

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

As you walk along the rural roads of India, every now and then you will come to a post about shoulder high with a strong shelf on top of it. These posts are called, "Soma Tonga," which means, "resting place." People who walk the roads carrying loads on their backs can stop at a Soma Tonga, place their heavy load on the shelf, and then rest awhile before continuing their journey. It is no surprise that new believers in India refer to Christ as their "Soma Tonga."

In the midst of the financial stress and hectic pace in which we all live today, it is easy to forget that Christ is our strength. He beckons to us, "*Come to me, all of you who are exhausted and weary and worn and troubled, and I will give you rest.*" Through the power of Jesus' strength, we find the strength that we need for the living of these days. Jesus is our "Soma Tonga." He gives us rest, takes our burdens, and renews our strength.

In the courtyard of the GE Building in Rockefeller Center, there is a gigantic statue of Atlas holding the world upon his shoulders. Atlas is depicted as being barely able to stand up under the burden of carrying "the weight of the world" on his shoulders. Across the street from the courtyard is Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Located behind the main altar is an alcove with a shrine of the boy Jesus. In this depiction, Jesus is perhaps eight or nine years old and with very little effort he is holding the world in the palm of one hand.

All of us have a choice. We can try to carry "the weight of the world" on our shoulders, or we can turn to the One who came to give rest and peace to those who are exhausted and weary.

See you Sunday, David

LAY SPEAKER TRAINING

The Basis and Advance Lay Speaker training sessions will be held, April 11th and 25th at First United Methodist Church, Conover. The April 11th training session will begin at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 6:30 p.m. The April 25th training session will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Those who are interested in Certification/Recertification are encouraged to attend and become part of this important ministry. If you are a certified lay speaker whose certification is more than three years old, please plan to attend the Advanced sessions.

There will be a \$30 registration fee, payable in advance, to the Statesville District UMC, which includes the cost of materials. Early registration will ensure having an adequate number of study materials. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Remember, certification requires participation on both Sundays.

Children's Choir, Cherub Choir and Children's Chimes

Sunday, March 7th, the children's music groups will present melody and song for the 11:00 AM Worship Service. These groups practice each week as a part of our Kids For Christ program, Wednesday afternoons. I am so very proud of our children for all of their hard work and for sharing their talents with us. They are such a blessing to me! If your child is involved, but unable to attend March 7th, please let me know so that other arrangements can be made. Thank you! Kristy Smith 465-6160

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY are extended to Shannon Hefner and family following the death of her mother, Connie Murphy of Conover on Tuesday, February 16.

DAY CAMP AT CAMP CAROLWOOD

Our church is sponsoring Day Camp at Camp Carolwood this summer during the week of July 12-16, 2010. Camp runs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for rising 1st - 4th graders. We have the Church Van reserved to carpool from the church parking lot for our campers. Cost is \$105 and registration is due by May 15. Please see Amy Cable for more information (294-4811). All forms are available on the church website at www.fumcnewtonnc.org. We still need a few adult volunteers, so if you are available to help for a day or the whole week or could donate some snack or craft items, please contact Amy.

AT WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

February 28, 2010

THE SHARED WORD: Rev Dr. David Greene
"Exile"
Jeremiah 7:1-3, 5-7; 31:31-34

IMPORTANT

Members have been assigned offering envelopes which are numbered. We encourage you to use these envelopes to ensure contributions are posted correctly. Also, each family member should check to see that they are using their own envelope and not one belonging to another family member. Even if the name is written on the envelope, posting may be done incorrectly if that number is assigned to someone else in the family.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) are invited to the UMM District Rally on Sunday, March 7th at 7:00 a.m. at Abernethy Memorial UMC, Newton.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT, February 21, 2010

Attendance: 8:45 a.m. 94 11:00 a.m. 164
Sunday School 176 9:00 a.m. Praise Service 105

Offering:	Tithes & Offerings	\$8,597.40
	Prayer Breakfast	9.00
	Preschool Scholarship	175.00
	Youth Retreat	100.00
	Love Labor Corps	150.00
	Renovation Fund	<u>100.00</u>
		\$9,131.40

Weekly Budget Needs	\$10,963.00
Budget Needs as of 2/21/10	\$87,704.00
Contributions Received as of 2/21/10	70,863.00
Under Budget for Year	-\$16,841.00

INFORMATION TO CONTACT PEGGY

Peggy Correll
209 Fairfield Rd.
Mocksville, NC 27028

Phones: 336-751-7643 (home)
336-940-7246 (cell)

HONORARIUM

Jean Childs has given a donation to the **Renovation Fund** in honor of **Danny Yancey** for his February 21 birthday.

