

CHURCH CHAT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHINA GROVE, NC

May, 2010



May 9 -- Mother's Day



May 31-- Memorial Day



PASTORAL PONDERING: Greeting I was playing with Maggie, my precious granddaughter. She is so full of life and joy and innocence. When I spend an

hour or so with her, it really does something for my soul. I often tell Cheryl that I need to go get a "Maggie treatment." She is a very special granddaughter, but she is also a symbol of something else for me.

Maybe it was the second anniversary of my Dad's death two days before this that had me remembering him more than usual that day. As I was playing with Maggie in her den, it reminded me that in that same room, I had gone through one of the most difficult days in my life. My mind drifted back to that day. It was the day that I told Dad I had picked out a place for him to go stay for a while. His dementia had gotten so much worse so fast and I had to do something because he was becoming too difficult to manage even for the sitter I had hired. Before the dementia set in, Dad was the perfect southern gentleman. After the dementia had Dad in its clutches, he was ...well...difficult.

Dad was sitting in his chair in the den that morning. I made small talk with him at first. After a while of talking with him, I told him that I needed him to go to the memory care center I had found. I have never seen what I saw next. Dad flew into a rage, cussed me out, and ran me out of the house, walking toward me and shaking his walker at me. He told me to leave and not come back. He was so upset I was not sure what might happen next. The dementia had messed up his brain but his body was still stronger than most men in their early eighties! I left and prayed God would show me what to do next, because I was slap out of ideas.

Later that afternoon things turned around. To make a long story short, with the help of his only sister who came over, and my dear wife Cheryl, we got Dad to the place he was going. It was one of the toughest days of my life, especially the scene in his den. As most of you know Dad died in 2008 on April 15. It is strange how the house you grew up in can become a place of pain and sadness and death. I had trouble even wanting to go in it anymore. Maybe you have been there. But...in the difficult time after his death, something wonderful happened.

As things turned out, my daughter and her husband wanted to rent, then buy Dad's house from the estate. My sisters and I agreed on this and soon they moved in. They were living there in January of 2009 when God gave us the gift of Maggie. It had been a little less than a year after Dad died. My experience of the house completely changed the day Maggie came home from the hospital. Ever since that day, the house has been filled with new life! In the same house that an old, worn out life had ended and a brand new life had begun!

Now I can now go into the house full of joy and excitement instead of pain and worry and sadness!

I was snapped out of my thoughts by a beach ball hitting my face. It was Maggie and she wanted me to throw her the ball. I stared at her and thought about how precious she was. I also thought about how I was sitting on the very spot I had stood on that day when one of the worst things that ever happened to me took place. Now on that same spot, I was enjoying with great joy one of the best things that ever happened to me. All this happened in the same house, on the same spot in the den. What an awesome gift from God when new life comes in the aftermath of death!

Somehow I got some tears in my eyes. I realized deep down in my soul that I had been privileged to see Resurrection happen right before my very eyes ...in the house I grew up in! Praise God he let me see that.

Grace and Peace, Vance



MISSING IN ACTION?? Our church family is what makes FUMC China Grove so great. If you have noticed any member of our church who has been missing and may need to be contacted, please share this with any member of our Witness Committee. Our committee members are **Alan Jones, Nora Eckerd, Wanda Watts, Su Krotcho, and Tami Harless**. The Scripture for our bread ministry from I Corinthians 10:17 tells us "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." Together we can all make a difference.

All persons going to Salkehatchie need to get your half of the cost (\$100.00) turned in. You may write a check to the church and mark it for: "Salkehatchie." We need to collect this money as soon as we can. Thanks!



IMPACT DAY REGISTRATION: On **June 5** United Methodists from all over our district (Rowan and Cabarrus Counties) will gather for a day of service as we meet at Intimidators stadium and then go out to engage in various service projects. If you want to sign up to be one of the 3,000 people Bishop Goodpastor wants to see from our district, get your forms to **Wanda Watts!!!**



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY: Our collection of 2,000 pounds of peanut butter and/or jelly (in plastic containers please) continues. So far, we have collected over 1636 pounds for RHM.

We are on pace to reach our goal by **June 30, 2010** if we keep up what we are doing. Keep up the good work!

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BACKPACKS FOR KIDS: Bring kid-friendly food to fill five book packs bi-weekly. These will be sent home with children in need! See the details at one of our two displays. They are in the Old fellowship hall and the hall leading out to the playground in our office wing.



