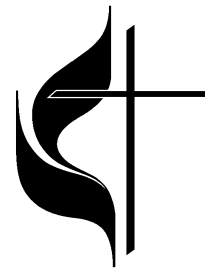


THE

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

What do you want for Christmas? I imagine that this question is asked more often than any other question during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I grew up hearing one child answer this question by singing, "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth." The child who sang that song knew exactly what he wanted for Christmas.

So, what do you want for Christmas? Typically, we answer that question in a materialistic way. We ask for an electronic gadget or an item of clothing or for a trip somewhere. And we take great pleasure in exchanging gifts with family and friends, especially when we see someone open the gift that they have so longed for.

But as we all know, that question speaks to something on a deeper level. What do we *really* want for Christmas? The season of Advent provides the opportunity for us to prepare for the coming of Christ by clarifying our response to that question. This season of anticipation and waiting provides us with the opportunity to sort through our longings and desires so that we can distinguish between those things that we want and those things that we really need.

Advent is a time for us to ask, *What is most important for my life? What gifts do I most deeply long for God to give to us and to our world this Christmas?* And it's a time to prepare to receive the gifts that we really need, the gifts that God most deeply longs to give to us.

During Advent, Willis and I will be preaching on some of the gifts that God longs to give us. We will be reflecting on the life-changing gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. These are some of the best gifts we could ever receive – the type of gifts money can't buy. I hope that you will receive what you really need this Christmas – the kind of thing that only God can provide.

See you Sunday, **David**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ALL ADULTS INTEREST IN HELPING CHILDREN

I am looking for you to give an hour of your time one day a week to go to lunch with a child at South Newton Elementary School. Even if you work close by, I am sure you can work your lunch around the times listed below. You do not have to eat with them. The most important thing is the time you spend with them. I did this several years ago, and I really enjoyed it. I didn't eat with my little girl, but we sure did do a lot of talking. The Lunch Buddy Plan at South Newton was dropped because of lack of interest. I want us as a church to be the ones that say "All Children Are Important." Please contact me at the church or 336-940-7246. We want to begin when school starts back in January. I want to be a Lunch Buddy and I hope you do too. **Peggy**

The first group goes to lunch at 11:00 a.m. and the last goes about 12:00 noon and finishes up around 12:30 p.m.. Each class has about 30 minutes to get in, eat and get out.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family of Cecil Kiser who died Friday, November 27th. The funeral service will be held at First United Methodist Church, Newton on Thursday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Yes! Christmas is coming! December 13th is the Sunday for Choir, Hand Bells, Hand Chimes, and Children's Choir to make music to God's Glory and ring in the Christmas season. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the **11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, December 13th**. We are working on several pieces of beautiful music, and two pieces will be sung as a combined choir; children and adults. Come and let us pronounce *Joy to the World!*

Please let me know if your child will not be able to attend this Christmas celebration. Some parts may need to be reassigned. **THANK YOU!**

Kristy Smith 465-6160 (home) or 234-5640 (cell)

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

December 6, 2009

THE SHARED WORD:

"The Gift of Peace"

**CARE MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING—This Sunday, December 6

The Care Ministry Team invites all adults to join them as they carry Christmas joy to the residents of Abernethy Health Care Center. Please meet at the church at 2:00pm. Due to flu season, Abernethy requests that only adults come for holiday visits. Children and youth will carol to neighborhoods of our homebound members on the following Sundays: December 13 – Children to Newton Homes
December 20 – Youth to Conover & Hickory

CHRISTMAS CARDS are still being collected for our homebound members! Please place your cards in the marked bags outside the church office. Many of these cards will be delivered **this Sunday** during caroling at Abernethy. Thank you so much for showering the church's nursing home and homebound members with Christmas cards!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, November 29, 2009

Attendance: 8:45 a.m.: 82 11:00 a.m.: 153
Sunday School: 162 9:00 a.m. Praise Service: 85

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$8,626.85
	Altar Flowers	140.00
	Poinsettias	36.00
	Youth Christmas Gift	200.00
	Children's Department	10.00
	Youth Retreat	160.00
	Love Labor Corps	500.00
	Helping Hands Fund	5.00
	Renovation Fund	225.00
		<hr/>
		\$9,902.85

ANGEL TREE

The UMW is sponsoring an Angel Tree for the needy elderly people of our community. The tree is decorated with angels, each with a list of items needed for that person. The tree is located in the hall outside the Gomedela Room. Stop by and choose an angel from the tree, purchase and return the gift **un-wrapped** to the church by Wednesday, December 18th.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

