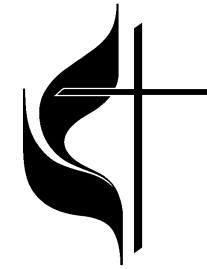


# THE FIRST WORD



The Weekly Newsletter for Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church, Newton, North Carolina  
Phone (828) 464-8422 Fax Number (828) 464-8423

www.fumcnewtonnc.org

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In the season between Easter and Pentecost, I sometimes think about Simon Peter. You remember how he went back to the Sea of Galilee after they hung Jesus on the cross. He returned to fishing, to what he knew best. Like many of the other disciples, Peter went back to what he had been doing before Jesus had called him to follow.

Peter was troubled. Even though he had witnessed the good news of Easter, something deep inside bothered him. Something stood between him and Jesus. Maybe he kept hearing Jesus' pained voice in his head, "Before the cock crows, three times, you will deny me." Those words were the last words Jesus spoke directly to him. And maybe he kept hearing over and over again what he said after Jesus was finally arrested. When he was asked if he knew Jesus, Peter replied, "I don't know him." And again, "I don't know what you are talking about. I wasn't with him!" And yet again, "I said I don't know him." Before Peter could barely get that third denial out of his mouth, he heard the piercing sound of the rooster cutting right to his heart. I wonder if that is why he was so troubled, if that is why he returned to the safe and familiar harbor of fishing.

One morning, Peter and some of the others rowed back to shore of the Sea of Galilee after a long night of fishing. They hadn't had much success. But Jesus was there waiting on them. He directed them to go back out and recast their nets. And they did with a great deal of success. Before long, they sat around a fire and shared a meal together. Jesus turned to Peter and asked, "Simon, do you love me more than the rest of these?" Simon Peter replied, "Yes, of course I love you. You know that." Jesus answered, "Then feed my sheep."

Eventually, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. He asked the question three times. Each time Peter responded the same way. And after each of Peter's responses, Jesus gave him a command. Three denials and three questions. Three professions of love and three charges to action. As a result of that little discourse, Peter's heart was mended and he was given the gift of a new beginning.

I don't know about you, but I know I've done some denying. Perhaps, in this season, Jesus is once again looking at you and me and saying, "Do you love me, David? Do you love me, ... (you may want to insert your own name here)?"

Jesus is waiting to see how we will respond. Will we accept the gift he offers and become a part of something much bigger than our own individual lives? Jesus longs to give us the grace of a new day so that God's dreams and purposes for our lives can be met.

See you Sunday. **David**

## BREAKING THE CODE

### *Understanding the Book of Revelation*

Sunday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

Gomedela Room

*The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that appear as bewildering, and sometimes even frightening. How can we discover God's message for us in this often neglected part of scripture? Join Dr. David Greene for this 5 week Bible study as we seek to better understand the powerful message of this book of the Bible. Please contact the church office to register and obtain a study book (\$8.00 each)*

## AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

April 18, 2010

**THE SHARED WORD: Rev. Dr. David Greene**

**"Pentecost"**

Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-4

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR, CHERUB CHOIR and CHILDREN'S CHIMES

**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the children's music groups will present melody and song for the 11:00 Worship Service. These groups practice each week as a part of our Kids For Christ program, Wednesday afternoons. I am so very proud of our children for all of their hard work and for sharing their talents with us. They are such a blessing to me! The Mother/Child Luncheon will follow this service in the Fellowship Hall, so bring Grandma and plan to stay for a wonderful meal and fun entertainment! If your child is involved but unable to attend May 2<sup>nd</sup>, please let me know so that other arrangements can be made. Thank you! Kristy Smith 465-6160

**RECENT VISITORS:**

Devin, Carrie & Chathan Donley, Phillip & Cheryl Cole, Laken Riddle, James & Joelle Clark, Ernestine S. Helms

**HOSPITAL REPORT**

Catawba Valley Medical Center: Hokie Thornburg  
Frye Regional Medical Center: Dick Hewitt

**WILDERNESS TRAIL HIKING TRIP  
August 6-August 13 (Friday-Friday)**

**For rising 7th Graders through Adults**

**Where:** Virginia—The Appalachian Trail

**What:** An incredible outdoor adventure!! Begins with a fun 2 day retreat followed by 5 hiking days. Gain a new perspective on the Christian life by being led through the challenges and surprises of the wilderness.

**Cost:** \$100—includes everything!—use of backpack, tent, trail equipment and food. You are responsible for providing a sleeping bag and hiking shoes.

