

Service of Divine Worship

Homecoming Sunday

November 7, 2010

Preparation for Worship

Prelude
*Chimes Sounding the Hour
*Time of Greeting
Announcements
Choral Call to Worship
Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

Praise to God

*Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" No. 12

*Responsive Call to Worship

Pastor: We gather today, seeking the peace Christ gives.

People: We gather, in spite of many a conflict, many a doubt, within our souls.

Pastor: We gather, longing for the breath of God's Spirit to give us courage and renewal.

People: Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest. Bless us through the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage to live as your disciples day by day. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Invocation

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin

When we put off until tomorrow our response to your call, forgive us, O God. When our good intentions are not followed by good actions, have patience with us, O God. When we harden our hearts, making all kinds of excuses why we should not serve you, O God, have mercy. When we turn our backs on the needs of others, forgive us O God. When we whine and moan instead of enjoying the day you have given us, forgive us O God. Today when we hear your voice, may we rise up to hear and obey, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon --- Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

A Litany of the Saints and Lighting of Memorial Candles (*Insert*) Reverend June Grubb

The Old Testament Reading Ecclesiastes 8:15-17 (Page #608 of Pew Bible)

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer *{we pray debts}*

Children's Moment

Anthem "Everlasting Arms" Callaway

Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Reading Luke 15:11-32 (Page #953 of Pew Bible)

Sermon "FUN, FUN, FUN"

Response through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" No. 282

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*The Benediction

(Members please be seated as we hear a brief report from our Nominations Committee.)

Nominating Committee Chairperson Sylvia Walser

*Postlude

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND**

WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

OUR HOMECOMING SPEAKER TODAY: We offer our deepest appreciation to the Reverend Doctor Lee Jessup, who is leading our service today and is delivering our Homecoming message. He is a respected former Pastor who served First Reformed United Church of Christ September 1980 – December 1992.

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING: There will be a brief business meeting immediately following the service today to announce nominees for the office of Elder and Deacon for 2011.

Advent Workshop & Chili Cook-off Monday, November 29, 2010

The Advent workshop will be on Monday, November 29th starting at 6 p.m. We are going to have another chili cook-off since the one last year was such a great success. There will be about eight pots of chili entered in the contest. Come and taste all of them to pick out the one you like the best. Vote for that one by placing money in the jar in front of the pot. Proceeds from the voting will be used to purchase costumes for the children's play.



Following the chili contest, we will be making a gingerbread village of Lexington using milk cartons, graham crackers, icing, and candy for decorations. We'll need the help of EVERYONE in constructing our town. **Young and not-so-young, individuals, families and groups of friends** will be making buildings in town, including our church and a stable for the front lawn. The "buildings" will be on display in the fellowship hall throughout December. If you would like to participate in designing one of the buildings, please let me know by Sunday, November 14th. I will need to know how many materials to have ready.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

To help with planning, we are requesting that you sign-up by **Sunday, November 14th**. Please fill out the reservation form and drop in the offering plate or call the church office at 248-2617.

NAME _____

ADULTS: _____

CHILDREN: _____

We remember today those of our church who have died since Memorial Sunday, November 1, 2009. A candle will be lit in memory of:

- Louise Green Rollins*..... *November 20, 2009*
- Hilda Dorsett Leonard*.....*December 7, 2009*
- Ethel Marie Bailey*.....*December 22, 2009*
- Jeanne Moore Trexler*..... *July 6, 2010*
- Mary Pickett Rhodes*..... *August 6, 2010*
- Catherine Beck Leonard*..... *August 8, 2010*
- Jacqueline Cameron Leonard*.....*September 26, 2010*



A LITANY OF THE SAINTS

- Pastor: O Living God, we praise you for your saints...
- People: for Abraham, whose faith convicts us; for Ruth whose faithfulness was enduring; for David whose music and poetry inspires us; for Esther whose courage challenges us.**
- Pastor: O Living God, we praise you for your saints...
- People: for Mary and Joseph willing to share their lives with holy purpose; for John the Baptizer ready to proclaim the Day of the Lord.**
- Pastor: O Living God, we praise you for your saints...
- People: for Mary, Martha and Lazarus who lived as friends of Jesus; for Peter, James and John who left their work to follow in his way, for Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna who provided for the journeys Jesus took.**
- Pastor: O Living God, we praise you for your saints...
- People: for Stephen, first to be slain for his belief in the Risen Savior and his service to others; for Lydia and Cornelius, followers who believed the witness of followers.**
- Pastor: O Living God, we praise you for your saints...
- People: for ancestors and mentors who shaped our beliefs, for grandparents who nurtured our spirits; for parents who loved us into life; for Christian friends who walk beside us; for your witnesses throughout the world who proclaim the power of your Spirit.**
- Pastor: O Living God, we praise you for your saints within this congregation who have passed from our presence in this year...
- ALL: for these ladies of First Reformed United Church of Christ who encouraged us on our journeys; and whose gracious manner continues to support us: Ethel Bailey, Hilda Leonard, Jacqueline Leonard, Mary Rhodes, Louise Rollins and Jeanne Trexler.**
- Pastor: For all these saints who rest in your presence, we raise our voices in thanksgiving. We pray that you will embolden us with the spirit of faithfulness that made them live for you. May your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed!

