



The Grapevine

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

August 2008

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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 & Custodian

Etta Arrington

Session Members

Class of 2008

Bob Keck, Clerk
Gloria King
Pete Pequeno
P. J. Snow
Debbie Stoltz
Cynthia Wood

Class of 2009

Gary Bowers
Linda Gatchel
Randy Keith
John Merritt
Diane Wood

Class of 2010

Tim East
Valerie Parker
Jim Robertson
Jane Rountree
Jim Younger

HOPE FROM THE DOLPHINS

It's Monday morning of our beach vacation and I've hit the beach for a short jog. Already the beach is teeming with activity. It's Myrtle Beach, folks; and it's crazy. We arrived Saturday evening - our first mistake, right in the throes of the next wave of "Saturday-to-Saturday" beach vacationers.

Two days later here I am, on the beach for a morning jog. I'm seeing more of the craziness just beginning to heat up and get going. I see high rise after high rise, placed precariously close to the thin dunes that barely separate the waters from the parking lots. I see trash all over the place, within a stone's throw of a perfectly-placed trash can. I see a pier that I think for a second of walking on to watch the sun rise.....until I discover that it costs \$2 to do so Call me a skeptic, but I'm wondering how humans can take such a good thing like the beach and mess it up.

And then, as I turn at the pier to head back, I suddenly hear the gleeful screams of a child: *Look, Mommy, look!* I turn my head to see a family of five at the water's edge, following her pointed index finger out a hundred yards off the shore. And there I see: dolphins. Two, maybe three. They are swimming out there; every so often their dorsal fins curling up above the water's surface. And each time this happens, more exclamations from the family, heads nodding up and down. And they never take their gaze off that distant point in the water, even as the dolphins remain out of sight for a few seconds. They patiently watch and wait to see them once again.

I start my jog again and notice - others have seen this family looking, pointing; and so now they're doing the same: the elderly couple on their morning walk, the group of fishermen on the shore, a surfer dude carrying his board, another jogger. They all stop to look. The dolphins are kind of moving north up the coastline now (are they following me - or am I following them?) and I see this same thing happen over and over again, all the way back to the house. No matter what people are doing out on the beach that Monday morning, they stop and look - and they stop and look for a good while, as long as they can, as long as the dolphins will let themselves be seen, and even some time after that.

What it is exactly that would cause folks to do this - to gaze hopefully so that they might catch a split second glimpse of something as basic as marine life swimming? Perhaps a biologist might be excited to study migration habits or how they use their sonar ability to navigate the surf. But I can't imagine those hundreds of folks on the beach were all marine biologists. No, I think people gazed off into those early morning waters because there is something mysteriously and wonderfully hopeful about something like dolphin swimming - something that we all long to tap into in the midst of busy lives, crowded grocery stores, tall buildings of concrete, trashy beaches and vacations with a few thousand of our closest friends. I think those dolphins demonstrated just how in touch they are with their surroundings, with God's creation; and how out of touch the rest of us can sometimes be.

I've been thinking about those dolphins ever since we got back. Seems like we all have a whole lot we can learn from them, just watching them swim - how to be in balance with one's surroundings, how to find joy in the simple things of life, how to be truly thankful for what we have instead of perpetually unhappy because of what we don't have. Personally I love times like these; when God shines into the ordinary and makes it extraordinary. I think it's when God does some of God's greatest work, if you ask me. Here's to all of us keeping on the lookout for the dolphins.

