



The Grapevine

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

November 2008

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Congregation

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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

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Debbie Stoltz
Cynthia Wood

Class of 2009

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Linda Gatchel
Randy Keith
John Merritt
Diane Wood

Class of 2010

Tim East
Valerie Parker
Jim Robertson
Jane Rountree
Jim Younger

MY ENDORSEMENT FOR PRESIDENT

Well folks, I've given it some thought. Originally I wasn't going to formally endorse anyone for president. Politics tends to bring out the worst in us, and there would be too many complications, hurt feelings, and misunderstandings. But as we enter the last week of this election, I just can't help myself. My convictions are strong, and I feel it's time for me to speak up and let you know where I stand.

And that is why I am proud to endorse Jesus Christ for president.

What tilted it for me, you say? Well, there really wasn't any one thing. I kind of like his story - small-town boy making it big. I mean, when you're born in animal stable to two teenage parents, the deck's stacked against you. I'm also endorsing Jesus because of his obvious smarts. Anyone who can go toe-to-toe with the learned rabbis of his day has to receive some consideration, right?

I'm also very enthused by his platform. At his heart he seems to genuinely care about all people and their well-being. I'll never forget that time he spoke to that huge crowd who came to hear him and they started getting hungry. What did he do? He fed them. Then there were all those instances when people brought their sick to him, and he went beyond just shaking hands to actually make them feel better. The disenfranchised and the poor seem to be high on his list, as does treating all of God's people with respect. And I can't help but get inspired every time I hear him talk about his vision for the world - what he calls the "kingdom of heaven on earth." Makes me want to hop on the next train there.

Now I'll admit - Jesus has had some suspect associations. I'm thinking about all those dinners at the houses of Pharisees. That's the equivalent of fraternizing with the enemy! And then there was that woman at the well he spent so much time with, the one who had not one husband but five. Hmm. The press will have a field day with that.

But see, I think this just highlights another reason why I like him so much - his uncanny way of bringing different people together for a common purpose. I mean, look at his disciples - his closest circle of friends, hand-picked. Women and men who were about as spread out over the spectrum as you could imagine. Tax collectors, fishermen, doctors, even Zealots - a motley crew if there ever was one. And while they rarely agreed on anything, somehow Jesus managed to keep them focused on his agenda. You gotta admire that.

In the end, I think the reason I am most proud to make this endorsement is because of the one thing Jesus possesses that gets to the very heart of who he is: and that is love. Love for one another instead of prejudice, anger, resentment. Love for the the world instead of wasting it away. Love for God and the truth instead of caving in to the overwhelming power and influence of fear. It sounds simple, and almost silly, but it's amazing what you can do when you embody this kind of radical love in your life.

I know his chances of winning are not all that great (not having his name on the ballot is a major hurdle). But I'm not sure that "winning" is what ultimately matters here. What matters is that we all endorse Jesus with our very lives, every day of our lives. Something we should keep in mind long after the election is over, don't you think?

November Ushers and Lockup

Head Usher: Randy Keith
Side Usher: Debbie Stoltz
Alternate: Jane Rountree

Little Church Volunteers

November 2 Sandy & Nina Bowers
November 9 Amy & Will Sparks
November 16 Carla & David Majure
November 23 Mark & Lisa Dodd
November 30 Cathy & Shelley McCluskey

Worship Nursery Volunteers

November 2 Kelly Merritt
November 9 Gloria King
November 16 Betty Street
November 23 Taylor King
November 30 Lydia Taylor

Flowers for Sunday Worship

November 2 C. J. & Bettee Karcanes
November 9 Sean & Amy Sparks
November 16 Cockerell, Cloukey, East & Collins
November 23 Mike & Diane Wood
November 30 Poinsettias

November 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.

November 2

*The Journey is More Important
Than The Destination*

Psalm 107: 1-43

November 9

Paul Layton Preaching

November 16

Shepherding 2.0

Ezekiel 34: 1-16, Psalm 23

November 23

Youth Sunday

November 30

Keep The Blessings From Going Stale

Numbers 11: 1-15

Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study

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

Highways in the Desert

Our adult Advent devotional will be available beginning, **Sunday, November 30th**. This is a departure from our usual devotional and offers a unique insight into Advent. We encourage every family to pick one up and make it a part of your Advent tradition.



Presbyterian Women

Circle 1 will meet on
Tuesday, November 4th, at
10:00 a.m. in the Ladies
Parlor.

