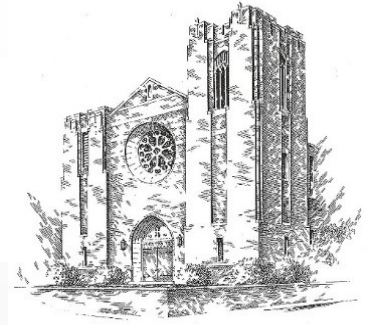


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



December 2011



“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul’s words from his first epistle to the Corinth Church heralds our entry into the Advent season. These words emphasize God’s gift of grace and peace to us, the people of God. Today’s world is no different than all the other times which precede the present. We desperately need God’s grace and peace. Wondrously they are freely given to us. Just as wondrously, God’s only Son came to dwell among us. Throughout this Advent and Christmas Season, we recall this miraculous event in the life of the world – Jesus’ birth. We proclaim this child’s entry into the world as the birth of a new beginning for all humanity. While the world looked for a Savior with armaments and battalions, Christ was born in the humblest of settings – in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes

There was once a man who didn’t believe in the incarnation or the spiritual meaning of Christmas, and was skeptical about God. He and his family lived in a farm community. His wife was a devout believer.

One snowy Christmas eve she was taking the kids to the Christmas Eve service at church. She pleaded with him to come, but he firmly refused. He ridiculed the idea of the incarnation of Christ. After they left, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As he looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening.

Suddenly he heard the loud honking of a flock of geese. Again looking outside, he saw the flock in front of his barn, being buffeted by the snow and wind. He had compassion for them and wanted to help them. He thought to himself, “The barn would be a great place for them to stay! It’s warm and safe. Surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm.”

Putting on his winter apparel, he went outside. He opened the barn doors and attempted to direct the geese into the barn. Starting to get frustrated, he went over and tried to shoo them, running after them, and chasing them toward the barn. They only got scared and scattered into every direction except toward the barn.

Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed, “Why don’t they follow me! Can’t they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm! How can I possibly get them into the one place to save them? If only I could become like one of them – then I could save them.”

He stood silently for a moment as the words that he just said reverberated back to himself in his mind: “If only I could become like one of them – then I could save them.” He thought about his own skepticism about God and the incarnation of Christ. As the winds and blinding snow abated, his heart became quiet and pondered this thought. He understood what Christmas was all about. He knew why Christ had come. – Unknown

Throughout this Advent and Christmas season may we ponder in our hearts and minds the true meaning of the coming of Christ as a babe in a manger. And how every day he whispers the words “Have I told you today that I love you?”

May you and all your loved ones have a blessed Christmas and New Year, *Your RunnRev, Robin*

Consistory Highlights—November 2011

Financial Report: Harriette Murphy, Treasurer reported the average weekly offering for the month of October was \$3,796.

Pastor's Report: Reverend Keating requested membership for Jay Ebersole and Gus and Barbara de Souza. The Consistory approved unanimously.

Board of Christian Education: Submitted by Board Chair Calvin Odom.

The October 16 children's noisy offering purchased 1 sheep, 2 flocks of chickens and 1 flock of ducks for the Heifer Project. The October 30 noisy offering was donated to Crisis Ministry.

The annual Chili Cook-off and Advent Workshop is scheduled for November 28.

Congregational Life: Chairperson, Ron Hutcheson thanked Mary Jo Jessup and Beth Callicutt for hosing the November social. Thanks to the Homecoming committee (Mary Berrier, Lynn Brown, and Alice Gray) and others who may have contributed to the success of this event. Thank you to Doug Sink, Mike Price, Eddie Yates, Lynn Klopp, Heidi Hutcheson, and Haylee Hutcheson for setup and cleanup for the homecoming meal.

Upcoming is the annual Christmas Celebration covered dish meal and Children's Christmas program beginning at 6 pm, Dec. 18th.

Board of Business Management and Stewardship:

Finance Committee: John Smith expressed thanks to all who were involved in the Mystery Dinner Theatre. \$3,260 was raised to assist with benevolences.

Property Committee: Co-Chairperson, Tom Danze said they are in the process of taking quotes from insured electricians to replace lights in the sanctuary.

Board of Community Outreach: Chairperson, Edgar Miller.

Collected 1,000 items for Mission 1 Campaign including more than 250 produce items from the Community Garden. Church members mailed 19 letters to Congress as part of Mission 1.

