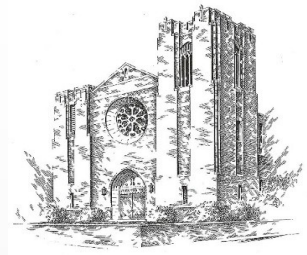


First News

First Reformed United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina



October 2010



Well, our journey together is drawing to a close, and this is my last *First News* message to you as your Intentional Interim Minister. We have been on a “wilderness journey” together, a Biblical metaphor which expresses well the realities that congregations face when they traverse the time period between permanent pastors. We have chosen to be “intentional” about this time, in that it has been a time of focused study, reflection, dialogue, discovery, prayer, worship and fellowship about your history (specifically with former pastors); about how you govern yourselves and make decisions as a congregation; about your relationships to the larger denomination and the larger world; about your sense of identity, vision and mission and where those indications seem to be pointing; and about your emerging collective sense of what/who your new pastor should be.

This has been a time of discernment where we have tried to pay very close attention to the guiding Spirit of Jesus Christ, attempting to remain open to His leading, promptings and even admonitions. Even as the wandering people of Israel had to endure crises of faith, from time to time, suffering the consequences of missteps, confusion, misunderstandings, disorientation and even misdirected faith, we have discovered as they did that wilderness time is not for the squeamish and the faint of heart. Indeed, it is about survival. It is about you becoming prepared for what God is preparing to do with and through you next, and not simply through a new pastor, but with and through each other in the unique fellowship that only you are. For, at the end of the day, it is the congregation that is permanent, the Body of Christ in a particular place and time; pastors come and go, and are certainly expendable. Even the great Moses discovered this sad fact of the spiritual life, as he gazed from Mt. Nebo toward the Promised Land upon which he would not set foot. (At least, not until the Transfiguration of Jesus!)

I have found that one of the more difficult aspects of Intentional Interim Ministry--indeed, a cruciform aspect of this ministry--is taking upon myself the ancient role of the “scapegoat,” referring to the Hebrew Day of Atonement when the Chief Priest symbolically laid upon the goat the sins of the people before shooing him into the wilderness. However, even there, at least the goat himself was free from sin, whereas we Intentional Interim Ministers cannot claim that, being human and being sinners just like everybody else. That being the case, I do herewith offer my apology and my request for forgiveness to anyone here who feels that I have sinned against God and against them, by thought, word or deed; by things done or things undone; by ignorance or by intent as a pastor of the church and a coach of the Transition Team. My own sense of greatest culpability in this regard is my role in allowing a certain ambiguity to taint our covenanted, contractual relationship: namely that of allowing the possibility that I could become your next permanent pastor. Such a possibility can pit people who favor such a move against people who, for a multitude of good reasons, may well feel that this is not a wise course. The Center for Congregational Health (CCH) certainly does not believe that it is, and I even agree with their arguments and positions on this point. Still, my deep yearning for professional stability overcame my better judgment, resulting in confusion for your Search Committee who already had a difficult enough task without sorting through this ambivalence which could have easily been avoided. Now, it is always the case that at least some members of a congregation come to feel that the IIM should be the next pastor; but absolute clarity about non-succession in the original covenant is usually enough to prevent polarization. So, again, I do apologize for my part in this situation and I do implore all of you to acknowledge this to have been my mistake, thus focusing your prayers and support for the Search Committee and the Consistory: releasing any frustration you may have with each other and placing it on me, so that when I leave, such tension as may exist between some few of you can leave as well, and the field for your new pastor will be clear. We have worked far too hard to give this goal up now. Your positive focus should be upon your preparedness and covenant to offer your full and wholehearted support to your new pastor, whomever that proves to be.

I do believe, however--the wisdom of CCH guidelines notwithstanding--that there is one potential exception to the IIM non-succession clause: *that of an authentic call of God to pastor the IIM church permanently*. While my friends at the CCH, being faithful people of reasonable good will, might take spirited exception to this claim (two reasons being that it is essentially untestable and can well be used by unscrupulous persons to mask self-interest), it is true that I had wondered if my authentically experienced call to serve at FRUCC as an IIM might also extend to the permanent position. After having prayed extensively about this and after assessing our overall situation, I became convinced that I had experienced an IIM calling only and exclusively at FRUCC, so I can report to you that my leave-taking now is exactly what should be happening. I invite all of you to experience our IIM closure in that light, with a peaceful and settled resolution that things are as they should be, at the highest levels of our spiritual awareness.

That said, I do believe that my IIM with FRUCC has been the best one yet; though I did not make the above mistake with my two previous IIM congregations, just different ones! Again, I thank the Transition Team for your support, trust and insights; for your willingness to govern by consensus and to make tough, wise and binding IIM decisions that forestall future conflict. I thank you, the congregation, for all the positive developments for which I expressed gratitude in the September, 2010, edition of *First News*. As of this writing, two Sundays (October 3 and 10) remain for me to lead worship here, and I shall treasure them both, observing my last working day on Friday, October 15. I will have been here with you exactly two and one-half years! We will celebrate our official closure of this IIM on Sunday, October 10, having time for a luncheon and the congregational meeting to affirm the 2011 budget.

