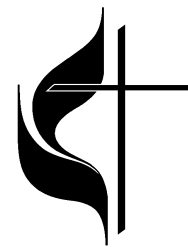


THE

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

In his book, *The Applause of Heaven*, Max Lucado suggests that if God can use ordinary, everyday things to do his work, then he can use us. Lucado recalls how God used the staff of Moses to lead the people of Israel to freedom, the stone of little David to turn back a giant, and the saliva of Jesus to heal a blind man.

Lucado points out that when we freely offer to God what we have, whatever it may be, God can through the miracle of his grace make the mundane majestic, the dull divine, and the humdrum holy. Therefore when it comes to serving God, the key is not ability, but availability.

Remember who Jesus first called to follow him? The disciples were not professional clergy. They weren't ordained ministers or Bible scholars. They were lay people, fisherman, ordinary folks who were willing to respond and follow and serve. It wasn't their ability that made them fit to serve but their availability.

Have you found your ministry? Have you found your special place of service? Have you figured out yet where God can use you in our congregation to make a difference in our community? One thing is for sure in all of this. If you make yourself available, then God will take it from there. And who knows? Who knows what all God will accomplish as you make yourself available and trust him to do great things for Jesus' sake through you.

See you Sunday, David

RECENT VISITORS:

Danny, Tracy, Kayla and Adam Wilson
Mabel Davis

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS

The February Breakfast Meeting will be **this Sunday, February 5th at 7:30 a.m.** All men of the church are invited to bring their wives for a wonderful breakfast. Please RSVP to Donald Scronce (828)327-2345 by Friday, February 3rd.

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Shirley Hayes is recovering at home following out-patient surgery this week.

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:

UMW Scholarship Fund:

Dorcas Gomedela, Boyd Drum

Gaye & Kenneth Keener

Garden Fund:

Bruce Kiser, Elizabeth Wykes

Gaye & Kenneth Keener

Current Expense Fund:

Bryson Sweezy

Dick & Harriett Wyatt

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:

Teresa Tilley Smith

Frances Bost

Barrett Lynch

Shirley Hayes

Tim Watson

Kaye Lewis

Don Webb

Eric Lail

Red & Edith Reitzel

Requested By:

Family

Family

Family

Friends

Family

Family

Sam Webb

Family

Erica Isenhour

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

* February 5-11, 2012 *

SUN.	7:00	United Methodist Men
	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	1:30	Sunday School Teachers Meeting
	6:00-8:30	Youth Super Bowl Parties (in homes)
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	10:00	Group II
	7:00	Group III
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	7:00	Trustee Meeting
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 7:00 pm in the Gomedela Room.

WELCOME!

Group 2 will meet on Monday, February 6th at 10:00 am in the Gomedela Room. David Greene will present the lesson and all ladies are welcome.

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
Wash cloths
Body wash

Tooth paste
Disposable razors
Soap

Deodorant
Shaving cream
Shampoo

Baby powder
Hand sanitizer
Lip balm

Socks
Combs
Band-aids

First Methodist Children's Ministries

FAITHQUEST!

Sunday School Teacher's Meeting This Sunday, February 5 at 1:30pm

All FaithQuest Sunday School Teachers for K-5th 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

This 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, Hickory) Parents, please drop off and pick up at the parsonage and at the Killians. Bring an appetizer to share, drinks will be provided.

CHURCH BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Feb. 2 — 6:00 pm
FUMC, Newton vs. Cornerstone
Monday, Feb. 6 — 7:00 pm
Catawba vs. FUMC, Newton
Thursday, Feb. 9 — 6:00 pm
Emmanuel vs. FUMC, Newton
Monday, Feb. 13 — 8:00 pm
FUMC, Newton vs. Denver Baptist

All games are played at Maiden Recreation Center.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, January 29, 2012

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. 132
Sunday School 130 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 67

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$9,158.50
	Sunday School Dept. Renov.	40.00
	Initial Offering	6.00
	Altar Flowers	50.00
	Garden Fund	60.00
	Helping Hands Fund	15.00
	Music Fund	50.00
		<hr/>
		\$9,379.50

