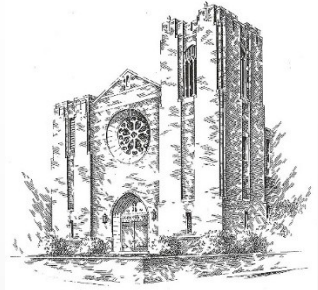


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



August 2011



How do we practice radical and extravagant hospitality? We certainly know “Southern” hospitality, but how do we bump it up a notch to become radical and extravagant? Once, again, the corporate world offers a possible answer. If you have visited Disney World, then you may know what I refer to in this article. Dr. Christopher Perry has written “The Church Mouse” and presented webinars focusing on how the church can apply Disney’s principles to its culture. I glean much of what I write from that source.

First and foremost, people are important. Disney treats everyone as an honored guest. Everyone feels important, not as a customer or visitor, but as an honored guest that is truly valued. The cast members (that’s the terminology for employee) seek to find ways to connect with their guests. They understand that it’s imperative to build good, strong relationships quickly with their honored guests. And they know that everyone is a VIP (a very individual person) and needs to be treated accordingly. We in the church can do likewise simply by treating everyone with honor, respect and, yes, even love. When we see someone new, receive them as an honored guest. Perhaps we need “parking lot” hosts/greeters and certainly hosts at every door who are genuinely delighted to see any and everyone. Our hosts need to introduce these honored guests to others, as we strive to create a “first name” friend.

For Disney the “Blue Sky” concept is equivalent to the blank slate. It can represent a frightening obstacle or a terrific opportunity. It defines how one envisions the surrounding world, either as a problem or an opportunity. Walt Disney said, “It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.” And for Disney there are no bad ideas, no rules when it comes to dreaming and imagining, and the sky’s the limit. (This is similar to IBM’s notion of developing programs that dare to fail. See last month’s article.) So for Disney, the “Blue Sky” is always opportunity, never frightening. Jesus is quoted in Matthew 19:26, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” As we strive to do Jesus’ ministry in this day and time, I firmly believe the Holy Spirit equips us to fulfill God’s purpose. For the church that means that heaven’s the limit.

Disney has an eye for details. Even what appears to be the least and of little consequence is important in creating the detailed reality they wish experienced. For the church our reality is simply that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. And the details lie in practicing that which we preach, living the details of our lives in a way that we become an unspoken testament to the love of our Lord and Savior.

Disney ensures that every cast member has a sense of purpose. Everyone is expected to exceed expectations. Coaching (teaching) is crucial to their understanding and success. Disney encourages every cast member to create “magic” moments for their honored guests. And any feedback is clear, constructive and effective. All of these characteristics should be second nature to a community of faith. We simply have to practice a radical and extravagant hospitality. A hospitality that goes beyond the extra mile or extra effort. A hospitality that asks “Have I told you today that I love you?”

*Your RunnRev,
Robin*

You're Invited!



The **CONGREGATION** is invited to the annual United Friendship Club **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** on Wednesday, August 28th 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!

Prayer Shawl Participants...

Reminder...Prayer Shawl Ministry members please turn in completed shawls as soon as possible. We want to label everything prior to the Blessing of the Prayer Shawls during the morning worship service on August 14th.



Women's Life Fellowship

Women's Life Fellowship didn't have meetings in the months of June and July but we've still been busy.

On Friday, June 24th Women's Life Fellowship members went to Lexington Middle School to show our appreciation to the Group Work Camp youth by serving ice cream sundaes to approximately 450 people. These young people had traveled from different parts of the United States to serve our community by building ramps, painting and doing repair work for local individuals. After the youth were revved up by The Sounds of Light, the praise band from Beck's Reformed Church, they descended on the ice cream, syrup, sprinkles, whipped cream, cherries, etc. When the storm settled, we were thankful that we knew the story of the "loaves and fishes" and that God does still multiply! Special thanks goes to Women's Life Fellowship members for funding; Beth and Nina for shopping; and Robin, Trudy, John Potts, Janette, Anne Bevan, Dave, Glenyce, Lisa, Clifford and Paula for serving the sundaes.

On Thursday, June 30th Women's Life Fellowship continued a tradition of serving at the Arts Discovery Camp held at Grace Episcopal Church the week of June 27th through July 1st. The children who attend are introduced to many aspects of Art. Thanks goes to Women's Life Fellowship for funding; Paula and Cathy for shopping; and Janette Neal, Anne Bevan and Lynn Brown for serving. The children were very appreciative.

