

IT'S WHAT YOU SCATTER CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever.

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store."

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts... all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one; each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

"Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about.

They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim traded them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size....they came to pay their debt."

"We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho."

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

The Moral: Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but how we breathe the Spirit into the lives of others. It's not what you gather, but what you scatter. Scatter the seeds of Christ into the lives of the people you meet, and you will be blessed beyond measure.

Pastor Ross

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FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry
of Front Street UMC



February 20, 2020 Volume MMXX No. 4

IT'S WHAT YOU SCATTER

I enjoyed the following story recently in a devotional book, and thought I'd share it with you:

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I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

"Hello Barry, how are you today?"

"H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good."

"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?"

"Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time."

"Good. Anything I can help you with?"

"No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas."

"Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr. Miller.

"No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."

"Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?"

"All I got's my prize marble here."

"Is that right? Let me see it," said Miller.

"Here 'tis. She's a dandy."

"I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?" the store owner asked.

"Not zackley but almost."

"Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble," Mr. Miller told the boy.

"Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller."

continued

A LOOK AHEAD:

KNOWING CHRIST

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, February 26** at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, including the imposition of ashes. A nursery for children under 5 will be provided. Please join us.



MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

Are you interested in becoming part of the Front Street membership? The next quarterly **Membership Sunday** is **March 8**. If you would like to join Front Street at any of the worship services that Sunday, please contact the church office to complete the information needed for the church roll. We look forward to having you as part of the Front Street family.



EVENSONG

The chancel choirs of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter and Front Street United Methodist Church join forces for an Evensong to celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick on **Sunday, March 15** at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Front Street United Methodist Church in Burlington, NC. We are going Irish and green, even in the middle of Lent! A reception will follow in the Heritage Center. A nursery for children under 5 will be provided.



GROWING IN CHRIST

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Martha Brannock was presented the Special Mission Recognition pin at the **February** UMW meeting. Martha has served as Treasurer of the UMW for the past 3 years and is active in many activities at Front Street. The pin is presented to an individual who has given service to United Methodist Women by actions, faith, and missions. The pin represents a gift for global missions in honor of the recipient and signifies the love and appreciation of Front Street United Methodist Women.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MARDI GRAS PARTY

All children are invited to a Mardi Gras party which includes breakfast and a parade on **Sunday, February 23**. The children will learn about the season of Lent, the traditions of the church, and celebrate Jesus. This event is during the Sunday School hour in room 307!



CHURCH-WIDE COVERED DISH LUNCH

Join us for a covered dish lunch in Aldersgate Hall on **Sunday, March 1** following 11:00 a.m. worship. Please bring enough food for your family plus one other. Let's share a meal in community together!

SHARING CHRIST CEREAL SUNDAY



Don't forget **March 1** is Cereal Sunday at FSUMC! Please deposit cereal or other canned/dry goods in the tubs in the cabinet in the Welcome Center. Thank you for helping stock the food pantry at the Salvation Army.

SAVE THE DATES

March 27 - Family Life Ministry pizza and movie night in Aldersgate Hall. The featured movie will be Toy Story.
April 3 - Lenten recital featuring Matt Brittain, organ and Amy Marsh, cello at noon in the Sanctuary. More details to come.

MEET LESLIE PEAVY, OUR MINISTER OF VISITATION

Front Street UMC has been my church home for over thirty years. I have four children and three grandchildren. My children grew up here at Front Street and are all graduates of Front Street Playschool. I have taught Sunday School, kept nursery, and worked at Front Street Playschool for twenty-five years. I am honored and blessed to be a part of Front Street UMC's ministries. I look forward to growing my faith through these new friendships. I am so blessed to call this church my home.



Prayers

- **The family of Philip Brown** upon the passing of his wife, Carol Brown, on 2/14
- **Geoffrey and Marsha Browne** upon the passing of her father, Marshall Allen Rowland, on 2/15
- **Willard Haggins** recovering from back surgery
- **Marshall and Carol Old** upon the passing of their sister-in-law, Annette Old, on February 16.
- **Alan and Norma White** upon the passing of her mother, Ruby Hill (Roberts) McKinney, on 2/6

Thank You

METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN OFFERING

The total amount received to support the work of the Methodist Home for Children was \$953.00. Thank you for your generosity.



OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED

We are seeking someone who would enjoy working part-time as an office assistant at Front Street UMC. Hours are noon-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. This is a paid position, and a job description may be viewed on the church's website. Please send a resume before **March 15** to Pastor Ross at ross@frontstreetumc.org if you are interested in talking about the position.

FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE AS OF 2/14/2020

YTD Actual Giving - \$180,999.51
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$210,670.46

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Pastor of Discipleship
Patrick Murphy

Youth Minister
Chris Huneycutt

Director of Children's Ministry
Marcy McAdams

Minister of Visitation
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