

**First
Presbyterian
Church**



Mount Airy, North Carolina

The Grapevine

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

February 2009

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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

THANK YOU ETTA!

After seven years of faithful service to our church, Etta Arrington has decided to relinquish her custodial responsibilities, as of the end of January. Thankfully, this will not be a permanent "good-bye" as Etta will continue heading up our Mother's Morning Out program – her 29th year! We should all be grateful for Etta's years of service as our custodian. Our church of 300 members is blessed with much activity and it is a task to keep it clean on just fifteen hours a week. Your Personnel Ministry Team has been hard at work, and the session will probably have the position filled soon after you read this letter, if not before. Many thanks to them for their diligence.

It is hard to believe that this is the first staff change since I've been here – six years. We've been blessed to have a lot of continuity. Still, these things do happen. So with that in mind, as your pastor I'd like to ask you to keep three things in mind anytime our church goes through a staff transition.

First, please give the Personnel Ministry Team and the session the "space" they need to do their work. We all have ideas and suggestions as to what we think the best solution would be, and we should feel free to share these with the moderators. But in the end we elected them and the rest of the session to make these kinds of decisions on our behalf. We should allow them to do that faithfully and respect whatever decision they make.

Second, in this situation as well as with all church matters, resist the urge to engage in any "hearsay" conversations that may or may not be true. While it's certainly appropriate that we refer to our church newsletter as the "grapevine," this should not be the way we either learn about church matters or share them with others. As pastor I would much prefer that you come to me or a session member with any questions or concerns, instead of going elsewhere with your comments. Things get addressed the first way, whereas nothing gets accomplished and feelings get hurt with the second.

Thirdly, as we prepare for our next custodial chapter, I think it's so important to realize that no matter how the position is filled, our responsibility as members to care for this wonderful facility does not change. While our paid staff certainly bear specific responsibilities, it is still a joint venture between staff and membership. We all have a part to play.

That's why I've always been fond of the framed embroidery that hangs outside our upstairs kitchen. It's been there since I came to this church, and this is what it says:

RULES FOR CHURCH PROPERTY:

If you open it, close it.

If you turn it on, turn it off.

If you unlock it, lock it.

If you break it, repair it.

If you can't fix it, report it to the Church Office.

If you borrow it, return it.

If you use it, don't abuse it.

If you make a mess, clean it up.

If you move it, put it back.

If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone.

If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.

When everyone abides by these simple and reasonable guidelines, we're in great shape! So thanks to each of you for what you do to keep our church building in good care. And thanks to Etta for her hard work these past seven years!

Church Financial Update

Total Contributions Received for January:	\$ 32,189.25
Total Contributions Received for 2009:	\$ 32,189.25
2009 Budgeted Pledged & Non-pledged Giving:	\$ 248,494.00

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please submit your articles for the March newsletter no later than **Monday, February 16th**. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.

Yokefellow Ministry

February Food(s) of the Month:
Flour, Rice

Congratulations to:



Evan and Jessica Chilton, Matthew Gatchel and Emily Blevins, Jim and Amy Robertson and Dru and Amy Devore as they welcome new babies into their families.

Congregational Meeting Digest

- Bob Keck distributed 2008 ministry team reports to help keep the congregation informed of the work of the session.
- Doug Draughn reported that 2008 ended with a balanced budget, due in part to a Holiday Love Offering. The 2009 budget has been cut to reflect reduced revenues resulting from a troubled economy.
- Bob Keck presented the pastor's terms of call for 2009. Salary, housing allowance and pension remain the same, with some reduction in reimbursable allowances. A motion was made and passed approving the terms of call.

Session Meeting

We will have our monthly Session meetings on **February 15th**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

SESSION DIGEST From Stated Session Meeting held on January 18, 2009

Session approved 2009 Officers of the Corporation: John Merritt (President), Libby Pell (Vice-President), Bob Keck (Secretary), and Nancy Malone (Treasurer). Steve also asked that Bob Keck be approved as Clerk of Session.

Treasurer: Nancy Malone presented financial highlights through the month of December. We finished the year on target with our 2008 budget. Our special holiday love offering contributed to its success with an additional \$5,700. Expenditures were on budget.

Worship and Music: Usher assignments, Communion dates and assignments, and a revised lock-up procedure were passed out. Nine communion dates were approved by the session.

Youth: Cathy McCluskey reported that planned youth fundraisers include: a chili cook-off, an auction, car washes, a yard sale, sales of pizza kits, luminaries at Relay for Life, parking cars during the Autumn Leaves Festival, and sales of pumpkins. Additionally, there may be a theater performance and a dance. Cathy also reported that Youth Sundays would be scheduled for June 7th and November 22nd. A motion was made and passed approving both the fundraisers and the dates for Youth Sunday.

Missions: Elicited a discussion with the session about a "hands-on" ministry our church could begin and carry out this year. After much discussion, the idea of a coat/clothes closet seemed most ideal. Ministry team will begin looking into the feasibility of this.