Finally, while I am not exactly sure about what lies ahead for me professionally, I do wish to say, both with tenderness and firmness, that I will not be able to return here after October 15. While this is not a permanent decision, I do believe that you will need time for further transition as you prepare for your new pastor, and then will need to offer your full support upon that person's arrival. The only way that I know not to interfere in any way with that important process is simply to stay away, to make a "clean" break, and that is what I will do. I do have two IIM prospects and one permanent prospect for ministry at this time; and if those do not work out, I may go into semi-retirement and write a bunch of books, all of which you will have to buy and read to see what I say about YOU! As with all such decisions, I will remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the sufficiency of the grace of Almighty God in Jesus Christ has been proven time and again in my life, and it is in Him that my ultimate trust reposes, both for this life and for the life to come. You are dear brothers and sisters in Christ to me, and I shall miss you.

Blessings and Shalom, Reverend Walt

United Friendship Club

The October United Friendship Club meeting will be a Field Trip to Johns River Valley Camp. Lunch will be prepared by Curly Stumb, Director of this facility, at a cost of \$9.00 per person. The group will gather at the church on **Wednesday, October 27, at 9:30 a.m.** where we will car pool to the camp site. This event is open to any member of the church that would like to see one of our Southern Conference facilities where many young people from our churches attend outdoor ministry each summer. Over the past few years a number of new buildings have been added to this facility. Following our lunch we will have an opportunity to explore the campsite and see all the most recent changes. **Those who plan to go on this field trip must call the Church Office by October 22nd to make their lunch reservation.**



Consistory Highlights

Pastoral Search Committee Report: Dawn Shaak, Search Committee Chairperson gave an update of where the Search Committee is at this time. Search Committee members present were: Walter Hoffman, Birke McNeill, Clifford Lopp, Tony Peele, Dawn Shaak, Eulene Shepherd, and Mark Smith.

Financial Report: The average weekly offering for the month of August was \$5,774. General Fund balance is \$12,992. The Building Fund balance is \$28,017.37, and Music Fund is \$6,015.97. Motion to approve was made by June Grubb, seconded by Janette Neal, and the report was approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Reverend Patten handed out his 6-week report from August 9, 2010 to September 19, 2010.

This report showed 135 phone calls, 22 hospital/rehab/Rest home visits, 76 office meetings and approximately 51 hours work per week. Total number of people assisted by Pastor's Discretionary Fund since 4/15/08 was 186 with a balance in the account of \$1,430.59. Pastor's report was motioned to accept, and seconded by Harriette Murphy, then unanimously approved.

Board of Christian Education: Report was given by Chairperson Nancy Robbins.

- Meeting for September: members decorated the downstairs classrooms for Rally Day and Roads to God.
- Preparation for Advent workshop and the Christmas activities are underway.

Congregational Life: Report was given by Eddie Yates; noteworthy events since the last meeting:

- Thanks to Amy & Birke McNeill, as well as Sauni & Thomas Johnson for the Sunday Social September 5th.
- Thanks to everyone who assisted with the set up and clean up for the Congregational Lunch and Budget meeting August 29th.
- Thanks to everyone who assisted with the set up and clean up for the Rally Day Congregational Lunch September 12th.

Upcoming: Lunch and Congregational Meeting on October 10, 2010, and Corner Café Mystery Dinner Theater on October 16, 2010.

Board of Business Management and Stewardship: Chairperson Mike Brown reported:

- The Building Fund as of September 19, 2010 was submitted that showed a detailed summary. Cost for completing the work on the Education building roof caps, cleaning, and sealing project was broken down separately to show the individual amounts for each payout.
- Mike reported that the lease on the copy machine in the office runs out soon. The consistory unanimously approved negotiations for a new copier.

Board of Worship and Sacrament: Ramona Yarbrough reported that Communion will be Sunday, October 3, 2010.

Board of Community Outreach: Edgar Miller, Chairperson reported:

- Scott Frye will be staying at the Crisis Ministry Shelter in September.
- Lynn Klopp is working with Uptown Lexington on the Christmas Open House food drop off here on November 21, 2010.
- The Crop Walk is set for November 14th and the committee is beginning to look at sites for the community garden.

Evangelism Board:

Janette Neal reported that the average attendance for the month of August was 100, with total membership at the end of August being 322. The Prayer Shawl/Quilt Ministry had an organizational meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Fourteen people attended the ministry to knit shawls to be given to people who are suffering and need comfort due to illness, grief, depression, or simply loneliness. Mary Jo Jessup is leading this ministry.

On August 30, 2010 the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team established the Core Values and Vision. A copy was attached for the consistory to review.

Old Business: By-law changes were reviewed. It was motioned to approve by Edgar Miller, and seconded by Nancy Robbins.

New Business: Doug Sink presented the budget for 2011. Approved by Edgar Miller, seconded by Eddie Yates.

The consistory's next meeting will be **Sunday, October 10, 2010 immediately following lunch, approximately 2 p.m.**

CONSISTORY

O Just a reminder that First Reformed UCC will hold a **Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 10, 2010** beginning with a catered lunch immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is for the Finance Committee to present the proposed budget for 2011 (adjoining page). Also on the agenda are some changes/corrections to the church By Laws. This was part of the work done by the Transition Team and approved by the Consistory. Several of the changes were just for clarity; however, printed below is an excerpt explaining the duties of a Pastoral Relations Committee, that upon approval, will be included in the By Laws.

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A COMPLETE SET OF BY LAWS WITH HIGHLIGHTED CHANGES, TO BE VOTED ON, CAN BE PICKED UP IN THE NARTHEX FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Pastoral Relations Committee: The Pastoral Relations Committee will monitor the relationship between the pastor and the people of First Reformed UCC. A pool of names (up to 12 people) will be presented by the pastor and members of the congregation to the Consistory. The Consistory, in consultation with the pastor, will appoint the members to serve on the Committee. The Committee will consist of five (5) people who will serve two-year terms on a rotating basis.

