



FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lexington, NC

JANUARY 2021

Happy New Year!

Will you be one of the ones to stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve --- not to usher in 2021, but to make sure that 2020 finds its way out the door? Many of us anticipate what this new year will bring...that 2021 will be different...will be better... will once again be *normal*.

I want to believe this, really, I do, but I cannot help but ask the questions...What if it's not better?...What if 2021 is EVEN worse?... *What if the road ahead of us is actually scarier than the road we have just traveled?"*

As we approach Epiphany on January 3rd -- when the Magi follow the star to the manger giving gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh -- we will be reminded that the Holy Family faced this very kind of situation:

After the harrowing circumstances at Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph faced an even graver risk posed by King Herod. So envious and threatened by the attention the Christ Child received, he feared his own power and privilege would be usurped. Herod sought to kill the Baby Jesus and decreed for the execution of all male children under two years of age in the area of Bethlehem.

To protect the life of their son, Mary and Joseph faced the unknown road of fleeing for their lives, as refugees running from violence into a foreign country, the road ahead indeed more dangerous than the road they had once traveled.

Due to its graphic nature, I typically don't preach on this passage, known as the *Masacre of the Innocents* in Matthew 2. Yet, it is an essential part of the Birth Narrative, showing us the world into which Jesus was born, filled with violence, injustice, greed and tragedy. A world in which we find ourselves today.

And so, standing on the precipice of 2021 let us decide to listen to God's call no matter what the year brings.

Let us covenant together

to bring peace into the midst of hostility,
to love our neighbors and our enemies,
to bring joy in the midst of sorrow
and to keep hope alive...
no matter what 2021 brings in.

Like the Magi of long ago, let us follow the Star wherever it may lead.

Seeking to serve faithfully with you,
Elizabeth

WELCOMING STATEMENT

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wondrous and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people. We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means we welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never before attended one, you are welcome here.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

DECEMBER MEMORIALS AND HONOR GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF MARGOT EVERHART

Mike & Lynn Brown
John & Vicky Gray
Merle & Jerry Hodges
Cliff & Paula Lopp
John Potts & Janette Neal
Bill & Carolyn Robbins
Katherine Skipper
Eddie & Belinda Yates

IN MEMORY OF DORIS FLYNT

Mike & Lynn Brown
Dearl & Shirley Bunce
John & Vicky Gray
Frank & Margaret Hunter
Deanna Michael
Thomas & Joyce Phillips
Red Velvet Cupcakes
Eulene Shepherd
Elizabeth Sink
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Troutman & Family

IN MEMORY OF LAUREN THOMPSON GOULD

Mike & Lynn Brown
Eddie & Belinda Yates

IN MEMORY OF JUDY MILLER (EDDIE MILLER'S SISTER)

Mike & Lynn Brown

IN MEMORY OF STEVE MYERS (JAN SMITH'S HUSBAND)

Eddie & Belinda Yates

IN MEMORY OF JOHN & BILL WALSER

Guy & Melinda Smith

IN MEMORY OF BILL WALSER

Miller & Becky Abernathy
Mike & Lynn Brown
Lanier Hardware, Inc.
Eddie & Belinda Yates

IN MEMORY OF JOHN WALSER

Miller & Becky Abernathy

IN HONOR OF LARRY SINK (SCHOOL CLASSMATE)

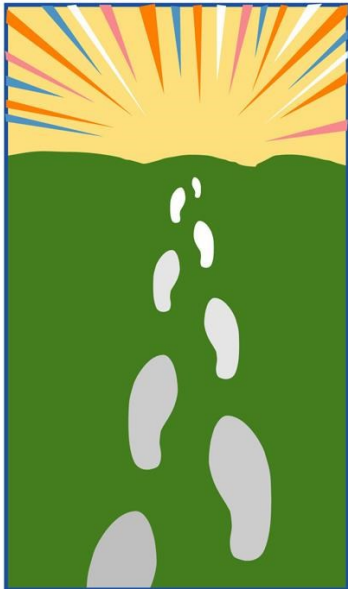
Sylvia Walser

IN HONOR OF SYLVIA WALSER

Becky & Miller Abernathy

NEW WORSHIP SERIES & ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning January 10, our Worship Series and Adult Sunday School will coordinate, using the same scripture for the series, **Follow Me**. This series helps us renew our commitment on the path of discipleship in this new year. We will challenge ourselves to grow deeper in faith and open up to new possibilities in this new year. Let us embrace the call to follow.



