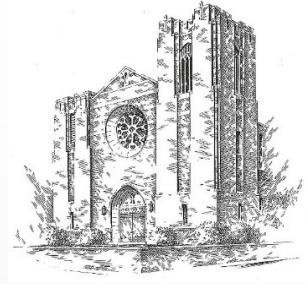


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



February 2010

We have a sweetheart of a month coming up, so please settle back and enjoy your February edition of First News, which can also be found online at our vastly **new and improved FRUCC website** (thanks to “Webmaster” Kivi Miller). For more information about how to move through and use our freshly minted website with ease, **check out Kivi’s article on page 5**. Our **new Consistory Recording Secretary, Ramona Yarbrough**, has done an excellent job of providing us with our January edition of **Consistory Highlights (pages 2 and 3)**, so go there for a quick overview of recent activity. When I became aware that the **Rev. June Grubb would be our new Consistory President**, I was delighted for all kinds of reasons and approached her about maintaining her own column in our First News.



She answered “yes” so quickly that I knew she had already been considering that very thing, so here it is: **President Grubb’s first installment of “Consistory Corner,” which here is a high gloss upon her informative message to us on Anniversary Sunday (page 4)**. (Do pay special attention to the last two paragraphs about our upcoming “labyrinth” opportunity on the week of **March 20-26**; much more about that later.) Notice on **page 5 that our Evangelism Committee** is rethinking its (and by implication, our) mission in light of where FRUCC is going as an intentional congregation in transition; please be prepared to begin to “own” their work as you become aware of new opportunities that they will present. Please give your careful attention to our first article from our **new Interim Director of Christian Education, Cathy Waitman (page 10)**. Cathy has “hit the ground running” with her new post, for she was already very involved with every aspect of our Christian Education efforts, exhibiting both a flare for organization and follow-through which is serving us well. Check out carefully **pages 8 and 9, which give a detailed listing of all officers and committees for 2010**. Please notify our office if there are errors either of commission and omission, spelling, etc. Do enjoy the balance of our February *FN*, noticing particularly the **Upcoming Events (page 11)** entries, and **not forgetting our CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH AND MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 (page 16)**.

Congregations always become nervous about the **Search process** for a new pastor, and this one is no exception. I second the **Search Committee’s request for patience (page 6)** from one and all as they continue their difficult work of spiritual discernment, always a subtle art—**even as I must request your patience with me as I have reached a point (my present, temporary contract ends on October 15 of this year) where my search for either a new IIM opportunity or a permanent calling must begin in earnest as well**. No one is at cross-purposes here, and no results are precluded or assured at this point, at least from my perspective, but this is the way it needs to be in order for us to have a clean and effective process from all sides. In the meantime, I will continue to provide FRUCC with the best possible leadership and support of which I am capable, rising above even my own self-interests should that become necessary, even as I have done so in the past. Perhaps all of our prayers will meet and find peace with this call for God’s blessing: *May God grant that the Search Committee and the congregation be guided to the appropriate pastoral candidate who is pleasing unto God, even as I may be guided to a congregational match which is also pleasing unto God, and may all parties be granted the spiritually guided assurance to know that this is indeed the case*. Picking up upon a recent sermon theme of mine from John 2: 1-11: may the Spirit of Jesus be present at the upcoming “wedding,” that He may supply in abundance that of which we all may lack, thus blessing and ratifying a process in which He, and not the “couple,” was and is central.

Blessings and Shalom, Rev. Walt

Consistory Highlights—January 2010

Financial Report: Paula Lopp, Administrative Assistant, distributed copies of the treasurer's report for December to all members. The average weekly offering for the four Sundays in December was \$5,314. General Fund available balance is \$2,912; Building Fund is \$33,970; and Music Fund is \$7,070. Motion by Eddie Yates, seconded by Calvin Odom, to accept the report was approved unanimously.



Pastor's Report:

Reverend Patten handed out his 4-week report from December 14, 2009 to January 10, 2010.

