



# CHURCH CHAT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHINA GROVE

## FEBRUARY, 2010



VALENTINE'S DAY 2/14/10

PRESIDENT'S DAY 2/15/109



**PASTORAL PONDERINGS:** Greetings. A Brand New Year... What a gift to have a clean slate to begin the year with. 2009 is gone and 2010 lies stretched out ahead of us. What will happen in a new year? Will it be a good year or will there be problems? Will the economy turn around or will it get worse? Will our health hold up or will it fail us this year? Will our families stay intact or will challenges separate us?

As a church we have our questions too. We have our 2010 officers and 2010 budget in place. We have some great goals to guide us to live out our mission statement in 2010. But what kind of year will it be? Will attendance and participation continue to decline or will God breath new life into our church so that we can grow and reach new people for Jesus Christ? Will we make our budget? Will we be able to work together in unity or will we let petty things divide us? Will we be open to change or will the power of the status quo hold us tightly in its grasp?

As we stand at the beginnings of a new year, we must admit we wonder about these things. I know that I have some very important decisions to make about my future. I know you do too. What are the answers to the questions that fill our heads as we face a brand new year with all its possibilities and potential?

Well, we just do not know. There is no way we can find some crystal ball that will help us see into our future. As hard as it can be, you and I have to trust God for the future. Our faith is the only real response we can make to the questions that fill our minds this time of the year. Our trust in God is what will enable us to walk into a new year with peace and confidence.

These questions can lead us to worry too much and make us miss the wonderful opportunities and possibilities God is bringing us in a new year. But our faith can overcome our worry and we can actually become excited about all the wonderful things that 2010 holds for us and our church!

It is a trite and overworn cliché but it has as much truth in it as anything I know:

As we face a brand new year, we may not know WHAT the future holds, but we CAN know WHO holds the future. Now that can help us live with our questions in this brand new year God has given us as a gift!

Vance



**THANKS:** Thanks to the following persons who will rotate off a Committee or the Administrative Board.

--Ad Board At Large: Frank Caraccio, Ron

Holshouser, and Vernon Clodfelter

--**Staff Parish:** Dan Hamrick, Andy Caudill, Susan Keiger, and Jim Christy.

--**Nominations:** Andrew Deal, Rosie Snow, and Sharon Deal.

--**Trustees:** Frank Greene, Phillip Stallings, and Dave Harless.

--**Finance:** Charles Martell, Rickie Faggart, and Herman Eagle.



**ATTENDANCE GOALS FOR 2010:**

**Goal: Average 300 per Sunday**  
(2009 average Worship = 265).

--That means we need **35 more per Sunday (average) to equal 300.**

--That is **15 more at the 8:30 Service and 20 more at the 11:00 Service**

--That also means **30 more on the 3rd Sunday.**

**THESE ARE HUGE GOALS...ONLY IF GOD HELPS US WILL REACH THEM!!!**

--Come as much as you can; change your patterns!

--Invite others to join you (old and new).

--Get out a church directory or look around and call folks who have stopped coming regularly!!!



**M & M OPPORTUNITIES:**

**PB&J:** Our collection of **one ton** of peanut butter and jelly (in plastic containers) continues. So far, we have collected **1215** pounds in 7 months for RHM.

**Souper Bowl Sunday** will be **Sunday, February 7.** You are asked to bring cans of soup for RHM. Please help us break our 2009 record of **1616 cans!**

**Blanket Sunday** will be February **28.** Each blanket will cost **\$5.00** and they may be given in memory or honor of those special to you. Can we surpass our total from last year? It will take **484 blankets** to do so!



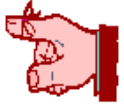
**MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** A Bible Study led by Rev. Lowe will meet at 10:30 AM every Tuesday in the library. The study is on Genesis and everyone is welcomed to come.



**Denise & Floyd Daugherty** are asking you to drop an occasional card or letter to their son. His address is:

Chad Barrow, #1179236  
PO Box 2405, Marion, NC 28752

The renter in our Old Parsonage is moving. It will be available for rental beginning **Feb 1.** See or call **Harry Reese** if you are interested.



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

- ONE TON of PB&J by June 30, 2010 for RHM.
- COUPONS, CHRISTIAN LITERATURE, STAMPS, PHONES, USED EYE GLASSES: Containers are kept in the Narthex and outside the church office.
- CHURCH COOKBOOK are \$10. See Diane.
- OLD PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES: From the office on a "first come, first serve" basis.
- ALTAR FLOWERS start at \$40. See Diane.
- EXTRACTS are \$2.50. See Diane.
- DANNY DUZITS are \$2.00. See Diane.



