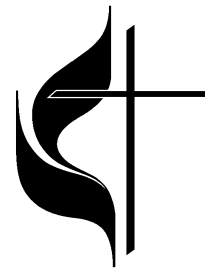


THE

FIRST

WORD



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

Tony Campolo is one of my favorite authors. In one of his books he tells about a sermon he heard preached by the senior pastor of his church in Philadelphia. The sermon was about the horrific events that led up to Jesus' death at Calvary on Good Friday. Campolo writes:

For an hour and a half he preached one line over and over again ... "It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!" He started his sermon real softly by saying, "It was Friday; it was Friday and my Jesus was dead on the tree. But that was Friday, and Sunday's comin'!" One of the deacons yelled, "Preach, brother, preach!" and it was all the encouragement he needed.

He came on louder as he said, "It was Friday and Mary was cryin' her eyes out. The disciples were runnin' in every direction, like sheep without a shepherd, but that was Friday, and Sunday's comin'!"

The preacher kept going. He picked up the volume still more and shouted, "It was Friday. The cynics were lookin' at the world and sayin' 'As things have been so shall they be. You can't change anything in this world; you can't change anything.' But those cynics don't know that it was only Friday. Sunday's comin'! It was Friday, and on Friday those forces that oppress the poor and make the poor to suffer were in control. But that was Friday! Sunday's comin'!"

The preacher continued, "It was Friday, and on Friday Pilate thought he had washed his hands of a lot of trouble. The Pharisees were struttin' around laughin' and pokin' each other in the ribs. They thought they were back in charge of things. But they didn't know it was only Friday! Sunday's comin'!"

Campolo explains, "He kept on working that one phrase ... over and over he came at us, 'It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!' By the time he had come to the end of the message ... he had me and everybody else so worked up that I don't think any of us could have stood it much longer." At the end of the sermon, Campolo states, the pastor yelled at the top of his lungs, "IT'S FRIDAY!" and all 500 of them in that sanctuary yelled back in one accord, "SUNDAY'S COMIN'!"

That is the great good news of our faith. Jesus died on Good Friday. But God was not finished. Calvary's cross would not have the last word. Friday wasn't the last day because on Sunday God raised Jesus to new life. Sunday is the day that God brings resurrection and because Christ is alive and at work in the world today, everyday can be Sunday.

Sometimes there are Fridays in our lives when you feel abandoned, forgotten and dejected. Just remember, "It's Friday but Sunday is coming." Sometimes you experience death, disease, and divorce. They knock on the door seeking to destroy. Just remember, "It's Friday, but Sunday is coming!"

Everyday life has not always been easy for us and there are no guarantees that it will be in the future. However as we open our hearts to God no matter the circumstances of our lives, we are affirming our belief that God can and will bring good out of the hardships and tragedies that come our way.

Robert Schuller, the pastor of the Crystal Cathedral, wrote a book several years ago entitled, *Life's Not Fair but God Is Good*. He tells about a tragic experience in his family's life. It happened to his daughter Carol who was a vibrant, vivacious teenager and involved in all kinds of sports. One day, Carol was riding on the back of a motorcycle with a friend. They were hit by a car and Carol was thrown more than 75 feet through the air. Her left leg was shattered and she almost died from the loss of blood as they were rushing her to the hospital.

They were able to save her life but she lost her left leg. They were all grateful that Carol was alive but they grieved over what had happened. Without her left leg, some of the things she dreamed of doing in high school seemed impossible. For awhile, Schuller explains, Carol was depressed. But then she learned how to use an artificial leg and eventually began doing the things she had been told she would never be able to do.

Carol became an inspiration to other kids. Whenever fellow students thought they had challenges that they couldn't overcome, they'd say, "Look at Carol. She lost a leg and is still doing this!" She was asked to tell her story and

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became a great witness to her faith. She also became a great advocate for people who are physically challenged. Eventually, Carol got married, became a mother and according to Dr. Schuller, has a wonderful life. Yet they all remember the night of that tragic accident and about how God brought new life to her and to many others who heard her testimony.

