



The Grapevine

The monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Mount Airy, NC

December 2009/January 2010

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Ministry Staff

Ministers

Congregation

Pastor

Dr. Steve Lindsley

Director of

Christian Education

Shasta Bode-Brown

Director of Music

Julius "Sandy" Beam

Office Administrator &

Financial Secretary

Lynn Rigney

Mother's Morning Out

Director

Etta Arrington

Session Members

Class of 2009

Josh Clark
Linda Gatchel
Randy Keith
John Merritt
Holly Mills
Dave Petri
Diane Wood

Class of 2010

Tim East
Cathy McCluskey
Valerie Parker
Jane Rountree
Jim Younger

Class of 2011

Lee Daniels
Doug Draughn
Heather Hatcher
CJ Karcanes
Libby Pell

GATHERING TOGETHER EVERY WEEK

I was getting ready for work recently one morning while watching *The Today Show* – a weekday morning ritual of mine as time permits. Matt Lauer was interviewing two experts for his "Making Family First" series, and their topic of discussion was "Six Things Parents Really Need To Know." My interest, understandably, was piqued.

The three of them bantered back and forth about lofty parenting goals that we all know are true, and that we all have difficulty fulfilling. *Have dinner as a family five nights a week. Check your child's homework nightly. Encourage participation in team sports.* It's the kind of information that countless studies have shown to be most helpful in not only producing well-rounded children prepared to meet life's challenges, but also strong families. They're also the kind of things that are hard to actually do on a consistent basis, when people are working two jobs, when kids are over-committed in activities, when we let life's complicated nature get the best of us. Nevertheless, we strive to do our best.

Most of them I had heard before in some form or fashion. But there was one that caught my attention. And it was number two on the list:

Take your children to church or synagogue weekly.

The experts went on to explain that there's more to this than the old adage, "Families who pray together stay together." According to one of Lauer's guests, studies have shown that families which have an active involvement in a particular faith community successfully communicate to their children that there is something out there bigger than themselves; that there is more to life than what can be determined by individual experiences. The other shared that such involvement provides the family with a "mantra statement" - what they stand for, what it is they believe in. How about that! I thought it was kind of neat that an actual study showed what many of us have long believed.

But I would even take it a step further, extending this beyond the traditional "nuclear family" and broadening it to our church family. See, when I walk down the aisle with a just-baptized baby in my arms and I introduce the child to their "new family" – all members of the church – I don't just say it just because it sounds nice. I say it because part of being a family of faith is recognizing that we all have a role and responsibility in raising our young people and nurturing them in that faith. We also have a responsibility to nurture *each other* as well – adults nurturing adults, children nurturing children, and even (as this past week's Youth Sunday certainly showed us) children nurturing adults.

It will probably not come as a surprise that your pastor agrees wholeheartedly with this study's #2 conclusion! But let me encourage you to ritualize weekly worship for more than just your own children – do it for the other children in your midst, and for all the people in your church family. The more we come together, the stronger we are as the body of Christ; and the more effectively we can work to bring about God's kingdom on earth. And as we enter the holiday season, as we gather around the manger and celebrate the birth of our Savior, that is Good News indeed! Blessings and peace to you and yours this holiday season!

Steve

Church Financial Update

Total Contributions Received for November:	\$ 25,851.51
Total Contributions Received for 2009:	\$ 203,967.91
2009 Budgeted Pledged & Non-pledged Giving:	\$ 248,494.00

<p style="text-align: center;">Poinsettias</p> <p>Please remember to take your poinsettias home with you after the December 20th worship service.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cents-A-Bility Offering</p> <p>Bring your offering to worship on Sunday, December 6th & January 3rd. Your small part makes such a big difference!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NEWSLETTER ARTICLES</p> <p>Please submit your articles for the February newsletter no later than Monday, January 18th. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>The Church Office will be closed on December 24 and 25 and January 1st to observe the Christmas and New Year holidays. Hope your holidays are safe and happy!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Session Meeting</p> <p>We will have our monthly Session meetings on Sunday, December 20th and January 17th at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ordination & Installation of New Elders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, January 10th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yokefellow Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">December Food(s) of the Month: Cornmeal, Mayonnaise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">January Food(s) of the Month: Cereal, Tuna</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Offering Envelopes</p> <p>Will be in your church mailbox prior to January 1.</p>

