

Service of Divine Worship

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 5, 2010

Liturgist: Peyton Barr

Silent Meditation: Commentary on **Psalm 1** especially **verses 1-3**: *The Christian life is not pretending to be somebody I am not, but rather discovering who I really am, and then being that person, authentically and zealously. Thomas Merton said, "A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. It 'consents' to His creative love. It expresses an idea which is in God's mind. So the more a tree is like itself, the more it is like Him." What if I think of myself as an idea in God's mind? The more I consent to be what God made me to be, the more I am like God. Trees never try to be something else, like wart hogs or sledge hammers. They are content to be trees. But you and I struggle. We can be whoever we want to be, but the less I am in sync with God's plan, the more hollow I become. I cannot find truth and meaning just any old place. Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7: 16) Am I like a tree? My life is not my own: I depend on the sun, the rain, the grace and power of God which I do not control but only soak up as precious gifts. I live in the light, but my roots go down deep where it is dark. Holiness is not a matter of gritting our teeth and diligently trying to do what God requires. We may grit our teeth, and we do try hard. But I am not able to do what God wants of me. I am not capable of the life God wants for me. A changed life is the gift of God's Spirit. Paul described this new life, the life for which we were made, as "the fruit of the Spirit," not "the fruit of my good intentions." "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things" (Galatians 5: 22-23). We feel our arms stretched upward, our roots deep, and we are trees giving glory to God, swayed only by the wind of the Spirit, watered by the grace of Baptism.*
—Rev. James Howell, Pastor, Myers Park UMC, Charlotte, NC

Grant to us, Lord, that we may experience this meditation as being one about grace, gratitude, and stewardship.
—Rev. Walter Patten

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

"Supplication"

Asper

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

Praise to God

*Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

No. 287

*Responsive Call to Worship

Liturgist: The Lord my Shepherd is,

People: I shall be well supplied;

Liturgist: Since He is mine and I am His,

People: What can I want beside?

Liturgist: The bounties of Thy love

People: Shall crown my following days;

Liturgist: Nor from Thy house will I remove,

People: Nor cease to speak Thy praise.

*Gloria Patri

Unison Opening Prayer (*Derived from Psalm 1*)

Liturgist

Happy are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on this law they meditate day and night. We are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield our fruit in our season. Our leaves do not wither, and we prosper in all that we do, for the Lord watches over us. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin (*Derived from Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 18*)

Liturgist

Gracious Creator God, You formed our inward parts, knitting us each one in our mother's womb. We praise You, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Your eyes beheld our unformed substance, and in Your book were written all the days that were formed for us. How weighty to us are Your thoughts, O God, even as You gave us shape and substance, like the skilled potter fashions precious vessels out of dead lumps of clay. We confess, Lord, that we often balk and complain as You compassionately continue to work with us and shape us, for this is painful to us sometimes, refining and healing the distorted image of You that our sin has caused. Yet, You invite us to exchange our puny, limited, egotistical self-understandings for Your covenantal understanding of us, as You lovingly mold us ever more closely to the likeness of Jesus Christ Himself, as we become a part of His Body as You envisioned it from the foundation of the world. Such a destiny is too wonderful for us to imagine, Lord; and yet, in learning to forgive and to reconcile, as Jesus teaches us to do, we feel more completely the wisdom of surrendering to You and Your desires for the transforming salvation of the created order and of us all through the same Jesus, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon --- Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

Pastoral Prayer
Children's Moment
Special Music

"He Touched Me"
Duet, Mary Berrier and Wanda Daye

Gaither

Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Lesson (Liturgist) Luke 14:25-33 (Page #952 of Pew Bible)

Sermon **SO, HAVE YOU GOTTEN WITH THE PLAN YET?**

Response through Dedication

Invitation to Give
Giving of Tithes and Offerings
The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer (Unison) Liturgist

Gracious God of the created order, gracious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and gracious Spirit as our abiding Companion, move us to the discernment that You are the abounding Giver of all perfect gifts, and that you bid us to become joyful givers in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn "The Lord My Shepherd Is" No. 307