First Reformed United Church of Christ is partnering with Uptown Lexington during the
Uptown Christmas Open House

Sunday, November 21, 2010, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Please drop off non-perishable foods for local food banks. Curbside service will be available. To assist First Reformed UCC members, **collection boxes will be in the narthex November 7th, 14th, and 21st.** Items dropped off on those Sundays will be included with Open House collections. Thank you.



Bell Ringers

Mark your calendar for **Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th.** First Reformed UCC will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Fund at Lanier's Hardware. You can sign-up for hour increments between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. both days. A sheet is in the narthex or call the church office.

"PENNIES FROM HEAVEN"

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.



Reserve a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Cost is \$9.00 each. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary Sunday, November 28th and can be picked up following the service to enjoy at home during the Advent Season. Please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate or call the church office. **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS NOVEMBER 15TH.**

In Memory of _____ By _____

In Memory of _____ By _____

In Honor of _____ By _____

Fellowship Hall Chairs

How many times have you sat in the fellowship hall and thought how uncomfortable you were? How much would you enjoy sitting on a comfortable chair during the children's Christmas pageant? *Have we got an offer for you!* Buy yourself a comfortable seat or two...or three. The Consistory has approved a project to raise funds to replace the fellowship hall folding chairs. The proposal is to NOT take funds from the budget but, raise enough funds to purchase chairs. When enough is raised, the current chairs will be sold to another church, organization, or individuals with the money earned going to the general fund. This is a win, win proposition. The cost for a new chair is \$25.00. **We are seeking individual donations (no specific amount), and supplemental donations from organizations within the church.** This is a church-wide project that will benefit everyone. Please contact the church office with the amount you plan to give. To have the chairs for the Christmas program, the order will need to be placed by December 1st.



Holiday Bake Sale

Women's Life Fellowship will hold a bake sale **Sunday, November 21st** 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!



CROP Walk

Next Sunday, November 14, 2010

WHAT DOES CROP MEAN? **C**ommunities **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. It will be an easy 5K (approximately 3 miles), beginning at 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church. (Walkers are requested to sign-in at 1:30 p.m.) **If you are not able to walk...SPONSOR a walker.**

WALKERS: Signup envelopes to record pledges and collect money are located in the narthex. Please sign beside the form # you take.



MADRIGAL SINGERS

First Reformed UCC Sanctuary

6 p.m. Sunday, November 28, 2010

The First Reformed United Church of Christ **Arthur and Maggie Thomason Endowment** is sponsoring a concert by the Grimsley High School Madrigal Singers on Sunday, November 28th as a kickoff to the Advent Season. The event will begin in the sanctuary followed by a reception in the fellowship hall for everyone. Information about the group is located on the back of the insert. Please share this information with friends, family, coworkers, etc. along with an invitation to come join us for a wonderful evening of music.

Since 1966 the Grimsley High School Madrigal Singers have been known for choral excellence throughout the state. Instantly recognizable in their authentic Renaissance attire, they are even better known for their captivating performances. The Madrigals, as they are commonly known, are proud to represent Grimsley and Greensboro locally, nationally and internationally as they continue this long-standing tradition. The singers are all in 11th or 12th grade and along with their musical duties are active in school athletics, honor societies, church and civic organizations, community theater, service clubs and myriad other community service organizations. The students are solely responsible for the program's fundraising, and are grateful for the support given by the community throughout the years. Each year the Madrigals prepare repertoire for eight major performance events: the Carolina Renaissance Festival, Fall Concert, Christmas Caroling, NCMEA Festival, Master's in the Hall Annual A Cappella Showcase, a touring program, Spring Concert, and prepare a major work with orchestra on Concerto Night. Many of the students also participate in the school musical, Governor's School, orchestra, band, school and private recitals, concerto competitions, and various camps and workshops. Recent tours include France, Italy, San Francisco, New York, and the Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC. Earlier this year the Madrigals returned to New York City on tour.

The Madrigals' director, Marshall Johnson, is honored to continue the Madrigal tradition begun nearly forty years ago. A native North Carolinian, Mr. Johnson completed his Bachelor of Music Education degree at UNC-Greensboro and his Master of Music in Choral Conducting at The Ohio State University. A Grammy Award nominated singer, Mr. Johnson is honored to be Vocal Music Director and Music Department Chairman at Grimsley where he has been teaching since 2004. He resides in Greensboro with his wife Denise and daughter Greta, and directs music for contemporary worship at Grace United Methodist Church in Greensboro.