MORNING BIBLE STUDY: A Bible Study led by Rev Lowe will meet at **10:30 AM** every **Tuesday** in the Library. The study is on Genesis and everyone is welcomed to come.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER is **May 6**. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14 NIV



MOTHER'S DAY is **May 9**. Don't have a clue as to what to give her, does she have everything? Try purchasing a gift online from UMCOR, IMA or Samaritan's Purse in her honor. There are a variety of gifts to choose from. Go to:

- <http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor>
- <http://www.imaworldhealth.org>
- <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>



RECYCLE: We have been recycling for six months and you are doing a great job. Thank you so much. We did not get very many April showers this year so here are some water saving suggestions.

--SAVE WATER: Fill a large bowl with water and wash vegetables or fruit in it instead of letting the water run. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator for cold water to drink instead of letting the water run to get cold. After boiling eggs or steaming vegetables, save the water and use to water houseplants or flowers. Place a bucket in the shower to catch water while it heats and use it to water houseplants or flowers once cooled. Turn the water off while you shave or brush your teeth. Don't flush the toilet after every use. Use this rhyme, "If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down." Make sure you only wash clothes or use the dishwasher when you have a full load.

The congregation can bring the following recycle items from home and place them in the containers located under the shelter in the parking lot.

--PLASTIC: Plastic bottles (number one and two only), packaging (outer wrap, cooky trays), empty pill bottles, microwave trays, hair spray lids, wipe containers, etc. Empty liquids from bottles and rinse them out before placing in their container.

--PAPER: Cereal boxes, magazines, telephone books, scrap paper, junk mail, and envelopes (even those with windows).

--NEWSPAPERS: Anything that comes in the newspaper, the grocery flyers that look like newspaper that come in the mail.

--CARDBOARD: Break down all boxes and place them in their marked container.

--TIN CANS: Please rinse out and crush the cans (if you have the strength) and remove the paper label. Place the label in paper container or if it's Campbell's remember to save it for the UMW!

--ALUMINUM: Drink cans (crush them if you have the time and strength). Pie pans and foil are **no longer being accepted**.

--GLASS CONTAINERS (clear, green, or brown) should be rinsed and placed in their recycle bin.

Save the environment and some money by reusing or repurposing some items or by making some items using household products.

--FLOWER POTS: Instead of buying new, you may want to use clear plastic 2 liter drink bottles. Just cut the top off, they are "dirt cheap."

--BIRD NEST MATERIAL: Take all of the cotton that comes in over-the-counter medications and vitamins, form a large ball, wrap with thread or fishing line and hang outside in the tree, birds will use to line their nests. Birds also like dryer lint and string!

--NEWSPAPER: When getting ready to plant your garden, consider "lasagna" gardening. Check Lasagna Gardening 101 at the following web site. ourgardengang.tripod.com/lasagna_gardening

--WEED KILLER (LARGE AREAS): ~~CORRECTED~~
 1 gallon distilled vinegar Spray bottle
 1 cup household salt 1 tbsp dish detergent
 Mix all ingredients in large kettle and heat over medium heat until the salt is completely dissolved. It is not necessary to boil the solution. Set aside to cool. Once the vinegar solution has cooled, pour it into a spray bottle.

--WEED KILLER (SMALL AREAS):
 1 tbsp gin 1 tsp dish detergent
 1 tbsp cider vinegar 1 quart water
 Mix all ingredients in a bowl and pour into a spray bottle.

The **Town of China Grove** has a drop-off site at the Public Works Department (618 Salisbury Street, China Grove) for plastics, all paper products, cardboard, and aluminum cans on **Mon - Fri** from **8 AM to 5 PM**.

We're told **Lowe's Hardware** store will recycle batteries for you.



SILENT AUCTION: We will have a silent auction for the Impact Mission Day **until May 5** at Wonderful Wednesdays. The items will be on display in the Old Fellowship Hall during Sunday School Fellowship time and in the Langford Hall during Wonderful Wednesdays.

If you have items that you can donate for the silent auction, please contact **Wanda Watts**.

NEED TO KNOW

CONCRETE REPAIRS: The Board of Trustees is having repair work done to the concrete sidewalks on the side of the church. Watch your step!



YOUNG AT HEART: The Young-at-Heart Group will **not meet at 10:00 AM on May 3** as they usually do. The group will instead meet at the church at **11:30 AM** to go to the K&W in Salisbury for lunch. From there the group will go to the Salisbury Gardens to have a birthday party for Gladys Deal at **2:00 PM**. Those wishing to go to the Salisbury K&W instead of meeting at the church should go to the K&W at **12:00 noon**. Anyone wishing to join us for the birthday party should come to the Salisbury Gardens on Highway 70 a little **before 2:00 PM**.