Twenty members walked in CROP walk raising \$2,742. Thanks to Adena Wall for coordinating.

Thanks to Kathleen Danze for organizing church members to assist with serving Sunday lunch for the homeless at Grace Episcopal Church during the month of November.

Evangelism Board: Co-Chairperson, Janette Neal stated that the average monthly attendance for October was 119.

The funeral committee has met and is in the process of gathering information that will be compiled in a notebook, to be kept in the church office, for families who have chosen cremation and prefer not to use the services of the funeral home.

There will be a blessing of prayer shawls on December 18.

Nominating Committee: Chairperson Sylvia Walser

The following were approved at the congregational meeting following worship today:

Trustee: Steve Smith Elders: Sauni Johnson, Tom Danze, Myra Thompson

Deacons: Betty Barr, Anne Fletcher, James Atkinson

Old Business:

Reverend June Grubb, president, lead a discussion regarding revision of the Mission/Vision Statement. It was decided to keep the present approved Mission Statement which was established in 1995 and use the newly presented Vision Statement with the Vision Statement presented first followed by the Mission Statement. The revision will be presented at the next Consistory meeting for final approval.

New Business: Will continue long range planning at next months meeting.

CONSISTORY

By: June Grubb, Consistory President

O On Sunday, November 13th at a called congregational meeting the Nominating Committee submitted the nominations for Trustee, Elder and Deacon, whose terms will begin in January, 2012. There were no nominations from the floor and thus the slate was approved as presented by the Nominating Committee.

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R Those elected, who will begin three year terms, are: Trustee - Steve Smith; Elders - Tom Danze, Myra Thompson, and Sauni Johnson; Deacons – Betty Barr, James Atkinson, and Anne Fletcher. The newly elected elders and deacons are invited to attend the December 11th meeting of Consistory. At this meeting new officers of Consistory for 2012 will be elected. All new Consistory members will be installed in early January during the Sunday morning worship service. During this service we will also recognize Peggy Bates and Joyce Price whose names were presented by the Nominating Committee for Elder Emeriti.

On behalf of the congregation I would like to personally thank those members of Consistory whose terms of office will expire at the end of 2011. These persons have served faithfully during their time on the Consistory: Calvin Odom, Edgar Miller, Mike Brown and Betty Link.

We are grateful and thankful for our church staff who have given so faithfully and endlessly of their time and talents this year. We have a great staff and I hope we will have a great gathering at the Children's Christmas Program on December 18th as we take time to recognize them.

During this Season of Advent I look for writings by my favorite authors who speak to me a word of welcome to this Holy Season. Today I picked up one of my favorites, Amazing Peace, written by Maya Angelou, who read these words at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree, Washington, D.C., December 1, 2005. I share a bit of this poem with you as we welcome in the season of Advent:

*“...Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.....
Hope is born again in the faces of children.
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth, brightening all things,
Even hate, which crouches breeding in dark corridors.
In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness. The word is PEACE.
It is loud now. Louder than the explosion of bombs.....
We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Nonbelievers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
PEACE. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
We look at each other, then into ourselves,
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation:
Peace, My Brother, Peace, My Sister, Peace, My Soul.”*

Women's Life Fellowship

Women's Life Fellowship met Tuesday night, November 15th. Special thanks to Cathy Waitman who shared an inspirational devotion and Betty Barr who provided delicious refreshments.

The meeting was called to order by president, Beth Callicutt. The group decided to sponsor the breezeway Christmas tree of angels. An angel can be placed on the tree in honor or memory of a loved one or friend with a donation that will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Knowing that the need is great, Women's Life kicked off this project by donating \$500 to the Pastor's Fund.

We discussed the upcoming bake sale for Sunday, November 20th. Mary Jo will make sausage biscuits. A biscuit with coffee or juice can be purchased for \$1.00. We discussed prices for cakes, pies, etc. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be donated for budgeted benevolences. *(Note: Thank you to all who participated. Over \$800 was collected)*

Our Christmas party will be at the **Lexington Tea House on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.** Those who would like to participate are asked to bring a \$10 gift to play "dirty Santa".

