
A Community of Believers



February
2006

I would like to apologize and say thank you. My apology first to each of you for my absence from these pages over the last two months. With all that has been going on in my home something had to be left to the side and unfortunately one was this article. I do not like to miss this article because I see it as one of the many avenues of communicating and teaching. I believe that I should take every opportunity to teach and this space provides one method to accomplish that. So in one way I have let you down and have not filled my call to teach by not writing. Therefore, I apologize.

Now given that, I want to thank Delinda Mauney and Taryn Setzer for 'filling-in' with articles in December and January. There have been many through the years that have done a good job with our newsletter and Delinda and Taryn have taken this valuable asset of our church to the next level. Delinda & Taryn – Thank You!

But isn't that is what fellow believers do? When someone is in need, we come along side and support the need. We are a community of believers.

That community has touched my life once again. Repeatedly, my family has been the recipient of God's wonderful love and care through his people at New Sterling. Three years ago, it was with the passing of my Marli and now it is with the events of Judy's life. While I am overwhelmed with your love and generosity, I am not surprised. Because this is what a community of believers does when they love God, seek to honor him and then set out to show that love. The love
J e - o f
a c - sus is



the community. Jesus himself said that the world would know we are his disciples when we show love for each other. This love has not been shown only to me however. We can look across the congregation and see time and time again care and love being shown to those within the community. It has been shown on both a large scale and small. From the supplying of meals to the sending of cards; from visiting to the quiet prayers offered during your devotional times; from the raking and plowing of gardens to the phone calls of encouragement we show the love of Christ to each other.

We must not ever overlook this characteristic of the community and I must admit that at times I have. I have always known that we should care for each other but I never realized the vital importance of this phenomenon within the body of believers. Over the last few months you have shown me once again and taught me through these times that this is an incredible part of the Christian faith.

Before going into the ministry, Judy and I could have been identified as hermits. We were secluded; we liked our privacy and since we moved so many times became very self-sufficient. It was not that we disliked people; it was just that we enjoyed our family and did not want to be a bother to anyone. Through these recent events, you have shown me there is more.

Do not get me wrong and everyone run over to my house tonight, I still enjoy and need the peace and quiet for my time with Judy and for study, prayer, and preparation. Nevertheless, I learned that there is something I have been missing.

We are Christians through an individual relationship with Jesus but we are a community of believers who come together to make up the body of Christ and to worship and honor our Lord. Part of that worship and honor is shown as we care for each other through the events of our lives. You have shown me how important these relationships within the community really are and I want to thank each of you for that. Please be patient with me as you continue to teach me and as I learn how to be a better resident in this community of believers.

In His service,
Pastor Tim

This Day Band

The New Sterling Youth Shepherds will host a Contemporary Christian band to perform on February 3, 2006 6:00PM-until. This event is reaching out to the community to bring in youth from all around to evangelize and show the youth alternatives to the world's lifestyle. Invite your friends. Church youth groups are welcome.

**MUSIC
&
PIZZA!!**

This Day Band has a passion and desire to use the power of music to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us in Romans 12:1 to "offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to the Lord, this is your spiritual act of worship." Worship is not limited to just singing songs, worship is using the gifts and talents God gave you to please Him. This Day Band has chosen to use their gift of music to glorify and honor the Lord. It is their goal not to perform for others but to lead people in joining them to perform for God. The name This Day come from Joshua 24:15 "choose for yourself THIS DAY to serve the Lord".

**Come join in
fun Christian
Fellowship!!!!**

Matt Holland, Thomas Brown, Adam Gordon and Lee Hannah are all locals of the Roanoke Valley and have been playing together for a while. The band started when Matt and Thomas began playing together to lead worship for a college Bible study group and later Adam and Lee joined. Over the years God has really opened a number of doors for them to lead groups in worship and in the winter of 2004 they recorded their first CD. They are extremely excited about what the Lord is doing in them and through them; their hopes are to be able to do music full time. All members of the band have full time jobs and are truly happy with where the Lord has them but if the opportunity were to present itself to have a full time music ministry, it would be hard to say no.