- ◆ This report showed 4 weeks, with 142 phone calls, 12 hospital/rehab/Rest home visits, 75 office meetings and approximately 50 hours work per week.
- ◆ Total number of people assisted by Pastor's Discretionary Fund since 4/15/08 is 113 with a balance of \$6,141.
- ◆ Total number of people who approached us for assistance of various kinds...425
- ◆ Total number of pastoral hours devoted to interviews that produced assistance...62
- ◆ A Proposed Work Camp for 2010 in Lexington. Chris Fulton has requested the use of our Educational Building as a place to sleep, worship, meet and generally to have available as a base of operations for one week, approximately in the middle of July of 2010.
- ◆ The "Living the Questions" study begins Thursday, January 14th.
- ◆ The Community Youth Group is meeting again.
- ◆ We are looking at rolling our planning sessions for a Stephen Ministry group to assemble and to function into our Evangelism Committee.
- ◆ Kivi Miller has installed an updated website for us. Check it out!

Board Reports

Board of Christian Education:

- ◆ The Board of Christian Education met Monday, January 2nd. The successes of the chili cook off, the children's play, and the implementation *Roads to God* were all discussed during this meeting.
- ◆ Also, new materials and a new rotation for *Roads to God* were given out. It is requested that more people volunteer as rotation leaders.
- ◆ Tentative dates for the board and for special activities were also discussed.
- ◆ "Soup"er Bowl Sunday has been set for February 7, 2010.
- ◆ The Easter egg hunt date will be announced later. Plans for VBS will begin soon.
- ◆ **Kid's Club** will continue the study of the 23rd Psalm, and the Tuesday night group will continue working on projects to help the church and community. Children's church will continue on January 24, 2010. Raeann Biesecker will begin a series of lessons on Fruit of the Spirit.

Congregational Life: Noteworthy events for the month of December:

- ◆ Sunday, December 20, 2009, the church enjoyed a covered dish dinner and the Children's Christmas program. Thanks to everyone who made the event successful.
- ◆ Sunday, December 27, 2009, the congregation welcomed our new members with a catered lunch. Thanks to Cheryl Walser for the meal and to everyone who helped with the set up and clean up.
- ◆ Thanks to Bill & Cheryl Walser, Janette Neal, and John Potts for the Sunday Social on January 3rd.

Board of Business Management and Stewardship

Finance Committee Report:

- ◆ Report was presented by Chairperson, John Smith. Doug Sink has agreed to co-chair committee. They are looking for a few more members-at-large to serve along with the Board Chairs on this committee. They will be meeting soon to begin a stewardship education program for the church.

Property Committee:

- ◆ Report presented by Mike Brown. The Chamber of Commerce's rent is up to date.
- ◆ The President of Consistory requested that Mike check out Liability Insurance for the possible Work Camp in July of 2010.

Board of Worship and Sacrament:

Chairperson Ramona Yarbrough is currently working on committees for the 2010 year.

Board of Community Outreach:

- ◆ Report was presented by Chairperson, Edgar Miller
- ◆ Past/Present Items of Interest: Food drive in conjunction with the Uptown Lexington Christmas Open House- November 22, 2009; also we provided volunteers to the Grace Episcopal Church for Sunday lunch servings for the homeless.
- ◆ Future Activities/Concerns: Getting organized for participation in Touching Davidson County with Love- May 1, 2010; we need project managers, committee chair, and volunteers.

Evangelism Board: December 2009- The average attendance: 155. Membership as of December 31, 2009: 325 members. David Fulton and Janette Neal will serve as 2010 Co-Chairs of this Board.

Nominating Committee: Report was presented by Sylvia Walser. New members of the committee are: Nina Smith, J.W. Bates, Joyce Price, David Fulton, and Eddie Yates.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- ◆ It was recommended by the Personnel Committee that Cathy Waitman be approved as the Interim Director of Christian Education. The present job description will be followed. The recommendation was unanimously accepted.
- ◆ President Grubb requested that the chairpersons of the various Boards make sure that everyone on their committee's have been contacted before they are listed as members of a committee or Board. If a Board or Committee chooses to meet on a regular basis, please let Paula Lopp know so that the meeting dates can be added to the church calendar.
- ◆ In preparation for the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 7th, President Grubb challenged the Board members to present their reports in a fun way.
- ◆ The Consistory's next meeting will be Sunday, February 7, 2010 after the congregational lunch at 1:30 pm.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ramona Yarbrough
Secretary

CONSISTORY

By: June Grubb, 2010 Consistory President

O At our church's 109th Anniversary Worship Service I provided a prospective of where we are as a congregation and offered some of my thoughts on what I believe we are about this year. Each month I will be offering a report from consistory through the work of its various Boards and Committee's. I begin my monthly report by sharing some of my remarks from our Anniversary celebration.

