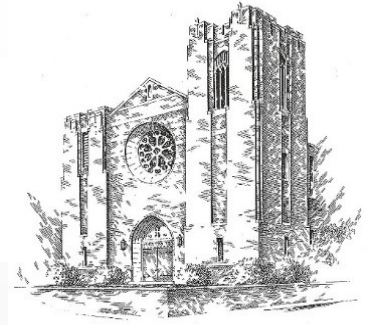


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



February 2012

On Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. we celebrate Ash Wednesday as the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is the longest single season in the church calendar. It calls for us, as Christians, to live in a period of spiritual preparation and renewal through repentance, prayer, and meditation upon our Lord's passion and death.

In the first century, Lent corresponded with the forty hours Jesus' body lay in the tomb. The early Christians reflected and prayed during these hours, remembering the time following Jesus' death upon the cross through his resurrection on Easter morning. By the third century the forty hours extended to the six days we know now as Holy Week. Then in the fourth century, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday received particular emphasis.

Next, Lent was lengthened from the six days to thirty-six, symbolizing a tithe (ten percent) of the calendar year. Finally, four days were added to the thirty-six to make the forty days we now observe. The use of forty stems from the Biblical significance of the number forty: in Noah's time it rained for forty days and forty nights; Moses met with God on Mount Sinai for forty days; and Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. Sundays have always celebrated Christ's resurrection (each Sunday being referred to as "little" Easters), hence they were excluded from the forty day period of Lent. Yet, the spirit of Lent does enter into our Sunday worship as we proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection.

Lent begins 46 days prior to Easter (40 days of Lent plus 6 Sundays). Prior to 1099 A.D. Ash Wednesday was only known as the "Beginning of the Fast". Pope Urban II in 1099 decreed that the first day of Lent be referred to as Ash Wednesday due to the ancient custom of ashes placed upon the foreheads of penitents (a sign of repentance and grief).

The day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove (which means to cleanse) or Fat Tuesday. The faithful seek to cleanse themselves of their sins, hence "shrove". It was, also, the custom to collect all the fat, which was forbidden during Lent, and make doughnuts (the German custom) or pancakes (English).

The early church used Lent to instruct converts of the Christian faith. They repented and prayed during this time as preparation for their baptism on Easter morning. The Council of Nicea declared in 325 A.D. that Lent was the time for all Christians to repent and pray. No weddings or public entertainment were allowed. *Alleluias* and the *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* were prohibited in public worship.

One of the main disciplines of the Lenten Season, the tradition of fasting from meat, occurred every Friday and was commonly practiced. For some during all the days of Lent certain foods were prohibited, including meat, dairy products and eggs. Protestant churches traditionally have not emphasized the necessity for any such fasting, most likely to disassociate themselves from their Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. Yet, Martin Luther in his Small Catechism did state that fasting and other outward preparations are useful in preparing to receive communion.

While the Lenten Season is 3 weeks away, we may reflect on how we will approach the season as a time to strengthen our relationship with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We may develop a spiritual discipline that makes this season special or set apart from our routines. We may determine to give something up, as a sacrifice, defining this time as different or holy. Or perhaps take up, as in to take up one's cross, a meaningful discipline - realizing that discipline is a word derived from disciple. We may center ourselves upon God's power to transform our sin into an instrument of life and salvation. We may get in touch with God's righteousness, knowing that God's love for the world is demonstrated by the cross. And we may even find new ways to ask, "Have I told you today that I love you?"

Your RunnRev, Robin

Consistory Highlights—January 2012

Financial Report: Average weekly offering for the month of December 2011: \$4,946.00. All benevolences for 2011 were paid in full. We need to continue special fundraisers if we want to pay benevolences in full this year. First payments are due the end of March.

Pastor's Report: Reverend Keating presented the names of Lee and Ellen Bouchard for transfer of membership to First Reformed United Church of Christ. He informed the Consistory he would like to invite Second Reformed United Church of Christ to participate in the Ash Wednesday Service.



Board of Christian Education: The Board continues to discuss:

The Souper Bowl of Caring, which will be February 5th.

Plans for two fund raiser luncheons: one for Johns River Valley Campers and one for the Blowing Rock Retreat.

Roads-to-God is starting a new rotation called "Giving and Receiving Hospitality". The children will be asked to donate gently used books and toys to Crisis Ministries for their Mission Project.

