



# The Grapevine

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

**September 2008**

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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

## WINNING THE GOLD

By the time you read this, the 2008 Beijing Olympics will have reached their conclusion. If you're like me, you're still dragging a little bit, having stayed up way too late on way too many nights to see all the excitement. Like many of you I was entranced by swimmer Michael Phelps and his eight gold medals in one Olympic games – an absolutely amazing feat. Each time he dove in the water he seemed to will his way to victory. Oh, and it didn't hurt that he has freakish swimming skills!

There were some other amazing stories as well – 41-year old swimmer Dara Torres walking away with two silvers; 4'9" gymnast Shawn Johnson finally obtaining gold on the last day of competition on the balance beam; Jamaican runner Usain Bolt making breaking world track records look entirely too easy. These are the reasons we tune into the Olympics every two years; the reasons a network like NBC pays billions of dollars for broadcasting rights.

But for ever big-name sport or well-known athlete there a half-dozen "unknowns" whose stories barely crack the newspaper summary on the back page. For every men's basketball there is rowing; for every Kobe Bryant there is Susan Francia (who, if you didn't know, was on the Women's 8 team that won rowing gold). These sports and athletes don't get nearly the same press time. But they put in the same hard work, devote just as much of their life to their sport as the others do – and for that reason, should be duly recognized.

It is very easy, I think, to forget those people whose efforts so easily go unnoticed in our fast-paced, flashy world – and you don't have to be in the Olympics to experience this. Right here in our church we have lots of people who do so much and rarely get the credit and thanks they deserve. I could list names forever and would inevitably leave someone out – so I won't do that.

But as we prepare to begin another "program year" in the life of this church, let me encourage you to keep an eye out for those who sometimes fall through the cracks. For every Shasta or Sandy or elder on our session, we have a preschool Sunday school teacher, a worship usher, a bread-baker, a shut-in visitor. And not only that, let me also suggest that *you* work to *become* one of those persons as well! The little things really do make a difference, as Jesus was constantly in the habit of demonstrating with his own life.

I know you join with me in giving thanks to God for people who care enough about this church, as the apostle Paul once put it, to keep "running for the prize." For olympic athletes that prize is the chance to strap some gold around their neck. For us, it's the joy that comes from knowing that God's kingdom on earth has gotten a little clearer, a little more in focus. Let's all do our part to make that happen!

Steve

# Church Financial Update

<b>Total Contributions Received for August:</b>	\$ 22,353.61
<b>Total Contributions Received for 2008:</b>	\$ 155,612.05
<b>2008 Budgeted Pledged &amp; Non-pledged Giving:</b>	\$ 280,825.00

## Yokefellow Ministry

### September Food(s) of the Month:

#### Canned Vegetables

All other non-perishable items will be accepted.  
Please check to make sure items are not out of date.

## Session Meeting

We will have our monthly Session meeting on **Sunday, September 14**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please submit your articles for the October newsletter no later than **Tuesday, September 22nd**. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.

## Bible in a Year Challenge Lunch

Bring your lunch and join us for our monthly discussion meetings on **Sunday, September 7th**, immediately following worship. Everyone is welcome.

## Youth Advisors Meeting

We will meet on **Wednesday, September 10th**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lighthouse. Please make plans to attend as we have a number of items to discuss.

