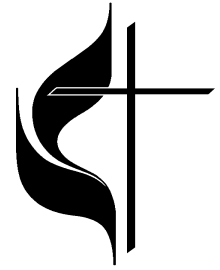


THE

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

Someone shared with me the following piece about America. Hope it helps you celebrate our Nation's birthday. See you Sunday, David



I AM AMERICA

I was born on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. I am the United States of America! The bloodlines of the world run in my veins because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am millions of living souls and the ghost of millions who have lived and died for me.

A million and more of my countrymen have died for freedom and I am their monument. My ancestors left their blood on the green at Lexington and the snow at Valley Forge, on the walls of Fort Argonne Forest, on the beaches of Salerno and Normandy and the sands of Okinawa, on the bare, bleak hills called Pork Chop and Old Baldy and Heartbreak Ridge.

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard 'round the world. I am Washington, Jefferson, and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys, and Davy Crockett. I am Lee and Grant and Lincoln.

I am the Brooklyn Bridge, the wheat fields of Kansas, and the granite hills of Vermont. I am the coal fields of the Virginias and Pennsylvania. I am the fertile fields of the West, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Grand Canyon. I am Independence Hall, the Monitor, and the Merrimac.

I am big. I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific, three million square miles throbbing with industry and farming. I am more than 5,000,000 farms; I am forest and field, mountain and desert. I am quiet villages and busy cities that never sleep.

You can look at me and see Ben Franklin walking down the streets of Philadelphia with his loaf of bread under his

arm. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas and hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" as the calendar turns.

I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am the laughter of a small boy as he watches a circus clown's antics. I am the light of triumph in the eyes of a six-year-old boy as he reads aloud for the first time. I am 175,000 schools and colleges and 275,000 churches where people worship God as they think best. I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a stadium, and the voice of a choir in a cathedral.

I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a congressman. I am Eli Whitney and Stephen Foster. I am Tom Edison and Albert Einstein and Billy Graham. I am Horace Greeley, Will Rogers, and the Wright Brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Daniel Webster, and Jonas Salk. I am Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman, and Thomas Paine.

Yes, I am the nation and these are the things I am. I was conceived in freedom, and God willing, in freedom will I spend the rest of my days. May I always possess the integrity, the courage, and the strength to keep myself unshackled, to remain a citadel of freedom, and a beacon of hope to the world.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY are extended to our Administrative Assistant, Ann Cook, and family following the death of her mother, Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff of Abernethy Laurels on Friday, June 11.

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Dick Wyatt is at home following treatment at Catawba Valley Medical Center.

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

July 4, 2010

THE SHARED WORD: Rev. Dr. David Greene

"Remembering our Roots"

Matthew 7:24-28

REV. AMY FREEZE IS GOING TO JAIL!!

On July 29th, Amy will be "locked up for good" to benefit the MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association). This lock up in particular will help Jerry's Kids attend a summer camp. For a short time, these special needs kids can truly be kids at no cost to their families. The MDA also works to research all sorts of neuro-muscular diseases, including Lou Gehrig's disease, and as you know, Amy's father died of Lou Gehrig's disease in 2004. Please help Amy raise her "bail" by donating safely and securely directly to the MDA at: <https://www.joinmda.org/mooresvillelockup2010/afreeze1980>, or you can call 828-413-9209 or email Amy at afreeze1980@gmail.com. Thank you all for your prayers and your support.

2010 CONFERENCE JOURNAL

Orders are being received for the 2010 Conference Journals and CDs. The cost is \$30 each for the Journals and the CD Journal is \$10 per copy. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark for conference journal.

Please call the church office to reserve your copy.
Deadline is July 16th.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, June 27, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 87 11:00 a.m. 130
Sunday School 143 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 121

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$8,633.07
	Music Fund	265.00
	VBS Sponsorship	630.00
	Kitchen Fund	50.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>630.00</u>
		\$10,208.07

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00
Budget Needs as of 6/27/10	\$285,038.00
Contributions Received as of 6/27/10	246,001.00
Under Budget for Year	-\$ 39,037.00

RECENT VISITORS:

Karen & Bob Silber, Graham Simmons, Olivia Belk,
Dan & Phyllis Moore, Brad, Beth & Joseph McRee,
Philip and Cheryl Cole, Karen Styeski,
Paul, Chantae, Natalie & Savannah Lail

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

* July 4-10, 2010 *

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
MON.		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	8:45-5:00	Gomedela Room Reserved
	7:00	Staff Parish Relations Committee
WED.	9:00	Preschool
	6:00	Praise Team
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl

MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Music Fund:

Doris Gordon

Catawba County Schools: Pat Hensley, Judith Ray,
Crystal Davis, Joretta Fish, Tim Markley, Sondra
Wolfe, Marilyn McRee, Betty Blackburn, Charlie
Wyant & Joyce Spencer

General Fund:

Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff

Wadine Smith

Renovation Fund:

Katheryn Goble

Debbie & Jim Dagenhart, Judy & Reid Ikerd,
Dotti Goble

Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff

Dotti Goble

HONORARIUM

Phil and Mary Yoder have given a donation to the
Kitchen Fund in honor of **Stump Drum**.