The Pastoral Relations Committee will

1. Provide support for the pastor through mutual trust and confidentiality;
2. Clarify the pastor's job position description and mutual expectations about what the pastor is to do and what has priority. This most likely will involve periodically clarifying and renegotiating expectations.
3. Provide an opportunity for the pastor to reflect in confidence about personal concerns, hopes, ambitions and frustrations;
4. Openly and honestly communicate feelings and reactions of church members to the pastor;
5. Monitor the ministry evaluation process (once every four years, or as needed) based upon strategic planning process by pastor and congregation. This evaluation looks at the mutual ministry of pastor and congregation;
6. Demonstrate concern and support for the pastor's family;
7. Encourage "self-care" of the pastor by encouraging and supporting time for recreation, exercise, relaxation, family and solitude (daily, weekly, yearly);
8. Advocate and support plans for the pastor's sabbatical leave, the length of the leave being directly proportional to the time served as the congregation's pastor, beginning at the four year mark;
9. Plan celebrations of personal and professional milestones, including a yearly "Pastor Appreciation Day".

Pastoral Relations Committee is not

1. A salary review committee;
2. A channel for complaints;
3. An evaluation committee;
4. Has no decision-making power, just advisory. Can only make recommendations to the Consistory.

2011 Proposed Budget

	2010 BUDGET	2011 Proposed	Increase/Decrease
D. Board of Business Management:			
Utilities:			
Insurance	27,300.00	29,300.00	2,000.00
Repairs & Supplies	8,700.00	6,700.00	(2,000.00)
Cleaning Service	19,500.00	19,500.00	0.00
Groundskeeper Labor	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
Sub Total	8,000.00	8,100.00	100.00
E. Board of Evangelism:			
Brochures, Publicity, Advertisement	1,200.00	600.00	(600.00)
Stephen Ministry	600.00	600.00	600.00
Sub Total	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
F. Administrative:			
Office Supplies	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Southern/Annual Conference Expenses (Delegates)	350.00	350.00	0.00
Sub Total	8,350.00	8,350.00	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES			
	93,350.00	93,450.00	100.00
III. BENEVOLENCES			
A. Southern Conference			
Black Lake	720.00	0.00	(720.00)
Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds	405.00	365.00	(40.00)
Catawba College (First Family Scholarship)	500.00	0.00	(500.00)
Elon College	500.00	0.00	(500.00)
Elon Homes for Children	500.00	450.00	(50.00)
Johns River Valley Camp	720.00	648.00	(72.00)
Lancaster Theological Seminary	450.00	435.00	(15.00)
Nazareth Children's Home	1,800.00	1,820.00	(20.00)
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	7,200.00	6,480.00	(720.00)
UCC Retirement (Benevolent Trust Fund-Piedmont Crossing)	900.00	810.00	(90.00)
WNC Association District Dues (\$1.50 per member)	650.00	486.00	(164.00)
Davidson/Forsyth Annual Dues (\$1.50 per member)	65.00	49.00	(16.00)
Sub Total	14,410.00	11,313.00	(3,097.00)
B. Local			
Communities In School	500.00	450.00	(50.00)
Crisis Ministries	5,445.00	4,900.00	(545.00)
Davidson Co. Alcohol Care Open Fund	180.00	182.00	(2.00)
Davidson Medical Ministries	2,700.00	2,430.00	(270.00)
Family Life Center	900.00	810.00	(90.00)
Family Services of Davidson County (Domestic Violence)	1,800.00	1,620.00	(180.00)
Habitat for Humanity	900.00	500.00	(400.00)
Hospice of Davidson County	720.00	500.00	(220.00)
Lexington Housing CDC	90.00	250.00	160.00
Lexington Prison Chaplaincy	450.00	405.00	(45.00)
Pastor's Disciplinary Fund	3,150.00	2,835.00	(315.00)
Pastor's Pantry	810.00	729.00	(81.00)
Salvation Army	2,295.00	2,065.00	(230.00)
Sub Total	19,940.00	17,666.00	(2,274.00)
C. In-House			
Utilities for Meals on Wheels	15,500.00	15,500.00	0.00
Sub Total	15,500.00	15,500.00	0.00
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES			
	49,850.00	44,469.00	(5,381.00)
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES			
	290,227.00	281,517.00	(8,710.00)

	2010 BUDGET	2011 Proposed	Increase/Decrease
I. 2011 BUDGET PROPOSAL			
A. Staff Salaries:			
Pastor	36,509.00	36,509.00	0.00
Director of Christian Education (Part-time)	5,740.00	5,740.00	0.00
Administrative Assistant	28,794.00	28,794.00	0.00
Music Director	11,608.00	11,608.00	0.00
Organist	8,800.00	8,800.00	0.00
Sub Total	90,451.00	90,451.00	0.00
B. Personnel Expenses:			
Pastor's Housing Allowance	17,546.00	17,546.00	0.00
Pastor's Auto Expense	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Pastor's Cell Phone	600.00	600.00	0.00
Pastor Health Insurance (Medical/Dental)	7,152.00	7,152.00	0.00
Pastor Dependent Insurance (BCBS Medical)	2,735.00	0.00	(2,735.00)
Pastor Dependent Insurance (BCBS Dental)	444.00	0.00	(444.00)
Pastor Life and Disability Insurance	796.00	796.00	0.00
Pastor's Pension & Annuity (Salary + Housing)	7,428.00	7,428.00	0.00
Pastor's Sabbatical	0.00	0.00	0.00
Director of Christian Ed. Auto Expense (Part-time)	250.00	0.00	(250.00)
Administrative Asst. Life and Disability Insurance	432.00	432.00	0.00
Administrative Asst. Pension	4,031.00	4,031.00	0.00
Staff Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Security and Medicare (FICA)	8,262.00	8,262.00	0.00
Fill-in Supply (Pastor/Organist)	900.00	900.00	0.00
Sub Total	56,576.00	53,147.00	(3,429.00)
TOTAL SALARIES/EXPENSES			
	147,027.00	143,598.00	(3,429.00)

