



The Grapevine

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

December 2008/
January 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 & 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

PSALM 136, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN STYLE

Back in November our church celebrated its Homecoming and incorporated it into our 150th Anniversary celebration. It was a joy to welcome the Rev. Steve McCutchan for his inspiring "Roots and Wings" series. As part of his program Saturday night, we read Psalm 136 – a psalm that recounts the history of the Hebrew people and gives thanks God with the refrain, *O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever.* At Steve's suggestion, we took this psalm and modeled our own history as First Presbyterian Church around it. Then, on Sunday morning, Steve and I read those bits of history while the congregation offered the refrain. Whether you were there that morning or not, I invite you to read it to yourself; even out loud if you feel so led:

For the fourteen years it took to found this church in what was described in one publication of its time as a "spiritually destitute community;"

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For people like Mary Alice Lewis, who caught the vision for what Hospice could do in our community and helped to organize its first office in our church;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For baptisms of children of all ages that welcome them into another family – a family of faith;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For unsung leaders like Nath Briley, who began a Sunday school class for adults with small children, and in doing so nurtured a new generation of leaders;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For the capacity and unrealized potential our church has to embody mission and outreach, living its faith by reaching out to and tending to the needs of the community;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For our older members, who remind us of where we have come from; and for our youth, who constantly demonstrate to us our church's potential;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For a congregation that has a wonderful ability to laugh and be supportive when things are going great, and especially when things aren't;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For a church that has made it through two lightning strikes, countless floods in the bottom floor of the educational building, and a graffiti-laden church van;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For a church that possesses the treasured gifts of warmth and hospitality;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

For 150 years of faithful living, and with God's help another 150 years yet to come;

O give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever!

As we conclude our church's 150th celebration and enter into the holiday season, may this litany remind you of our church's rich history, as well as the future God has in store for us!

Church Financial Update

Total Contributions Received for November:	\$ 22,035.19
Total Contributions Received for 2008:	\$ 212,346.61
2008 Budgeted Pledged & Non-pledged Giving:	\$ 280,825.00

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please submit your articles for the February newsletter no later than **Monday, January 19th**. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.

Session Meeting

We will have our monthly Session meetings on **Sunday, December 14 and January 18**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Yokefellow Ministry

December Food(s) of the Month:
Canned Milk, Canned Pasta

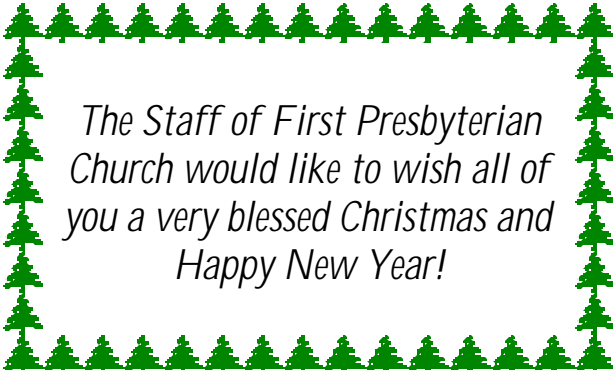
January Food(s) of the Month:
Cereal, Tuna

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed **December 24, 25 and 26** and **January 1st** to observe the Christmas and New Year holidays. Hope your holidays are safe and happy!

Poinsettias

Please remember to take your poinsettias home with you after the December 21st service.



The Staff of First Presbyterian Church would like to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

SESSION DIGEST

From Stated Session Meeting held on November 16, 2008

- Approved the Treasurer's report, which showed the church holding expenses within budget but short of pledged and non-pledged giving for the year.
- Stewardship Ministry Team reported that, to date, we are short \$34,000 of our pledged giving to make our 2009 budget. Cuts will need to be made and given to the session at their December meeting for approval.
- Youth Ministry team reported that enough funds were raised from pumpkin sales and congregational donations to provide 65 thanksgiving meals to needy families. Great job!
- Personnel Ministry team reminded session members that all staff evaluations are now due.
- Buildings & Grounds Ministry team reported that a very small contingency helped to clean up the areas in the church affected by the recent construction. All heat pump systems are in working order at this time
- Session approved a proposal by Nelson and Josh Clark to sponsor a "Venture Crew" program, part of the Boy Scouts of America. The group will hold meetings at the Lighthouse.
- Session approved the wedding of Lee Ann Riekehof on July 18, 2009.
- Nancy Malone has agreed to be the church's treasurer for 2009 and Bob Keck has agreed to remain as Clerk of Session for 2009 as well. Thanks Nancy and Bob!

December Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: Bob Keck
Side Usher: John Merritt
Alternate: P. J. Snow

Flowers for Sunday Worship

December 7 Poinsettias
December 14 Poinsettias
December 21 Poinsettias
December 28 Poinsettias
January 4 Mike & Kim Branch
January 11 Open
January 18 C. J. and Bettee Karcanes
January 25 Open

Little Church Volunteers

December 7 Lorie Lindsley & Kate Brown
December 14 Mae & Jai Daniels
December 21 Heather & Mary Glen Hatcher
December 28 Gloria & Taylor King
January 4 Cathy & Shelley McCluskey
January 11 Laura East & Alex Mayes
January 18 Mike & Catherine Beal
January 25 Kim & Mariah Branch

Worship Nursery Volunteers

December 7 Karen Manfredi
December 14 Catherine Beal
December 21 Amy Robertson
December 28 Mariah Branch
January 4 Terri Keck
January 11 Kate Brown
January 18 Lisa Dodd
January 25 Julia Ann Banfield

Contributions for 2008

Any and all contributions for 2008 **must be received** in the church office or **postmarked** by **Wednesday, December 31st**. Any contributions received **after this date** will be applied to 2009.

Need a Christmas gift idea? What about a First Presbyterian 150th Anniversary throw? They're pretty; they're warm and they only cost \$40! See Linda Gatchel or call the church office to get yours today!



Christmas Cantata

Join us for our Christmas Cantata on **December 14** during the morning worship service.

Offering Envelopes

For those of you that have requested offering envelopes for 2008, they will be in your church mailbox prior to January 1st.

Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study

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

Presbyterian Women

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, December 2nd, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mae Turpin, 2140 Heatherstone Lane. Lunch will follow the Bible study.

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.



December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Circle 1 @ Mae's	3 Advent Meal/ Advent Wreaths Choir Rehearsal	4 Community Tree Lighting Handbell Rehearsal	5	6
7 Bible-in-a-Year Challenge Lunch Deposits due for Wknd Mission Trip	8 Church Office Closed—Staff to Boone to process shoeboxes for OCC	9	10 BCM Study Advent Meal/ Candy Houses Choir Rehearsal	11 Handbell Rehearsal	12 Angel Tree Gifts due to Salvation Army	13
14 Session Mtg. Christmas Cantata Beacon Christmas Party	15	16	17 Choir Rehearsal	18 Keenager Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Handbell Rehearsal	19	20
21 Practice for Children's C. E. Service	22	23	24 Children's C. E. Service/ Candlelight Communion Church Office Closed	25 Nativity of Our Lord Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 After Christmas Social Beacon Movie Night	29	30	31 Choir Rehearsal			

Beacon News

Parent Youth Kickoff

Join us on **Sunday, January 11th**, immediately following worship. We will take a look back at where we have been in the last year and take a look ahead to where we are going. All youth and their parents are invited to attend. Our rising 6th grade Beacons and their families are also invited to attend and get a glimpse of what is in store for them. Each family is asked to bring a dessert to share. Sign up on the CE bulletin board.

Movie Night in the Tiki Room Theater

Hey Beacons! Come on over to the Brown's (169 Beechtree Circle) house on **Sunday, December 28**, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We'll ring out 2008, watch a movie, have some good movie eats, and a discussion to follow. Hope to see you there! **Parents: please drop off and pick up at the Brown's house.** If you need directions, please contact Shasta.

Community Tree Lighting and Hot Chocolate

On **Thursday, December 4th**, at 6:00 p.m., come out and see the lights, drink some hot chocolate, hear the music and words of the season, talk to Santa and welcome the holidays to Mount Airy. The Beacons will be on hand serving hot chocolate.

Beacon Christmas Party

The Beacons will celebrate the Christmas season at the Vineyard on **Sunday, December 14th**. We will meet at the church at 3:00 p.m. to begin our travels. **Your orders for the Samaritan's Purse gift exchange are due into Shasta by Sunday, December 7th.** If you didn't get a catalog, give Shasta a call.

Montreat Summer Youth Conference 2009

Summer is just around the corner, and that means Montreat, and time to register for Summer Youth Conference. If you are a rising freshman through graduated senior then you are eligible to attend Summer Youth Conference. **A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due in to Shasta by Monday, January 5th.** Our tentative date for Montreat is August 2-8, 2009. We hope to see you there!

Advent Activities

Wednesday nights in Advent will be a time of fun, food and fellowship!

Our Advent festivities will begin on **Wednesday, December 3rd**. Each Wednesday meal will begin at 5:45 p.m. with activities to follow around 6:30 p.m.

