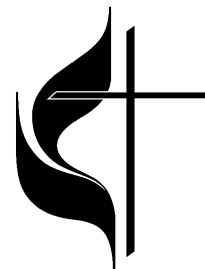


THE

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 one of his books, James Moore tells about a shopping experience he had with his children when they were young. As his family walked through a large department store one afternoon, they noticed a huge backyard play set on display. It had everything – swings, rings, monkey bars, a slide, a ladder, a parallel bar, and a seesaw. He explains that it was love at first sight for his kids.

His family went home that day and immediately began planning about how they were going to get the play set. Eventually, they were able to save enough to purchase it. One afternoon the play set was delivered to their home in a huge box. They discovered that it was unassembled and that there were an unbelievable number of parts.

As they unpacked the pieces to the play set, Moore found a packet containing the assembly instructions. But in a typical macho-style manner, he tossed the instructions aside and began the unenviable job of putting it all together. Moore worked at assembling it for hours, however he was having trouble making it look like the one they had seen displayed in the store.

Finally, Moore got it all put together and he was thrilled that he had used every part in the box. The only problem was that the slide wouldn't slide, the swings wouldn't swing, and the see wouldn't saw. He was at wit's end and his frustration was made worse by the incessant barrage of questions his children kept asking him about when he'd be finished.

After spending the better part of day wrestling with the play set, Moore noticed a bright yellow card at the bottom of the huge box. The card read: "BY THE WAY ... WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, READ THE INSTRUCTIONS!"

I don't know about you, but I sure can identify with that story. I can't count the number of times I've jumped into something without reading the instructions. You should see our house late on Christmas Eve. It is a sight to behold – toys and parts of toys scattered everywhere.

But there's another reason that I identify with Moore's story. I think it serves as a parable for the way many of us live our lives. It's so terribly difficult for us to put it all together in our lives when we have neglected to read the instructions.

Americans purchase over 20 million Bibles every year. Today, the Bible can be downloaded to a Kindle or an iPod. But nevertheless, we live in a biblically illiterate culture. One Christian commentator called the Bible, "The Greatest Story Never Read." This fact is confirmed by the results of polling that Gallup has done across the years on biblical literacy in our society.

And yet, the Bible is our instruction manual for life. It has the answers we long for and the solutions we so desperately need to make life work. The Bible tells us about how the world came to be, what the world is, and where the world is headed. It is God's story of what life means and why we are here. And it is, in great part, the long, wonderful story of God's relentless determination to reveal God's purposes and love for us. The Bible is the primary means through which God attempts to get through to us.

This Sunday we will be starting a new sermon series entitled, "A Hop, Skip and a Jump Through the Bible." Willis and I will be focusing on the key events in Scripture beginning with Creation and ending with Revelation. We hope that this series will help you make a connection between your life and the ancient teachings of the Bible which are as relevant today as when they were first spoken. See you Sunday, **David**

THE PACEMAKERS will be going to North Lake Mall in Charlotte on Tuesday, January 12th. We will be leaving the church at 9:00 a.m.

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

January 10, 2010

THE SHARED WORD: Rev Lara "Willis" Greene
"Creation" Genesis 1:1-2

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Frye Regional Medical Center: John Branton

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY are extended Vickie Drum and family following the death of her mother, Ovaline Drum, of Maiden on Sunday, January 3.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, January 3, 2010

Attendance: 8:45: 76	11:00 a.m.: 155
Sunday School: 147	9:00 a.m. Praise Service: 97
Offering: Tithes & Offerings	\$10,600.25
Hunger Fund	296.00
Singles Ministry	30.00
Helping Hands Fund	20.00
Renovation Fund	<u>205.00</u>
	\$11,151.25

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00
Budget Needs as of 1/3/10	\$10,963.00
Contributions Received as of 1/3/10	10,600.00
Under Budget for Year	\$ 363.00

**YEAR END STEWARDSHIP REPORT
December 31, 2009**

Offering: Tithes & Offerings	\$10,770.00
Altar Flowers	85.00
Renovation Fund	<u>970.00</u>
	\$11,825.00
Budget Needs as of 12-31-09	\$570,366.00
Contributions Received as of 12-31-09	511,346.00
Under Budget for Year	\$ 59,020.00

**DISASTER HAPPENED ABOUT 6 WEEKS AGO IN
THE YOUTH ROOM!!**

On Wednesday, November 11th, our youth room, kitchen, and the entire downstairs were flooded with sewage. Since that time, the children and youth have been meeting in different places. Last Sunday, January 3, we were able to again meet downstairs. We are so happy to be back home. I invite all of you to come look. We do not have everything finished yet. This is a day to day job that will come in time, but we still want you to come see. We lost several pieces of furniture and we hope to have them replaced soon. You will not believe your eyes. We know the flood was a terrible thing, but out of bad things comes good. God has truly blessed us with a beautiful area now.

**YOUTH MEAL
PLEASE CALL AND SIGN UP TODAY!**

- Sunday, Jan 3 Pizza _____
- Sunday, Jan 10 Chicken Nuggets _____
- Sunday, Jan 17 Soup _____
- Sunday, Feb. 7 Taco Salad _____
- Sunday, Feb. 14 Lasagnas _____
- Sunday, Feb. 28 Hot Dogs Donna Mull

ATTENTION!!!

