January 2020

First United Methodist Church
264 North Main Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
www.fumcrutherfordton.org
Vol. 8, No. 5

The First Word

Sharing Christ's Light

...on Main Street & beyond

Welcome Table

January 13 & 20, 2020

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.

Winter Clothing Collection: We are collecting coats for our Welcome Table guests. Please place coat donations in the tote in the church office. Thanks for all that you do for our neighbors.

Santa's Workshop

Santa's Workshop for the Sunday School and TLC children was a huge success this year. This is an annual event in conjunction with the UMW Bazaar. The children purchase low priced prewrapped gifts for their family members and the money goes towards the FUMC ministries, funded by the Bazaar. This idea was the brainchild of Nancy Tanner and it has been a huge hit with the children and parents. Mrs. Claus (Dot Abrams) helps with the shopping and spends time with the children. Santa's Elves this year were, Nancy Tanner, Nancy Carson, Vickie Thompson, Mary Roach, and Zana Whitmire. Thank you to Mrs. Claus, the TLC parents, Sunday School parents, and Santa's Elves. Approximately $1000.00 was raised this year!!!!!

From the Pastor

Wise as Serpents and Pure as Doves

Happy New Year! When I grew up, I used to hear adults say, "Oh, time flies. I don't know where time went this year!" They said the older you got, the faster time went. Now I know what they meant. You see that it is the first of the new year, the next moment you are at the end of it! We are standing in the beginning of year 2020.

What are your new year's resolutions? Doing exercise 30 minutes a day at least 5 days a week? Having a day set aside each week to spend time with your spouse, or your family, or doing something just for yourself? Saving money by not doing impulse purchases, by not using your credit card beyond your means, etc.? Starting to set aside a certain amount of money every month for your 60th birthday trip to Hawaii with your husband (which I have been doing for a year now!)? Whichever your resolutions are, I fully support you. May you have a good start, good progress throughout the year, and good ending with them!

On top of them, I suggest that we share one resolution together as a church family. Ready? To stay open and malleable to the Holy Spirit's movements and guidance in our life together. Have you noticed something recently? Have you felt some difference in the life of the church? It is harder for me to tell than for you, because I have been here for only 6 months. But there is something definitely wonderful in the air, and it is growing among us. Is it hope? Is it readiness? Is it vitality? Is it anticipation? Or all of the above?

God is at work in us. God has something beautiful in mind for our church and for the community around us. Can we be open to God's doing? Can we put God's will before ours and delay our assessments just a little bit? Can we patiently try to embrace God's ways of bringing new things into our life and to participate in them joyfully?

I am not suggesting we paralyze our discerning abilities. I am not suggesting we become dumb. No, on the contrary. We should stay more alert than ever. Do you remember what Jesus said, when he sent out the twelve in Matthew 10:16? He said, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." When God is at work in a special way, this is the attitude we should take: innocent as doves and wise as serpents.

Be wise and discern well whether it is one person's self-promoting endeavor, for example, or God doing something? Purity of heart and innocence of mind is also required, because only then we will be able to see God's Spirit moving among us. Are you ready? I am!

In-Yong

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st.

The office will also be closed on Monday, January 20th. The cut-off for the January 26th bulletin will be at Noon on Friday, January 17th.

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

Jan. 1, Mary Melvin, Terry Mukuka, Linda Stransky

Jan. 2, Melanie Dewey, Julie Smith

Jan. 3, Sebastian Ogando

Jan. 7, Soonae Kang

Jan. 8, Harsha Mehta

Jan. 9, Monique Gore

Jan. 10, Eun Ha Choi, Sonia Brum

Jan. 11, Jane Grays, Wayne Moy

Jan. 12, Paul Lee Webster, Cornelia Wieck

Jan. 13, Lisa Bachman

Jan. 14, Tendai Paul Manyeza

Jan. 15, Sumesh Kumar

Jan. 16, Innocent Afful, Karen Vo To

Jan. 17, Logan Alley, Florida Gailes

Jan. 18, Maria Hase, Margaret Jane Kies

Jan. 19, Eric Angel, Maureen Cleary, Gaston Ntambo

Jan. 21, Sue Wolfe

Jan. 22, Eun Mi Cho

Jan. 24, Erie Stuckett

Jan. 25, Praveena Balasundaram, Hee Cho Om

Jan. 26, Rosangelica Acevedo-Delgado, Marilyn Chan, Mei Liu

Jan. 27, Claudia Genung

Jan. 28, Emmanuel Barte, Betty Gittens, Jane Denise Honeycutt

Jan. 29, Janet Lahr Lewis, Clemence Ulomb Nakamamand

Jan. 31, Arsese Lumami, Salazaku Winu

Safe Sanctuary training will be held on Sunday, January 26 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. ALL the people who work with children and youth, except for the TLC staff, should attend it. Please plan ahead and be there. Thank you.

TLC News

TLC has been very busy since we opened our doors back in September and doesn't seem to be slowing down! A big shout out to all the staff and parents of TLC for a great start to the year!

In December we had a lot happen and lots of fun. One of our biggest events was our Annual Christmas Play titled "The First Nativity" which was performed on December 5 and we had standing room only!

On Friday, December 6 we had our Birthday Party for Jesus where we read the story of Jesus birth, sang Happy Birthday to Jesus and of course ate CAKE!

We also had our Annual Santa's Workshop that was sponsored by UMW. TLC is very grateful to all those that helped make this event so special for our children.

On Wednesday and Thursday December 18 & 19 we had a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus to help celebrate at our Christmas Parties!

