



# First Methodist Messenger

Troutman 1st United Methodist Church  
204 Mills Avenue, P.O. Box 717  
Troutman, NC 28166

**To Worship, To Learn, To Share the Name of Jesus**

Ministers: ALL MEMBERS!

Pastor: Mike Carr

Office: 704-528-5110

Parsonage: 704-528-5584

Cell: 704-574-0888

E-mail: [mikecarr1034@gmail.com](mailto:mikecarr1034@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9am - 3pm (lunch at noon)

Visiting: Tuesday & Thursday

Sabbath: Friday

[www.troutmanmethodist.com](http://www.troutmanmethodist.com)

## The Pastor's Pen

### "True Love"

Everyone wants to love and to be loved. God created us to be relational. After God created Adam, God noticed that Adam was not happy because he was lonely. Therefore, God created Eve so that he would have a mate, someone to share their lives together. The happiness, joy, and excitement came immediately for Adam. He looked at Eve for the first time and said, "Wo - man!" and that is where we get woman.

Just kidding.

Even though this is not true, February is the month known as the love month. Valentine's Day is the 14th day of the month. For those who are in love this month is great, but for those who are not in love and have no one to love, this month can be very depressing. Loneliness and depression can be hard to overcome and sadly so many people in this world go days without a hug or someone telling them that they are loved.

There are several scripture passages that come to mind when I think about love. The first one is obvious, John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever would believe in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life." God loved us so much that He gave His only son to die on the cross for our sins. There is no greater love than this.

The other scripture passage is where Jesus sums up the 10 Commandments into the Greatest Commandment, Matthew 22:37-39, "Love the Lord your God with all heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as much as you love yourself." What would the world look like if everyone did this? What would your life look like if you did this?

Celebrate Valentine's Day and this month of February with love, but remind people that the true love that they want, desire, and are seeking after comes only from God. The unconditional love of God. Take care and God Bless.

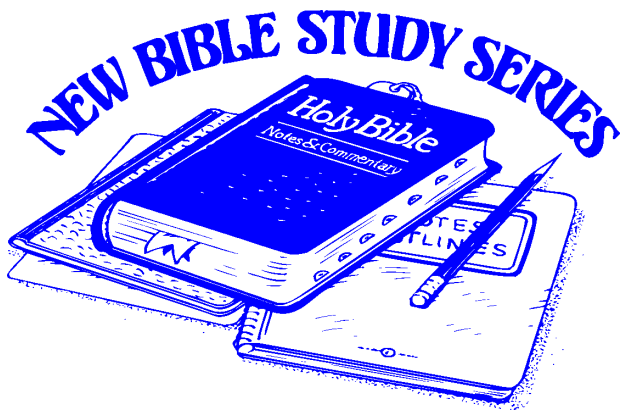
John 15:5

In Christ,

Pastor Mike Carr

## SAVE THE DATE

<p><b>Friday, Feb. 10th</b> <u>Habitat - Hands UP</u> 8am - 4pm Help with Home Repair</p>	<p><b>Saturday, February 11th</b> <u>Parents Night Out</u> 5-8pm Please, call the church to RSVP</p>	<p><b>Saturday, February 18th</b> <u>Chili Cook Off</u> 4:30 - 7:30pm *Chili, Slaw, Bread, Desserts, Drinks \$6 Adults \$4 under 12 yrs. old</p>
<p><b>Sunday, February 19th</b> <u>Open Gym Time @ YMCA Barium</u> 5-7pm Games, Fun, and Exercise</p>	<p><b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Service</b> @6:30pm Feb. 22nd</p>	<p><b>Lenten Wednesdays</b> <b>Lutheran Church</b> <b>Soup &amp; Service</b> @6pm</p>



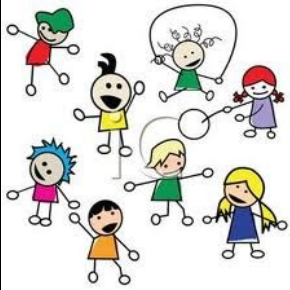
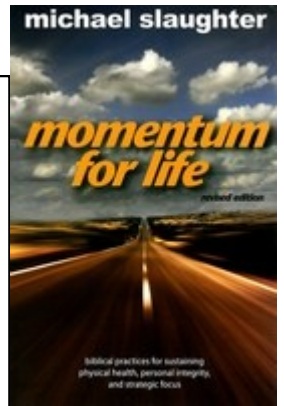
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

“Momentum for Life”

Wednesday Nights 6:30 - 7:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Teacher: Pastor Mike



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

SATURDAY, FEB. 11TH  
5—8 PM

ENJOY AN EARLY VALENTINE’S DAY PRESENT FROM US! WE WILL WATCH YOUR CHILDREN WHILE YOU ENJOY A FEW HOURS ALONE! WE WILL PROVIDE DINNER, PLAY GAMES, AND WORK ON CRAFTS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH AT 704-528-5110 BY FEB. 8TH

CHILI COOK-OFF

SATURDAY, FEB. 18TH  
4:30—7:30 PM

ADULTS \$6  
UNDER 12 \$4



The Women in Mission are sponsoring this chili cook-off with the proceeds going to local missions.

