, Joel Reece, Henry and Juanita Beck, Jacqueline Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard, Giles Crowell, Micki Smith, Velna Swing, and Steve Murdock. Also, remember Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family), Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman's Uncle), Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Susan Cadwallader (Anne Fletcher's Mother), and please remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. 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 Trexler family upon the death of their loved one and our friend, Jeanne Moore Trexler.



August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 am {Chapel} Joint Sunday School 10:20 a.m. {FH} Sunday School Social 11:00 a.m. Worship Service	2 6:30 p.m. {Parlor} BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	3 2 p.m. {Parlor} Meals on Wheels Mtg. 7:00 p.m. {Parlor} FINANCE COMM MTG.	4 11 a.m. {Parlor} MORNING GLORY CIRCLE	5 5:30 p.m. {P} YOGA	6	7
8 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 6 p.m. CONSISTORY MTG.	9 6:30 p.m. {Parlor} SEARCH COMMITTEE	10	11	12 5:30 p.m. {P} YOGA	13	14
15 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service	16	17 6:30 p.m. Women's Life Fellowship Picnic Carolyn Spivey's House	18	19 5:30 p.m. {P} YOGA	20	21
22 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service	23	24	25 6:30 p.m. Friendship Club and Congregation Ice Cream Social	26 5:30 p.m. {P} YOGA	27	28
29 9:45a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service	30	31	Sunday, September 12, 2010 --- Rally Day Celebration--- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Noon Rally Day Lunch			

Stewardship Message

Sabbath Time

I lift up my eyes to the hills... Psalm 121

When you read this message, I hope to be having some Sabbath and renewal time in the mountains of New Hampshire. I know that my help does not come from pine-covered hills, but from the God who made heaven and earth. Still it helps to get away even for just a week to a place of beauty and rest. I hope you have the chance to go somewhere you find restful, even if it is your own backyard. Perhaps the most violated of the Ten Commandments is the one about taking Sabbath time; God tried to establish a society where one of the basic rules was that no created being, not even a servant, should work all the time. We need to take time simply to, as an old Confession puts it, remember that our "chief end" is to praise and enjoy God.

In your Sabbath, whether a day off or a vacation, give of your mental capital, your spiritual energy, to listen for God this summer. Time for reflection, for wonder, for honest questions, for waiting on the Spirit all are gifts to ourselves, to God, and ultimately to our faith communities. This kind of time makes us whole, so that we can work with God to bring wholeness to the world. Give God time this summer. Oh, and don't forget to send in your pledge, too!

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

August 2010

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



God is still speaking,

First News

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

www.frucc.org

Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Intentional Interim Minister.....Rev. Walter Patten, Ph.D.
Email: wrpatten@earthlink.net or minister@frucc.org
Interim Director of Christian Education..... Cathy Waitman
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
U.S. Postage Paid
Lexington, NC 27292
Permit #168