Our Director of Christian Education, Cathy Waitman has sent an email to Women's Life Fellowship members requesting our help with VBS. She has assigned certain items for each member to bring to the church office or leave in the narthex Sunday, July 24th or 31st. I think Cathy said it best in her email: "Thank you all for being so willing to help anytime I ask. You are a wonderful group of ladies!" Amen.

On **Tuesday, August 16th at 6:30 p.m.** we will have a picnic at the home of Nina Smith. All ladies of the church are welcome!

Blessing of the Animals Ceremony

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2011

10:00 AM

First Reformed United Church of Christ will celebrate the love of our animal friends and partners on Saturday August 13, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the courtyard between the Educational Building and the Fellowship Hall.

In the 1st Chapter of Genesis, God created all the animals of the air, sea and land on the fifth day of creation. He saw that it was good and blessed the animals and spoke to them directly by saying, "Be fruitful and multiply..." (Genesis 1:22). Note that God blessed "them" and not "it". He blessed the individual animals, and spoke to them.



Why would we bless our animal friends? Rev. Ron Murhon, in his book The Blessing of Animals, said, "When we bless something, we focus our attention on the perfection that God put into it when God created it. When we bless what is good in our lives we increase it..." It is one way of giving back the unconditional love our animal friends give to us. An individual blessing of our pets brings comfort to the owner because it is supportive of something that is dear to them and important in their

lives. It is a form of spiritually supporting the well-being of the animals that we love.

So, bring all your furry, feathered, and scaly friends on Saturday August 13th at 10:00 AM to have Rev. Keating bless them and receive a certificate of their blessing.

God's Peace, Love and Blessing, Evangelism Board

United Church of Christ Women's Southern Regional Meeting ***Blowing Rock, North Carolina—October 7-9, 2011*** ***A Faith Inspired Look Toward Wholeness***

Theme Scripture: Proverbs 3:7-8 NIV

"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to our bones."

- Keynote Speaker: Ms. Barbara T. Baylor, MPH
Minister for Health Care Justice, Cleveland Conference Office
- Bible Study Leader: Rev. Dian Jackson, Rockingham, NC
- Entertainment: Glen Bolick — Mountain Story Teller and singer

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE OR EULENE SHEPHERD.



Many thanks to the **Property Committee** who has been juggling several projects this summer.

This group goes unnoticed and unrecognized until something in the building or on the grounds needs their attention...which is more often than anyone realizes.

Special thanks to those of the committee who helped to build an access ramp at the home of Holton Davis.

J.W. Bates, John Potts, Rich Johnson, Doug Sink,
Jeff Hutchens, Tom Danze, and Mike Brown

Thanks also to John Smith and Dawn Shaak for providing snacks for the workers to eat.

FRUCC Property Committee,

Thank you all so much for taking your Saturday to build a sturdy ramp from my house to the driveway. Accessibility to the outdoors means a lot to me.

Special thanks to Kalyssa Hutchens for supervising.

HOLTON DAVIS

To the Community Garden Workers,
Thank you so very much for the fresh vegetables!

THE CLIENTS OF PASTOR'S PANTRY

NOTE: A special thanks to individuals in the church who have brought extras from your abundant gardens to help supplement our donations to the Pastor's Pantry.

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for allowing my Eagle Scout recognition ceremony to occur at First Reformed UCC. Peyton Barr and I truly enjoyed and thank you for the hospitality extended towards us.



THANKS AGAIN,
STEWART S. SWING

First Reformed UCC
Women's Life Fellowship

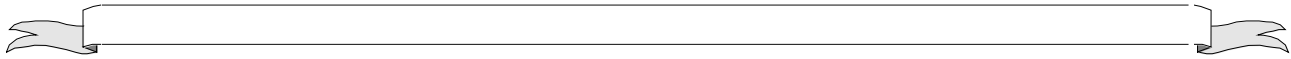
Thank you for assistance with our camp. We are truly grateful for your help!

THE CAMPERS AND STAFF
OF ARTS DISCOVERY CAMP
2011

To the Bereavement Committee:

Thank you all so much for preparing such a wonderful meal for my family and me after my mom, Kay's funeral service. It was such a well-prepared meal and everyone was thankful to have time with family and friends to celebrate my mom's life.

WITH LOVE, ALLYSON FRICK



Dear Members of FRUCC,

Thank you very much for remembering me on my graduation.

Being a teacher and a mother of three, I love reading and shopping at book stores, so the Bookstore gift card was perfect!

We are going to be out of town most of the summer — one week the girls are going to Johns River Valley Camp, they are so excited. Thanks for your support with that as well.

We will miss you guys but will be back soon! Thanks for being so supportive to my family.