Harper and Mary Cilley have given a donation to the **Love Labor Corps** in honor of **Bob and Brenda Saunders**.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT WEEK

* February 28-March 6, 2010 *

SUN.	8:45	Worship Service
	9:00	Praise Service
	9:30	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	4:00	Middle School Youth
	5:00	Senior High Youth
MON.	9:00	Preschool
	7:00	UMW General Meeting
TUES.	9:00	Preschool
	6:30	Griefshare
	7:00	Disciple I
WED.	6:45	Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Preschool
	3:10	Kids for Christ
	6:00	Praise Team
	6:30	Adult Handbells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
THURS.	9:00	Preschool
	1:00	Prayer Shawl
FRI.	9:00	Preschool

UMW will have a General Meeting on Monday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. All women are welcome. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

SIMS BBQ AT DUDLEY SHOALS

Once again it is time to kick up our heels and eat some delicious barbecue at Sims BBQ in Dudley Shoals. We will be going **Saturday, February 27th at 5:30 p.m.** You can just pay at the door, but we ask you to RSVP to the church office or on the church website. We will need to know how many tables to reserve. The meal is all you can eat port and beef BBQ and fixins and the prices are: adults, \$10.75, children age 4-11, \$4.25, and under age 4 are free. Beverages are extra. After the meal, a bluegrass band will be playing for square dancing. This event is for the entire church family, and everyone is welcome to bring a friend! Call Al Bandy at 464-4870 if you need directions. The address is 6160 Petra Mill Rd., Granite Falls.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER RESERVATIONS

March 10, 6:00 p.m.

Hosts: Joe Love Class

Menu: Barbecue, Baked Beans, Slaw,
Applesauce, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

Number _____ Name _____

RECENT VISITORS:

Kim Britt, Julie Cook, Dave Cardamone, Millicent Crawford, Janice Davis, Michael, Angela, Camryn, Abby & Anna Gantt, Harold & Martha Robertson, Wille Thompson & Deb Wakefield, Donna Yoder, Kayla Newsome, Steve Campbell, Janet Fields, Justine Elliott, Addie and Somer, Joey, Carolyn, Jackson, Jake and Drew Lamb, Bette & Ed Walk

HOSPITAL REPORT:

Sam Irby remains in the clinic at Abernethy Laurels.

PRESCHOOL CHILD

Ms. Julia, our Preschool Director, received a call recently from the Children’s Resource Center. They had a single mother with a two year old child who needed help. The mother has cancer and she needed a place for her child to attend, but she did not have the money. We accepted this child and he started Preschool on Monday. We are asking individuals or classes to consider sponsoring this child. The fees are \$125.00 a month for three days which is what he will attend for a while. If it can be worked out, he may be coming five days a week, and the cost is \$175.00 a month. The mother needs our help so that she can get her medical treatment during the time the child is at Preschool. If you can help, please contact Peggy.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Renovation Fund:

Dr. Allen H. Bandy, Sr.

Monteen Fox, Ralph & Nancy Freeman

UNITED SINGLE ADULTS (USA)

Friday night’s beautiful blanket of snow was that “Beautiful.” It was necessary to postpone our bowling night out at Pin Station until **February 26th** at 7:00 p.m. For those who need directions, Kenny will wait at the church from 6:30 until 6:45 p.m. and drive there with you.

YOUTH MEALS

PLEASE CALL AND SIGN UP TODAY!

Sunday, Feb. 28: Hot Dogs Donna Mull

Sunday, March 7: Lasagna Dewayne Setzer
and Treva Sweezy

Sunday, March 28: Taco Salad_____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JUNE 5—COMMUNITY IMPACT DAY

All over Western North Carolina, Methodist churches will be working together to reach out to community residents in need. The theme for our district is “Impact hunger.” There will be many ways you can help. Watch for more information in an upcoming newsletter!