**STEWARDSHIP:** Did you know that we need \$7,310 each week to cover our budget. Through Sunday, January 27, we received \$19,592 for a **shortfall** of \$2,339! Also, the building fund balance is \$37,739. The contributions to the "Bus Fund" have almost **dried-up!** We still owe \$13,000 on the minibus.

The building fund loan and the minibus loan are like having **two big credit card balances!** The campaign to pay off the bus fund will last through **March, 2010.** Please do all you can to help reduce this debt. These checks to FUMC should be marked for the "Transportation Fund."

Many thanks to those of you who have started (or continued) using your envelopes and making out separate checks for each fund (general, transportation, building, etc). It solves a lot of problems for the Sunday counters as these donations go into separate accounts. Also, it is **not** necessary for you to write separate checks by date if it is your custom to give several weeks (or months) at one time. Again, thank you.



**MISSION SEEKERS' CIRCLE:** This group will sponsor a **Valentine Banquet** again this year on Saturday, **February 13** at 6:00 PM. Cost will be \$12.50 per person. Baby sitting will be available for the Refugee Youth. Tickets will be available soon.



**YOUNG AT HEART:** The Young-at-Heart group will meet in Langford Hall on **February 1** at 10:00 AM. A brief business meeting will be followed by a program on elder law issues in North Carolina including guardianship, probate, estate taxes, nursing home issues, etc.

**Jack Lindberg** will present this educational program which will be followed by a question/answer session where questions may be asked either as a group or privately. We hope everyone can attend and gain knowledge in areas of interest to us all.

At this February meeting, the group will plan an outing for later in February to go for a luncheon or evening outing at a restaurant. Details will be provided in the bulletin as plans are made.



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

**PLASTIC:** Plastic bottles (one and two only)

packaging (outer wrap, cookie trays), empty pill bottles, microwave meal trays, hair spray lids, wipe containers, etc. Please 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.



**Matt Parris** has been in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for a number of years. He's received his Eagle Scout at Grace Lutheran Church (his home church) on **January 17** but will also be recognized for his Eagle on **Scout Sunday** on **February 14** at our church.

He's 18 yrs. old and a senior at Jesses Carson High School. He received his Arrow of Light award as a Cub Scout, earned 35 Merit Badges, his World Conservation Award, and served as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

Matt is the first Eagle Scout we've had in awhile at church and it's my first Eagle since taking over the Troop 3 years ago. We are all pretty excited.

Lynne Miller



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:** The general UMW meeting will be on Monday, **February 1** at 7:00 PM in the library. All members of UMW are encouraged to attend. The Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 PM.

The Executive Committee members are **Telisa Barnhardt** (President), **Elveen Robinson** (Vice President), **Mary Barnhardt** (Secretary), **Eunice Holt** (treasurer), **Ione Hauss** (Secretary of Resources), **Wanda Watts** (Communication Coordinator), **Joyce Thomas** (Spiritual Growth), **Sandra Menius** (Social Action), vacant (Membership & Nurture), **Dot Eller** (Mission Education & Interpretation) and the Chairperson/President of each circle: **Dot Hauss** (Mattie Eller), **Elveen Robinson** (Wesleyan Friendship), **Sharon Beck** (EverReady), and **Debbie Beaver** (Mission Seekers).

Please pray for our missionaries in Bolivia: **John & Suzanne Funk, Gordon & Ardell Graner, Michael Keyse, and Diane Wimberley.**



**CHILDREN'S HOME:** We received a thank you letter from **George Bryan, Jr.**, President/CEO of the Children's Home, Inc in Winston-Salem and Franklin, NC thanking us for our "very kind and very generous contribution of **\$1,578.09.**" They serve 250 kids each week!



**PLEASE VOLUNTEER and/or HELP WHERE YOU CAN WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS!**

**--CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY TEAM:** This team will go to Austell, Georgia to work on Flood Damaged Homes (from last Fall). The trip will be from **February 24** through **February 28**. If you want to go please let **Frank Greene** know ASAP. We need your help! Gift cards from Lowe's and Home Depot would be great! Gas gift cards and money are also needed. If you want to write a check, make it out to FUMC and note "Atlanta Trip." Thanks so much for your help. Please be in prayer for those who will go.