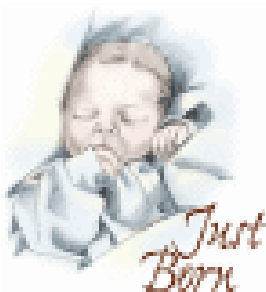
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Another prayer shawl blessing date has been set for **December 18, 2011**. Please have all shawls you have completed placed in the tub in our church parlor by December 15th and be sure to put your name on them for identification. We will tag and wrap them for the blessing.

If there are those of you that cannot knit or crochet and would like to be a part of this ministry, we have need for help in other areas. We are beginning to make some lap blankets that you just cut and tie knots. Contact Mary Jo Jessup or Harriette Murphy if you are interested. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, there are women that can provide instructions. Just contact one of these ladies. It would be great to enlarge our team. This ministry is such a blessing to our recipients as well as the participants. Please join us.



Congratulations!



We celebrate the birth of Annabelle Elizabeth Studebaker. Annabelle was born to Adam and Brianne Freeman Studebaker on Monday, November 14, 2011 in Germany. She was also welcomed by her brother, Addison and grandparents, Paul and Debra Freeman.

We celebrate the birth of Abigail Grace Cash. Abigail is the daughter of Zachary and Emily Sink Cash and was born Tuesday, November 22, 2011. She was also welcomed by grandparents, Ron and Pam Sink and great-grandmother, Lib Sink.

The Men's Brotherhood meeting was held on Monday, November 7th. The evening meal was provided by Mike Brown, JW Bates and John Potts and enjoyed by all.

John Hudson and Jack Frank presented an interesting Veteran's Day program on their return trip to Europe. Their presentation included slides as they searched for people and places that were a part of their lives during WWII.

Eddie Yates was elected as president for the upcoming year. We would like to express thanks to Frank Leonard for serving as president for the past two years. Lets all work together as we continue to make the brotherhood a strong part of our church.

The Brotherhood Christmas Party will be **December 12th at 6:30 pm at Yarborough's Restaurant**. The meal will be buffet and includes appetizers, tossed salad, beef tips, broasted chicken, broiled tilapia or shrimp, loaded baked potatoes, oven roasted vegetables, desserts and beverages. In order to have enough sitting please e-mail or call the church office by December 8th. All men of the church are invited.

United Friendship Club

The United Friendship Club will meet on Wednesday, December 7th at 12:00 pm. Following our covered dish luncheon Chaplain Cyrus Bush will provide a program of music and carols for the Season of Advent/Christmas. Cyrus is the Chaplain at Thomasville Medical Center. He has also served as organist/choir director for several congregations in the Winston-Salem area.

The devotions will be given by Gladys Snider. The Food and Decorations committee include Mary Berrier, Deanna Michael and Gladys Snider.

Everyone is invited to join us for good food and an enjoyable program to sing us into the Season of Christmas.



CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS...It is time to apply for the Hinkle, Sink, Swing Scholarship. The application forms are available in the church office or can be emailed. These forms should be completed and back in the office by **DECEMBER 31, 2011**.

If you want to make a last minute financial contribution for 2011 it **MUST** be received in the church office by Friday, December 30, 2011 to be credited to your 2011 giving statement. 2012 Offering Envelopes will be mailed to your home.



Welcome!

Gus and Barb de Souza became members of First Reformed UCC Sunday, November 27, 2011



Barbara de Souza, was born October 18, 1930 in New York. She attended Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island; United Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN 81-85, and served as Campus Minister at the University of WI, River Falls. She was ordained in the River Falls, WI Congregational United Church of Christ in July of 1985.

Barb worked as a social worker for the Catholic Church in Rio de Janeiro from 1967 to 1981. Then she returned to the states to attend Seminary. After ordination she traveled to Sao Paulo, Brazil to work with women as a health educator for the American Friends Service Committee. She worked in shanty towns in Sao Paulo until 1993. In 1993 she was a missionary for Global Ministries, a joint effort with the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ, in Rio de Janeiro. As part of a partnership between Global Ministries and the Institute of Religious Studies, (ISER) she created and taught a Course for the training of Community Health Educators. During this same time she formed the Association of Community Health Educators with her students, of which she was President and was coordinator of a shanty town clinic until July of this year.

Agostinho (Gus) de Souza, was born November 9, 1931 in a poor rural city of Minas Gerais, Brazil. At age 10 he went with his family to Rio de Janeiro in search of a better life. He worked part-time all through his schooling. Gus took a small business administration course and set up a tourist taxi service. He was a volunteer for a Spiritualist Health Center and youth educator. Gus joined Barb in 1970 in shanty town work and during the years that Barb was in Seminary he studied English and worked in the First Congregational Church in River Falls, WI. They were then assigned to the Quaker Church and continued in partnership the missionary work until July 2011 when they retired to Piedmont Crossing.