Susan Reinhardt, Outreach

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray For:

Jerry McGee
Doug Benfield
Layla Isenhour
Jean Childs
Emily Jones
Edna Taylor
Charles & Louise Moody
Emily Grace Greer
Lorene Martin
Heather Clontz
Dean & Jane Reavis
Ryan Fitzgerald
Michael McCarthy
Christy Vanover
Frances Raymer
Family of Connie Murphy
Family of Jerry Canipe

Requested By:

Merv McGee
Family
Pat Britt
Friend
Don & Carolyn Scronce
Don & Carolyn Scronce
Charles & Mitzi Moody
Staci Miller
Family
Michelle White
Vicki Yount
Peggy Correll
Frances Hollar
Friends
Friends

Out-of-Country Military—Scott Beal, Jacob Campbell, Brent Cossich, Gary Hogan, Todd Houtz.

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

SPECIAL ONE DAY EVENT

At the Boxcar Grille
Exit 135, Claremont, NC 828-459-9287

10% of NET SALES go to pay for medical expenses for Doug Benfield. He has been diagnosed with Advanced Stage 4 lung cancer.

Good for Wednesday, March 3, 2010

From 3:00 pm to close!
Dine in or Take out!

Must present this flyer for money to be contributed!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	Judith Bolick	3/15	Anna Meshaw
3/1	Julie Branton	3/15	Mary Cath. Thornburg
3/1	Janet Byrd	3/15	Brianna Vanover
3/1	Bounmy Louangrath	3/16	Debbie Carter
3/2	Kellie Brown	3/16	Jean Childs
3/2	Kenneth Keener	3/16	Michael DeVos
3/2	Tammy Smith	3/16	Sawyer Moss
3/2	Douglas Webb	3/16	Alex White
3/3	Meghan Campbell	3/18	Kelly Hollar
3/4	Sherrill Cranford	3/18	Lillie Sims
3/4	Tommy Lowman	3/19	Nat Simpson
3/5	Will Autry	3/19	Taylor Stone
3/5	Sara Barringer	3/19	Faye Swofford
3/5	Chloe Killian	3/21	Trent Driscoll
3/5	Tonya Moss	3/21	Adam Hardin
3/5	Lois Snipes	3/21	Lisa Johnson
3/5	Mark Willard	3/21	Lib Wykes
3/6	Ken Lawing	3/22	John Brooks
3/6	Hali Robinson	3/22	Andrew Hollingsworth
3/7	Charles Foster	3/24	Sara Copeland
3/7	Russell Hunsucker	3/24	Jordan Pawlik
3/7	Christopher Setzer	3/24	Jerry Sowers
3/7	Dick Wyatt	3/24	Dianne Tilley
3/8	Benjamin Elledge	3/26	Wilson Caldwell
3/8	Erin Eller	3/26	Michael Hollar
3/8	Lauren Lewis	3/26	Jeremy Lane
3/10	Evelyne Bevan	3/26	Lela Macijewski
3/10	Zachary Moose	3/26	Amanda Moose
3/11	Jackie Bandy	3/26	Wayne Swofford
3/11	Rachel Carter	3/27	James Baggatta
3/11	Dylan Martin	3/27	Susan Holbrook
3/11	Barbara Whitener	3/27	Maggie Jackson
3/12	Logan Brown	3/27	Frances Moose
3/12	Hope Cable	3/28	Laura Martin
3/12	Roy Lewis	3/28	Seth Moss
3/12	Caroline Sitzer	3/29	Patrice Auspitz
3/12	Deanna White	3/29	Quint Ervin
3/13	Frank Cloninger	3/29	Nick Hahn
3/13	Felicia Foster	3/29	Vickey Jones
3/13	Clair Gilbert	3/29	Norris McRee
3/14	Nikki Cavin	3/29	Bob Saunders
3/14	Cindy Crawford	3/30	Ryan Rights
3/14	Wadine Smith	3/30	Tyler Smith
3/15	Doris Elliott	3/31	Erica Smith
3/15	John David Hardin	3/31	Eric Woodfin
3/15	Pauline Lee		