**Invite your
Friends!!!**

**Mark your
calendar!!!!**



The website for the band is www.thisdayband.com

Creation

vs

Evolution

The argument between
Intelligent Design and
Natural Selection rages on!
Which is true?

Beginning Wednesday evening
February 8, 6-7:15, Pastor Tim will
present a seminar discussing this very
challenging topic

The sessions will be videotape and lec-
ture/discussion presentations

Everyone from Jr. High to
Adults are invited

Attention Members

We have been blessed by our Lord Jesus with having over 75 people involved with the leadership of New Sterling. That is a powerful force! The Session would like to recognize and use more wisely these individuals. A member of our Leadership Team is identified as anyone who leads, guides or provides instruction to someone within the congregation. That would be someone from the Session, Deacons, Women's Ministries leadership, a SS Teacher, Congregational Officers and Wednesday Night leader, Mentor as well as Choir Leaders. Basically, if your name is listed on the back of our weekly bulletin, you are probably a member of the Leadership Team, with a few exceptions.

On February 11 from 9-12 I would like to ask all members of the Leadership Team to join us to discuss two very important matters –

The Guiding Principles recently developed and approved by the Session for New Sterling. These Guiding Principles contain our vision & purpose statements as well as actions necessary to fulfill the vision and ministries of our church. It is crucial that everyone who leads understands these principles and how their particular area of responsibility supports these principles.

The action plan developed by the Health Implementation Team and approved by the Session January 8th. These action items involve everyone at New Sterling and it is our, the Leadership Team's, responsibility to lead in the accomplishment of these goals.

It is very important that everyone make every attempt to attend this very important meeting. If we are to lead the people of New Sterling then we must know where and in which direction the Lord is leading us. If one person within the Leadership Team does not know that direction and then lead others in that direction then we will not be all our Lord would have us be. We each have our areas of influence and level of responsibility, I am asking that we do all we can to lead the best we can.

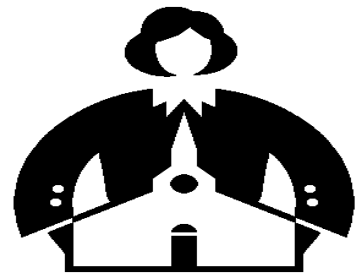
A nursery will be provided and anyone who may not necessarily be identified as a leader but would like to come is certainly more than welcomed.

We are not here by accident. We are here to do what God has called us to do – we are here for such a time as this.

In His Service,
Pastor Tim



2038 Andrea Lane
Gastonia, North Carolina 28056
January 7, 2006



Dearest Sisters in Christ,

It is the beginning of a new year and a wonderful time to meditate on the ARP Women's Ministry theme verse from Jeremiah 29:11; "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." What a comforting and encouraging promise from our Heavenly Father as we seek His will for our ministry together for His glory and purpose!

I would like to encourage all of you to attend the Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken during the week of July 24th. The Women's Ministries Annual Meeting will be held on that Monday at 1:00 PM in the chapel. It is a precious opportunity to meet other women in our denomination and to learn effective and efficient ways to motivate and equip one another in the use of our gifts for Christian service. The ARP magazine will have a conference schedule and information on lodging, or contact me and I would be honored to assist you with your arrangements.