There will be different varieties of chili, also slaw, bread, desserts and drinks.

Please join us for this night of good food and fellowship,  
And help us to feed the hungry in our community.

WOMEN IN MISSION NEWS

The February meeting will be a joint meeting on **Wednesday, February 8th @10am** in the Fellowship Hall. Betty Sherrill and Norma Boone will be having the program and providing the refreshments. If you are not currently a part of Women in Mission, please consider joining us in 2012! We would love to have you.

**We invite all women in the church to come to our group meetings and participate in our events. We need fresh ideas and the desire to help others. You will be welcomed with open arms as a “sister in Christ” and a “kingdom worker”.**



United Methodist Men

2011 - Gave \$479 towards Missions

Supporting the Bible Class at South Iredell H. S. & Flood Buckets

\*We meet the **last Monday of Every Month** in the room off of the kitchen. Come to the back of the church and enter through the kitchen door. We have a meal at **6:30pm** which cost \$7 and some of the money goes to missions.

**Special Local Mission with Habitat - Hands Up Mission - Friday, Feb. 10th @8am**

**Change Conference at Christ Church - Hickory  
Fri. March 9 & Sat. March 10**

It will change you for the better.  
All Leaders NEED to attend.

My Turn in the Nursery  
Author Unknown

Last Sunday was my turn in the nursery to work.  
My heart wasn't in it; and my feelings were hurt;  
A child from its mother did not want to part  
And it cried a lot with its broken heart.

I prayed that soon the hour would end,  
Then I could relax-no more children to tend.  
Soon the hour was over-felt good to be free.  
I said, "Once a month is too much for me."

That very next Sunday as I sat in the pew,  
A very good sermon but visitors were few.  
But down came a woman and her soul was saved  
And she was that mother of that crying babe.

Then it dawned on me that I had been a part  
Of one being saved-giving God their heart.  
From that day on I never would dread  
Working in the nursery while souls were being fed



# Youth Christmas/New Year Party

## Having Fun Playing the Wii

### Check out our dance moves



Daniel & Kellie



Doug & Daniel Dancing



Girls at the Party



Becca & Mary Claire dancing



Look at Pastor Mike dancing!



Daniel & Analee Dance Competition



Analee jumping higher than Doug

## Upcoming Youth Events

### Youth Sunday School Class

Every Sunday @9:45am

3rd Floor Classroom

Pastor Mike will be teaching the class.

Lesson will be "Momentum for Life"

### Youth Fellowship

Feb. 12 & 26 @6pm

**Feb. 19 Open Gym at the Barium Springs YMCA (5-7pm)**

**Come, Bring Your Friends!**



### Youth Spiritual Ski Retreat to Lake Junaluska

Friday, Feb. 3 through Sunday, Feb. 5

Andy Lambert will be our speaker for the weekend. We will worship Friday Night, Saturday Night, and Sunday Morning. "This is Luke" will be the band for the weekend.

We will ski on Saturday. Please, begin to pray for all of us going on the trip.

#### The theme verse for the weekend is Philippians 4:8:

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

**Good Luck**  
at  
*College!*

Matheson "Mattie" Williams  
attending  
Tennessee University

Residence Hall 521  
2117 Andy Holt Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37916

Consider  
sending her  
a card or  
a package!

# Junior Church



Gives Parents the opportunity to listen to the sermon without their children distracting them. Plus, the children get to have fun learning on their level.



Thank you to everyone who serve joyfully. Let us know if you would like to help serve.

36824  
103376  
28705  
28791

By the numbers - How is Our Church Doing?

**In 2011**

- 8 Professions of Faith (800% Increase)
- 1 Restored by Affirmation (100% Increase)
- 6 Transferred in from other UMC (500% Increase)
- 4 Transferred in from other Churches (300% Increase)
- 20 Children in Christian formation groups (566% Increase)
- 11 Youth in Christian formation groups (120% Increase)
- 48 Adults in Christian formation groups (140% Increase)
- 42 Average Weekly Sunday School (10% Increase)
- 95 Average Worship Attendance (30% Increase)
- 5 Mission Teams (150% Increase)
- 30 People participate in Mission Teams (100% Increase)
- 4 Community Ministries for Outreach (300% Increase)
- 500 Persons Served by Community Ministries (3233% Increase)
- \$143,472 Total Offering Collected (16% Increase)

It is amazing to see how God is moving in the lives of people, in the church, and in our community. We are definitely seeing the living God move through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I know numbers can be difficult to understand for some people, but every year the church has to answer a lot of question about numbers.

