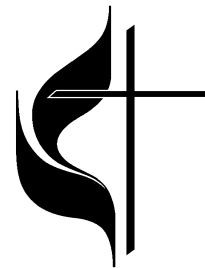


THE

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

Life has a way of throwing all kinds of curves at us. Every day struggles of all shapes and sizes creep into our lives leaving us anxious. And sometimes even just plain miserable. It is hard not to get discouraged. There are so many people going through extremely stressful and difficult times in their lives. On top of the economic turmoil that has impacted our community, there are persons dealing with serious illnesses or living in the shadow of grief following the death of a loved one.

I believe that one of the greatest threats to the faith of a Christian is not the opposition that comes from without but the discouragement that comes from within. The apostle Paul knew this. In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul encourages this congregation to holdfast in the face of adversity. The believers in Philippi were struggling to remain faithful because of a whole host of issues. They were on the verge of throwing in the towel and walking away from their faith.

So Paul writes and encourages them to have an attitude of joy and hope. Paul reminds them that the source of their confidence and hope in the midst of adversity is their relationship with Christ. And he writes about this out of his own experience since he composed the words to this letter while chained to a Roman guard in prison. Today many Christians call Philippians the "epistle of joy" because Paul used the words joy or rejoice some sixteen times in spite of the fact that he was in prison when he wrote it.

I'm still learning about what it means to not get discouraged and to live with an attitude of joy and hope. I'm a work in progress. But I've known some folks across the years who have understood what Paul was saying in his epistle. And I bet you know some as well. One person that stands out for me is my dad. Although he would never consider himself to be a great person, he had a great big faith, especially in the last year of his life. Not long after he died, we were going through some of his things and found a scrap piece of paper with these words scribbled on it: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

It is a passage from Philippians and evidently my dad had turned to these words over and over again as a source of

strength and encouragement in those final months of his life. As you might imagine, I've grown particularly fond of these words over the years. In fact, I have grown to love the entire "epistle of joy" because it has so much to offer us about living a life full of joy, peace, and contentment.

I share all of this because I hope that you'll join me for our upcoming study on the book of Philippians. We will meet each evening during Vacation Bible School in The Joe Love classroom from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The study begins this Sunday, July 25. I hope you'll come and join with us as we seek to discover where true joy and happiness and peace can be found!

See you Sunday, David

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Catawba Valley Medical Center: Bill Cable

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

The church membership of Debbie Garland has been transferred to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Canton, NC.

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

July 25, 2010

THE SHARED WORD: Rev. Dr. David Greene

"Immeasurable Love"

Ephesians 3:16-19

REMINDER

Our church has installed a new security system. If you come to the church during regular office hours and find the door locked, **please ring the bell and 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.

CAMP CAROLWOOD

Our church sponsored Day Camp at Camp Carolwood for the Statesville District July 12-16. We had 30 campers, with 6 from our church. We helped transport 6 campers from other churches. FUMC campers were Claire Boger, Holly Cable, Hope Cable, Gavin Sias, Meagan Sias, and Hayleigh White.

Special thanks to our many volunteers who helped make the week go smoothly! Suzy Cadwallader, Lisa Wade, Debbie Bandy, and Amy Bandy led our Arts and Crafts; Jamey Sias, Caroline Sitzer, Cindy Boger and Dale Boger were our Parent Volunteers; Harris Jones drove the van and helped with camper activities; Katie Fleming led home base serving in many different capacities. We were blessed with two awesome counselors--Erin Killian and Ryan Rights. Martha Sowers even baked homemade bread for our campers. Rev. Willis Greene helped close our week with Communion which had special meaning to our theme: *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?* Thanks to the parents who sent snacks and took the effort to get their campers there daily! We had an awesome week! It was wonderful to work with each camper and adult. Thank you for support of this camp ministry!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, July 18, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 62 11:00 a.m. 129
 Sunday School 134 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 77

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$7,890.38
	Altar Flowers	70.00
	VBS Sponsorship	50.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>535.00</u>
		\$8,545.38

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00
Budget Needs as of 7/18/10	\$317,927.00
Contributions Received as of 7/18/10	274,511.00
Under Budget for Year	-\$43,416.00

