

First United Methodist Church
264 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
www.fumcrutherfordton.org
Vol. 8, No. 1

The First Word



Young People's Bible Study Group Launched!

Every 3rd Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm
Church 3rd floor Room 307
Childcare provided

Already 14 individuals have signed up!

Study material for the first months is Adam Hamilton's *Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues* (7 sessions; a DVD included). It is a 7-session group study of "tough issues" based on Adam Hamilton's sermons on these topics. The seven sessions are:

The Separation of Church and State
Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools
The Death Penalty
Euthanasia
Prayer in Public Schools
Abortion
Homosexuality

- We will create a safe space for young people to ask questions - sometimes hard ones - and to share their ideas.
- It will be a place, where they will meet with other young people in the community and where lifelong friendships may form.
- There is no string attached: the membership in the Bible study group will NOT require church membership at First UMC, Rutherfordton.
- At the same time, responsible attendance will be strongly encouraged for group dynamics and mutual growth in spirituality. Notifying their absence in advance would be expected and appreciated.

We are excited about this new journey starting here! **Any young person can join in any time!** If you are interested and/or have questions about this group, please e-mail Pastor In-Yong (ilee@fumcrutherfordton.org) or text her (828-989-9309). Thank you!



A Quilt of a Family

From the Pastor

Hahaha, I finished seven Home Gatherings! How marvelous they all were! Thank you very much, the hosts/hostesses, the participants, and the Transition Team members, for making them great times of fellowship and learning. Without counting a person more than once, and without counting me, we had 101 participants total. Praise the Lord!

For those of you who missed the opportunities and for even those who took part in them, I will tell you what happened at those gatherings. Usually one gathering lasted up to 2 hours. More often than not, the following was the order of the evenings. The participants were greeted and welcomed by the hosts, led to the gathering space, and given a brief instruction concerning how the evening would go. Then, the host prayed for the evening and for the refreshments (sometimes they were like a full meal!) and we were served. When we came back to our seats with the refreshments, the conversations began.

Our group conversations had two parts – each introducing him/herself to the group and answering three sets of questions that I brought. Oh, what fun it was to hear all of you tell us where you were born, what you have done for a living, when and where you met your spouse, how many children (or furry companions) you have, etc. The focus, though, was on when you moved to Rutherfordton, what brought you here, and when and how you became part of First UMC.

Each time I heard how you came to this town and became part of our church, I was amazed at God's way of bringing us all together as family. Some of you were born here and First UMC is the only church you've been a member of. Some of you traveled far, before coming here and settling down. From far and near, God has brought all of us, so that we may be blessed as one church family. It is like seeing a woman make a quilt over a long period of time, putting this small piece of fabric next to another and to still another, making a colorful and harmonious whole. That work continues with even more, newer people coming in and joining us. Praise the Quilter God!

The second part of the gathering was me asking questions about your experiences in the church – What has been the most exciting experience for you? What is the best characteristic of our church? What are your wishes for the church? The findings that I gathered will be shared first with the Transition Team members, who are helping me for my first 100 days at First, and then with the congregation. They will be used as fuel for our moving forward toward even brighter future.

I am happy and excited to be part of our church! My mother and Hee-Soo feel the same. Routinely we tell one another how grateful we are to be here. Let's continue our life together with delighted service as assistants to the Master Quilter!

In-Yong

KEENAGERS

Our next Keenagers' trip on September 17th will be to visit the Town of Valdese, NC to learn about the Waldensian settlers, and their incredible journey from the hills of Italy to Burke County. We will meet in the church parking lot at **8:45** am, and the church bus will depart at **9:00** am. After the morning tour of the Waldensian Heritage Museum, we plan to have lunch at the Old World Bakery in Valdese, and then visit the Waldensian Presbyterian Church. If weather permits, we will take a walk on The Trail of Faith. There is a \$2 admission to the Heritage Museum and \$8 admission to the Trail of Faith. We plan to return to Rutherfordton about 4:30 pm. Be sure to reserve your seat on the bus by adding your name to the signup sheet on the Keenager bulletin board. If you have any questions, call Pam and Pete Pryor, 828-288-2779.

TOT LEARNING CENTER NEWS

TLC will begin its 34th school year on September 4th! We are super excited about all the learning that will take place this year. Please pray for all of our staff members as they work hard and minister to the children and families this year.

