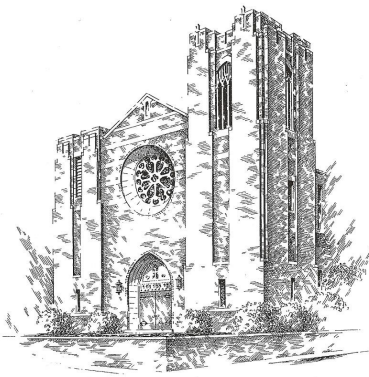


FIRST NEWS

November 2008



Charles Hollis ("C.H.") Bates, Jr., In Memoriam

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I have a warm, woolen, darkly multi-colored scarf which belonged to my father-in-law, now deceased, one of my favorite articles of clothing, partly because it is old and comfortable and durable, and partly because it once belonged to a man who I admired and respected deeply. Upon putting this scarf on this morning to brace against the cold, it put me in mind of C.H. Bates, Jr., who has already been much on my mind and spirit lately, just as he has yours. As it settled familiarly about my neck and shoulders, it felt like C.H.'s presence to me--close, warm, comforting, light, familiar, reliable, predictable. But it also suggested some of C.H.'s qualities that a mere piece of clothing cannot carry on its own, qualities like humility, loyalty, modesty, honesty, self-effacing, faithfulness, friendliness, companionable, availability, trustworthiness, openness, and, in particular, happiness and joy. These last qualities are not of the wild-and-woolly, swinging-from-the-chandeliers kind of party-joy, but happiness and joy of a much deeper, more spiritually grounded sort, the sort of joy that the Apostle Paul speaks about when he feels close to and is walking with his Lord, Jesus Christ.

These meditations put me in mind of one of the scriptures that I used in our Sunday sermon, the day before C.H.'s funeral, a message devoted to the difficult spiritual task of accepting our limitations, something that I believe C.H. did uncommonly well. It is II Corinthians 12: 1-10, when Paul shares of literally unspeakable ecstasies which are far beyond any natural powers or abilities of his own, experiences which are so transformative that he cannot even speak of himself as the one who experienced them. "On behalf of this man I will boast (the one who experienced this transcendent joy), but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses." Paul goes on to speak of the danger of being "too elated by the abundance of revelations," so that a "thorn" was given to him in the flesh to balance his joy. Many modern scholars believe that this limitation had something to do with his eyes, but it was so obviously well known to the Corinthians that he did not even need to identify it. After repeatedly seeking relief from this crippling affliction, the Lord's answer to Paul comes: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul thereafter will more gladly boast of his weaknesses, "...that the power of Christ may rest upon me." "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

While I do not think that C.H. would express this spiritual truth exactly the way that I am doing here, I do believe that, somewhere deeply within his soul, he understood and accepted this truth very well and lived it consistently far better than most. In an email that I sent to Myra Thompson at 3:50 p.m. on Friday, October 24, just hours before C.H. died, just after I had left his bedside for the last time and had made the sign of the cross on his forehead while offering God's blessing for him through the Trinitarian formula, I wrote that, for me, C.H. was possessed of a quality which I called "trustful serenity." By that phrase, I meant to express my sense that C.H., whether in plenty or in want, whether on the plain of high abundance and success or whether in mortal extremity, behaved pretty much the same way to everyone, whatever their social station or achievements, whether close friend or complete stranger, family or foreigner, whether in agreement or disagreement with him. God sprinkles such people among us, like salt, or perhaps even more appropriately for some, like yeast in flour-dough, like the leaven-in-the-lump-of-history with the inner power to transform or at least to touch the people around them. Such people evidence a graceful consistency of presence and affection and acceptance that we too often take for granted, reducing it to a charming simplicity, missing the great mystery that is before our eyes. Too often, it is only when they are gone that we come to our senses and say, almost in shock, "something is now missing among us that was precious, perhaps even holy."

