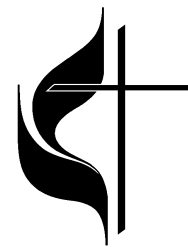


# THE

# FIRST WORD



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

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Vic Pentz tells a story about a minister friend's grandmother and her journey to America. Vic says that some years ago when his friend's grandmother was a teenager in Austro-Serbia, she found herself in a very difficult situation: She was being mistreated by her abusive father. Finally, she couldn't take it anymore, so one day she ran away from home and caught a boat to America.

But when she arrived at Ellis Island in New York, the main port for immigrants entering the United States, she had no papers, no family, and no sponsor. So as she stood in the long line, the authorities, realizing that she had no credentials, put a white X in chalk on her arm. This meant that when she arrived at the official desk of entry, she would be deported immediately.

As the official moved away to interview others, a young man next to her in line reached over and wiped away the X on her arm. When they arrived at the desk and the authorities asked for her papers, the young man put his arms around her shoulder and said, "She's with me." Together, they entered America, and a few weeks later they were married. Years later, their grandson (Vic's friend), became the pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the Midwest.

Isn't it amazing what that young man's love meant to the young woman? His love saved her and provided admission into a new life in a new land. And in so many ways, isn't that what Christ has done for us? With sacrificial love, he reaches over and wipes away the X on our sleeve and says, "This one's with me." Because of Jesus, we are not cast aside or pushed away. We are saved and given a new life in a new land.

See you Sunday,  
David

## RECENT VISITORS:

Diane Hain, Daniel, Tracy, Kayla, and Adam Wilson  
Ashley Hidiffer, Jason and Heather Raines  
Greg Benfield, Laken Riddle, Alan Rights  
Kellie and Jon Allie, Ernestine Helms

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY** are extended to Evelyn Brady and family following the death of her sister-in-law, Sudie B. Yount, of Newton on Saturday, January 21.

## CARE MINISTRY VALENTINE CARDS

Share your love with the church's homebound members by sending them Valentine cards! Simply pick up the list of names from the table located in the entrance to the Education Building or from the table in the breezeway, prepare the cards and then return them to the marked bags by Sunday, February 12.



First Sunday  
in February!

**MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO**, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

**"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."**

Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world. On Sunday, February 5, First Methodist Youth will be stationed at each worship service with soup pots to collect a \$1, \$5, or any donation you feel led to give!

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated will go to The Corner Table and to Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, our 2012 Souper Bowl of Caring charities of choice.

**MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY:**

**Sunday School Department Renovation Fund:**

**Dorcas Gomedela**

NC State University

**Current Expense Fund:**

**Bryson Sweezy**

Shirley Abernethy & family  
Mary & Phil Yoder

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

**\* January 29-February 4, 2012 \***

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	3:00-6:00	District Leadership Training Broad Street UMC, Statesville
MON.	9:00	Preschool
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
WED.	9:00	Preschool
	3:00	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
	7:00	Youth Praise Band
FRI.	9:00	Preschool

**ATTENTION!!!**

All women of the church are invited to the Inspirations Group Meeting on Monday, February 6 at 7:00pm in the Gomedela Room.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

<b>Pray For:</b>	<b>Requested By:</b>
Scotty Weinberger	Kim & Family
Dale Pope	Lynn & Danny Delancey
Eric Lail	Family
Red Reitzel	Erica Isenhour
Don Webb	Sam Webb
Fred Craig & Family	Vicki Yount
Catherine Kidd & Family	Coye Kidd

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



**Join other members of your church family** on a trip to Shelby, NC for a BBQ lunch.

We will meet at the church on Tuesday, January 31 at 10:30am and return around 2:30pm.

You won't want to miss this wonderful time of good food and fellowship.

**MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY  
FOOTHILLS STAND DOWN**

*Stand Down* is a military term used to describe a time when a soldier can rest, relax, and renew before returning to duty. Stand Down also refers to a grassroots, community-based program designed to provide homeless veterans an opportunity to renew their spirits and health.

On April 20, The Foothills Stand Down will take place at the American Legion Fairgrounds. Hosted by veteran's organizations and community agencies, this will be a time for homeless veterans to gather for a day and have access to hot showers, breakfast and lunch, clothing, haircuts, eye care and medical and dental services.

First Methodist has the opportunity to reach out to the homeless veterans in this area by donating **travel size personal hygiene items** that will be distributed at The Stand Down. During the month of February, please bring any of the following items to the church and place them in the donation basket located in the breezeway, Sanctuary level. For more information about this event, please contact the church office at 464.8422.