First Sunday Joint Sunday school and the people who are doing their spiritual life journeys.

The possibility of incorporating VBS with this summer's Work Camp that will be lead by Chris Fulton.

Congregational Life: Thanks are offered to John Potts, Janette Neal, Bill and Cheryl Walser for hosting the January 1st Sunday School Social. Thanks are offered to Sylvia and John Walser, John and Vicky Gray, Susan and Calvin Odom, Raeann Biesecker, and Anne Fletcher for handling the decorating, covered dishes and clean-up for the Christmas Celebration December 18, 2011.

Board of Business Management and Stewardship:

Finance: Co-chair John Smith thanked outgoing Consistory members, Mike Brown, Edgar Miller and Calvin Odom, for serving on the finance committee in 2011. He also thanked John Barber for doing the audit.

Board chairpersons were reminded that they are part of the Finance Committee.

Property Committee: Ron Hutcheson will co-chair the 2012 committee with Tom Danze

Evangelism Board: Janette Neal reported the average monthly attendance for December was 149. Membership at the end of December was 317. On December 18th during our worship service, thirty-one Prayer Shawls were blessed.

Nominating Committee: Chairperson, Sylvia Walser reported that the 2012 nominating committee would consist of the following:

Sylvia Walser, Doug Sink, Carolyn Spivey and Vicky Gray

Old Business: Continued the discussion on Long Range Goals for the church.

The Consistory reviewed the 1996 Goals for First Reformed United Church of Christ. Many goals have been met and some are in the process of being addressed. Reverend Grubb asked that the new Boards revisit the goals and update.

Reverend Keating requested the Boards bring long range goals back to the Consistory. We need to have a long range vision of where we want the Church to be.

New Business: Board Chairpersons for 2012 are:

Board of Congregational Life – Harriette Murphy and Glenyce Fulton

Board of Worship & Sacrament – Rev. June Grubb and Rita Lohr

Board of Christian Education – Sauni Johnson

Board of Community Outreach – Anne Fletcher and James Atkinson

Board of Evangelism – Janette Neal and David Fulton; Myra Thompson (publicity)

Board of Business Management/Stewardship—Finance: John Smith and Doug Sink Property: Ron Hutcheson and Tom Danze

Nominating Committee - Sylvia Walser

Board Chairs were reminded to use the Time and Talent Sheets in forming board members.



Vision Statement Vote

At the annual business meeting of the congregation of First Reformed UCC, Sunday, February 5th, we will vote on a revision of the church Vision Statement. The revision consists of adding a few words for clarity. The Consistory has approved the following:

First Reformed UCC of Lexington's Vision is to build a vital and vibrant Christian Community where people discover:

The Love of God through Worship and Spirituality

The Power to Love Others through Community Service and Compassion

The Ability to Love Ourselves through Christian Learning and Fellowship

All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of our church.



The fourth annual ***Blowing Rock Retreat*** is coming up June 1 – 3. This is a wonderful get-away and a relaxing way to spend a spring weekend. All of those who attended last year are invited as well as others who are interested. There are many activities

Blowing Rock planned for children and adults so that our church members will get to know each other a little better.



Retreat

If you are interested in attending, please call Amy McNeill (243-1420) to get your name on the list. Information about deposits, room rates, and meal rates will be in the bulletin soon and in the March newsletter. Look for it! Deposits are due by the end of March.

There will be a luncheon on March 4th following the worship service to raise money for the retreat. Those who are planning to go will be in charge of the meal. The menu will be a sub sandwich bar. If you would be willing to help with the luncheon, call Amy or Cathy. Please mark your calendar now for these important dates.

An outing to a Winston Salem Dash game is being planned for a Sunday afternoon in May. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Details about the date and time will be available soon. We had excellent seats in the shade last year on the hottest day in May! We will have group seating, a free ball cap, and no waiting in line to get in. Tickets will be distributed before the day of the game. If you are interested in attending, contact Cathy by email at dce@frucc.org or by phone 248-2617 (MWF 9-12) or cell phone 250-2731.



Women's Life Fellowship



Women's Life Fellowship met January 17th. Shery Keel provided thought provoking devotions and Glenyce Fulton and Camille Morgan shared delicious refreshments.

Our February meeting will be Tuesday, February 21st. Carolyn Spivey will share a program based on Women of the Bible. All ladies of the church are welcome.

