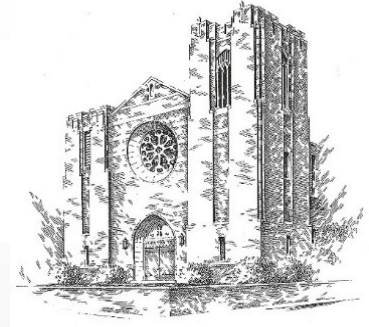


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



November 2011



A couple of years ago I vacationed in Houston, Texas. Now believe me when I tell you that I've never succumbed to the "Texan" mystique. I do not proclaim Texas as God's "little" acre or even Houston as God's kingdom. But just outside of Houston (about an hour's drive) is a little spot on the map called Brookshire. And located in Brookshire is the Brookwood Community, a community for the physically and/or mentally disabled. It houses over 100 "citizens" (as they are called) in group homes on the nearly 500 acre campus. In addition there are 30 to 50 individuals in the day program. This is not another care facility, but rather an "empowerment" facility. Let me explain.

The community is based on 5 principles. First, it is centered upon God. God is present at all times and in all activities. This begins with worship in the chapel, which is community run, as well as 52 congregations sharing their presence (one each week) in the Sunday afternoon worship. Furthermore, God's presence is tangibly evident to the residents and visitors through the visible presence of the "Windsor" chair or, as they call it, "God's seat". The chair occupies significant places throughout the facility. It sets on the chancel before the altar in the community's chapel. It sets in the vestibule or the narthex of the chapel. Another chair is found on the stage in the cafeteria/auditorium. There's another in the visitor center's entrance. Another is found in the entrance to the gift shop and restaurant. Everywhere on campus through the Windsor chair visitors and citizens are reminded that God is always present.

This God centered principle leads to the second emphasis that God gives gifts, talents and abilities to all. With God's help everyone has something to contribute to the community. Often times we all need help in discovering or developing our gifts and talents. Brookwood's citizens are no different. Through the principle of education the teachers (staff and volunteers) work with the citizens, nurturing a desire to do. The attempts to do are positively reinforced to sustain the desire and create a positive environment, encouraging the citizens to succeed.

God's gifting moves to a sense of enterprise or entrepreneurship, where everyone not only feels as though they are contributing, but actually sees and experiences their contribution in many ways. Brookwood's citizens design and produce ceramic statues, plaques and plates; silk-screen notes, greeting and Christmas cards; grow seasonal plants (including poinsettias for the Christmas holiday); bottle their own line of salad dressings, and prepare and serve meals in their own restaurant.

All this flows naturally into the final principle of reciprocity, where each individual not only receives, but in turn gives. And the giving stems not from a sense of patronizing, but rather out of the acknowledgment that the products created and sold are of artistic and functional quality, rivaling the products created within mainstream society.

Just as Jesus said in Luke's Gospel that the kingdom of God is like that of a mustard seed or the yeast the woman took, I think today he would say that the kingdom of God looks like the Brookwood Community. A community that takes individuals with such disabilities that cause them to feel valueless and transforms them into productive and contributing citizens who develop confidence, pride and self-esteem. Oh, that we could only bring about more places where God's children are empowered and valued just as God empowers and values. It would be just another way to ask, "Have I told you today that I love you?"

Your RunnRev, Robin

Consistory Highlights—September 2011

Financial Report: Harriette Murphy, Treasurer reported the average weekly offering for the month of September was \$2,801. The budget shortfall at the end of September was approximately \$35,000. Third quarter benevolences have been paid and giving statements have been mailed. She requested that Consistory members participate in the Corner Café Mystery Dinner Theatre and the Alternative Gift Giving fundraisers sponsored by the finance committee. All proceeds will assist with benevolences.

Pastor's Report: Reverend Keating reported there has been an increased need for financial assistance in the community. Reverend Keating will serve on the Board of the Western North Carolina Association effective October 1, 2011.