	2010 BUDGET	2011 Proposed	Increase/Decrease
II. OPERATING EXPENSES			
A. Board of Christian Education:			
Sunday School Literature	1,500.00	1,800.00	300.00
Youth (Kids Club, Children's Church and Community Youth)	500.00	500.00	0.00
Christian Education/Sunday School Supplies	800.00	800.00	0.00
Vacation Bible School	800.00	800.00	0.00
Confirmation Class	500.00	500.00	0.00
John's River Camp (Campers)	300.00	300.00	0.00
Graduation Gifts (High School/College)	200.00	200.00	0.00
Sunday School Picnic	200.00	200.00	0.00
Sub Total	5,100.00	5,100.00	0.00
B. Board of Congregational Life:			
Bereavement	800.00	800.00	0.00
Cards (Encouragement, Get Well, Sympathy)	400.00	400.00	0.00
Church Dinners/Sunday School Socials/Receptions	350.00	350.00	0.00
Christmas Baskets/Youth Treats	1,550.00	1,550.00	0.00
Sub Total	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00
C. Board of Worship and Sacraments:			
Adult and Bell Choirs	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Holy Communion	100.00	100.00	0.00
Candles (Alter, Aisle, Christmas Eve)	200.00	200.00	0.00
Ushers and Acolytes	100.00	100.00	0.00
Flowers (Infant Rose/Mother-Father Day/Special Occasions)	100.00	100.00	0.00
Decorations	150.00	150.00	0.00
Sub Total	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00

Stephen Ministry Job Description

Stephen Ministers are congregational members who are recruited, selected, trained, and commissioned to provide one-to-one lay caring ministry to people in crisis or with other needs for care. They participate in Supervision Group twice each month. They initially commit to serve for two years, including training, and may renew their commitment.

What Stephen Ministers Do

Pray – They pray daily for their care receivers and strive to worship God always in word and in deed. They reveal the love of God to those who most need to see it.

Care for the Care Receiver – They are assigned to care receivers (women with women, men with men)—people who need caring support. They care for only one person at a time. They care for those in moderate difficulties. Their care helps the care receiver resolve difficulty and achieve growth.

Most of them meet with their care receiver once a week for about an hour at a time. They may also check in with the care receiver by telephone, particularly when the care receiver is going through a difficult time.

Some of the most important skills Stephen Ministers use in their caring relationships are as follows:

Listening – Most care receivers need someone to simply listen—really listen—as they talk through their difficulties.

Dealing With Feelings – They reflect the care receiver’s content, feelings, and ideas and ask open-ended questions to help the care receiver recognize, express, and accept his or her feelings.

Sharing Distinctively Christian Caring Resources – They may share a prayer, a Bible verse or story, or other caring gestures that the care receiver would welcome.

Remaining Processing Oriented – They do not try to fix the care receiver or his or her problems; they stay focused on the process of caregiving and rely on God to achieve results.

Relating Assertively – They respect both the needs of the care receiver and their own needs as well.

Maintaining Boundaries – They set appropriate boundaries in the caring relationship, helping the care receiver remain as independent as possible while being there for the receiver as needed.

Recommending Professional Care When Necessary – Stephen Ministers are not trained to care for those who are suicidal, severely depressed, abusive, or homicidal, or who are abusing alcohol or drugs. If they recognize that their receiver’s needs exceed the care they are able to provide, they see that the care receiver receives professional help.

Maintain Confidentiality – Stephen Ministers understand that confidentiality is crucial in any caring relationship. The receiver needs to know that what he or she says will remain in confidence.

Help Identify People in Need of Stephen Ministry – They act as ministers of referral, helping to find people who would benefit from a Christian caring relationship.

Participate in Twice-Monthly Supervision and Continuing Education Sessions – They participate faithfully in Small Group Peer Supervision and continuing education, coming prepared to every session unless illness or emergency make attendance impossible. Supervision provides Stephen Ministers with support, guidance, and accountability for their caring relationships. There are no unsupervised Stephen Ministers.

Help the Congregation Understand and Appreciate Stephen Ministry – Through their service, they help the congregation appreciate Stephen Ministry and encourage members to become ministers of referral who help those in crisis receive care they need.

Think and pray about this opportunity. If you decide you would like to be a Stephen Minister, please contact me right away and we can talk about how you can get started. If we agree that you will be well-suited to be a Stephen Minister, you will begin training for this exciting ministry on January 3, 2011.

I am excited to see what God is going to do in the lives of those who undertake this ministry and in the lives of those who will receive care from our Stephen Ministers.

John L Barber, Stephen Leader (336-249-4552, punkbarber@hotmail.com)

The 45th Annual Gathering of the Southern Conference (SOC) was held September 17th and 18th at the Franklinton Center at Bricks near Whitakers, N. C., with 172 delegates present. Rev. Dale Kennedy, President called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on the 17th without a *quorum* present, so we proceeded making the 2009 & 10 financial reports and presenting the 2011 budget, none of which required a vote at that time. Other reports were made by the Associate Conference Ministers of the three Associations, Rev. Margot Pickett, Director of the Pastoral Leadership Development Program and Rev. Phil Hardy, Director of the Southern Conference Endowment Fund. By 4:30 a *quorum* was reached, so we were able to establish the standing rules and approve the agenda. The speaker for the evening worship service was the Rev. D. E. Pearce.