FOLLOW ME Adult Bible Study begins on January 10, 2021 at 9:45AM. The season of Epiphany is about seeing the light that is Jesus the Christ breaking forth into the world in which we live. Seeing is only the first step, however. We don't see the light of Christ the same way we see the beauty of the Grand Canyon, for example, or a particularly beautiful sunset. While there is beauty in the presence of Christ, it is a beauty that calls forth a response. There are many ways to respond to the presence of Christ. In this series, we focus on the invitation to follow. It is an ongoing process to follow Jesus; a transformation that continues through every stage of our lives.

This series follows the lectionary readings from the Gospel of Mark, with the following themes:

January 10th: Baptism of Jesus

[Mark 1:4-22](#)

"Tearing Apart the Heavens"

January 17th: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

[John 1:43-51](#)

"Anything Good"

January 24th: Third Sunday after the Epiphany

[Mark 1:14-20](#)

"Follow Me"

January 31st: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

[Mark 1:21-28](#)

"What Have You to Do With Us?"

February 7th: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

[Mark 1:29-39](#)

"She Began to Serve"

February 14th: Transformation Sunday

[Mark 9:2-29](#)

"But Only Jesus"

The ZOOM link and facilitators will be included in the weekly news update.

GIFTS FOR OUR TREE OF ANGELS



IN HONOR OF. . .

GIVEN BY...

Rev. June GrubbMerle Hodges
 Rev. Elizabeth Horton
 Rita & Buddy Lohr
 Paula Lopp
 Lee Ann Peele
 Ellen Peterson
 Carolyn Robbins
 Carolyn Spivey
 Katherine Skipper
 Robert Wilson

Our Amazing Church StaffWalter & Ann Hoffman

Our Grandchildren:Rich & Lena Johnson
 Ashley, Palmer, Sarah, Abigail, Audrey, Lorran & Lize

Our Grandchildren:Charm & Steve Ketner
 Ella, Wade, Reid & Hayden Cecil

Rev. June GrubbCliff & Paula Lopp
 Walter & Ann Hoffman
 Rev. Elizabeth & Dan Horton
 Harriette & Clifton Murphy
 Lee Ann & Tony Peele
 Ellen & Jeremy Peterson
 Carolyn & Bill Robbins
 John & Susie Smith
 Cathy & Steve Waitman
 Eddie & Belinda Yates

Rev. Elizabeth Horton & FamilyClifton & Harriette Murphy
 Paula & Clifford Lopp
 Lee Ann & Tony Peele
 Ellen Peterson & Family
 Carolyn & Bill Robbins
 Cathy & Steve Waitman
 Robert Wilson

Rev. June Grubb.....Ellen Peterson
 Rev. Elizabeth Horton
 Paula Lopp
 Steve McDonald
 Carolyn Robbins
 Robert Wilson

Paula & Clifford Lopp.....Lee Ann & Tony Peele
 Harriette & Clifton Murphy
 Carolyn & Bill Robbins
 Cathy & Steve Waitman

Bruce & Eleanor SmithJerry & Aurelia Smith

GIFTS FOR OUR TREE OF ANGELS

IN HONOR OF . . .

Peggy Bates.....
 Mary Berrier
 First Reformed UCC Choir
 Gerri Hill
 Myrtle Latimer
 Deanna Michael
 Irvin Sink Family
 Ron Sink Family
 Katherine Skipper

GIVEN BY...

Elizabeth Sink



IN MEMORY OF...

