

**First
Presbyterian
Church**



Mount Airy, North Carolina

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

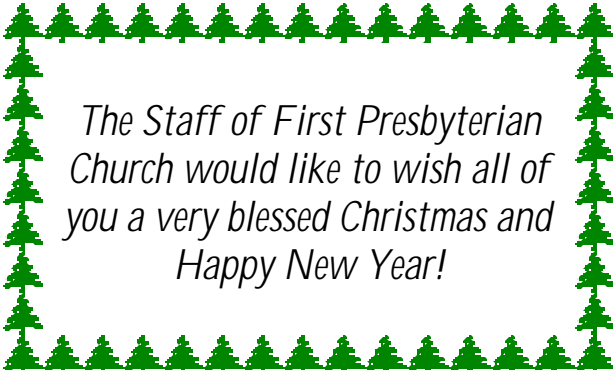
January Food(s) of the Month:
Cereal, Tuna

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.