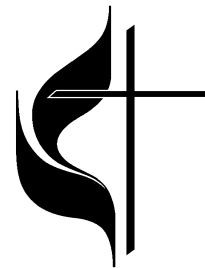


# THE

# 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](http://www.fumcnewtonnc.org)

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Sunday was approaching, and the pastor knew that the attendance would be low. It happened every year. When people knew the topic was going to be "Stewardship," about half of them would stay home – and the other half would nod off.

So, that particular year the minister decided to do something about it. The week before Stewardship Sunday the newsletter came out, and to everyone's surprise the pastor's sermon was entitled, "Straight Talk About Sex."

Well, come Sunday morning, the place was packed. It looked like Christmas or Easter. Everyone was there because he finally picked a topic that got their attention. Well, the minister stood, read his scripture lesson, and a hush fell over the congregation. Then he looked at them and said: "God created sex as a scared way to populate the world. Now that we've finished that, let's talk about stewardship."

We really shouldn't have to sneak that topic into a sermon or fear that if the theme is "stewardship" that people will be completely disinterested. After all, it is a privilege to say "Thank You" to God. That's what stewardship is about. It's our recognition that God gives us everything – everything we hold dear and cherish. And our giving to the church is an acknowledgement that we are grateful to God for what we have received.

Have you ever just stopped and considered all of the wonderful things that this congregation is doing with the financial gifts it receives? We help feed the hungry and provide shelter for the homeless. Young children are discovering the stories of Jesus. Youth are being challenged to make a difference in this community for Jesus' sake. Folks who are broken-hearted and stricken by grief are finding comfort and support here. Care is being extended to the sick and homebound. Small groups of people are huddling around the Bible to discern its meaning for their lives.

I could go on and on about what is happening in this church. God has blessed this congregation with such an awesome support staff and a great facility that enables us to do all sorts of things with all sorts of people. And I can't begin to tell you how blessed Willis and I feel to be at a church that has such a large group of loving and serving members. Isn't it awesome to witness what God is doing in our midst?

I hope that you'll remember this as you complete the 2010 Estimate of Giving Card you received in the mail a few days ago. We will be placing our cards on the altar during the closing hymn. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Jesus Christ.

See you Sunday, **David**

## AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

November 8, 2009

**THE SHARED WORD: Rev Dr. David Greene**

**Front Porch Stories: Parables Jesus Told**

**"What Have you Done with**

**What You've been Given?"**

Matthew 25:14-30

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY** are extended to the family of Phyllis Brooks who died on Thursday, October 29. A memorial service was held on Sunday.

## HOSPITAL REPORT:

Carolina's Medical Center, Charlotte: Earl Johnson

## RECENT VISITORS

Claremont: Ashley, Mary Beth & Abigail Bumgarner

Hickory, Pamela Schmitz

## NOTE OF THANKS

My THANKS and appreciation for all the gifts of love and prayers sent during my hospitalization and recovery. And especially thanks to all the children.

Merle Smith

## Part-Time Custodian

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee is accepting applications for a part-time custodial position at our church. You must be a church member to apply. Applications and a job description are available in the church office. The application deadline is November 15.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER-**  
**SATURDAY, DEC. 12<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 PM**

Our youth are working hard this year to bring another comedy with the true meaning of Christmas. The city cousins and the country cousins are together again. The drama is "Christmas at the Cricket County Café". Mark your calendars now. You will not want to miss this. Invite your friends and family to be a part of this special evening in our church family. A reservation form will be included in next week's newsletter.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WITH OUR CHILDREN**

You are invited to come on **Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5:00 PM** in the Sanctuary to see our children in action. They are practicing and working hard to bring to our church the message of Christmas. After the program we will go downstairs for snacks and a visit from Santa. Our children and leaders give up their time to share the true meaning of Christmas, please come out and give them your support and love.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** shoe boxes are due back to the church on **Wednesday, November 18.** Information needed to prepare a shoe box and the labels are included in the brochures, that are located in the narthex, the hall table and the church office.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUND RAISER**  
**November 8, beginning at 11:00 a.m.**

Come join us for lunch on Sunday, November 8, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We will be serving Brunswick stew, baked potato bar, and hot dogs for the kids.

All proceeds will go to our Christmas Decoration Fund. See you there!

If you'd like to volunteer to help, please call Mary Yoder (464-5117).

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT, November 1, 2009**

Attendance: 8:45 a.m.: 108;      11:00 a.m.: 144  
 Sunday School: 162;      9:00 a.m. Praise Service: 102

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$16,993.25
	Prayer Breakfast	76.00
	Youth Specialties	545.00
	Sound System	500.00
	Poinsettias	90.00
	Garden Fund	5.00
	Christmas Decorations	1,251.00
	Hunger Fund	325.63
	Helping Hands Fund	20.00
	Renovation Fund	30.00
		<u>\$19,835.88</u>

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK**

\* **November 8-14, 2009** \*

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service/Children's Church
	-1:00	Soup & Potato Bar Lunch
	2:00	Women's Bible Study
	4:00	Children's Play Practice
4:00-6:00	Middle School Youth	
4:30-6:30	Senior High Youth	
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	6:00	NC Women's Club
	7:00	Youth Praise Band
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	9:00	Pacemakers trip to Mooresville
	10:00-2:00	Conference Meeting (Gomedela Room)
	6:30	GriefShare
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:00	Fellowship Dinner
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Adult Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
FRI.	9:00	Preschool
	11:00	Preschool Thanksgiving Meal
SAT.	9:30-12:30	Deaf Ministry (Gomedela Room)

**A BIG THANK YOU FROM PEGGY**

Thank you for all the birthday cards, wishes, gifts, hugs, etc. You are a wonderful church family and great friends. Blessings!