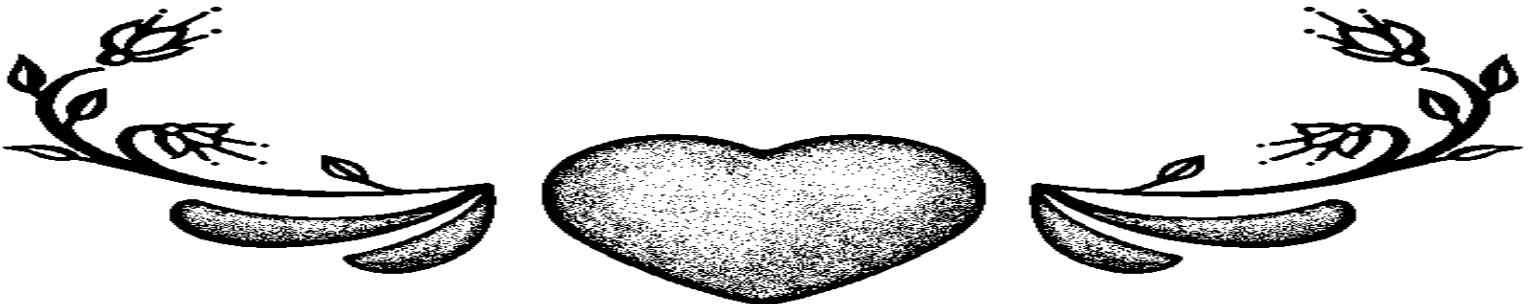
Our new Women's Ministries Interim Administrator, Ann Aheron, is available for all of our ARP women as a resource to provide suggestions for programs, speakers, retreats, or adding some pizzazz through projects in your search to lead women to a more satisfying relationship with Christ. Her address is 1121 Volunteer Drive, Rock Hill, SC 28732, and home phone number is (803) 328-2023 or (803) 517-3971 cell; e-mail is rockhillann@comporium.net.

Please remember to make plans to attend the First Presbyterial Annual Meeting at Pisgah ARP Church in Gastonia, NC, on Saturday, August 19, 2006. This is another opportunity to promote community and Christian sisterhood among our women and to learn about our various ministries. We are looking for recommendations for our upcoming slate of officers for the board of First Presbyterial. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please get in touch with me. Remember, God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called! (I just had to shout a big "Amen!" to that) I am in the process of securing a nominating committee and need your prayers for this regard.

In closing, please know that I am available to assist you in any way. I would love to hear from you about programs and/or projects that are underway in your congregation so that I may pass it on to other churches.

*In His service,
Ruth Bernet*

*President, First Presbyterial
bernetfam@bellsouth.net
(704)861-1460*



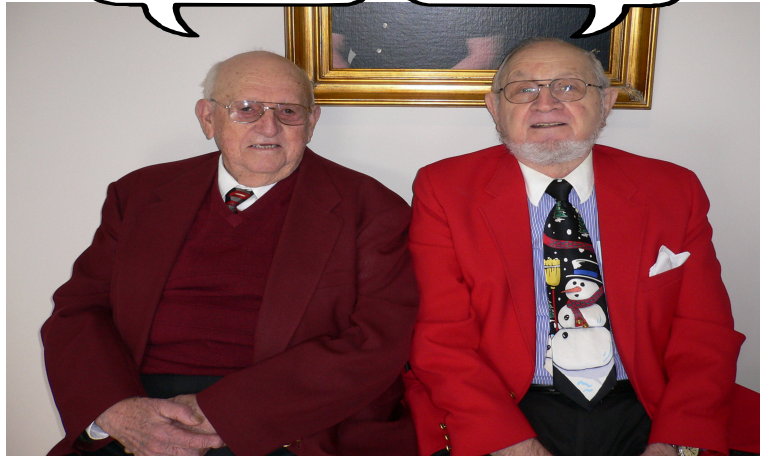
Sterling Silvers

The Holidays are over and the month of January 2006 is almost history and the next meeting of February 13th is just around the corner. We will meet at 10:30 AM in the fellowship hall. Valentine's Day is the next day so we shall just honor the occasion a day early. If you have a spouse be sure to bring her/him and those of us who are unencumbered may stay so or bring a friend of your persuasion. Let the luncheon menu be a surprise for as of this writing a decision has not been made so it is a surprise to me now too. There will be a luncheon for you. Be there with rings on your fingers, bells on your toes and big smiles on your faces. Be prepared to tell when you first saw your spouse and the romantic episode that ensued.



