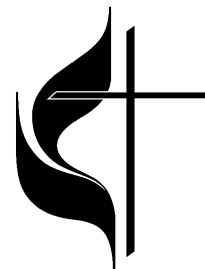


THE

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

Have you heard of the college student who went to the perfume counter of an exclusive boutique to buy a present for his longtime girlfriend? Well, the salesclerk recommended a perfume called "Perhaps" which sold for \$50 an ounce. "Fifty dollars!" cried the young man. "For fifty dollars I don't want 'perhaps,' I want for sure."

There are some things in life that we need to be for sure about. We need to know *for sure* that our lives count for something. Much of the emptiness that people feel in their lives comes from the fact that their lives are not invested in some cause or purpose that has deep meaning. Or they've invested themselves in the wrong things.

We need to know *for sure* that there is more to life than the three score years and ten of our physical existence. Much of the hemmed-in feeling that we have comes from that vague stirring in our souls to which we may give many different names: spirit, intimations of immortality, the God-space within. The psalmist put it like this: "God has put eternity in our hearts."

God never meant life to be empty or meaningless. Christ came to bring us abundant life. He came to show us how to live life to the full, how to live zestfully. The key to dealing with the problem of restlessness is to see life as a partnership with Christ. Jesus said, "Seek first God's kingdom." What could be more exciting than that? What could be more thrilling than that?

There is a special God-shaped space in our hearts that only Christ can fill. In other words, our souls are made in such a way that they just cannot be happy and content with anything less than God. And we can be *for sure* about that!

David

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

April 25, 2010

THE SHARED WORD: Rev. Dr. David Greene
"P.S. I'm Coming Back"
2 Peter 3:1-15



WOMEN OF FAITH NOVEMBER 12-13, 2010

Join thousands of sisters in the faith as we take a group from First United Methodist Church to the Women of Faith Concert at the Greensboro Coliseum. Hear dynamic speakers such as Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg and Anita Renfroe along with musical guests, Steven Curtis Chapman, Sandi Patti and Mandissa. The event begins Friday at 10:00am and ends Saturday at 4:00pm. Total cost is \$125 which includes the ticket, one night at the Doubletree Hotel and 2 boxed lunches. To reserve your spot, please contact JoAnne Hewins at 464-8500, or call the church office. Deadline is May 12. Visit www.womenoffaith.com for more details. Get away with your girlfriends for a spiritually refreshing Women of Faith weekend!

RECENT VISITORS:

Sarah & Shane Beauchamp, Ray Rainbird,
Carrie, Devin & Chatham Donley,
Libby Hall, Jim Mauney

ECCCM GOLF TOURNAMENT

You are invited to join a team of golfers from First United Methodist Church at the June 3rd ECCCM Golf Tournament to be held at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Maiden. The cost will be \$25 per golfer and the 4 person team will be put together on a first come basis. The 1:00 PM shotgun start will benefit ECCCM and their wonderful ministry in Catawba County. Lunch, sponsored by Bennett's, will be served from 11:30 am until play begins. Call the church office to join this team.

Other classes and groups are invited to sponsor a hole. Contact Ken Moss for more information for a sponsorship.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR, CHERUB CHOIR
and CHILDREN'S CHIMES

Sunday, May 2nd, the children's music groups will present melody and song for the 11:00 Worship Service. These groups practice each week as a part of our Kids For Christ program, Wednesday afternoons. I am so very proud of our children for all of their hard work and for sharing their talents with us. They are such a blessing to me! The Mother/Child Luncheon will follow this service in the Fellowship Hall, so bring Grandma and plan to stay for a wonderful meal and fun entertainment! If your child is involved but unable to attend May 2nd, please let me know so that other arrangements can be made. Thank you! Kristy Smith 465-6160

MOTHER/CHILD LUNCHEON

We will honor our mothers at a luncheon on Sunday, May 2nd at 12:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall. We will have good food and fun entertainment!

Menu: Herb and Wine Chicken, Green Beans and Roasted Potatoes, Choice of Desserts

Kids Menu: Chicken Tenders, Green Beans and Mac and Cheese.

