



NEWSLETTER

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First United Methodist Church

Volume 39, Issue No.29
July 26, 2010

Soul Tending

Thankfulness is hardly the word that needs to be used to describe how I often feel as I observe many of you in action through the life of First Church. It is absolutely incredible and heart warming to say the least, to see how your life and faith lift up the lives of one another on a daily basis. I see this Soul Tending in a variety of ways: Sunday School Classes that commit themselves to fervent prayer for those who are in the hospital or shut in at home; circles who go out of their way to prepare meals for the bereaved; young families who help each other with childcare needs; home visitation that is done by those in Friendship Connections; children, youth, and adults who venture out of the community to do mission work; others who quietly sit at home and send care-cards to folks who need a gentle reminder that they are cared for; and the list goes on and on and on.

“Soul Tending” is simply the desire to meet one another at a much deeper level than our nice “hello’s”. “Soul Tending” is the desire for us to connect at those places in our lives where we are reminded that we share this faith-life journey with others. It is a wonderful way for us to be faithful to the Covenants we make to each other when we join the family of the church. When we tend to the stuff of the soul, we discover and claim for ourselves the presence of Christ in all that we do....in all of our activity....in all of our business....in all of our relationships.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodist, called these gifts to the soul, “means of grace”. Along with Holy Communion, Bible study, giving to the poor, and worship, it is our relationship with one another and our creator that gives meaning and purpose to the heart of our souls.

Thank you for your practice of “Soul Tending” this week. I assure you, that as we practice it together, the lives of those inside and outside the church will be blessed. Give an extra smile or make an extra compliment or say an extra prayer for someone else. I suspect that your own soul will give you a BIG THANK YOU for tending to it as well.

Have a great week. I look forward to seeing you next Sunday.

ABC, 123, You and Me!

Starting school for some children in our area isn't as simple as ABC or 123, but with you and me, it can be an A+ year!



Many students in schools

near our church will be heading back to school without the basic supplies of pencils and paper, but you and I can help kick start their learning. Make a special trip to pick up school supplies for the students and teachers and bring them to the church before August 8th. Collection sites are in the Hospitality Room, the first floor Giving Tree, and all week at VBS in the Gym.

Monetary donations are also welcome to help support either extra school supplies, class field trips, band uniforms, grade level t-shirts and equipment. There are also opportunities throughout the year to serve as a mentor, reading buddy, or test proctor.

Join the Divide ‘n Serve team on August 29 that will pray at the schools!

Sarah

See supply list inside Newsletter.

We Witness...

By Our Prayers

Barbara Westmoreland-CMC Rehab

By Our Presence

July 25, 2010

10 a.m. 403

By Our Service

Sunday, August 1

Greeters:

Doorstoppers: Josh and Courtney Clagg

Scripture Readers: 8:45 a Ellise Zukaitis
10:55 a Millie Horne

Worship goes back to normal times in August

We will renew our regular worship schedule for Sundays on August 1. There will be 2 services, 8:45 and 10:55 a.m. and Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Let's get back into the routine and invite our friends and neighbors to join us in worship and at Sunday School.

Appalachia Service Project 2010

First UMC will be represented by a mission team in the Appalachia Mountains to make houses warmer, drier and safer! During the week of **September 19-25, 2010** a team of adults will be traveling to Jonesville, VA.

There will be a *meeting to begin planning for our trip on July 28, 2010 at 7 p.m. in Room 201.* If you are interested, please contact Jennifer McLean at 704-865-8450.

Divide n' Serve

Who Is Your Neighbor? We heard this question just a couple weeks ago in worship and Jesus continues to ask us each day. We hope you will choose to be a good neighbor for people in Gastonia and participate in our 3rd Divide n' Serve on Sunday, August 25 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

There are lots of projects for all ages and abilities! Got an idea? Want to lead one of these teams? Contact Ann Davis at 704-214-6548, ardavis100@earthlink.net or Sarah Watkins Davis at 704-864-4371 ext. 232, swdavis@fumcgn.org.



**Bluegrass
Gospel
Jubilee**

August 8, 2010

7:00 PM

**First United Methodist Church
Sanctuary**

Featuring:
Royce Robinson and friends
The Wetzell Sisters
CrossFire

Your "ticket" is a school supply item for Gaston County students.
Ice Cream Social in the Fellowship Hall following the concert!

Family Life Center Ministry

Let's go see the Braves

Join us for a family trip to Atlanta on **Sunday, August 15** to see the Atlanta Braves take on the Los Angeles Dodgers. We will be leaving the Wachovia parking lot at 8 a.m. to travel by chartered bus for the 1:35 game. We will return that evening. **This trip is open to all ages. Children, youth, adults, and seniors are invited to join us.** We have 40 tickets. The cost is \$40 per person, which includes the cost of the bus and your ticket. Contact Jim Ware to register 704-864-4371, ext. 241, jware52@gmail.com.

Deadline to register is Monday, August 2.

Youth Trip to Wet 'n Wild Water Park

On **Sunday, August 8**, we will be leaving at 8:30 a.m. and travel by church bus to the Wet 'n Wild Water Park in Greensboro. This traditional end of summer trip is open to all Mid Hi and Sr Hi youth. The cost is \$25 for admission to the park and extra \$ for meals and snacks. We will return to the church around 6:30 p.m. Call, text, or email Jimbo to register. **Deadline to register is Monday, August 2.**

Youth Connections

Sunday, August 1, 2010

8:45 a Worship
9:45a Sunday School
10:55 a Worship

College addresses needed

All college students should submit their mailing address, email, and text number as soon as possible. Your church wants to keep in touch with you while you are away. Email this information to Amanda, amanda@fumcgnc.org.