Ed Bates.....His wife, Peggy Bates
 John T. Walser, Jr., Vernon G. Price, Jr.John & Vicky Gray
 & Dwight B. Hinkle...Church Members and Lexington Mayors
 Doris FlyntWalter & Ann Hoffman
 Ruth & Everette Fritts
 Buddy Hedrick
 Bob Oates
 Bill Walser
 Lori Lopp FloydLee Ann & Tony Peele
 Buddy Hedrick
 Chad Kirkman
 Boyce Sink.....Elizabeth Sink
 Rev. William R. Yocum.....Carolyn Yocum

GIVEN BY...

DECEMBER 23rd LUMINARIES

Our youth made 200 luminaries in response to the money collected to purchase gifts for children at Christmas. They were placed around the church lawn and lighted at dusk on Wednesday, December 23rd as a reminder of the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

Thank you to all our youth for their hard work and to Mike Price and Stacy Sosebee-West for displaying the luminaries. Thank you to Rich Johnson, Cliff Lopp and Mike Price for setting up the manger.



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear First Reformed UCC,

The Lord shows His love for us through special people like all of you. Thank you so much for the Christmas cards, fruit basket, and especially for the prayers.

Love,
Ellen Bouchard

My Dear Church Friends,

My apartment smells like Christmas because of the sweet fragrance of the fruit basket you sent! The assortment of fruits, I know will be delicious! Your cards speak as if you personally spoke your greeting and good wishes. I will enjoy having them read to me many times. My Christmas wish for each of you is that you will be blessed, as you have blessed me!

Thank you!
Marguerite Leonard

Dear Church Family,

I was so elated to receive so many cards from so many members and the beautiful fruit basket. I miss seeing everyone but have enjoyed the special ways you stay in touch with me.

Sincerely,
Peggy Bates

First Reformed UCC Church Family,

Thank you for your Christmas gift to the church staff. You never cease to amaze me with your generosity. This gift was a wonderful acknowledgement of your appreciation for us.

I miss seeing and hugging all of you. Thank you again.

Paula Lopp

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for such a generous gift to First Reformed UCC staff. I am so thankful to work with such a wonderful congregation who always shows their appreciation in such thoughtful ways.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Robbins

Dear Church Members,

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that stepped in not only in November, but December as well, to help serve meals at Grace Episcopal Food Ministries. With the pandemic, the process had to be rethought on how to safely feed those in need. The new process has been efficient and the safest possible way to ensure meals are given to those waiting in line outside for a hot meal. Thanks again to all of you that volunteer each year and those who stepped in at the last minute to help out! Consider helping out anytime. We are also looking for more cooks to help prepare the meals on Sundays. Don't hesitate to reach out to me, or Jerry Lovell, if you would like to know more about volunteering at Grace.

John Maze

FRUCC Members and Friends,

What a roller coaster year! When we learned in March that the Covid-19 pandemic would close the doors to our church for a couple of weeks; I thought okay, we'll be fine. Then as the closure was extended I wondered if we would be able to maintain? As we all know the church runs on our donations of time and talents. As Rev. Horton found new ways to engage our church family, we continued to be surrounded by the love we have for each other. Our family began to share that love by inviting friends to engage in our online worship and we welcomed an extended family.

What a wonderful family and extended family we have!!! We are closing the year with all invoices current and ALL benevolences paid!!!

I pray as we go into the New Year we will share this wonderful gift of love that we have with all those around us. May we be the light that shines bright in a hurting world.

Paula
Financial Secretary

THANK YOU NOTES (CONT.)

Dear Church Family,

I enjoyed and appreciated the Christmas cards. Sometimes I look at the cards again and always smile. Carroll and I both are enjoying the fruit basket and its contents. I miss everybody. Stay well.

Love,
Carolyn Spivey

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for the extremely generous Christmas gift. During this most challenging year, the compassion and care you have shown for the entire staff is a powerful witness of Chris's love. I am filled with gratitude to serve among you.