LOVE, BETH CALLICUTT



To Women's Life Fellowship Members,

Thank you so much for serving ice cream sundaes on Friday night of the Group Work Camp. The campers and staff really appreciate your time and efforts.



LEXINGTON, NC WORKCAMP

Dear First Reformed Church Family,

Laura, Katarina, and I would like to thank you for your prayers, love, and support as my mother's illness has progressed over the past 2 1/2 years. Ladies of the prayer shawl ministry, thank you for the two beautiful shawls you brought us. My mother wore hers wrapped around her shoulders every day during the final weeks of her life. Many evenings when I arrived back home from Chapel Hill, Laura or Katarina would bring our shawl and wrap it around me as I sat on the sofa. Both shawls brought our family much comfort.



We are truly blessed to be members of such a loving church. **SINCERELY, ANNE FLETCHER**

Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl Harriette knitted and delivered to mom. She spoke often of the beauty of the shawl and was most grateful for your caring thoughtfulness. We took it to the Hospice House and covered her with it while she was there.

I now have it and will always cherish the shawl. This is a wonderful ministry.

LOVE, GLENYCE

Thank you notes were received from the following for Benevolent Gifts

Southern Conference UCC

Nazareth Children's Home

Lancaster Theological Seminary

United Church Homes and Services

Davidson Medical Ministries

Pastor's Pantry

Habitat for Humanity

Blowing Rock Conference Center

Hospice of Davidson County

Crisis Ministry of Davidson County

Christian Education

Cathy Waitman, Director of Christian Education

Summer is sizzling and so are activities at FRUCC! We celebrated Independence Day with a Fun Fourth Celebration – lots of entertainment, serious and comical, and delicious desserts and homemade ice cream. The garden has been producing lots of fresh vegetables for our community. Some of our children have attended Johns River Valley Camp for their first time. Many exciting plans have been made for Vacation Bible

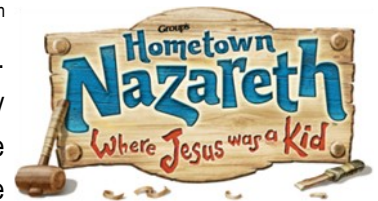


Kaitlyn and her cousin Haley, Ava and her friend Hannah, and Claire attended Johns River Valley Camp the third week in July. The next week

Holt, Mary Lloyd, Annabell, and Griff went. Claire said she had a GREAT time! “My favorite part was tubing down John’s River. I can’t wait to go back next year. Thanks to everyone who helped me get to go.” Ava said, “I loved it and I want to go back next year! My favorite part was tubing. I also liked the arts and crafts.” “The food was delicious and the tubing was great!” said Kaitlyn. “Haley and I had a great time and we both want to go back next year.” Thank you to all who supported the camp fund-raiser dinner and those who donated money to assist with sending our children to camp. Johns River is having a special celebration August 19–21 to celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Contact www.jrvc.org for more information.

Our Send A Kid to school campaign has been hugely successful. We have had some very generous donors. The supplies will be taken to Second Reformed and added to their collection for our VBS service project. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you who contributed and to Paula for the phone tree reminders. The needy children in our community will be excited to receive these supplies.

The theme for Vacation Bible School is Hometown Nazareth. All children, preschool through 5th grade, from First and Second Reformed are invited along with children from Genesis House. Classes will be 5:00 to 7:30 on Friday (sandwiches for supper) and 10:00 to 1:30 on Saturday (pizza for lunch). A closing program for parents and children will be at 1:15 on Saturday. The church will be decorated like the houses and village of Nazareth when Jesus was a little boy. The crafts, marketplace and games will have activities Jesus would have done. At Mary’s house, Mary will tell all about her special child who is the Son of God. Thank you to Amy, Nicole, and Nancy for teaching; June and Heidi for being Hometown Huddle Leaders; and to Women’s Life Fellowship for graciously furnishing chips, cookies, and drinks for Saturday lunch and cookies and punch for the closing.



Before you know it, Rally Day (Sept. 11) will be here. We will have a special Sunday school program in the Fellowship Hall on “Keeping Sabbath.” This program will kick off the new rotation for Roads to God. Everyone is invited to see an interview with Jesus and the children will set up a Sabbath worship center. We will also sponsor a special activity to benefit children fighting cancer. Everyone is asked to bring a child’s cap to donate to the “**Hats Off for Cancer**” campaign. Come and join us for lots of fun and learn more about keeping the Sabbath Day holy.