Steve

Church Financial Update

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Total Contributions Received for June/July: (two months combined) | \$ 29,885.37 |
| Total Contributions Received for 2008: | \$ 133,258.44 |
| 2008 Budgeted Pledged & Non-pledged Giving: | \$ 280,825.00 |

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|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Yokefellow Ministry</p> <p>August Food(s) of the Month:</p> <p>Peanut Butter, Crackers</p> <hr/> <p>Bible in a Year Challenge Lunch</p> <p>Bring your lunch and join us for our monthly discussion meetings on Sunday, August 3rd, immediately following worship. Everyone is welcome.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Mission Trip Commissioning Ceremony</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There will be a Commissioning Ceremony during the worship service on Sunday, August 3rd, for the mission travelers heading to Canada. Please plan to share in worship with them as they prepare to go out and serve the Lord in many ways.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Session Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We will have our monthly Session meeting on Sunday, August 3, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.</p> <hr/> <p>Youth Advisors Meeting:</p> <p>Make plans to meet with on Wednesday, August 27th, in the Lighthouse as we have a number of items to discuss.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">NEWSLETTER ARTICLES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please submit your articles for the August newsletter no later than Tuesday, August 19th. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.</p> |
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August 2008 Sermons

Note: Sermons are available by the church's website, www.fpcma.com. You may also call the church office to be added to the sermon e-mail list.

August 3
The Uneaten Apple Theory
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, 22-24
Romans 5:19-6:2, 12-14

August 10
The Feeding of the 5,000,000
Matthew 14: 13-21

August 17
Rev. Benjamin Williams Preaches
150th Anniversary Celebration

August 24
What's Drawn Out of the Water
Exodus 1:8-14, 2:1-10 / Psalm 124: 1-8

August 31
Peter's On A Roll!
Acts 2: 14, 22-24, 33, 37-42;
Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

The Christian Education Ministry Team Needs your Help

The CE Team would like to know what you think about the educational opportunities we offer here at FPC. Enclosed in your issue of the Grapevine you will find a brief survey concerning our Sunday School program, mid-week programs as well as our women's Bible study groups. Please take a moment to fill out this survey and return it to the church either by mail or there will be a box in the upstairs foyer. The CE team knows that one way in which we glorify God is by learning all we can as Christians. The CE team wants to know what you think so we can improve what we offer, and glorify God to the best of our ability.

New Member Sunday



New Member Sunday: *Sunday, August 17th*; Are you interested in joining our church and becoming part of its mission to serve Christ? We'll have a "New Members" class at 9:45 a.m. in the Koinonia Room, a meeting with the session at 10:30 a.m., and recognition during worship. For more information, please see Debbie Stoltz or Steve Lindsley.

August Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: Diane Wood
Side Usher: Jim Younger
Alternate: Pete Pequeno

Flowers for Sunday Worship

August 3 Dave & Julia Banfield
August 10 C. J. and Bettie Karcanes
August 17 Heather and Hampton Hatcher
August 24 Bill and Jane Rountree
August 31 Open

Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study

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

Our Sunday School Program Needs You!

Our new Sunday School year will begin on **Sunday, August 24th**. Help us make this year even more exciting and successful too! We are looking for adults who will commit to a **minimum of 3 weeks** or a **maximum of 6 weeks** to teach one of these fun and exciting classes. If you would be willing to share your faith and love of God with our children or if you need additional information, please call Shasta. Sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer if you'd be willing to assist.

Little Church Volunteers

August 3 Teresa and Russ Bouma
August 10 Heather and Mary Glen Hatcher
August 17 Lorie Lindsley and Kate Brown
August 24 Mark and Lisa Dodd
August 31 Sandy and Nina Bowers

Worship Nursery Volunteers

August 3 Sam Brown
August 10 Gloria King
August 17 Elizabeth Merritt
August 24 Julia Ann Banfield
August 31 Laura Belk

Shasta's Super Summer series 2008!

What do you get when you add **you + a field trip or two + a Bible study + lunch** =? Fun, food, fellowship and a chance to learn about God. We've had a great time so far! We have one meeting left on **Tuesday, August 19th**. Watch your e-mail for more details about this great event. To sign up, please call Shasta. We will also need one or two moms to chaperone. If you are able to help, please let Shasta know.

Back-to-Sunday School Pool Party

We will have a kickoff for our Back-to-Sunday School with a pool party on **Sunday, August 17th**. Location to be announced. .. Every one of every age is invited. Bring a snack to share and join us for an evening of fun! Watch your bulletin for more information.