N Our Search Committee is working diligently to bring to us a candidate to elect as our pastor. Our prayers are with the members of this committee as they continue their deliberations. This is perhaps the most important work at this moment in our history as a congregation.

E As a part of this process, the Search Committee has asked that we put into place a Pastoral Relations Committee---a sounding board, if you will, for the pastor to share in confidentiality the concerns he/she may have as well as an opportunity to hear the concerns of the congregation. The Consistory will develop this committee and have members in place when we vote on a new pastor.

However, we can not sit back and wait until the called pastor is in place. As a congregation we have our tasks as well. And as President of the consistory and the congregation, I want to claim the word **INTENTIONALITY** as the watch word for this congregation in the year 2010. This is not the time for us to sit back and say to one another, "we've always done it this way." For some things we do that may be the correct response. But let's evaluate all the activities and programs we presently have and ask ourselves the question "do they fit our mission statement," which is,

"We are a congregation where people discover :

The Love of God,

The Power to Love Others,

The Ability to Love Ourselves."

Adhering to the words of the Apostle Paul, we all possess a variety of gifts to be shared in this community of faith. The Spirit of God moves among us, inviting us to use those gifts, those talents, those resources wisely. May all that we do, the activities, our work in ministry, have faithful intentionality... in our worship, education, fellowship, mission, financial stewardship....so that we share the good news (Evangelism) with one another and the world outside our walls.

Each month I will highlight the work of one of our Boards, beginning this month with the Board of Worship.

The word *Liturgy* means "*the work of the people.*" On Sunday mornings we gather to give praise and thanks to God through our prayers, scripture, word and song. The choir and the pastor lead us in worship. We have many people involved through our greeters, ushers, acolytes, child care. But we could do more. What about having Liturgists who read scripture, offer prayers of the people? What about learning new hymns that move us into this new century? What about engaging a group of people who would meet weekly with the pastor to critique and plan worship services together, perhaps as a lectionary group and/or worship planners?

During Lent we will offer a labyrinth experience, the Prayer Path. The week of March 20-26, the Fellowship Hall floor will be laid out in a grid with stations along the way for people to move through a guided prayer and devotional encounter with God. The labyrinth, an ancient Christian pilgrimage, is an opportunity to symbolically "let go" of the busyness for a while, to be still and listen to ourselves and to God.

We need several people who will help us set-up this meditative path and to be available during the week to assist people who wish to experience the prayer path. If you are interested in helping please call the church office. **Chris and Amanda Fulton** and I will be meeting early in February to begin work on this project.

What You Can Do at FRUCC.org

By: Kivi Miller, Webmaster

Here's what you can do at our newly revised www.frucc.org:

Sign up for our E-News Flashes. Once or twice a month, in between our print newsletter, we'll be sending out updates via email. You need to sign up for these updates if you want to receive them. Go to www.frucc.org and on the right-hand side, under the photo, you'll see the sign-up form. Enter your email address and click Subscribe. A box will pop up asking you to enter the letters you see on the screen. After you do that, check your email for a confirmation message. You must click on the link in the message to get on the list. It's a lot of steps, but this prevents spam. If you have any trouble, let Paula know and she can help you.

Keep up with Church Activities. Wonder what's going on with Women's Life, Community Youth Group, Board of Christian Education, or other church groups? Check the website's What's New tab! You'll also find the church calendar on the website.

Download Bulletins and Newsletters. Missed a Sunday? Accidentally recycled your newsletter? You can download PDFs of Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters by clicking on the Download tab. This is also a great way to see the Newsletter photos in color!

Discuss Sermons with Pastor Walt. In the near future, Pastor Walt will begin blogging about sermon topics and other issues important to the life of our church. You'll be able to add your comments to his blog posts.

Read the Bible in a Year. If you've always wanted to read the whole Bible from start to finish, follow the plan on the website. You'll find a link to a new passage every day, and by December 31, you will have read the whole Bible! The program began January 1, so you have just a little catching up to do.

Evangelism Committee

Members of the Evangelism Committee met on Tuesday, January 12th for an organizational meeting. **Reverend Patten** and **Reverend Grubb** were present for our meeting.

Our plans are to focus on new members, the Stephen Ministry and communication; however, our first mission is to revise and consolidate our Mission Statement. As we identify new ministries, we will be asking members of the congregation to help us meet our goals for this year.