Thank you to all of the people who taught Sunday school and volunteered to keep the nursery this summer. Sometimes it is hard to make sure that all the bases are covered with summer vacations and trips, but our church has been blessed with people who love their church and do what is needed to keep everything running smoothly.

Sunday School Perfect Attendance — June 2011

Emma Keel	Katie Keel	Jaedyn Keel	Molly Keel	Betty Bates
Mary Berrier	Wanda Daye	Jo Hudson	Lib Sink	Butch Bouchard
John Hudson	John Walser	Chris Keel	Shery Keel	Clifford Lopp
Paula Lopp	Camille Morgan	Cathy Waitman		

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

The picture doesn't really allow you to see ALL the school supplies donated by our members for the "Send a Kid to School" Vacation Bible school project. Those boxes are FULL of crayons, glue sticks, pencils, erasers, notebook paper, and one-subject spiral bound notebooks. Pat yourself on the back...you've come through again!

If anyone has forgotten to bring items we will still be accepting donations this **Sunday, July 31st**.



Teach Your Children Well

"When your children ask you..." Deuteronomy 6:20

Here we are at the end of school vacation, children still running around enjoying summer, while many of us in churches are starting to plan our Fall program for the children in our churches. It's a good time to ponder what we teach our children about generosity in all parts of their lives, including the church. How do we help them build Christian values about how they use their money that will carry them into adulthood? Do our Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth programs include discussions of giving and values about our attitudes toward our possessions? If they do not, how do we expect them to grow into adults who will not only give to their church, but also challenge our society's assumptions about wealth?

As Israel formed itself into a nation, leaders like Joshua and the prophets would occasionally say that the people were commanded to do something and then commanded to explain to their children why they did it. Children are naturally observant and inquisitive; knowing this, God encouraged leaders to take advantage of those qualities to instruct. Talk to your children or grandchildren, and to the children of your church, about why you give and how you make choices about using your money. When you do, you build a firm foundation for the future of God's work in the world.

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

August 2011



God is still speaking

CELEBRATE 75

1936 - 2011 75 Years of Camping in the Johns River Valley

1055 Niley Cook Road, Blowing Rock, NC 28605 828-264-1516 o/h stumb@boone.net www.jrvc.org

Johns River Valley Camp is celebrating 75 years of camping ministry by the River and the camp is inviting EVERYONE back to help celebrate the ministry of and in this sacred space. A special party is planned for **August 19-20-21**. Most of the celebration will occur on Saturday with a catered lunch, fellowship around your camp era, worship and other camp activities. Weekend lodging and camping areas will also be available with all meals included. Registration is required so that adequate preparations can be made with the caterer. All registrations received after August 1st will be assessed a \$10 late fee.

Follow event at www.irvc.org

Or check Facebook Event page: www.facebook.com/Johns-River-Valley-Camp/190245562339

Celebrate 75 / A River Runs through it too! / Save the date ... August 20, 2011

Says Older Norman, narrating last lines of the 1992 film *A River Runs Through It*: "Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of those rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters." For 75 years words and stories have been spoken and heard in the Johns River setting. Rev. Richard N. Rinker chronicles some of those stories in his narrative *Where Eyes Are Lifted, the Story of Johns River Valley Camp and Its Setting*. Rinker quotes Aubrey Hedrick, chair of the JRVC Board from 1954 to 1971, who first proposed development that was made possible as a result of the 1997 Capital CAMPAign. "We envisioned that we ought to build some sort of chateau up there, somewhat to the north of the Dining Hall where the road circles around, which would be winterized for year-round purposes. We felt there would be some demand for its use and that we could use the camp much more fully." [This was stated in the late 60s.]

Camp was so much fun we went
tubing and we went on
hikes. The food was delicious
but the showers were disgusting.
Thank you for helping pay for
it. I look forward to coming
back next year.

From

Kaitlyn



JULY 2011

JAMES HUDSON

{John Hudson's Brother}
John and Vicky Gray

DAISY BROWN

{Deanna Michael-Beck's Mother-in-law}
Wanda Daye

KAY FRICK

Holton Davis

ARLENE SWING

Camille Morgan

NAOMI HARTZOG

{Glenyce Fulton's Mother}
John and Vicky Gray
Cathy and Steve Waitman
Merle and Jerry Hodges
Janie Lohr
Camille Morgan
Holton Davis

LUTHER ODOM, SR.

