



The Grapevine

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

March 2009

Tel. (336) 786-2803

Fax. (336) 786-8896

Email: email@fpcma.com

Website:

www.fpcma.com

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

Etta Arrington

Session Members

Class of 2009

Josh Clark
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

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 Meeting

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

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.