December 3:

Activity—Advent Wreaths (please bring greenery with you to use in your wreath)

Menu—Baked spaghetti and salad, bread and dessert

December 10

Activity—Candy Houses

Menu—Baked Ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, apples, bread and dessert

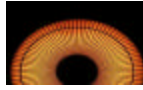


Children's Christmas Eve Service

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Eve service, please sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer by **Sunday, December 14th**. We have speaking and non-speaking parts. Stage managers are needed. **Practice for the service will be on Sunday, December 21st at 5:30 p.m.**

After Christmas Social

In lieu of Sunday School on **Sunday, December 28th**, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for food and good conversation. Bring your Christmas goodies to share. The church will provide biscuits and drinks.



CELEBRATING GOD'S MISSION FOR OUR CHURCH
Fall Stewardship 2008 Update

First, we wish to thank all church members who saw fit to make a pledge to God's church for the coming year. It is essential to our financial planning that we go into the new year knowing what to expect. Your commitment to First Presbyterian is much appreciated!

As we all know, the economy has been difficult this year, for all of us. Perhaps it's to be expected that this would have an impact on our church's pledged giving. Our 2009 budget called for pledged giving of \$267,302 that asked members to increase their giving from 2008 by 7%. As you see below, we fell short of that goal by \$33,808.

Total pledge cards turned in for 2009:	93	(99 turned in for 2008)
Total pledges for 2009:	\$233,494	
Shortfall from 2009 approved budget:	\$ 33,808	(\$17,231 short of 2008 budget)
Total increase pledges from 2008	32	
Total decrease pledges from 2008	21	
Total same pledges as 2008	30	

It is not unusual for our church to encounter a shortfall in Stewardship, but this is a particularly large one. At their December meeting, the session will consider a revised budget that will call for significant cuts in programs and ministries, outreach and missions, and staff compensation. Our church will enter 2009 with a renewed mission to "do more with less!"

Our church is not unique – all are "feeling the squeeze" when it comes to their financial situation. Once again, we are grateful for the funds that have been pledged for next year and will diligently work to put them to use in a way that carries forth the mission of our church!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Stewardship co-moderators this year!

Diane Wood and Jim Younger

December 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.

December 7, 2008
Making Way For The Road
Mark 1: 1-8; Isaiah 40: 1-10

December 14, 2008
Christmas Cantata

December 21, 2008
If The Sheep Could Talk
Luke 2: 6-20

December 24, 2008 - Candlelight Service
An Inkeeper Speaks
Luke 2:7

December 28, 2008
Nancy Williams -Berry preaching

January 2008 Sermons

January 4, 2009
With The Stroke of a Pen
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

January 11, 2009
Who's Really Imprisoned
Acts 16: 16-40

January 18, 2009
It Doesn't Have To Be The Way It Is
Matthew 5: 38-48

January 25, 2009
Jesus, Line 3
Luke 2: 41-52, Psalm 139: 1-10

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

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Church, P. O.
Box 1286, Mt.
Airy, NC 27030

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

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

Jim Edwards
Philip Edwards
Dan Gitt
Barbara Green
Sue Hardy
Leona Hicks
Carl Hollman
Ann Honeycutt
Hazel Hunter
Mary Alice Lewis
Clyde Lockhart
Don Nester
Jerry Nester

Brandon Overby
Diann Petri
Vada Price
Carolyn Quesinberry
Travis Quesinberry
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**.

Salem Presbytery coming to Mount Airy!

The last time a presbytery meeting was held in Mount Airy, it was sometime in the 60's. Not any more!

Three Mount Airy PC(USA) churches (First, Edward Webb and Flat Rock) are honored to host a meeting of Salem Presbytery on Saturday, Feb. 7th, 2009. The meeting will be held at Central United Methodist Church. We need a bunch of volunteers to help pull this off! Please see the sign-up list on the bulletin board in the foyer and see where you can help. Questions? See Steve!