Saturday morning the meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. The 2011 budget was approved with a \$53K deficit, which is a result of the \$28K annual cost of maintaining the Black Lake property and \$25K for consulting fees. One of the decisions made at the joint meeting of the Boards of Directors of the SOC and of the three Associations held in June was to hire a consultant to meet with the delegates at the Annual Gathering and lead a discussion and assess what direction the SOC would take in the future.

Rev. Les Robinson of the Center for Congregational Health offered a power point presentation of the Intentional Interim Ministry Goals that have been set for the SOC for the coming year. They are:

- ◆ Rebuild Trust
- ◆ Define Relevance & Viability of the “Conference”. Is the denomination “dying”? Being Revitalized?
- ◆ Financial Sustainability
- ◆ Expand the Voices at the Table
- ◆ Move from “Paper Mission” to “Guiding Statement”

Timeline: IIM Report to the SOC Executive Committee two months before the next Annual Gathering.

Face-to-Face: Phone, Survey, Document Review, Communication, Final Report, Recommendations

Start: Small group discussions (“Clumps”) Saturday a.m., Sept. 18th, Report forthcoming...

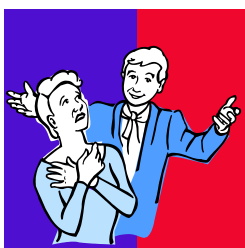
Guiding Question: “What keeps you connected to the Southern Conference of the UCC?”

After the small group discussions, Rev. Robinson collected the answers to the above question from each “Clump”, will analyze and make recommendations.

During the remaining time, the newly elected Board members and Delegates to the General Synod were installed.

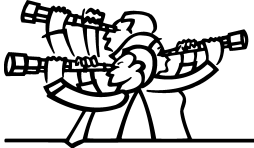
Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Delegate, Doug Sink



The Finance Committee of First Reformed UCC is sponsoring a fundraiser on **Saturday, October 16th** that you will not want to miss. The Corner Café Mystery Dinner Theatre is presenting Mother Goose's Grim Tales (Definitely NOT for Little Children). Even if you attended this comic presentation two years ago, you will still be guessing “who done it?” Parts of the play have been rewritten and characters are portrayed by different actors/actresses. Tickets include a steak dinner and the mystery play and are on sale to church members now (**see a Finance Committee member or call the church office**). Beginning in October ticket sales will be open to the general public. There are only 112 seats available. Purchase your ticket now!!

Search Committee Update



**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Your Search Committee knows that all of you are both eager and perhaps a bit anxious for us to find a permanent minister. Please know that we also are ready to see this church and its congregation move forward with new leadership.

If we were allowed to share details of our progress we would gladly do so. Confidentiality for those who have submitted profiles and the exact stage of our search prevents us from sharing. We do have profiles we are excited about. We are checking references, having personal interviews, and visiting specific candidates. Keep in mind this is not only a major decision for our church; it is equally as large for our candidates and their families.

At the time we agree we are all ready to nominate a candidate, they must give us permission to present their name to the Consistory. Once we have permission, we share their profile with the Consistory and give our reasons for our choice. With approval from our governing board to issue a call, we will do so.

Our candidates know about you. The committees you serve on, the social groups we have, our community service, letting non-members and community groups use our facilities, our great music, and our desire to grow and serve God in more ways. You have made us inviting to good candidates.

Thank you for your prayer and encouragement. This would be a lonely and difficult task if it were not for each of you supporting our search.

Search Committee Members:

Dawn Shaak, Chairperson

Eulene Shepherd, Chaplain

Sauni Johnson

Mark Smith, Vice Chairperson

Vicky Gray

Birke McNeill

Clifford Lopp, Recording Secretary

Walter Hoffman

Tony Peele

Stewardship Message

We Are Family

To the church of God that is in Corinth...together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 1:1-7

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, our partner church in Mozambique sent a financial contribution to the UCC to help the people affected by the flooding. You see the people there knew about floods and the damage they could do, and they understood that we are one family in Christ. So, despite the limited resources of their churches, they wanted to send whatever help they could.

The first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday. The third Sunday in October is Children's Sabbath and the fourth falls this year on United Nations Day. This whole month reminds us that we are not alone in our individual congregations, nor are we alone as American Christians. We are part of a family that, from its very beginnings, included people of many nations, ethnicities and languages. The apostle Paul regularly reminded the churches of their connections with other churches, and he also asked them for financial contributions to help the struggling mother church in Jerusalem.

All of us are one in Christ Jesus. We learn from one another, we rejoice with one another and we mourn with one another. We share our resources of imagination, of skills, of time, and of money with one another across the worldwide Christian community. Thanks be to God for our family in Christ!

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

October 2010

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



God is still speaking,

Morning Glory Circle

The Morning Glory Circle met September 1, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the church parlor. Nine Members and 1 visitor were present.

The meeting opened with the program. Lib Sink read several articles on "Inspiration" based on Romans 8:28 and closed with prayer.

In the business meeting the group discussed possible fundraisers to assist with the church budgeted benevolences. It was moved and seconded that we have a "Dessert of the Month" for the congregation. All money raised would go toward our benevolent gift to Medical Ministries. Ticket sales will be during the months of October, November and December. The winner of the drawing will start receiving desserts in January 2011.

We were reminded of Rally Day, September 12 and the Corner Café Dinner Theatre, October 16.