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3/1	Scott & Gina King
3/1	Bert & Mary Miller
3/2	Buck & Anne Calloway
3/2	Bobby & Celena Carter
3/3	Mack & Susan Hunsucker
3/6	Jerry & Laura DeVos
3/9	Brandon & Amanda Moose
3/10	John & Megan Robertson
3/10	David & Doris White
3/12	Neal & Patrice Auspitz
3/12	Al & Lela Macijewski
3/12	Wes & Natalie Nguyen
3/13	Chris & Suzy Cadwallader
3/20	Martin & Corinna Driscoll
3/22	Steve & Katie Cloninger
3/24	Brandon & Nikki Cavin
3/24	Eric & Shannon Hefner
3/24	Dick & Harriett Wyatt
3/25	Phillip & Susan Buckbee
3/25	Mark & Caroline Sitzer
3/26	Greg & Lisa Blaser
3/28	Sam & Sonia Foster
3/28	Joel & Mary Alice McCombs
3/30	John & JoAnne Hewins

Please report any corrections or additions to this month's birthday and anniversary lists to the church office.

Volunteer Workers—March 2010

<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Cross Bearers</u>	<u>Sound System</u>	<u>8:45 AM Nursery</u>	<u>11:00 AM Nursery</u>
3/7 Morgan Butler		John Mull	Jean Carter	Donna Mull
3/14 Ben Benson		Dan Windham	Carolyn Scronce	Leslie Benson
3/21 Holly Cable		Brian White	Amanda Moose	Jill Sias
3/28 Elizabeth Green		Rob Rights	Ann Lemons	Teena Branton
<u>9:00 AM Leader</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Youth Supper</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	
3/7 Randy Perdue	Pat Warren	D. Setzer/T. Sweezy	Mark Killian	Bill Noel
3/14 Susan Reinhardt	Reserved	No Youth	Sam Foster	Ken Lawing
3/21 Paul Campbell	Donald Scronce	No Meal	Larry Hollar	Phillip Martin
3/28 Donald Scronce	OPEN	Need Volunteer	Kyle Drum	Jim Hildebran

Youth Volunteers -- Nursery Workers for March: Megan Johnson & Parker Kelley

YOUTH SCHEDULE**SUN., Feb. 28:** Regular Youth

Each youth was given their Bible Study for this week. Please parents, ask them about it and encourage them to follow through. Thanks for your help and support. Remember, **Parents have your youth at church.**

SUN., March 7 ALL YOUTH 4:00-6:30 P.M.**March 12-14:** Camp Hanes (No Youth that Sunday)**March 21** 12:45-2:30 PM Bowling

(Bible Study first and then bowling at Pin Station. Parents pick up at Pin Station.)

SUN., March 28 Regular Youth

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS, PLEASE PICK UP YOUR YOUTH AT 5:30 P.M. ON REGULAR MEETING DAYS!!!

CAMP HANES—MARCH 12-14

I know this date seems far away, but I need to know by **Sunday, March 7** if your youth is planning on attending this retreat. Your cost will be \$50.00 and the church will pay the remaining amount. I will be the speaker for the weekend and the theme is **“Who Is Jesus?”** We are going to learn together who Jesus is and what he means to us. **PARENTS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP IF YOUR YOUTH IS GOING OR IF THEY ARE NOT GOING!!**

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL-February 28, 2010*“Occupations In Bible Times”*4 Years: **Cookery**Grades K-1: **Music**Grade 2-3: **Art**Grades 4-5: **Drama****Teachers: January 10-February 28, 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

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH & PARENTS
SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 4:00-6:30 PM

This will be a special day. People from Wilderness Trail will meet with the parents and youth that are interested in taking a wonderful adventure for a week. Willis will be leading the group. More information will come in the mail. If you are not planning on going to Wilderness Trail, we still want you to come the entire time. There will be things for everyone!!! **BE THERE!**

PARENTS OF KIDS FOR CHRIST are reminded to send \$1 each week for snacks. Thank you!