SESSION DIGEST

From Stated Session Meeting held on November 15, 2009

Youth: Youth group was preparing for Youth Sunday next week. Thanks to congregational donations, 44 Thanksgiving meals were purchased and will be distributed the day before Thanksgiving.

Worship & Music: Plans are already underway for our annual Christmas Cantata, which will be held during worship on December 13th.

Missions: Reported that Anna Wilson, our contact with the Backpack program, estimates that funds will continue to be available through January.

Discipleship: Reported we are within \$8,000 to \$9,000 of our goal of \$246,000. If the few outstanding pledges come in as expected, we should reach our goal!

Congregational Care: Has been busy responding to the bereaved in our church, including the Windley, Hardy, Yokeley, Rees, and Brown families. The Philip Fellowship has begun and is currently making initial visits to homebound members.

Personnel: Proposed a standard sabbatical policy for full-time pastors, which the session approved. Also proposed a specific sabbatical plan for our pastor, which will be taken May 2 - August 2 of next year and be funded in full by a grant from the Lilly Endowment. Part of the grant will provide for Steve McCutchan to serve as Pastor in Steve's absence. The Session approved the use of the grant for a sabbatical for Steve. An announcement was made to the congregation that same Sunday.

Buildings & Grounds: Followed up on a quote from the North Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Group shared with the session at a previous meeting, which will provide the church the same coverage with substantial savings. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Green: Reported that Granite City Cleaning Services has provided an inventory list of environmentally-friendly dinnerware for church use. He expects a small purchase to finish the year, followed by a purchase of initial stock in January. Granite City Services will monitor the supplies.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed financial highlights through the month of October. Revenues and expenditures are tracking as expected, except for the plumbing bill, of which \$1,325 remains to be paid. Revenues are catching up to budget and it may not be necessary to access the line of credit. A discussion followed regarding changes to have the quarterly pledge statements separate pledged giving from other giving. There was also a discussion regarding the solicitation of donations for the music ministry and the need to coordinate and communicate this with the Session.

Session approved requests for transfer from Alton Robertson to Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC and from Danny and Meredith Lloyd to Lake Forest Church in Huntersville, NC.

Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study

2nd & 4th
Wednesdays
8:00 a.m.
Good Life Café

Presbyterian Women

Circle 1 will meet in the Ladies Parlor on **Tuesday, January 5th**, at 10:30 a.m.

Contributions for 2009

All contributions for 2009 **must be received** in the church office or **postmarked by Thursday, December 31st**. Any items received **after this date** will be applied to 2010.

*Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year
from the FPC Staff!*

December Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: Doug Draughn
Side Usher: Heather Hatcher
Alternate: Diane Wood

Flowers for Sunday Worship

December 6 Poinsettias
December 13 Poinsettias
December 20 Poinsettias
December 27 John & Kelly Merritt
January 3 Mike & Kim Branch
January 10 Open
January 17 Open
January 24 Open
January 31 Open

Little Church Volunteers

December 6 Nancy & Joseph Dixon
December 13 Amy Sparks & Mary Glen Hatcher
December 20 Mae & Jai Daniels
December 27 Gloria & Taylor King
January 3 Cathy & Jack McCluskey
January 10 Kim & Mariah Branch
January 17 Carol & Claire Draughn
January 24 Pepper & Alex Mayes
January 31 Kim & Mariah Branch

Worship Nursery Volunteers

December 6 Laura Belk	January 3 Terri Keck
December 13 Catherine Beal	January 10 Sam Brown
December 20 Amy Robertson	January 17 Lisa Dodd
December 27 Mariah Branch	January 24 Julia Ann Banfield
	January 31 Kate Brown