August Birthdays

1-Mac Simpson, Sara-Alyce Lloyd, Phillip Riekehof;
3-Ian Robertson, Carl Hollman; **4**-Mark Brown, Barbara Lane, Randy Keith; **5**-Emily Taylor;
6-Nelson Clark; **7**-Tom Botkin; **8**-Jean Cook, Diana Gwyn, Steven Harrelson; **9**-Helen Andrews, Jackson Smith; **11**-Janice Younger, Karen Barnett;
13-Lee Ann Riekehof, Margaret Shepherd;
14-Mary Botkin, Jim Pell III; **17**-Lauren Wood, Taylor Gwyn; **21**-Bob Keck; **23**-Dr. John Malone;
24-Steve Yokeley; **25**-Margaret Cockerell, Margaret Frye; **26**-Grey Boyles, Gloria King; **27**-Herb Atkins, Maggie McKee, Robert McKee; **28**-Tarona Hollingsworth; **31**-Jack McCluskey

August Anniversaries

August 1
Joe and Anne Pike
August 7
Donnie and Dana Johnson
August 8
Ken and Susan Gitt
August 17
Floyd and Marjorie Rees
August 17
Hampton and Heather Hatcher
August 28
Jimmie and Sarah Scott
August 30
Jim and Libby Pell



August 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|--|---|-----|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Session Mtg. BIAYC Lunch | 4 | 5 Beacon Pre- Mission Trip Retreat N/A Mtg. | 6 Beacon Pre- Mission Trip Retreat | 7 Beacons Friends Feeding Friends | 8 | 9 Keenagers to Narroway Theatre |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 BCM Study | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | | Beacon Mission Trip to Toronto, Canada | | | | |
| 17 New Member Sunday Back-to- Sunday School Pool Party | 18 | 19 Newsletter Articles Due Shasta's SSS N/A Mtg. | 20 Beacons to Amanda Wilson's house @ Lake James | 21 Surry Quilter's Guild | 22 | 23 |
| 24 RALLY DAY! | 25 | 26 N/A Mtg. | 27 BCM Study Youth Advisor's Mtg. | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Beacon News

Beacons Youth on the Town



We will wrap up our Youth on the Town summer events as the summer comes to a close. We will travel to Amanda Wilson's house at Lake James on **Wednesday, August 20th**, for a day of water fun and relaxation. This will be an all-day adventure! Watch your e-mail and Sunday bulletin for more details.



Beacon Pre -Mission Trip Retreat



All Beacons and their chaperones who will be traveling to Canada for our summer mission trip are asked to attend our pre-mission trip retreat on **Tuesday and Wednesday, August 5th and 6th**. We will have a guest speaker, work on things to solidify our team, prepare for our VBS/day camp experience and much more. We will meet at the Lighthouse at 6:30 p.m. each night. Parents are asked to join us on Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. as we finalize paperwork and discuss final travel information. Please make plans to be here. It's going to be great!!

Beacons and Friends Feeding Friends



The Beacons will be serving God as we serve our neighbors dinner at Friends Feeding Friends on **Thursday, August 7th**. We need **8 volunteers** to join Shasta and Bill. If you would like to help, please sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer. Everyone will meet at First Baptist Church at 5:15 p.m. that evening.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR OUR YOUTH MISSION TRAVELERS AND CHAPERONES AS THEY TRAVEL TO TORONTO, CANADA TO DO GOD'S WORK AUGUST 10TH-16TH.

