



The Spirit of United

United Institutional Baptist Church

802 East Market Street

Greensboro, NC 27401

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The Vision

“Where there is no vision...The people will perish” Proverbs 29:18

A Word from the Pastors Desk

Dear Members and Friends of United:

I greet each of you in the strong and sufficient name of our Great Savior! It's hard to believe we are at the close of the first decade in the twenty-first century. There is no doubt that the last ten years have been bitter sweet. On a global level we have experienced the most turbulent period since the Cold War. Around the world nations continue to struggle with unprecedented debt, economic instability, and no apparent end in sight to the global financial crisis of 2008. This is probably one of the underlying causes of recent criticisms of the Obama Administration. People are feeling the pressures of ten percent unemployment, two wars, out of control healthcare costs, not to mention the growing national debt, just to name a few. The saying is also true that what happens in the world ultimately affects the church. United continues to feel the effects of unemployment as well as the loss of far too many of our faithful members. I can certainly relate to the pastor who once asked God “why”?

However, as I stated before, the last decade has been both bitter and sweet. We have seen a number of historic firsts

since entering the twenty-first century. We have seen our first African American get elected to the highest public office in the nation, President of the United States, Barack Obama. I believe this event is a step in the right direction for race relations in America. Our nation has a great opportunity to make further strides toward the realization of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream for freedom and justice.

On a more personal level I continue to be amazed at what God is doing right here at United! There is no doubt that those faithful members that God has taken from our ranks can never be replaced. We continue to feel the loss of those great saints of God that we have known and loved, who once labored side by side with us. Since 2000, God has called so many of our most beloved brothers and sisters in Christ from labor to reward. My prayer is that we will honor their memory by coming together and carrying on the great legacy they have left us. Let's honor their memory by seizing our season to show our love for the church they also loved by “stepping up” the level of our commitment through our service and our tithes and offerings. We can also celebrate all of the new

members that God continues to send us to help us build on United's great legacy in this city and throughout the world.

Over the past ten years I have also seen United change in ways that I know had to be God. God had to grow us spiritually so we would know what to do when He explodes this house with more people than we've seen in many years. I know in my heart that God's time has come for United. I have seen some recent signs that have truly blessed me as a pastor. In this third year of our church wide fast I've been blessed by the number of members that are willing to continue the fast each Wednesday through June 30th. If anything will move God, it's our desire to seek His face sacrificially. Another sign that has encouraged me was the number of people that attended our first “Wonderful Wednesday in the Word” Bible Study January 20th, last week. There's no doubt in my mind--God is up to something great here at United! My prayer is that all who is part of this great family of God will help us keep it going.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Freeman

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2009/2010 Vision Focus:

18b “And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.” Nehemiah 2:18b

ABOUT United's People



8th Appreciation for *Rev. Hattie Easterling*

With a format different from previous years, United celebration Reverend Easterling's Eighth Appreciation Service.

November 22, 2009 during the 11am Worship Service. Guest Evangelist Melissa Cauthen from the Church of the Living God-Bibleway Number 9, Lincolnton, NC, delivered a powerful message as friends and members of Bibleway Number 9 participated during Service. Evangelist Cauthen is not a stranger to the United Family as she delivered the Word for Reverend Easterling's Third Appreciation Service in 2005, and she is the niece of Deaconess Sarah Lowe.

Reverend Easterling received tokens of appreciation from the Family in gifts, song and dance. To Reverend Easterling's surprise and adoration, the Joy Bells, United's youth dance group, saluted Reverend Easterling by symbolically washing her feet before presenting a dance tribute in her honor. Reverend Easterling thanked all for standing beside her and her family as they went through this year and thanked everyone for their expressions of love. She appreciated the Family. †



NURSE Ministry Health CORNER

The 2nd Annual Health Fair hosted by the Nurses Ministry was another great success! Vendor participation and attendance increased a great deal from last year. The Health Fair offered attendees the opportunity to consult with professionals concerning fitness, health food selection, skin care, diabetes, prostate health and depression to name a few.

The Nurses Ministry looks forward to serving United and the community in 2010 for Health and Wellness. †

Bro. Craig Littlejohn receives his Doctorate in Industrial & Systems Engineering.