Co-Chairpersons, *Janette Neal and Dave Fulton*



Congratulations to Great-Grandparents, Doug and Barbara Sink. They will each have a baby to hold since granddaughter, Emily gave birth to twins Thursday, January 21, 2010. Luca Jay and Ryah Elise along with mom are all doing fine.

Search Committee Update

Your Pastoral Search Committee did not meet in December. With all the holiday activities, gathering a quorum was impossible. We read profiles at home. On January 5th we came back at full steam and we are making progress.

We welcome your input. We will respectfully not respond. We must respect the privacy of the applicants and Western North Carolina Association guidelines; however, we will take your input to our meetings. We understand that a few rumors are in the air. Webster defines rumor as information of uncertain truthfulness. He is right!!!



Thank you for your prayers, patience, and support.

Search Committee Members:

Dawn Shaak, Chairperson

Mark Smith, Vice Chairperson

Clifford Lopp, Recording Secretary

Eulene Shepherd, Chaplain

Vicky Gray

Walter Hoffman

Sauni Johnson

Birke McNeill

Tony Peele

Women's Life Fellowship



Women's Life Fellowship met Tuesday, January 19th at 7 p.m. in the parlor. Delicious refreshments were served by Belinda Yates and Heidi Hutcheson. Devotions were lead by Lynn Klopp.

Cathy Waitman, our new Interim Director of Christian Education requested that each of us prayerfully consider assisting with the Roads to God Sunday school program. Volunteers are needed to help teach Sunday School. You are only required to teach two Sundays during an eight-week rotation period. Please contact Cathy if you can find it your heart to help, and simply bring your children to Sunday School.

We discussed the possibility of preparing and serving the meal at the February 7th Congregational meeting. Our funds for assisting local non-profits are getting low and this will be a good fundraising opportunity. It was decided to meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 6th to prepare our homemade vegetable soup to serve with sandwiches on Sunday. Please come and support our Church and our outreach ministry.

Women's Life will serve the evening meal at the Homeless Shelter on **Monday March 8th**. There will be a sign up sheet for meal donations at our February meeting. PLEASE NOTE: The March meeting will move to Monday March 8th. We will meet briefly after serving at the Homeless shelter.

After the business meeting we split off into our committees, making plans for the up coming year.

Mark Your Calendars: We will have our annual picnic on **Tuesday, August 17th** at the home of Carolyn Spivey.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 14th**, location TBA.

Thank you again to every family member, spouse, and church family member who help support our fund-raising endeavors. We have great plans for 2010.

Thank you and God Bless,
Sauni Johnson, President

Men's Brotherhood

Secretary, Clifford Lopp

The Men's Brotherhood met on Thursday, January 21st in the fellowship hall with 20 present. We enjoyed delicious salmon stew and pork loin prepared by Mike Brown and all of the kitchen crew.

President, Frank Leonard shared, as a theme for the year, "Be Ye Fishers of Men in 2010".

Banks Shepherd presented a program based on New Year resolutions. He gave suggestions that we can follow as we begin 2010.



We hope that one of your resolutions will be to join the Men's Brotherhood this year. We always have plenty of room and food for you. Our next meeting will be **February 18th at 6:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall.

United Friendship Club

President, June Grubb

The United Friendship Club enjoyed a delicious covered dish lunch with friends at our January meeting. Following lunch, June Grubb shared devotions with the group. Special thanks to hostesses, Joyce Price, Nancy Robbins and Vicky Green for the beautiful table decorations.

The program consisted of several members sharing "show and tell" items with connected stories.

Next month Friendship Club members will attend the Lexington Community Lenten Service 12:05 p.m. Wednesday, February 24th at First United Methodist Church. The Community Lenten services have been sponsored by the Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association for several years. Those who wish to go as a group will gather at our church at 11:30 a.m. Others may meet us at First UMC where we will sit together as a group. We will be staying for lunch following the service. Lunch cost is \$5.00.

Morning Glory Circle

Secretary, Mary Berrier

The Morning Glory Circle met in January with ten members present. Chairperson Lib Sink opened the meeting with a poem.

The report from the treasurer was read and accepted as well as minutes from the November and December meetings.

Plans for serving the evening meal at the Homeless Shelter on January 12th were finalized.

A program on "Spring Cleaning" (not the house!) was presented by Mary Berrier. Even though New Year resolutions have been made, in order to keep them, our hearts and minds should be cleared of the clutter...anger, contempt, envy, all our prejudices, etc. A group discussion followed.

The Morning Glory Circle meets monthly on the first Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the parlor. All ladies in the church are welcome to join us.

