



The Grapevine

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

March 2009

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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

Etta Arrington

Session Members

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Linda Gatchel
Randy Keith
John Merritt
Holly Mills
Dave Petri
Diane Wood

Class of 2010

Tim East
Cathy McCluskey
Valerie Parker
Jane Rountree
Jim Younger

Class of 2011

Lee Daniels
Doug Draughn
Heather Hatcher
CJ Karcanes
Libby Pell

BECAUSE IT JUST MAKES "CENTS"



No matter how you look at it, it just makes "cents."

Our church has had a long-standing history with what used to be called the "Pennies For Hunger" offering. It used to be taken up during announcements every other Sunday of the month. Steve Taylor would come to church the following week and count the offering, penny by penny. Together we helped Salem Presbytery raise millions of dollars to fight hunger and poverty right here in Mount Airy, in the Piedmont, in our country and around the world.

Somewhere along the line, though, we dropped the ball. We stopped collecting the offering. We went on eating three squares a day, of course. But many others were not able to do the same.

So now in 2009, thanks to Kathy Moody and the rest of the Missions Ministry Team, we are reinstating this offering – with a twist. We are providing you with white "Cents-A-Bility" offering cups to keep at home or in your car (these can be picked up in the basket outside the upstairs kitchen). We are asking that you deposit your spare change every time you sit down for a meal or receive change at the drive-thru (you can even throw in the "green money" from time to time!) And then on the first Sunday of the month, you are invited to bring your cups and empty them into the baskets that will be passed around the church during announcements. There's also a large plastic jar on the table outside the upstairs kitchen where you can bring your offering any Sunday.

But that's not all! To breathe new life into our monthly Yokefellow food offering, you are encouraged on the first Sunday of the month to also bring the food of the month into worship and place it on the floor around the communion table. During worship I will say a special prayer over it and the people who will eventually be nourished by it.

I'm glad our church has decided to do these things. And the thing is, it doesn't require much from us – only the spare change that accrues in our pockets and a food item or two that we can easily pick up at to the grocery. Besides, all this really asks of you and me is to take the time to acquire a new "routine" in our life. Our life is already guided by them – paying the monthly bills, driving the kids to weekly soccer practice, watching our favorite TV program. Surely we can make the effort to see that these very important offerings become one more of our life's routines.

I thank you for making the "Cents-A-Bility" and Yokefellow food offerings a part of your routine as faithful followers of Christ and look forward to seeing what we bring on March 1. Because when so many need so much, it just makes "cents."

Church Financial Update

Total Contributions Received for February:	\$ 21,510.72
Total Contributions Received for 2009:	\$ 53,699.97
2009 Budgeted Pledged & Non-pledged Giving:	\$ 248,494.00

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please submit your articles for the April newsletter no later than **Monday, March 23rd**. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.

Yokefellow Ministry

March Food(s) of the Month:
Peanut Butter, Crackers

CE Meeting

March 2
6:30 p.m.
Ladies Parlor

Session Meeting

We will have our monthly Session meeting on **March 15th** at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to set those clocks forward on **Sunday, March 8th**, at 2:00 a.m.!



Easter Candy, Eggs and Toys

Please bring bags of individually wrapped candy, plastic Easter eggs and toys by Shasta's office by **Sunday, March 29th**. These will be used for the Beacon-hosted, children's Easter party on **Saturday, April 11th**.



SESSION DIGEST

From Stated Session Meeting held on February 15, 2009

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nancy Malone presented financial highlights through the month of January. Pledged receipts in January were increased as some 2009 pledges were paid in full. No unusual expenditures were noted. Cash accounts are in good shape.

Youth Ministry Team: Josh Clark reported that the four churches involved in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" collected 8,252 cans of soup for the hungry. Our church led the way with 2,876 cans.

Missions Ministry Team: CJ Karcanes and Libby Pell proposed the following distributions for 2009: Yokefellow ministries - \$2,000; The Children's Center of Surry County - \$1,500; The Shepherds House - \$500; and Surry Medical Ministries - \$1,000. Session approved the allocations.

Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team: Tim East reported that the front doors of the sanctuary have been repaired. The lock on the door at Church Street has also been repaired.

Personnel Ministry Team: Heather Hatcher reported that a contract has been established with Granite City Services for custodial work to be performed twice a week in the church and the Lighthouse.

Green Ministry Team: Dave Petri reported that his team is concentrating its efforts in four areas: a recycling program; "greening" the church and fellowship hall; education of the congregation; and entry into a carbon footprint competition sponsored by the Regeneration Project.

Lee Hinson-Hasty, coordinator for the theological education and seminary relations in the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA), briefed the Session regarding his work in raising awareness of and support for our PC (USA) seminaries. He also explained the work of the Committee on Theological Education (COTE), which works to develop comprehensive plans for the development of theological education and leadership.

March Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: Diane Wood
Side Usher: Dave Petri
Alternate: Jim Younger

Flowers for Sunday Worship

March 1 C. J. and Bettee Karcanes
March 8 Open
March 15 Open
March 22 Open
March 29 The Moody Family

Little Church Volunteers

March 1 Mae & Jai Daniels
March 8 Lorie Lindsley & Daniel Hatcher
March 15 Carol & Claire Draughn
March 22 Kelly & Anna Merritt
March 29 Mike & Catherine Beal

Worship Nursery Volunteers

March 1 Amy Sparks
March 8 Lydia Taylor
March 15 Ethelene Edwards
March 22 Mariah Branch
March 29 Terri Keck

Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
8:00 a.m.
Good Life Café

Presbyterian Women

Circle 1 will meet on **Tuesday, March 3rd**, at 10:30 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor.

Keenagers

On **Saturday, March 14th**, the Keenagers will head to Charlotte to the Narrowway Theater for a matinee and lunch. The production will be ***Fishes and Loaves***, a new and exciting retelling of the miracles of Jesus. The cost is \$29.00 per person. This includes your lunch. **Deadline to register is Monday, March 2nd.**



Lenten Bible Study & Meals

Everyone is invited. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. with the Bible study to follow at 6:30 p.m. Please call the church office or sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer if you plan to join us for dinner.

New Fellowship Meal Policy

The cost of our meals will remain \$3.00 for children up to 5th grade and \$5.00 for youth 6th grade to adult. We will also continue to ask folks to sign up in advance if they plan to attend the meal. However, in an effort to be good stewards of our finances, the CE team has instituted two new policies concerning our Fellowship meals.

- ◆ **If you sign up for a Fellowship meal and find that you are unable to attend, we ask that you call the church and cancel by 4:00 on Tuesday or the day prior to the meal.**
- ◆ **If you are signed up to attend but fail to cancel, you will still be charged for your meals.**

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we try to offer fellowship opportunities and also be good stewards of the church's money at the same time.



March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High School Presbytery Retreat—March 6-8			Myers Park Confirmation Wknd Mission Trip—March 6-8			
1 Cents-A-Bility & Yokefellow Offering Mission Trip Mtg.	2 CE Meeting Voce'	3 Circle 1 Women's Bible Study	4 Lenten Bible Study & Meal Choir Practice	5 Friends Feeding Friends	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time	9 Voce'	10 Women's Bible Study	11 BCM Study @ Good Life Café Lenten Bible Study & Meal Choir Practice	12	13	14 Keenagers to Narrowway Theater
15 Session Mtg. Confirmation Meeting Chili Cookoff signup deadline	16 Voce'	17 Women's Bible Study	18 Lenten Bible Study & Meal Choir Practice	19	20	21 Beacon Ice Skating @ LJVM
22 5th Annual Chili Cookoff	23 Newsletter Articles Due; Voce; Deadline to purchase Easter lilies	24 Women's Bible Study	25 BCM Study @ Good Life Café Lenten Bible Study & Meal Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 Deadline for Easter Candy to Shasta Confirmation Meeting	30 Voce'	31 Women's Bible Study				

The College Connection

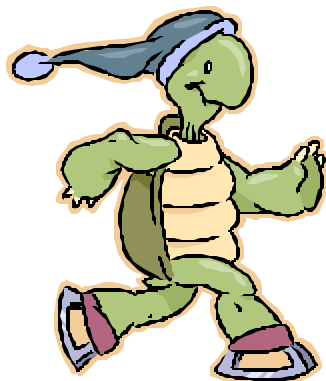
The Evangelism Ministry Team needs help in getting an up-to-date list of all of our college students. We want to send support packages during exams, keep contact throughout the school year and have a small welcome home gift in the spring. If you would like your college student to be able to participate in our College Connection, please email your son or daughter's name, address, e-mail, and anticipated date of graduation to dianewood@email.com and also to lrigney@fpcma.com. We are also looking for volunteers to be prayer partners for our students. If you would like to send a card to a student, please contact me at dianewood@email.com. We have about 20-25 students in college and we need to let them know that we support them!

Diane Wood, Moderator

SPRING CLEANING UPDATE FROM THE PERSONNEL MINISTRY TEAM

We are pleased to announce that the Session has approved the Personnel Ministry Team's proposal to establish a contract with Granite Services, Inc. to assume the custodial duties of our church. Beginning in February, Granite Services will now maintain the weekly cleaning of the sanctuary, fellowship hall, Sunday school classrooms, bathrooms and the Lighthouse. Oversight for this cleaning service will be the responsibility of the Building and Grounds Ministry Team. As the cleaning service will not be available every day, we hope that you will help with the transition from an on-site custodian to a cleaning service by letting Tim East (Moderator of Building and Grounds Ministry Team) know of any problems that you may see with the cleanliness of our facility. It will take all of us working together to continue to keep our church a clean and welcoming environment!