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Lee Cloninger	2/14	Vicki Yount
2/1	Jamey Sias	2/15	Rachel Walker
2/2	Cara Cadwallader	2/16	Christian Cambra
2/2	Jacob Campbell	2/16	Suzanne DeRue
2/2	Eddie Carter, Jr.	2/16	Ken Moss
2/2	Chloe Fountain	2/17	Lisa Blaser
2/2	Gaye Keener	2/17	Ken Simmons
2/2	Natalie Nguyen	2/18	Olivia Andersen
2/2	Wes Nguyen	2/18	Lisa Baggatta
2/3	Jeff Hewins	2/18	Jean Carter
2/3	Thomas Hollingsworth	2/18	Gerald Evitt
2/3	Lee Inthavong	2/18	Païton Fair
2/4	Elizabeth Hall	2/18	Patricia Howard
2/5	Addison Hayes	2/19	Joseph Beaman
2/5	Dale Schmitz	2/19	Jim Byrd
2/5	John Stiver	2/19	Anna Cook
2/7	Michaele Autry	2/19	Priscilla Faucette
2/7	Adrienne Binkley	2/20	Lorene Martin
2/7	Frank Reinhardt	2/20	Flo Williams
2/8	Coye Kidd	2/21	Bobby Carter
2/8	Brooks Nichols	2/21	Danny Yancey
2/9	Joanna Orange	2/22	Anne Hunsucker
2/9	Vance Sigmon	2/22	Madison Yancey
2/11	Debbie Eller	2/23	Colby Phillips
2/12	Erin Kelley	2/24	Scottie White
2/12	Brandon Moose	2/26	Mike Hester
2/12	Paulette Moss	2/27	David Greene
2/12	Jerry Willard	2/27	Sydney Templeton
2/12	Lori Wray	2/28	Katie Brown
2/13	Daisy Sias	2/28	Erin Killian
2/14	Carol Brown	2/28	George Wilkinson
2/14	Gabe Ervin	2/29	Mary Miller

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2/10	Rick and Ann Faust
2/10	Reid and Judy Ikerd
2/14	Donnie and Susan Holbrook
2/20	Wayne and Jackie Dellinger
2/20	Donald and Carolyn Scronce
2/22	Khampheng and Chanphene Inthavongsa
2/23	Jimmy and Brandy Burnette
2/25	Bob and Margie Powell
2/26	Bobby and Leslie Benson
2/28	Tim and Miriam Barkley

FEBRUARY GREETER SCHEDULE**8:45 AM Service**

2/5	Jean Childs
2/12	Lori Wray
2/19	George & Rebekah Wilkinson
2/26	Tom & Christine Lowman

9:00 AM Service

2/5	Jeff & Parker Kelley
2/12	Michael & Camryn Gantt
2/19	Jeff & Beth Foss
2/26	Al Bandy

11:00 AM Service

2/5	Fred & Kathleen Cook
2/12	Dewayne & Damion Setzer
2/19	Larry & Frances Hollar
2/26	Debbie Rights

Please report any corrections or additions to this month's birthday and anniversary lists to the church office.

Volunteer Workers — February 2012

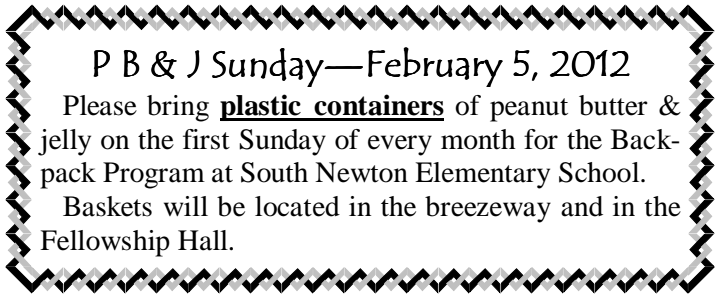
<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Cross Bearers</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>8:45/9:00 AM Nursery</u>	<u>11:00 AM Child. Ch.</u>
2/5 Claire Boger	Elizabeth Greene	John Mull	Carolyn Scronce	Al & Debbie Bandy
2/12 Erin Kelley	Hannah Lowder	Dan Windham	Pam Schmitz	Rhonda Pawlik
2/19 Holly Cable	Camryn Gantt	Brian White	Celena Carter	Leslie Benson
2/26 Hope Cable	Neely Harvell	Rob Rights	Katie Templeton	Tommi Anderson
<u>9:00 AM Leader</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Offering Counters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	
2/5 Moe Peacock	Lawing Family	Ken Moss/Harris Jones	Todd White	Rowe Bollinger
2/12 Elena Swink	OPEN	Jim Stockner/Janet Byrd	Tom Lowder	Bill Powell
2/19 Debbie Bandy	Jan Freeman	Dale Boger/Todd White	Harold Reitzel	Fred Cook, Jr.
2/26 David White	Benson Family	Ken Lawing/Merv McGee	Tom Dixon	

Youth Volunteers -- Nursery Workers for February: Kasey Boger and Amy Bandy

HONORARIUMS

Monteen Fox has given a donation to the **Helping Hands Fund** in honor of Forrest Lawing's 90 birthday.

Gaye and Kenneth Keener have given the following donations: **Music Fund** in honor of the **choirs, directors and organist of FUMC**. We are so grateful for their services. **Sunday School Department Renovation Fund** in honor of Larry and Frances Hollar and Tommi and Charlie Anderson.



P B & J Sunday—February 5, 2012

Please bring **plastic containers** of peanut butter & jelly on the first Sunday of every month for the Backpack Program at South Newton Elementary School.

Baskets will be located in the breezeway and in the Fellowship Hall.

Dear Members of FUMC, Newton,

I wish to thank you for the many expressions of kindness shown to me following my recent accident. Thanks for all the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls and the delicious food. It is great to be member of such a loving and caring congregation. Evaleene Fowler

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. 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.