Nath Briley Class & The Shack

John and Ginny Mills will lead a book study and discussion in the Nath Briley Class beginning in January. The Shack by William Paul Young is an invitation to consider God in a whole new way; to share mercy, forgiveness and joy in the wake of great agony; and to witness God's love, light & healing in the midst of the darkest nightmare. Participants need not have read the book prior to the class, but must commit to reading several chapters each week in preparation for discussion each Sunday. **All participants will need a copy of the book. It can be purchased at Pages or any other book store.**



Ordination and Installation of New Elders

January 4, 2009

Class of 2009

Holly Mills, Josh Clark and Dave Petri

Class of 2010

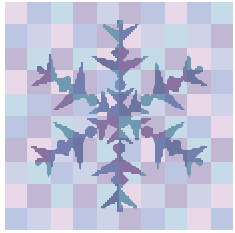
Cathy McCluskey

Class of 2011

Heather Hatcher, Lee Daniels, CJ Karcanes, Libby Pell and Doug Draughn



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January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bring donations for "Souper" Bowl of Caring—January 4 thru February 1 			(January) Nath Briley Sunday School Class to start discussion on <i>The Shack</i>	1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2	3
4 Ordination & Installation of New Elders Confirmation Kickoff Mentor Trng.	5 Deposits due for Montreat Conference	6 Circle 1	7 Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 Parent/Youth Kickoff	12	13	14 BCM Study Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17
18 Session Mtg. All Church Bowling	19 Newsletter Articles Due	20	21 Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 Beacon Movie Night	26	27	28 BCM Study Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31

Confirmation

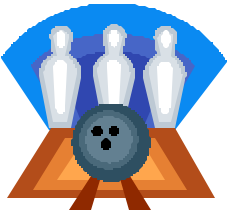
- **Kickoff** - On **Sunday, January 4th**, our new class of confirmands, their parents and our new mentors will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for lunch and to begin the journey down the road to confirmation.
- **Weekend Mission Trip** – The confirmands and their mentors will travel to Charlotte March 6-8 for a weekend Mission Trip. **A \$25 deposit per person is due in to Shasta no later than Sunday, December 7th.**
- **Mentor Training** - **Sunday, January 4th**; 8:30-9:30; We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Keenager
Trip
Information



Anyone who is signed up to go to the Wohlfahrt Haus on **Thursday, December 18th**, to see *An American Christmas*, should plan to meet and leave the church at 10:30 a.m.

All Church Bowling



What event involves folks of all ages and funny-looking shoes?? Well, of course, it's All Church Bowling, that's what! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 18th** as we head to the Mount Airy Bowling Lanes. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. for an evening of friendly competition and a lot of fun and laughter. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the CE bulletin board by **Sunday, January 4th**, so we can reserve the lanes.



Birthdays

December

2-Andrew Belk; 3-Russ Bouma, Robin Surratt, Bob Edwards; 5-Heather Taylor, Ralph Forbes; 7-Ann Windley; 8-Sarah Kilby; 9-Catherine Beal, Mark Dodd, Joe Lamp'l; 11-Matthew Dodd; 12-Mike Beal, Ken Gitt, Ellen Merritt; 13-Ann Yokeley; 15-Cathy Cloukey; 16-Vance Cox; 18-Ray Manieri; 19-Bob Moody; 24-Nina Bowers; 25-David Beal; 27-Bettsee McPhail, J. D. Bartley, Bettie Karcanes; 28-Floyd Rees, Eva Caldwell, Cathy McCluskey; 29-Samantha Cockerell; 30-Anna Wood, Libby Pell, Anne Pike; 31-Sean Sparks

January

1-Brian Keith; 4-Andrew Gitt; 6-Beth Elkins, Will Rhoden, Stacie Shepherd; 7-Morgan Johnson, Nancy Dixon, Collin Phillips; 8-Andrew Harris; 10-Anna Merritt, Alston Robertson, Angie Shepherd; 12-Cecelia Belk; 13-Gene Rees, Libby Taylor; 14-Kathy Botkin; 15-Teresa Hill, Mary Glen Hatcher; 17-Suzanne Folger, Amy Stoltz; 18-Dot Besore; 19-Jimmie Scott; 20-Mary Steele; 21-Shelley McCluskey; 22-Mariah Branch; 24-Bud Kilby, Diane Wood, Laurel Petri; 25-Jarod Fowler; 27-Megan Carriker, Joy Snow, Emma Pequeno; 28-Taylor Bouma; 30-Andy Andrews; 31-Katie McKee

Anniversaries

December

December 1 C. J. and Bettie Karcanes
December 5 Jim and Janice Younger
December 10 Fred and Karen Barnett
December 12 David and Lisa Petri
December 16 Gregg and Liesa Hawks
December 19 Wilborn and Cathy Rives
December 20 David and Millie Beal
December 22 Randy and Ginger Keith
December 25 Bob and Leona Banks
December 27 Richard and Judy Rhoden
December 27 Rob and Debbie McKee
December 28 Eric and Belinda Pike
December 31 John and Ginny Mills

January

January 5 Russ and Teresa Bouma
January 16 Jack and June Snow
January 21 Bill and Jane Rountree
January 26 Mark and Ellen Merritt
January 27 Ralph and Erika Forbes