## Session Digest

### From Stated Session Meeting held on August 3, 2008

- Treasurer reported that cash flow is very low. We had to borrow \$10,000 from our line of credit to cover cash needs. It was also reported that we are in the process of changing banks from BB&T to Surrey Bank and Trust. Motions were passed approving the change in banks and the application of credit cards from the new bank. Session approved this motion, as well as a motion to open a separate account for the youth program.
- Budget & Finance presented the proposed operating budget for 2009. Pledged receipts were increased by 7% and non-pledged giving was reduced by a third, recognizing current trends. Overall expenditures were limited to an increase of 2%. Cuts were made wherever possible, but modest increases in salaries, programs and utilities were made as we felt were prudent. The session passed a motion approving the budget.
- Session approved reimbursements for the Mills Family mission expense reports for the months of May (\$2,641.38) and June (\$3,007.38).
- Linda Gatchel reported that the Founders Day celebration was a success, and that the team is going forward with the 2nd half, including a new church directory, guest ministers, and homecoming on October 19th.
- Faith in Action Sunday will be held on October 5th.
- The youth mission trip to Toronto will begin on August 10th. They will be working in a Salvation Army soup kitchen. A love offering was requested to help with trip expenses. The session passed a motion approving the love offering following today's worship service. Laura East and Gary Bowers will be rotating off as youth advisors. The session recognized and expressed appreciation of their contributions.
- Session approved Stan Smith's request to use the church for his wedding on August 30th. Session also approved the transfer of Jeanette O'Connell to the First Reformed Church of Scotia, New York.

### September Ushers and Lockup

**Head Usher:** John Merritt  
**Side Usher:** Cynthia Wood  
**Alternate:** Randy Keith

### Little Church Volunteers

**September 7** Mae and Jai Daniels  
**September 14** Carla and David Majure  
**September 21** Jim and Amy Robertson  
**September 28** Shasta and Sam Brown

### Worship Nursery Volunteers

**September 7** Betty Street  
**September 14** Karen Manfredi  
**September 21** Cynthia Wood  
**September 28** Terri Keck

### Flowers for Sunday Worship

**September 7** Mike and Legh Beal  
**September 14** Jean Cook  
**September 21** Open  
**September 28** Eva Caldwell

### September 2008 Sermons

Note: Sermons are available by the church's website, [www.fpcma.com](http://www.fpcma.com). You may also call the church office to be added to the sermon e-mail list.

#### **September 7th**

*Fourth And One – Pass or Punt?*  
Genesis 32: 22-31

#### **September 14th**

Stewardship Kick-off  
*The Beatitudes:*  
*Jesus' Prophetic Message*  
Matthew 5: 1-6

#### **September 21st**

*The Beatitudes: Jesus' Political Message*  
Matthew 5:1-2, 7-9

#### **September 28th - Dedication Sunday**

*The Beatitudes:*  
*Jesus' Revolutionary Message*

### **Bob Chilton Memorial Bible Study**

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

### **Where are our College students?**

**We would like to stay in touch with all of our college students. Please send us their current mailing address at school so we can send them the monthly newsletter, a letter or a card. If they have e-mail and would like to be added to the church's e-mail list, please make us aware of that too. Thanks for your help.**

### **September Birthdays**

**4**-Gary Bowers; **5**-Robert Taylor; **6**-Ben Gatchel, Dr. Richard Jackson, Wade Moody;  
**7**-Eric Warren; **8**-Tim East, Hampton Hatcher;  
**9**-Chandler Hatch, Connor Lindsley, John Scott;  
**12**-Liesa Hawks; **13**-Buck Faw, Patrick Blevins;  
**14**-William Pike; **16**-Jai Daniels;  
**17**-Blanche Badgett, Jane Manfredi;  
**18**-Mark Merritt; **21**-Teresa Chilton, Gary Chilton, Teresa Bouma, Jerri Mayberry;  
**22**-Malcolm Malone, Jacob Dodd, Willie B. Riehle;  
**24**-Terri Keck, Catherine Rives, Thomas Keith;  
**26**-Dr. Jack Snow; **27**-Ginny Mills;  
**29**-Wilborn Rives; **30**-Ed Anderson

### **September Anniversaries**

**September 1** Mike and Kim Branch  
**September 2** Mark and Lisa Blevins  
**September 4** Mike and Susan King  
**September 4** Burke and Carolyn Robertson  
**September 5** Jim and Amy Robertson  
**September 7** Mike and Linda Gatchel  
**September 15** Frank and Jerri Mayberry  
**September 25** Gary and Sandy Bowers  
**September 27** Robert and Lillie Edwards