In the midst of challenges and hardships, God is present seeking to bring something good and redemptive as we open up and allow him in. How do we know this? We know it because it is one of our core beliefs as Christians. Just remember, "It's Friday, but Sunday is coming!"

David

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Durham Regional Hospital: Anna Lee (Ann) Cook

The next **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK** will be Sunday, July 18 from 9:30-10:00 a.m. in David or Willis' office.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, July 4, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 91 11:00 a.m. 131
Sunday School 114 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 75

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$11,419.55
	Garden Fund	20.00
	VBS Sponsorship	195.00
	Hunger Fund	271.87
	Renovation Fund	<u>30.00</u>
		\$11,936.42

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00	
Budget Needs as of 7/4/10	\$296,001.00	
Contributions Received as of 7/4/10	257,421.00	
Under Budget for Year		-\$38,580 00

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, July 11, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 93 11:00 a.m. 132
Sunday School 139 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 82

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$9,200.00
	Music Fund	100.00
	VBS Sponsorship	25.00
	Kitchen Fund	100.00
	Youth Retreat	235.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>215.00</u>
		\$9,875.00

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00	
Budget Needs as of 7/11/10	\$306,964.00	
Contributions Received as of 7/11/10	266,621.00	
Under Budget for Year		-\$40,343.00

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

*** July 18-24, 2010 ***

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	9:30	Blood Pressure Check
	11:00	Worship Service
	4:00-5:30	All Youth
	6:00	Evangelism Committee
	7:00	Renovation Committee
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	8:00	Emerald Pointe, Greensboro
WED.	9:00	Preschool
	6:00	Praise Team
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl

CONGREGATIONAL WELLNESS COMMITTEE

needs some help! Are you a current or retired health professional who can help take blood pressures? We also need one or two persons with strong administrative skills who can greet and record pressures. If you are willing to help serve once a month during Blood Pressure checks and as needed for other health related projects, please contact Amy Cable at (828)294-4811 or acable@charter.net.

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

July 18, 2010

THE SHARED WORD:

Rev. Robert Silber

"Can You Feel the Love?"

Philippians 2:1-11

VBS FOR ADULTS

Don't be left out of all the fun and excitement. Come join Dr. David Greene for a Bible study on the book of Philippians. Many believe that this is the warmest letter that the apostle Paul wrote and it is often referred to as the epistle of joy even though it was written from a prison cell. We will meet in the Joe Love Classroom at 6:30 pm each evening of VBS beginning Sunday, July 25th. Contact David if you have any questions.

RECENT VISITORS:

Kathy McAllister, James & Doris McLaughlin, Angie Walk, Jennifer Statum, Mary Jo Vance, Philip, Monica, Nathaniel, Andrew & Matthew Thompson, Noah Gamerl, Carsen Gamerl, Mandy & David Ukering, William Bump, Gina Lindsey, Kathy Tharpe, Leona Schell, Haley Symonds, Shelly & Logan Archer, Jon Wilson

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:	Requested By:
Lois Barringer	Friends
Mark Bruce	Christine Lowman
Faye Howse	Hazel Sims
Jerry McGee	Merv McGee
Corinna Driscoll	Friends
Dean & Jane Reavis	Vicki Yount
Faye Sigmon	Vicki Yount
Jenny Hamrick	Meredith Queen
Megan Coley	Friends

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY are extended to Bill Flake (former member) because of the death of his daughter, Jane Flake Smith, of Boone. She died as the result of injuries from an automobile accident in New Mexico, and her husband is in the hospital but should be OK. Messages can be sent to Bill at dfalejandro@earthlink.net or his address: 145 Eastridge Acres Ct., Boone, NC 28607.

REMEMBER WITH YOUR PRAYERS

The church office has been notified that one of our members, Anna Lee (Ann) Cook now of Butner, NC has a medical problem. She has cancer on her right leg and foot. Following a biopsy several weeks ago, she developed an infection and is on antibiotics. Soon she will begin daily radiation treatments for two weeks.

Messages can be sent to her at hcecil@nc.rr.com or her address: 602 18th St., Butner, NC 27509. Her cell phone number is (919)309-5196.