Our 2019-2020 staff are as follows:

Johnathan Dillon-TLC Director
Tiny Tots: Stephaine Sutton & Brittney Kluttz
2 year olds: Barbara Deese & Marie Cole
Young 3's: Amy Ryan & April Alexander
Older 3's: Rosemary Morgan & Andi Calvert
Pre-K 1: Monica Gurr & Teresa Malcolm
Pre-K 2: Mary Beth Francis & Patsy James

We have 2 volunteers for the school year: Zana Whitmire (she will be our PE teacher) and Marie Deiteman (will be volunteering to help every Wednesday)

Some of our awesome events include:
September 25 & 26 - Grandparent Tea
September 27 - Pre-K walking trip to the Norris Library

On August 29th we had our very first **Back to School Bash** for all of our students and families and we had a great time.

TLC is also doing a T-Shirt Fundraiser to help us get some balance bikes for our playground. The cost is as follows:

S-XL- \$10.00
2XL-up- \$17.00

We also have child sizes. Please email Johnathan at jdillon@fumcrutherfordton.org for more information or to place an order.



Save the Date!

Consecration Sunday

November 17, 2019

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, September 2.

WELCOME TABLE

September 9, 16 & 23

Volunteer help is needed. **You** could volunteer to cook, serve, or help clean up. The hours of cooking are 11:00 until 4:00, serving 4:00 until 6:30, and clean up from 6:00 until 7:30. Some individuals cook, serve, and clean up, so any extra help is appreciated. You can get with Bud Deck when you arrive and let him know where you are willing to serve.

If you are unable to volunteer, please join us for a delicious meal and make friends with our Welcome Table neighbors.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN THE FUN!

Is God calling you to be a missionary to the children at Friendship Club, the After-school outreach program of First UMC? Do you have 2 hours per week to give to help a child become the best self he/she can be? If your answer is "YES" to these questions, you are in luck! There is still time to sign up to serve as a Study Buddy for Friendship Club on Tuesday and/or Thursday this school year from 4-5 pm. Study Buddies make this program successful! Study Buddies are all that is needed to complete the preparations for this new school year!

Friendship Club begins for the 2019-2020 school year on Sept. 17. There will be a Study Buddy orientation on Sept. 10 at 4:00 pm in the Perry Moore House. Resources and how to develop a routine for the homework hour, as well as the Friendship Club calendar will be shared during this orientation.

If you are interested in serving with Friendship Club or have questions about serving this school year, please contact Becky Peeler (rpeeler@fumcrutherfordton.org) or call 828/287-3704, ext. 112.

Remember, Friendship Club makes learning fun!

Our **2019 CHARGE CONFERENCE** for the purpose of discussing and accepting Charge Conference materials, pastor's compensation, and approving our church leaders has been scheduled for Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 5pm.

THE AGAPE CIRCLE will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 10th, at The Perry-Moore House. For August, our mini mission project will be to provide peanut butter for the church pantry. Cheryl has invited In-Yong to be our guest speaker. In-Yong has requested that members be thinking of questions to ask her. Bobbie and Caroline will have the refreshments. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.

ACOLYTE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

Parents and children: Worship Committee invites you to attend orientation for new and returning acolytes to serve at either the 9 am or 11 am service. Our children carry the light into worship as a symbol of Jesus coming into the presence of our worshiping community, lighting two candles to remind us of Jesus Christ as both a human being and as our God. At the close of worship, our children extinguish the candles so that the congregation can then carry the Light of the World with them as they depart the sanctuary. Parents learn to dress their child, light the candlelighter, change the taper and add oil to the candlelighter.

Please join Stacey Watkins-Griffith, Misty Rogers, In-Yong Lee, and Amelia Newton for the acolyte training session on Sunday, September 15th at 10:15 am in the sanctuary. Graduates are recognized with a certificate and pin. Sign up on class list posted on bulletin board outside church office. If you have questions and would like to register for the class, you may contact:

Misty Rogers 429-5011
misty28139@yahoo.com

Amelia Newton 429-1794
amelianewton8@gmail.com

The word, **acolyte**, derived from ancient Greek means companion, attendant or helper and denotes someone who is trained to perform ceremonial duties.