I n c l e m e n t W e a t h e r P o l i c y

It is our intention that all church activities take place as scheduled. However, there are times when the weather makes it difficult to do so. In an attempt to be proactive, FPC has adopted the following policy:

- All decisions concerning the cancellation of Sunday morning & evening activities will be made by the Pastor & Clerk of Session with input from the Director of Christian Education.
- During the week, if the Mount Airy City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, any church activities scheduled for that afternoon or evening will be cancelled.
- Closing of the Mother's Morning Out program will be at the discretion of the MMO director.
- A notification of all cancelled church functions will be placed on **WXII Channel 12** as soon as possible.

Birthdays

December

2-Andrew Belk; 3-Russ Bouma, Robin Surratt, Bob Edwards;
5-Heather Taylor Dant, Ralph Forbes; 7-Ann Windley; 8-Sarah Kilby; 9-Catherine Beal, Mark Dodd, Joe Lamp'I; 11-Matthew Dodd, Jane Surratt; 12-Mike Beal, Ken Gitt, Ellen Merritt; 13-Ann Yokeley; 15-Cathy Cloukey; 16-Vance Cox; 17-Gavin Bush; 18-Ray Manieri; 19-Bob Moody; 24-Nina Bowers; 25-David Beal; 27-Bettsee McPhail, J. D. Bartley, Bettie Karcanes; 28-Eva Caldwell, Cathy McCluskey; 29-Samantha Cockerell; 30-Anna Wood, Libby Pell, Anne Pike; 31-Sean Sparks

January

1-Brian Keith; 4-Andrew Gitt; 6-Beth Elkins, Will Rhoden, Stacie Shepherd; 7-Morgan Johnson, Nancy Dixon; 8-Andrew Harris; 10-Anna Merritt, Alston Robertson, Angie Shepherd, Anna Bush; 12-Cecelia Belk; 13-Gene Rees, Libby Taylor; 14-Kathy Botkin; 15-Teresa Hill, Mary Glen Hatcher; 17-Suzanne Folger, Amy Stoltz; 18-Dot Besore; 19-Jimmie Scott; 20-Mary Steele; 21-Shelley McCluskey; 22-Mariah Branch; 24-Bud Kilby, Diane Wood, Laurel Petri; 25-Jarod Fowler; 27-Megan Carriker, Joy Snow, Emma Pequeno; 28-Taylor Bouma; 30-Andy Andrews; 31-Katie McKee

Anniversaries

December

December 1	C. J. & Bettie Karcanes
December 5	Jim & Janice Younger
December 10	Fred & Karen Barnett
December 12	David & Lisa Petri
December 16	Gregg & Liesa Hawks
December 19	Wilborn & Cathy Rives
December 20	David & Millie Beal
December 22	Randy & Ginger Keith
December 22	Mike & Legh Beal
December 25	Bob & Leona Banks
December 27	Richard & Judy Rhoden
December 27	Rob & Debbie McKee
December 28	Eric & Belinda Pike
December 31	John & Ginny Mills
December 31	P. J. & Joy Snow

January

January 3	Andrew & Laurie Stroupe
January 5	Russ & Teresa Bouma
January 16	Jack & June Snow
January 21	Bill & Jane Rountree
January 26	Mark & Ellen Merritt
January 27	Ralph & Erika Forbes



December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Circle 1	2 Advent Meal/ Advent Wreaths	3 Community Tree Lighting	4	5
6 Cents-a-bility & Yokefellow Offerings Congregational Mtg.	7	8	9 BCM Study Advent Meal/ Candy Houses Choir Practice	10	11	12
13 Ordination & Installation of New Elders; Christmas Cantata; Beacon Christmas Party	14	15	16 Choir Practice	17	18	19
20 Session Mtg.	21	22 Practice for Children's C.E. Service	23 BCM Study Choir Practice	24 Children's C.E. Service; Candlelight Communion Church Office Closed	25 Nativity of Our Lord Church Office Closed	26
27 After Christmas Social Beacon Movie Night	28	29	30 Choir Practice	31		

Beacon News

Montreat Summer Youth Conference 2010

Summer is just around the corner- which means? Time to register for the Summer Youth Conference! If you're in 9th grade thru college, you're eligible. **A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due to Shasta by Tuesday, January 5th.** Our tentative date for Montreat is August 1-7, 2010. We hope you'll join us!