Where does "trustful serenity" come from, a spiritual grounding of a person in Christ-like bedrock, a reliable basis for the uncalculating, unconditional, unafraid acceptance of pretty much everyone, with an almost reckless and apparently effortless concern for everyone ahead of one's own self? In C.H.'s case, I have four formative influences in mind. 1) The first such influence was, I believe, the extraordinary comportment of his parents, Charles Hollis Bates, Sr. and Addie Mae, during the Depression years. They ran a general store in Lexington at a time when many people who were hungry could not pay their bills, so his parents continued to allow bills to mount that they knew could not be paid back. —>

C. H. Bates, Continued...

Eventually, they went bankrupt and were forced to move to Lenoir so that his Dad could work in a furniture manufacturing plant. Now, I am not idealizing this situation, and I am sure that household tensions ran high at times during such mounting stress. But, this was still an astonishing thing for a formative young boy and his four sisters to witness, this chosen sacrifice by their parents to place other people's needs ahead of their own and those of their own family. 2) Perhaps it seemed like a Christ-like sacrifice to C.H., and it may have been a factor in his mind when he was received into the membership of FRUCC in 1941 by Rev. Peeler. We can appreciate a young man who felt the need to be grounded in a church family in 1941, for the events of December, 1941 constrained him and others to face a very uncertain future in the looming world war. 3) C.H. was stationed in the Pacific theatre, New Guinea, enduring horrific situations which he and others were unable or unwilling to speak about, even decades later. It is said that there are no atheists in fox holes, and one of the paradoxical lessons one learns in combat is that putting others ahead of yourself is actually a survival skill, though it may also mean that you have to sacrifice your own life for others. Upon returning to Lexington in 1945, C.H. is reported not to have slept at all at night, constantly pacing the floors of his room while others slept. We didn't have the term then that we apply now to people who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, but he almost surely had some form of it and dealt with it privately and valiantly for many years, as did so many other veterans. 4) C.H. returned home to a situation where his mother and eventually his four sisters required a great deal of care, which he provided gladly, probably at the expense of a college education and related advancements.

He eventually married the love of his life, Vera, sharing her love for children and Duke University; became a production supervisor with United Furniture; became a loyal and devoted member of the local VFW and Amvets chapters; and certainly became one of the most loyal, devoted and enthusiastic members that FRUCC has ever had, making it his business to be here literally every time the doors were open, very often among the first to arrive—also literally bursting out in song, especially in the classic old hymns of the faith with the Men's Bible Class and in congregational worship. Of course, apart from the loving touch of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, such an array of experiences cannot distill into "trustful serenity," but somehow, in the mix of some of these unsettling, even terrifying influences and many more beyond accounting for here, that is what happened. Who knows how many of these "thorns" C.H. asked God in Jesus Christ to remove, or even if he got to the point of asking at all. But God's answer came to him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." He came to trust Jesus profoundly in His teaching that we do indeed find life by giving it away, choosing to place others ahead of ourselves, and not bemoaning our limitations, which C.H. not only believed, but lived. How else can we account for an obvious, persistent "joy" which was so much a part of his dealing with everyone?

I close with examples of his home-spun philosophy, or was it theology? In my own conversations with him, we would reach a certain point on a subject, and he would exclaim, with delight, "Well, here we go again!" He would laugh and tap me lightly on my arm as he said this, drawing close. (Occasionally, he would indeed draw very close to me, or others, and say, "Now, you're not afraid of me, are ya?" He actually thought that it was a great joke for anyone to be afraid of him, though he did enjoy being mischievous now and again, like that spider monkey he stowed away on the ship that brought him home from WW II.) He genuinely thought in terms of cycles, both natural and human, and of the connectedness of all created things, and when a certain self-evident fullness of conversation had been reached, he would exclaim such things, as if to underscore and punctuate the obvious. "Now, preacher, things keep on a changin,'" would surface as if to remind us that the world is always in flux and adjustment, excepting, of course, Jesus Christ, who was, is and ever will be the same: that fact was the unspoken part of why he was unafraid to face changing circumstances. Perhaps his body was telling him lately that a big, transforming change was coming for him as well; if God was in it, that was all right with him. When I arrived at his ICU room last Thursday, he smiled broadly at me, though weak yet in possession of his faculties, and said, "Well, preacher, we just got to keep on!" C.H. had come to a profound understanding about the need, the necessity, to persevere in the midst of travail and difficulties, having done so already in innumerable circumstances, some perhaps approaching the unspeakable. He knew that he would receive whatever spiritual empowerment he needed to "keep on," and it was always there, long after his natural vigor was gone, "being made strong through weakness." He was not above flirting with his nurses, and just several hours before he died, he expressed concern to one of them that he might have been a bad patient and asked in mock concern, "You're not gonna send me to jail, are ya?" At this point, I believe that he knew he was dying, and was yet so unconcerned about the matter that he delighted in carrying on so with his nurses and attendants. If this is not "trustful serenity," I don't know what is. Death has certainly marked no victory here, though we have surely marked a loss. I am wearing my scarf.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (II Timothy 4: 7-8)