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR BIRTHDAYS

We will be including a listing of our Methodist Missionaries Birthdays each month. We would like you to include them in your prayers for that day. These come from the UMW Prayer Calendar Book for the year. Missionaries say they feel the prayers and even often plan "big things" for their birthdays because they know a lot of people are praying for them. Please join us in these prayers. Thank you, UMW

- Sept. 1, Carolyn Anderson, Hak-Soon Chang,
Gary Moon
- Sept. 3, Judi Day
- Sept. 4, Leslie J. Hobson, Zelda Jones
- Sept. 5, Julia Chance, Patricia N. Marks
- Sept. 6, David McCormick
- Sept. 7, Felipe Castillo, Jane Ann Murray
- Sept. 8, Olusimbo Ige
- Sept. 9, Nishaline Hines, Adam Shaw
- Sept. 10, Joshua Doan, Brian Dugan, Selena
Ruth Smith, Yollande Yambo
- Sept. 11, Grace Musuka, Helen Ryde, Jaime
Vazquez
- Sept. 12, Kathryn Cobb Mary C. Gehrke Larreina
Marcano M. Elaine Parrent Lisa Williams
- Sept. 14, Ruth Ingulsund Grubel
- Sept. 15, Jennifer McCallum
- Sept. 16, Gordon Graner
- Sept. 18, Matthew Bullen, Sandra Persaud
- Sept. 19, Mary Andreolli
- Sept. 20, Myungim Kim, Mary Randall Zigbuo
- Sept. 21, Alberto Dominguez
- Sept. 22, Melissa lutes Calvillo
- Sept. 23, Kathleen Griffith
- Sept. 25, John Amick, Susan Hunt, Tsiritsimihena
Rakoto
- Sept. 27, Marjie Hrabe, Darlene Toups, Judy
Vasby
- Sept. 28, Amanda Choi, Gordon Greathouse,
Ruth Haney Williamson
- Sept. 29, Miguel Mairena, B. Lee Manns
- Sept. 30, Mary Gladstone-Highland, Rachel
Patman, Maria Rodriguez

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Thank you in advance for your support!

THE NUT SALE has begun and will continue through September 15, 2019. Remember to place your orders before Sunday morning services. We have: Pecan Halves, Pecan Pieces, Black Walnut Pieces, Almonds, Chocolate Covered Almonds, Pistachios, Whole Cashews and Harvest Mix all \$12. each and Trail Mix for \$10. This fund raiser supports our mission projects.

UMW BAZAAR MISSION FUND RAISER will be Saturday November 9, 2019 from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. Applications for funds raised are posted on the UMW bulletin board near the church office.

REMINDER OF OUR LUNCHEON UNIT MEETING on October 6, 2019 right after 11:00 service. Agape Circle will host this meeting; 2020 officers will be installed.

ANNUAL UMW CELEBRATION will be Sept. 13-15, 2019 at Lake Junaluska. The theme is: Grace, Grit, and Gratitude. Registration is open through September 8, 2019.

CRAFT NIGHT: on Sept. 16th at 6 pm: join Diane Fields for BEADING, upstairs in the Perry-Moore House. Details in the weekly bulletin.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on any of these items, contact Shelia Cuthbertson at 289-1281.

UMW BAZAAR, November 9, 2019, 8:00-2:00

Come early and enjoy breakfast, shopping, lunch and fellowship with friends, family and neighbors.

FROZEN FOODS, SOUPS, BAKED AND CANNED GOODS, SILENT AUCTION, CRAFTS, SANTA'S WORKSHOP.

Sign-up sheets will be available soon. Please support the missions of our church by contributing to the above and volunteering your time!!!

Call or text Zana Whitmire (828-447-4597) to volunteer or ask questions.



YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the month of August we had many amazing events in the youth. We had two lake days in which we made the trip to Nebo where the Griffiths opened their lake house to us. This was a time of fun and fellowship where we had the opportunity to go tubing, swimming, have great meals, and also enjoy a lesson to further our spiritual growth.

We also went through a series at Neon titled "Free People," in which we studied the book of Galatians. Through this series we discovered that Christ died to give us freedom, not take freedom away from us. God desires that we live a life of freedom in Him where we can experience all of the joys of life!

Also, throughout the month of July and August, you may have noticed a lot of construction going on in the Neon Youth Center. I am happy to announce that this construction is now completed and I would encourage all church members to come and check out the renovations when you have an opportunity. I would like to extend a big thank you to the donation made to get the flooring done! It looks absolutely amazing! I would also like to thank Ralph, Gene, and Charlie who have worked tirelessly throughout this entire project!

