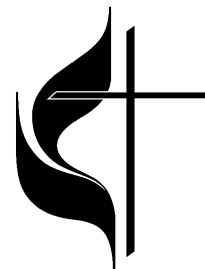


THE

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

CONNECTED TO HAITI

It has been over twenty years since I was in Haiti and yet the images from this past week, rekindle in me a deep passion and a sadness for this impoverished country. Over the past two decades, little has changed in Haiti, it still remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. For a country already facing such hardships, it is difficult to grasp that they were hit by a natural disaster of such magnitude.

Many of you have asked how we can be in ministry to the people of Haiti. Here are two ways to help:

MAKE A DONATION to UMCOR, The United Methodist Committee on Relief, the global humanitarian aid organization of the UMC. Checks can be made out to “*First United Methodist Church*” and write in the memo line – *Haiti Quake Relief*. You can also contribute directly to UMCOR online at umcor.org.

MAKE A HEALTH KIT that will be distributed in Haiti. Health kits provide basic necessities for those trying to rebuild their lives. Currently our conference has 3,000 kits in the pipeline to Haiti.

HEALTH KIT

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon bag.

- 1 hand towel (15’x25” up to 17”x27”, no kitchen towels)
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 comb (large & sturdy, not pocket size)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

\$1 in an envelope for toothpaste (this is bought in bulk & added to kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire)

All items in the kit must be new items. Since strict rules govern product entry into international countries, please only put the requested items in the kit – nothing more. Do NOT include any personal note, money, or other items. These things must be painstakingly removed and delay shipment. This information can also be found at umcor.org.

PLEASE RETURN HEALTH KITS BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

For more information and for updates on the church’s relief effort, please visit the Conference website at wnccumc.org.

During that mission trip so many years ago, our team worked with the United Methodist Church in Haiti to construct a medical mission outpost. We had the unique opportunity to worship with a Methodist congregation in a thatched roof hut with bare wooden benches for pews. A young Haitian girl sat on my lap. I opened my English Bible, she gazed at the words and then quickly found one she recognized – she pointed to the word – JESUS. I knew in that moment that while we might not be able to speak the same language and while we came from two totally different worlds – we were connected by the same Savior, Jesus Christ.

First United Methodist Church in Newton is connected to the people of Haiti, we are connected through the one who calls all of us his brothers and sisters, we are connected by the one called – JESUS. – Willis-

ATTENTION!!! The Greene family will be going out of town January 20-26. The Revs. Fred Thompson and Josh Sherfey will be covering for David and Willis. If you have an emergency and need a pastor, please contact the church office during normal business hours. If you need to contact one of these pastors after normal business hours, you may reach Rev. Thompson at 464.2824 and Rev. Sherfey at 704.881.2488.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY are extended to Michael Hollar and family following the death of his step-father, Michael Griggs, of Hampstead on Tuesday, January 12th.

We also extend sympathy and prayers to the Rev. Beth Lily and family following the death of her father, Dr. James Cobb, on Wednesday, January 13th.

STATESVILLE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010

2:00-5:00PM

BROAD STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Calling all church leaders! Begin the new year with the tools and inspiration to lead your area of ministry! Make plans to attend the District Leadership Conference this Sunday at 2:00pm. Each year the District offers this unique banquet of workshops to empower your ministry in the church. Choose a workshop especially suited to your area of ministry. The workshops are designed to provide information which will increase your knowledge and strengthen your skills. Join us at Broad Street UMC in Statesville, no registration is required. Come and receive the inspiration to continue our ministry as we live out Christ's call upon our lives. Choose from the following workshops ...

Reaching People under 40 while Keeping People over 60

Developing a Prayerful Church

First Impressions Matter: Working on Your Church's Welcome

Year Round Stewardship

Reaching Beyond Ourselves: How YOU can be Involved in Missions

Taking Up the Cross: The Challenge of Church Leadership

FaithWatch: What you can do to make your Church Facilities more Secure

Camp Carolwood Presentation

Welcome to the United Methodist Church! Learning about the Denomination

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, January 17, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m.: 92 11:00 a.m.: 162

Sunday School: 167 9:00 a.m. Praise Service: 91

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$7,855.35
	Prayer Breakfast Fund	14.60
	Haiti Relief Fund	1,365.00
	Children's Department	11.00
	Helping Hands Fund	10.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>905.00</u>
		\$10,160.95

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00	
Budget Needs as of 1/17/10		\$32,889.00
Contributions Received as of 1/17/10		27,678.00
Under Budget for Year		-\$ 5,211.00

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

January 24, 2010

THE SHARED WORD: **Rev Fred Thompson**
"The Lord's Prayer"

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Frye Regional Medical Center: Doug Benfield, Room 419

NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank the congregation for all the Christmas cards that I received from many members. The large bag along with the individual cards certainly perked up my spirits. I have been very touched by the good wishes and have shown the cards to everyone who has visited over the Christmas holidays. Thank you, Pauline Lee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a family outing at Sims Barbecue on Saturday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. More information will be given later.

CARE MINISTRY

Valentine Cards

The Care Ministry of First United Methodist Church is a program which reaches out to the church's nursing home and homebound members. The ministry is composed of a dedicated group of lay persons who visit, call and send cards to these special members.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the entire congregation is invited to join the Care Ministry Team by sharing Valentine cards with our homebound members. Simply pick up a list of names from the table located in the entryway of the Education Building. Make your Valentines and then return them by Sunday, **February 7**, to the labeled bags located on the same table. Thank you for your remembering these special members of the church. For more information, please contact Rev. Lara "Willis" Greene at willis.fumcnewton@gmail.com.