*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 "Fanfare" Buxtehude

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND**

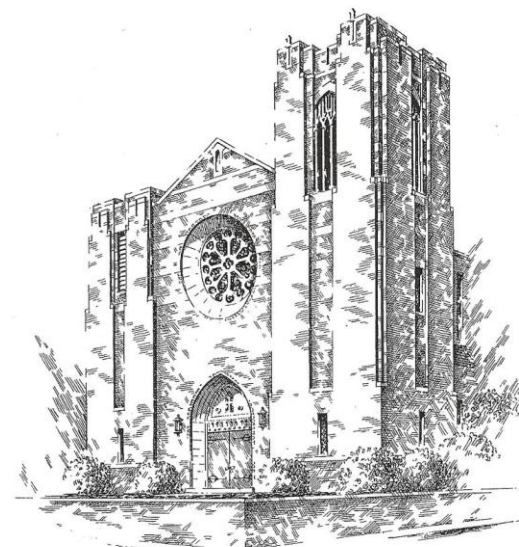
WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister
Cathy Waitman, Interim Director of Christian Education
Lee Ann Peele, Organist

(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)
Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

First Reformed United Church of Christ



Where People Discover - - -

The Love of God

The Power to Love Others

The Ability to Love Ourselves

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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



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

September 5, 2010

THE FLOWERS on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Robert and Edith Swing**, by their daughters.

USHERS: Birke McNeill, Scott Frye, Frank Callicutt, Thomas Johnson

PLATE ATTENDANT: Adena Wall

ACOLYTES: Mary Lloyd and Annabell Callicutt

GREETERS: Doris Flynt and Peggy Bates

NURSERY (Birth through 6 years-old): Heidi and Ron Hutcheson



We extend **SYMPATHY** to and share Christian hope with **Gladys Snider** upon the death of her Mother, Bertie McDaniel Hampton.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jacqueline Leonard, Betty Potts, Callie Kepley, Ronnie Durham, Ernie Bonner, Sadie Bailey, Velna Swing, Elmer Morgan, Willie Ruth Leonard, Arlene Swing, Frances Leonard, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family) and Terri Evans (Paul Freeman's Cousin). Please remember our men and women serving in the Armed Forces. To add a name for prayer, contact Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 5	9:45 a.m. ---Joint Adult SS Class {Lesson: New Way Class – John Barber} 10:20 a.m. ---SS Social {Hosts: Amy & Birke McNeill and Sauni & Thomas Johnson} 11:00 a.m. --- <u>WORSHIP SERVICE IN CHAPEL</u>
Monday, September 6	Office Holiday
Tuesday, September 7	6:30 p.m. ---Board of Christian Education {Downstairs} 6:30 p.m. ---Finance Committee Meeting {Parlor}
Wednesday, September 8	5:30 p.m. ---Play Practice {Parlor} 7:00 p.m.---Choir Practice {Choir Room}
Thursday, September 9	5:30 p.m. ---Yoga Class {Parlor}
Sunday, September 12	RALLY DAY CELEBRATION 9:45 a.m. ---Joint Sunday School {Downstairs} 11:00 a.m. ---WORSHIP SERVICE WITH SPECIAL MUSIC NOON-----CATERED LUNCHEON 6–8 p.m. ----Community Youth Meeting {Fellowship Hall}
Monday, September 13	5:30 p.m. ---Craft Night {Parlor} Willing Workers Class Serves Meal at Shelter

August 29, 2010 Attendance (Worship 91)

Offering Received \$2,739.01

August 30, 2009 Attendance (Worship 124)

Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,581.00

Stephen Ministry

Hopefully you have seen the Christian Caregiver's Compass poster on display in the Educational Building. Since compassion is listed at the very top of the compass, I thought the attached article from *Dare To Journey* was very appropriate for today's bulletin. – *John Barber, Stephen Leader*

"We are good at criticizing others and even better at giving advice. We assume that we know what is best for others, particularly the more unfortunate members of our society. But we are not so good at compassionate participation. We often fail to draw close. We are afraid of involvement, for we know that we may not be able to control the demands that may be made of us.