Blessings and Shalom, Pastor Walt

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

October 2008—Meeting

From the Pastor's Report:

- ◆ Reverend Patten reported that the following members attended the 41st Annual Meeting of the WNCA of the SOC in Greensboro on October 4; Myrtle Latimer, Gladys Snider, and Melody Evans along with Reverend Patten.
- ◆ The Crop Walk will be held November 2.
- ◆ The Thanksgiving Service has been moved to the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, November 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Second Reformed UCC.
- ◆ There will be two more meetings of the Transition Team before the end of the year, November 6 and 13.



The Board is continuing work on restructuring Sunday School for the children. The name for the new program is “New Look.” November will be a very important month for “New Look.”

Tom Danze reported that the insurance check for the damage from the flood in the educational building has been received. The Women's Life Fellowship is thinking about a project to update the Family Room downstairs in conjunction with the repairs.

The Congregation passed the 2009 Budget at the meeting held on October 19.

We now have 417 members. There were 180 members and guests in attendance at the Homecoming Service. We continue to have visitors who attend regularly. Sandra Hutchens has agreed to chair the Prayer Chain and it is going well.

The nominating committee presented names for Officers, Elders, Deacons, and Trustee for 2009.

(Note: Myrtle Latimer attended our WNCA annual meeting at Congregational UCC in Greensboro several weeks ago and participated in an informative workshop entitled, “An Effective Church.” Here is her brief report on that workshop.)

- ◆ An effective church is a church where people enjoy what they are doing and do it well.
- ◆ Each of us must work together for a united church with all ages working together in unity and peace.
- ◆ “God is still speaking” through you and through me.
- ◆ What an honor it is to speak for God.
- ◆ We speak for God through the Bible, prayer, and the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ We need to give God our best whether it is making soup for the homeless shelter or singing hymns in worship service.
- ◆ Attend Sunday School and church service regularly.
- ◆ Pastor Walt's sermons make me think about things I would probably never think about.
- ◆ Be a willing participant in programs introduced in our church to renew and revitalize.
- ◆ Get involved in community work.
- ◆ Take the initiative and introduce yourself to people you meet in the library, restaurants and coffee shops.
- ◆ Invite someone to visit our church. Sit with them. Introduce your visitor to the pastor and other church members.
- ◆ Invite them to a social event.
- ◆ We must strive to be a church known for our hospitality, welcoming guests with warmth and generosity.
- ◆ Keep an open mind to the “still speaking God” in your life and congregation.
- ◆ Listen for ideas that will help the future of our church.

Myrtle Latimer

Women's Life Fellowship



The Women's Life Fellowship met on October 21st at 7:00 pm in the parlor. We had a wonderful devotion from Cathy Waitman and a special thank you to Nicole Smith and Amy McNeill for the great seasonal refreshments. We used this meeting to break off into our committees to come up with ideas and plans for the upcoming year. The different committees have some great community outreach and fundraising ideas. We are already making plans for our Christmas party to be held Tuesday, December 16 at the home of Carolyn Spivey. We will reveal the identity of our secret heart sisters at our Christmas party. There are two bake sales planned for the upcoming holidays (see item below). We would once again love to invite any women who have thought about coming or would love to be more involved with fellowship and our church growth to attend. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the parlor. We do provide child care. Come and join us for some good Christian fellowship!