Reverend Keating requested membership for Chris and Shery Keel, Trudy Vossburg and himself. The Consistory accepted unanimously. Because we just had a meal today it was decided to incorporate the new member luncheon with the Homecoming meal on Sunday, November 6th.

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

Cathy is passing a sheet around the Sunday school classes to sign up for Advent Devotionals.

The annual Chili Cook-off and Advent Workshop is scheduled for November 28. Still looking for volunteers for the chili cook-off.

The children continue to practice the Christmas play, "Santa's Christmas Tree".

Congregational Life: Chairperson, Ron Hutcheson thanked Amy and Birke McNeill and Alisa and Keith Johnson for hosting the October 1st social. Thanks to Women's Life Fellowship members for providing the Rally Day meal. Thanks to Belinda & Eddie Yates, John Potts, Janette Neal, Lisa Nelson, and Mike and Lynn Brown for setting up and cleaning at the annual October meeting. Thanks to Cheryl and Bill Walser for catering the meal.

We will have a covered dish meal on Homecoming Sunday, November 6, 2011.

Board of Business Management and Stewardship:

Finance Committee: June Grubb expressed appreciation to John Smith for presenting the 2012 proposed budget at the congregational meeting.

Property Committee: Chairperson, Mike Brown thanked J.W. Bates, John Potts and John Barber for assisting with the cooking for the Oktoberfest.

Mike presented to the Consistory the need for light replacement in the sanctuary. A motion was made to allow \$1,000 for the replacements and if the cost exceeds that amount, then request the Trustees to cover the balance.

Board of Worship and Sacrament: Report submitted by Chairpersons, Rita Lohr and Carolyn Spivey.

The Board finalized the schedule for the morning worship service liturgists for the months of October through January. The Time and Talent Survey was utilized to provide names of members interested in serving.

The Board will continue to assist Reverend Keating with ideas and modifications regarding the worship services. The Board anticipated planning a special service for the upcoming holiday and Advent Season.

Board of Community Outreach: Report submitted by Chairperson, Edgar Miller.

Community Garden Workday is Saturday, October 15th. We will participate in the Mission:1 food drive October 30 through November 13. The CROP Walk is November 6, Adena Wall is coordinating. We need volunteers to help serve luncheon for the Homeless at Grace Episcopal November 27, see Kathleen Danze if interested. A thank you was extended to James Gray for staying at the Shelter in September. Birke McNeill will stay at the shelter in October.

Evangelism Board: Co-Chairperson, Janette Neal stated that the average monthly attendance for September was 113. The Oktoberfest was a huge success and there has been nothing but compliments. Thanks to all of the volunteers who worked to make our project a success.

Nominating Committee: Chairperson Sylvia Walser submitted names of individuals the nominating committee has asked to serve as Trustee, Elders, and Deacons beginning in January 2012. Those names will be presented to the congregation in November.

Holiday Schedule: The following holiday season service scheduled was approved by the Consistory. Candlelight Service, December 24 will be at 11 pm. Christmas Day Service will be held at 10:30 am in the Chapel. We will not have Sunday school. January 1, 2012 services will be at the regular time, however the Joint Sunday school and Social will move to the second Sunday in January.

CONSISTORY

By: June Grubb, Consistory President

O At the recent Congregational Meeting the proposed 2012 Church Budget was approved. John Smith and Doug Sink, Co-Chairpersons of the Finance Committee, have written about the modest increases in the budget in their letter to the members of the congregation. The letter includes a pledge card and the Time and Talent Questionnaire. Please prayerfully consider your monetary pledge as well as those volunteer opportunities in which you will consider as a part of your offering to the mission and ministry of First Reformed UCC. Both our pledges and our Time and Talent choices for 2012 will be received during the morning worship service on Sunday, November 13th.