FUMC PLAYGROUND

Mark your calendars for our playground **workday**,
7:00 AM, Saturday, July 17.

Thank you, The Playground Committee

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:	Requested By:
Kenneth Brandon	Cindy Boger
Megan Coley	Susan Reinhardt
Jerry McGee	Merv McGee
Group Workcamps	Susan Reinhardt

Out-of-County Military: Jacob Campbell, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz

In-County Military: Scott Beal, Bobby Benson, Andy Blanton, Stan Josey, Corey Lail, Laird Lambeth, Brad McRee, Tai Orange, Kyle L. Sigmon, Ryan Windham, President Obama & Leaders

INTERESTED IN A HOLY LAND TOUR??

Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Dr. Tom Sigmon, and others in the Western North Carolina Conference are leading a 10-day tour to Israel leaving February 1, 2011. Cost will be approximately \$2200.00 per person, which includes airfare, lodging in 1st class hotels, deluxe motor coaches, breakfast and dinner daily, entrance fees to all sites, tour guides, and more! The educational theme is "Jesus, His Life, His Time, His Land, His Hebrew Faith", with teachings on the places Jesus walked, taught, lived including Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Jericho, Nazareth, Qumran, Masada, Dead Sea, and more.

Please contact Steve or Katie Cloninger (459-0729 home phone) stcloninger@yahoo.com or youth@fumconover.org.

GREETERS

Did you know that 70% of all people who visit a church make up their mind about coming back before the pastor stands to deliver the sermon? A key factor that determines if a visitor will return is whether he or she felt welcomed. Our Evangelism Committee is seeking persons who would be willing to serve as a greeter at one of our worship services on Sunday morning. Everyone is invited to serve. There's no experience necessary. All you need is a willing heart and warm smile to make every person who enters our building feel like an honored guest from the very first minute they arrive at our doors. The Bible says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2). Please prayerfully consider becoming a greeter and then sign-up at the information table in the breezeway between the sanctuary and our church offices.

ATTENTION!!

Last week our church installed a new security system. If you come to the church during regular office hours and find the door locked, please use the intercom on the right. We are able to view and talk to whomever is at the door and release the lock. Thank you for your understanding while we work through this new system. Ann

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS:

The church memberships of Cindy and Jody Woodfin have been transferred to First Baptist Church, Mebane, NC. Also the membership of Scott Kelly has been transferred to Christ Community Church of the Foothills, Landrum, SC.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

July 1, 7:00 pm	Mission Committee
July 6, 7:00 pm	Staff-Parish Relations Committee
July 11, 4:30 pm	Wilderness Trail Orientation Meeting
July 12, 6:00 pm	Budget Sub-Committee Meeting
July 17, 7:00 am	Playground Clean-up
July 18, 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Evangelism Committee Renovation Committee
July 20, 8:00 am	Emerald Point, Greensboro
July 25-July 29 5:30 pm	Vacation Bible School

NOTE OF THANKS

To the members of
First United Methodist Church of Newton,

Thank you all so much for the love and concern you have shown my family and me during the last couple of months. All of the support and understanding you have shown has helped me get through the difficult illness and death of my mother. Knowing people care and empathize does not take away the pain, but it does help make that pain bearable. Thank you also for your patience when I had to be out of the office unexpectedly. You are a congregation of wonderful people, and I love you and love working for the church.

Sincerely, Ann Cook

SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE**Sunday, July 4th — NO YOUTH****Sunday, July 11** 1:00 PM — Youth Swimming****Sunday, July 18th** 4:00-5:30 PM — All Youth**Sunday, July 25th** VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ALL YOUTH HELP**Sunday, August 1** 1:00 PM - Bowling****Sunday, August 8** 4:00-5:30 PM — All Youth**Sunday, August 15 — NO YOUTH****CRUISING SUNDAY****Sunday, August 22** SPIRITUS WEEKEND

NO YOUTH MEETING

Sunday, August 29 TBA —

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

(**Regular youth meetings at the church.) **DURING THE SUMMER WE WILL JUST BE SERVING SNACKS AT THE REGULAR YOUTH MEETINGS.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS****WET 'N WILD****EMERALD POINTE****TUESDAY, JULY 20****ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-July 4, 2010***"The Four Friends"*4 Years: **Computer** Grades K-1: **Storytelling**Grade 2-3: **Science** Grades 4-5: **Movie****Teachers: June 27-August 15, 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

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR LAST WEEK

Youth Fishing Trip was great. We were small in number but boy did we catch a big fish. Watch the bulletin boards for pictures, Logan did not let the big fish get away.

Youth Sunday at the pool was a fun and relaxing day for all. Some of the youth helped Alice with the group camp and then came to the pool swimming. We had 20 that had a wonderful time at the Elks pool. The water was refreshing. Some of us stayed in the water too long; of course there was a certain someone with the camera wanting to take our pictures. We finally had to get out and the camera was clicking. Watch the bulletin boards for great pictures.