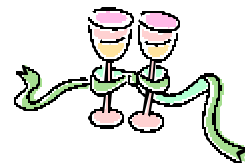
November Birthdays



1-Millie Beal; **2**-Hadley Lee; **3**-Lisa Dodd; **5**-Tom McCluskey; **7**-Catrina Alexander, Mark Blevins, Laurie Forbes; **8**-Bob Banks, Jenni Boyles, Susan King; **11**-Joan Godwin, Belinda Pike; **12**-Will Sparks; **14**-Liam Overby; **15**-Erik Taylor; **18**-Regina Edwards; **19**-Bailey Bouma; **20**-Frank Lewis; **21**-Bert Wood; **22**-Randy Cockerell, Katie Keith; **24**-Felton Godwin, Eddie Hatch; **25**-Burke Robertson; **27**-Paul Belk, Sarah Gitt, Amy Sparks; **28**-Barbara Green; **29**-Cynthia Wood, Hunter Lindsley; **30**-Sylvia Chilton

November Anniversaries

November 10 Joe and Becky Lamp'l
November 18 Carroll and Frieda Chauncey
November 19 Ray and Betsy Manieri
November 23 Tim and Laura East
November 25 Ted and Gloria King
November 28 Curtis and Beth Elkins





November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Middle School Presbytery Retreat Nov.1-2 Turn those clocks back! 
2 Reg. Schedule Bible-in-a-Year Challenge Lunch	3	4 Circle 1	5 Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 Reg. Schedule Family Fun Night	10	11	12 BCM Study Choir Practice	13	14	15 Church Clean-Up Day
16 Session Mtg. Practice for Youth-Led Worship	17 Newsletter Items Due	18	19 Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 Youth-Led Wor- ship OCC Collection Thanksgiving Feast	24 Deadline to order poinsettias	25	26 BCM Study Thanksgiving Meals for the Needy Choir Practice	27 Church Office Closed  Happy Thanksgiving!	28 Church Office Closed	29
30 First Sunday of Advent Reg. Schedule Movie Night @ the Brown's						

Beacon News

Youth-Led Worship Service

Please make plans now to join us on **Sunday, November 23rd** as our youth lead us in worship. They have been hard at work planning a deeply spiritual and moving morning of worship and praise. We hope you will plan to join us and support our youth as they share their faith and love of Jesus Christ. They will also be collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes during the worship service.

Practice for Youth-Led Worship Service

We will meet on **Sunday, November 16th**, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to practice for the youth-led service on November 23rd. We will have a light dinner at 5:30 p.m. Please make plans to be here. Speaking and non-speaking parts are available. See Shasta for more details.



Movie Night in the Tiki Room Theater

Hey Beacons! Come on over to the Brown's (169 Beechtree Circle) house on the last Sunday of each month from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We'll 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.



Opportunities To Serve God's Poor, Hungry and Needy During The Holidays

"...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed me. Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to the least of these My brethren, you did it to me." Matthew 25:31-40

Operation Christmas Child : Once again the Beacons will be collecting filled shoeboxes for needy children around the world. Bring your filled and wrapped shoebox to worship with you on **Sunday, November 23rd**. Help us spread the love of Christ to children near and far. Brochures with suggested items for boxes can be found on the table in the upstairs foyer.



Salvation Army Angel Tree: All of us know the joy and excitement of watching a child open Christmas gifts. All of us know the joy and excitement that comes from knowing and serving our Savior Jesus Christ. Too many children in our community will know neither of these things without our help. Beginning on November 25th the garland in the upstairs lobby will be decorated with "angels" from the Salvation Army. Each of these "angels" represents a child in our community who needs your help in order to have a Merry Christmas. We invite you to take one, or more, angels from the tree and purchase gifts for them. Help spread the love of Christ to those who are less fortunate . **Angel Tree gifts must be turned in to the Salvation Army by December 10th.**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 20, 2008	Rev. Tom Bagnal preaches
February 17, 2008	"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" FELLOWSHIP With Flat Rock and Edward Webb Presbyterian Churches - 4:00pm
April 13, 2008	Dr. Paul Ridolfi preaching
June 8, 2008	FOUNDER'S SUNDAY Rev. Sam Marshall, Salem Presbytery OPENING OF HISTORICAL ROOM Luncheon after worship
August 17, 2008	Dr. Benjamin Williams preaching
October 18, 2008	WEEKEND SEMINAR #1: Rev. Steve McCutchan 6:00 pm - Covered dish dinner
October 19, 2008	HOME COMING Rev. Steve McCutchan preaches Luncheon after worship WEEKEND SEMINAR #2: Rev. Steve McCutchan
November 9, 2008	Rev. Paul Layton preaches

OTHER WAYS WE ARE CELEBRATING 150 YEARS:

Specially-designed 150th Anniversary coverlet for sale
Women of the Church cookbook
50 members reading the entire Bible in a year
A commitment for our church to "go green" in 2008 and beyond.

*Calendar will be updated with additional dates
as they become available.*

Upcoming Events at First Presbyterian...

December 3	Advent Meal/Making Advent Wreaths
December 8	Staff to Boone for OCC Shoeboxes
December 10	Advent Meal/Making Candy Houses
December 14	Christmas Cantata
December 21	Christmas Joy Offering
December 24	Children's Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m.; Candlelight Communion 7:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve/Church Office Closed
December 25	Christmas Day/Church Office Closed
December 26	Church Office Closed

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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
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**.



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