



The Grapevine

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

March 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 2010

Mariah Branch
Tim East
Cathy McCluskey
Shelley McCluskey
Valerie Parker
Jane Rountree
Jim Younger

Class of 2011

Lee Daniels
Doug Draughn
Heather Hatcher
Jennifer Logan
Libby Pell

Class of 2012

Mike Beal
Mike Branch
Gary Chilton
Joan Godwin
John Mills

DON'T GIVE SOMETHING UP FOR LENT - TAKE SOMETHING ON!

Get used to this phrase, as you'll be hearing it a lot in the coming weeks! You'll hear it as we talk about the many activities of Lent. You'll hear it as we talk about Spring Discipleship and putting our many time & talents to good use. You'll hear it from the pulpit as well.

It's been a time-honored tradition in the church to "give something up" for the season of Lent. The history of this point is rooted deep in the practice of fasting and abstinence; a way of self-denial that takes the focus off our own selves and re-orient us to God and the journey of this time of year. However, over many years this tradition has been watered down and misinterpreted. We "give up" things such as chocolate or carbonated drinks; and either one of two things typically happens. We either break that promise at some point in the 40-day journey and feel guilty about it, or we hold strong to our conviction, only to gorge ourselves on Easter.

Neither really captures the essence of the Christian journey – a journey that calls us into community with each other and calls the community to the building-up of the kingdom of God on earth. This kingdom, that we are partners with Jesus in developing, is one where scripture tell us:

"....the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together...." (Isaiah 11:6)

and one where Jesus

"....will dwell with them, they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21: 3b-4)

This is *active* work, not passive. This is each person in the community of faith doing their part together to bring about something that is different from what is currently taking place. There simply isn't a way for Christians to fulfill their calling as followers of Christ if we're not willing to get our hands dirty.

That's why the slogan for Lent this year, and for our 2010 Spring Discipleship season, is this: *Don't Give Something Up For Lent – Take Something On!* And here's the challenge: rather than giving up chocolate or soft drinks this Lent, rather than swearing not to swear for 40 days, take a different approach. **Take Something On.** Look for ways you can actively serve God and, in the process, serve as a witness to the One who changed the world by engaging it directly. And keep this in mind: in the church there is no such thing as "I've done my time." For we *never* cease being useful to God!

The Discipleship Ministry team wishes to help you in this by linking you with the various ministry teams of our church to get involved. On Dedication Sunday, March 21st, we will have a *Take-Something-On* church-wide covered-dish lunch after worship. You and your family are invited to attend and join in the fellowship! And at this lunch, each of the sessional ministry teams will have a table where you can sign up for anything and everything to do with the ministry of this great church. Thought about serving a meal at *Friends Feeding Friends*? You can sign up! Want to put your teaching passion to work as our Christian Education ministry is revamped? You'll get the chance! And if you absolutely can't make the lunch, a master list will be posted in the upstairs foyer outside the sanctuary for a few weeks.

We are so excited as we imagine every church member "taking something on" this Lenten season, and throughout the church year. Please prayerfully consider where and how God is calling you to serve – not just in ways that you've served before, but especially in new exciting ways. And remember this as we move forward: our faith is not determined by what we "give up," but by what we "take on" in the name of Christ!

Blessings always,

Jennifer Logan and Mike Branch, Co-moderators, Discipleship Ministry Team
Steve Lindsley, Pastor

Church Financial Update

Total Contributions Received for February:	\$ 18,120.87
Total Contributions Received for 2010:	\$ 47,622.40
2010 Budgeted Pledged & Non-pledged Giving:	\$ 253,858.00

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on **Sunday, April 4th**. You may place a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Lilies will be purchased by the church. Cost is \$16.00. Call the church office if you wish to purchase any or fill out the form in your Sunday bulletin.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please submit your articles for the April newsletter no later than **Monday, March 22nd**. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to move those clocks forward at **2:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, March 14th**.