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

* July 25-31, 2010 *

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	5:30	Vacation Bible School
MON.	5:30	Vacation Bible School
	7:00	Pastor/Parish Relations Committee
TUES.	5:30	Vacation Bible School
WED.	5:30	Vacation Bible School
THURS.	1:00	Prayer Shawl
	5:30	Vacation Bible School

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.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

UMW Scholarship Fund:

Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff

Joe & Nancy Killian

Current Expense Fund:

Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff

Vera D. Arndt

Renovation Fund:

Kathryn (Kay) Jettinghoff

Jean Childs

RECENT VISITORS:

Graham Simmons, Mark & Erika Stephens,
 William & Gina Bump

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

Note: Please return empty jars to the church office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Anna Lee (Ann) Cook, formerly of Newton and Butner, NC is now residing with her daughter, Lynn Reid and husband, Eugene in Charlotte. Her mailing address is:

4021 Robinhood Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28212

Phone: 704 537-6154 or (cell) 919 309-5196

She would be glad to see any of the First Church people who may sometime be in the Charlotte area. The prayers, calls, cards and contacts of the First Methodist people have been very important to Mrs. Cook and a significant contribution to her progress.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:	Requested By:
Dick Wyatt	Harriett Wyatt
Mark Bruce	Christine Lowman
Ann Cook	Family
Heather Clontz	Friends
Chris & Ashley Riddle	Karen & Steve Arndt
Megan Coley	Friends
Corinna Driscoll	Friends
The Bill Flake Family	Friends

Out-of-Country Military—

Jacob Campbell, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz

In-Country 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



BAPTISM: On Sunday, July 4, Logan Adelle McLaughlin received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. He is the son of Leigh Ann (Newsome) and Ryan Hugh McLaughlin and was born September 2, 2009. Big sister is Addison and his grandparents are Betty and Jim Newsome and Bud and Doris McLaughlin.

THE LAKE JUNALUSKA SINGERS, directed by Melodie G. Galloway will be in concert at First United Methodist Church, Hickory (311 Third Avenue NE) on Friday, July 30 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Their performance will feature sacred music, gospel favorites, patriotic selections and music from Broadway.

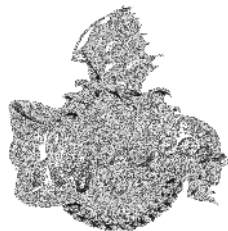
NEWTON WORKSITE NEEDS COMPLETION- One Newton site was not completed by the Group Workcamp crew. **Our church has been asked if we would "adopt" that home and finish the job.** Work which needs to be finished includes some exterior painting, trim pieces, and some siding. If you would be willing to help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

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY—GROUP WORKCAMPS

Did you hear about it? It was in all the papers, it was on the radio, it was on TV. The “*Southern Hospitality*” Workcamp was a great success; we could not have pulled it off without your help, support, and cooperation. We sincerely THANK YOU for your contribution to the week; we could not have done it without each and every one of you.

The final results: 60 different resident homes / project worked on and completed
 413 Workcamp volunteers; supported by over 100 local volunteers
 10,800 Workcamp hours worked; and untold hours by local volunteers
 7 handicap ramps constructed, 4 decks rebuilt, and other numerous repairs
 59 houses painted inside and / or outside

All who made this happen really showed what “*Southern Hospitality*” is all about. Thanks again, The Steering Committee



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — JULY 25-29

Come and sail the high seas as this year’s VBS begins their expedition on Sunday, July 25! Classes will be held for babies through adults. Join the fun as VBS explores the mighty love of God!

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.

SUMMER YOUTH SCHEDULE

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 3:00 PM

BACK TO SCHOOL BLAST!

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

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-July 25, 2010

"The Four Friends"

4 Years: **Movie**

Grades K-1: **Art**

Grade 2-3: **Drama**

Grades 4-5: **Cookery**

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

FUMC PLAYGROUND

I would like to thank Bob and Jean Carter, Jeff Kelley and Kenny Campbell for their hard work on the playground and basketball court. We were very small in numbers but big in heart. More work will be going on this week to hopefully be ready for VBS. I would like to thank in advance Bob Carter, Donald Scronce, Logan Martin, Kristi Harvell & Tom Lowder for their work this coming week. I also would like to thank Mack Hunsucker and Bob Carter for their work on the wooden playground driving car and Jeff Kelley for his continual "round-up weeding". I am proud of their hard work and continued service to this church and our children.

Bless you all

Lisa Martin, Chairperson of Playground Committee