

# the Epistle

First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170

April 2011

Website: [www.fpcwadesboro.org](http://www.fpcwadesboro.org)

Email: Church Office: [fpcwadesboro@windstream.net](mailto:fpcwadesboro@windstream.net)

Janice Chandler: [jan41@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jan41@carolina.rr.com)

Jan Taylor-Home: [jbtaylor001@windstream.net](mailto:jbtaylor001@windstream.net)

Facebook – First Presbyterian Church - Wadesboro

Heather Koontz: [pastorheatherk@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorheatherk@yahoo.com)

Director of Christian Ed: [fpcdce@windstream.net](mailto:fpcdce@windstream.net)

## From the Pastor's Heart

I have been thinking a lot lately about time...the precious gift of time. I'm not sure why thinking about time has captured my thoughts recently, perhaps it's the changing seasons from winter to spring that started me thinking about those familiar words "For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven," or maybe it's the realization that my time at First Presbyterian Church is coming to an end soon. Or maybe it's because I often find myself wishing for more time as I try and balance motherhood, ministry, time for my marriage, devotion time and prayer, self care, and other responsibilities like cooking, cleaning, catching up on world events, etc...

I imagine I am not alone in wishing for more time or struggling with how to best balance time and make space for the things in life that matter. In the midst of seeking health and balance for my days, I have realized that my time with God is an essential aspect that influences all other areas and ways I spend my time. Time devoted to reading and reflecting on God's word, praying and listening for God's guidance, and engaging with others in service and worship in God's world help me to see how I can best use my time and gifts with each new day. This time with God also helps me with patience as I care for my children and communicate with my husband, perseverance as I approach the challenging tasks of ministry and service, Sabbath rest as I care for myself and make time for reading and continued learning and growth.

I have a favorite poem for this time of year by Ann Weems and it's one I have shared before. It speaks to this season of Lent that continues for several more weeks and it beautifully suggests how we can best spend our time preparing for the celebration of Easter and Christ's resurrection that is to come.

*Lent is a time to take the time*

*To let the power of the faith story take hold of us,*

*A time to let the events*

*Get up and walk around in us,*

*A time to intensify*

*Our living unto Christ,*

*A time to hover over*

*The thoughts of our hearts,*

*A time to place our feet in the streets of  
Jerusalem*

*Or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,*

*A time to touch his robe*

*And feel the healing surge through us,*

*A time to ponder and a time to wonder...*

*Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!*

There are a lot of good ways we can spend our time this season and I hope in addition to seasonal activities and our ongoing responsibilities that we will make time to ponder and wonder, to let God's Word really touch us and shape us as we continue the journey towards Jerusalem, towards the cross, and as we look forward to the empty tomb of Easter.

*God of creation, of all time and space, Sometimes we are so busy filling time, that we forget to leave space. We need space to ponder, pray, and simply just to "be." You created order out of chaos and brought time into existence and sometimes we use time to invite chaos back into the world. We keep time, lose time, waste time, spend time, even kill time, as we fill each day and night with a checklist of chores. Time is such a precious gift! For you O God, have made everything suitable for its time. Help us this day, this hour, this minute, this second, to cherish time. Thank you for all the times and season of our lives and for your abiding presence with us always. Amen.*

Blessings,

*Heather*



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**beginning April 18<sup>th</sup>**

*(Lunch served after all Noon services.)*

Monday – Noon - First United Methodist Church

Tuesday – Noon - Calvary Episcopal Church

Wednesday – Noon - First Presbyterian Church  
with Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Thursday - 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday  
Communion Service at First United  
Methodist Church with FPC

Friday – Noon - First Baptist Church



Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM  
in First Presbyterian Garden

*(Refreshments to follow in Fellowship Hall.)*

*(In the event of rain, Sunrise Service will be held  
in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian.)*

Easter Cantata “Who Do You Say That I Am?”  
Easter Sunday during Worship Service

***Please bring a fresh flower for our cross  
on Easter Sunday.***

**SESSION**

The next stated meeting of Session will be  
Sunday, April 10, after Worship.