Her Newton church friends are very important to her.

COME AND GET IT!

We've made homemade **BRUNSWICK STEW** and will be selling these one quart jars for a donation of \$5.00 or more on a first come, first serve basis. Please see Ann or Ruth in the church office to purchase the stew.

Hope you enjoy it! All donations will go towards Current Expenses. Thanks, Gayle Lowder and Mary Yoder

HONORARIUMS

Pat Britt has given a donation to the **Current Expense Fund** in honor of Lynn Delancey.

Gayle & Kenneth have given a donation to the **UMW Scholarship Fund** in honor the wedding anniversaries of **Tommi and Charlie Anderson, Jerry and Martha Sowers, Larry and Frances Hollar and Tommy and Patricia Howard.**

FUMC PLAYGROUND

The time is here for the playground workday. Please make plans to come and help on Saturday, July 17th. This will be a short day. When we hear from the city about the drainage issue, we will schedule another work day to put out the mulch and the border. Thank you, The Playground Committee

NEWTON WORKSITE NEEDS COMPLETION- One Newton site was not completed by the Group Workcamp crew. **Our church has been asked if we would "adopt" that home and finish the job.** Work which needs to be finished includes some exterior painting, trim pieces, and some siding. If you would be willing to help with this project (which could most likely be completed in one day), please contact Susan Reinhardt, Missions/Outreach coordinator, at 381-9841, or email afsrgr@charter.net. Thank you for considering this!

THANK YOU to all of you who volunteered to help at Group Workcamp last week! Volunteers representing First Church were Jeff and Beth Foss, Scott and Teresa Coley, Susan Hunsucker, Debbie Bandy, Cindy Boger, Gayle Lowder, Danny and Lynn Delancey, Ann Hunsucker, Anita Bollinger, Peggy Correll, Tommi Anderson, Katie Fleming, JoAnn Hewins, Steve Cloninger, and the David Greene family. In total, over 10,000 hours of manpower were logged by teen participants and their youth advisors from Virginia and Massachusetts, helping Catawba County residents with home repairs, painting, etc. About 700 people were impacted in our county. Campers truly appreciated the "Southern Hospitality Group Workcamp," and some reported it was the most welcoming worksite they had ever visited. Susan Reinhardt, Missions/Outreach

MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Music Fund:

Doris Gordon

Barbie Laney

UMW Scholarship Fund:

Katheryn Goble & Doris Gordon

Gayle & Kenneth Keener

Memorial Garden Fund:

Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff

Gayle & Kenneth Keener

Men's Bible Class—Radio Fund:

Doris Gordon & Katheryn Goble

June & Marshall Sherrill

Renovation Fund:

Katheryn Goble

Bob & Betty Slater, Flo Williams,

Ron & Beverly Miller, Dorothy Miller

Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff

Dwight & Ruth Rockett

SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE

****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.**

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-July 18, 2010

"The Four Friends"

4 Years: **Science**

Grades K-1: **Movie**

Grade 2-3: **Computer**

Grades 4-5: **Storytelling**

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

EMERALD POINTE TUESDAY, JULY 20

We will meet at the church at 8:00 AM. You may bring your cooler with drinks and lunch. The cost is \$25.00. Please let Peggy know if you plan to go so that she can have a correct count. We are looking forward to a wonderful day at the Water Park.

FUMC YOUTH

I am so proud of all our youth. We are so blessed with such a wonderful group of young people. But at this time I want to talk about two young ladies in our youth group. They are **ASHLEY BANDY** and **ERIN KILLIAN**. These girls are serving on our Conference Council of Youth Ministry (CCYM). Ashley has served 3 years and this is Erin's first year. I have served on this council for many, many years. I am so excited for our Conference, for our church, for myself and most of all for these girls. Erin and I attended a retreat this past weekend. Ashley is at Governor's School. It was the best retreat I have ever attended for as many years as I have been on CCYM. The retreat was on God's Grace and who we are as God's children. This is going to be a great year for CCYM. Thank you girls for giving of your time to serve God. **Peggy**