Too Good To Be True Giving

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us.” Luke 1:78

These words come from the amazing poem known as the Benedictus, the blessing of Zechariah on his surprising gift-son, John (the Baptist). Zechariah is one of those minor characters in the birth narratives of Jesus, often lost in the shuffle of shepherds and magi that populate our Christmas pageants. Yet Zechariah gives us a great gift for Advent: the gift of the skeptic. When an angel told Zechariah that his middle-aged wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he didn't believe it. All his life this man had been faithfully serving God; clearly he was a sincere believer. He held onto his faith through the years of their infertility and who knows how many other problems in their lives. But when an angel promises something “too good to be true,” the skeptic in Zechariah comes out and he rejects the God he has relied on when things have been truly bad. This Christmas let us be about giving to the world in ways that are too good to be true. Let the skeptics see that love is more powerful than anyone expects it to be. Let us, in the image of God, give of ourselves in life-transforming ways beyond presents under the tree, just like Zechariah and Elizabeth and John. Nothing about God is ever too good to be true! Merry Christmas.

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

December 2011



God is still speaking



Dear Friends and Family of First Reformed UCC,

Grace to you and peace from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Where do I begin? Thank you seems so small for all you've done. So many, many, memories of you all.

I would like to humbly express just how much your prayers have meant to me. They brought me through a dark valley into a place of hope and sunlight. You have so generously given me your gifts, too numerous to name. "Thank you" Willing Workers Class, Choir, Morning Glory Circle, United Friendship Club and of course, The Kid's Club.

The Prayer Shawl you so graciously gave has wrapped me in the healing arms of God.

Thank you also Pastor Keating, June Grubb and Susan Odom for visiting and keeping me in touch by sharing the news of First Reformed.

To the congregation as a whole, you have touched my heart and spirit by sharing the love of Jesus the Christ.

God is good. Peace and Hope, **RITA TUSSEY**

Congratulations CROP Walkers and Donors....

Thanks to your efforts, First Reformed collected \$2,742.

Thank you!

Dear Ladies of the Bereavement Committee,

Thank you so much for the luncheon you provided for our family after the funeral for Giles T. Crowell. It was a delicious meal and we all enjoyed it very much. We also appreciate the time we had to be together as a family after his service. Thank you so much for all you did for us at such a difficult time.

Sincerely, **GEORGE & FRANK CROWELL AND KATHY OLIVER**

Harriette and Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thanks very much for the lovely prayer shawl for my mother. I am so excited about taking it to her. I know she will love it.

I appreciate the Prayer Shawl Ministry and all that you do.

Love, **JANETTE**

Prayer Shawl Committee,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. It is beautiful and means a lot to me. I plan on keeping it with me during my chemo treatments for comfort. It's nice to have an extended family.

Thanks again. ☺ **DEBBIE HINSON (ROCKWELL, NC)**

Thank you to the McKerlie/Price Family for their generous donation of the Christmas tree now standing in the fellowship hall.

Many thanks to those participating in decorating our buildings for the Advent Season. They're beautiful!

Mark your calendar for **Friday, December 16th**. First Reformed UCC will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Fund at Lanier's Hardware. You can sign up for hour increments between 9 am and 5 pm. A sheet is in the narthex or call the church office at 248-2617.



Bell Ringers



During the busy Advent Season take some time from your hectic schedule to participate in a prayer walk. The Labyrinth will be in the fellowship hall **Thursday, December 1 through Sunday, December 4**.

The First Reformed UCC Choir, with orchestra accompaniment, will present the annual Christmas Cantata, **Sunday, December 11th** at the morning worship service.



The church will be aglow with candlelight at our annual Christmas Eve Service **Saturday, December 24th at 11 pm**. Come worship with family and friends as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 we will have one combined service at **10:30 am in the Chapel**. There will not be Sunday school classes that morning.



Angel Tree Donations



Women's Life Fellowship is sponsoring the tree of "angels" in the breezeway of the education building again this year. Make a donation (your discretion) to place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of someone. All donations will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary fund for assistance to needy individuals/families. Please fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate or contact the church office.

IN MEMORY OF.....

