

A LOOK AHEAD:

GROWING IN CHRIST

ROAMERS NEEDED

In order to make Sunday School safe and fun for our children, we have the position of ROAMER in the Sunday School hour. The responsibilities of this position include:

- Walking the 300 and 400 hallways during the Sunday School hour.
- Checking in with the adults in the children and youth classes periodically to see whether any assistance is needed.
- Stepping in as the second adult in a classroom when necessary.



Volunteers can sign up for one Sunday a month, or one Sunday a quarter. For more information about this position, please contact Marcy McAdams at marcy@frontstreetumc.org or sign up on the features page of our website. Thank you in advance for your support of our children and youth programs.

SHARING CHRIST

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What is Stephen Ministry people ask? One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are trained, lay members of this church family who are ready to come alongside you and provide comfort and support during and after difficult life events.

As many of you know, we had a Stephen Ministry program here at Front Street UMC several years ago. There has been some interest expressed in reviving this powerful ministry. In order to assess this interest we are scheduling a meeting of those interested in knowing more about Stephen Ministry on **Wednesday, October 18** at 1:30 p.m. in the John Wesley Room. If you are interested but unable to attend this meeting, please contact Carol Sineath in the church office with questions or for more information.



YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

Alamance County has high school students who live in

unstable situations, which can result in homelessness. When this occurs, these students often leave home with just the clothes on their backs.

Front Street UMC is collecting hygiene items, which will be assembled into "Necessity Packs" by our youth and stored with high school social workers for distribution as needed. It is our hope that these "Necessity Packs" will provide some comfort to those students facing incredible challenges.



A list of items being collected is available outside the church office or on our website. Monetary donations are also welcome. You may write a check to FSUMC with "Youth Outreach Project" on the memo line. For more information about this project, please contact John Charles Steele

COMING UP THIS FALL AT FRONT STREET

- **CROP Walk** on Saturday, October 7 at Holly Hill Mall
- **All Saints Sunday**, November 5 at the 9 and 11 a.m. services, no 8:45 a.m. service
- Youth to attend **Pilgrimage**, a Conference youth event, November 10 - 12 at the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, NC
- **Touch a Truck** on Saturday, November 11 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Front Street UMC parking lot
- **Annual Charge Conference** on Sunday, November 12, 4:30 p.m. at Emmanuel UMC, Burlington
- **Marketplace**, a Playschool fundraiser, on Sunday, November 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. in Aldersgate Hall

Congratulations

Congratulations to Joanna and Derrick Strelow upon the birth of their daughter, Rachel Eliana, born October 2 at 5:45 a.m. weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. Eliana is a Hebrew name meaning God has answered.

Prayers

- **Mike Andress** who is recovering from surgery to repair a detached retina
- **Amy Chandler and Gaye Sartin** upon the death of their mother, Anne G. Gatlin, on 10/1
- **Tom Freeman**
- **Tina Manning**
- **The family of Audrey McIver** upon her death on 9/29
- **Jan Peach** who had successful knee replacement surgery on 9/21
- **Paul Snotherly** suffered a heart attack on 9/30 and is at Moses Cone
- **Dale Stearns and family** upon the death of his wife, Ann, on 9/25
- **J. C. Thomas and family** upon the death of his wife, Mary Lewis, on 9/18
- **Alice Thompson** who will have hip replacement surgery on 11/7

Thank You

On behalf of the Alamance Community College students in the Adult Basic Literacy Education and staff, I would like to thank the congregation of Front Street United Methodist Church for the food donations. The students also wrote thank you notes that will be available for viewing in the church office.

They were very happy to receive food that enhanced their nutritional needs. Front Street UMC is a pillar of our community and continues to do the work of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