For information on cancellations of church services and activities due to the weather, watch WSOC Channel 9, Charlotte or listen to radio station WNNC (1230 AM).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

*** January 10-16, 2010 ***

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	2:00	Women's Bible Study
	3:00	Children's Committee
	4:00	Middle School Youth
	5:00	Senior High Youth
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	6:00	NC Women's Club
	7:00	Youth Praise Band
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	10:00-2:00	Gomedela Room Reserved
	9:00	Pacemakers trip to Charlotte
	6:30	Griefshare
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	3:10	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Fellowship Dinner
	6:30	Adult Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
	6:00	Praise Team
FRI.	9:00	Preschool

THE CHILDREN NEED YOU!

Nine people have signed up to be lunch buddies at South Newton Elementary School. We need more. There will be sheets in the church on Sunday for you to sign or you can call Peggy at the church (464-8422) or her cell (336-940-7246) **ASAP**. The lunch times are 11:00 AM-12:15 PM. We want to start this program when school starts back in January. I want to be a Lunch Buddy and I hope you do too. Peggy

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear FUMC Members,

My husband and I would like to thank you for your generous monetary gift to our family. Our children were able to have a very blessed and Merry Christmas because of your caring and kind hearts. We will forever be grateful and always remember this Christmas as one of our best.

Sincerely, A very thankful family

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

Cost: \$6.00

Number _____

Name _____

(Reservation deadline January 18)

THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE will meet Sunday, January 10, at 3:00 PM. This is an important meeting. We will be making plans for 2010. The members are: Debbie Bandy, Cindy Boger, Kim Boston, Suzanne Cadwallader, Willis Greene, Leah Hayes, Lisa Johnson, Gayle Lowder, Lisa Martin, Dawn Martin, Rhonda Pawlik, Jill Sias, Keri Setzer, Caroline Sitzer, Kristy Smith and Peggy Correll.

RECENT VISITORS

Millicent Crawford, Janice Davis, Danny & Lynn Delancey, Martha Robertson, Pamela Schmitz, Wille Thompson, Deb Wakefield, Dexter & Karey Warren, Donna Yoder, Kristi Cloninger, Dawn Price, Daniel Thrailkill

GRIEFSHARE A new 13 week session of GriefShare will begin Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30 PM in the Bride's Room of FUMC Newton. GriefShare is a weekly support group meeting for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one due to death. Each session includes a video seminar and group discussion. A workbook for each participant assists with journaling and note taking. The videos feature experts on grief recovery, and real life stories of people who have experienced losses. During discussion time, attendees have the opportunity to share their experiences with grief. GriefShare is non-denominational and features biblical teachings on grief and recovery topics. Please call the church office at 464-8422 for more information, to sign up for the class and to reserve a workbook for \$15.00.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER—JANUARY 13
SPECIAL GUEST PARKER MARTIN

Parker Martin will present an overview of his experiences working for 8 weeks last summer in Uganda with a United Methodist Church sponsored program. The program centered on the growing issue of HIV/AIDS in Africa and the world. A majority of his time was spent with The AIDS Support Organization in Uganda where he worked in various departments including HIV testing, child care, and outreach."

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:	Requested By:
Dean/Jane Reavis	Vicki Yount
Doug Benfield	Setzer Family
Family of Vivian Hager	

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

MEMORIAL RECEIVED RECENTLY

Renovation Fund:

Vivian Hager

John & Mary Hunsucker

Dr. Allen H. Bandy, Sr.

Virginia & Sam Irby, Joe & Judy Beaman, Staff of Lifetime Eyecare, Terry L. Rowe, Flo Williams, H. Spencer Caldwell, Jr. and Mary Ellen Caldwell, Millie C. Bruton, Peter & Miiko Rowe

Cecil Kiser

Darrellyn Kiser

Parker Class Memorial Garden Fund:

Dr. Allen H. Bandy, Sr.

John & Sara Caldwell, James & Betty Newsome

HONORARIUMS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Flo Williams has given a donation to the **Parker Class Memorial Garden Fund** in honor of **Melba and Brooks Nichols**.

Jean Childs has given a donation to the **Helping Hands Fund** in honor of **Pat Britt's January 9th birthday**.

Spencer and Mary Ellen Caldwell have given a donation to the **Renovation Fund** in honor of **Jackie Bandy**.

THANK YOU

I arrived at church Tuesday morning and found a wonderful surprise. We were talking Sunday night about wanting to purchase a Wii. In my chair was a package which I unwrapped and discovered in it a Wii for our youth. It was given anonymously. Whoever you are, thank you for blessing our youth so greatly.

You are a blessing! Peggy

PALLIATIVE CARE CENTER & HOSPICE OF CATAWBA VALLEY invites you to become a volunteer who will provide assistance and companionship to patients and their families in their homes and in facilities. Training of volunteers will be January 16 and 17. For more information, call 466-0466 x 2203 x 2223 or 2346.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER RESERVATIONS

Wednesday, January 13, 6:00 p.m.

Hosts: Faith Builders Class
Menu: Spaghetti, Salad, French Bread
Assorted Desserts

Program: Parker Martin on summer trip to Africa

Number _____

Name _____

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 10, 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 10, 2010

"Occupations In Bible Times"

4 Years: **Music**

Grades K-1: **Computer**

Grade 2-3: **Storytelling**

Grades 4-5: **Science**

Teachers: January 10-February 28, 2010

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzler 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

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 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 will be receiving more information in the mail. Please contact Peggy by January 10 if your youth plans to go on this trip.

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.