R
N
E
R On a personal note, one of the Boards that I shall be listing as an area in which to spend my time next year is the Worship and Sacrament Board and Music Committee in particular. I believe strongly that it is time for us to consider a new hymnal for worship, more specifically, the *New Century Hymnal*, which was produced by the United Church of Christ over ten years ago. Folks, it's time for us to sing ourselves into the twenty-first century! Our present hymnal was produced by the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1941. While some of the traditional hymns of the church never go out of date, we ought to be singing hymns that speak today's language and understanding of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. There are many wonderful new hymns that proclaim through music the praise of God.

Quoting from the introduction to *The New Century Hymnal*, "Within the historic Protestant traditions that shape the United Church of Christ, the hymnbook serves as a primary vehicle to nurture the faith of church members.....the hymnal provides rich, varied metaphors for singing about God, and language to sing about people that excludes no one---words that all people can sing."

I will be asking the Worship and Sacrament Board, along with the Music Committee to consider naming a 'new hymnal task force' to begin the process of choosing a new hymnal for our congregation in 2012. Several people have already volunteered to serve on such a task force. Others may volunteer or may be asked to serve on this short term project.

The words to one of my favorite hymns in *The New Century Hymnal* were written by Fred Pratt Green, a renowned 20th century hymn writer:

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,

It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,

As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,

Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!

And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

Women's Life Fellowship

Women's Life met on Tuesday, October 18th. Betty Barr shared devotions and Amy McNeill and Nina Smith provided delicious refreshments.

Thank you to Lisa Nelson and friends who presented an interesting program about Vemma, a natural vitamin and mineral supplement.

A signup sheet was passed for members to provide layered salads, twice baked potato casseroles, Raw Apple Cakes, Pumpkin Spice Cakes and tea for the Mystery Dinner Theater on October 29. Thank you to all who donated items for this fundraiser.

Trudy Vossburg shared with the group some information about the sell of Christmas Cards. She is generously offering church members a 10% discount and any profit made will be donated to Women's Life Fellowship for mission projects.

Trudy will have a table setup in the fellowship hall for people to view several selections. You will be able to pick out a card and the greeting you want printed.

- Tuesday, November 1st 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 2nd 10 a.m. – Noon and 5–6 pm
- Thursday, November 3rd 6 – 6:45 p.m.



If you are unable to get here any of these times, please contact the church office at 248-2617 and we will try to work out a time for you.

Holiday Bake Sale



BAKE SALE

Women's Life Fellowship will hold a holiday bake sale **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th** beginning at 9:15 a.m. Do you need help with your Thanksgiving holiday baking? If so, we can help with pound cakes, pies, cookies, and mixes. **Items will be sold before Sunday school, between Sunday school and worship, and immediately following the worship service.** All monies raised will help the mission work of our circle.

Thank you for your support!

NOTE: In conjunction with the holiday bake sale, the Board of Community Outreach will have a booth set up to purchase "alternative gifts" for teachers, family members, friends and co-workers.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15th. All ladies of the church are welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS to Craig and Donna Coe who have recently become grandparents to a beautiful baby boy, Tyson Lee Johnston who was born September 30th. Tyson's parents are Nichole and Brandon Johnston. Tyson was also welcomed by his Great-grandmother, Nancy Robbins.



Thanks to Mike Brown, John Potts, and J.W. Bates for preparing the meal at our October meeting. Reverend Keating provided a devotional based on the importance of brotherhood. We are an important group in the life of our church.

Thank you to all who assisted with parking cars at the BBQ festival. This was a joint effort with all help being appreciated.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 7th at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will continue with plans for the upcoming year. A meal will be provided by our excellent cooks. All men of the church are invited.

United Friendship Club

The October 28th meeting was postponed to November 2nd. Devotions will be presented by June Grubb. The members of the food and decoration committee include Maxine Lohr, Lib Sink, Lib Hinkle and Peggy Bates.

Cyndi Burns will present a program as she reflects on her recent (September) trip to Israel. It has been a life-long dream of Cyndi's to visit the Holy Lands, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, by the Sea of Galilee, to visit the Mount of Olives and other important places that trace our Jewish/Christian roots. Thank you for allowing us to journey with you.