Instead of the usual meeting day of the third Tuesday, the March meeting will be on the second Monday, March 12th, following serving the evening meal at the homeless shelter. We decided on a menu for the shelter and will pass a signup sheet at our February meeting.

Morning Glory Circle

Morning Glory Circle met in the church parlor on January 4th with eight members present. Gladys Snider, President, opened the meeting and had devotions. She then passed around a card the circle received from Rita Tussey.

Circle members were reminded that we have traded months with the Men's Brotherhood to served the meal at the Homeless shelter. The Brotherhood will serve in January and we will be serving the Monday after Mother's Day in May.

Lib Sink had a very interesting program on Revisiting Characters Regarding the Birth of Jesus Christ.

Men's Brotherhood

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD



The Men's Brotherhood met on Monday, January 2nd. Mike Brown, with assistance from Clifford and Jeff provided the meal. President, Eddie Yates welcomed everybody to our new year. Plans were finalized for serving the meal at the Homeless Shelter on January 9th.

Eddie is lining up programs for the upcoming year. We enjoy the time together and look forward to participating in projects to support our church.

On January 9th we provided the meal for the Shelter. Special thanks to Mike Brown, Jeff Hutchens, Chris Keel and John Potts for preparing the meal. Those who assisted at the Shelter were Walter Hoffman, Rich Johnson, Clifford Lopp, Kalyssa Hutchens, Mike, Jeff and Chris. We served 53 and they were very appreciative of the Spaghetti Meal. Our next meeting will be on **Monday February 6th at 6:00 pm**. Clifton Murphy will be providing the meal. We look forward to seeing all men of the church. Bring a friend. All are welcome.

Stephen Ministry Update

The table below shows a summary of all the caregiver contacts made by our Stephen Ministers from July 29th through December 31, 2011.



Categories of care include shut-ins, hospitalizations, deaths of congregational members and others. These 187 contacts include phone calls, visits, and cards.

If you have questions about this ministry or to submit the name of someone to contact, please email John Barber at punkbarber@hotmail.com.

DATE	CATEGORY			TYPE OF CONTACT			MONTH TOTAL	
	SICK	SHUT-IN	OTHER	PHONE	VISITS	OTHER	CONTACTS	MINUTES SHARED
July 2011	X	X		2	4		6	280
August 2011	X	X	X	14	15		29	887
September 2011		X	X	10	10		20	463
October 2011	X	X	X	10	11	16	37	1540
November 2011	X	X	X	10	26	15	51	2940
December 2011		X	X	4	40		44	1795
PERIOD TO DATE TOTAL							187	7905

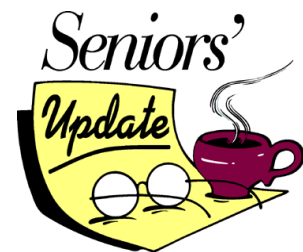
United Friendship Club

The United Friendship Club enjoyed a delicious covered dish meal on Wednesday, January 25th. Thank you to Joyce Price, Vicky Green, Nancy Robbins and Wanda Daye for the beautiful table decorations and door prizes.

Reverend Banks Shepherd shared devotions and introduced our speaker, Barb DeSouza.

Barb is an ordained minister with standings in the United Church of Christ. Barb spent 26 years as a missionary in Brazil for Global Ministries, a joint effort with the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. She shared a video as part of her presentation which was shown at the General Synod the year Barb received the Antoinette Brown Award for her work on behalf of the United Church of Christ. Barb and husband, Gus recently joined First Reformed UCC.

Members of the United Friendship Club will participate in the Community Lenten Service for its February 22nd meeting. The Ash Wednesday Service will be held at First United Methodist Church in downtown Lexington. We will sit together at the service and those that wish may stay for the light lunch prepared by the Methodist church. Cost of the meal is \$6.00.



FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 2012

President: Tom Danze
Secretary: Glenyce Fulton

Vice President: June Grubb
Treasurer: Harriette Murphy

ELDERS

<u>2010-11-12</u>	Harriette Murphy	Sylvia Walser	
<u>2011-12-13</u>	Doug Sink	Carolyn Spivey	
<u>2012-13-14</u>	Tom Danze	Sauni Johnson	Myra Thompson

DEACONS

<u>2010-11-12</u>	June Grubb	Janette Neal	John Smith, III
<u>2011-12-13</u>	Glenyce Fulton	Ron Hutcheson	Rita Lohr
<u>2012-13-14</u>	James Atkinson	Betty Barr	Anne Fletcher

TRUSTEES

<u>2012</u>	Jerry Smith	<u>2013</u>	Jim Swing	<u>2014</u>	Scott Frye
<u>2015</u>	Tony Peele	<u>2016</u>	Steve Smith		

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Chairperson: Harriette Murphy and Glenyce Fulton

Hospitality Committee Chairperson:

Anne and Roy Bevan, Raeann Biesecker, Lynn and Mike Brown, Beth and Frank Callicutt, Anne Fletcher, Alice and James Gray, Vicky and John Gray, June Grubb, 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, Chris Keel, Lynn Klopp, Betty and Larry Link, Rita Lohr, Paula and Clifford Lopp, Brian McKerlie, Amy and Birke McNeill, Janette Neal, Lisa Nelson, Susan and Calvin Odom, John Potts, Mike Price, Barbara and Doug Sink, John Smith, Nicole and Mark Smith, Nina and Ted Smith, Myra Thompson, Cathy Waitman, Cheryl and Bill Walser, Sylvia and John Walser, Belinda and Eddie Yates

Church Events Photography Chairperson: Cathy Waitman

Amanda Fulton, Clifton Murphy, Nicole Smith

Historical Committee Chairperson: Merle Hodges

Peggy Bates, Wanda Daye, Clifford Lopp, Banks Shepherd, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey

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

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

Visitation Committee Chairpersons: Sylvia Walser and Belinda Yates

Butch Bouchard, Wanda Daye, Pattie Everhart, Glenyce Fulton, Clifton & Harriette Murphy, Aurelia Smith, John Smith, Gladys Snider

Homecoming Committee Chairpersons: Mary Berrier and Lib Sink

Peggy Bates, Alice Gray, Heidi Hutcheson, Katherine Skipper

BOARD OF WORSHIP AND SACRAMENT: Chairpersons: June Grubb and Rita Lohr

Holy Communion Co-Chairpersons: Lynn Brown and Betty Barr

Myrtle Latimer, Chris Keel, Brian McKerlie, Belinda Yates

Holy Communion Servers Chairperson: John Potts

Altar Preparation Co-Chairpersons: Ramona Yarbrough and Betty Barr

Gerry Hill, Jeff Hutchens, Elizabeth Sink, Gladys Snider

Music Ministry Co-Chairpersons: Elizabeth Sink and Clifton Murphy

Mary Berrier, Wanda Daye, Glenyce Fulton, Marguerite Leonard, Harriette Murphy,

Susan Odom, Gladys Snider, Jim Swing, Cathy Waitman,

Ex-officio: Lee Ann Peele, Paul Freeman, June Grubb, Robin Keating

Sanctuary Needs Chairperson: Larry Link

Ushers Chairperson: Jeff Hutchens

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

Acolyte Chairperson: Raeann Biesecker

Greeters Chairperson: Carolyn Spivey

Flowers Chairperson: Betty Link

Decorating Committee Co-Chairpersons: Scott Frye, Mary Jo Jessup and Lisa Nelson

Tom Danze, Amanda Fulton, June Grubb, Lena and Rich Johnson, Betty Link, Rita Lohr,

Clifford Lopp, Harriette and Clifton Murphy, Mike Price, Nicole Smith

Sound System Chairperson: James Gray

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chairperson: Sauni Johnson

Director of Christian Education: Cathy Waitman

Amanda Fulton, Alice Gray, Vicky Gray, June Grubb, Heidi Hutcheson, Lena Johnson,

Chris Keel, Amy McNeill, Camille Morgan, Lisa Nelson, Nancy Robbins, Carolyn Spivey

BOARD OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Co-Chairpersons: Anne Fletcher and James Atkinson

Chris Fulton, Walter Hoffman, Lynn Klopp, Birke McNeill, Edgar Miller, Mike Price, Doug Sink,

Aurelia Smith, Sylvia Walser

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

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

Camille Morgan, Clifton Murphy, Mike Price

Prayer Chain Chairperson: Adena Wall Publicity Chairperson: Myra Thompson

BOARD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP: Co-Chairpersons: John Smith & Ron Hutcheson

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

James Atkinson, Tom Danze, Anne Fletcher, Dave Fulton, Glenyce Fulton, June Grubb, Walter

