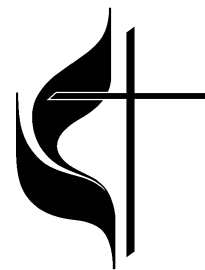


THE

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

A few days ago I broke a promise. It wasn't something that I did intentionally. I just let too much time slip by until it became too late to keep my word.

It all started while our family was in the midst of taking down Christmas decorations. Carter asked me to go outside and pass the football or shoot some basketball. I told him that I would once we got everything put away.

Well, guess what happened? It got dark outside before I realized it. It was too dark to try to catch a pass or hit the rim of the basket. The opportunity was lost. Ultimately, I failed to keep my word. I was so busy trying to take care of the decorations before anymore time passed away, that I neglected to spend a few moments with someone who needed my presence and attention. I focused on what was urgent at the expense of what was the most important.

In his book, *The Tug of Home*, Charles Poole writes about the importance of spending time with our children. He suggests that when our children are all grown up, they won't be able to remember things that never happened. When our children are all grown up, they won't be able to remember that we sometimes rearranged our schedules just to go someplace with them if we never actually do rearrange our schedules just to go someplace with them. They won't remember how it felt to hear their parents pray for them unless they actually hear it.

If there is something that we want our children to someday remember, then we simply have to say it or do it. Time is passing. When your children are grown, they will only be able to remember what they actually did and what they actually heard.

Someone is waiting to spend some time with you. Maybe it's a few moments of conversation discussing the day or tossing a football or grabbing a bite to eat together. Time is passing. Please don't let the urgent things in life take precedent over the most important things. Our family members won't be able to remember the words they never heard and the things they never did.

See you Sunday, **David**

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

January 17, 2010

THE SHARED WORD: Rev Dr. David Greene
"The Fall" Genesis 3

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!!!

There have been issues with sending our newsletter via e-mail during the last several weeks. If you do not receive your newsletter directly in your inbox, please know that you can always view it on our website (www.fumcnewtonnc.org) and click on the newsletter tab.

WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED of the death of Martha Bolick Campo on December 22, 2009. She was a member of First Church, Newton but had been residing in Florida.

TEACHERS FOR ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our teachers for Rotation Sunday School teach 4 Sundays out of 8 Sundays. So that means they teach a month and off a month. This schedule allows our teachers to also attend an Adult Sunday School Class. We are in need of a few more teachers to substitute or be a regular teacher. Our classes are: COOKING, MOVIE, MUSIC, ART, SCIENCE, STORYTELLING, COMPUTER AND DRAMA/GAMES. Many of you have talents in these areas. Please contact Peggy if you would like to help with the children. You will be the one that is blessed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a family outing at Sims Barbecue on Saturday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. More information will be given later.

YOUTH WINTER TRIP TO TENNESSEE JANUARY 22-26

The youth will be going to Sevierville, Tennessee on Friday, January 22 at 3:30 PM. We will return on Tuesday, January 26. School is out in Newton-Conover and Catawba County. The trip will cost \$60.00 per person. We are staying in a condo that has an indoor water park. Each family should have received more information in the mail concerning this trip.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

* January 17-23, 2010 *

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Blood Pressure Check
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	3:00	4-H (Fellowship Hall)
	4:00	Middle School Youth
	5:00	Senior High Youth
MON.	7:00	UMW Executive Committee
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	6:30	Griefshare
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	12:00	Ladies Luncheon
	3:10	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Adult Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
FRI.	9:00	Preschool
	3:30	Youth leave for Retreat
	7:00	United Single Adults

YOUTH MEALS

PLEASE CALL AND SIGN UP TODAY!

Sunday, Jan 17 Soup _____
Sunday, Feb. 7 Taco Salad Amy White
Sunday, Feb. 14 Lasagna _____
Sunday, Feb. 28 Hot Dogs Donna Mull

ATTENTION CHILDREN AND PARENTS!!!