**LADIES LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 12:00 p.m.**

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER**  
**Wednesday, November 11, 6:00 p.m.**

Hosts: Faith & Fellowship Class  
 Menu: Turkey & Dressing, Candied Yams,  
 Green Beans, Rolls, Pumpkin Pie

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### CARE MINISTRY: THANKSGIVING BAGS

The Care Ministry will be putting together Thanksgiving bags for the church's homebound and nursing home members. Donations of small gifts such as trial size shampoos, conditioners, soaps, lotions, pens, notepads and Kleenex would be greatly appreciated! Gifts are needed for 40 bags. Please drop your items in the collection boxes located at the entrances to the Education Building, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Gifts are needed by **Sunday, November 15.**

You're also invited to assist the Care Ministers in putting the bags together on Sunday, November 15 at 2:00pm in the Gomedela Room. For more information, please contact Susan Hunsucker at 464-3462 or Willis Greene at the office.

### PRAYER CONCERNS

<b>Pray For:</b>	<b>Requested By:</b>
Joe and Kathryn Goble	Dotti Goble
Ken Travis	Carolyn Perdue
Catherine Kidd	Coye Kidd
Judy Erickson	Deb Chapman
Dean and Jane Reavis	Vicki Yount
Chuck Oliver	Clark Fletcher
Corbin Drum	Kyle and Angela Drum
Chuck and Morning Star Campbell	Celena Carter
David and Heather Coffman	Celena Carter
Randy Underwood	Pat Britt
Family of Phyllis Brooks	

**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

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

We will begin decorating our sanctuary for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 28th beginning at 9:30 a.m. Plan to help as we place the new Chrismon tree and decorations in our church for the first time.

### MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

#### **Men's Bible Class—Radio Fund:**

##### **Ernest Barkley**

Marshall & June Sherrill

#### **Youth Specialties Fund:**

##### **Phyllis Brooks**

Sherrill & Mary Anne Cranford

#### **Garden Fund (church)**

##### **Phyllis Brooks**

Hazel Sims

### YOU'RE INVITED TO THANKSGIVING DINNER

**THANKSGIVING DAY  
NOVEMBER 26, 2009  
11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH  
(HOLY FAMILY HALL)  
720 WEST 13TH STREET  
NEWTON, NC**

Open to individuals or families (up to 8 people) wanting to enjoy the fellowship of a community Thanksgiving dinner.

Dinner is free of charge.

For dinner reservations, if you need a meal delivered, or transportation to the church call 465-2878.

Limited delivery area

(Deadline for reservations is November 24, 2009)

### CORNER TABLE FUNDRAISER

**Sunday, November 22, 3:00 p.m.**

It's time again to make CANDY for the annual CORNER TABLE FUNDRAISER. If you'd like to help, please meet in the kitchen at 3:00 p.m., November 22. We'll be dipping pretzels!

Thanks, Gayle Lowder

(cell) 261-5627; (work) 464-0604

### ANGEL TREE/PRESCHOOL NEEDS

The UMW is sponsoring an Angel Tree for the needy elderly people of our community. The tree will be decorated with angels containing a list of items needed for that person.

Also the UMW is asking that you consider giving a donation to our Preschool this Christmas season. Donations for scholarships, table and chairs, rug and other item are on their list of needs.

### POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being received for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. Orders may be brought or mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate. Please include your payment of \$9.00 per plant. Deadline for ordering is Wednesday, November 25th.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

or

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please use a separate form for each plant ordered.)**

First United Methodist Church  
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VOLUME XXVII

November 4, 2009

No. 41

**YOUTH SCHEDULE**

**LISTED BELOW ARE TIME SCHEDULES FOR  
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.**

4:00-4:30 PM-MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH  
4:30-5:00 PM-MEAL TIME FOR ALL  
5:00-6:00 PM-CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE  
6:00-6:30 PM-SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

**SUNDAY, NOV. 8-SCHEDULE ABOVE**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 15-SCHEDULE ABOVE**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 22-ALL YOUTH 4:00-5:15 PM**

**(no meal) Play Practice**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 29-ALL YOUTH 4:00-5:15 PM**

**(no meal) Play Practice**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 6—ALL YOUTH 12:30-2:00 PM**

**Play Practice (Time change due to Children Program.) This will be the Youth's last play practice. BE HERE!**

**ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-November 8, 2009**

*"Daniel In The Lions Den"*

4 Years: **Movie**

Grades K-1: **Art**

Grade 2-3: **Drama**

Grades 4-5: **Cookery**

**Teachers: October 11-November 29, 2009**

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzer

Drama/Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder

Cookery: Lori Sigmon/Cindy Boger

Music: Kristy Smith Art: Susan Reinhardt

Science: Gina & Scott King Movie: Rhonda Pawlik

Computer: Michelle White/Amy White

**MEALS FOR THE YOUTH**

Please call Peggy at the church office to sign up for a meal. We need your help. Our youth get hungry. We have approximately 35 each Sunday. Thank you for your support.

Sun., Nov. 8-Lasagnas: Lori Sigmon

Sun., Nov. 15-Spaghetti: Michelle White/Terra Butler

**NO Children's Play Practice Sunday, December 6.**

**The children will be performing their program on this day at 5:00 PM.**

**ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH** We need **ALL** our children and youth to be at play practice. Parents please encourage and work with your youth or child to learn their parts. Please make play practice for the church's Christmas Program a commitment in your family.