The reason this is so important is because every number represents a soul, a life, a child of God, in some way or another. Praise God for what has been done and what will continue in the future through Him.

## HELP Ministry - Lunch Box Program for the Elderly

We will be delivering meals February 6—10



Monday - Lannie & Jean Brown

Tuesday - Pete & Rachel Plyler

Wednesday - Church of the Springs

Thursday - Buzz & Linda Troutman

Friday - Betty Sherrill & Patty Wilson

Thank you to everyone who helps deliver meals.

## Children's Sunday School Class

For Children: K through 4th Grade

Teachers: Jim Pittman & Linda Franklin

## Our Prayer Concerns



In Nursing Homes: Lucille Brown, Betty Lenderman, Joe Clodfelter,  
Marjorie Sigmon, Doris Thompson

Members: Matoka Mullis, Margaret Ford, Hunter & Willie Fay Freeze, Vernon Ervin,  
Tommy & Shirley Boger, Lenna Sherrill, Mary Alice Starrette, Gaye Edmiston,  
Clark & Norma Sherrill, Gus Schade, Shirley Miller, Ruth Robbins,  
Madeline Bradburn, John & Ruth Ostwalt, Donnie & Jo Levan, Linda Baker,  
Donnie Bolton, Lucille Ervin, Arleen Brown, Camilla Loftin

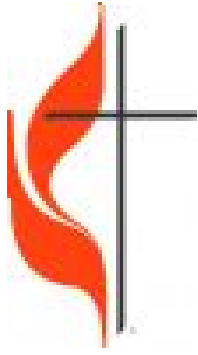
Relatives: Hilda Mitchell, Danny & Sharon Boan, Clinton & Bertha Stewart, Landis Frain,  
Brad Sherrill, Chris Triplett, Sylvia Smith, Betty Wingate, Helen Neel, Tracie Sharpe,  
Deborah Goodpaster, Carla & Harrison Gray

\*Please call Pastor Mike, if you or a family member is hospitalized. Also, keep Pastor Mike updated with relatives and friends about how long to keep them on our prayer list.

## Thank you letters from the Cub Scouts

Thank you for sponsoring me in Cub Scouts. If it wasn't for you I wouldn't be in Cub Scouts. I have learned a lot and had a lot of fun so far. I am looking forward to upcoming trips, activities we're planning with the pack. I have earned several badges so far and look forward to earning more. I plan on staying in scouts all the way through Boy and hopefully even go to Eagle Scout.

Seth & Sean has really enjoyed being a part of Cub Scouts.  
Your generosity helped to make this experience possible. Thank you



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**FEBRUARY 2012 SERVANTS SERVING JOYFULLY**

**Ushers:** Chief: Lannie Brown, Kenny Bradburn, Phil Hurst, Sheila Dagenhart      **Worship Leader:** Linda Franklin

**Keeper of the Church:** Kelly Miller

**Sunday School Nursery:** Betty Sherrill

**Monday Teller:** Billie Jo Powell

**Worship Service Nursery:**

05-Feb	Gilda Pryor & Laura Crater
12-Feb	Nancy Sigmon & Jean H. Ervin
19-Feb	Sylvia Wright & Donna Miller
26-Feb	Kathy Shumaker & Michelle Stanley

**Greeters:**

05-Feb Larry & Nancy Sigmon  
 12-Feb Virgil & Laura Crater  
 19-Feb Frank & Lynda Harmon  
 26-Feb Buzz & Linda Troutman

\*If you can't be there, please find a replacement or call Kellie Carr. Let Kellie know who you switched with.

**Junior Church:**

05 - Feb	Jim Pittman & Linda Franklin
12 - Feb	Kellie Carr & Marsha Johnston
19 - Feb	Linda Franklin & Jamie Shumaker
26 - Feb	Nan Williams & Sheila Dagenhart

**THANK YOU!**

**Habitat for Humanity of Iredell County**

On behalf of our board, staff, volunteers, and most importantly the families that are served by our mission, I want to thank you for your recent gift of \$364.40. You are those rare people who do not simply feel sorry for those in need - you do something about it. Your record of compassionate giving to Habitat for Humanity proves that you know how important safe, decent, and affordable housing is in Iredell County. You have been a steadfast partner in our continuing mission to give families a hand up out of poverty. Again, thank you for your generosity, friendship, and faith. God Bless,

**5th Street Ministry**

How very much we appreciate your donation of \$614.40 on 12/28/11 to support General expenses. We rely on donations from our community, and we appreciate your partnership in helping make lives better for those coming to us for help. Last year in our Soup Kitchen, the number of meals we provide was up 24%. The number of shelter nights provided was up 25%. The failing economy hit Iredell County hard, but we are as committed as ever to helping ensure that our guests leave here better equipped to succeed and hopefully never face homelessness again. Thank you again for your donation. We need you!