Our Rotation Sunday School is wonderful. We have great teachers (we could use a few more) and wonderful children. Sunday School is over between 10:40-10:45 AM. The children are all taken to the "T" for the parents to pick up. Our teachers feel very responsible for our children and they watch after them very closely. Your child is to stay with the teacher at the "T" until you come and pick them up unless you have notified the teacher of different arrangements. All the children need to be picked up by 10:50 AM. If you have any questions you may contact Peggy at the church 828-464-8422 or cell 336-940-7246.

HONORARIUMS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Danny and Debbie Sigmon have given a donation to the **Garden Fund** in honor of **Melba and Brooks Nichols**.

Katie Fleming has given a donation to **Palliative Care-Center and Hospice of Catawba Valley** in honor of the **Staff of First United Methodist Church of Newton**.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, January 10, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m.:	86	11:00 a.m.:	169
Sunday School:	168	9:00 a.m. Praise Service:	95
Offering:	Tithes & Offerings		\$9,222.67
	Hunger Fund		25.00
	Garden Fund		40.00
	Children's Department		21.00
	Renovation Fund		<u>585.00</u>
			\$9,893.67
Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00		
Budget Needs as of 1/10/10		\$21,926.00	
Contributions Received as of 1/10/10		19,823.00	
Under Budget for Year		-\$ 2,103.00	

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be available in David and Willis' offices this Sunday, January 17th from 9:30-10:00 a.m.

LUNCH BUDDIES

Give just an hour a week of your time to touch a child's life forever! Be a Lunch Buddy for a child at South Newton Elementary School. Simply sit with a child during their 30 minute lunch (choose a time from 11:00-12:30 and be a positive role model in their life. For more information and to sign up. Please call the church office at 464-8422 or Peggy Correll at 336-940-7246.

MEMORIAL RECEIVED RECENTLY

Renovation Fund:

Vivian Hager

Ken & Pat Lawing

Dr. Allen H. Bandy, Sr.

William B. Hallyburton, Tim & Lori Wray,

Pam Hale, Circle #3-FUMC Hickory,

Barry & Karen Drum, Joseph & Mary Ann Bruton,

Larry & Susan Aiello, Lorene Martin

Cecil Kiser

Ken & Pat Lawing, Stephen & Evelyn Herman

General Fund:

Martha Bolick Campo

Wadine Smith

LADIES LUNCHEON

Wednesday, January 20, 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$6.00

Number _____

Name _____

(Reservation deadline January 18)

GROUP WORKCAMP IS COMING TO TOWN

This summer, as many as 70 local elderly, handicapped and lower income residents of Catawba County will benefit from the work of about 430+ teenagers and adult volunteers. The “*Southern Hospitality*” workcamp is sponsored jointly by local churches and civic organizations, and the Group Workcamps Foundation.

Group Workcamps Foundation (GWC) is a non-profit, interdenominational Christian volunteer home repair organization headquartered in Loveland, CO. GWC started in Colorado in 1977 in response to the Big Thompson River Flood where hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed and over 140 people lost their lives. Church youth groups representing various denominations came from across the country to help. Since then, Group Workcamps has expanded nationwide and internationally to about 45,000 projects over the past 32 years.

During 2010, GWC anticipates that 30,000 young people and adults will participate in 64 Workcamps in communities across the US and Canada. At each Workcamp, volunteers donate their time to repair homes throughout the community. This represents about 12,000 volunteer hours worth about \$80,000. Many of our own youth and adults have volunteered with GWC over the past 3 years in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and North Carolina.

From June 27th to July 3rd, 2010, Group Workcamps will be headquartered at the Newton/Conover High School where the volunteers will sleep on classroom floors, eat in the cafeteria, and attend morning and evening programs in the gym.

Between now and June, we would like to include articles in the FUMC newsletter and focus on one of the many

ways you can help volunteer to make this Workcamp successful and meaningful to the 430+ participants that have already signed up for our Workcamp. This month in addition to introducing you to GWC, we will focus on the projects.