Beacon News

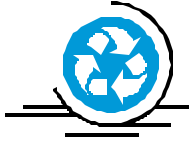


Beacon Ice Skating

Strap on your skates on **Saturday, March 21st**, for an afternoon of skating at LJVM Coliseum. The cost is \$7.50 per person. This includes your skate rental. We will leave at 12:30 p.m. and head to Winston-Salem for skating from 1:30-4:00 p.m. We'll stop for dinner on the way home. Bring money for skating & dinner. Sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer if you plan to attend.

Mission Trip Meeting

Immediately following youth on **Sunday, March 1st**, at 7:30 p.m., we will have a meeting in the Koinonia Room for everyone interested in going on the summer mission trip. All interested youth and at least one parent should plan to attend.



“Three R’s”

Highlights of the Green Team

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

Genesis 1:31

One year ago, Steve introduced the congregation to FPC’s “Green” initiatives, inviting us all to be the caretakers of this world the way God intended us to be. Throughout the remainder of 2008, many of you became caretakers through your support of the church’s recycling efforts. Having realized the need for this type of ministry, the Session has now included the Green Team as one of the church’s ministry teams, dedicated to promoting the biblical mandate for environmental stewardship.

Starting this month, the Green Ministry Team will be including “Three R’s” as part of the Grapevine. The title, as many of you may know, comes from “Reduce”, “Reuse”, and “Recycle” – the fundamental goal of sustainability. The intent is to keep the congregation apprised of the team’s activities and to increase education and awareness of “Green” issues. In addition, the article will periodically include practical suggestions for applying green concepts in your daily life.

To provide additional information, the Team has set up a Google Group page, which can be found at <http://groups.google.com/group/fpc-green-team>. Everyone in the congregation is invited to join the group to stay informed of our activities or to participate in our activities. Additionally, we have a group e-mail address (fpc-green-team@googlegroups.com) if you would like to contact the Team with questions, comments or suggestions.

**IN THE WILDERNESS:
LENTEN SERMON SERIES 2009**

Sign up for the sermon email list! Go to <http://themayberrypreacher.com> and enter your email address to receive Steve's sermons each week via email. Or visit www.fpcma.com and download them in pdf format.

February 25 - Ash Wednesday
In the Wilderness: A Hasty Exit
Exodus 12:37-39, 50-51

March 1 - First Sunday of Lent
In The Wilderness: What We Lack; What We Need
Exodus 17: 1-7; 19:16-20; 20:4-5, 7-20

March 15 - Third Sunday of Lent
In the Wilderness: Broom Trees and Weeping Willows
1 Kings 19: 1-9; Psalm 137: 1-9

March 22 - Fourth Sunday of Lent
In The Wilderness: Good News From The Fringes
Luke 3: 1-20

March 29 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
In The Wilderness: When Push Comes To Shove
Matthew 4: 1-11

April 5 - Palm Sunday
In The Wilderness: Homecoming Leads to Gethsemane
Mark 11: 1-11; 14: 32-42

April 12 - Easter Sunday
When The Wilderness Leads Us Home
John 20: 19-31

Easter Lilies



Easter lilies will be placed in the church in honor or in memory of a loved one on **Sunday, April 12th**.

Deadline to purchase lilies is **Monday, March 23rd**. Order forms can be found in your Sunday bulletin or you may come by the church and place your order.

Confirmation Meetings

All confirmands & mentors are reminded of two mandatory meetings: **March 15**, immediately following worship (bring your lunch); and **March 29**, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Anniversaries



March 14
Cliff & Mandy Isaacs

March 17
Jonathan & Robin Surratt



March 18
Vance & Mary Madison Cox

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 326 South Main Street
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 Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Joyce Windley Adams
 June Anderson
 Evelyn Armstrong
 Gladys Bailey
 Bob Bark
 Bonnie Bode
 Lorene Bowman
 Billie Bradley
 Carroll & Frieda Chauncey
 Franklin Cox
 Marion Crow

Jim Edwards
 Philip Edwards
 Dan Gitt
 Marilyn Gwyn
 Sue Hardy
 Leona Hicks
 Carl Hollman
 Ann Honeycutt
 Kim Humphries
 Hazel Hunter
 Mary Alice Lewis
 Clyde Lockhart
 Renee Moore

Tony Morris & Family
 Mary Moser
 Don Nester
 Jerry Nester
 Barbara Nichols
 Brandon Overby
 Vada Price
 C. B. Roberson
 Becky Cooper Shaffer
 Edna Simmons
 Patricia Smith
 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 wish to be removed from our newsletter list, please contact our church office at **336.786.2803 or e-mail us at **email@fpcma.com**.

5th annual chili cookoff



Do you have a super "Four Alarm" Chili recipe? Does Uncle Joe's family chili recipe get rave reviews? Then we have the place for you! Join us on **Sunday, March 22**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a fundraiser for the Beacon Summer Mission Trip & Montreat Conference. Pull out your favorite (or someone else's) recipe and come be a chef! We have a number of fabulous prizes. Deadline to register is **Sunday, March 15th**. If cooking isn't your thing, but eating is, then come be a judge and help crown the Chili Queen or Chili King!



Birthdays



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