**--HAITI RELIEF:** If you wish to donate funds to help in Haiti, write you check to the church and mark it "For Haiti" and place it in the offering plate. The church will send it to WNCC and they will send it to UMCOR. **100%** will go to help in Haiti. Thanks for anything you can give.

**--HOMELESS SHELTER:** We need a group or groups to cover **March 8** and **September 13** Homeless Shelter dates. We only have to do the supper meal and a couple of people to stay later to do the laundry. Please let Vance know if you or your group can do this.

**--NEW MINISTRY:** If anyone is interested in being a part of a sign language choir, now is your opportunity. **Beverly Maulden** is the WNCC representative and has a desire to see this come to fruition. She is willing to negotiate practice times depending who can participate. This choir would travel now and then to other surrounding churches to promote deaf awareness. They met Sunday, January 24, but if you could not make that meeting, contact Beverly at **704-467-7201** for more information and to let her know there is an interest. This is another great mission.

**WONDERKIDS:** On **February 3** they are gathering during Wonderful Wednesday Workshops to prepare Valentine goody bags for the residents of Liberty Commons. These gifts will be delivered on **February 10**.

A few chaperons and many donated items such as small Kleenex, lotions, sugar free candy, pens, notepads, etc are needed to make 80 bags.

### RULES TO LIVE BY

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have, or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, "I love you," mean it.
5. When you say, "I'm sorry," look the person in the eye.
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dream. People who don't have dreams don't have very much.
9. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slowly but think quickly.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?"
14. Remember that great love and great achievement involve great risk.
15. Say "God bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
16. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
17. Remember the three R's: Respect for self, Respect for others, and Responsibility for all your actions.
18. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
19. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
20. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
21. Spend some time alone.

**A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.**



### SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to those who serve in this manner.

	8:30	10:30	11:00
<b>Feb 7</b>	Nursery: ??		??
	Lay Reader: Isaac Bell		??
	Greeters: Jim & Butch Faggart		George & Debbie Beaver
	Acolytes: Rylie & Cordi		Gracie & Hannah W.
	Fellowship: Isaac & Aprille Bell		
<b>Feb 14</b>	Nursery: ??		??
	Lay Reader: Heather Shue		??
	Greeters: Andrew & Carrie Deal		Dale & Gayle Keiger
	Acolytes: Janssen & Melanie		Zane & Joseph
	Fellowship: Frank & Jennifer Caraccio		
<b>Feb 21</b>	Nursery: ??		??
	Lay Reader: Samantha Cable		
	Greeters: Danny & Elizabeth Gillis		
	Acolytes: McKenna & Emma		
	Fellowship: Kurt & Erin Culbert		
<b>Feb 28</b>	Nursery: ??		??
	Lay Reader: Isaac Bell		Eunice Holt
	Greeters: Glenda Campbell & Pat Smartree		Rob & Lauren Honeycutt
	Acolytes: Isaac & Austin		Jared & Gabe
	Fellowship: Edwin & Debbie Martin		

Sorry. This is all of the information that we received!



### CALENDAR: Be sure to save all of these dates.



Mon, Feb 1: Young at Heart, 10 AM	Mon, Feb 8: Mission Seekers, 7 PM
Mon, Feb 1, UMW Exec Committee, 6:30 PM	Wed, Feb 10: Wonderful Wed, 5:30 PM
Mon, Feb 1, UMW General Meeting, 7 PM	Sat, Feb 13: Sweetheart Banquet, 6 PM
Mon, Feb 1: Witness Committee, 6:30 PM	Sun, Feb 14: Boy Scout Sunday
Tue, Feb 2: Nurture Committee, 7:15 PM	Mon, Feb 15: SPRC, 6:30 PM
Wed, Feb 3: Wonderful Wed, 5:30 PM	Wed, Feb 17: Wonderful Wed, 5:30 PM
Sun, Feb 7: Souper Sunday	Sun, Feb 21: One Service, 10:30 AM
Sun, Feb 7: Outreach Committee, 4 PM	Sun, Feb 21: Ad Board, 7 PM -- date change
Mon, Feb 8: Finance Committee, 6:30 PM	Sun, Feb 28: Blanket Sunday

If you have information for *Church Chat*, please e-mail it to [WINECOFF1971@carolina.rr.com](mailto: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 would really like to add information from all of the committees, circles, classes, and groups. Most would like to know what you have done, are doing, and will be doing. You might even get extra participation if you send this information!

*Church Chat*  
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