Congregational Care: reported that refreshments were provided to the family of George Graves. A \$50 charitable gift has also been provided in memoriam. This program has been well received.

Personnel: Heather Hatcher reported that Etta Arrington will be resigning as custodian, effective the end of January, but she will remain the director of Mother's Morning Out. The team has been assembled and will begin the search for a replacement.

Green Ministry Team: Dave Petri reported that his team has been assembled, and is working on procedures. A sign-up list has been posted upstairs to recruit volunteers to pick up recyclables for disposition.

The next Presbytery meeting will be at Central Methodist in Mount Airy on February 7th. Steve asked for volunteers to act as commissioners. Lee Daniels, CJ Karcanes, John Merritt, Linda Gatchel, and Valerie Parker volunteered.

February Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: John Merritt
Side Usher: Cathy McCluskey
Alternate: Jane Rountree

Flowers for Sunday Worship

February 1 Open
February 8 Open
February 15 Open
February 22 Bill & Jane Rountree

Little Church Volunteers

February 1 Sandy & Nina Bowers
February 8 Amy Sparks & Mary Glen Hatcher
February 15 Carla & David Majure
February 22 Sarah & Lisa Dodd

Worship Nursery Volunteers

February 1 Laura Belk
February 8 Gloria King
February 15 Kathy Moody
February 22 Betty Street

Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study

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

Presbyterian Women

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday,
February 3rd, at 10:30 a.m. in the
Ladies Parlor.

Keenagers

Our February gathering will be held at the Harvest Grill at Shelton Vineyard on **Thursday, February 19th**. Van will leave the church at 11:15 a.m. We must have a final count by Feb. 8. If you wish to go, please sign up on the Keenagers board.

There is also a sign-up sheet for you to volunteer to plan a monthly meeting.



Notice a light in the church that doesn't work? See something broken that you can't easily fix?



Please contact Lynn Rigney at the church office. Lynn keeps a special list of all buildings and grounds issues that need the attention of Tim East and the Buildings & Grounds ministry team. Tim will be checking in every Wednesday to see what's on the list and make arrangements to have it replaced/repaired/fixed.



Thank you for taking the initiative to report buildings and grounds issues that need special attention!



FPC Inclement Weather Policy

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

- All decisions concerning the cancellation of Sunday morning and Sunday evening activities will be made by the Pastor and Clerk of Session with input from the Program Director.
- During the week, if the Mount Airy City Schools are closed due to inclement weather and/or hazardous road conditions, 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.



February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Confirmation Mtg. Beacon Super Bowl Party	2	3 Circle 1	4 Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 Presbytery Meeting @ CUMC
8 "Pennies for Hunger" Covered Dish Lunch Souper Bowl of Caring Party	9	10	11 BCM Study Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14
15 Session Mtg. Beacons resume regular schedule	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17	18 Choir Rehearsal	19 Keenagers to Shelton Vineyard	20	21
22 Confirmation Mtg. Beacon Movie Night	23	24	25 BCM Study Ash Wed. Service Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28

Beacon News

Souper Bowl of Caring Party

The Beacons will join the youth from Grace Moravian, First Baptist & Central Methodist to count all the cans of soup we've collected, share in a time of fellowship, dinner and music. Meet at First Presbyterian at 5:15 p.m. on **Sunday, February 8th. Parents: Please pick up at First Baptist at 7:00 p.m.**

Looking for Beanbag Chairs...

The Beacons are looking for several beanbag chairs. Ours were stolen when the Lighthouse was vandalized last year. If you can be of any assistance, please let Shasta or one of the youth advisors know.

Beacon Super Bowl Party

All Beacons are invited to Mark & Shasta's house to watch the Super Bowl on **Sunday, February 1st**, at 5:30 p.m.

Movie Night in the Tiki Room Theater

Hey Beacons! Come on over to the Brown's (169 Beechtree Circle) house on **Sunday, February 22** 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!

Beacons Resume Regular Schedule

The Beacons will begin meeting in the Lighthouse on Sunday evenings on **Sunday, February 15th**. Make plans to be there as we begin a great year together.

The College Connection

The Evangelism Ministry Team needs help in getting an up-to-date list of all of our college students. We want to send support packages during exams, keep contact throughout the school year and have a small welcome home gift in the spring. If you would like your college student to be able to participate in our College Connection, please email your son or daughter's name, address, e-mail, and anticipated date of graduation to dianewood@email.com and also to lrigney@fpcma.com. We are also looking for volunteers to be prayer partners for our students. If you would like to send a card to a student, please contact me at dianewood@email.com. We have about 20-25 students in college and we need to let them know that we support them!

Diane Wood, Moderator

Ash Wednesday Service

We will begin our season of Lent on **Wednesday, February 25th**, at 6:30 p.m. as we share in an Ash Wednesday service. This will be a time of worship, prayer and meditation as we prepare our hearts for Lent. We will also receive the imposition of ashes.

Confirmation Meetings

All confirmands and their mentors are reminded there are **two** mandatory meetings. The first meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 1st**, at 4:00 in the sanctuary. The second meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 22nd**, at 4:00 p.m. at Moody Funeral Service.