Beacon Christmas Party

The Beacons will celebrate the Christmas season with a Progressive dinner on **Sunday, December 13th.** They are looking for three homes to host each portion of the dinner. If you would be willing to assist, please call or e-mail Shasta. We will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. to begin our travels. **We will be doing the Samaritan's Purse gift exchange again this year.** Details will be given on **Sunday, December 6th.**

Confirmation Kickoff

On **Sunday, January 3rd,** our new class of confirmands, their parents & mentors will meet in the F/Hall immediately following worship for lunch as we begin the journey to being confirmed.

Parent/Youth Kickoff

All youth and their parents are invited to join us on **Sunday, January 17th,** immediately following worship. We'll take a look at where we've been & where we plan to go. Rising 6th grade Beacons and their families are invited to this event to get a glimpse of what is in store for them. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share. Please sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer if you plan to attend.

Movie Night in the Tiki Room Theater

Hey Beacons! Make plans to be at the Brown's (169 Beechtree Circle) house on **Sunday, December 27th** and **Sunday, January 31st** from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We'll watch a movie, have some good movie eats, and a discussion to follow. Hope to see you there! **Parents: please drop off and pick up at the Brown's house.** If you need directions, please contact Shasta.

National Clergy Renewal Program Grant

Last month, First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Airy was notified that we have received a National Clergy Renewal Program grant for our pastor, Dr. Steve Lindsley, and our church, from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment. The Session has approved the Personnel Ministry Team's request on Steve's behalf for sabbatical leave for spiritual renewal and quality time with his family. On Sunday, November 15, Heather Hatcher, co-moderator for Personnel Ministry Team, announced to the congregation that Steve's sabbatical leave will begin May 2, 2010 through August 2, 2010 and that Dr. Steve McCutchan would serve as our interim pastor during this time. For more details about the grant award, please visit the website for the Lilly Endowment at <http://www.clergyrenewal.org>

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**Please keep the following
people in your prayers:**

Joyce Windley Adams
June Anderson
Evelyn Armstrong
Bob Bark
Legh Beal
Lorene Bowman
Billie Bradley
Carroll & Frieda Chauncey
Calvin Cochran
K. C. Crawley & Family
Marion Crow
Jim Edwards

Michael Felton & Family
Kay Ferris
Dan Gitt
Marilyn Gwyn
Joanne Hiatt
Leona Hicks
Carl Hollman
Kim Humphries
Hazel Hunter
Maudine Inman
Mary Alice Lewis
Clyde Lockhart
Wyatt & Shawn Mayes
Lib McCluskey

Renee Moore
Tony Morris & Family
Don Nester
Barbara Nichols
Brandon Overby
Vada Price
Becky Cooper Shaffer
Debra Stewart
MC-1 Christopher Stoltz
Libby Taylor
Harold Warren
Melissa Wilkins
Raymond Worrell
Nannie Wyche

Bruce Younger
Janice Younger
Nathan Zeller & Family

STEVE'S SERMONS

Sign up for the sermon email list at his sermon blog, <http://themayberrypreacher.com>. Miss a Sunday, or want to experience worship again? Go to www.fpcma.com to hear the most recent and all previous services, right from your computer!

