



The Grapevine

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

May 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

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

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers do not always tell the whole story, of course. But as I thought about what to write in this May Newsletter there were a few numbers that crossed my – and I'd thought I'd share them with you. So try these on for size:

253 – Our attendance at last month's Easter Sunday worship service. We typically have large crowds on the day we celebrate our Lord's resurrection, but no one I spoke with could recall a crowd as big as this. For a church that averages somewhere between 135-165 on any given Sunday, this was truly amazing. Thanks to the folks who grabbed all the chairs from the choir room downstairs to accommodate the large crowd (and those who put the chairs back too!) From the Flowering of the Cross to the exquisite music, it was a worship experience certainly befitting of the occasion. He is risen indeed! He still is.

30 – The number of people who took part in the Easter Journey during the wee hours of Good Friday morning. Beginning at midnight and concluding at 7am, these folks literally walked in the footsteps of Jesus' last day, from the Last Supper in the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane, from the trial and crucifixion to the empty tomb. Most of the group were youth, but a number of adults took part in it as well.

137 – The number of folks who are members of our church's Facebook group (and they're not all church members, incidentally). If you're not on facebook, it's a great way to reconnect with folks from your past and present and keep in touch. The church's Facebook group (which you can access at: facebook.fpcma.com) enables people to receive updates and interact with one another on the web. Join us!

10 – The number of confirmands our church welcomed into membership this past Sunday – the largest group of confirmands we've ever had. And not only are they strong in numbers, but strong in their faith as well. Congrats to these fine folks, and tremendous thanks to the ten mentors who guided them along the way!

One last number for you.....

300+ - the number of members of First Presbyterian Church of Mount Airy. With this recent class of confirmands our church has passed the 300-member mark. And this is where I come back to my initial point: numbers do not tell the full story. We are not an important church because we have 300 members. We're an important church because we have a fellowship of believers who are committed to living out Jesus' commandment to love God and one another, following Jesus into our community and our world. Our church will never morph into some mega-church (nor do we necessarily want it to) – but we are grateful that 300+ people have felt called to be part of this fellowship of faith!

By the numbers – and by many other indicators – God has richly blessed this church. Let's give thanks to God by showing God the same faithfulness God has shown us!

Church Financial Update

Total Contributions Received for April:	\$ 13,591.05
Total Contributions Received for 2009:	\$ 85,522.07
2009 Budgeted Pledged & Non-pledged Giving:	\$ 248,494.00

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please submit your articles for the June/July newsletter no later than **Monday, May 18th**. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.

Yokefellow Ministry

May Food(s) of the Month:
Macaroni and Cheese, Spaghetti

Cents-A-Bility Offering

Bring your offering to worship on **Sunday, May 3rd**. Remember - your small part can make such a big difference!

Session Meeting

We will have our monthly Session meeting on **Sunday, May 31st** at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, May 25th**, and to celebrate Memorial Day. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Special Dates to Remember

May 7 National Day of Prayer
May 10 Mother's Day
May 25 Memorial Day
May 31 Pentecost Sunday

SESSION DIGEST

From Stated Session Meeting held on April 19, 2009

Treasurer's Report: reviewed financial highlights through March. Revenues and expenditures are tracking as expected. The line of credit with Surrey Bank will be paid off in April. The session approved the Treasurer's Report.

Worship and Music: Response appears to be very positive to moving the Easter worship service to 10:00am. Attendance that morning was 253 people!

Youth: Venture Crew requested use of the church's tax ID number for their bank account. Bank statements will be forwarded to the Treasurer, who will report to the Session. The church will not manage the group's funds. A motion was made and approved allowing use of the ID number.

Missions: Work continues on establishment of a charity coat closet. The team is also looking into ways to assist the school lunch program, possibly working with other churches.

Discipleship: Passed out results of the time and talent surveys. Team leaders were encouraged to contact those who offered help in their areas.

Personnel: Passed out information regarding establishing a procedure for sabbatical leave.

Buildings and Grounds: Reported that the water heater in the older part of the church needs to be replaced.

Long Range Planning: Reported that her team is scheduling appointments for pictures for the new church directory.