Much love and blessings,
Elizabeth Horton

Dear Fellow Members,

Jimbo and I do so appreciate the fruit basket and many lovely Christmas cards! Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Sincerely,
Lib Hinkle

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING BENEVOLENCES:

- Blowing Rock Conference Center
- Cancer Services of Davidson County
- Charles England Elementary School
- Communities in Schools
- Crisis Ministry of Davidson County
- Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic, Inc.
- Habitat for Humanity Child & Family Connection
- Pastor's Pantry

GET READY FOR GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES ARE COMING EARLY THIS YEAR!

Our Girl Scout Troop #2160 is already taking orders for Girl Scout Cookies! If you want cookies shipped directly to you or to someone else as a gift, you can order online now here: <http://bit.ly/gs2160cookies>

The troop will receive their cookie shipment on January 9 and will provide several "drive-through" cookie booths in the church parking lot in January and February. Watch your weekly emails for details!

We are excited to offer a **NEW cookie called the Toast-Yay**. The girls think it tastes a bit like a cinnamon pop tart, but better. It's also the **last year for the S'mores Cookie**, so stock up if that's a favorite of yours.



**All your favorites are back —
plus a NEW Cookie!**

NEW!		
Toast-yay! French Toast-inspired cookies dipped in delicious icing and full of flavor in every bite. Yay!	Girl Scout S'mores Crispy graham cookies double-dipped in creme icing and coated in delicious fudge.	Lemonades Savory slices of shortbread with a refreshingly tangy lemon flavored icing.
Shortbread Traditional shortbread cookies.	Thin Mints Crispy chocolate wafers dipped in a mint chocolaty coating.	Peanut Butter Patties Crispy vanilla cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolaty coating.
Caramel deLites Vanilla cookies topped with caramel, sprinkled with toasted coconut, and laced with chocolaty stripes.	Peanut Butter Sandwich Crisp and crunchy oatmeal cookies with creamy peanut butter filling.	Caramel Chocolate Chip Rich caramel, semi-sweet chocolate chips, and a hint of sea salt in a chewy, gluten-free cookie. <small>*limited availability</small>

The GIRL SCOUT® name and logo, and all other associated trademarks and slogans, including but not limited to GIRL SCOUT COOKIES®, THE MINTY GIRL SCOUT® Slogan, Scout® and Scout® program, and the Trefoil design, are owned by and licensed to the GSA.

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS...DECEMBER 2020

To comply with Governor Roy Cooper's request to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, Consistory members met virtually via Zoom on December 6, 2020.

Eddie Yates recognized members going off consistory: Jerry Lovell, Deanna Michael, Doris Sink, Eddie Yates and Walter Hoffman (Trustee) and thanked them for their time and help going through this year.

New members were recognized: John Gray and Lisa Nelson (Elders); Smithie Parrish and Robert Danze (Deacons); Mark Smith (Trustee)

Board Reports

- **Board of Community Outreach:** Jerry Lovell
 - ◊ Generous donations were made to support Charles England Elementary School's holiday celebration for the students.
 - ◊ Filled the schedule for November to serve Episcopal church lunches, and asked for volunteers for Sundays in December.
 - ◊ Jerry will continue as advisor on Outreach Board for next year.
- **Board of Evangelism:** Renee Walsh
 - ◊ Fruit baskets for members at home to be delivered by members of committee along with card envelope on Saturday, December 12
- **Board of Faith Formation:** Alane Holste
 - ◊ No new information to provide regarding position search
- **Board of Worship and Sacrament:** Raeann Allred
 - ◊ Working on chairperson for Music Committee to begin new search for organist.
 - ◊ Thank you to Keri Hartle and Jeff Hutchens for co-chairing the decorating committee. Thank you to Kerri, Casey, Jacob and Emma Hartle; Cliff and Paula Lopp; John and Susie Smith; Eddie Yates; Lynn Brown; June Grubb; and Rich Johnsons for decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season.
 - ◊ Raeann suggested replacing the large Chrismon tree (difficult to set up and decorate and is in need of repair). For safety

reasons, the board recommends the purchase of two 7½ foot trees for the chancel area. A motion to purchase new trees was made, seconded and approved.

