



The Grapevine

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

December 2009/January 2010

336.786.2803
336.786.8896 (fax)
email@fpcma.com
www.fpcma.com
www.twitter.com/fpcma
facebook.fpcma.com

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 |