By...

IN HONOR OF.....

By...

Alternative Gift Idea

Need a Christmas Gift Idea? The First Reformed UCC Board of Community Outreach can help! They are offering “**Alternative Gifts**”. There will be a table setup in the narthex following the worship service Sunday, December 4th and 11th. Make a donation to one of our benevolences in honor of teachers, family members, friends, co-workers, etc. We will provide an acknowledgement card and envelope for you to mail.



Adopt a Benevolence

“In-Residence” Member Address Update

Several First Reformed UCC members are not able to be in the beautiful surroundings of our sanctuary to worship as a congregation during the Advent Season. These members will enjoy a card, call or visit. Listed below are the addresses of those known at this time. If you know of anyone else that should be included, please contact the church office. Thank you.



Sadie Bailey

110 West Fifth Avenue
Lexington, NC 27292

Juanita Beck

367 County Home Rd
Lexington, NC 27292

Ernie Bonner

Alston Brook Room #203
4748 Old Salisbury Rd
Lexington, NC 27295

Mary Crouse

405 Idlewild Drive
Lexington, NC 27295

Holton Davis

111 Avondale Drive
Lexington, NC 27295

Ronnie Durham

103 Indian Wells Circle
Lexington, NC 27295

Henry Kennedy

306 Shuler Circle
Thomasville, NC 27360

Willie Ruth Leonard

20 Grimes Circle
Lexington, NC 27292

Margaret “Micki” Smith

Carolina House Rm #302
161 Young Drive
Lexington, NC 27292

Rita Tussey

Piedmont Crossing
100 Hedrick Drive
Thomasville, NC 27360



NOVEMBER 2011

GILES CROWELL

Holton Davis
Mary Berrier

Elizabeth Sink
Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGirt

Jerry and Aurelia Smith
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

HENRY JUNIOR BECK

Mary Crouse
Ron and Pam Sink
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey
Marguerite Leonard
John and Bettie Barber
J.W. and Betty Bates
Willing Workers Class

Holton Davis
Bob and Dawn Shaak
Roy and Anne Bevan
Peggy Bates
Deanna Michael
Guy and Melinda Smith
Janie Lohr

Elizabeth Sink
John and Vicky Gray
Calvin and Susan Odom
Mary Berrier
Marzell Crotts
John and Lynn McCarn

MARGARET TREXLER

Merle and Jerry Hodges
Don Leonard

Katherine Skipper
Gladys Snider

Juanita Beck
Banks and Eulene Shepherd

BARBARA SCHAEFFER

Carol and Robert Kingsmore

COLLEEN CURRY

Larry and Betty Link

ARLENE SWING

Larry and Betty Link

VERNON PRICE, JR

Joyce Price

BUTCH ZIMMERMAN

Holton Davis

DONALD WESTON LEONARD

Merle and Jerry Hodges
J.W. and Betty Bates
Nancy Robbins
Frank C. Leonard
Charles and Carolyn Leslie
Guy and Melinda Smith
Marzell Crotts
Doris Frye
Van and Joy Kelly
Marguerite Leonard
Mike and Lynn Brown

Katherine Skipper
Elizabeth Sink
Roy and Anne Bevan
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Smith
Margaret Morgan
John and Vicky Gray
John and Lynn McCarn
Burt Harris
Paul Streetman, Jr.
Cathy and Steve Waitman
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

Juanita Beck
Men's Bible Class
John Potts & Janette Neal
Edward and Marcia Parrott
Banks and Eulene Shepherd
Deanna Michael
Gladys Snider
Wayne and Peggy Wegwart
Diane S. Hedrick
Cliff and Eloise Lopp
Janie Lohr

ALOSSIE KNOWLES

{Lee Ann Peele's Mother}

Elizabeth Sink
Banks and Eulene Shepherd
John and Lynn McCarn
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey

Janette Neal and John Potts
Nancy Robbins
Cathy and Steve Waitman
Janie Lohr

Doris Frye
Peggy and Zeb Barnhardt
Roy and Anne Bevan



Honorarium Gifts

NANCY ROBBINS

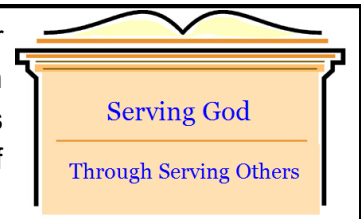
Heart Sister

JUANITA BECK

Willing Workers SS Class

Remember the **VETERANS OF THE CROSS OFFERING** that will be received Sunday, December 18th. This offering, one of four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The Offering, which is administered by the UCC Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC, is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees and emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees. Requests for Ministerial Assistance provided by the Christmas Fund are greater than at any point in recent history.