- **Board of Property Management:** John Smith
 - ◊ Gave Kassaundra Lockhart of Women Advance permission to use the church parking lot during their free Covid testing at St. Stephen's.
 - ◊ Thank you to Rich Johnson for putting the church banner back up after high winds put a beating on it.
 - ◊ The sanctuary boiler was out. Cliff Lopp reset it and Nathan was called to check it.
- **Financial Report:** Harriette Murphy reported:
 - ◊ Finance & Budget Report for November 2020
 - ◆ November Average Weekly Offering: \$4,230
 - ◆ General fund balance \$26,814
 - ◆ Music fund Balance \$7,620
 - ◆ Vanco fee \$109.49
 - ◆ We have met our end-of-the-year financial obligation to our benevolences.

Old Business

- Review 2021 Time & Talent Sheets and Pledge Cards
 - ◊ Timeline for return of both extended until the end of the year.
 - ◊ Current summary prepared for use by Consistory members for beginning of the year.
- After discussion about increased Covid cases in Davidson County, a motion was approved to hold only virtual services through Jan 17th weekend. We will revisit as needed.
- All consistory notebooks should be returned to the office **by December 31** so they can be cleaned out and updated for 2021.
- Staff Christmas gifts will be announced during the December 20th worship service. Eddie will present gifts virtually during this service.

[continued on the next page...]

BOARD OF FAITH FORMATION

PARENT MEETING:

There will be a virtual parent meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00PM. This includes parents of all children and youth in our congregation. Information on the link for the ZOOM meeting will be available closer to the meeting date.

CHILDREN'S NEWS:

Kid's Adventure Time **WILL NOT** be held in January.

YOUTH NEWS

Meetings for the **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** scheduled for January will be held on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 5:30PM via ZOOM**. Jeremy Lovell and Stacy Sosebee-West will lead this group. Join the meeting **HERE**. (Meeting ID: 988 9882 1207 Passcode: FRUCC)

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS...CONTINUED

Concerns of the Future

- Setting up committees for each board
 - ◊ Suggestions for Board Chairpersons beginning 2021:
 - ◆ should start looking at committees of their board and assign chairperson for 2021 by January. Encouraged board chairs to meet with committees regularly in the future.
 - ◆ Assess committees to determine if they match church mission. Rev. Horton asked for reflections from the consistory to determine strengths/weaknesses in our processes. Determine if there is a need to restructure boards and committees to match where we are at present. Look at the past, before and during Covid restrictions. Kivi Miller mentioned boards tend to cross over in their responsibilities. It's not clear who is in charge of some and some share the same tasks.
- Jerry Lovell requested permission to spread Clothes Closet out into adjacent classrooms. If a family or individual requests items, Bob Harmon (from Open Hands) can respond in a safer environment. Space is not presently useable. Motion for Community Outreach to use other classrooms was seconded and approved.
 - ◊ Mike Price asked when items can be brought to the clothes closet. Jerry responded that large amounts require a scheduled time for him to meet for donations to be brought to the ramp. Small amounts may be left at the church office.
- Eddie Yates addressed new members for any questions they may have.
- January 2021 retreat
 - ◊ Rev. Horton is planning a consistory retreat for one day in January to discuss areas of ministry and to prepare for the next year. She will meet with Raeann Allred.
- Next Consistory Meeting: January 10, 2021
- Consistory members recognized Eddie Yates for his calm and steady leadership as Consistory President.



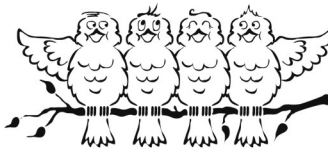
A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q W A U B C E F
 J E A B C E' U N O J Q W A U
 B C E N L U A E J E A B
 N L U A' B C E A N W E N A U
 J E A B C U F A
 N W E N A U U N O
 B C E A C E
 F A C E
 RUTH 1:16, NIV



W	A		E	T
B	U	H	D	O
G	R	L	Y	I
	N	S	P	M

A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.