The next meeting of the Friendship Club will be the annual Thanksgiving/Christmas gathering the second Wednesday of December. *Everyone is invited.*

Morning Glory Circle

Morning Glory Circle met in the church parlor on October 5, 2011. Gladys Snider, President, opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

There was no old business. New business: Wanda mentioned that no one had signed up to have the program in April. Peggy Bates volunteered for this.

Discussion was held on our Christmas party. This will be held on December 7th, at Yarborough's Restaurant.

Lib Sink gave a very interesting program on Courage and closed with prayer.

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?



The First Reformed UCC Board of Community Outreach can help! They are offering an "Alternative Gift Fair". There will be a booth setup at the Women's Life Fellowship Bake Sale

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

Beginning at 9:15 a.m. (before Sunday school),
Between SS and Worship, and after Worship

Make a donation to one of our benevolences in honor of teachers, family members, friends, co-workers, etc. We will provide an acknowledgement card and envelope for you to mail. Some suggestions are:

Salvation Army

Crisis Ministries

Davidson Medical Ministries

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Communities In Schools



Adopt a Benevolence

Family Life Center

Family Services

Pastor's Pantry

Habitat for Humanity

Lexington Housing CDC

Hospice

Nazareth Children's

Our Church's Wider Mission

Elon Homes

Johns River Camp

Lancaster Seminary

UCC Retirement

Davidson Alcoholic Care

Lexington Prison Chaplaincy



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

Pastor's Pantry

Habitat for Humanity

Crisis Ministry

Blowing Rock Conference Ctr

Davidson Medical Ministries

Hospice

Nazareth Children's Home

United Church Homes

Lancaster Seminary

Elon Homes & Schools

Dear Church Family,

I count it a blessing to be a member of such a kind and caring congregation.

During my illness you have sent cards, food, called to see how I was and sent me a beautiful prayer shawl made by Lena Johnson.

I cannot thank you enough for these expressions of love and concern.

My love to all, **JOYCE PRICE (OCTOBER 8, 2011)**

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to everyone involved in the production of the Corner Café dinner Theatre held this past weekend. I don't want to name names for fear I might miss someone, but, it was a great team effort by the food preparers, kitchen and wait staff, actors and actresses, and the many behind the scenes participants. Special thanks to all those attended and supported this fundraiser. Because of all the efforts we are able to apply \$3,100 toward benevolences.

Prayer Shaw Committee,

Thank you so much for my prayer shawl. I think of you each time I cover up with it. I am feeling better and so thankful for your prayers.

A special thank you to Mary Jo and Nancy...love you.

In Christ's Love, **PAT KARNES**

Mrs. Jessup,

Thank you so very much for the Prayer Shaw and for sharing my Birthday with me.

Thank you again, **ELSIE MOTLEY**

Dear Lee and Mary Jo,

I just wanted to thank you for the baby shawl. It is so pretty and it must have taken a long time. I can tell it was made with love and good wishes for Baby Tyson. I'm almost afraid to use it. It's too beautiful to get dirty. I know Tyson will enjoy it and be thankful that someone loved him that much to make him something that pretty.

Thank you all very much. Love, **NICHOLE AND FAMILY**

Many thanks to members of the Property Committee, Men's Brotherhood and church family who assisted with parking cars for the BBQ festival. Because of your dedicated time, the church raised over \$1,000.

Thanks again, **MIKE BROWN**

OCTOBER 2011



GILES CROWELL

Merle and Jerry Hodges
Henry and Juanita Beck
Harvey H. Dick
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Smith
Guy and Melinda Smith
Wanda Daye
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.

