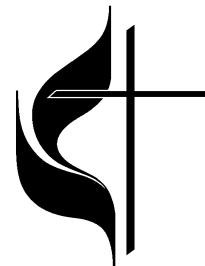


THE

FIRST

WORD



The Weekly Newsletter for Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church, Newton, North Carolina
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Frederick Buechner tells about a dream he had once that involved him staying at a large hotel with hundreds of rooms. When he checked into the hotel, the clerk gave him a key to a very comfortable room. In the dream, he felt relaxed and well cared for. Fred stayed in the room for awhile and then left for some sightseeing.

Later, when Buechner returned to the hotel, the clerk gave him a key to a different room. When he opened the door, he immediately felt a huge difference. The new room was cold, cramped and dark. It made him feel very anxious and uncomfortable.

So, in his dream, Buechner returned to the front desk and asked the clerk if he could be moved back to his first room. But Fred couldn't recall the number or location of that room.

After hearing Buechner's request, the clerk smiled and explained that he knew the number of the first room. The clerk told Fred that he could have the room anytime he wanted it, if he would just ask for it by name. The clerk explained that the room was named "Remember." It was a room called "Remember." Upon hearing the name of the room, he woke up from his deep sleep.

Fred explains in his book, "A Room Called Remember," that this dream has haunted him ever since he first had it. He wondered what it was all about. After awhile it became a bit clearer to him. We all have memories, Buechner reasoned. We all remember bits and pieces of things that have happened to us in the past. However, we don't always use our memories. Sometimes we allow them to waste away. Sometimes we shut them out or we find ourselves too busy in the present to remember the past. When we stop remembering, Fred concluded, we lose a valuable part of our lives.

King David knew the importance of remembering – of casting an eye toward the past. He knew that the only way to the future was through the doorway of the past. Early in his monarchy, David called on Israel to remember what God had done in the past. He asked the Israelites to "remember the wonders God has done" (see 1 Chron. 16).

Across the pages of the Bible we are instructed to remember. We are invited to remember what God has done and what God has promised to do. We are asked to remember who we are and to whom we belong.

Over the past few months, I have really enjoyed hearing your memories about this congregation. It is really

amazing when you stop and consider all of the wonders God has done in this church across the years. And your memories of these things have helped to shape who we are as a congregation today. These memories are part of our story and help to define the very soul of this congregation. When we share our memories we remember who we are and what God has done in and through us in the past.

One of the challenges Willis and I have as your new ministers is learning the story of this congregation. Our desire is not to come here and start writing a new story about this church. Our goal is to help you write a new chapter in your ongoing story. But to do that effectively, we need to learn about the past, to hear your memories of all that's happened here across the years.

On Sunday, November 29, we will be gathering to share your memories. Willis and I are hosting an event entitled, "Remembering Our Story." I hope that you will mark your calendars and plan on joining with us for this event at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

This program is for longtime members and folks who have just started attending our church. We pray that this event will give us all a better understanding of where we've been in the past so that we can begin to understand where it is God is calling us to go in the future.

Remembering is not about being bound to the past. Instead, it is about allowing the past to inform us and steady us as we continue to reach into the future.

See you Sunday, David

Part-Time Custodian

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee is accepting applications for a part-time custodial position at our church. You must be a church member to apply. Applications and a job description are available in the church office. The application deadline is November 15.

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

November 15, 2009

THE SHARED WORD: Rev Lara "Willis" Greene
Front Porch Stories: Parables Jesus Told

"Five O'Clockers"

Matthew 20:1-16

**CARE MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES**

THANKSGIVING BAGS

Sunday, November 15 at 2:00pm

Everyone is invited to join the Care Ministers in the Gomedela Room to help assemble the Thanksgiving bags to be delivered to homebound and nursing home members. Just a reminder: It's not too late to bring small gifts such as lotions, pens, writing pads etc. to help fill 40 bags. Collection baskets are located by the church office. Thank you for your generosity!

THE LADIES LUNCHEON FOR NOVEMBER HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO SICKNESS!!! The next luncheon will be in January.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Yes! Christmas is coming! December 13th is the Sunday for Choir, Hand Bells, Hand Chimes, and Children's Choir to make music to God's Glory and ring in the Christmas season. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the **11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, December 13th**. We are working on several pieces of beautiful music, and two pieces will be sung as a combined choir; children and adults. Come and let us pronounce *Joy to the World!*

Please let me know if your child will not be able to attend this Christmas celebration. Some parts may need to be re-assigned. **THANK YOU!**

Kristy Smith 465-6160 (home) or 234-5640 (cell)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoe boxes are due back to the church on **Wednesday, November 18**. Information needed to prepare a shoe box and the labels are included in the brochures that are located in the narthex, the hall table and the church office.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, November 8, 2009

Attendance: 8:45 a.m.: 73 11:00 a.m.: 177
 Sunday School: 156 9:00 a.m. Praise Service: 83

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$9,829.89
	Preschool Scholarship	265.00
	Youth Specialties	300.00
	Care Ministries	145.00
	Poinsettias	72.00
	Christmas Decorations	100.00
	Children's Department	5.00
	Parsonage Fund	100.00
	Renovation Fund	575.00
		\$11,391.89

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK
*** November 15-21, 2009 ***

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Blood Pressure Check
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service/Children's Church
	2:00	Women's Bible Study
	2:00	Care Ministry Meeting
	4:00	Children's Play Practice
	4:00-6:30	All Youth
	4:30	Finance Committee
	5:30	Administrative Council
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	7:00	UMW Executive Committee
	7:00	Youth Praise Band
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	6:30	GriefShare
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Youth Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	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
	November 19-23	Youth Specialties

HANGING OF THE GREENS

We will begin decorating our sanctuary for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 28th beginning at 9:30 a.m. Plan to help as we place the new Chrismon tree and decorations in our church for the first time.