Hoffman, Ron Hutcheson, Sauni Johnson, Rita Lohr, Harriette Murphy, Janette Neal, Sylvia Walser

Ex officio: Paula Lopp

Property Co-Chairpersons: Ron Hutcheson and Tom Danze

J.W. Bates, Mike Brown, James Gray, Jeff Hutchens, Rich Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Chris Keel,

John Potts, Dawn Shaak, Doug Sink, John Smith

Insurance: Property Committee Chairpersons

Endowments: Trustees

Memorial Garden Co-Chairpersons: Ron Hutcheson and Tom Danze

Peggy Bates, Carolyn Spivey

Special Gifts Co-Chairpersons: Ron Hutcheson and Tom Danze

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairperson: Sylvia Walser

Vicky Gray, Doug Sink, Carolyn Spivey



THANK YOU NOTES FOR BENEVOLENT GIFTS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING...

- COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS**
- DAVIDSON PRISON MINISTRY**
- FAMILY SERVICES**

Dear Congregation,

The Spivey family would like to thank all of you for your kindness and care during Ann's illness and our bereavement. This is a very loving and caring congregation and we have witnessed proof of that fact.

**APPRECIATIVELY,
CARROLL AND CAROLYN SPIVEY**

Dear First Reformed UCC Friends,

Thank you for the fruit, cards, and flower I received during Christmas. Special thanks for the continual prayers, kindnesses and blessings throughout the year.

**THANK YOU,
SADIE BAILEY**

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you once again for the Christmas gifts, as all the others you have given me throughout the year. You have shared your abundant love that God Himself gave to us through His gift of the "wee babe, Jesus the Christ".

May each of you be blessed richly, throughout the New Year.

**HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE,
RITA TUSSEY**

Harriette and Prayer Shawl Committee,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawls! They are so warm. Germany is cold right now so they have been worn quite a bit.

It means so much to me that the church family thought of me and my daughter!

THANK YOU AGAIN, BRIANNE FREEMAN STUDEBAKER



Touching Davidson County With Love

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Again this year, the area churches will come together to reach out in providing acts of love and kindness to our community as a witness to Christ. Each participating church will enlist individuals to provide varied skills needed.

Touching DC

With Love

Our coordinator this year is Lynn Klopp. The first item of importance is to secure project managers. This can be anything from planning and overseeing a nursing home visit to painting or doing a construction project. These names will be turned in February 5th. If you are able to be a project manager or have questions please contact Lynn at 250-2823.

MONETARY DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED...on Sunday, February 19th we will take up a special offering for TDCWL. To donate please make your check payable to First Reformed UCC and write TDCWL on the memo line. You will be given credit on your giving statement for tax purposes.



JANUARY 2012

HENRY JUNIOR BECK

Ruth Essick
Marilyn Lohr

DONALD W LEONARD

Dave and Janet McCoy
Ruth Essick

ALOSSIE KNOWLES

{Lee Ann Peele's Mother}

Dawn and Bob Shaak

Merle and Jerry Hodges

ANN SPIVEY

{Carroll Spivey's Mother}

Deanna Michael
John and Vicky Gray
Nancy Robbins
Banks and Eulene Shepherd

Merle and Jerry Hodges
Wanda Daye
Gladys Snider



Honorarium Gifts

CATHY WAITMAN

Jan and Carl Ray Conrad

BETTY BATES

Heart Sister

MARGUERITE LEONARD

Nancy Robbins

JANETTE NEAL

Nancy Robbins

WANDA DAYE

Heart Sister

Christian Education

Cathy Waitman, Director of Christian Education

February is the month of love! We have some great ways to share our love this month. The first activity is the Souper Bowl of Caring. On **Sunday, February 5th**, the Grapplers will be standing at the church exits with their soup pots for your donations. The money collected will go to Crisis Ministries to help feed the people in our community who are unemployed or homeless. Last year we collected \$291.66. Please bring your dollars to help fill the soup pots with even more money this year.



Send a Kid to Camp



Another way to share our love this month is to come to the Send-A-Kid to Camp luncheon on **Feb. 5th** after the church service. The New Way Class and Women's Life Fellowship are sponsoring a soup and sandwich luncheon to raise money for Johns River Camp this summer. The church helps make it possible for the children to go to camp by assisting with part of the cost. Last year we had eight campers to attend. They had such a great time that they all want to go again this year. Some of the other children want to go too! We hope to raise lots of money with this fund raiser, so open your hearts and your pockets to fill up the donation basket. Any soup

that is not served for the luncheon will be sold for \$5.00 a quart.