I don't know his resolution-but we are good buddies

New Years Resolution: Be a good person and resist temptation



SPRING LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We will begin the Beth Moore study, *Breaking Free*, on Tuesday, February 21st and continue through May 9th. Kim Brady offered this ten week series several years ago as the first New Sterling Ladies' Bible Study. Some of us who missed that first opportunity have expressed a desire to experience the study; others who participated earlier have said they would like to go through it again. *Breaking Free* is based on the book of Isaiah, from which we will identify five primary benefits of the Christian life. We will then explore what keeps believers from experiencing those benefits and how to develop a lifestyle of obedience.

The morning session will meet from 9:00-10:30; the evening session will meet from 7:00-8:30, with child care provided in the evening only. Jeanette has an overflowing plate and has accepted the fact that she will not be able to facilitate the evening group. We thank her for her faithful leadership over the past two fall sessions.

We are delighted that God always supplies our needs and that Pat Price, who served as a small group leader during *The Patriarchs*, has agreed to facilitate the evening session.



Books are \$16.00 which will be collected at the first session. Please contact Kitzi Emery at 871-8887 by **Sunday, February 12** if you would like to attend.

On Sunday, February 5th, Sara Smith from New Life Baptist Church in Conover will be visiting the Friendship and Young Adult classes to share how this powerful study impacted her church, as well as her own personal walk with Christ. Anyone interested is invited to join us in the Friendship classroom on February 5th.

Please call and let us know you will be joining us on this life-changing journey. Let's make liberty in Christ a reality in our lives!





Who Created Evil?



As you read this, I challenge you to really let it's meaning sink in. This eloquently answers one of the profound questions of life.

Did God Create Evil?

The university professor challenged his students with this question:

"Did God create everything that exists? "

A student bravely replied "Yes, he did!"



"God created everything?" the professor asked.

"Yes sir," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then God is evil."

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "Can I ask you a question professor?"



"Of course," replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor , does cold exist?"

The professor replied "Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The students snickered at the young man's question.

The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body, or matter, have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (- 460 degrees F) is the total absence

of heat. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat.

The student continued. "Professor does darkness exist?"



The professor responded. "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir. Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light, we can study, but not darkness. In fact we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wave-lengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."



Finally the young man asked the professor. "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course, as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

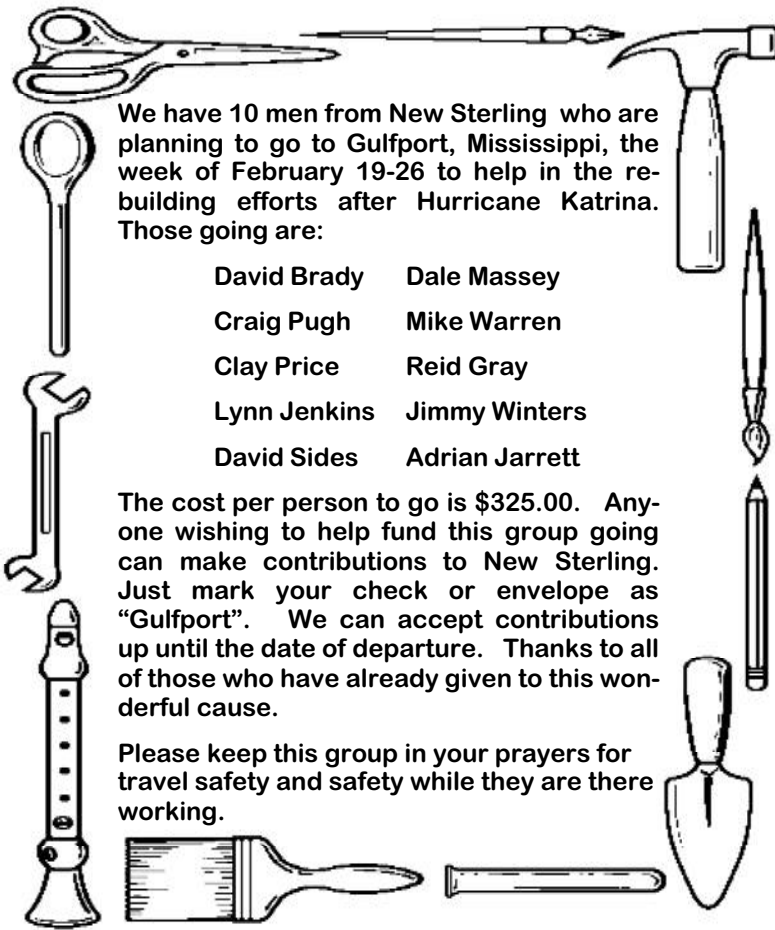
To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

