

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."

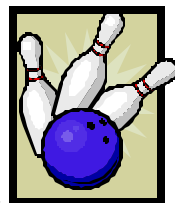
Chili Lunch

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.