Katherine Skipper
Don Leonard
Roy and Anne Bevan
Banks and Eulene Shepherd
Doris Frye
Nancy Robbins

HENRY JUNIOR BECK

Merle and Jerry Hodges
Wanda Daye
Nancy Robbins
Pattie Everhart
Doris Frye
Garland and Mildred Essick
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Smith

Katherine Skipper
John Potts & Janette Neal
Frank C. Leonard, Jr.
Cathy and Steve Waitman
Banks and Eulene Shepherd
Cliff and Eloise Lopp
Jo and John Hudson

Don Leonard
Men's Bible Class
Gladys Snider
Mike and Lynn Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Smith
Butch Bouchard



Honorarium Gifts

MARY BERRIER

Heart Sister

GLADYS SNIDER

Heart Sister

SADIE BAILEY

Nancy Robbins

HENRY & ERNESTINE KENNEDY

Nancy Robbins

DAWN SHAAK, RAEANN BIESECKER, REVEREND MIKE HOOPER AND CLIFFORD AND PAULA LOPP

Calvin and Susan Odom



Reserve a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$9.00. These will be placed in the sanctuary the first Sunday of Advent, November 27th. 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 11TH.**

In Memory of: _____ By: _____

In Memory of: _____ By: _____

In Honor of: _____ By: _____

In Honor of: _____ By: _____

Spiritual Practices Study Group

Reverend Keating continues to offer opportunities to explore the Spiritual Practices that have come down to us through the Church Fathers of the Early Christian Church. These are old ways to encounter Scripture that for many have fallen out of practice which, when resurrected in our lives, will add depth and meaning to our lives and our search for God. We will explore briefly the history and theology of each practice, but more importantly focus on how the particular practice is done.

Remaining classes are at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 3rd, November 10th and December 1st.



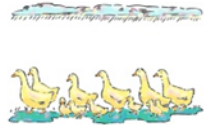
Spiritual Practices

Christian Education

Cathy Waitman, Director of Christian Education



\$188.09! Can you believe it? That is how much money was in the noisy offering on October 16th. The children will be able to purchase a lamb, two flocks of



chickens, and a flock of ducks for the Heifer Project. The sheep will provide wool for warm clothing or to sell for extra income. The chickens and ducks will provide eggs for food and also to sell at the market. Thank all of you for being so generous. The next three noisy offerings will be October 30, and November 13 and 27. Money received will be donated to Crisis Ministries. Keep collecting your change to help out one of our church benevolences.

We are fast approaching one of the busiest times of the church year. On November 13th EVERYONE will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a Sunday school program by the Roads to God children. They will be ending their study of Keeping Sabbath and want to share some of the things they have learned.

Practices for the Christmas play are continuing on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. The little children will join the rest of the cast on November 9th. The program will be on December 18th following a covered dish dinner in the Fellowship Hall. A very special visitor has been invited!



Christmas Play Practice



The Chili Cook-off and Advent workshop will be held on Monday, November 28th at 6:00. If you are interested in entering a pot of chili, you need to check out the "We Need You" bulletin board. There are slips to take as reminders and a sign up sheet. Peanut butter, jelly, bread, drinks, and cookies will be furnished for the children. For the Advent Workshop, we will be making "Memory Wreaths" to hang on doors. Bring your sentimental, no longer used ornaments or decorations to glue on wreaths. We will furnish the wreaths and ribbon along with "expert" helpers if you need some assistance. This is a multi-



generational event.



Please check out the "We Need You" bulletin board. We need helpers for Children's Church in November and January. The Prayer Shawl group could use yarn or monetary donations. The New Way Class is looking for another teacher or two to help Lisa, Eddie, Doug, Robin, and Cathy.

In January we will be looking for prayer partners for the Tweens in the Grapplers class. The partner needs to be someone who is committed to praying for and making contact at least twice a month with a young person. The partner should not be a family member or close family friend. If you are interested, again check the "We Need You" bulletin board.



We need you to join us in Sunday school and church. There are many opportunities for you to participate in activities during the months of November and December. These two months are also times of thanksgiving and joy for the many blessings God has given each of us. We need you to help us give thanks, to rejoice over the birth of Jesus, and to help our church continue to function effectively for our own members and for the needy in the community. Hope to see all of you soon!