A memorial will be given for one of our faithful members, Mary Rhodes. *Gladys Snider, Secretary*



Women's Life Fellowship

Women's Life Fellowship members met Tuesday, September 21st in the parlor. Beth Callicutt shared devotions with the group. Thank you to Mary Jo Jessup and Beth Callicutt for refreshments.

A new roll was passed for members to correct or add new phone numbers, addresses, or email addresses. Belinda Yates gave the treasurer's report and our President, Beth Callicutt passed committee sheets around for members to volunteer for one of three programs: Fundraising Activities, Programs and Community Service, or the Celebrations Committee.

Harriette Murphy asked the group if they would assist the Finance Committee by providing some of the dishes for the Corner Café Dinner Theatre. As always, this group came to the rescue with several individuals volunteering to bring salads, casseroles, or desserts. We also voted to purchase 125 steak knives for the kitchen.

Cathy Waitman, following up on a project, shared with the committee information about "table toppers" for the fellowship hall tables. The group voted to purchase additional table toppers.

The meeting adjourned with some of the ladies who are participating with the prayer shawl ministry staying to ask questions and work on their projects.

Men's Brotherhood

The Men's Brotherhood met on Thursday, September 16th in the fellowship hall with 21 men present. We enjoyed a meal prepared by Mike Brown, John Barber, and John Potts. Robert Everhart opened our program as he shared his knowledge of Jewish traditions. Our guest speaker for the evening was Frank Cagle, Chairman of this year's United Way Campaign. He shared with us that this year the goal is over \$2.1 million and what it takes to help out those in need in Davidson County. He is very optimistic and sees our county coming through in the next year.

We heard a report from John Barber about Stephen Ministry and what it will mean for our church as we address the needs of others.

Rev. Patten was presented a book and thanked for his time here at First Reformed. We wish him well as he begins a new phase in his life. Our next meeting will be **October 21 at 6:30 pm**. Join us for fellowship and fun.

Christian Education

Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education

We had a wonderful Rally Day on September 12. There were about 20 children here to receive Bibles, certificates, and Bible book marks and pencils. The Downstairs Assembly Room was filled to standing room only. After a short program on the Bible, everyone toured the classrooms which were set up for "Dig Into the Bible" lessons. Amy McNeill wore her storyteller's hat and told Bible stories; Keri Hartle introduced illustrated manuscripts; Heidi "The Pirate" Hutcheson played music from the lessons; and Carolyn Spivey talked about the kinds of food from Bible times. The lessons began the last two Sundays of September. Amy helped the children make their own storyteller hats and Raeann Biesecker and the children baked "Scripture Bake" cookies. There are more fun lessons on the Bible to come. I hope all the children can be here to learn more about the Bible and Bible times.



Sunday School Start-up

Kids' Club and Children's Church started back up in September. The Sunday class of Kids' Club studied about David and Goliath which was an introduction to a series of lessons on "The Armor of God." During each meeting of Kids' Club, the children will be making a piece of armor and learning about being in God's "army." Alice Gray led the Tuesday night Kids' Club meeting. The children learned about God's "fast food" and created edible landscapes, flowers, and solar systems. Children's Church is continuing the study of Fruits of the Spirit. When the study is over in February the children's "trees" should be full of fruit .

Practices for the Christmas play will begin this month. The play is called "The Best Plastic Manger Scene Ever" and will include all children from nursery to fifth grade. Practices will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 starting on October 20. We are also making plans for the Advent Workshop and another Chili Cook-Off. The first chili night was delicious and helped to pay for costumes for the children's play, so we will continue the tradition this year.

I would like to thank everyone who decorated rooms for Roads to God and led lessons on Rally Day. Many hours were spent gathering materials, making hands-on activities, and setting up the rooms. The decorators were: cooking - Carolyn Spivey; music - Alice Gray; computers - Nancy Robbins and Amanda Fulton; art - Keri Hartle; science - Lisa Nelson; video, storytelling, and the hall way - Amy McNeill, Heidi Hutcheson, Vicky Gray, and Camille Morgan. The rooms were beautiful and the children were excited to start the new series of lessons. The members of the Board of Christian Education work diligently to provide Sunday school classes and activities for everyone in the church family. Thank you !!!

Sunday School Perfect Attendance, September 2010

Abbie Callicutt	Lucy McNeill	Callie Decker	Nancy Robbins
Kaitlyn McNeill	Mary Lloyd Callicutt	Annabell Callicutt	Wanda Daye
Mary Berrier	Ramona Yarbrough	Jo Hudson	Betty Bates
John Barber	Butch Bouchard	Earlie Hartley	John Hudson
Don Leonard	Cliff Lopp	Clifford Lopp	Paula Lopp
Camille Morgan	Cathy Waitman	Doug Sink	Harriette Murphy

Kids' Club

At our September 21 meeting, we talked about fast food, God's fast food that is. Our Bible verse was Genesis 1:29, "And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food." Our snack was the edible creations we made. Flowers were constructed from apples and cucumbers. Landscapes were created using broccoli, mushrooms and carrots. The solar system was built with bananas, grapes, peppers and tomatoes. Everything was held together with a special "glue" we could also eat!

Our next Tuesday night meeting is October 19.

Alice and James Gray

The Sunday meeting of Kids Club studied about David and Goliath which was an introduction to a series of lessons on Armor of God. They acted out the story with Kalyssa as the giant, Annabell as David, and Kaitlyn and Mary Lloyd represented the Israelites and Philistines. They made stones for David and stored them in pouches. As the lesson was reviewed the girls threw marshmallows at a picture of Goliath. For the next several meetings the children will be making pieces of armor to wear and learning what it means to be in God's "army."