The children who attended Kids' Club with Alice and James Gray in January made a cute centerpiece for the serving table on Feb. 5. The scene shows the children sitting around a campfire roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. The children did a great job. Alice has so many creative ideas for the children. Be sure to look for the campfire as you serve your plate.

Our First Sunday class and social will be on **Feb. 12th**. Eulene Shepherd will be sharing her spiritual life journey with the adult classes. The children in Roads to God are setting up a "love" table as part of the social. They will be "sharing hospitality" with everyone as they come by for a snack. The children have been studying about giving and receiving hospitality in their rotation lessons.



Share your love with others.

On **Feb. 19th**, there will be one more opportunity for sharing our love. A special offering will be received that day for **Touching Davidson County with Love**. Members of our own church as well as people in the community can benefit from the projects that are completed by the church members in our area on April 21st.

Of course, don't forget to celebrate your love with family and friends on Valentine's Day. That would also be a good time to share God's love with those who are important in your life. I hope that all of you feel the love that comes from our church family. And as Robin says every Sunday morning, "**Have I told you today that I love you!**"



Love is *patient,*
 love is *kind.*
 It does not *envy,*
 it does not *boast,*
 it is not *proud.*

1 Corinthians 13:4



Kids' Club met three times in January. On the 9th, Amy McNeill led the lesson, "Consider the Ants." Ants are great models for us to follow. They do their "chores" without being told and without anyone checking up on them. We have jobs that Jesus wants us to do – caring about others, inviting people to church, sharing our faith, etc. He wants us to do these things just because they need to be done, not because someone tells us to.

Kids' Club met on Sunday, January 15. We discussed John's River Camp. The children who attended the camp this summer told stories about their fun experiences and activities. They were delighted to know that the proceeds from the upcoming meal right after church on February 5 will go towards their cost of next summers camp session!

To thank church members for wanting to help send them to camp, the children made a special decoration for the food table which will be displayed during the February 5th meal. We sang camp songs to set the mood. The scene is a mixture of camp and Valentine's Day. Be sure to check it out - it will remind you of your days at camp!

Strenk

The third meeting was on the 29th. The children met with Nina Smith to make a special "love treat" for the February Sunday school social. The true artists and poets came through as the children decorated their surprises. The next Kids' Club will be February 12th with Nicole Smith. The lesson will be on inchworms.

Children's Church met on Jan. 22nd with Amanda Fulton. The children continued their study about who Jesus is with the lesson, "I Am the Light of the World." Jesus is the light and life of our world. He shows us the only way to eternal life. The children made pictures of lighthouses and framed them with sea shells to remember that Jesus is the way for us to truly experience life. The next Children's Church will be Feb. 26th with Raeann Biesecker. The lesson will be "The Lord is My Rock."



**SPIRITUAL
JOURNEY**

This year the Adult Education program has introduced the "Faith Journey Series" as the adult classes gather in the Chapel once a month. Traditionally on the first Sunday of the month, on rotating bases, each adult class has been responsible for presenting the lesson which has been followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall provided by members of the church.

On January 8th we began this new program, whereby members of the congregation have been invited to talk about their faith and the experience of God in their lives. Our thanks go to John Barber who was our first speaker--- and he got us off to a grand start! His reflections were most engaging---at times humorous and at times very poignant. His life experience has included important people in his life who have influenced him in many ways and who he credits as having helped to shape the person he is today. The only problem was, we ran out of time and he was not able to complete his story. So sometime this year we will invite him back to complete his faith journey.

In order to make sure our presenters have the time they need to share their stories and to also provide a time for questions and responses from the audience, we will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m. Each adult class, on rotating bases, will call the participants together with a hymn and will introduce the speaker of the day. Because there are special events scheduled on some first Sundays, the February and March "Faith Journeys" will be held on the second Sunday of the month--- February 12th Eulene Shepherd and March 11th Chris Keel will be our presenters.

The Faith Journey Series is a great opportunity for all of us to come and reflect upon our own stories as we hear about the challenges as well as the joys in the lives of our presenters. Come join us!