JANUARY

2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 EPIPHANY HOLY COMMUNION 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	4	5 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	6 5:30 High School Youth {via Zoom} 7:00 Board of Property Meeting	7	8	9
10 REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM 9:45 Adult Sunday School: "Follow Me" 10:45 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom 1:00 Consistory Mtg.	11	12 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Parent Meeting via ZOOM 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	13	14	15	16
17 CHURCH'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online: 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED	19 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	20 5:30 High School Youth {via Zoom}	21	22	23
24 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom	25 Articles for February 2021 Newsletter due by Noon	26 12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study "Evangelicals" via Zoom	27	28	29	30
31 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship online 12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom						

RELIVING THE PAST

As First Reformed United Church of Christ's 120th Anniversary approaches on January 17, 2021, here's an article, written by Mrs. Paul Lopp, from the **Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Edition of The Dispatch — Lexington, NC** you might enjoy seeing. The article was sent to Rev. Horton from Steve Smith.

The Dispatch — Lexington, N. C. Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Edition

Reformed Church Held First Service On January 20, 1901

By MRS. PAUL LOPP

Davidson County has many Reformed churches which date back to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but there was not one in the town of Lexington until the beginning of the present century. Rev. Jacob Calvin Leonard, D. D., was notified in July, 1900, that he was commissioned by the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church to organize a church in Lexington, his work to begin on October first.

Seeing the urgent need, Dr. Leonard began to work in July. He purchased a lot and on October 4, 1900, laid the first brick for a church building. The structure, built of brick with a slate roof, was practically finished in January, when the following invitation was sent out. "You are cordially invited to attend divine services in connection with the opening of the First Reformed Church, corner of Center and Salisbury streets, Lexington, North Carolina, at 11 o'clock a. m. and 7 p. m., January twentieth, nineteen hundred and one." The church, which seated 300, was filled with worshippers both morning and evening.

Immediately following the morning service, the congregation was organized. There were twenty-two charter members: Mr. and Mrs. C. Columbus Burkhardt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Burkhardt, Dupree Clodfelter, Earl Clodfelter, Charles L. Everhart, Mrs. Robert Heitman, Mrs. David Hinkle, Mrs. Early H. Holmes, Mrs. J. F. L. Tussey, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tilden Hedrick, Mr. and Mrs. P. James Leonard, Mrs. Charles L. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Rothrock, Miss Ada Rothrock, Mrs. Samuel Rothrock, Mrs. Amanda B. Sowers, and Mrs. Joseph H. Sowers, P. J. Leonard, E. A. Rothrock, and C. C. Burkhardt were elected elders, and J. A. Hedrick, C. L. Everhart, and Dupree Clodfelter, deacons.

The first parsonage was built in the fall of 1901, next to the church, on Center Street. It was occupied in January, 1902, by the pastor and his bride, who was Miss Willie Cress. Mrs. Leonard immediately found her place in the work of the church, centering her interest on children. She still serves as superintendent of the Beginner-Primary Department of the Sunday School.

In 1903, the Nokomis Cotton Mills donated to the trustees of First Church a lot near the Raleigh Road bridge. There another church building was erected and then a congregation organized on June 5, 1904. Dr.



DEDICATED IN APRIL, 1923, this is the sanctuary of First Reformed Church in Lexington. Men on the building committee were J. Tilden Hedrick, Griff W. Smith, Holland A. Shoaf, D. Lee Brinkley and Walter A. Conrad. In all of its 53-year history, First Reformed has had just three pastors: Rev. Jacob Calvin Leonard, Sr., Rev. Banks Peeler and Rev. Marlin Schaeffer. (Dispatch Staff Photo)

Leonard served as pastor of both First and Second Reformed Churches until 1922, when Rev. A. Odell Leonard, first ministerial son of First Church, became pastor of the Second Church.

By 1907, First Reformed Church had outgrown its house of worship. An enlargement to the rear added about a third to the seating capacity. In 1912, Elder J. Tilden Hedrick, then Superintendent of the Sunday School, proposed to the congregation that he would build and donate a Sunday School building on the lot opposite the church on the east side of Salisbury Street, if the congregation would purchase the lot and equip the building. This proposition was accepted enthusiastically and on July 13, 1913, the new build-

ing was dedicated.