Yet compassion asks us precisely to take such risk. In the words of Henri Nouwen, "compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into places of pain."

Going there does not mean barging in with easy answers and quick solutions. It means learning to listen even for what, initially, cannot be expressed. It means being honest about our needs and struggles so that we can listen more carefully. It means journeying with people in their attempts at resolution and healing. It means being there, but not controlling or crowding others. It means reaching out without taking over. It means holding without withholding, giving without looking to receive, and entering a partnership that releases others to pursue their own dreams and aspirations."

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, working under the Evangelism Board, is having an organizational meeting on **Tuesday, September 14th** at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor. Anyone who is interested in knitting or learning to knit or crochet is welcome to join us. **Mary Jo Jessup** will be teaching this class. If you plan to attend items needed are:

Crochet Hook – Size 11.5, (Brand, Susan Bates) or

Knitting Needles – Size 10 mm – 15 US (Brand, Susan Bates) – you can use smaller needles

Yarn – Needs to be soft

- Lion Brand Yarn – Pound of Love (16ozs – 4 ply 100% acrylic)
- Caron 3 skeins (6ozs each – 4 ply Simply Soft 100% acrylic)

Please come and be a part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Board of Evangelism Co-Chairpersons, Janette Neal and Dave Fulton

BOARD OF CHRISITAN EDUCATION MEMBERS will be meeting in the education building downstairs area Tuesday, September 7th to decorate classrooms in preparation for Rally Day and the next Roads to God rotation of "Dig Into the Bible".

Rally Day Lunch

Sunday, September 12th

First Reformed UCC begins the new season of Sunday school with Rally Day, Sunday, September 12th. We will begin the celebration during Sunday School, continue in the worship hour and conclude our celebration with a fellowship luncheon immediately following worship.

Yarborough's Restaurant is providing a delicious meal. We are requesting that reservations be made by Tuesday, September 7th. Please fill out the reservation form and drop in the offering plate or call the church office at 248-2617. Donations will be accepted at the door.

CATERED LUNCH RESERVATION

Please fill out the registration form and drop it in the offering plate or call the church office at 248-2617.

Please register - - - Name: _____

Adults: _____ **Children:** _____

Sunday School News

You Are Invited to Rally Day
Sunday, September 12th
Downstairs at 9:45 a.m.

Rally Day will be next week **Sunday, September 12th** to kick-off our Sunday School



year. The day will begin at **9:45 a.m.** downstairs with an intergenerational Sunday School class. There will be a brief program, presentation of promotion certificates and Bibles for the children, and recognition of Sunday School teachers. We will preview the Roads to God fall program, "Dig Into the Bible," where

you can see the activities the school age children will be doing for the next eight weeks. Children's classrooms - Storytelling/Video, Art/Science, Computers/Music, and Cooking/Games - will all be decorated and ready for fall classes. If you have not been here in a while, you will be amazed at the transformation in the downstairs classrooms. Teachers for the fall rotation of "Dig Into the Bible" will be Raeann Biesecker, Alice Gray, Keri Hartle, Heidi Hutcheson, Amy McNeill, Kivi Miller, Nicole Smith, and Nina Smith.

Katie Decker and Ashlee Lopp will be keeping the nursery during Sunday School. Also, Lynn Brown will be working with Nancy Robbins in the Two-By-Two Classroom.

The adult classes – Men's Bible, Willing Workers, Seekers, and New Way - would like to invite you to join one of our classes for Sunday School. Starting September 19th, John Barber will begin a series of lessons on the Stephen Ministry in the New Way class. Stephen Ministry is Christian care-giving ministry that our church has recently become involved with. The Willing Workers will soon be starting a series on the New Testament with an emphasis on Matthew. The Men's Bible Class will continue using The Present Word material.