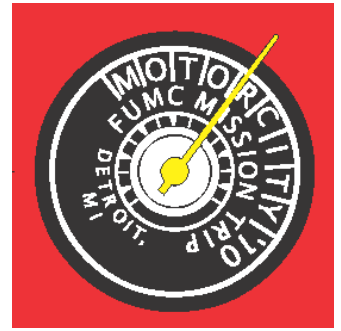
Supply List for School Donation

Supply lists include:

Blue, black or red pens
Number 2 pencils (yellow)
Colored pencils
Glue sticks
24 pack of crayons
3-prong folders
Pocket folders
Wide ruled loose-leaf notepaper
Spiral bound one-subject notebooks
Graph paper
Spiral bound 3 or 5 subject notebooks
Highlighters (packs of 5 colors)
Post-it notes
Plastic protector sheets
1 inch binders
5 subject dividers
3x5 index note cards (lined & unlined)
Boxes of tissues
Bottles of hand sanitizer
Clorox wipes
Gallon, quart, sandwich, snack sized Ziploc-type baggies
Composition books (not spiral bound)
Pencil top erasers
Backpacks
White copy paper (for the teachers)
Washable Crayola markers
Bottles of Elmer's glue
Brown and white lunchbags
Pencil boxes
Band-aids

Mission Trip News...

If you want to read more about Denver and Ron's friendship from the Catch and Release story used in Sunday's sermon and on the youth mission trip, read "Same Kind Of Different As Me".



Family Movie Night
Wednesday, July 28
6 p.m. NO COST!

We're planning a family Wonderful Wednesday! Please let us know by Tuesday if you can come, otherwise, it looks like we may have to cancel. We'll have pizza, popcorn and a movie on the big screen in the Family Life Center. Bring your 'camp' chairs and/or sleeping bags for an extra comfy seat! We'll pick the movie once everyone arrives.

Register for VBS NOW!!

www.cokesburyvbs.com/galactic-blast/fumcgnc

Online registration ends July 28. We will have onsite registration in the FLC on August 1 from 4:30-5:15 p.m. as long as there is space available. We Blast Off at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 1!



Sunday School is back on Summer Schedule

Preschoolers will be in Room 102, Elementary kids will be in the Canteen at 9:45 a.m. We'll continue our study on being caretakers of God's creation.

Harvest of Hope Family Mission Trip

Did you see the last Newsletter? We'd like you to take the family on a mission trip October 15-17, 2010 to Dahlonega, GA as we work together to alleviate hunger. This is an intergenerational mission trip and kids as young as 10 are invited to join us! Check out www.endhunger.org for more information – search Harvest of Hope. We are limited to 25 team members in our group. The cost is \$75 and \$25 of that is due by August 30.

Save the Date: Children's Sabbath, October 31

Week at a Glance

Sunday, August 1

8:45 a Worship
 9:45 a Sunday School
 10:55 a Worship
 5:30-8 p VBS

Monday, August 2

9 a Workout, Gym
 5:30-8 p VBS

Tuesday, August 3

5:30 a Salvation Army Breakfast
 7 a Volleyball, Gym
 10 a First UMC Staff Meeting
 5:30-8 p VBS

Wednesday, August 4

9 a Workout, Gym
 5:30-8 p VBS

Thursday, August 5

5:30-8 p VBS

Friday, August 6

9 a Workout, Gym

You may contact us...

Mail: PO Box 218 Gastonia, NC 28053
 Phone: 704-864-4371 Fax: 704-864-2076
 Website: www.fumcnc.org

Weekend Pastor on Call: 704-586-5122

Friday-Sunday

Input your phone number when prompted to leave a numerical message. Your pastor will promptly return your call.



CW3 Shaun Breth (Nan White's grandson)
 USMC Larry Harrington (Olivia Davidson's nephew)
 MSGT Martin "Bo" M. Henson (Louise Henson's son)
 CAPT Parker Gray (Jimmy Gray & Lynn Lamb's son)
 SGT Nathan Sicheloff (David & Libby Sicheloff's son)
 SFC Bo Beam (Ernie & Rosemarie Nivens' son-in-law)
 SSGT Zach Gray (Donna McPhail's son)
 LTJG Andrew Hendricks (Walt Hendricks' grandson)
 SGT David Frederick (Amanda P. Frederick's husband)
 SSGT David DeBerry (Chris DeBerry's son)
 A1C Jessica DeBerry (Chris DeBerry's daughter-in-law)
 SSGT Ryan Malloy (David Nanney's cousin)
 CPL Donald Hamrick (Charlie Greene's cousin)
 SSGT Jonathan Cole (Amanda Cole's stepson)
 Specialist 4 Geoffrey Doyle (Barbara Doyle's grandson)
 ENS William Hendricks (Walt Hendricks' grandson)
 PV2 Ryan Gensinger (Brian Cripe's nephew)

Friendship Connections

Where Friends Connect and Reconnect

It's Summertime! Tip # 4 for staying young!
 The tears happen: Endure, grieve, and move on! The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. LIVE while you are alive! Remember! Lost time can never be found.

Mark your calendars for September 16 for the fall kick off of Friendship Connections!

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