Blessings,
Gary Williams



We are also preparing to open our Neon Coffee Shop! We hope to have this new ministry open by the middle of September. This will be a year round fundraiser for the youth, as well as an opportunity for the youth to learn a skill in making coffee. We hope that you will support this new ministry in the youth when it opens!



Throughout the month of August we have been going through a series in FirstKids titled, "Mission Control." This has been a series about trusting God with the flight plan He has for our lives. We discovered that sometimes it can be difficult for us to follow directions when we cannot see the end result, but this is the very nature of trust. Sometimes we have to follow the flight plan that God has for us even when we cannot see the destination. We just have to trust that God is a good father and has the best of intentions for us!

Throughout the month of September we will be starting a new series titled, "Trek: An Adventure in Trust." During our "trek" we will be discovering that life takes trust. That is why it is important to find someone you can depend on to help you through the journey of life. You can always trust in God to help lead you through the wilderness, but when we have friends we can depend on as well, it makes the adventure much more fun!

We are always looking for volunteers in our Children's ministry. As we look to the future, and grow our children's ministry we need volunteers to support this growth. If you are interested in volunteering please send me an email: gwilliams@fumcrutherfordton.org

Blessings,
Gary Williams



VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers for First Kids! If you are interested in volunteering to help out with Sunday School or Children's church, please send me an email at gwilliams@fumcrutherfordton.org.

THE FOLLOWING MONETARY GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

In honor and appreciation of Margaret Britt, by the Domestic Violence Education Support Group, designated for the General Budget.

In memory of Phil Carver, by Ken & Diane Sanford, designated for the Audio-Visual Fund; by Brenda Gibson, Vivian Bohr, designated for the General Budget.

In honor and appreciation of Don Harris, by the Domestic Violence Education Support Group, designated for Vehicle Maintenance.

In memory of Peggy McBrayer, by Melvin & Zana Whitmire, designated for the Friendship Club.

In memory of Butch Privette, husband of Ann Privette, by Peggy Jones, designated for the General Budget.

In honor of Pell & Nancy Tanner, by Ann King Windham, designated for the General Budget.

In honor of Kathy Watson, by Melvin & Zana Whitmire, designated for the Tot Learning Center.

In honor of Emily Yelton's birthday, by Margaret Britt, designated for Friendship Club.

I WANT TO SAY "THANK YOU" to everybody that donated to the Backpack Ministry. The love and generosity of First Church provided 89 children with back packs full of school supplies....Angela Forney

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

September 17 at 12:00 noon

SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Every Monday at Noon

Send information for Newsletter & Bulletin to pcraft@fumcrutherfordton.org

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters (9:00)

1st Sunday Rory & Jeannie Kiser
2nd Sunday Sandra Turner & Mabel Satrape
3rd Sunday Bobbie Tedford & Cheryl Waddingham
4th Sunday Russ & Linda Armentrout
5th Sunday Jim & Shelia Cuthbertson

Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday Buzz & Joyce Mercer
2nd Sunday Odean & Barbara Keever
3rd Sunday Jane Waters & Zana Whitmire
4th Sunday Robbie Deese & Todd Snaith
5th Sunday Russ & Gilda Hester

Sound System

1st Sunday Stephen Wright
2nd Sunday Ralph Hier
3rd Sunday Eric Wells
4th Sunday Don Suttles
5th Sunday Pete Pryor

Ushers (9:00)

Ken Sanford, Doug Melton, Jim Cuthbertson, Hugh McMahon

Ushers (11:00)

David Best, Jimmy Dancy, Mel Bunch, Greg Hodge, Jeff Powell, Ralph Hier, David Rogers

Bread Makers

1st Sunday Debbie Best
2nd Sunday Becky Wright
3rd Sunday Soul Food
4th Sunday Cheryl Waddingham
5th Sunday Jane Shuford

Acolytes

1st Sunday Dee Dee Majors
2nd Sunday Maris Rogers
3rd Sunday Meg Prevatte
4th Sunday Maris Rogers
5th Sunday Maris Rogers

Communion Stewards

1st Sunday Ken & Diane Sanford

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We're on the Web!
www.fumcrutherfordton.org



Find us on Facebook!

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