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2010

President: June Grubb
Secretary: Ramona Yarbrough

Vice President: Tom Danze
Treasurer: Harriette Murphy

ELDERS

<u>2008-09-10</u>	Nancy Robbins	Cheryl Walser
<u>2009-10-11</u>	Tom Danze	Calvin Odom
<u>2010-11-12</u>	Harriette Murphy	Sylvia Walser

DEACONS

<u>2008-09-10</u>	Jeff Hutchens	Ramona Yarbrough	Eddie Yates
<u>2009-10-11</u>	Mike Brown	Betty Link	Edgar Miller
<u>2010-11-12</u>	June Grubb	Janette Neal	John Smith, III

TRUSTEES

<u>2010</u>	Steve Smith	<u>2011</u>	Roy Bevan	<u>2012</u>	Jerry Smith
<u>2013</u>	Jim Swing	<u>2014</u>	Scott Frye		

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Chairperson: Eddie Yates

Hospitality Committee: Chairperson: Eddie Yates

Anne and Roy Bevan, Raeann and Brad Biesecker, Lynn and Mike Brown, Beth and Frank Callicutt, Anne Fletcher, Alice and James Gray, Vicky and John Gray, Keri and Casey Hartle, Ann and Walter Hoffman, Heidi and Ron Hutcheson, Mary Jo and Lee Jessup, Lena and Rich Johnson, Sauni and Thomas Johnson, Lynn Klopp, Paula and Clifford Lopp, Brian McKerlie, Amy and Birke McNeill, Kivi and Edgar Miller, Janette Neal, Lisa Nelson, Susan and Calvin Odom, John Potts, Mike Price, Barbara and Doug Sink, Nicole and Mark Smith, Nina and Ted Smith, Myra Thompson, Cheryl and Bill Walser, Sylvia and John Walser, Belinda and Eddie Yates

Historical Committee: Chairperson: Katherine Skipper

Merle Hodges, Arlene Swing, Clifford Lopp

Bereavement Committee Captains: Team #1 - Lynn Brown and Susan Odom; Team #2 - Marguerite

Leonard; Team #3 - Belinda Yates; Team #4 - Betty Bates; Team #5 - Doris Sink; Team #6 - Harriette Murphy and Carolyn Spivey

Correspondence Committee: Janette Neal and John Potts

Visitation Committee: Chairpersons: Sylvia Walser and Belinda Yates

Butch Bouchard, Pattie Everhart, Aurelia Smith, Gladys Snider

Homecoming Committee: Chairperson:

Mary Berrier, Lynn Brown, Alice Gray, Katherine Skipper, Joe Yarbrough

BOARD OF WORSHIP AND SACRAMENT: Chairperson: Ramona Yarbrough

Holy Communion: Chairperson: Lynn Brown

Betty Barr, Sarah Brown, Lynn McCarn, Joyce Price, Myrtle Latimer, Belinda Yates

Holy Communion Servers: Chairperson: John Potts

Altar Preparation: Chairperson: Ramona Yarbrough

Betty Barr, Debra Freeman, Gerry Hill, Elizabeth Sink, Gladys Snider

Music Ministry: Chairperson: Elizabeth Sink

Mary Berrier, Marguerite Leonard, Susan Odom, Gladys Snider, Jim Swing, Cathy Waitman,
(Lee Ann Peele, Paul Freeman)

Sanctuary Needs & Pulpit Supply: Larry Link

Usher: Co-Chairpersons: Ramona Yarbrough and Adena Wall

Funeral Ushers: Peggy Bates, J.W. Bates, John Potts

Acolyte: Chairperson: Anne Fletcher

Greeters: Elders

Flowers: Chairperson: Betty Link

Decorating Committee: Co-Chairpersons: Scott Frye and Lisa Nelson

Brad Biesecker, Kathleen and Tom Danze, Rich Johnson, Clifford Lopp, Cheryl Walser,
John and Sylvia Walser

Hanging of the Greens: Chairperson: Mary Jo Jessup

Raeann Biesecker, Paula Lopp, Susan Odom, Nicole Smith

Sound System: Co-Chairpersons: James Gray and Tony Peele

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chairperson: Nancy Robbins

Interim Director of Christian Education: Cathy Waitman

Jessica Bentley, Amanda and Chris Fulton, Alice Gray, Vicky Gray, Keri Hartle, Heidi Hutcheson,
Amy McNeill, Camille Morgan, Harriette Murphy, Lisa Nelson, Carolyn Spivey, Laura Strenk

BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Chairperson: Edgar Miller

Kathleen Danze, Walter Hoffman, Lynn Klopp, Birke McNeill, Aurelia Smith

Crisis Ministry: Camille Morgan (Corn Flakes) Edgar Miller (Shelter Coordinator)

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Co-Chairpersons: Janette Neal and Dave Fulton

John Barber, Mary Berrier, Anne Bevan, Kathleen Danze, Glenyce Fulton,

Camille Morgan, Clifton Murphy (Prayer Chain Chairperson: Adena Wall)

BOARD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP: Co-Chairpersons: John Smith & Mike Brown

Finance & Budget: Co-Chairpersons: John Smith and Doug Sink

Mike Brown, Tom Danze, Dave Fulton, Edgar Miller, Janette Neal, Nancy Robbins,
Ramona Yarbrough, Eddie Yates, Ex officio: Harriette Murphy and Paula Lopp

Property: Co-Chairpersons: Mike Brown and Tom Danze

J.W. Bates, Mary Berrier, Scott Frye, James Gray, Jeff Hutchens, Rich Johnson,
Thomas Johnson, Buddy Lohr, Clifford Lopp, John Potts, Dawn Shaak, Barbara Sink,
Doug Sink, Katherine Skipper, Mark Smith

Insurance: Cliff Lopp Endowments: Trustees

Memorial Garden: Chairperson: Mike Brown

Peggy Bates, Carolyn Spivey

Special Gifts: Chairperson: Mike Brown

Merle Hodges, Dawn Shaak, Mark Smith, and Carolyn Spivey

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairperson: Sylvia Walser

J.W. Bates, Dave Fulton, Joyce Price, Nina Smith, and Eddie Yates

Christian Education

Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education



Can you believe that January is already over and the month of Love has arrived? Valentine's Day is just around the corner and the children have been making special preparations. In Kids' Club, **Alice and James** helped them to make Valentine placemats for the upcoming luncheon. In Children's Church, they are learning about the Fruit of the Spirit and last Sunday they studied love. If you check out the bulletin board in the Education Building hallway, the children have posted quotes telling what they love about our church.

There are many things I love about First Reformed UCC. We have a beautiful, peaceful sanctuary in which to worship. We have bright, exciting classrooms where our children learn about God. We have friendly, helpful members who participate in various activities. Our church is growing and I hope all of us are spreading the word that God loves everyone!

Just a reminder that the nursery is open during the Sunday School hour as well as during church. There are volunteers each Sunday morning waiting for the "little ones". Our teachers are so dedicated and work hard each week preparing lessons and gathering materials they need. They would love to see your child(ren) each Sunday morning. The children are learning exciting things that they would love to share with their parents and friends during the Children's Message. They really need to be here, however, as often as possible to practice and make sure they know what to do.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at church, but we especially need a few committed volunteers to help out with our Roads to God program. The teaching responsibilities are only two Sundays out of eight. There are a few brave people who are trying out the science and computer lessons. If you think you might be interested, please contact me at the church office. I will be happy to explain the Roads to God program.

Be sure to take time daily to thank God for all of your blessings and your loved ones. Let's make February a month of love around First Reformed United Church of Christ.

Kids' Club

Alice Gray

Kids' Club met twice in January. The children continued to learn the 23rd Psalm during the Sunday meeting under the leadership of **Cathy Waitman** and **Lisa Nelson**. The children are studying one verse from the psalm each time they meet. By the end of April, all of the children will hopefully know one of our favorite psalms from memory.



To celebrate love and upcoming Valentine's Day, they created placemats which will be used during the February 7th Congregational meal. Tuesday night leaders **Alice and James Gray** and the children hope everyone attends the meal so you can enjoy using the beautiful placemats.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 16 at 7pm** and **Sunday, February 21** right after the Children's Moment during worship for our next meetings.

Stay warm!

Upcoming Events...

Souper Bowl Sunday

Please come prepared to “play” in the **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** Sunday, February 7, 2010. Members will be invited to give \$1 each on the way out of worship on the morning of the NFL Super Bowl. Every dollar donated at First Reformed UCC will be sent directly to Crisis Ministry of Lexington. Let’s join the effort and make a difference in our community.