**Sign-up:** Registration forms have been mailed to youth or pick one up in the church office. **Forms are due by April 25.** Scholarships are available, please contact Peggy Correll or Willis.

**Questions:** Call or email Willis at the church office (464-8422, willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com). Visit the Wilderness Trail website at www.wtrail.com.

**PARENT'S NIGHT OUT**

Sponsored by the Missions Committee of FUMC, Newton  
**Friday, April 23 and Friday, May 21**

The cost per child is a donation for IMPACT HUNGER DAY which will be held on June 5 in Newton. Donations of the following items are requested:

- 1 lb. bag of rice
- 1 lb. bag of dry beans
- canned tuna
- peanut butter
- saltine crackers
- dried potato flakes
- macaroni & cheese
- canister of oatmeal

Registration forms are available in the church office and are due April 21 and May 19 (for the May event).

For more information, contact Lori Sigmon (465-1081) or the church office (464-8422)..

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, April 11, 2010**

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 56      11:00 a.m. 132  
Sunday School 125      9:00 a.m. Praise Service 67

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$6,869.00
	Hunger Fund	26.00
	Helping Hands Fund	50.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>65.00</u>
		\$7,010.00

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00	
Budget Needs as of 4/11/10		\$164,445.00
Contributions Received as of 4/11/10		139,440.00
Under Budget for Year		-\$25,005.00

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

**\* April 18-24, 2010 \***

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Blood Pressure Check</b>
	11:00	Worship Service
	12:45	All Youth
	2:00	Mother/Daughter Retreat Meeting
2:00-4:00		Care Ministry Hymn Singing
	3:30	Evangelism Committee
	4:30	Finance Committee
	5:30	Administrative Council
	6:30	Bible Study
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	10:00-12:00	Gomedela Room Reserved
	6:30	UMW Executive Committee
	7:00	UMW Group III
	7:00	Youth Praise Band
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Youth Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	12:00	Ladies Luncheon
	3:10	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
FRI.	9:00	Preschool
	6:00-9:00	Youth Room-Parents Night Out
	7:00	United Single Adults (Fellowship Hall)

**UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** will meet on Monday, April 19th at **6:30 p.m.** in the Ladies & Men's Bible Classroom.

**UMW GROUP III** will reschedule its April meeting for Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Gomedela Room. Willis will present a program on giving. All women are welcome to attend.

**LADIES LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

**Wednesday, April 21, 12:00 pm**

Cost \$6.00

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**SEAMSTRESSES NEEDED TO HELP CREATE  
“A PILLOW OF THANKS”**

437 of them that is!! As most of you have heard, Group Workcamps has chosen Catawba County as the host site for a mission work camp the week of June 27th thru July 3rd. We will have 437 high school youth from Virginia and Massachusetts giving up one week of their summer vacation, traveling to our town, sleeping on the floor of Newton Conover High School each night, and by day doing home repairs for elderly, disabled, or low income folks who need help. WOW!!!

The theme for our guests that week is “Southern Hospitality.” We would like to have your help in showing these young teens our appreciation for their time and work. We will be giving each camper a handmade pillow that will have a pocket on one side. These pillows will be delivered to their sleep area the first night, and at the end of each day when they return from work, they will find a small token of appreciation from our community waiting for them in their pillow pocket. Each pillow will be made by someone in our community; they will all be as different as we are, yet all given with our love and the love of Christ. Please join us; we would like for as many as possible to be a part of this project. There are very simple guidelines for the pillows and we are more than happy to come to your group or to you individually to explain and assist you with this “pillow of thanks” project. We have a variety of supplies, if needed. Please contact Mimi Michael at mimimichael@charter.net, 828-465-0335 or Lynn Sample at samplehouse6@aol.com, 828-234-4979 for further project details.

**MOTHER/CHILD LUNCHEON**

We will honor our mothers at a luncheon on Sunday, May 2nd at 12:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall. We will have good food and fun entertainment!