God Bless as always! Sauni Johnson, Women's Life President



WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS are going to be baking some goodies for you to purchase for the holidays and want your input. Our upcoming **BAKE SALES** are scheduled on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday before Christmas:

November 23, 2008 and December 21, 2008

Check the items you'd be most interested in buying and drop your list in the offering plate, or contact one of the Women's Life members. You can also call Lynn Klopp at 243-2602 or Vicky Gray at 249-3606 with your suggestions.

THANKS FOR YOUR INPUT!

WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Suggestions:

- COOKIES _____
- CUPCAKES _____
- POUND CAKES _____
- CAKES _____
- PIES _____
- TARTS _____
- LOAF BREAD _____
- FLAVORED BREAD _____
- (Ex. Banana Bread)
- BEVERAGE MIXES _____
- (Ex. Russian Tea)
- Rolls Candy Fudge
- Snack Mixes Soup

United Friendship Club

President: June Grubb

The United Friendship Club of First Reformed UCC met on Wednesday, October 22. We welcomed back Club member Ralph Bailey who had been absent for several months because of health problems. We celebrated his 81st birthday with a birthday cake and the singing of "Happy Birthday." We also recognized other church members whose birthdays were celebrated in October, including Club member Banks Shepherd.

The group has voted to begin with the first stage of the landscape plan that was unveiled in the September newsletter and reviewed at the September meeting. In early November several plants and shrubs will be removed from the front of the educational building. Following this clean up, we will have a better idea of what other plantings we will pursue (in stages) as money becomes available.

The November/December joint meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at noon. Cathy Waitman has the devotions. The food and decoration committee includes Camille Morgan, Butch Bouchard, J.W. and Betty Bates.

Pennies from Heaven Fall Campaign

Participate in the Fall **Pennies from Heaven – Spare Change Changing Lives Campaign!** It's a fundraiser for Crisis Ministry of Davidson County to help meet operational costs. Collectively the change of many is helping to change the lives of those served by Crisis Ministry. The "face of the homeless" is changing...the continued high unemployment rate, more elderly men and women are residents at the adult shelter, many of whom are physically handicapped or have serious health problems, veterans discharged from VA Hospitals, and patients discharged from state mental hospitals. What can you do to help? It's simple...**collect pocket change!** Drop donations in coin bottles located in the narthex and outside the church office. Thanks!



Men's Brotherhood

By: Clifford Lopp

The Men's Brotherhood met on Thursday, October 16th in the fellowship hall. We enjoyed a great meal provided by Yarborough's. Our program for the night was presented by Randy Swicegood and Will Tate of the High School Broadcasting Team from the WLXN Radio Station. They shared information about the procedures used for broadcasting high school games around the county and the cost to the station for this project. Thank you to Frank Leonard for bringing them in.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 20th at 6 p.m.

Also, mark your calendar for our Christmas Party to be held at Yarborough's on Monday, December 15th. Watch for details.

October Memorials

REVEREND KEITH SINK

Maxine B. Sink

MARY LOUISE LEONARD

John Barber
Gerry Hill
Elizabeth Sink
Nancy M. Dunbar



JEAN MORGAN

{Camille's Mother}

Janie Lohr
Carolyn and Carroll Spivey
Deanna Michael

"CRASH"

{Twin Acres Neighborhood Pet}

Merle and Jerry Hodges
Rhonnie Leonard Newton

CHARLES HOLLIS "C.H." BATES, JR.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Leonard
Katherine Skipper
Banks and Eulene Shepherd
Mike and Bonita Hooper
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beck
Jacqueline Leonard
Deanna Michael
Cliff and Eloise Lopp
First Reformed UCC Men's Brotherhood

Merle and Jerry Hodges
John and Vicky Gray
Holton Davis
Hilda Leonard



Sunday, November 2, 2008

Community Thanksgiving Service—November 23rd



The annual Thanksgiving Service for First Reformed United Church of Christ and Second United Church of Christ will be held on **Sunday, November 23rd, 6:30 p.m. at Second Reformed United Church of Christ.** (Please notice the time change to Sunday evening!) Reverend Joe Coltrane will direct the service and Reverend Walter Patten will share the message. Both ministers will serve Holy Communion. A joint choir is preparing special music for the evening. Second Reformed will host a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. Take a moment from your busy schedule to share with others as we count our many blessings.