Living the Questions Study Series

The “**Living the Questions**” series “Reclaiming the World” will continue at **7:15 p.m. on Thursday nights in our Educational Building Fellowship Hall**. Remaining lesson topics include:

February 4, 2010	“The Myth of Redemptive Violence”
February 11, 2010	“Practicing Resurrection”
February 18, 2010	“Debunking the Rapture”
February 25, 2010	“Reclaiming the World”

As before, we will use a stimulating DVD to prompt our discussions, along with lesson handouts for personal work. Delicious snacks will be on hand as well. See you there!

Ash Wednesday Service of Imposition of Ashes



Our annual Service of the Imposition of Ashes will be held **Wednesday, February 17, 2010** at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. The service will offer a time to lift up our hearts in confession and enter into the season of self-denial.

Touching Davidson County With Love

First Reformed UCC is once again participating in the Touching Davidson County With Love project, which will be held **May 1st**. Please let **Edgar Miller** know if you are interested in being a project manager or volunteer at 336-899-0660 or edgarmiller@earthlink.net.

The TDCWL committee, made up of individuals from the area churches, is meeting regularly and has requested that we provide the number of project managers and volunteers at the March meeting. This information will be helpful in determining the number of projects that can be accepted. **Please check your calendar and contact Edgar as soon as possible.**

NOTE: WE WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE TOUCHING DAVIDSON COUNTY WITH LOVE PROJECT ON **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST**. PLEASE COME PREPARED TO GIVE. CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO FIRST REFORMED UCC WITH TDCWL IN THE MEMO AREA.

January 2010 Memorials

MARY LOUISE GREEN ROLLINS

Nancy Robbins
Marguerite Leonard
Vicky Green
Mary Berrier

ETHEL MARIE BAILEY

Janie Lohr
Nancy Robbins
Mary Berrier



GERTRUDE JARVIS

Mary Berrier

GEORGE CROUSE

Mary Berrier

HILDA DORSETT LEONARD

Banks and Eulene Shepherd
Mary Berrier

LOUIS "IKE" GREEN

Mary Berrier

January 2010 Honorariums

DEANNA MICHAEL-BECK *{Happy Birthday}*

Heart Sister

BETTY BATES *{Happy Birthday}*

Heart Sister

Buzzard, Bat and the Bumblebee!

THE BUZZARD: If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT: The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

THE BUMBLEBEE: A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE: In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up.

Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, But faith looks up!

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and trust in our Creator who loves us.



To the Congregation of First Reformed UCC,

Junior and I would like to thank you for the well filled Christmas basket and throws that you gave us both at Christmas. The cards the Kids' Club made seemed to make it more special.

We feel blessed to have a church family that is so thoughtful and generous. We also thank you for the many cards, visits, flowers and gifts that you have sent to us and especially the prayers. We miss all of you and look forward to the day we can come back to the church that has been such a big part of our lives. We miss you and love you.

Henry (Junior) and Juanita Beck

Dear First Reformed United Church of Christ,

Thank you for letting us use the fellowship hall on December 11th. The children and parents had a great time! You allowed us to let the children experience the movie and parents a chance to socialize with other parents. May you be blessed for your generosity.

Kay Honeycutt, School Readiness, Southwood

Thank you notes were received from the following for benevolent gifts from First Reformed UCC...

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Elon Homes for Children | Southern Conference OCWM | Blowing Rock Conference Center |
| The Pastor's Pantry | Catawba College | Lancaster Theological Seminary |
| Johns River Valley Camp | The Salvation Army | Communities In Schools |
| Elon University | Crisis Ministry of Davidson County | Family Services of Davidson County |
| Davidson Medical Ministries | Hospice of Davidson County | United Church Homes and Services |
| Nazareth Children's Home | Habitat for Humanity | |

First Reformed UCC Friends,

Thank you so much for ringing the bell at The Salvation Army Kettle! Your contribution of time and effort provided a brighter Christmas and much needed services to disadvantaged individuals and families who turned to The Salvation Army for a "helping hand" this season.

Your group raised \$436.06 at your kettle site. Good job!

God bless you and best wishes for a new year filled with joy.

In the Service of Christ, *Major Ken Oakes*

Members of First Reformed UCC,

Thank you for your generous gift! I hope you realize that your contribution is doing more than simply supporting an agency with a good mission...it is literally changing the lives of the children of our community. Thank you for your gift of hope!