**Menu:** Herb and Wine Chicken, Green Beans and Roasted Potatoes, Choice of Desserts

**Kids Menu:** Chicken Tenders, Green Beans and Mac and Cheese.

The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Please RSVP with the church office by **April 24th**. Your RSVP is very important since the meal is being catered by Jennifer’s Catering and Jennifer needs our numbers.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

<b>Pray For:</b>	<b>Requested By:</b>
Jerry McGee	Merv McGee
Geneva Lineberger	Barbara & Kim Whitener
Johnny Goforth	Jean Childs
Shannon Yarborough	Dianne Tilley
Kay Jettinghoff	Ann Cook
Brandon Cole	Paul Campbell
Cheryl Burger	Jamie Hunter/Laura Bailes
Eva Raybourn	Jamie Hunter/Laura Bailes
Pauline Lee	Carleen Jarrett

**MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY**

**Renovation Fund:**

**Ruth A. Mitchell**

Mr. & Mrs. Francis G. Abernethy

**Men’s Bible Class –Radio Fund:**

**Dr. Allen Bandy, Sr. & Ruth A. Mitchell**

June & Marshall Sherrill

**Helping Hands Fund:**

**Ruth A. Mitchell**

Anne & Richard Abernethy

**UMW Scholarship Fund:**

**Frances & Helen Raymer**

Jackie & Wayne Dellinger

**Please continue to donate pop tabs from soda cans, soup cans, and fruit cans.** These tabs will be recycled, with the money earned being donated to the Ronald McDonald house in Winston-Salem. Monies donated are used to house parents and children who are being treated at Baptist Hospital free of charge. Monies also go to pay for chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

This is a great ministry! Please help us! Come by the church office and pick up a pop tap container today.

Thanks, Gayle Lowder

**HYMN SINGING**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2:00-4:00 pm**

Join the fun & fellowship as we travel out to the church’s homebound members with a visit and a song during the annual springtime hymn singing. Make plans to meet at the church at 2:00 pm, and groups will be assigned different neighborhoods and retirement homes to visit. Come and be a part of staying connected with the saints of First United Methodist Church.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK** will be available this Sunday, April 18th in David and Willis’ offices from 9:30-10:00 a.m.

**FOOD COLLECTION**

Please contribute to Sunday’s Impact Community Day food collection. It’s TUNA Sunday. On April 18, please bring one or more cans of 12-oz. canned tuna. You may place it in the grocery cart outside the Gomedela classroom (side entrance of the church.) Thanks to those who brought peanut butter—we have a great collection! Some have said that you forgot the peanut butter, and asked if you could bring it this Sunday. The answer is YES!! We will have a total of 8 different food items collected, and you can bring items through May 30. The more items, the more people we can feed. Thanks for giving! Susan Reinhardt, Missions, 381-9841

First United Methodist Church  
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VOLUME XXVIII

April 14, 2010

No. 15

**YOUTH SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, April 18**—Fun Day 12:45-2:30 PM meet at the church for Putt Putt or bowling. Pick up your youth at the Pin Station.

**Sunday, April 25**—Regular Youth

**YOUTH YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7:00 AM-1:00 PM**

The youth and parents will meet on Friday, April 30, at 6:00 PM-8:00 PM to set up for the yard sale. Saturday we will need to be here at 6:00 AM

**EVERYONE** who wants to do Spring cleaning can start bringing your items **NOW**. We will store everything in the building across the street that is on the lot we purchased. Please bring all you can. Something you may not want can be someone else's treasure. The money raised from this event will be used to cut cost on our retreats and activities.

You may bring your items on Sunday during youth time or Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM-5:00PM, or call Peggy (336-940-7246) to set up a time. Thank you for all your support.

**Parents!! The meal for youth is needed for April 25.**  
Please call the Peggy at the church office if you can prepare a meal. Thanks for all your support.

**ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-April 18, 2010**

*"Easter: People"*

4 Years: **Drama**                      Grades K-1: **Cookery**

Grade 2-3: **Music**                      Grades 4-5: **Art**

**Teachers: March 7-April 25, 2010**

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzer      Art: Susan Reinhardt

Drama/Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder

Cookery: Cindy Boger/Terra Butler

Music: Debbie Bandy

Movie: Rhonda Pawlik      Computer: Gina & Scott King

Science: Michelle White/Amy White

**MOTHER/DAUGHTER RETREAT AT THE BEACH**

Girls currently in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and their mothers are invited to a weekend retreat at Oak Island **May 21-23**. We will be watching a series of DVD's entitled "In Search of a Princess" and having a LOT OF FUN! Those mothers who are interested are asked to attend a planning meeting on **April 18th at 2:00 pm** in the Gomedela Room while the kids are in youth.

**GRADUATION INFORMATION IS NEEDED**

If you or a member of your family will be graduating from high school or college, please give this information to the church office. We will honor all graduates during worship services on Sunday, June 6th.