CENTS-ABILITY LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

DID YOU KNOW...

- 38.2 million people, including 13.9 million children, live in households that experience hunger. This represents more than one in ten households in the United States.
 - 3.9 percent of United States households experience hunger.
 - 8.0 percent of United States households are at risk of hunger.
- Countries, in which a large portion of the population battles hunger daily, are usually poor, and often lack the social safety nets we enjoy, such as: soup kitchen, food stamps and job training programs. When a family that lives in a poor country cannot grow enough food or earn enough money to buy food, there is nowhere to turn for help.

Since 1989, the Salem Presbytery has distributed nearly 2.2 million dollars to feed the hungry. We are inviting every member to contribute a few cents a meal as an expression of thanks for what we have. Two cents a meal may seem like an insignificant amount of money, but your two cents a meal can help the hungry here in the United States and around the world.

****On Sunday, February 8th, bring your covered dish and join us for a luncheon and a time to learn more about "Pennies for Hunger". By endorsing this project, we can help make a difference!!****

Knit One, Purl Two

Do you knit? Would you be interested in being part of a prayer shawl ministry here at FPC?

Prayer shawls are simple to make. Even if you're a beginner, we can teach you how to make a simple shawl. The shawls will be given to members who are ill, home-bound, hospitalized, etc...This is such an easy way to let members of our church know we're thinking of them and praying for them. Making a prayer shawl is something that you can do at home, while waiting in the doctor's office or just about anywhere.



If you would be interested in participating in this ministry, please see Shasta.

FEBRUARY SERMONS

February 1, 2009

What's Drawn Out Of The Water

Exodus 1:8-14, 2:1-10; Psalm 124: 1-8

February 8, 2009

The Medium Of The Message

Matthew 13: 24-35; 44-50

February 15, 2009

Rev. Lee Hinson-Hasty (PCUSA) preaching

Steve assisting in Worship

February 22, 2009

With The Stroke Of A Pen

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Go to Steve's sermon blog, www.themayberrypreacher.com—Feel free to leave comments on the blog if you like. Go to the church website, www.fpcma.com. You can also listen to the worship services in their entirety.

Anniversaries

February 15

Mark and Shasta Brown

February 15

John and Pepper Mayes

February 20

Bill and Ann Windley

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

Joyce Windley Adams
 June Anderson
 Evelyn Armstrong
 R. G. "Butch" Arnold
 Gladys Bailey
 Bob Bark
 Bonnie Bode
 Lorene Bowman
 Billie Bradley
 Carroll & Frieda Chauncey
 Marion Crow

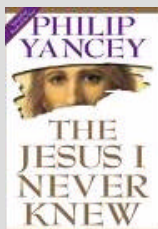
I. J. Early
 Jim Edwards
 Philip Edwards
 Dan Gitt
 Sue Hardy
 Leona Hicks
 Carl Hollman
 Kim Humphries
 Hazel Hunter
 Mary Alice Lewis
 Clyde Lockhart
 Renee Moore
 Mary Moser

Don Nester
 Jerry Nester
 Brandon Overby
 Vada Price
 C. B. Roberson
 Becky Cooper Shaffer
 Edna Simmons
 Emily Taylor
 Libby Taylor
 Harold Warren
 Melissa Wilkins
 Raymond Worrell
 Nannie Wyche

Note: If names need to be added or removed, please call the church office.

If you are receiving a newsletter by mistake or wish to be removed from our list, please contact our church office at **336.786.2803 or e-mail us at **email@fpcma.com**.

Women's Bible Study



Beginning the week of **February 10th**, we will begin a new Bible study based on the best-selling book by Philip Yancey, **The Jesus I Never Knew**. Yancey explores the life of

Jesus, by examining three fundamental questions: who Jesus was, why He came, and what He left behind. Step by step, he probes the culture into which Jesus was born and grew into adulthood; his character and mission; his teachings and miracles; his legacy—not just as history has told it, but as he himself intended it to be.

The study is open to women of all ages. Friends are welcome to join us. We will meet on Tuesday from 12:15-1:45. Bring your lunch. A workbook is required. The cost is \$10.00. If you would like to be a part of this Bible study, please give Shasta a check for your materials no later than **Sunday, February 1st**.

Birthdays

1-Christie Warren; 2-Maggie Beal, Anne Kilby; 3-Tony Stoltz, Doris Gauldin; 6-Julie Burke; 7-Linda Gatchel, Erin Mayberry, Joel Taylor; 10-Dr. Jennifer Logan; 12-John Michael Manieri, Marissa Petri; 13-Andi Draughn; 15-Logan King, Mary Taylor, Claire Draughn; 16-Kim Branch, Debbie McKee; 17-Bill Windley; 19-Jane Rountree; 20-Cal Besore, Bobby Chilton; 21-Dave Petri; 22-Mike King, Judy Rhoden; 23-Nancy Lovill; 24-June Snow, Luke Robertson; 28-Beth Pequeno; 29-Jim Robertson