Cathy and Lisa

Practice for the Children's Christmas play, "The Best Plastic Manger Scene Ever," will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. The three main characters will meet alone on October 6th and 13th. Practice for all characters will begin October 20th. Lisa Nelson is in charge of stage scenery and Amy McNeill is in charge of props. Moms will be in charge of costumes (angels, shepherds, and sheep) for some of the characters. The other characters will wear present day clothing. Watch for an email or letter for further details.

Thanks, Cathy



Community Youth

On October 2, the youth and volunteers from our church and other churches will participate in a one day service project repairing a home here in Lexington. We are very excited about this service project and the lesson it serves to teach—for us to be servants of Christ and do good things for others. We hope to have some pictures in next month's newsletter article!

Our regularly scheduled October meetings will be held at Reeds UMC Youth house. Those dates are October 10th and 24th. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

We would also like to thank those who have donated a meal for us on our meeting nights. If you are interested in helping with meals, please see Chris or Amanda Fulton.

Chris and Amanda Fulton

September 2010 Memorials



JEANNE TREXLER

Robert and Ramona Phelps and Mrs. Ruby Leonard
Mike and Lynn Brown

CATHERINE LEONARD

Mary Berrier
Nancy Robbins

MARY RHODES

Vicky Green
Robert and Ramona Phelps
Joyce Price

Inez N. Brafford
Mrs. Ruby Leonard
Nancy Robbins

Mary Berrier
Morning Glory Circle

BERTIE HAMPTON

(Gladys Snider's Mother)

Elizabeth Sink
Cathy Waitman
Roy and Anne Bevan
Deanna Michael
Janie Lohr

Velna Swing
Vicky Green
Doris Frye
Banks and Eulene Shepherd
Mike and Lynn Brown

Katherine Skipper
Peggy Bates
Mary Crouse
Maxine Lohr

September 2010 Honorariums

IN HONOR OF ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ROADS TO GOD LEADERS

Rally Day Sunday School Offering {Donated to Davidson Medical Ministries}

IN HONOR OF ALICE GRAY FOR HER BIRTHDAY

John and Vicky Gray

Fundraiser Ticket
20% of Bearer's Purchase will be Donated to:

Positive Wellness Alliance

Date: October 14, 2010
129 Lowes Blvd, Lexington
Time: 11:00 AM until 10:00 PM

Please mention offer when placing order. Ticket must be presented for the charity to receive the donation. The offer is valid only during specified dates and times. Other restrictions may apply.




"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. 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.





Dear Church Family,

Thanks you so much for the wonderful celebration of my 25th year as choir director at First Reformed on Sunday, September 12th, 2010. It was a wonderful time and it meant a great deal to me. I have been blessed many times over since I came to First Reformed and I treasure our friendships. The choir is so loving and dedicated that it makes my job very rewarding. Lee Ann Peele is a wonderful accompanist and we are so blessed to have her. Thank you Choir for the wonderful gift. Your love was enough. I hope we have many more years together.

Love in Christ, *Paul Freeman*

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the care and concern you have extended to me during this time of loss for my family. Not only have you supported me over the last few weeks following the death of my mother, but over the last several years of her decline. She certainly appreciated how invaluable the support of one's church family is. Michael and I want you to know how much your words and acts of kindness mean to us.

Most Sincerely, *Bonita*

Dear First Reformed UCC,

On behalf of the Charity League of Lexington, I want to express our extreme gratitude for the support you have shown us by allowing us to bring back the "Bargain House" for one weekend in your fellowship hall. The clothing sale allows for us to help families with their clothing needs. All the proceeds made from this sale immediately go back into the community to help better the lives of our children.

Again our heartfelt thank you for your service to the Lexington community.

Sincerely, *Raeann Biesecker*, Vice-President, Charity League of Lexington

Thank you letters were received from the following for benevolent gifts....

- ◆ Davidson Medical Ministries
- ◆ Johns River Valley Camp
- ◆ United Church of Christ — We are a **5 for 5 Congregation** because we participated in all five special mission offerings

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you for your many thoughts, prayers, and cards that helped me to feel the comforting care of God, through you, during the recent death of my Mother, Mrs. Bertie Hampton. *Gladys Snider*



SUNDAY LUNCH PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS

November is First Reformed UCC's month to provide volunteers for **Grace Episcopal Church's Sunday lunch program for the homeless**. Each Sunday in November we need two couples or four adults to assist the Grace coordinator in preparing and serving a meal for approximately 25-50 individuals. The meal is served at 1 p.m. and volunteers should arrive at 12:15 p.m. There are four Sundays in November, so we need your help to make sure we cover each Sunday in the month. To volunteer contact **Kathleen Danze**

CROP WALK, NOVEMBER 14th

WHAT DOES CROP MEAN?

Communities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? CROP Hunger Walks help fight hunger and poverty around the world, including the United States. Locally, 25% of what we raise stays in our community.

WHAT CAN WE DO PERSONALLY? Put our faith into action by walking. (**Sponsor sheets are available in the narthex**). If you are not able to walk...SPONSOR a walker.

