



The Grapevine

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

August 2008

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Mother's Morning Out

Director & Custodian

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Class of 2010

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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

<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>	<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>
<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>			

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