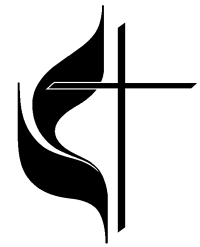


THE FIRST WORD



The Weekly Newsletter for Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church, Newton, North Carolina
Phone (828) 464-8422 www.fumcnewtonnc.org
Cell Phone Numbers: Rev. Dr. David Greene (828)461-5910; Rev. Lara "Willis" Green (828)461-5918

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Philip Yancey tells about visiting Old Faithful at Yellowstone. Every ninety minutes or so, Old Faithful goes off.

Philip and his wife were at the restaurant overlooking the famous geyser. When it came time for Old Faithful to erupt, they got up and walked over to the picture window. They were joined by other diners.

As they all looked out the picture window, there was an explosion of water and steam as Old Faithful burst from the earth. He and his wife felt awe at the majesty and power of Old Faithful as water and steam filled the air. They joined with the other observers in applause at this wonder of nature.

Philip says that at that moment he looked around and noticed that the waiters, waitresses and those bussing tables didn't even look up. They didn't even seem to notice. For them, the spectacular had become so commonplace.

May we never get so caught up with the ordinary that we miss the extraordinary and fail to be in awe at the wonders of God.

See you Sunday,
David

CONGRATULATIONS to Devin and Carrie Donley on the birth of their daughter, Harper Annabeth Donley, on Friday, January 13. Chatham is the big brother in the Donley family.

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Lois Barringer is receiving treatment at Abernethy Laurels following her release from the hospital.

RECENT VISITORS:

Martha and Harold Robertson, Tim and Kathy Binkley
Betty Jackson, Diane Hain

Ministry Opportunities for Sunday, January 22, 2012

- 12:00pm **Mission Committee**—Gomedela Room
If you are interested in serving on the Mission Committee, please know that new members are always welcome.
- 3:00pm **Preschool Board Meeting**—Gomedela Rm.
- 4:00pm **Offering Counter Training**—Gomedela Rm.
- 4:30pm **Finance committee Meeting**—Gomedela Rm.
- 5:30pm **Administrative Council**—Gomedela Rm.

woman to woman
seeking God together

February 3 - 4, 2012 - Hickory Metro Convention Center

Mark your calendars for the second annual Woman to Woman Conference, coming February 3-4, 2012 to the Hickory Metro Convention Center. This conference, is specifically for women, and will be a wonderful time of worship, fun, fellowship and learning. Keynote speaker, Lisa Whelchel, Christian author and star of the 1980's hit TV show Facts of Life, will talk about personal connections with God and with people. Some of the regions most respected Bible teachers will lead the breakout sessions.

TICKETS ARE \$49.00. We are so fortunate to have a conference of this excellence here in our county. I encourage you to attend. I have heard Lisa and most of the breakout speakers...and they are fabulous! It is a time of "winter dreary's"— God can brighten and change your life though meeting Him, His Word, and His people at this event. We are hoping that we will have many 3 generations from one family come together. Family won't work for you? Grab a friend or someone and come be with us! For more information call Tommi Anderson @ 459-0123.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY:

Sunday School Department Renovation Fund:

Elizabeth Wykes & Dorcas Gomedela

Dot Feimster

Current Expense Fund:

Bryson Sweezy

Mrs. Hub Setzer

Jerry & Martha Sowers

Garden Fund:

Bruce Kiser

Jim & Trilby Stockner

Jim & Vicki Yount

Millicent M. Crawford

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

* January 22-28, 2012 *

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	12:00	Mission Committee
	3:00	Preschool Board Meeting
	4:00	Offering Counters Training
WED.	4:30	Finance Committee
	5:30	Administrative Council
	9:00	Preschool
	10:00-2:00	Gomedela Room Reserved
	3:00	Kids for Christ
THURS.	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
FRI.	7:00	Youth Praise Band
	9:00	Preschool

HONORARIUM

Treva Sweezy and family have given donations to the Current Expense Fund in honor of **Rev. Dr. David Greene and Rev. Lara "Willis" Greene** and also in honor of **Haskew Smith**.

Bill and Amy Cable have given a donation to the Helping Hands Fund in honor of **Forrest Lawing's 90th birthday**.

Howard and Wadine Smith have given a donation to the Love Labor Corps in honor of **Forrest Lawing's 90th birthday**.

NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you very much for the care package during my exam week. It was a nice surprise to find goodies in my mail one morning. I hope everyone else who received a package appreciated it as much as I did. Again, many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Will Powell,
Appalachian State University

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, January 15, 2012

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 58 11:00 a.m. 152
Sunday School 163 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 77
Winter Retreat: 32

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$8,490.82
	Garden Fund	70.00
	Sunday School Dept. Renov.	25.00
	Initial Offering	40.00
	Love Labor Corps	115.00
	Helping Hands Fund	20.00
	Renovation Fund	120.00
		<u>\$8,880.82</u>

CHURCH BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 19 — 8:00 pm
Denver Baptist vs. FUMC, Newton
Monday, Jan. 23 — 7:00 pm
FUMC, Newton vs. F.B./L.W.
Thursday, Jan. 26 — 9:00 pm.
FUMC, Maiden vs. FUMC, Newton
Monday, Jan. 30 — 6:00 pm
Mt. View Baptist vs. FUMC, Newton

All games are played at Maiden Recreation Center.

PRAYER CONCERNS

<u>Pray For:</u>	<u>Requested By:</u>
Lynn Delancey	Friends
Evaleene Fowler	Family & Friends
Sara Caldwell	John & Sara Caldwell
Tornado victims	
Don Webb	Sam Webb
Harper Cilley	Harris & Vickey Jones
Michael Walker	Harris & Vickey Jones

Out-of-Country Military—Scott Beal, Patrick Caldwell, Keno Clarke, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz, Tai Orange, Ty Shillito

In-Country Military—Andy Blanton, Jacob Campbell, Stan Josey, Eric Krans, Corey Lail, Laird Lambeth, Brad McRee, Kyle L. Sigmon, Ryan Windham, President Obama & leaders

First Methodist Children's Ministries

FAITHQUEST!

Children's Sunday School

Come and learn about the Baptism and Temptation of Jesus through storytelling, crafts, games and Bible Study! All Kindergartners through 5th Graders are invited to their Sunday School rooms on the Children's Wing located on the first floor. Sunday School begins at 10:00am and ends at 10:50. Come and learn about the Baptism and Temptation of Jesus through storytelling, crafts, games and Bible Study!

January's Memory Verse

"Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin." Hebrews 4:15

first methodist youth ministries



WINTER RETREAT 2012

Watch out for that snowman on a surfboard! The theme for Winter Retreat was SURF! God **S**eeks **U**s out, **R**estores us and **F**its us for service. First Newton had the privilege of joining First Waynesville and Central Asheville to create a congregation of over 200 youth and adults. While at Camp Cedar Cliff at the Cove, we gathered for worship, fun, great music, laughter and the opportunity to grow closer to God and to one another.

This Sunday, January 22, 4:00-6:00pm

Gather in the Youth Room at 4:00pm as we make plans to demonstrate God's love by loving our neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. This is a national program that encourages youth groups to serve and to give back to their local community. Check out www.souperbowl.org and come with your ideas! Soup will be served for dinner, and the program will end at 6:00pm!

STATESVILLE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**Sunday, January 29, 2012—3:00-6:00 p.m.****Broad Street United Methodist Church, Statesville**

Workshops:

- “I Love to Tell the Story”** — For all who work with communication in the church
- “Too Important to Wait”—Year Round Stewardship** — For all stewardship chairs and committees
- “Communicating Finances with your congregation—Are You Raising Awareness or Creating Anxiety”** — For all Finance Chairs and committees
- “Making Meetings Matter”—What it means to be a leader** — For all committee chairs
- “The Sweet 16—Vitality Indicators and New Resources for Vital Congregations”** — For all pastors and vitality teams and anyone interested in the vitality of their church
- “When People Don’t Get Along”** — For anyone interested in resources for conflict transformation in their church setting
- “Creative Connecting with Your Community”** — For Outreach/Mission Chairs and committees
- “Building on STRENGTHS, not Focusing on Weaknesses”** — An Introduction to Appreciative Inquiry
- “What’s New?”—Showcasing Resources for Small Group Study** — For any Sunday School teachers and small group leaders
- “Youth Leaders! God Bless You!”**—This training for youth counselors, staff and volunteers will be led by Amber-Drew Foster
- IMPACT Day Coordinators—Getting Ready for Outreach for 2012** — For all Church Impact Coordinators
- Camp Carolwood** — For all Camp Carolwood Contact People and Parents
- “Mixing Politics and Religion the United Methodist Way”—The Faith Challenges of an Election year.** — For anyone interested in how to apply the Christian faith in the barrage of election year activity