Sunday School Perfect Attendance — October 2011

Emma Keel	Katie Keel	Haylee Hutcheson
Molly Keel	Lucy McNeill	Kaitlyn McNeill
Jaedyn Keel	Mary Berrier	Wanda Daye
Marguerite Leonard	Eulene Shepherd	Earlie Hartley
John Hudson	Banks Shepherd	John Potts
Robin Keating	Clifford Lopp	Paula Lopp
Camille Morgan	Harriette Murphy	Doug Sink
Eddie Yates	Chris Keel	Shery Keel



Children's Church is studying "Jesus - Who He Is. The lesson for October was "The Good Shepherd," led by Amy McNeill. The children enjoyed playing a sheep game to remind them that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. The next Children's Church is scheduled for November 27. We need a volunteer to lead this lesson.

Kids' Club met on Oct. 16th to study "Keep Your Eyes On Jesus" and the water strider. The children are learning how God is always with us even if we cannot see Him. We can see His creation and His goodness all around us. Sometimes we don't see bugs either, but we see the holes they chew in leaves, the little mounds of red dirt, and other signs that they are there. The next Bug Study will be Oct. 30th when the topic will be "Changing Colors."



Kids' Club met on October 9. We had a special mission: decorate pumpkins for certain members of our church. These weren't just any ordinary pumpkins. They were pumpkins that were gathered at the pumpkin patch/corn maze the day before. The children took the task to heart and had fun decorating them. They were especially delighted that their creations were to be given to others for their enjoyment. By the end of the meeting, Mission Accomplished!

Alice and James Gray

All children in Roads to God are invited to Kids' Club and Children's Church. The children leave the sanctuary after the Children's Moment on designated Sundays. Watch the newsletter, bulletin board, and church website for exact dates each month.



For Information, Coming Events, Important Dates check:

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

Mission: 1 - Strike a Blow to Alleviate Hunger and Promote Poverty Reform 1.1.11-11.11.1

First Reformed UCC will be participating in the national United Church of Christ's Mission: 1 campaign starting with our food drive for Pastor's Pantry running October 30 – November 13. Church members are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to drop off in the containers in the Narthex during that time. The Board of Community Outreach will be tallying the donations and reporting those on-line as part of the national campaign. **In keeping with the numerical theme of the Mission: 1 campaign, our goal is to collect at least 1,111 food items, including late fall produce from the Church's community garden.**

Also as part of the Mission: 1 campaign, Church members are encouraged to go online and make contributions to the Neighbors in Need program at www.ucc.org. These contributions are above and beyond the annual World Communion Sunday offering in October. **Our goal is to contribute at least \$111 online.**

Lastly, the Board of Community Outreach, with input from Rev. Keating, has drafted a sample letter to Members of Congress in support of foreign assistance reform to benefit the hungry and poor worldwide. A copy of the draft letter is on the adjoining page and can also be distributed electronically. Please consider personalizing the letter and sending it to our two US Senators and your Congressional Representative, whose contact information is below. Also, please let Edgar Miller, the BCO chairman, know if you have sent a letter, so we can track and report that information to the national campaign office. **We hope to generate at least 11 letters.**

Elected officials contact information:

Sen. Richard Burr
US Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Kay Hagan
US Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Howard Coble
US House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Mel Watt
US House of Representatives
2304 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

— — — — —
| *Thank you to all who brought non-* |
| *perishable food items this past Sunday.* |
| *What a great beginning to our part of the* |
| *United Church of Christ Mission:1 Cam-* |
| *paign.* |
| *Non-perishables will be donated to local* |
| *food banks.* |
| *The Need is GREAT...let's do our part to* |
| *assist. We will continue to collect non-* |
| *perishables for the next two Sundays,* |
| *November 6th and 13th.* |
| — — — — — |

Edgar Miller, BCO Chairman

Subject: Support U.S. foreign aid (Sample Letter)

Dear (Decision Maker),

I am a member of a congregation of the United Church of Christ and I am passionate about the need to eliminate hunger. My church is committed to serving hungry people in our community, but I also expect the U.S. government to take a lead in addressing hunger around the world in systemic ways.