Cents-A-Bility Offering

Bring your offering to worship on **Sunday, March 7th**. Your small part makes such a big difference!

Session Meeting

We will have our monthly Session meeting on **Sunday, March 21st** at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Yokefellow Ministry

March Food(s) of the Month:

Peanut Butter; Crackers

SESSION DIGEST

From Stated Session Meeting held on February 21, 2010

Treasurer's Report: Cash is in good shape and we will not have to access the line of credit. We are exploring ways to encourage a more timely receipt of pledged giving. The session approved the Treasurers report.

Christian Education: Valerie Parker reported that the team continues to explore Sunday school options and is mapping out a calendar of events. She passed out a new schedule for fellowship meals and discussed team responsibilities for the meals.

Discipleship: Jennifer Logan and Mike Branch reported that the theme for the Lenten season is "Don't give something up for Lent, take something on." There will be a covered-dish luncheon on March 21st.

Congregational Care: In light of the recent deaths of two church members, Steve mentioned that we need to encourage members to attend the funerals of those who have passed away as this is a continuing act of fellowship with those in our church community.

Endowment: Doug Draughn reported that the endowment funds have been moved into their new accounts and that they are now off the balance sheet. We need to inform and educate members of the congregation about the scholarships that are now available because of our endowments.

Buildings and Grounds: Tim East reported that the cleanup repairs from installation of the new heating system will be completed in 2 weeks.

Green: Mike Branch reported that he has met with Dave Petri concerning future activities. We will encourage members to bring their own plates and utensils to church luncheons. He is also looking into a Duke Power credit for the church.

New Business: Kate Brown is planning to join the Salem Presbytery Team on the mission trip to Mexico this summer. The session passed a resolution endorsing her participation.

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, March 2nd**, at 10:30 a.m.

Keenagers

The Keenagers will be going to Pilot Mountain for lunch at Sopper's Restaurant on **Thursday, March 18**. Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. If you plan to go, meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. Sign up on the Keenagers board outside the upstairs kitchen.

March Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: Heather Hatcher
Side Usher: Gary Chilton
Alternate: Jane Rountree

Flowers for Sunday Worship

March 7 Bill & Jane Rountree
March 14 Nancy Davis
March 21 Open
March 28 Moody Family

Little Church Volunteers

March 7 Mae & Jai Daniels
March 14 Lorie Lindsley & Daniel Hatcher
March 21 Carol & Claire Draughn
March 28 No Little Church - Cantata Sunday

Worship Nursery Volunteers

March 7 Amy Sparks
March 14 Lydia Taylor
March 21 Ethelene Edwards
March 28 Mariah Branch

Confirmation Meetings

All confirmands & mentors are reminded of **THREE** mandatory meetings:

March 13

Mission Service Day: Meet at the church at 8:45 a.m.; we'll work until 2:30 p.m. You'll need money for lunch.

March 14 and 28

4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Candy, Eggs & Toys

Please bring bags of individually wrapped candy, plastic Easter eggs and toys by Shasta's office by **Sunday, March 21st**. These will be used for the Beacon-hosted Easter party for the children on **Saturday, April 3rd**.

**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

2-Frieda Chauncey; 4-Leslie East;
6-Wendy Carriker; 9-Holly Mills,
George Snyder, III, Catherine Scott;
10-Katy Keys; 11-Lillie Edwards;
12-Patrick Belk; 15-Frank Mayberry, Reed Robbins; 16-Tom Bagnal, Gary Manfredi, Julia Jackson, Rachel Lamp'l; 18-Nancy Malone; 21-Tiffany Yokeley Martin; 22-Irene Green, John Smith; 23-Lydia Taylor, Sandy Bowers; 24-Melanie Carriker, Katherine Burke; 25-Eden Paige Isaacs; 27-Laura East; 29-Ambra Thompson Mahr; 30-Dalton Mayes



Anniversaries

March 14

Cliff & Mandy Isaacs

March 17

Jonathan & Robin Surratt

March 18

Vance & Mary Madison Cox