A Note from the Stewardship Committee

Fall Stewardship Season will begin **Sunday, September 14th** and will run through **Sunday, September 28th**. You may pick up your Fall Stewardship packet in September at the church or it can be mailed to your home. Each packet will contain a copy of the session-approved budget for 2009, a letter from the co-stewardship moderators, a summary sheet and a pledge card. You will also have the name and number of a contact person who will be able to answer any questions that you might have.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- January 20, 2008** Rev. Tom Bagnal preaches
- February 17, 2008** "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" FELLOWSHIP
With Flat Rock and Edward Webb
Presbyterian Churches - 4:00pm
- April 13, 2008** Dr. Paul Ridolfi preaching
- June 8, 2008** FOUNDER'S SUNDAY
Rev. Sam Marshall, Salem Presbytery
- OPENING OF HISTORICAL ROOM
Luncheon after worship
- August 17, 2008** Dr. Benjamin Williams preaching
- October 18, 2008** WEEKEND SEMINAR #1:
Rev. Steve McCutchan
6:00 pm - Covered dish dinner
- October 19, 2008** HOMECOMING
Rev. Steve McCutchan preaches
- Luncheon after worship
WEEKEND SEMINAR #2:
Rev. Steve McCutchan
- November 9, 2008** Rev. Paul Layton preaches

OTHER WAYS WE ARE CELEBRATING 150 YEARS:

- Specially-designed 150th Anniversary coverlet for sale
- Women of the Church cookbook
- 50 members reading the entire Bible in a year
- A commitment for our church to "go green" in 2008 and beyond.

*Calendar will be updated with additional dates
as they become available.*

150th Anniversary Cookbook Update

We are still looking for recipes for the Anniversary Cookbook. Forms are available in the upstairs foyer for your use. Handwritten recipes may also be submitted. We will accept any and all recipes. We encourage all members, near and far, to submit recipes.
Help us make this a great cookbook!

Feel free to mail recipes to Jane Rountree, 347 Robin Road, Mt. Airy, NC 27030 or e-mail to wroundtree@rjia.net.

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326 South Main Street
Post Office Box 1286
Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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Airy, NC 27030

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

Joyce Windley Adams
June Anderson
Evelyn Armstrong
Herb Atkins
Bonnie Bode
Billie Bradley
Carroll & Frieda Chauncey
Marion Crow
Katie Draughn
I. J. Early
Jim Edwards

Philip Edwards
Dan Gitt
Laura Neese Glasscock
Barbara Green
Sue Hardy
Leona Hicks
Carl Hollman
Ann Honeycutt
Mary Alice Lewis
Ruth Mills
Beverly Moss
Don Nester
Jerry Nester

Brandon Overby
Diann Petri
Vada Price
Carolyn Quesinberry
C. B. Roberson
Becky Cooper Shaffer
Edna Simmons
Emily Taylor
Libby Taylor
Harold Warren
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**.

Mills Mission News

Time flies when you're having fun. It must also fly when you're on the mission field. In many ways, it seems that we have just begun, and yet in less than one month we will move back to NC to stay. The transition will be bittersweet to be sure.

We have, indeed, accomplished a great deal. In the words of David Dixon's mom, "We're **SO** glad we didn't miss it!!!" Although the clinic will not be open and operational when we leave, it will be providing important medical care to the indigenous people of Chiapas within a few months. We have helped to host mission teams from all over the country and have come to know and love literally thousands who share our passion for cross-cultural missions. Holly and Maggie have grown into confident young women who can lead a Spanish-speaking VBS all on their own and can share their faith in creative and inspiring ways. It has, indeed, been a blessing to serve. We hope to have an opportunity to share with you many aspects of how we have seen God at work all around us in Chiapas.

Our church in Mt. Airy has blessed us with support and encouragement, birthday cards and love. As we return, we look forward to reconnecting with the Nath Briley Class, the choir, the Beacons and the entire congregation. (Speaking of Nath Briley, for those who remember him, note that Nath and his son, Charles, and a group of youth from Decatur Presbyterian were here with us just last week!)

As we return, we ask that you continue to pray for us. Even as we felt good answering God's call to serve when we moved to Mexico, it was very hard for us all to leave the life, the friends, and the church that we had called home in NC. Now, as we return, it will again be hard for us to leave the life, the friends, and the church that we have called home in Ocosingo. And our life in NC will be different than the one we left. Both girls will be starting public high school for the first time; Ginny and John will be self-employed for the first time; and it will be hard to avoid getting back "in the box." We know that our time has come to return, but the leaving will be bittersweet. Still, we look forward to seeing each of you and rejoining the everyday life of the church at 1st Presbyterian in Mt. Airy.