{Calvin Odom's Brother}
John and Vicky Gray
Camille Morgan
Cathy and Steve Waitman
Merle and Jerry Hodges
Marzell Crotts
Henry and Juanita Beck
Janie Lohr

BETTY POTTS

Janie Lohr
Holton Davis

JIM MASHBURN {Giles Crowell Brother-in-law}

Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

FRANCES LEONARD

Thomas and Joyce Phillips
Jerry and Aurelia Smith
Holton Davis

SUSAN CADWALLADER {Anne Fletcher's Mother}

John and Vicky Gray
Cathy and Steve Waitman
Merle and Jerry Hodges

AUGUST STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairpersons: Ramona Yarbrough, Adena Wall and Jeff Hutchens

Captain: John Potts

Ushers: Janette Neal, Cheryl Walser, Ron Hutcheson

Plate Attendant: John Walser

Acolytes: Mary Lloyd and Annabell Callicutt

Sound Tech: Jordan McCarn

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

Social: Host/Hostess: Ann & Walter Hoffman and Anne Fletcher

Greeters:	August 7	John Smith, Joy and Addie Walser
	August 14	Tom and Kathleen Danze
	August 21	Janelle Bunn and Camille Morgan
	August 28	James Atkinson and Kelly Greathouse

Nursery:	August 7	Sauni and Thomas Johnson
	August 14	Belinda and Eddie Yates
	August 21	Amy and Birke McNeill
	August 28	Keri Hartle and Ashlee Snider



Remember *(Alston Brook)* Ernie Bonner *(Carolina House)* Micki Smith
in
Prayer *(Lexington Health Care)* Sadie Bailey, Margaret Trexler
(Piedmont Crossing) Henry & Ernestine Kennedy, Rita Tussey


Nancy Robbins, Lauren Thompson, Mary Crouse, Holton Davis, Paul Tuck, Ronnie Durham, Henry and Juanita Beck, Willie Ruth Leonard, and Giles Crowell. Also, remember Mary John Allred (Gray Family), Ann Spivey (Carroll Spivey's Mother), Connie Weichert (Gerri Hill's Sister), Sandra Fern (Sauni Johnson's Mother), Randy Carter (Wanda Daye's Son-in-law), Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman's Uncle), and Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), . Also, please remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. To add a name to the prayer chain, contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office at 248-2617.

We express **Sympathy** to and share Christian hope with...

◆ Giles Crowell upon the death of his brother-in-law James Mashburn.



August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm {Parlor} Board of Christian Education	2 10 am {Parlor} Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm {Parlor} Evangelism Bd	3 11 am {Parlor} Morning Glory Circle	4 5:30 pm {P} Yoga Class	5 5—7:30 pm HOMETOWN NAZARETH WHERE JESUS WAS A KID VBS AT SECOND UCC	6 10 am-1:30 pm
9:45 am {Chapel} Joint Adult SS 10:20 am {FH} Sunday School Social 11:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm {VWV Class} CONSISTORY	8 6:30 pm {Parlor} Stephen Ministry	9 10 am {Parlor} Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm {Parlor} Evangelism Bd	10	11 5:30 pm {P} Yoga Class	12	13 10 am {Courtyard} 
14 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship Service and Blessing of Prayer Shawls	15	16 6:30 pm Women's Life Fellowship Picnic	17	18 5:30 pm {P} Yoga Class	19	20
21 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship Service	22 6:30 pm {Parlor} Stephen Ministry	23 7 pm {Parlor} FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING	24 6:30 pm {FH} FRIENDSHIP CLUB ICE CREAM SOCIAL	25 5:30 pm {P} Yoga Class	26 CONSISTORY RETREAT JOHNS RIVER VALLEY CAMP	27
28 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship Service	29	30	31	UPCOMING... SEPTEMBER 11 RALLY DAY		

Order Your Pictorial Directory Today

It's official, the pictorial directory has been ordered! Many thanks to the Evangelism Board's Pictorial Directory Committee led by Clifton Murphy and Nicole Smith for their many hours of work.

Because of Nicole's smart shopping First Reformed UCC members are going to be able to purchase a \$48.00 book for only **\$25.00**. This is a nice hardbound book with a picture of our church on the cover inset. There are 38 pages of member's pictures, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and candid shots of events attended by church members.

Books should be available for pickup in approximately 2 weeks. If sales are really good, more books can be ordered, however the cost will increase to \$48.00 per book. To be sure you get one of the \$25 books, place your order now by contacting the church office at 248-2617. Payment is expected when you pick up your book.

Pictorial Directory



First News

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



Join Us on Facebook:
facebook.com/firstreformeducc

Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Minister.....Reverend Robin Keating
Email: minister@frucc.org, cell #336-250-9554

Director of Christian Education..... Cathy Waitman

Administrative Asst.....Paula Lopp

Choir DirectorPaul 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