Dear Consistory and Members of First Reformed UCC,

Thank you so much for allowing our Girl Scout Troop to use your parking lots for parking vehicles during the BBQ Festival. This is a huge fundraiser for us. Because of your generous gift, we are sharing a portion of our proceeds to Meals on Wheels. Again thank you.



Sincerely, Senior Girl Scout Troop #984

Thank you notes were received from the following organizations for third quarter benevolent gifts:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Elon Homes for Children | Johns River Valley Camp | The Salvation Army |
| Black Lake Retreat Center | Crisis Ministry of Davidson County | Southern Conference OCWM |
| Communities In Schools | Elon University | Hospice of Davidson County |
| Lancaster Theological Seminary | | |

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you for your support to our family during this past couple of weeks. Your many prayers, cards, and calls have meant so much to us.

Thank you, Mike and Lynn Brown



Reserve a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$9.00. These will be placed in the sanctuary during the Hanging of the Greens Worship Service, Sunday, November 30th. Poinsettias can be picked up immediately following the worship service to enjoy at home during the Advent Season. Please fill out the information form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office. **Order deadline is FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH.**

In **Memory of:** _____ **By:** _____

In **Memory of:** _____ **By:** _____

In **Honor of:** _____ **By:** _____

Director of Christian Education

Amy McNeill



Sunday School Start-up

NEW LOOK!!! I bet there are a lot of you who are wondering what this name is all about. You are going to be seeing it pop up all over the church and on November 2nd you will hear about it from the children and myself. The Board of Christian Education and a few other people who are jumping on board with us are very excited about **NEW LOOK** and all it is going to do for our younger youth in the church.

So what is it?? It is our new and improved Sunday School plan for grades Kindergarten thru fifth. We are developing a workshop rotation model for our Sunday School and the name is.... **NEW LOOK**. A workshop rotation model is where children travel to eight different stations throughout a two-month period and learn about the same Bible lesson. Children all learn in different ways and this approach hits every style of learning. They will rotate between these different stations: art, computers, cooking, video, music, games, science, and story telling. Our plan is to transform the bottom level of the education building into a Sunday school dream by painting murals in the hallway to redoing the four rooms to fit their theme.

The only way for this to all take place is for each and every one of you to help out in whatever way you are able. That may be cleaning out rooms, decorating rooms, teaching a lesson in a station that interests you, donating needed items, or giving monetarily. We need it all and we also still need people who are interested in helping us with the whole process. The more minds and bodies we have behind this, the better it will be. If you have been looking for something to get involved more closely with our church and are interested in seeing us grow into a stronger church, well this is it!!!

During the month of November we are going to be taking up a collection to get this process going. You will see special envelopes for **NEW LOOK** in the weekly bulletin that you can fill out and drop in the collection plate. If this is a way you can help us with this transformation, then please donate and know that the Board of Christian Education thanks you and appreciates your donation. *There will also be a section added on to the time and talent sheets you will fill out and return on November 9th.* This is where you can list all the fun and interesting talents, hobbies, collections, and skills you have to share with us.

Whenever you start something new, it always takes time, money, and person power, so we need all of you to make this a success and a wonderful program for our youth. Our goal is to start this in March with a joint Sunday School for all to see and be involved with what we are doing. Please pray for this process and the time to accomplish what needs to be done. Thank You!

Reminders: November 2nd- Joint Sunday School for youth.

November 9th- Children's Church with Raeann.