Christian Education

Cathy Waitman, Director of Christian Education

It's December, my favorite month of the year! Everyone is busy with decorating, shopping, cooking, and wrapping presents. The children are being as good as gold and adding more toys to their Santa lists. My favorite parts of December are the services and activities that we have at FRUCC.



The Chili Cook-off was a big success. Nine people entered the cook-off and the winner of this year's contest was June Grubb. The dollar votes and donations, totaling approximately \$300, were used to help pay for the children's costumes for the Christmas play. When everyone was full of yummy chili, we pulled out the glue guns, wreaths, and ornaments.



The wreaths were decorated with keep sake ornaments and pretty bows tied with Carolyn's help. Everyone enjoyed making the beautiful wreaths and spending time with their church friends.

(Elliott Smith's wreath of action characters)

The Christmas cantata, "Born A Savior," will be presented on Sunday, December 11. The choir will be joined by an orchestra of professional musicians. The choir enjoys singing with the orchestra as much as the congregation enjoys listening to the beautiful Christmas music.



The children are practicing every Sunday morning during Sunday school and on Wednesday evenings for their play, "Santa's Christmas Tree." It will be performed the night of the Church Christmas Party after the covered dish supper. Be sure to attend to see the "little" candle poem and the cast of fairy tale characters in the play. A special visitor will have a treat for the children after the play.

The Candlelight Service will be Christmas Eve at 11:00. This is always an impressive service of carols, scripture readings, and lighting the candles. At last, the event we have been preparing for all month takes place – the birth of the Christ child. We will have a special Christmas Day service at 10:30 in the chapel.



All of these activities are part of "getting ready" for the Advent Season. Pastor Robin's sermon last Sunday and one of the devotions that I read remind us that Jesus was born, lived among men, died on the cross, and arose. He will come again, but we must be prepared at all times because we do not know when. While we are awaiting His return, we need to be mindful that Jesus is with us at all times. He can be found in the faces of elderly neighbors when we rake their leaves. He can be seen in the eyes of a child who receives food, clothing, and toys at a homeless shelter. He can be felt in the hug of a friend who appreciates our cards and visits. All you have to do is look around you to find Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All.

Sunday School Perfect Attendance — November 2011

Haylee Hutcheson	Abigail Johnson	Molly Keel	Sarah Johnson
Jaedyn Keel	Claire Smith	Emma Keel	Katie Keel
Betty Bates	Wanda Daye	Jo Hudson	Marguerite Leonard
Carolyn Spivey	Eulene Shepherd	Lib Sink	Mary Berrier
Gladys Snider	J.W. Bates	Earlie Hartley	John Hudson
Banks Shepherd	Clifford Lopp	Paula Lopp	Cathy Waitman
Robin Keating	Doug Sink	Camille Morgan	Chris Keel
Shery Keel			



Children's Church met with Shery Keel, leader, on November 17th. The children learned more about who Jesus is by studying the lesson, "Peter Says Jesus is the Christ." When Jesus asked his disciples who people said he was, the disciples answered, "John the Baptist! Elijah! Jeremiah!" When He asked the disciples who they thought he was, Peter said that He was Christ, the Son of the Living God. Peter was saying that Jesus is God's Son who invites us to serve in His kingdom. The next Children's Church will be January 22 and the lesson will be on "I Am the Light of the World."

Kids' Club met on Nov. 13th and studied "Created for a Purpose." Nicole Smith was the leader. The bugs for this lesson were the honey bees. The bees have a special purpose, making honey and pollinating flowers, and each of us has a special purpose too. The "bug study" for this year is teaching the children how God is always with us even if we cannot see Him. We can see His creation and His goodness all around us. Sometimes we don't see bugs either, but we see the holes they chew in leaves, the little mounds of red dirt, and other signs that they are there. The next Bug Study topic will be "Consider the Ants" on January 8th.