RECENT VISITORS

Marcia & Janell Riggs, Krista Akel, Guy & Judy Novak

YOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER

Our youth will present a Christmas drama, "Christmas at the Cricket Cafe" on Saturday, December 12th beginning at 6:00 p.m. This will be a dinner theater. The menu will be steak, baked potato, salad, bread and dessert. We will also have hot dogs for those who do not want steak. The cost is \$10.00 for the steak meal and \$5.00 for the hot dog meal. Please call the church office as soon as possible to reserve your place or use the reservation form below. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, December 2nd. You may pay at the door.

Number of steak dinners: _____

Number of hot dog dinners: _____

Name _____

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:	Requested By:
Jerry McGee	Mervin McGee
Donna Talmage	Mary McCombs
Susan McLauren	Kristy Smith
Heather Clontz	friends
Linda Hedrick	Janet Byrd
Chris Richards	friends
Nowell Brown	Nikki Cavin
Doris Elliott	Becky Stiver
Ken Travis	Carolyn Perdue
Joshua Jackson	Susan Hunsucker
Family of Alfred Davis	Kristy Smith
Family of Kay Price Isaac and son Kip Isaac	Pat Britt
Vera Henderson and family	
Family of Capt. Seth Mitchell	

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

ANGEL TREE/PRESCHOOL NEEDS

The UMW is sponsoring an Angel Tree for the needy elderly people of our community. The tree will be decorated with angels containing a list of items needed for that person.

Also the UMW is asking that you consider giving a donation to our Preschool this Christmas season. Donations for scholarships, table and chairs, rug and other items are on their list of needs.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Men's Bible Class—Radio Fund:

Phyllis Brooks

Marshall & June Sherrill

Care Ministry Fund:

Phyllis Brooks

Dot Feimster, Frankie Cooke, Sherry Cooke, Wanda K. Brooks, Ken & Paulette Moss, Monteen J. Fox

Preschool Scholarship Fund:

Phyllis Brooks

Pat Britt

Renovation Fund:

Marcella & Larry Thomas

Carlos & Barbara de la Garza

Carlos and Barbara de la Garza have also given a donation to the **Renovation Fund** in honor of **Diane "Tommi" Anderson.**



NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 8, we welcomed Tommy and Christine Lowman into membership at First Church, Newton by Letter of Transfer from Living Word Church in Maiden.

CORNER TABLE FUNDRAISER

Sunday, November 22, 3:00 p.m.

It's time again to make CANDY for the annual CORNER TABLE FUNDRAISER. If you'd like to help, please meet in the kitchen at 3:00 p.m., November 22. We'll be dipping pretzels!

Thanks, Gayle Lowder (cell) 261-5627; (work) 464-0604

THANKS to everyone who helped cook, serve and cleanup for our Christmas Decorations Fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who came to support us and have a great lunch. It was a huge success!

Mary Yoder and Gayle Lowder

HOSPITAL REPORT

Doris Elliott is at home following tests and treatment at Catawba Valley Medical Center last week. Also, Anne Hunsucker is recovering at home after being hospitalized last week.

POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being received for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. Orders may be brought or mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate. Please include your payment of \$9.00 per plant. Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, November 25th.

In Memory of _____

or

In Honor of _____

By _____

(Please use a separate form for each plant ordered.)

YOUTH SCHEDULE

NOTE CHANGE OF TIME—All Youth will meet **Sunday, November 15, 4:00-6:30 PM**. We need all youth at the meeting. This is very important. Even if they do not have a part in the play, we need them to attend. Parents, please encourage and bring your youth. During play practice there are adults who will be with those who do not have parts!! I am counting on you as the parent. Thank you for all your help and support!!

SUNDAY, NOV. 15-4:00-6:30 PM

SUNDAY, NOV. 22-ALL YOUTH 4:00-5:15 PM

(no meal) Play Practice

SUNDAY, NOV. 29-ALL YOUTH 4:00-5:15 PM

(no meal) Play Practice

SUNDAY, DEC. 6—ALL YOUTH 12:30-2:00 PM

Play Practice (Time change due to Children Program.) This will be the Youth's last play practice. BE HERE!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WITH OUR CHILDREN

You are invited to come on **Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5:00 PM** in the Sanctuary to see our children in action

MEALS FOR THE YOUTH

Sun., Nov. 15-Spaghetti: Michelle White/Terra Butler

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-November 15, 2009

"Daniel In The Lions Den"

4 Years: **Art** Grades K-1: **Drama**
Grade 2-3: **Cookery** Grades 4-5: **Music**

Teachers: October 11-November 29, 2009

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzer

Drama/Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder

Cookery: Lori Sigmon/Cindy Boger

Music: Kristy Smith Art: Susan Reinhardt

Science: Gina & Scott King Movie: Rhonda Pawlik

Computer: Michelle White/Amy White

LIGHTS OF LOVE

Our Youth will once again sponsor a Lights of Love Tree. This tree with white lights will be in place on the front lawn of the church and will come on each night during the Advent Season. The cost to place a light in memory or in honor of someone is \$2.00. We will publish a booklet on Sunday, December 13th with all the names listed. **DEADLINE FOR THE LIGHTS WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.**

LIGHTS OF LOVE

\$2.00

In Memory of _____

or

In Honor of _____

By _____

(Please use a separate form for each name.)