Christina, Communities in Schools

FEBRUARY STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Ramona Yarbrough
Captain: James Gray
Ushers: John Smith, III, Henry Crouse, Mark Smith

Plate Attendant: Carolyn Spivey

Acolytes: Laura and Katrina Strenk

Sound Tech: Tony Peele

Adult Joint Sunday School: Responsible for lesson - - - Men's Bible Class

Social: Host/Hostess: Clifford and Paula Lopp and Keri and Casey Hartle

CHANGE of DATE Since we will have our congregational meeting with a meal on the first Sunday of February, the Sunday School Social has been changed to the **second Sunday, February 14th**.

Greeters: February 7 Bill and Cheryl Walser
February 14 John and Sylvia Walser
February 21 Roy and Anne Bevan
February 28

WORSHIP HOUR NURSERY

SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY

Nursery: February 7 Katie and Shane Decker
February 14 Kivi and Edgar Miller
February 21 Sauni and Thomas Johnson
February 28 Beth and Frank Callicutt

Mary Jo Jessup
Sylvia Walser and Aurelia Smith
Harriette Murphy
Amy McNeill




(Alston Brook) Betty Potts, Catherine Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard *(Centerclair)* Jeanne Trexler
(St. Martins in the Pines) Barbara Schaeffer *(The Laurels at Forest Glen)* Elmer Morgan
(Piedmont Crossing) Henry and Ernestine Kennedy, Frances Leonard, and Rita Tussey

Don Leonard is now a resident at Trinity Oakes, Apt. 223-B, 728 Klumac Road, Salisbury, NC 28144

Ronnie Durham, John Rollins, Sadie Bailey, Arlene Swing, Margaret Trexler, Joel Reece, Henry and Juanita Beck, Jacqueline Leonard, Giles Crowell, Micki Smith, Ernie Bonner, and Velna Swing. Also, please remember Nancy Daye Green (Wanda's Daughter), George Horner (Vicky Gray's Father), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family), Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman's Uncle), Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Spencer Wilson, Joyce Bowie (Joyce Price's sister-in-law), Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier), 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.

FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 p.m. BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MTG (P) SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING (WW)	2	3 11 a.m. (Parlor) MORNING GLORY CIRCLE 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice	4 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class 7:15 p.m. (FH) Living the Questions Study	5	6 9 a.m. (FH) WLF Kitchen Noon-2 p.m. Mary Crouse
7 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service "Soup"er Bowl of Caring SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CONSISTORY MTG AFTER LUNCH 6-8 p.m. Community Youth Mtg	8 5:30 p.m. (P) Scrap Booking/Craft Night	9	10 8 a.m. (FH) United Way 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice	11 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA Class 7:15 p.m. (FH) Living the Questions Study	12	13
14 9:45 a.m. Joint Sunday School 10:20 am SS Social (FH) 11 am Worship Service	15	16 7 p.m. (Parlor) WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP and KID'S CLUB	17  WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m. Chapel Ash Wednesday Service of Imposition of Ashes	18 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA 6 p.m. (FH) MEN'S BROTHERHOOD 7:15 p.m. (FH) Living the Questions Study	19	20
21 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service With Special TDCWL Offering and Kids' Club 6-8 p.m. Community Youth Mtg	22	23	24 11:30 a.m. FRIENDSHIP CLUB Meets to travel to First UMC for Lenten Service 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice	25 5:30 p.m. (P) YOGA 7:15 p.m. (FH) Living the Questions Study	26	27
28 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service and Children's Church				<p>SUNDAY, MARCH 14—DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP SPRING BAKE SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 27—10:30—11:30 A.M. (FH) EASTER EGG HUNT</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 28—PALM SUNDAY</p>		

Soup and Sandwich Lunch Congregational Meeting



Sunday, February 7th Women's Life Fellowship will provide delicious vegetable soup along with pimento cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch immediately following the worship service. Collected donations will assist ongoing support of local nonprofits. Reservations need to be made as soon as possible. Please fill out the reservation form in the bulletin or call the church office at 248-2617. **NOTE: ANY EXTRA SOUP WILL BE SOLD FOR \$5.00 A QUART.**

Following lunch the annual business meeting of First Reformed United Church of Christ congregation will be held. Board chairpersons and treasurers will give lively and creative reports. All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of our church.



As an added bonus, **Ava Miller** will be selling Girl Scout cookies in the fellowship hall before and after the congregational meeting. Be sure to get your order in...you only get one chance a year to purchase these delicious goodies.

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
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