Another outing for May is being planned and will be discussed at the May 3 meeting. On **June 7** the Young-at-Heart Group will meet in Langford Hall at **10:00 AM**. Following a brief business meeting, the group will be entertained by **Jarney Basinger** as he sings some of his favorites. Refreshments will be supplied by **Eloise Teeter** and **Sharon Basinger**. An outing for June will be decided upon at the meeting.

Thanks, Brenda Seamon



ATLANTA BRAVES BASEBALL TRIP: **August 6-7**, SF Giants vs Atl Braves. We're leaving FUMC Friday at **8 AM** with stops along the way for rest and lunch with a planned arrival about 2 PM. A pool is available. Free time follows until game departure around 4 PM; game time is 7:30 PM. The Saturday morning breakfast at the hotel buffet followed by free time until check-out around 11 AM and then sightseeing until game time at 4 PM. After the game, we will head home, stop for dinner and rest, and arrive back in China Grove before midnight.

Prices include travel, hotel, game tickets, and Saturday breakfast.

- SINGLE:** \$215 per person*
- DOUBLE:** \$169 per person
- TRIPLE:** \$159 per person
- QUAD:** \$149 per person
- CHILD:** \$109 per person

*Prices are the same as last year, but we must have a minimum of 30 people. If you have friends or family outside of our church, invite them to join us too. For questions see **Gayle** or **Dale Keiger**.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee met March 29, 2010 and discussed the following items. The following information is from the **Choir Team Music Committee:**

--On **May 2** at **6:00 PM**, we will be having a **Celebration Songfest** (new name for our old Gospel Sing). The choir will sing a few songs and the remainder of the program is open to everyone wishing to be in our Songfest. An offering/donation will be taken to help purchase a new drum set and we are hoping we will be able sometime this year to purchase a new keyboard that can record and do many other things so Lisa can record and then can direct. The keyboard we now have can be used to replace the piano in the choir room that is in bad shape and cannot be fixed. The approximate cost of the new drum set is \$1800 and the new keyboard will run anywhere from \$2500 to \$7500.

--Our next **Communion Sunday** is **May 2** and **Mindy Welch** has volunteered to bake the bread.

--**Mothers Day** is **May 9**; **Fathers Day** is **June 20**. Vance will get gift cards to give to the youngest and oldest mothers and fathers.

--**Youth Sunday** is **May 16**

--**Confirmation** is **May 23**

--Promotion **Sunday** will be **August 23**

We discussed who we can invite to be our speaker at **Homecoming, September 19**. We asked Vance to contact Sally Langford to see about **Ann Green** coming to talk about her experience in Africa. (Since Board Meeting, Ann Green Duncan has confirmed that she will be our speaker at Homecoming this year.)

Our next meeting will be **August 23** at 6:30 PM in the Library unless we get some feedback from the Worship Experience Surveys that need to be discussed. If so, I will set another meeting date.

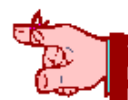
Chairperson, Rickie Faggart



MISSION SEEKERS CIRCLE:

This Circle met on April 12. **Beverly Williams** and **Telisa Barnhardt** served as hostesses. Telisa presented an interesting program on bananas. She included the health benefits of this fruit as well as examples of several varieties. Our hostesses served us water and a banana. It was pointed out that monies that would have been spent on refreshments were used to furnish food items for the backpacks for kids.

Our next program will be held on **May 10**. Hostesses will be **Lee Ann Hauss** and **Reidie Bostian**. Our program for the evening will be a thorough cleaning of the kitchen in Langford Hall. Those in attendance are asked to pack a bucket with some cleaning supplies.



REMEMBER: We're saving, selling, or giving away many items. See other areas in this or earlier *Church Chats* for additional information.

--**ONE TON OF PB&J** by June 30, 2020 for RHM. Containers are in the Narthex and outside the church offices.

--**COUPONS, CELL PHONES, CHRISTIAN LITERATURE, EYE GLASSES, STAMPS, PRINTER CARTRIDGES:** Containers kept in the Narthex and outside the church offices.

--**CHURCH COOKBOOKS** are \$10. See Diane.

--**OLD PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES:** Only available on a "first-come, first-served" basis. See Diane.

--**ALTAR FLOWERS** start at \$40. See Diane.

--**EXTRACTS/FLAVORINGS** are \$2.50. See Diane.