*** December 6-12, 2009 ***

SUN.	7:30	United Methodist Men
	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service/Children's Church
	12:30-2:00	All Youth
	2:00	Christmas Caroling
	2:00	Women's Bible Study
	5:00	Children's Christmas Play
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	6:30	UMW General Meeting
	7:00	Youth Praise Band
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Youth Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	3:10	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Fellowship Dinner
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Adult Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
	7:30	Sanctuary Reserved
FRI.	9:00	Preschool
	5:30	Wedding Rehearsal
SAT.	1:00	Nichols/Burgin Wedding
	6:00	Youth Dinner Theater

LIGHTS OF LOVE

Our Youth will once again sponsor a Lights of Love Tree. This tree with white lights will be in place on the front lawn of the church and will come on each night during the Advent Season. The cost to place a light in memory or in honor of someone is \$2.00. We will publish a booklet on Sunday, December 13th with all the names listed. **DEADLINE FOR THE LIGHTS WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.**

LIGHTS OF LOVE

\$2.00

In Memory of _____

or

In Honor of _____

By _____

(Please use a separate form for each name.)

NEWTON CONOVER FOOTBALL GAME
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4!!!

We are still winning!!!! The game Friday night is at home. If we win this game we will be in the Championship Game at Chapel Hill on Saturday, Dec. 12th at 11:00 AM. As you know, this is the date for our Dinner Theater, so we will change the Dinner Theater to Sunday, Dec. 13th, **if** we are in the Championship Game.

RECENT VISITORS

Julie Cook, Sandra Sigmon, Dexter & Karey Warren, Debbie Bernocky, Millicent Crawford, Crissy Hamilton, Justine Elliott, Erma Yaussy, Dave Cardamone

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:	Requested By:
Jerry McGee	Mervin McGee
Phoenix DeVos	Laura DeVos
Alan Martin	Mary McCombs

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

UNITED METHODIST MEN will meet Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 for their regular monthly meeting.

HONORARIUM

Paul and Becky Campbell have given a donation to the **Love Labor Corps** in honor of **Bob Saunders**.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2010

A calendar is being prepared for those wishing to furnish altar flowers in 2010. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office to reserve the Sunday of your choice.

I will furnish altar flowers in 2010 as follows:

Date: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____

By _____

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
WITH OUR CHILDREN

You are invited to come on Sunday, December 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. **You may bring an unwrapped Christmas gift for a child to put under our Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. The gifts will be delivered to ECCCM.** 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.

NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you all so much for helping our preschool student that has both parents out of work. The child has been with us for three years and is a very dear sweet boy. Your hearts are beautiful. Thank you, Julia Macemore

MEMORIAL RECEIVED RECENTLY

Renovation Fund:

Boyce & Mamie Harwell

Bobby & Pamela Harwell



THE NEW ADVENT STAND placed in the sanctuary is given in honor of David, Willis, Elizabeth and Carter Greene by the congregation.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER RESERVATIONS

Wednesday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.

Host: Mark Sitzer

Menu: Chili Bar, Baked Potato Bar, Cornbread, Desserts

Number _____

Name _____

YOUTH SCHEDULE

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! We will serve lunch!!!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER
Saturday, Dec. 12 or Sunday, Dec. 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Parents, you do need to sign up your youth and pay for their meal. We need a correct count to order the steaks.

KIDS FOR CHRIST
WEDNESDAY AT 3:10 pm

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-December 6, 2009

"Christmas Messengers"

4 Years: **Music** Grades K-1: **Art**
 Grade 2-3: **Games** Grades 4-5: **Cookery**

Teachers: December 6, 2009-January 3, 2010

Storytelling: Caroline Sitzer
 Games: Lisa Johnson/Gayle Lowder
 Cookery: Cindy Boger Art: Susan Reinhardt
 Music: Nikki Cavin/Debbie Bandy

ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN!!

We need **ALL** our children in the play at the church by 3:30 PM on Sunday, Dec. 6th. Parents it is important that **ALL** the children are here.

ATTENTION FIRST UMC FAMILY!!!!

For Christmas this year, our youth would like to help some young people in our community whose families are in great need. We will collect money through Sunday, December 13. We are asking our youth to bring their change or dollars each week to place in a jar. After we have collected the money, we will divide it to help as many youth as possible. We would like for you as a church family, Sunday School Class, Choir, UMW, UMM to consider contributing to this project. Help bring joy to some youth in our community this Christmas. Contact Peggy for more details.