Session examined ten confirmands: Catherine Beal, Sam Brown, Jai Daniels, Joseph Dixon, Sarah Dodd, Claire Draughn, Mary Glen Hatcher, Anna Merritt, Madison Pence, and Cody Swicegood. Each presented his/her statement of faith and recited the Apostles Creed with the session. Motion was unanimously passed to sustain their examinations and welcome them into membership. Motion was also passed for the sacrament of baptism for Joseph Dixon and Madison Pence on April 26th. The Session recognized and thanked the mentors: Cecelia Belk, Sandy Bowers, Margaret Cockerell, Laura East, Mike Gatchel, Bob Keck, Pepper Mayes, Kathy Moody, Jane Rountree, and Debbie Stoltz.

Session approved the use of the sanctuary for Sarah Stroupe's wedding on Saturday, June 27th.

May Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: Valerie Parker
Side Usher: Doug Draughn
Alternate: Heather Hatcher

Flowers for Sunday Worship

May 3 Susan Leake Jones
May 10 Yokeley Family
May 17 Daniels Family
May 24 Bob & Lydia Taylor
May 31 Mayes Family

Little Church Volunteers

May 3 Sandy & Nina Bowers
May 10 Amy Sparks & Mary Glen Hatcher
May 17 Mae & Jai Daniels
May 24 Shasta & Sam Brown
May 31 Cathy & Jack McCluskey

Worship Nursery Volunteers

May 3 Terri Keck
May 10 Kathy Moody
May 17 Lydia Taylor
May 24 Sandy Bowers
May 31 Mariah Branch

Presbyterian Women

Circle 1 will meet on **Tuesday, May 5th**, at 10:30 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor.

Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study

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

Vacation Bible School for Children & Adults

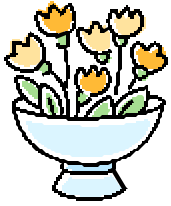
Mark your calendars for **June 14-17** for a wonderful VBS. We will have classes for all ages—preschool through adult. Pre-registration begins **Sunday, May 3rd**. We'll be taking registrations for children and adults, as well as recruiting volunteers. It takes a lot of people to make a VBS successful...and **we need you!** Join us for lemonade and cookies on the lawn immediately following worship on the 3rd and find out how you can be a part of a SUPER VBS!

Wel come new members!

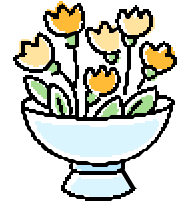
Our 2009 Class of Confirmands

Catherine Elizabeth Beal, daughter of Mike and Legh Beal
John-Henry Samuel Brown, son of Mark and Shasta Brown
Jai Angeli Daniels, daughter of Lee and Mae Daniels
Joseph Mitchell Dixon, son of David and Nancy Dixon
Sarah Elizabeth Dodd, daughter of Mark and Lisa Dodd
Claire Elizabeth Draughn, daughter of Doug and Carol Draughn
Mary Glen Hatcher, daughter of Hampton and Heather Hatcher
Anna Wise Merritt, daughter of John and Kelly Merritt
Madison Grace Pence, daughter of Regina Edwards and Brett Pence
Charles Cody Swicegood, son of Candis and Ray Swicegood

Andrew, Laurie, Daniel, Lydia and Anna Stroupe
by transfer letter from Grace Moravian Church



May 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Cents-A-Billity & Yokefellow Offering VBS Pre-Reg.	4	5 Circle 1 Men's Softball	6 Get Ready! Get Set! Worship! Choir Practice	7 National Day of Prayer	8 Men's Softball	9
10 Mother's Day	11 Start bringing items for yard sale	12 Men's Softball	13 BCM Study Get Ready! Get Set! Worship! Choir Practice	14	15	16 Beacon Yard Sale
17	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19	20 Get Ready! Get Set! Worship! Choir Practice	21 Keenagers to CJ & Bettie Karcanes' home	22 Men's Softball	23
24	25 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26 Men's Softball	27 BCM Study Montreat deposits due Get Ready! Get Set! Worship! Choir Practice	28	29 New Beacon Retreat Weekend - May 29-31 →	30
31 Pentecost Sun. Session Mtg. Beacon Lunch & Auction Beacon Movie Night →						