--**DANNY DUZITS** are \$2.00. See Diane.

My name is **Jacqueline Merwin** and I am the director here at First United Methodist Early Learning. I have been here for ten years, and this center holds a special place in my heart. I have seen the center grow and develop into, what I think, the best center in all of Rowan/Cabarrus County. We will celebrate its 13 anniversary in August. It holds a remarkable reputation with the community and a **four star rating**.

We have a packed waiting list. The staff is wonderful. They help make the center so great. We have an almost full enrollment in this time of economy! Our before/after school has really taken off as well. We are full with 14 children and have a waiting list that is over 20 long for the summer program. School is about to be out and the summer will be kicking off with field trips, hands on activities, and lots of learning for everyone.

The staff and myself have been busy taking continuing education classes. Several of the staff will be continuing their education through RCCC towards a degree in Early Childhood Education. We stay current on CPR, First Aid, Playground Safety, Fire Safety, SIDS, and BSAC.

As a director, I am grateful for the wonderful staff and with the center's board members. We have open communication and all want to make a difference and help provide a quality childcare center for the community. Also, the church extends activities to the families in our center and helps provide things and activities for the children. It's true that "It takes a community to raise a child."

The children are the reason that we do what we do. Graduation is right around the corner. By all of us coming together, we have touched each child's life. Everything we do for children is never in vain.

May you all have a wonderful day, and may God continue to richly bless each and every one.

If you have information for *Church Chat*, please e-mail in to WINECOFF1971@carolina.rr.com in the body of the e-mail (**NOT as an attachment**); or IF you do NOT have e-mail capability, put a hard copy in the folder on the door of the copy room. We need the information by the **20th of the month** if it is to be included in the next month's issue. Occasionally, if it does NOT cause massive editing and rearranging, we can add late information; but that is not the usual case. We need to receive the information by that date so you can receive your copy before the start of the next month. It usually takes 3 or 4 days to write the newsletter, a day or two to copy-label-fold, and another day for you to get it in the mail.

We really would like to add information from all of the committees, circles, classes, and groups. Many would like to know what you have done, are doing, and will be doing. You might even get extra participation if you share your information.

Church Bulletin Bloopers from L.T.

--The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

--Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

--Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help.

--Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving pleasure to the congregation.

--For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

--Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

--At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

--Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

--Potluck supper Sunday at 5 PM. Prayer and medication to follow.

--The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

--Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

--The Associate Minister unveiled the Church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

--A bean supper will be held Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.



Many thanks to those who serve in this manner.

	8:30	10:30	11:00
May 2	Nursery: ?? Greeters: Reggie & Martha Safrit Acolytes: ?? Fellowship: ??		?? Ralph & Jean Luther ?? ??
May 9	Nursery: ?? Lay Reader: Kelley Vinson Greeters: Nora Eckard Acolytes: ?? Fellowship: ??		?? Denise Daugherty Floyd & Denise Daugherty ?? ??
May 16	Nursery: ?? Lay Reader: ?? Greeters: Youth One service Acolytes: Youth One service Fellowship: ??		?? ??
May 23	Nursery: ?? Lay Reader: Susan Keiger Greeters: Jim Faggart & Butch Faggart Acolytes: ?? Fellowship: ??		?? Isaac Bell Jeff & Kelly Street ?? ??
May 30	Nursery: ?? Lay Reader: Shelley DiDonato Greeters: ?? Acolytes: ?? Fellowship: ??		?? L.D. & Pat Jones ?? ??



CALENDAR: Be sure to save all of these dates.



Sun, May 2: Two services - 8:30 & 11 AM
 Sun, May 2: Songfest - 6 PM
 Mon, May 3: UMW - 6 PM
 Wed, May 5: Wonderful Wednesday ~5:30 PM
 Sun, May 9: Two services - 8:30 & 11 AM
 Sun, May 9: Mother's Day
 Wed, May 12: Wonderful Wed ~5:30 PM
 Sun, May 16: One service - 10:30 AM, Youth
 Sun, May 16: Outreach Committee - 4 PM

Wed, May 19: Wonderful Wed ~5:30 PM
 Sun, May 23: Two services - 8:30 & 11 AM
 Wed, May 26: Wonderful Wed ~5:30 PM
 Sun, May 30: Two services - 8:30 & 11 AM
 Mon, May 31: Memorial Day
 Sat, Jun 5: Impact Day
 Mon, Jun 7: UMW - 6 PM

BE SURE TO CONFIRM DATES & TIMES.

Church Chat
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