

Stewardship Message

2010 Stewardship Co-Chairpersons, **John Smith, III** and **Doug Sink** have requested that a stewardship message appear monthly in the newsletter and bulletin. Below is the message for February 2010.

Buildings

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.” Romans 15:7

In coastal Connecticut, where I currently live, February is a time alternately of freezing and mud. We are prone to sudden snow squalls or equally sudden thaws where just walking across a street can mean skirting mud puddles from melted snow and thawing ground. Often in February as I watch people enter the warm church building on a Sunday morning, I can actually see their shoulders drop and their bodies relax as they shrug off cold or wet and enter the welcome warmth of our sanctuary. For a little while at least, they can rest secure and dry before tackling whatever the elements throw at us on any particular day.

It occurred to me that during the week between worship services, many other people come into our building to find a place of safety and warmth. Twelve step groups of various kinds, a PFLAG group, two community choirs, La Leche, a community youth group, a program for those who have recently been released from prison, children practicing and playing recitals and others. Then there are the people who come seeking help, from food to counseling. Our presence on this busy city street corner has an impact on hundreds of people we often do not see on Sunday, whose names we do not know. They, too, have a place in Christ's Church. They, too, are part of our congregation, and our stewardship of this building is for all of us.

Let us pray for our congregations and their stewardship of God's resources, and also for everyone who passes through our church doors.

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

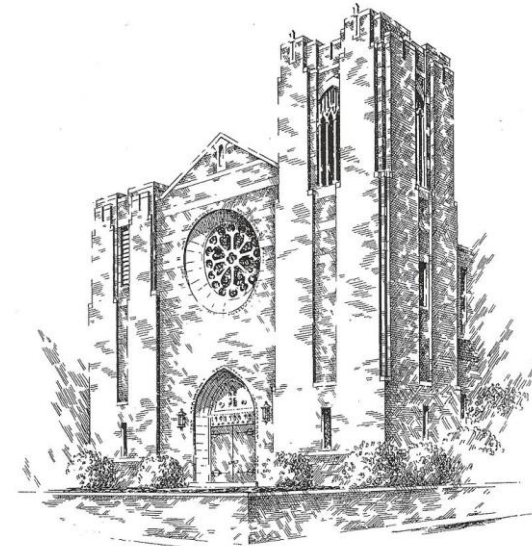
February 2010

God is still speaking,



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

First Reformed United Church of Christ



Where People Discover - - -

The Love of God

The Power to Love Others

The Ability to Love Ourselves

*104 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 27292
Website www.frucc.org*

*Office (336) 248-2617
Fax (336) 248-6163
email - church@frucc.org*

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Service of Divine Worship

Transfiguration Sunday

Liturgist: Walter Hoffman

February 14, 2010

Silent Meditations:

I Corinthians 13

“Love cannot be except as love can be shown”. –Shakespeare (approximately remembered)

“Truth is not a teaching. Truth is a Person.” –Recent movie, *Finger of God*

“Worship is creating a space where we can encounter God.” --Joanna Quintrell

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

“Hanover”

Croft

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting and Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration and Choral Amen

Praise to God

*Hymn

“God Himself Is With Us”

No. 29

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,

People: Splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,

Liturgist: Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.

People: Eyes and hearts behold with wonder

Liturgist: How the Law and Prophets meet:

People: Christ with garments drenched in brightness,

Liturgist: Stands transfigured and complete.

*Gloria Patri

*Opening Prayer (unison)

Liturgist

Gracious God, you call us from the valley to the mountaintop, calling us from toil, confusion and weariness to transforming and transfiguring refreshment. Open us, we pray, to these gifts this very hour. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin

Liturgist

Merciful God who is ever with us, we believe, yet help our unbelief. We believe that you love us through our Lord Jesus Christ, yet we resist believing that the very love that shines forth from Him is the very love which you intend to shine forth from us, through Him. We are encrusted with work and striving, defaced with our rebelliousness from you, scarred with wounds both received from others and self-inflicted, veiled and hidden with closed eyes and minds, so brittle that even your love struggles to break through. Wash and cleanse and heal us with your Presence, that we may receive your lovingly transforming gifts with praise, joy and celebration, both for life now and in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Transfigured and Transfiguring Lord. Amen.