*Sincerely,
Katherine Wilson*

STAFF

Senior Pastor
Ross Carter

Minister of Outreach
Patrick Murphy

Director of Children's Ministry
Marcy Z. McAdams

Coordinator of Congregational Care
Carol W. Sineath

Associate Pastor of Student Ministries
Dave Bollen

Organist/Director of Music
Matt Brittain

Director of Aldersgate Music
Clay Stevenson

Choirmaster
Laura J. Sam

Finance Manager
Tammy T. Page

Administrative Assistant
Pamela P. Shields

Communications Coordinator
Joanna E. C. Strelow

Building Superintendent
Jackie N. Long

Maintenance
Joe L. Peloquin

Playschool Director
Barbara K. Long

Afterschool Director
Catherine H. Mills

Babies Morning Out Director
Rebecca H. Hurdle

**ON CALL
EMERGENCY
PHONE NUMBER:
336-380-4136**



STEWARDSHIP SERMON SERIES

During the three middle Sundays in October, we will explore the importance of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as part of our interwoven life of discipleship. As part of our commitment to the Kingdom and to one another, we will have the opportunity to turn in financial pledge cards on **Sunday, October 22**. Please watch for your card and letter to come in the mail this week.

October 8	Doing Life Together: Prayer & Presence Acts 2:46-47; Luke 6:12-16
October 15	Doing Life Together: Gifts & Service Romans 12:9-13; Matthew 25:14-30
October 22	Doing Life Together: Witness James 1:22-25; Philippians 4:2-9

THE FIRST LOVE CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

burned-out churchgoers. Have you, “let go of the love you had at first?”

We can do all the good in the world and be an incredibly successful church by institutional standards — and we can do it by “staying busy” — but if we are not immersed in the love of God in Jesus Christ, it all means *nothing*. In 1 John, the apostle writes, “God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them.” Without love, we are dead. When we get too comfortable doing what we know and forget to seek the people and places God calls us to, we miss the point of our calling.

Henri Nouwen once argued that Jesus, who was rejected, abandoned, and wounded asks one question of us on this side of the resurrection, “Do you love me?” Jesus’s question is never: How many people take you seriously? How much are you going to accomplish? Can you show us some results? Did you make a profit? Are we under budget for the year? No. The question is: Are you in love with Jesus? Do you know the incarnate God?

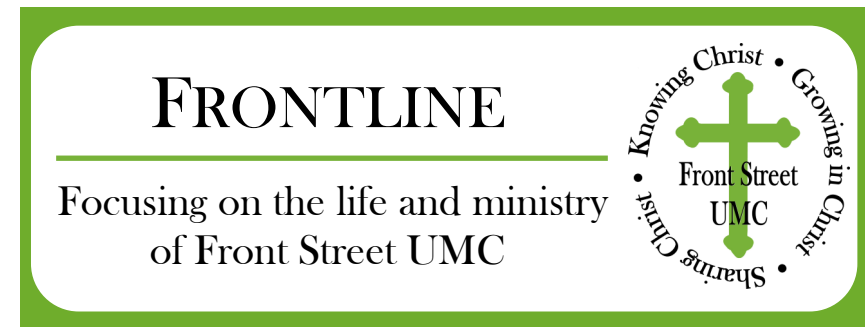
What do you need in your life to shift so that you are more open to the love God lavishes over us each day?

– Pastor Patrick

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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THE FIRST LOVE

Read Hosea 6:1–3 and Revelation 2:1–7

I have a very simple question to ask you: *what comes first in your life?* For many of us, that question seems easy enough to answer. Reflexively, we might say family, children, education, working hard, helping people, or if anyone feels particularly Sunday-school-ish, you might answer, “God!” However, I’m willing to bet that the more deeply you think on it, the more clearly you’ll recognize that what you *desire* to be first in your life doesn’t necessarily match what *is* first.

Without exception, we all reach a point at which we feel irritable, stressed, and unreliable to the people we care about most. Most often the nonstop demands of our careers, meeting needs, and keeping up with bills and appearances pushes those we love, as well as the triune God we want to love, to the background. The divide between what we desire in life and what is true of our lives is symptomatic of how busily and abruptly we live. Who we want to be isn’t always who we are. How we want to live isn’t always how we’re living. What we desire for ourselves isn’t always what God desires for us. Busy schedules and constant activity leave little room for nurturing our life together in Christ, and so church becomes an activity on the calendar instead of a common life that orders and informs all that we do.

From a prison cell on the isle of Patmos, John pens short letters to the seven churches he serves in present day Turkey. Specifically to his sisters and brothers in Ephesus, he declares these words from Jesus: “you have let go of the love you had at first.” Perhaps not unlike church communities today, the Ephesians had forgotten that they are living messages of God’s love to the world, and not busy-bodied, well-intended,

(CONTINUED)