FEBRUARY STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Jeff Hutchens
Captain: James Gray
Ushers: John Smith, Henry Crouse, Mark Smith

Plate Attendant: Carolyn Spivey

Acolyte: Holt Biesecker

Sound Tech:

Adult Joint Sunday School: Class responsible for songs and announcements - - - Willing Workers Class
Spiritual Journey Presenter: Eulene Shepherd

Social Host/Hostess: Paula and Clifford Lopp, Keri and Casey Hartle, Ashlee and Grant Snider

Greeters: February 5, 2012 Doug and Barbara Sink
February 12, 2012 John and Vicky Gray
February 19, 2012 Mike and Lynn Brown
February 26, 2012 Carroll and Carolyn Spivey

Nursery: February 5, 2012 Raeann and Holt Biesecker
February 12, 2012 Beth and Frank Callicutt
February 19, 2012 Katie and Shane Decker
February 26, 2012 Anne Fletcher, Laura and Katarina Strenk

(Alston Brook) Ernie Bonner and Juanita Beck **(Carolina House)** Micki Smith
(Piedmont Crossing) Henry Kennedy, Rita Tussey

Steve Smith, Annabelle Studebaker, Ronnie Durham, Sadie Bailey, Mary Crouse, Holton Davis, Willie Ruth Leonard, Margot Everhart, Stephen and Glory Tussey. Also, remember Jimmy Grubb, Michael Bliss, Evelyn Smith, Ted Williams, Sterling Hedrick, Susan Stier, Judy Guillot, Maria Kattengell, Jules Bliss, Bunny and Virginia Hill, Connie Weichert, Sandra Fern, Randy Carter, Melvin Evans, and Paul Stevens. 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.



February 5th — Regular Sunday school classes. Worship Service followed by lunch and a business meeting.
February 12th Joint Sunday school and the Sunday school social.

We extend **sympathy** to and share Christian hope with Carroll and Carolyn Spivey upon the death of Carroll's Mother, Ann Spivey.



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11 am (Parlor) Morning Glory Circle 7:00 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	2 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 7 pm (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS	3	4
5 9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship Service <i>(Soup-er Bowl of Caring)</i> Noon "Send a Kid to Camp" Soup and Sandwich Lunch Church Business Meeting	6 6:00 pm (FH) Men's Brotherhood 6:30 pm (Parlor) Bd of Christian Ed	7 10 am (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS	8 10 am (Parlor) Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Meeting 7:00 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	9 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 7 pm (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS	10	11
12 9:45 am Joint Sunday School 10:20 am Sunday School Social 11:00 am Worship Service and Kids' Club 6 pm Consistory Meeting	13 6:30 pm (Parlor) Stephen Ministry	14 10 am (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS 6:30 pm (Parlor) Board of Evangelism	15 7:00 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	16 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 7 pm (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS	17	18
19 9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship Service with special offering for Touching Davidson County With Love and Kids' Club	20	21 10 am (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS 7 pm (Parlor) Women's Life Fellowship	22 FRIENDSHIP CLUB WILL ATTEND COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE AT FIRST UMC 7:00 pm (Chapel) ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	23 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 7 pm (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS	24	25
26 9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship Service and Children's Church	27 6:30 pm (Parlor) Stephen Ministry	28 10 am (Parlor) SPIRITUALITY CLASS	29 NOON COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE AT FIRST UMC 7:00 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> <p>MARCH 4, 2012 SUB SANDWICH CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH SPONSORED BY BLOWING ROCK RETREAT PARTICIPANTS MARCH 18 — ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING</p> </div>		

Soup and Sandwich Lunch and Congregational Meeting

**Soup and
Sandwich
Lunch**



Sunday, February 5th we will be served delicious vegetable soup along with sandwiches for lunch immediately following the worship service. Meal donations will assist with support of our Johns River Campers.

NOTE: EXTRA SOUP WILL BE SOLD FOR \$5.00 A QUART.

Following lunch, a business meeting of First Reformed UCC will be held. Board chairpersons and treasurers will give annual reports. Also, a revision of the First Reformed UCC Vision Statement will be voted on. The revision consists of adding a few words for clarity (see inside).



Ava and Jianna Miller will be taking Girl Scout cookie orders at lunch. Cookies will be delivered in the narthex on Sunday, February 19th. Orders are only taken once a year for these delicious goodies.

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 Director**Paul Freeman**
Organist.....**Lee Ann Peele**

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School.....**9:45 a.m.**
Worship Service **11:00 a.m.**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Lexington, NC 27292
Permit #168