Also we are gearing up for our Registration for the 2020-2021 school year. We will open registration for currently enrolled children, siblings, and church members starting on Wednesday, Feb 4-14. If you have a children or grandchild that will be 15 months-4 years old by August 31 please let Johnathan know. Community registration opens at 8am on February 17.

Upcoming Events for January include:

January 1-4—Winter Break-NO TLC

January 6—TLC resumes

January 20—MLK Holiday-NO TLC

TLC would like to thank everyone for your continued support of our program!

Johnathan Dillon
TLC Director

YOUTH NEWSLETTER

Throughout the month of December, we covered a series in our youth program titled, "Unwrapped." This was series about how we can prepare to receive God's gift to us. We talked about the season of Advent, and what advent means. We learned that advent is a time of preparation for us, that we should use to prepare for the gift of Jesus. We also talked about ways that we can share this gift with others. Sometimes this can seem overwhelming to people of all ages, but we found some ways to make it easier. We talked about ways we can make sharing this gift relational and personal. We also have talked about how God's gift can be surprising. Sometimes the gifts that God has for us are not at all what we expect them to be. No one expected the savior of Israel to come as a baby in a manger, but so many times that is how God works. We also found that the best gift we can receive from God is his presence. The idea that God is with us always is a gift that we keep getting constantly. If we understand that Jesus came so that we can have the presence of God with us all the time, we can realize that Christmas never really ends.

Next month in January we will be covering a series titled, "Influencer." This will be a series on the topic of wisdom. We will learn how to be humble (not arrogant), chase good (not evil), live small (and dream big), and tell God's story (not just our own). Make sure to join us in the month of January as we come together on Sundays from 5-7pm for a time of food, fun, and fellowship!

Blessings,
Gary Williams

FIRST kids

Throughout the month of December we covered a series on the topic of Joy! To do this we worked through a series titled, "Unboxed." During this series we talked about ways that we can maintain our joy even in situations that don't go our way. We can find reasons for joy in a few ways. We can have joy because God keeps his promises to us. We found this by looking at the prophets leading up to Jesus. We saw that God promised a savior would come for his people. Even though it took a little longer than most thought it would, God still kept his promise by sending Jesus. We also found that we can have joy because anything is possible with God. From the birth of John which seemed impossible to the birth of Jesus, which also seemed impossible we found that nothing is impossible for God. We found we can have joy because God is with us. Life may not always go the way we want it to, but if we remember these simple truths we can have joy in the good times and the bad.

In the month of January we will be starting a series titled, "The Big Quiz." This will be a series on the topic of knowledge! Where does it come from and how can we get it? Make sure to join us throughout January for an amazing time of worship in our children's ministry!

Blessings,
Gary Williams

FIRST kids 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.

Dear First Church, Thank you for the cards, gifts & treats, the kind wishes and most of all thank you for your friendship during this holiday season and throughout the year. My heart is full of gratitude. Happy New Year!

Sincerely, Pam

The Following Monetary Gifts Have Been Received:

In memory of Shelia Cuthbertson's Father, by Alan & Sherry Henderson, designated for the General Fund.

In memory of Ken Flack, by Jeep & Johnnie Martin, designated for the General Fund, by Bill & Freda Beaver, Pat Edwards, Linda Haire, Truman & Linda Harris, Dennis & Delores Hill, Alan & Sherry Henderson, Sandra Martin, Douglas & Elizabeth Owens, Joan D. Wall, David & Peggy Truscott, Hugh & Mary Moore, Alan & Barbara Freeman, Dal & Ruth Nanney, Jack & Frances Edwards, Jack & Betty Huss, Ester Lane, Sally McClure, Doug McClure, Stacy & Katherine Lail, Mark & Susan Crocker, James & Rebecca Barrier, Nolan Newton & Pam Robinson-Newton, designated for the Fellowship Center Roof Fund, by Joyce Gray, designated for Soul Food.

In memory of Ned Hendrick, by Derek Smith and Family, designated for the General Fund.

In memory of Helen Rogers, by Shirley Koone, designated for Missions.

In memory of Charles & Lib Young (for Christmas), by Bill & Maggie Young, Molly & Miette Fox, and Jae Berry and Seon Joon Young, designated for the Dillard Morrow Sunday School Class.

Next Newsletter Deadline
December 17 at 12:00 noon

Sunday Bulletin Deadline
Every Monday at Noon

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

January 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

Greeters (11:00)

1st Sunday	Dillard & Carolyn Morrow
2nd Sunday	Grant & BJ McRorie
3rd Sunday	Alan & Sherry Henderson
4th Sunday	Shirley Koone & Wanda Davis

Sound System

1st Sunday	Eric Wells
2nd Sunday	Don Suttles
3rd Sunday	Pete Pryor
4th Sunday	Ed Bosgra

Ushers (9:00)

Ken Sanford, Doug Melton, Jim Cuthbertson, Hugh McMahon

Ushers (11:00)

Alan Henderson, Jimmy Dancy, Mel Bunch, Greg Hodge, Ralph Hier, David Rogers

Bread Makers

1st Sunday	Jane Shuford
2nd Sunday	Brenda Gibson
3rd Sunday	Bobbie Tedford
4th Sunday	Laurie Furse

Acolytes

1st Sunday	Meg Prevatt
2nd Sunday	Kaia Walker
3rd Sunday	Maris Rogers
4th Sunday	Maris Rogers

Communion Stewards

1st Sunday	Bobbie Tedford & VerAnn Kimbrough

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

Find us on Facebook!

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