December 6
Someone With Skin On
Luke 1: 26-38; John 1: 1-2, 14-16

December 13
CHRISTMAS CANTATA

December 20
Complicating The Simple
Luke 3: 1-6, 10-20; Isaiah 40: 3-5

December 27
Bill Rountree preaching

January 3
TBA

January 10
Bitter Words Never Tasted Sweeter
Ordination/Installation Sunday
Ezekiel 2:1-3:3; 12-15

January 17
Love Don't Take "No" For An Answer
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

January 24
Makes Sense
Nehemiah 7: 73b-8:3, 5-6, 8-10

January 31
Wisdom Speaks
Proverbs 8: 22-36



A Note From Shasta and her family:

How can I even start to put into words what I am feeling right now? My mother's sudden passing has left my entire family numb and in shock. Yet through all of this, two things have buoyed all of us up: the very real presence of God, and the love and support of our church family.

Through all of this you have surrounded my family with your love, your prayers, and your caring. My Dad continues to talk about the outpouring of love he has seen, and been a recipient of, from our church family; so much so that he has expressed an interest in worshipping with us more frequently.

When people ask me, Mark, Kate or Sam what we love about our church the first thing that we say is that it is a family here. Never has this been more apparent for us than in the last two weeks. Each and every one of you is very much a part of us and our family and we love you more than words can say. Thank you for ALL that you have done and continue to do for us during this very difficult time.

I would like to extend two very special thank-you's: First, to the Beacons and their Youth Advisors - Cathy, Valerie, Bill and Bob - and to Steve, THANK YOU for an amazing worship service on Sunday, November 22nd. Knowing I would be unable to coordinate the worship service you took control and the result was awesome. I wept through the entire service, not because I wasn't "in charge" but because I was overwhelmed with God's presence, and with the love of God our youth so willingly share!

Again, thank you! Second, a special thank you to the Christian Education and Buildings and Grounds Teams. Without a moments hesitation they took the Thanksgiving Feast, and made it into the joyous celebration that it was. It was AMAZING! This will be a very difficult Thanksgiving for our family, but it was wonderful to begin the holiday surrounded by all of you!

Know that as my family gives thanks this week, our family HERE at First Presbyterian will be foremost in our thoughts and prayers! We love you all very much!

Happy Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas!

Missions Ministry Team Program Report

Hello Again Family,

First things first, on behalf of the Missions Ministry Team, I'd like to say a truly humble and heartfelt *Thank You* for your generous donations to the "Back-Pack Program" this Fall. In addition to what you wonderful people donated during our "Pew Envelop Drive" in September, many of you honored Emily Taylor by giving a memorial gift in her name to the Back-Pack Program. Words alone cannot express your Missions Team's gratitude for your support. And I'd also like to pass on the school's thanks for helping their very excellent program aimed at stamping out hunger in our little corner of the world.

"And now for the rest of the story" ---- because of your generosity and the great job of fund raising our "partner churches" have been doing since the beginning of the school year, we are prepared to issue another check to Flat Rock Elementary. With the money on hand and that to be collected at the other churches, the Back-Pack Coordinator, Anna Wilson, thinks she can fill the backpacks through the rest of the school year. Yes, that's right, we can hold off on our planned January Fund raiser. The team will again work with the other Ministry Teams to schedule our 2010 fund raiser(s) for a time period that doesn't conflict with other fund raising activities. Please don't forget about us during this long idle period, we will be counting on you again next summer to help us fund this very important Mission that we have undertaken.

Thank you in advance for your continued support, and may God's richest blessings be with you every day and in every way. It is a privilege and a joy to be a member of this church.

The Missions Ministry Team

"CJ" Karcanes - Co-Moderator; Libby Pell - Co-Moderator;
Ethelene Edwards; Maggie Mills; Bill Rountree; Kathy Moody



January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church Office Closed	2
3 Cents-a-bility & Yokefellow Offerings Confirmation Kickoff	4	5 Circle 1 Montreat Deposits due	6 Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 Ordination/ Installation of New Elders	11	12	13 BCM Study Choir Practice	14	15	16
17 Session Mtg. Parent/Youth Kickoff All Church Bowling	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19	20 Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 Chili Lunch	25	26	27 BCM Study Choir Practice	28	29	30
31 Beacon Movie Night						

Living the Vision - Discipleship 2009

The 15+ Plan Seems to be Working!