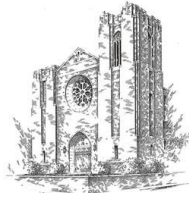
The lot back of the Sunday School building was given to the church by Elder J. Tilden Hedrick in 1919. During the next year, Mr. Hedrick equipped the space with playground apparatus for the use of the children of the community. When the lot was needed later for building operations, the equipment was given to Second Church, where it is still being used.

The membership had increased so rapidly that by 1922, the church building was again too small. That year the decision was made to build a new sanctuary, on the site then occupied by the church and the parsonage. Dr. Leonard and his family moved into a new home at 214 West Center Street in 1925. The old parsonage was moved to the corner of North Salisbury and

East First streets, where it served as rent property for twenty years. The annex to the Sunday School building was constructed in 1937, utilizing some of the material from the "little Church".

The beautiful new house of worship was occupied and dedicated on April 3, 1923. Serving on the committee overseeing all these operations were: J. Tilden Hedrick, Griffith W. Smith, Holland A. Shoaf, D. Lee Brinkley,

**First Reformed
United Church of
Christ**



All Are Welcome Here!
Where People Discover...
The Love of God
The Power to Love Others
The Ability to Love Ourselves

104 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 2729
(336) 248-2617
email: church@frucc.org
website: www.frucc.org

11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE
VIA FACEBOOK LIVE and
YOU TUBE

Temporary Church Office Hours:
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
9:00am to 12:00pm



Join Us on Facebook:
facebook.com/firstreformeducc

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton
elizabeth@frucc.org
336-972-8895

Associate Pastor of Congregational Care
Rev. June Grubb
336-248-5668

Administrative Assistant
Carolyn Robbins
carolyn@frucc.org

Financial Administrator
Paula Lopp
paula@frucc.org

Choir Director
Ellen Peterson
ellenrpeterson@gmail.com

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Gerri Hill**
- 3 Carroll Spivey**
- 5 Jianna Miller**
Smithie Parrish
- 6 Gennie Lou Byerly**
- 10 Deanna Michael**
Harriette Murphy
- 11 Camille Morgan**
- 13 Jitter Yarbrough**
- 15 Laura Perry**
- 18 Patti Lovell**
Mike Price
Robert Sandifer
- 19 Heidi Hutcheson**
- 21 Carolyn Robbins**
- 22 Lisa Nelson**
- 24 Lucas Bustamante-Cruz**
Denise Durham
- 25 Eddie Yates**
- 30 Lauren Gregg**

**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

16th
Walter & Ann Hoffman

20th
Chris and Raeann Allred

**OUR CHURCH AT
PRAYER**

OUR MEMBERS:

Heidi & Ron Hutcheson and the
Family of Margot Everhart
Susan Odom (at home)
Ellen Bouchard
Kelly Greathouse
Lisa Price
Deanna Michael

**OUR MEMBERS AT HOME
AND IN CARE FACILITIES:**

Peggy Bates
Janelle Bunn
Marzell Crotts
Ruth Essick
Pattie Everhart
Vogen Everhart
Lib & Jimbo Hinkle
Marguerite Leonard
Bob Shaak
Lib Sink
Katherine Skipper
Carolyn Spivey
Adena Wall

Piedmont Crossing: Mary Berrier

OUR FRIENDS:

Clarke Ward
(father of Jay & Cathy Whitley's
son-in-law)

Miriam Logan
(Sarah Potts' grandmother)

Ken Richardson and family
(friend of Camille Morgan)

Wendi Greene
(Bill Robbins' sister)

Ashley Thomason Hutcheson
(Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's
daughter-in-law)

Barbara Miller
(Eddie Yates' mother)

Angie Bouchard
(Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest
daughter)

**Indicates newly added. Names will remain
on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the
prayer list please call the church office (336-
248-2617).*