I am deeply concerned about some of the budget cuts Congress is considering. Cutting vital programs in such difficult times will have a devastating and possibly deadly impact on people throughout the world -- we must not balance the budget on the backs of poor people. It is all of our responsibility to protect those who must depend upon these programs.

Poverty focused foreign assistance is very small (less than 1 percent of the federal budget), so cuts to reduce the deficit must be weighed very carefully, particularly in light of the struggling plight of women and children in developing countries. We do not wish to restrict our nation's ability to respond to severe humanitarian emergencies, such as the ongoing famine in the Horn of Africa.

Humanitarian and poverty-focused foreign assistance is vital to global human security. It saves lives, helps prevent conflict, saves money, and lays the groundwork for economic growth. As Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has stated, helping countries develop "is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers."

Please protect families and children from cuts that cost lives, and support continued U.S foreign aid reform so that the world's most hungry people are the ones who actually benefit from our assistance.

Sincerely,
 (Your name)
 (Your address)

Give Love, Our Mission:1

"For I was hungry and you gave me food." *Matthew 25:35*

This month the UCC invites all of us to celebrate Mission:1, an opportunity to serve Jesus by serving those who are hungry. Thinking both locally and globally, we are called to connect with local soup kitchens and food pantries, as well as giving to global hunger projects, especially those addressing hunger in drought stricken East Africa. I hope your congregation is part of this effort. Our congregation has decided to connect this program with our annual Generosity Season when we receive pledges for our budget for the coming year. When we pledge to our local congregation, we provide food for those who hunger spiritually, emotionally and physically. We give so that the Communion table is set each month and we may all eat together, becoming the body of Christ. We give so that our building is ready to host Twelve-Step groups who share coffee and transformative stories together. We give so that our children may be fed with the love of their teachers and pastors and the formative stories of the gospel. We give so that our spirits may be fed by music that transports our souls. We give so that when a hungry neighbor calls, as happened today while I was writing this, we had a food closet stocked and supermarket gift cards ready. Someone once said, "The church exists for mission as fire exists for burning." We give love, our Mission:1.

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

November 2011

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



God is still speaking

NOVEMBER STEWARDS

Liturgist: Lisa Nelson and Carolyn Spivey

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

Captain: Mike Perry

Ushers: Mike Brown David Strenk and John Barber

Plate Attendant: Lynn Brown

Acolytes: Griff and Claire Smith

Sound Tech: Calvin Odom

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

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

Greeters:

November 6	Marguerite Leonard and Mary Berrier
November 13	Ron and Heidi Hutcheson
November 20	Wanda Daye and Gladys Snider
November 27	Adena Wall and Ramona Yarbrough

Nursery:

November 6	Sauni and Thomas Johnson
November 13	Lynn Klopp and Cheryl Walser
November 20	Amy and Birke McNeill
November 27	Keri Hartle and Ashlee Snider

November Joint Sunday School and Social will be on the second Sunday, November 13, in the Fellowship Hall.

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

(Lexington Health Care) Margaret Trexler

(Piedmont Crossing) Henry & Ernestine Kennedy, Rita Tussey

Ronnie Durham, Sadie Bailey, Mary Crouse, Holton Davis, Juanita Beck, and Willie Ruth Leonard. Also,



remember Sterling Hedrick, Bob Biesecker, Lossie Knowles (Lee Ann Peele's Mother), Jules Bliss (Banks and Eulene's Grandson), Virginia Hill (Cathy Waitman's Mother), Mary John Allred (Gray Family), Ann Spivey (Carroll Spivey's Mother), Connie Weichert (Gerri Hill's Sister), Sandra Fern (Sauni Johnson's Mother), Randy Carter (Wanda Daye's Son-in-law), Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman's Uncle), and Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), . Also,




please remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. To add a name to the prayer chain, contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office at 248-2617.