Dear Friends,

In my letter to the members of First Presbyterian in September I informed you about an opportunity to respond to God's call to us to be disciples of the Living God. *I am pleased to announce that you all have responded to that call!* We have had such a favorable response to our **15+ Plan** that the session will not need to make any revisions to the previously adopted budget for 2010, as we have had to do in the previous six years.

Many of you have increased your pledge from previous years, have chosen to pledge for the first time, or have pledged at the same level as last year despite a change in job status! On behalf of the Discipleship Ministry Team and the other members of the Session, I want to stay **THANK YOU!!!** Your generosity and sacrifices on behalf of this congregation of believers—even during these hard economic times—will allow each ministry team to respond to the challenges and ministry opportunities this body of Christ faces in 2010, and beyond, as we seek to live out God's Vision for this church!

Peace in Christ,

Lee Daniels
Discipleship Co-Moderator

Christmas Cantata "Holy One"

You will not want to miss this year's Advent/Christmas Cantata, "Holy One" on **Sunday, December 13th**, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

The Chancel Choir has been working very hard on several beautiful pieces by John Rutter, Harold Darke, Healy Willan and our own Mark Merritt. All will be offered in worship with the assistance of a chamber orchestra. Solos by members of the Chancel Choir, Will Bryant and Anna Bush will be included.

Lydia Coyner Harrelson will be here from Shallotte, NC to sing one of her recorded pieces, "I Will Sing" as a duet with our own Legh Beal.

Incubator Recording Artist Greg Rice is flying in from Dallas, TX, to sing with the choir and premiere the snappy title piece for our Cantata, "Holy One."

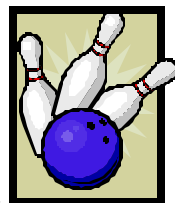
Chili Lunch

Do you have a super "Four Alarm" Chili? Does Uncle Joe's family chili recipe get rave reviews? Then we have the place for you! Join us on **Sunday, January 24th**, immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite recipe and come be a chef—we need lots of chili to feed our hungry congregation! If you are willing to make a pot of chili, please let Shasta know by **Sunday, January 17th**. This is a fundraiser for the Beacon Summer Mission Trip & Montreat Youth Conference in 2010.



All Church Bowling

What event involves folks of all ages and silly-looking shoes? Well, of course, it's All Church Bowling, that's what! Mark your calendars and join us on **Sunday, January 17th**, as we head to Mount Airy Bowling Lanes at 5:30 p.m. for an evening of friendly competition and a lot of fun and laughter. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the CE board in the upstairs foyer by **Sunday, January 3rd**, so we can reserve the lanes.



Christmas & Advent Activities

Wednesday nights in Advent will be a time of fun, food & fellowship! Our Advent festivities will begin on **Wednesday, December 3rd**. Each Wednesday meal will begin at 5:45 p.m. The menu for each meal, along with the activity, is listed below.

- **December 2nd**

Menu: Baked spaghetti and salad, bread & dessert

Activity: Advent Wreaths (**please bring greenery with you to use in your wreath**)

- **December 9th**

Menu: Baked ham, macaroni & cheese, green beans, apples, bread & dessert

Activity: Candy Houses

Community Tree Lighting/Hot Chocolate

Thursday, December 3rd

6:00 p.m.

Come see the lights, hear the music & words of the season, talk to Santa and welcome the holidays to Mount Airy. The Beacons will be on hand serving hot chocolate.

Children's Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th

4:00 p.m.

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Eve service, please sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer by **Sunday, December 13th**. We have speaking and non-speaking parts. We also need a few parents to act as "stage manager". Everyone involved should meet for practice on **Tuesday, December 22nd**, at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve & Candlelight Communion Service

Thursday, December 24th

7:00 p.m.

After Christmas Social

Sunday, December 27th

10:00 a.m.

In lieu of Sunday School, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for food and good conversation. Bring your goodies to share. The church will take care of biscuits and drinks.