UIBC Men's Ministry **B.I.G.**

In May 2009 a new ministry was birthed at United. The Men's Ministry, also known as United Brothers in God (B.I.G.). Our ministry is based on the great commission Jesus gave to his disciples as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20. The goal of the ministry is to "to help the men of United Institutional Baptist Church become better Christians 'through bible study; 'small groups, family life enrichment and recreation for our members and the surrounding communities'". The objectives of the ministry are to mentor the men of U.I.B.C. to become more active members; train the men of U.I.B.C. to become good Christian leaders; and to build a network of trust and understanding within the church community. We started with two interest meetings to get input from the men in the congregation as to what they would like to see in a men's ministry. Based on that input we have started a monthly men's bible study. After a continental breakfast at 8:30 we have men's only bible study from 9:00 to 10:00. As we work to strengthen our leadership skills, we are studying a series of lessons on "Men Leading the Charge". This book explores the subjects of the necessity of Godly male leadership, the tasks of husbands, anchoring your family chain, the seven steps of Fathering, raising masculine sons and feminine daughters, and other areas of male leadership in the home and in the church. We invite all men of United to come out and fellowship with us. Our

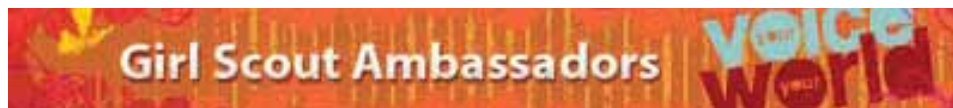
next bible study is Saturday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. So, the next time you see one of the men of United with a baseball cap with B.I.G. on it, know that you are invited to become a part of the United Brothers In God. †



WITH THE SCOUTS

United's Girl Scouts went Horseback Riding The place was Circle C Ranch at Girl Scouts' Camp Keyauwee, October 24th. The Cadette and Senior Scout troops had the opportunity to learn basic care of a horse and to take a casual stroll around the ranch on horseback!

The adventure had been discussed for a couple years but finally with courage, the young ladies faced their "fears". The young ladies found it rewarding to able to control such a large animal with just a slight move of the leads. Accompanying the troops were Leader Betty Williamson and parent Sis. Elsie Virgil. †



New Girl Scout Level at United **Your Voice, Your World:** **The Power of Advocacy Grades 11 & 12**

United's Girl Scout had an added dimension—The Ambassador Girl Scouts. The Ambassador Girl Scout Level encompasses girls in grades 11 &12. Girl Scout Ambassadors are advocates with the power to start the first flutter of real and lasting change. While creating their own "butterfly effect," they'll gain an array of skills-such as networking, planning, and learning to speak up for what they believe-that will benefit them as they prepare for life beyond high school.

The first Ambassador troop at United was presented during Girl Scouts Ceremonies during October 2009. They were Ambassadors Aiesha Colson, Ashia Craig, and Portia Oakley. †

Children's Division Christmas Presentation

Two inches of snow, and a three Sunday delay, did not stop the eagerness of the students of United Institutional Baptist Church Sunday School Children's Division. On January 14th our youth presented their 2009 Christmas Presentation to proud parents, relatives and members of UIBC.

The kindergarten, primary and junior classes presented their renditions of what Christmas meant to them. Kindergarteners told audience that whether they were big, or small Christmas was special for one and all. Primaries and juniors combined to tell the story of Jesus' birth and how they, at their tender age, could share their possessions, prayers and allowance during the Christmas season. We commend our Children's Division for a job well done! †



The Sanctuary Choir Formed

United has a new choir—The Sanctuary Choir! The choir was named by Pastor Freeman. The Sanctuary Choir will make its debut on February 7, 2010.

The Sanctuary Choir comes into being from the combination of the Senior Choir and the Hour of Power Choirs. Over the years, both choirs had experienced a decline in their memberships. The Senior Choir was formed during Reverend Melton's time at United. Reverend Melton was the first pastor of United. The Hour of Power Choir was formed by First Lady Dr. Lois J Anderson. Reverend Charles Anderson came to United as its Second Pastor in 1939. As you can see, both choirs have long histories at United.

How will the Choir add to the Worship? Pastor Freeman comments, "The Sanctuary Choir represents the full range of sacred music—from the classical spirituals and anthems to the ole time gospel. This Choir is a part of our heritage. These great hymns and sacred songs are the foundation of our faith and have been the inspiration that has helped us praise our way through difficult times." He continues, "I'm looking forward to hearing these great voices at United for many years to come."