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

- ◆ The family of **Giles Tilden Crowell** a longtime church member
- ◆ Juanita Beck and family upon the death of her husband and our friend, **Henry Junior Beck**. Junior served this church faithfully in many capacities and will be missed.



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NOTE: Community Candlelight practices each Sunday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall</p>		1 11am—1 pm {FH} CHRISTMAS CARD SALE	2 11 am {Parlor} MORNING GLORY CIRCLE 10 am-Noon & 5-6 pm {FH} CHRISTMAS CARD SALE Noon FRIENDSHIP CLUB PLAY & CHOIR PRACTICES	3 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 6-6:45 pm {FH} CHRISTMAS CARD SALE 7 pm {FH} SPIRITUAL PRACTICES	4	5
<p>9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM HOMECOMING WORSHIP AND MEMORIAL SERVICE Noon—Homecoming Lunch {FH} WITH THE GROVE SINGERS 3 pm CROP Walk (First Baptist)</p>	<p>6:00 pm {FH} MEN'S BROTHERHOOD 6:30 pm {Parlor} BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</p>	8 10 am {Parlor} PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 6:30 pm {Parlor} EVANGELISM BD	9 6 pm Children's Play Practice 6:30 pm BELL CHOIR 7:15 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	10 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 7 pm {FH} SPIRITUAL PRACTICES	11  Veterans Day	12
<p>9:45 am {FH} Joint Sunday Sch 10:20 am Sunday School Social 11 am Stewardship Sunday Worship Service & Kids Club 6 pm CONSISTORY MEETING</p>	<p>14 Men's Bible Class serves meal at Shelter 6:30 pm {Parlor} STEPHEN MINISTRY</p>	15 7 pm {Parlor} WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP	16 6 pm Children's Play Practice 6:30 pm BELL CHOIR 7:15 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	17 5:30 pm {P} YOGA CLASS 6 pm (FH) Charity League Workshop	18	19
<p>Bake Sale 20 <i>And</i> Alternative Gift Ideas 9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship Service & Kids Club</p>	21	22 7 pm {Parlor} PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY DECORATING AND HANGING OF THE GREENS COMMITTEES DECORATE FOR ADVENT	23 6:30 pm BELL CHOIR 7:15 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	24  Thanksgiving	25 Office Holiday	26 5 pm (FH) Charity League Workshop
<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 27 9:45 am Sunday School Classes 11:00 am Worship Service and Children's Church</p>	<p>6 pm {FH} 28  CHILI COOK-OFF AND ADVENT WORKSHOP</p>	29	30 6 pm Children's Play Practice 6:30 pm BELL CHOIR 7:15 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	<p>DECEMBER 1-4 LABYRINTH (FELLOWSHIP HALL) DECEMBER 11 CHRISTMAS CANTATA DECEMBER 18 COVERED DISH DINNER AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (11 PM) DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE (10:30 AM IN THE CHAPEL) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>		

CHURCH HOMECOMING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011

Mark your calendar and invite family, friends, and former members to come to First Reformed UCC for our annual Homecoming.

This year we will celebrate during the worship service by honoring the oldest woman, oldest man, and youngest child present. Also, this is the Sunday we will have a Memorial Service, lighting a candle for those of our congregation who have died in the past year.

The Board of Congregational Life is sponsoring a **covered dish lunch**. Plan to bring a favorite dish to share with family and friends as we enjoy lunch together.

(NOTE: Members of Women's Life Fellowship will be in the kitchen before and after Sunday school to assist those who need to put food in the refrigerator.)



Covered Dish Luncheon



Following lunch we will have the pleasure of enjoying the music of **The Grove Singers**. Plan to be here to enjoy a day of fellowship with one another.

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.

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