OCTOBER STEWARDS

Ushers: Chairperson: Ramona Yarbrough

Captain: Tom Danze

Ushers: Susan Odom, Roy Bevan, Jeff Hutchens

Plate Attendant: J.W. Bates

Acolytes: Mary Lloyd and Annabell Callicutt

Sound Tech: Tony Peele

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

Social Host/Hostess: Raeann & Brad Biesecker and Alisa & Keith Johnson

Worship Greeters:

- October 3 Tom and Kathleen Danze
- October 10 James Atkinson, Robert & Harrison Danze
- October 17 Frank , Beth, Mary Lloyd, Annabell, and Abbie Callicutt
- October 24 Birke, Amy, Kaitlyn and Lucy McNeill
- October 31 Thomas, Sauni, Ashley, Sarah, and Abigail Johnson

Nursery Caregivers:

- October 3 Nicole and Mark Smith
- October 10 Beth and Frank Callicutt
- October 17 Kivi and Edgar Miller
- October 24 Sauni and Thomas Johnson
- October 31 Belinda and Eddie Yates

(Alston Brook) Betty Potts

(Sunrise Assisted Living) Elmer Morgan

(St. Martins in the Pines) Barbara Schaeffer

(Piedmont Crossing) Henry & Ernestine Kennedy, Frances Leonard, Rita Tussey



Velna Swing, Callie Kepley, Ronnie Durham, Ernie Bonner, Sadie Bailey, Arlene Swing, Joel Reece,

Henry and Juanita Beck, Willie Ruth Leonard, Giles Crowell, and Micki Smith. Also, remember Linda

McDonald (Wanda's Family), Patricia Green (Myrtle Latimer's Daughter), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family),

Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman's Uncle), Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Susan Cadwallader (Anne Fletcher's Mother),

Terri Evans (Paul Freeman's Cousin), and please remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. To add a

name to the prayer chain, please contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office at 248-2617.

- ◆ We extend **SYMPATHY** to and share Christian hope with family and friends of **Jacqueline Leonard**, our faithful church member and friend.



October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NOTE: Every Sunday 2-4 p.m. Community Candlelight Practice — Adult (FH) — Youth (Downstairs)</p>						
<p>9:45 a.m. {Chapel} Joint Sunday School 10:20 a.m. {FH} Sunday School Social 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Holy Communion and Neighbors in Need Offering</p> <p>3</p>	<p>6:30 pm Board of Christian Education 6:30 pm Search Committee 7 pm Stephen Ministry</p> <p>4</p>	<p>11:00 a.m. {Parlor} Morning Glory Circle 5:30 Corner Café Cast 6 pm Children's Practice 7 pm CHOIR PRACTICE</p> <p>5</p>	<p>11:00 a.m. {Parlor} Morning Glory Circle 5:30 Corner Café Cast 6 pm Children's Practice 7 pm CHOIR PRACTICE</p> <p>6</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>WNCA MTG 2</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service— (Rev. Patten's last service) Kids' Club Noon (FH) LUNCH AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 1:30 pm CONSISTORY MTG 6—8 p.m. COMMUNITY YOUTH</p> <p>10</p>	<p>7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>11</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. {Parlor} BOARD OF EVANGELISM MTG</p> <p>12</p>	<p>6 pm Children's Play Practice 7:00 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE</p> <p>13</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class 7 p.m. (FH) Corner Café Cast Dress Rehearsal</p> <p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Corner Café Dinner Theatre</p> <p>16</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Corner Café Dinner Theatre</p> <p>16</p>
<p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Dr. Lee Jessup)</p> <p>17</p>	<p>7 pm Stephen Ministry 7 pm (FH) Genealogical Society</p> <p>18</p>	<p>7 p.m. {Parlor} WOMEN'S LIFE FELLOWSHIP and KIDS' CLUB</p> <p>19</p>	<p>6 pm Children's Play Practice 7:00 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE</p> <p>20</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. {P} 21 Yoga Class 6:00 p.m. (FH) MEN'S BROTHERHOOD DINNER MEETING</p> <p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>BBQ Festival Property Committee Parking Cars</p> <p>23</p>	<p>BBQ Festival Property Committee Parking Cars</p> <p>23</p>
<p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Reverend Nelson Weller) and Children's Church 6-8 p.m. COMMUNITY YOUTH</p> <p>24</p>	<p>7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>25</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. {Parlor} Meals on Wheels Bd Mtg 7:00 p.m. {Parlor} PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY CLASS</p> <p>26</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. 27 FRIENDSHIP CLUB OUTING - JOHNS RIVER 6 pm Children's Practice 7 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE</p> <p>27</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. {P} Yoga Class</p> <p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:30 a.m. {Sanctuary} Wedding Rehearsal</p> <p>30</p> <p>Hense Walser and Michelle Hall Wedding</p> <p>30</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Hense Walser and Michelle Hall Wedding</p> <p>30</p>
<p>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Reverend June Grubb)</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Sunday, November 7—Church Homecoming and Lunch Sunday, November 14 Stewardship Sunday—Dedicate Pledges CROP Walk</p>					
<p>Sunday, November 21 Bake Sale Sunday, November 28 Madrigal Singers</p>						

Congregational Lunch and Meeting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010



Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 10th. Yarborough's Restaurant is serving a delicious catered lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship service. **PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS** by calling the church office at 248-2617 or filling out the form in your Sunday bulletin. Donations for lunch will be accepted at the door.

Following lunch there will be a time of recognition for **Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D.** and his intentional interim ministry among us during this time between permanent pastors.

The Finance Committee, co-chaired by John Smith and Doug Sink, will present the proposed budget for 2011. All members are encouraged to be a part of this important process in the life of our church.



First News

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Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Intentional Interim Minister.....Rev. Walter Patten, Ph.D.
Email: wrpatten@earthlink.net or minister@frucc.org
Interim Director of Christian Education..... Cathy Waitman
Administrative Asst..... Paula Lopp
Choir Director Paul Freeman
Organist..... Lee Ann Peele

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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