Membership to The Sanctuary Choir is open to any male or female, 16 years of age and older comments Brother Tony Gillion, Minister of Music. The new rehearsal time is on Tuesdays at 6-7pm with the choir singing on the first Sundays during the 7:27 and 11am Worship Services. Come join us! †

Music & Arts Ministry Four Seasons Mall Christmas Concert

The Music & Arts Ministry held its 2nd Christmas Concert at the Four Seasons Mall on December 22, 2009. There were very few seats available in the stadium. People stopped to listen on all 3 floor levels to receive the ministry from the choirs, soloist, dance and rap teams. You could tell by the audience's participation; (singing along with the choirs; swaying back & forth as songs were being sung and smiles on the faces), that the music ministry touched the lives and hearts of those who were able to hear music ministry. †



Christmas Drama Production

The Christian Center Stage Drama Team Ministry presented a Christmas production entitled "Three Dreams And A Dance" on December 20, 2009. The play provided a dramatic presentation of King Herod's hobbies (good wine and dancers), along with the fear of being over throne by a child king. The 32 character play provided lots of color, beautiful customs, eye-catching backdrop and de-corations which helped to usher the spirit of Christmas among the hearts of those present. Music was provided by Min. Tony Gillion, the United Voices of Praise Choir and Saxophonist, Bro. Travis Wilson. The Production received rave reviews under the capable direction of Sis. Fran Craven. DVD's of the play are available. †



Fellowship OPPORTUNITIES + Calendar Events

February

Prayer Lock In

6:45 pm Friday, Feb. 12th to

9:30 am Saturday, Feb. 13th

Philathea Class Ministry

In the Upper Room

“Overwhelmed to Overflow”

Feb. 14th | 2nd Sunday

Ward Meetings after 11:00am

Worship Service

Feb. 17th | 4th Saturday

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

at United - Guest Preacher,

Dr. Gregory Headen of

Genesis Baptist Church

Feb. 28th | 4th Sunday

Sunday School

Black History Program

March

Mar. 28th | 4th Sunday

Palm Sunday- 7:00pm Church

Fellowship at Ebenezer Baptist

Church

April

April 3rd | 1st Saturday

Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt

April 4th | 1st Sunday

Sunday School

Easter Program

April 4th | 1st Sunday

11:00am - Easter Cantata

April 11th | 2nd Sunday

4:00pm – Church Fellowship at

First Baptist Church, Kannapolis

Blood Pressure Checks by

Nurses Ministry

(before & after 11:00am service)

April 18th | 3rd Sunday

4:00pm – Gospel Fest sponsored

by Ward # 7

April 21st | Wednesday

Secretary Day

We are our Brothers' Keepers...

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Haitians, their friends and families, as they begin the process of managing the aftermath of two earthquakes. It is events as this that can serve as a way that we can educate ourselves about issues of extreme poverty and hunger throughout the world. It is at times such as this that we all can come together and to take action to help those that are in need.

Below is a listing of nationally known organizations that are accepting donations towards relief efforts in Haiti.

The American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is accepting donations through its International Response Fund.

Pan American Development Foundation

Donate through its Web site at www.PanAmericanRelief.org.

UNICEF

UNICEF requests donations for relief for children in Haiti via their Haiti Earthquake Fund. You can also call 1-800-4UNICEF.

Oxfam

Donate to online at Oxfam America at www.oxfamamerica.org

Save The Children

Save the Children has launched an emergency relief effort for Haiti.

Mercy Corps

Donate online, call 1-888-256-1900

Doctors Without Borders

Doctors Without Borders has set up clinics to treat people in Haiti. Donate to Doctors Without Borders.

The UN World Food Programme

Donations can be made through www.wfp.org/donate/haiti

The International Rescue Committee

Donate to the IRC Haiti Crisis Fund.

World Vision

World Vision has more 370 staff members in the Haiti. Donate to World Vision.

United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

This fund is used for emergencies like the earthquake in Haiti. Donate online.

Church Office Closed April 5th – Easter Monday Observance

GOD'S Plan of Salvation You Need To Be Saved

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

You Cannot Save Yourself

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man it not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus Provided Salvation

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Accept Jesus By Faith Today

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

An Invitation

We the family of United would like to extend to you an open invitation to join us in fellowship or become a part of our family.

We're a body of Christ growing spiritually day by day,

"Expanding our ministry & Extending Ourselves."

Join us

Sunday Mornings
at our 7:27 a.m. or 11a.m.
Worship Services.

Join Us!



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Greensboro, NC 27401

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