

PASTOR'S PEN:

The Power of Good News

While visiting with MaryBeth Turner at our Elementary School, I met the publisher of the Granite Falls Newsletter. During our brief conversation she made certain to tell me that they only printed "good news" in this community newsletter.

Have you noticed how quick the news networks are to bring us the latest national tragedy or act of terror. The morning newscasters just can't wait to tell us how many new suspected anthrax cases they dug up while we slept. 10 years ago – just after Sept. 11, 2001, news anchors were falling all over themselves trying to be the first to announce how many had been lost in the three terror attacks on our nation. Fox News Network actually reported that an estimated 50,000 had been killed. I'm so thankful that they got it wrong!

Much of our news-casting sounds more like "fear-casting". If this is our primary source of perspective on our current national and world situation we risk believing a myth that we are continually in a time of trial without hope.

Victor Seribriakoff was an average student who struggled through school. His average scholastic performance remained about the same until the age of 15. That year an exceptionally stern teacher became fed up with his mediocre work and told him that he should drop out of school and pursue a trade.

Victor and his parents listened to this supposedly learned teacher and Victor was removed from school. Victor had been told he was a "dunce" and for the next 17 years he acted like one. Victor moved from job to job quickly becoming bored with each successive trade.

When Victor was 32 years old an evaluation at one of his new jobs included an IQ test which revealed that he had an IQ of 161 (genius level is 140)! Victor was told he was a genius and guess what? He started acting like one: he began to write books, secure patents and became a successful businessman. But perhaps the thing this former drop out is most proud of is the day he was elected chairman of the International Mensa Society - a fellowship of persons with confirmed genius.

As we gather together during this season of remembrance, I encourage each of us to make special efforts to say good things to each other. Our expressions of gratitude and caring for each other have the ability to counter the fear and uncertainty of the days we live. In another equally uncertain day, Jesus said, "Repent, and believe the good news!" I'm thankful for Jesus' good news-cast that always announces a forecast filled with hope!

Did You Know – Music is Good for Your Health? A Special Invitation for YOU

Research conducted at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, indicates that singing helps improve both a person's mood and the levels of antibodies that protect from invading germs. Also, a study at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, found that when people played percussion instruments and sang along, they showed greater concentrations of these antibodies than did those who simply listened to the music. (reported in Real Simple, Dec. 2008)

Here is YOUR opportunity to do something good for your health – and have an enjoyable experience in the process. The **GFFUMC sanctuary choir** will begin its fall schedule of regular rehearsals and worship participation at the end of August, and September is designated "bring a friend to choir" month. That friend could be YOU; if you enjoy singing praises to our good God, now is your opportunity to come and see what it's like being part of this group. We're a friendly bunch and will happily make room for you to sing along...and there's no obligation to continue after September is over (but we think you might want to J) Speak to Joanne or drop a note to her in her box in the church office if you're interested; no previous experience or skills are required.

Our two **handbell choirs**, "Holy Tollers" and "Heaven's Bells" are beginning their fall rehearsal schedule as well; speak to Joanne or drop her a note if you think you might like to try playing to the Lord on these beautiful musical instruments.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GIFTS RECEIVED:

In Memory of Barbara Bumgarner: Joyce Hartley, Bill and Terrie Johnson, Jim and Judy Mackie

In Memory of Millard Trivett: Joan Abernethy

In Memory of Wayne Bumgardner: Joan Abernethy

September Worship Associates

Acolyte: Blake Martin

Ushers: Tony Smith, Donald Hobbs, Mike Bowman, Bob Brooks, Eric Edwards and Wally Mitchum

September 4:

Greeters: Bert Reid and Carlene Deal

Nursery: Harv and Marti Lingerfelt

September 11:

Greeters: Rosemarie Storie and Haley Hice

Nursery:

September 18:

Greeters: Shea and Jordyn Bolick

Nursery: Rhett Foster and Kate Erby

September 25:

Greeters: Jerry and Kathy Bowman

Nursery: Trudy Brookshire and Karen LaFevers

October Worship Associates

Acolyte: Anna Katherine Howard

Ushers: Mike Darling, Donald Hobbs, Joey Lutz, Josh Lutz, Bob Brooks, and Daniel Dale

October 2:

Greeters: Wally and Mariya Mitchum

Nursery: Diane Blanton

October 9:

Greeters: Jerry and Kathy Bowman

Nursery:

October 16:

Greeters: Tammy, Emily and Abby Lambert

Nursery: Amy Cannon

October 23:

Greeters: Dustin and Melanie Bumgarner

Nursery: Annette Howes

October 30:

Greeters: Mike and Cheryl Bowman

Nursery: Harv and Marti Lingerfelt



SEPTEMBER 5, 2011

HAPPY LABOR DAY!!



MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP:

DATE	SS	WORSHIP BUDGET	
August 7	83	156	\$5,306
August 14	96	191	5,826
August 21	94	225	\$3,400
August 28			

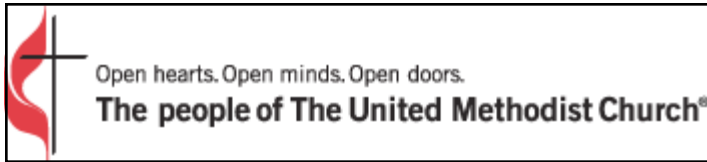
Hey GFFUMC,

I just wanted to send a quick not to say thank you to everyone who has been thinking of me and praying for me along the way. I have definitely appreciated it and things are going well.

Thanks and Love,

Michael Annas





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PO Box 412

9 LAKESIDE AVE.

GRANITE FALLS, NC 28630

Nursing Home Members:

Shaire Center: Janie Harden

Crestwood Home VMRC: Peggy Yount

Lutheran Home West - Margaret Barnett

Lenoir Health Care - Rachel Bumgarner

Retirement Home Family:

Kingston Residence: Mabel Teague, Rachel Annas, Dorothy Jones

Members at Home:

Della Kirby, Eleanor Hobbs, Dot Young

We are on the web:

www.gffumc.org

Email us at:

gffumc@gmail.com

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Howard Fleming

Ministers: All Baptized Members

Choir Director: Joanne Goertz

Organist/Pianist: Shirley Sapp

Youth Director: Shea Bolick

Children's Ministry: Carmen Jenkins

Administrative Asst: Karen Trivett

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

(Philippians 4: 6)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Cris Anderson (son of a teacher at Sawmills); Michael Annas (son of David and Debby); Lynn Bean (sister of Debby Annas); Chris Bodenheimer; Jeannie Brown (friend of Sue Smolka); Link Bryant; Rachel Bumgarner; Ralph James Cannon; Kathy Clay; Bo Collins (friend of Karen LaFevers); Jim Collins (Randy's dad); Rusty Craig (Shea's dad); Elizabeth Dupuy (French Teacher SCHS); Chris Evans; Tommy Fowler; Janie Harden; Jerry Haas (nephew of Christine Teague); Eleanor Hobbs; Linda Howard (Rob Howard's mother); Charlie Johnson (Bill's dad); Faye McGee (sister to Jerry Bowman); Kelsey Nelson; Penny Nix; Tanner Parham; Catherine Peake; Roxanne Collins' grandmother "Goody"; Ciella Sanders; Leesa Schoeberle; Joe Teague (friend of Jim Suarez); Fred Terrell (Jessica Raby's father); Lance Tibbetts (friend of G.C. and Karen Trivett); Jane Timmons (Joan Abernethy's sister); Chance Troesch; Manny Velasquez (Bert Reid's brother); Gail Villalobose (Tom Riley's aunt),