CARE MINISTRY PHOTOS

for Valentine Cards

All Care Ministers are invited to have their photo taken to place in the Valentine Cards that will be given to our homebound members. Wayne Swofford has graciously offered to take pictures in the Sanctuary from 9:30 to 10:00am on Sunday, January 24 and 31st. Please stop by on your way to Sunday School for a quick photo – it will mean the world to those who receive your notes and cards!



NEW MEMBERS: On Sunday, January 17 we welcomed Danny and Lynne Delancey into membership at FUMC Newton. They joined by Letter of Transfer from Bethel United Methodist Church in Statesville.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

*** January 24-30, 2010 ***

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	2:00-5:00	District Leadership Conf.-Statesville
TUES.	6:30	Griefshare
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	10:00-2:00	Gomedela Room Reserved
	3:10	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Adult Handbells
THURS.	7:30	Chancel Choir
	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
	7:00	Trustees Meeting
FRI.	9:00	Preschool

UNITED SINGLE ADULTS (USA)

"Endings and Beginnings" - Are you enjoying a Christmas gift and yet expecting that "bill" from the credit card used to purchase it?

Come enjoy fellowship and life with others. All ages are welcome! See you here at 7pm on Friday January 22. We will be planning activities and programs for the year, so bring your ideas and desires. Please bring a snack, bag of chips, or other and a drink. Yes we'll have coffee too. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church in Newton.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for the many cards, calls and great food during my recent recovery from surgery in December. Your many prayers are greatly appreciated! Our family is very blessed to have such a loving and caring church family! Love, Gayle Lowder

MEMORIAL RECEIVED RECENTLY

Renovation Fund:

Ovaline Drum

Faith Builders Class

Dr. Allen H. Bandy, Sr.

Pat Britt, Ken & Paulette Moss, Nancy K. Ryan, Rachel Carter, Reid & Judy Ikerd, Mandy Simpson Epsilon XI Chapter of Beta Sigma PHI, Joe & Jane Long, Steve & Katie Cloninger

Cecil Kiser

Nancy Kiser Ryan

Helping Hands Fund:

Cecil Kiser

Pat Britt

RECENT VISITORS

Kim Britt, Celia Drum, Sandra Sigmon, Micky Smith, Donna Yoder, Phillip, Heather and Carson Molaro, Somer Willis, Maisy C. Mosteller, Trent Bollins and family, Bette and Ed Walk

YOUTH MEALS

PLEASE CALL AND SIGN UP TODAY!

Sunday, Feb. 14: Taco Salad Amy White

Sunday, Feb. 28: Hot Dogs Donna Mull

Sunday, March 7: Lasagna _____

I would like to thank everyone who has been furnishing meals for our youth. You may choose the meal you would like to fix or use my suggestion. Whatever you would like to furnish is appreciated. Our group has grown in numbers, so I really encourage everyone to pair up in order to keep your cost down. Thanks so much for your support.

Peggy

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:

Dean & Jane Reavis
Chris & Ashley Riddle
Pat & Jeanette Cloninger
Ryan Fitzgerald
Gail Walton
Taylor Dunlop
Heather Clontz
John Branton
Jerry McGee
Craig Cramer

Requested By:

Vicki Yount
Karen & Steve Arndt
Friends
Peggy Correll
Frances Whitener
Dawn Martin
Michelle White
Teena & Children
Merv & Betty McGee
Frances Whitener

Out-of-Country Military—Scott Beal, Jacob Campbell, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz, Rodney Woody and National Guard 626 Maintenance Co.

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

YOUTH SCHEDULE

FRI.-Jan. 22-TUES. Jan. 26, Tennessee Trip
SUN., Jan. 24 No Youth
SUN., Jan. 31, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.- Bowling at Pin Station
SUN., Feb. 7 NO YOUTH—SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
SUN., Feb. 14 Middle School Youth—4:00-5:30 PM
 Senior High Youth—5:00-6:30 PM
SUN., Feb. 21 1:00-2:30 PM Bowling at Pin Station
SUN., Feb. 28 & SUN., March 7: Regular Youth
March 12-14: Camp Hanes (No Youth that Sunday)

CAROLINA CROSS CONNECTION

I have received very few calls about CCC. No one can be added after I send in the registration form and I will be mailing it in very soon. The week will be June 13. The age for youth to attend is rising 9th grade through 12th grade. Please call me this week if your youth wants to go. Peggy

YOUTH TRIP TO SEVIERVILLE, TENN.

We have 29 youth and 6 adults going to Tennessee this Friday. We are leaving the church around 3:30 PM. We have great plans for a wonderful time together. I would like to ask you as our church family to be a part of this trip by praying for us while we are gone. This is a wonderful group of youth and we are so blessed. Thanks for your support.

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-January 24, 2010*"Occupations In Bible Times"*

4 Years: **Storytelling** Grades K-1: **Science**
 Grade 2-3: **Movie** Grades 4-5: **Computer**

Teachers: January 10-February 28, 2010

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzler Art: Susan Reinhardt
 Drama/Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder
 Cookery: Cindy Boger/Terra Butler
 Music: Nikki Cavin/Debbie Bandy
 Movie: Rhonda Pawlik Computer: Gina & Scott King
 Science: Michelle White/Amy White

TEACHERS FOR ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our teachers for Rotation Sunday School teach 4 Sundays out of 8 Sundays. This means they teach a month and are off a month. The schedule allows our teachers to also attend an Adult Sunday School Class. We are in need of a few more teachers to substitute or be a regular teacher. Our classes are: COOKING, MOVIE, MUSIC, ART, SCIENCE, STORYTELLING, COMPUTER AND DRAMA/GAMES. Many of you have talents in these areas. Please contact Peggy if you would like to help with the children. You will be the one that is blessed.