The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Please RSVP with the church office by **April 24th**. Your RSVP is very important since the meal is being catered by Jennifer's Catering and Jennifer needs our numbers.

IT'S OATMEAL SUNDAY! Please bring one or more 18-oz. canisters of OATMEAL to church on Sunday, April 25th. This is in conjunction with Impact Community Day, a Western NC Conference initiative, to be held in June. Thanks to those of you who donated peanut butter and canned tuna. We will be collecting 8 items in total during the months of April and May. All food collected will be distributed to Catawba County residents in need. These are items that the food banks do not often receive. Thanks for giving! Susan Reinhardt, Missions/Outreach, 381-9841

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, April 18, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 82 11:00 a.m. 158
Sunday School 167 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 93

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$8,765.00
	Hunger Fund	10.00
	Care Ministry Fund	150.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>145.00</u>
		\$9,070.00

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00
Budget Needs as of 4/18/10	\$175,408.00
Contributions Received as of 4/18/10	148,205.00
Under Budget for Year	-\$27,203.00

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

* April 25-May 1, 2010 *

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	2:00	Trustees Meeting
	4:00	Middle School Youth
	5:00	Senior High Youth
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	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	Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
	7:00	Staff Parish Relations Committee
FRI.	9:00	Preschool
SAT.	7:00-1:00	Youth Yard Sale

Monday-Friday Gomedela Room Reserved (9:00-5:00)
Friday Fellowship Hall Reserved 6:00 pm — Saturday

PALLIATIVE CARECENTER & HOSPICE OF CATAWBA VALLEY Volunteer Training is scheduled for Saturday May 15th (8:15 am to 5:00 pm) and continues Sunday, May 16th (12:00 pm to 5:00 pm). For information call 828-466-0466, extensions, 2346, 2223 or 2203.

ATTENTION!!

The church has been given two plots at Catawba Memorial Park located in the fountain area. It has been decided to sale these plots by submitting a silent bid to the church office. The Finance Committee will then decide whether to accept the bids.

All bids should be turned into the office by Friday, May 21st.

UNITED SINGLE ADULTS (USA)

My hope and prayers are that you have had a blessed Easter break. USA singles will fellowship together Friday, April 23 at 7:00 pm at FUMC, Newton. We will begin with a time of living in the NOW. Afterwards, we will spend time enjoying your favorite desserts with each other. So start cooking, baking, or chilling those "low fat yummys" and we'll see you Friday!

**SEAMSTRESSES NEEDED TO HELP CREATE
“A PILLOW OF THANKS”**

437 of them that is!! As most of you have heard, Group Workcamps has chosen Catawba County as the host site for a mission work camp the week of June 27th thru July 3rd. We will have 437 high school youth from Virginia and Massachusetts giving up one week of their summer vacation, traveling to our town, sleeping on the floor of Newton Conover High School each night, and by day doing home repairs for elderly, disabled, or low income folks who need help. WOW!!!

The theme for our guests that week is “Southern Hospitality.” We would like to have your help in showing these young teens our appreciation for their time and work. We will be giving each camper a handmade pillow that will have a pocket on one side. These pillows will be delivered to their sleep area the first night, and at the end of each day when they return from work, they will find a small token of appreciation from our community waiting for them in their pillow pocket. Each pillow will be made by someone in our community; they will all be as different as we are, yet all given with our love and the love of Christ. Please join us; we would like for as many as possible to be a part of this project. There are very simple guidelines for the pillows and we are more than happy to come to your group or to you individually to explain and assist you with this “pillow of thanks” project. We have a variety of supplies, if needed. Please contact Mimi Michael at mimimichael@charter.net, 828-465-0335 or Lynn Sample at samplehouse6@aol.com, 828-234-4979 for further project details.

NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to thank the kind person who put the flower wreath on the cross Easter morning. Wish we knew who you are, so we could thank you properly.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:	Requested By:
Dick Hewitt	Mary Hewitt
Lena Simmons	Friends
Kathy Link	Christine Lowman
Josephine Ledford	Becky Campbell
Hokie Thornburg	Charles & Mitzi Moody
Noah Olson	Friends
Neil Love	Family
Corinna Driscoll	Peggy Correll
Brandon Cole	Paul Campbell
Kay Jettinghoff	Ann Cook

Out-of-Country Military—Scott Beal, Jacob Campbell, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz.

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.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Renovation Fund:

Frances Raymer & Helen Raymer

Charlie & Tommi Anderson

Youth Fund:

Doug Benfield

Buddy & Nancy Lippard

THANK YOU for the meals you supply to the Corner Table. You have been so faithful, year in and year out, in supporting this ministry. You provide help and hope to many in this community who need it. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Gratefully, Debbie Leatherman, Manager
Mimi Michael, Volunteer Coordinator

PARENT’S NIGHT OUT

Sponsored by the Missions Committee of FUMC, Newton
Friday, April 23 and Friday, May 21

The cost per child is a donation for IMPACT HUNGER DAY which will be held on June 5 in Newton. Donations of the following items are requested:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 lb. bag of rice | 1 lb. bag of dry beans |
| canned tuna | peanut butter |
| saltine crackers | dried potato flakes |
| macaroni & cheese | canister of oatmeal |

Registration forms are available in the church office and are due April 21 and May 19 (for the May event).

For more information, contact Lori Sigmon (465-1081) or the church office (464-8422)..

**WILDERNESS TRAIL HIKING TRIP
August 6-August 13 (Friday-Friday)**

For rising 7th Graders through Adults

Where: Virginia—The Appalachian Trail

What: An incredible outdoor adventure!! Begins with a fun 2 day retreat followed by 5 hiking days. Gain a new perspective on the Christian life by being led through the challenges and surprises of the wilderness.

Cost: \$100—includes everything!—use of backpack, tent, trail equipment and food. You are responsible for providing a sleeping bag and hiking shoes.

Sign-up: Registration forms have been mailed to youth or pick one up in the church office. **Forms are due by April 25.** Scholarships are available, please contact Peggy Correll or Willis.

Questions: Call or email Willis at the church office (464-8422, willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com). Visit the Wilderness Trail website at www.wtrail.com.

YOUTH SCHEDULE**Sunday, April 25**—Regular Youth**YOUTH YARD SALE****SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7:00 AM-1:00 PM**

The youth and parents will meet on Friday, April 30, at 6:00 PM-8:00 PM to set up for the yard sale. Saturday we will need to be here at 6:00 AM

EVERYONE who wants to do Spring cleaning can start bringing your items **NOW**. We will store everything in the building across the street that is on the lot we purchased. Please bring all you can. Something you may not want can be someone else's treasure. The money raised from this event will be used to cut cost on our retreats and activities.

You may bring your items on Sunday during youth time or Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM-5:00PM, or call Peggy (336-940-7246) to set up a time. Thank you for all your support.

GRADUATION INFORMATION IS NEEDED

If you or a member of your family will be graduating from high school or college, please give this information to the church office. We will honor all graduates during worship services on Sunday, June 6th.

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-April 25, 2010*"Easter: People"*4 Years: **Cookery**Grades K-1: **Music**Grade 2-3: **Art**Grades 4-5: **Drama****Teachers: March 7-April 25, 2010**

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzer Art: Susan Reinhardt

Drama/Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder

Cookery: Cindy Boger/Terra Butler

Music: Debbie Bandy

Movie: Rhonda Pawlik Computer: Gina & Scott King

Science: Michelle White/Amy White

MOTHER/DAUGHTER RETREAT AT THE BEACH

Girls currently in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and their mothers are invited to a weekend retreat at Oak Island **May 21-23**. We will be watching a series of DVD's entitled "In Search of a Princess" and having a LOT OF FUN! Those mothers who are interested are asked to attend a planning meeting on **April 18th at 2:00 pm** in the Gomedela Room while the kids are in youth.

Parents!! The meal for youth is needed for April 25.

Please call the Peggy at the church office if you can prepare a meal. Thanks for all your support.