November 18th & 23rd- Kids Club

*** Play practice every Wednesday at 6:30pm except for Wednesday the 26th before Thanksgiving. ***

SUNDAY SCHOOL — OCTOBER 2008



Alice Gray
Wanda O. Daye
Lib Sink
Camille Morgan

Abigail Johnson
Corinne Gray
James Gray
Ramona Yarbrough
Don Leonard
Walter Patten

Sarah Johnson
Katarina Strenk
Vicky Green
Jo Hudson
John Hudson
Cathy Waitman

Ashley Johnson
Laura Strenk
Marguerite Leonard
Gladys Snider
Earlie Hartley
Clifford Lopp

Middle/High School Sunday School News

Sunday, October 26th was the third annual pumpkin carving session for the Middle/High School Sunday School Class. We had a fun and messy time being creative. Why would a Sunday school class carve pumpkins? Read the following for the answer!

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes off all the dirt you may have gotten from other pumpkins. Then He cuts the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Last, He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.

Congratulations...



As a congregation we rejoice with Jessica and Chris Bentley upon the baptism of their son, **Collis Gentry Bentley** on Sunday, October 5, 2008. Grandparents are Lee Ann and Tony Peele and Reverend Ray and Sharon Mims; Great-grandparents are Mrs. Gordon Knowles and Phyllis and Fred Peele; and Great-great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Spurgeon and Mrs. Elgie Underwood. May God richly bless this family.

CONGRATULATIONS to Emily and Franklin Leonard upon the birth of their Son, **Landon Kade Leonard**, Tuesday, October 14, 2008. Landon was also welcomed by Brother, Clayton, Grandparents, Henry and Kay Crouse; and Great-grandparent, Mary Crouse. May God richly bless this family.



CONGRATULATIONS to **Lauren Klopp** who was crowned Catawba's Homecoming Queen on Saturday, October 18th.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Corinne Gray** who has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. The award is earned by fulfilling requirements that recognize a Senior Girl Scout's commitment to excellence as she develops leadership skills and personal values to meet life's present and future challenges. She has been a member of Girl Scout Troop 984 for twelve years and her leaders are Alice Gray and Beth Smith. (Note: To earn the Gold Award, she designed and carried out a plan of activities, including service to the community, career exploration, specialized interest projects, and completing a Girl Scout Challenge. For her Gold Award project, Corinne developed and organized Kids' Club, a youth group at our church for children ages 4—8.)

CONGRATULATIONS to **Katrina Strenk** who was selected to participate in the "All-County Chorus."

NOVEMBER STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Peggy Bates

Captain: Mike Perry

Ushers: Mike Brown, Dave Strenk, and John Barber

Plate Attendant: Lynn Brown

Sound Tech: Tony Peele

Acolytes: Holt Biesecker and Katarina Strenk

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

Social: Host/Hostess: Mary Jo Jessup and Beth and Frank Callicutt

Greeters:

November 2	John and Sylvia Walser
November 9	J.W. and Betty Bates
November 16	Eddie and Belinda Yates
November 23	Brad and Raeann Biesecker
November 30	Doris Frye and Scott Frye

Nursery:

November 2	Sauni and Thomas Johnson
November 9	Raeann and Brad Biesecker
November 16	Belinda Yates
November 23	Cheryl Walser
November 30	Dawn Shaak



(Alston Brook) Betty Potts and Lorraine Lanning	(Brian Center) Riley Bates
(Carolina House) Lois Leonard	(Brookstone) Rita Tussey
(Centerclair) Jeanne Trexler	(Brookdale Place) Barbara Schaeffer
(Piedmont Crossing) Henry and Ernestine Kennedy, and Frances Leonard	

Ralph Bailey, Henry and Juanita Beck, Mike Brown, Jimbo Hinkle, Lib Hinkle, Jacqueline Leonard, Ethel Bailey, Sadie Bailey, Ike Green, Giles Crowell, Gertrude Jarvis, Hilda Leonard, Willie Ruth Leonard, Louise Rollins, Micki Smith, Margaret Trexler, and Riley Bates. Also, please remember Butch Arnold, Bob Biesecker, Jared Perrell, (grandson of Harriette and Clifton Murphy) and Jacob Berrier (Great-grandson of Mary Berrier). To add a name to the prayer chain, please contact **Sandra Hutchens at 249-3001**.