Typically, there are 60 to 65 teams of 5 youths and 1 adult with varying skill levels that tackle the projects. Repairs offered during the week include interior and exterior painting, porch and wheelchair ramp construction, sheetrock repair, mobile home skirting, and other general repairs. We tend to stay away from yard work in order to concentrate on actual home repairs. And we prefer to work on homes owned, rather than rental properties. There is no cost to the residents; materials are paid for through local fund raising and from a portion of the fees the volunteers pay to come on these mission trips. Basic requirements of the home owners are to provide electricity, working restroom facilities, be at home during the repairs, and as a hopeful option to join the youth with the conversation and fellowship.

Currently, we are looking for projects to work on. We have met with the County and are reviewing their data base of homes that need repair. If you know of a home that needs repairs where the owner can not physically or financially do the work, please let us know and we will get the information to the site selection committee.

Currently, Jeff Foss is the only FUMC member actively involved in GWC. There have been other members who have stepped forward and have asked to get onboard. See Jeff Foss if you have any questions or are interested in donating your time or money.

FIRST NEWTON HELPING HANDS is a 4-H club for children ages 6 and up. The primary focus of this group is community service. The club has participated in the CROP Walk, made dog treats to donate to the Humane Society, gone caroling to shut-ins, and have other projects planned throughout the year. The club usually meets once a month, but the dates and times vary depending on the project that is planned. For more information, please contact Lisa Johnson at 381-9337. The meeting this month will be this Sunday, January 17 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

RECENT VISITORS

Kim Britt, Danny & Lynn Delancey, Harold & Martha Robertson, Donna Yoder, Julie Cook, Dave Cardamone, Michael, Angela, Camryn, Abby and Anna Gantt, The Molaro's, Terry C. Abernethy, Sylvia Hansmann

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:

Phillip Yoder
Doug Benfield
Allen Benfield
John Branton
Cathy Clawson
Alice Averitt
Kimberly Dillard
Jane Stiver

Requested By:

Setzer Family
Setzer Family
Karen Arndt
Family
Mary Bess Lawing
Friends
Mary Bess Lawing
Family

Out-of-Country Military—Scott Beal, Jacob Campbell, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz, Rodney Woody and National Guard 626 Maintenance Co.

In-Country Military—Bobby Benson, Andy Blanton, Stan Josey, Corey Lail, Laird Lambeth, Brad McRee, Tai Orange, Kyle L. Sigmon, Ryan Windham, President Obama & Leaders

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Each youth was given their Bible Study for this week. Please parents ask them about it and encourage them to follow through. Thanks for your help and support. Remember, **parents have your youth at church.**

SUN., January 17

4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth

5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth

FRI.-January 22-TUES. January 26, Tennessee Trip

SUN., January 24 No Youth

SUN., January 31, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Bowling at Pin Station

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-January 17, 2010

"Occupations In Bible Times"

4 Years: **Computer**

Grades K-1: **Storytelling**

Grade 2-3: **Science**

Grades 4-5: **Movie**

Teachers: January 10-February 28, 2010

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzer Art: Susan Reinhardt

Drama/Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder

Cookery: Cindy Boger/Terra Butler

Music: Nikki Cavin/Debbie Bandy

Movie: Rhonda Pawlik Computer: Gina & Scott King

Science: Michelle White/Amy White

ATTENTION**PARENT'S OF MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH**

I am so proud of our all our youth. Our Middle School Youth group is growing and this is wonderful. I believe everyone enjoys our time together. Middle School Youth is over at 5:30 PM. I need parents to pick their youth up by then so I can start my time with our Senior High Youth. So, parents, pick your youth up at 5:30 PM. Thank you for all you do and for most of all your support. **Peggy**

CAROLINA CROSS CONNECTION

It is time to sign up for our Mission Trip with Carolina Cross Connection. This trip will be for youth who will be rising 9th graders to 12 graders. If we get the week we ask for, it will be June 13-19. Our registration needs to be turned in ASAP. **Deadline for sign up is Sunday, January 17th** The cost for the week is \$299.00 per person. Your cost will be \$60.00. The remainder of the amount will be paid with money given by the church and money we have raised. If your youth wants to go and the \$60.00 is a problem, please come and talk with Peggy. We have scholarship money available.