Kids' Club met on November 21 with Alice and James Gray as leaders. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all the blessings in our lives. What better place to start than with our families. With this in mind, the children created colorful "Turkey of Thanks." Using materials already available at church and their imaginations, they set to work. In the end, each had a turkey basket (complete even with the snood!) containing slips of paper to write down their many thanks. The baskets are for their Thanksgiving table and all family members are encouraged to join in by writing on the cards. *Alice and James Gray*



For Information, Coming Events, Important Dates check:

- church website – www.frucc.org
- church Facebook page – www.facebook.com/firstreformeducc
- bulletin board in the hallway of the education building
- bulletin board outside Paula's office

DECEMBER STEWARDS

Liturgist: Tom Danze

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

Captain: Walter Hoffman

Ushers: Dave Fulton, Ann Hoffman, and Doris Sink

Plate Attendant: John Potts

Acolytes: Laura and Katarina Strenk and Ava Miller

Sound Tech: Jordan McCarn

Adult Joint Sunday School: Class responsible for opening - - - Willing Workers Class

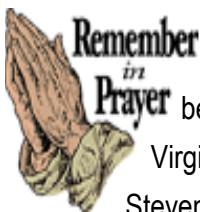
Social: Host/Hostess: Alice and James Gray and Nina and Ted Smith

Greeters:	December 4	Anne Fletcher, Laura and Katarina
	December 11	Raeann and Holt Biesecker
	December 18	Chris and Shery Keel
	December 25	Doug and Barbara Sink

Nursery:	December 4	Dawn Shaak
	December 11	Kayla Leonard
	December 18	Joy Walser and John Smith

(Alston Brook) Ernie Bonner **(Carolina House)** Micki Smith

(Piedmont Crossing) Henry Kennedy, Rita Tussey





Annabelle Studebaker, Margot Everhart, Ronnie Durham, Sadie Bailey, Mary Crouse, Holton Davis, Juanita Beck, Willie Ruth Leonard, and Stephen & Glory Tussey. Also, remember Evelyn Smith, Ted Williams, Sterling Hedrick, Bob Biesecker, Jules Bliss, Bunny and Virginia Hill, Ann Spivey, Connie Weichert, Sandra Fern, Randy Carter, Melvin Evans, and Paul Stevens. 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...

- ◆ The family of **Margaret Trexler**
- ◆ Lee Ann Peele and family upon the death of her mother, **Alossie Knowles**.
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Tom (Rochelle) Bost, Mrs. Lynn Leonard and their families upon the death of their loved one and our friend, **Donald Weston Leonard**.
- ◆ Henry Kennedy and family upon the death of his wife and our friend, **Ernestine Kennedy**.



December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 7 pm {FH} SPIRITUAL PRACTICES	2	3
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:45 am {FH} Joint Sunday School 10:20 am Sunday School Social 11:00 am Worship Service and Children's Noisy Offering	5	6 6:30 p.m. WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY AT LEXINGTON TEA HOUSE	7 Noon (FH) FRIENDSHIP CLUB PARTY 6 pm Children's Practice 6:30 pm BELL CHOIR 7:15 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	8 UNITED WAY Education Bldg 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS	9	10 Choir Rehearses With Orchestra 
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:45 am SS Classes 11:00 am Cantata "Born a Savior, Born a King" 6 pm CONSISTORY MEETING	12 6:30 p.m. MEN'S BROTHERHOOD CHRISTMAS PARTY AT YARBOROUGH'S	13 10 am {Parlor} PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY	14 Noon—Yarborough's Morning Glory Circle 6 pm Children's Practice 6:30 pm BELL CHOIR 7:15 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	15 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS	16  Bell Ringers Ringing Bells for the Salvation Army 8 am—2 pm {Fellowship Hall} HEALTH DEPT.	17
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship Service with Blessing of Prayer Shawls 6 pm Covered Dish Dinner (FH) and Children's Christmas Program	19	20	21 7:00 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	22	23	24  11 pm CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
25  10:30 am Chapel Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 JANUARY 8, 2012 INSTALLATION OF CONSISTORY MEMBERS AND HOLY COMMUNION

Church Christmas Party and Children's Pageant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011 AT 6 PM



Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for the congregation will begin at 6 pm Sunday, December 18th with a covered dish dinner. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends. Drinks are provided.

After dinner the children will present, "Santa's Christmas Tree". This evening is a great tradition of fellowship with family and friends that is enjoyed by children of ALL ages. Remember to bring your cameras. Santa will be on hand to check his Christmas list!



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



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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 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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