- |             |                   |               |                |           |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Tooth brush | Tooth paste       | Deodorant     | Baby powder    | Socks     |
| Wash cloths | Disposable razors | Shaving cream | Hand sanitizer | Combs     |
| Body wash   | Soap              | Shampoo       | Lip balm       | Band-aids |

## First Methodist Children's Ministries

### FAITHQUEST!

## Sunday School Teacher's Meeting

Sunday, February 5 at 1:30pm

All FaithQuest Sunday School Teachers for K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade will gather to evaluate the new program. This will be a time to discuss strengths and areas for growth in addition to brainstorming ideas for furniture, decorations and resources for each room.

**PARENTS:** If you have any ideas to share, you are welcome to join this meeting or share your comments with Lisa Johnson at 381.9337 or Lara "Willis" Greene at 464.8422.

## first methodist youth ministries

Sunday, February 5



All Youth are invited to join the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday morning, February 5, as we collect donations for The Corner Table and Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry (ECCCM). Grab a soup pot and check in with Jeff Kelley (217.5278) to find your time and location.

Then later that day .....

### Super Bowl Parties! —6:00-8:30pm

Gather with your friends to watch the game! The Middle High will meet at the parsonage, (23 West I Street) while the Senior High will be at the home of Erin Killian, (4735 Elmhurst Dr. NE) Parents, please drop off and pick up at the parsonage and at the Killians. Bring an appetizer to share, drinks will be provided.

**This Sunday, January 29 – Youth Break!**  
**No regularly scheduled Youth**

### CHURCH BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 26 — 9:00 pm.  
FUMC, Maiden vs. FUMC, Newton  
Monday, Jan. 30 — 6:00 pm  
Mt. View Baptist vs. FUMC, Newton  
Thursday, Feb. 2 — 6:00 pm  
FUMC, Newton vs. Cornerstone  
Monday, Feb. 6 — 7:00 pm  
Catawba vs. FUMC, Newton

All games are played at Maiden Recreation Center.

### STEWARDSHIP REPORT, January 22, 2012

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 76 11:00 a.m. 140  
Sunday School 133 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 93

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$7,118.00
	Sunday School Dept. Renov.	50.00
	Initial Offering	18.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>10.00</u>
		\$7,196.00

# thank you!

## From the Children's Sunday School Teachers

We would like to thank all of you who have helped with the Sunday School children's classroom makeovers. Thanks to David and Willis for your support and hard work! You have dedicated many hours to envision, plan, and organize this project. Thanks to the other classes who agreed to relocate to new classrooms to allow the children's Sunday school classes to be on one floor. Thanks to all of you who hauled boxes and cabinets. Thanks also to you hard workers who volunteered numerous hours to paint and make the rooms so inviting. The new flooring is beautiful. Thank you to Fred Cook and Jim Richards for refinishing the tables and thanks to Lisa and Megan Johnson for the many efforts in working with the curriculum, signage, and supplies. The new children's Bibles in each room are wonderful additions, too. Thanks to the parents for your patience and support as we move to new rooms and begin a new system. Finally, thanks to the congregation for your donations toward supplies, which are tools we can use to teach the children about God's word and the love of Jesus Christ. We appreciate each of you!

**CAMP NEWS:** Although it is only January, summer will be here before we know it! I'm excited about several camping options this year!

**Day Camp at Camp Carolwood in Lenoir, NC:** June 18-22 for Rising First through Fourth Graders. Cost \$110 if registered before May 1. FUMC of Newton is the sponsor of this camp. The church van is reserved for transportation this week. Registration materials are available in the church office. If all spots do not fill, rising Fifth and Sixth Graders will be allowed to register.

**District UMC Camp at Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville, NC:** Almost all weeks are available. We are encouraging FUMC of Newton Campers to attend June 24-30. More information and registration is available at [www.camptekoa.org](http://www.camptekoa.org). Overnight camps are available for ages 7 and up. Costs vary based upon type of camp selected. There is a \$30 discount if registered by March 1. A carpool is planned at this time. Slots fill quickly, so please register soon.

**Wilderness Trail:** July 6-13 for Rising Seventh Graders and older. Cost is \$200 per participant. Please see Rev. Lara "Willis" Greene for more information.

Please consider these camping opportunities for your child. Camp can be a wonderful experience in the life of a child. If you have any questions feel free to contact Amy Cable at (828) 294-4811 or [acable@charter.net](mailto:acable@charter.net).