We extend **SYMPATHY** to and share Christian Hope with...

- Myra Thompson, Laura Perry, Carol Church and Lauren Thompson upon the death of their loved one and our friend, C.H. Bates, Jr.
- Anne Fletcher upon the death of her Grandmother, Marian Lawrence Cadwallader



November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:45 am Jt Adult SS 10:20 am Social {FH} 11:00 am MEMORIAL SUNDAY 2:00 pm CROP Walk	3 2 p.m. (Sanctuary) Memorial Service for Jean Lohr Morgan 5:30 {FH} Youth Candlelight Choir 7 (P) Property Committee Mtg.	4 Election Day! 6:30 p.m. {Parlor} BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	5 11 a.m. (Parlor) MORNING GLORY CIRCLE 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Play Practice 7 p.m. Choir Practice	6 5:30 p.m. {Parlor} Yoga Class 6 p.m. {FH} Charity League 7 p.m. {P} TRANSITION TEAM MEETING	7	8 {Parlor} Baby Shower
9 DEDICATE PLEDGES CHILDREN'S CHURCH <small>(after children's moment upstairs of education building)</small> 2-4 {FH} Candlelight Practice 7 p.m. CONSISTORY	10 5:30 {Parlor} Scrapbook/Craft Class {FH} Youth Candlelight Choir MEN'S BIBLE CLASS Serving at Shelter	11 	12 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Play Practice 7 p.m. Choir Practice	13 5:30 p.m. {Parlor} Yoga Class 7 p.m. {Parlor} TRANSITION TEAM MEETING <small>(Last one for 2008)</small>	14	15
16 2-4 {FH} Candlelight Practice	17 5:30 {FH} Youth Candlelight Choir	18 7 pm {Parlor} WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP AND KID'S CLUB	19 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Play Practice 7 p.m. Choir Practice	20 5:30 p.m. {Parlor} Yoga Class 6:00 p.m. {FH} MEN'S BROTHERHOOD	21 Wedding Rehearsal	22 Wedding
23 2-4 {FH} Candlelight RESTOCK FOOD PANTRY 6:30 pm (Second Reformed UCC) COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE	24 5:30 {Parlor} Scrapbook/Craft Class {FH} Youth Candlelight Choir Thanksgiving Bake Sale	25	26 7 p.m. Choir Practice	27 THANKSGIVING	28 Office Holiday	29 DECORATE CHURCH BUILDINGS FOR ADVENT
30 1st Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens	Kids' Club <small>(after children's moment)</small>					

Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, November 23, 2008

First Reformed UCC has always been and continues to be a benevolent church. We can look at the many non-profit organizations listed on our budget who are recipients of our generosity to see we care. BUT, the need of our area is great. You do not have to work in a church office, Crisis Ministry, Salvation Army or any non-profit to see need-based sorrow. We are being called more often to let us know that Crisis Ministry is out of Corn Flakes (First Reformed UCC's obligation for a grocery item to go in bags distributed to families). Our church office doorbell rings several times a day with individuals of all ages seeking assistance with utilities, rent, food, etc. On Sunday, November 23rd First Reformed UCC is offering opportunities for our members to help even more. We will collect donations during the worship service to restock our food pantry (non-perishable food items). Also, we're asking if you can give a donation over your regular pledge for Corn Flakes or to assist the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Please designate in the memo line of check "Corn Flakes" and/or "Pastor's Fund". Thank you in advance for your gifts.



First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ
104 East Center Street
Lexington, North Carolina 27292
Phone #336-248-2617
Fax #336-248-6163
Email Address: church@frucc.org
Web Address: www.frucc.org



CHURCH STAFF

Intentional Interim Minister Rev. Walter Patten
Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985
email: wrpatten@earthlink.net or miniter@frucc.org
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. till noon Tuesday—Friday
Negotiable Otherwise

Director of Christian Education Amy McNeill
Administrative Assistant 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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Permit #168