



The Grapevine

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

February 2009

Tel. (336) 786-2803

Fax. (336) 786-8896

Email: email@fpcma.com

Website:

www.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

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.