The young man's name --- Albert Einstein

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

**May today there be peace within you.
May you trust your God that you are exactly where you are meant to be...**



We have 10 men from New Sterling who are planning to go to Gulfport, Mississippi, the week of February 19-26 to help in the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Those going are:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| David Brady | Dale Massey |
| Craig Pugh | Mike Warren |
| Clay Price | Reid Gray |
| Lynn Jenkins | Jimmy Winters |
| David Sides | Adrian Jarrett |

The cost per person to go is \$325.00. Anyone wishing to help fund this group going can make contributions to New Sterling. Just mark your check or envelope as "Gulfport". We can accept contributions up until the date of departure. Thanks to all of those who have already given to this wonderful cause.

Please keep this group in your prayers for travel safety and safety while they are there working.

Do you enjoy spending time with friends from church?


Getting to know new friends?

Going to Christian concerts, plays or other events?

Then have we got a job for you!!

The Health Implementation Team is looking for an events coordinator. This person would plan three to four events per year scheduled away from church for interested members and friends.

Anyone interested in this volunteer position, please contact Cindy McNeely.



Stir up the gift of God which is in thee.

-2 Timothy 1:6

Address for Bobby Buchanan:
 Robert Lewis Buchanan
 PID # 297212
 PO B 34429
 Charlotte, NC 28234-4429

If you would like to enjoy our choir's Christmas Cantata once more, visit our church website @ www.newsterlingarp.org and click on sermons. Pastor Tim's sermons are located there as well.



FELLOWSHIP HALL

Anyone interested in reserving the fellowship hall, please contact Andy Gray.

Tim Hagar was named Co-worker of the year for 2005 by the Huntersville Police Department. **Bailey Hartness's** cheerleading squad won 1st place at competition in December. They will compete in another competition on January 28..... Andy and **Leann Hartness** will celebrate their 11 year wedding anniversary on February 11. They will be taking a trip to the mountains for the weekend.... **Clifton Mauney** is playing baseball for Wilkes Community College.... **If anyone has any special accomplishments, events, or just a good story to share in our "Here and There" column, you may give it to Scotti McCulloch. You also can drop it off in the Newsletter box.**



NEW STERLING EVANGELISM PLAN

“Sowing The Seeds”

Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23

Goals

1. Develop “mailers” to send to newly weds, new parents and new home owners within a 15-mile radius of the church.
2. Challenge church members to always invite someone new to church activities.
3. List weekly services and activities in the local newspaper and on the church website.
4. Purchase a “Yellow Page” ad that includes the name of the church, pastor’s name , church address, phone number, schedule of services and web address
5. Develop a schedule for current Session members and Deacons and their spouses (or other volunteers) to greet worshipers as they enter and leave worship service and other church activities. (Two Deacon couples should greet upon arrival in the yard and a Session couple & a Deacon couple should greet worshipers as they leave the service.)
6. Send cards to visitors who attend Sunday School, Worship Service or other special event/activity.
7. Make sure that all “outreach activities” are well advertised in the community through the newspaper, posters, fliers and website.
8. Conduct a 5-6 week study on Apologetics on Sunday nights beginning in March. Pastor Tim would do an introduction to this study and lead the participants through the Extended Family Worksheet Exercise to help participants understand who our potential congregation is. Hopefully Joseph Alghrany could conduct the Apologetics study.
9. Conduct training sessions to discuss how to share Christ with someone; what to say and what not to say; scripture passages to use and other useful “tools”.
10. Establish visitation teams to visit potential members who have visited New Sterling, widowers, hospital patients, home-bound members and nursing home residents. Schedules would be established for these visits. If a church family lives near a visitor, encourage them to visit.
11. Construct a new church sign at the intersection of New Sterling Road and Old Mountain Road that will be more visible to those passing by on Old Mountain Road.
12. Lighted church sign for front lawn with room for sermon topics and events to be posted.
13. Coordinate Christian based family-oriented activities scheduled away from the church (movies, concerts, plays, etc.) Members encouraged to invite others.
14. Choose 30 people to take the Natural Church Development Survey. The results will be used to develop a new church profile that will be compared with the profile we currently have.



Members of the Health Implementation Team are: Tony Harper, Chm., Kent Clarke, Ken Hauck, Scotti McCulloch, Cindy McNeely and July Winters.



This plan was approved by the Session on January 8, 2006



The Women of the Church still have lots of flavoring for sale. The cost is \$2.25 per bottle. We have lots of flavors to use in your baking needs. Please see Olean Deal or Pauline Charles today so you don't run out!



Be Prepared to Give a Defense

This is the definition for the word *apologetics*. It is a Greek word and we use it to identify being able to give a defense or a reason for what we believe or how we act. If you are asked to give a reason for your belief in Jesus Christ or to give a defense for why you live according to a Christian ethic then you would respond by giving an apology. It is not to say you are sorry but to explain why you act or believe the way you do.



1 Peter 3:15 says to be prepared 'to give the reason for the hope you have.' The word reason in this sentence is the Greek word *apologia*; give a reason, or defense. Well, this is something that the Health Implementation Team has identified as being an area where improvement is needed. We need to be able to better give a reason and defend why we are believers and why we conduct our lives as we do. In the end, this will help us improve our evangelistic efforts as well.

Our dear friend Joseph Alghrary has agreed to help us with this. Joseph's major in seminary was Apologetics so he is very qualified. Beginning on Sunday evening, March 12 at 6 and continuing for several weeks, Joseph will teach Apologetics in a way that we can understand and grasp. This is something that is very dear and close to Joseph so he jumped at the chance to share this with a group of people he cares so much about.



Please plan to attend. Regular Sunday-nighters we expect to see you. If you have never made Sunday evenings a part of your week, now may be the time. We will sing just a bit, listen to Joseph's wonderful teaching and then share a meal together. What could be greater? There are also other events going on for all ages, so bring the whole family, and join in the good fellowship.

This is important to us as a church so please come and do your part to help us improve sharing the gospel with our neighbors. If you have questions please do not hesitate to call Scotti McCulloch or me.



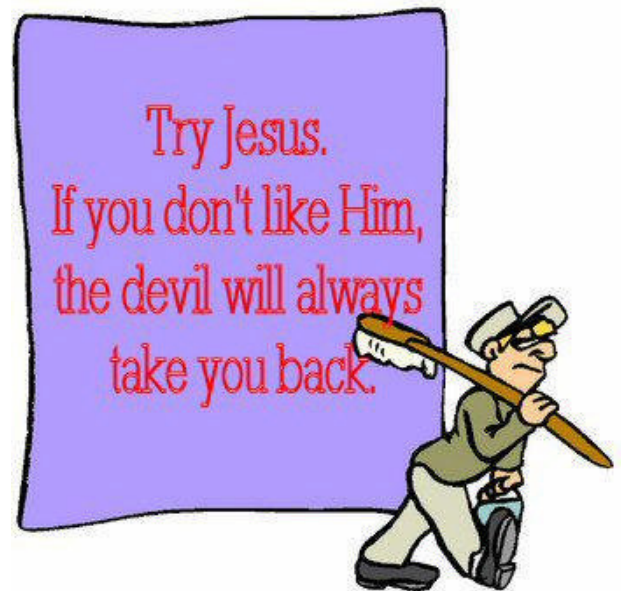
Café Sterlini
February 11th
5:00- 7:00 PM