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon - - - Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Children's Moment

Anthem

“Make A Joyful Noise”

Bach/Nelhybel

Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Readings (Liturgist)

Exodus 34:29-35 {Page #80 of Pew Bible}

Luke 9:28-36 {Page #944 of Pew Bible}

Sermon **LET THE LIGHT SHINE THROUGH: A GOOD LOVE SCRUBBING**

Response Through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology

*The Offertory Prayer (unison)

Liturgist

Gracious and compassionate God, always willing to give much more than we are ready to receive, touch our gifts with your multiplying Presence, that they will spread your transforming and transfiguring love here and around the world; in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

(This hymn is set to the tune of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus")

**We have come at Christ's own bidding
To this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing
For some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
That our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples
For a sign both clear and plain.**

**Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,
Splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
How the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ with garments drenched in brightness,
Stands transfigured and complete.**

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
Fearful lest our faith decline,
We, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
To proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us
People of the God we bless.**

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Liturgist: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*The Benediction

*Postlude

"O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Birchwood

***Those who are able please stand**

Ash Wednesday Service of Imposition of Ashes

Our annual Service of the Imposition of Ashes will be held **Wednesday, February 17, 2010** at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. The service will offer a time to lift up our hearts in confession and enter into the season of self-denial.



Living the Questions Study Series

Our sixth session in the "Living the Questions" series "Reclaiming the World" will be at 7:15 p.m. **February 18, 2010** in our Educational Building Fellowship Hall. Remaining lesson topics include:

February 18, 2010 "Debunking the Rapture"

February 25, 2010 "Reclaiming the World"

As before, we will use a stimulating DVD to prompt our discussions, along with lesson handouts for personal work. Delicious snacks will be on hand as well. See you there!

Touching Davidson County With Love

First Reformed UCC is once again participating in the Touching Davidson County With Love project, which will be held **May 1st**. Please let **Edgar Miller** know if you are interested in volunteering at 336-899-0660 or edgarmiller@earthlink.net.

NOTE: WE WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE TOUCHING DAVIDSON COUNTY WITH LOVE PROJECT NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST. PLEASE COME PREPARED TO GIVE. CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO FIRST REFORMED UCC WITH TDCWL IN THE MEMO AREA.

WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

THE FLOWERS on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor and loving memory of all our sweethearts by Nancy Robbins.

USHERS: James Gray, John Smith III, Henry Crouse, Mark Smith

PLATE ATTENDANT: Carolyn Spivey

ACOLYTES: Laura and Katarina Strenk

GREETERS: John and Sylvia Walser

NURSERY (Birth through 6 years-old): Eddie and Belinda Yates

PRAYER CONCERNS: Ronnie Durham, Don Leonard, John Rollins, Elmer Morgan, Willie Ruth Leonard, Sadie Bailey, Arlene Swing, Margaret Trexler, Jacqueline Leonard, Frances Leonard, Joel Reece, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Ernie Bonner, Nancy Daye Greene (Wanda's Daughter), Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family), and George Horner (Vicky Gray's Father). Please remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. To place a name on the prayer chain, please call Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.

February 7, 2010	Attendance (Worship 134)	Offering Received \$5,719.00
February 8, 2009	Attendance (Worship 154)	Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,581.00

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister	(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)
Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education	Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Lee Ann Peele, Organist	Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 14	9:45 a.m. --- JOINT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL {LESSON: MEN'S BIBLE CLASS}
	10:20 a.m. --- SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIAL {HOST: CLIFFORD & PAULA AND KERI & CASEY}
	11:00 a.m. --- WORSHIP SERVICE
Monday, February 15	10:00 a.m. --- Pastoral Relations Organizational Committee Mtg. {Parlor}
	6:30 p.m. --- Search Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 16	7:00 p.m. --- Women's Life Fellowship Meeting {Parlor}
	7:00 p.m. --- Kids' Club {Music Room}
Wednesday, February 17	Noon Community Lenten Service {First United Methodist Church}
	7:00 p.m. --- Ash Wednesday Service {Chapel}
	7:45 p.m. --- Adult Choir Practice
Thursday, February 18	4:30 p.m. --- Labyrinth Committee Meeting {Fellowship Hall}
	5:30 p.m. --- YOGA Class
	6:00 p.m. --- Men's Brotherhood Dinner Meeting {Fellowship Hall}
	7:15 p.m. --- LIVING THE QUESTIONS STUDY {Fellowship Hall}
Sunday, February 21	9:45 a.m. --- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE
	11:00 a.m. --- WORSHIP SERVICE {WITH TDCWL SPECIAL OFFERING}
	KIDS' CLUB MEETS FOLLOWING THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT
	6-8 p.m.----- Community Youth Group Meeting {Fellowship Hall}

What You Can Do at FRUCC.org

Sign up for our E-News Flashes. Once or twice a month, in between our print newsletter, we'll be sending out updates via email. *You need to sign up for these updates if you want to receive them.* Go to www.frucc.org and on the right-hand side, under the photo, you'll see the sign-up form. Enter your email address and click Subscribe. A box will pop up asking you to enter the letters you see on the screen. After you do that, check your email for a confirmation message. You must click on the link in the message to get on the list. It's a lot of steps, but this prevents spam. If you have any trouble, let Paula know and she can help you.