mENU

- Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
- House Salad
- Dessert
- Beverage

Come join us for an evening of Fun,
Food and Entertainment!!!!



Installation of Deacons and Elders



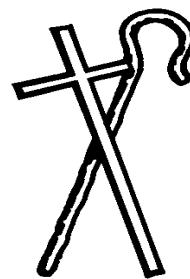
Incoming Deacons for 2006: Jeanette Hauck, Scott Graham, Todd McCulloch and Leann Hartness



Incoming Elders for 2006: Steve Stewart, Tony Harper and Jeff McNeely



Ordination service for Jeff McNeely



ORDINATION



New Sterling Children's Handbell Choir

as they perform during the Christmas holidays

Back row: Garrett Deal, Maggie Emery, Jacob McNeely

2nd Row: Madelyn McNeely, Cody Hairyes, Madison Winters

Front Row: Brianna Henderson, Bailey Hartness

College Student Addresses



Sarah Watts
 Campus Box 15881 ***
 Lee Hall
 Raleigh, NC 27607
 wildfish@statesville.net
 (NC State University)

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 865 Shew Ridge Mission Road ***
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 EW41352@wcu.edu ***
 (Western Carolina University)

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 (Western Carolina University)

Kelly Pugh
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 kmpugh@uncc.edu ***
 (University of North Carolina -Charlotte)

Erica Harper
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 elharper@uncc.edu
 (University of North Carolina—Charlotte)

Andrea Clark
 CPO 679 Erskine College
 PO Box 1001
 Due West, SC 29639
 (Erskine College)

Our Church Family in Iraq



PFC Charlie McClure
 E Battery 13B 2nd Plt
 6204 NW Rothwell Street
 Fort Sill, OK 73502-8112



LCPL Kirk Dagenhart
 212 F Company Plt 73075
 FPO AE 09509-3075

(Kirk is in Karma, Iraq which is 8 miles north of Fallujah)

Kirk is Jim and Eleanor Dagenhart's grandson. His father is Steve Dagenhart.

GSGT. David Leonard USMC
 HMM-266
 UIC 77081
 FPO AE 09509-7081

David is Art and Dixie Waugh's son-in-law.



*** Correction

- 1 Swanie Snyder
- 1 Jimmy Winters
- 5 David Brady
- 6 Kelli Johnson
- 6 Vickie Johnson
- 7 Robin McCall
- 7 Larry Walker
- 8 Daniel Pugh
- 9 Susan Pugh
- 14 Shelby Bustle
- 14 Wayne Jenkins
- 15 Judy Chambers



February

Birthdays

- 15 Kenneth Hauck
- 15 Harrison Jenkins
- 16 Dylan Deal
- 18 Pauline Charles
- 18 Carolyn Elliott
- 19 Devan Winters
- 20 George Brady
- 20 Jesse Keller
- 21 Sheila Jenkins
- 23 Lauren Gryder
- 27 Christopher Jenkins
- 27 Michelle Hairyes



KIDS IN CHURCH

Jesus' Dad's Name

A Sunday school teacher asked her class,
"What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked,

"Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about

Verge n' Mary."



3-year-old, Reese:

"Our Father, Who does art in

heaven, Harold is His name.

Amen."



A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it.

I'm having a real good time like I am."