Minutes are posted on the bulletin board for your  
information.

**MEMBER CARE NOTES**

**MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS**

In Memory of Estelle Shelton by

Warren & Reba Walden	Gloria Cameron
Sidney & Pat Braswell	Jane Edwards
Peggy & Jerry Bernstein	Mararuth Cox

In Memory of James Herbert Burns by

Sidney & Pat Braswell	Nancy Huntley
Gloria Cameron	Margaret Aldridge
Sarah G. Watson	Leah W. Martin
Margaret Beverly	

In Memory of William Bennett Little, Jr. by  
Jan Stedman

**MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATIONS**

In Memory of Herb Hildreth by

Calvin & Sandra Catoe	Alice Grimes
Glenn & Vera Trexler	Melissa Gathings
Ellen Hildreth Rucker Plyler	Joyce Ratliffe Liles
Emmett & Emily Patterson	

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Honor your friend or loved one with a contribution  
to First Presbyterian Women of the Church.

**Presbyterian Women Fund Contributions**

In Memory of Estelle Shelton by  
Alice Grimes

**SHROVE PANCAKE SUPPER**

To date, the amount of money raised for the Shrove  
Tuesday Pancake Supper is \$862.50. After expenses  
of \$283.21, so far, the profit is \$579.29. Thanks to all  
who volunteered to help and to those who provided  
entertainment!



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The next Men’s Breakfast will be  
April 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM.



**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**April 16, 2011**

First Presbyterian will host an Easter Egg  
Hunt on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. After a short Palm  
Sunday play practice, the children will hunt for eggs  
at 10:30 AM. We will provide a hot dog lunch for  
the children and parents after the hunt. Please start  
bringing in candy-filled (no chocolate) plastic eggs as  
soon as possible.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE  
REFRESHMENTS**

Member Care, along with Christian Education and  
Worship, will provide doughnuts, orange juice, and  
coffee immediately after the Inter-Church Easter  
Sunrise Service, which will be led by Rev. Heather  
Koontz on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## EPISTLE MAILING

It is imperative that we reduce the cost of mailing our *Epistle*. In addition to the postal charges, a great deal of manpower goes into the printing, folding, and stapling of these newsletters prior to taking them to the post office. At one time we received a substantial discount by bulk mailing; however, the costs have risen appreciably. There is a very simple and cost-effective solution to this problem for our members who use computers. If you have an email address on file with the church, we would like to email the *Epistle* to you. (If you have an email address and are not currently receiving emails regarding church concerns, please notify the Church Office.) Additionally, please be aware that Member Care posts the *Epistle* on our website as soon as Jan finishes preparing it. You may find it under the heading "Newsletter" at [www.fpcwadesboro.org](http://www.fpcwadesboro.org). This gives our members two opportunities to view the Epistle electronically. If you prefer reading from a hard copy, you will be able to print the document yourself from either electronic source. We will continue to mail the Epistle to our members who do not have access to email or our website. Thank you for helping save the church money!

## **WORSHIP NOTES/ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### PALM SUNDAY PROGRAM

April 17<sup>th</sup>, during Worship

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

*"Feed My Sheep..."*

Since 1949, Presbyterians have jointed with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world and in our own neighborhoods to

find the hope for a brighter future. This offering will be collected in Worship on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011.

Contributions go to Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) to alleviate hunger and its causes on a global basis and also funds projects within our churches and presbytery. A portion goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) who cares for communities around the world wherever disaster strikes, nationally and internationally. The third portion goes to Self-Development of People (32%) which helps empower economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice. National grants are available as well as local funding through your presbytery.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**June 12-16**

**Save the Date!**

**Join everyone at God's Great Get-Together for a week of creating, connecting, and coming together. There is a place for you at BAOBAB BLAST!**

**When:** Sunday, June 12-Thursday, June 16, 2011 (evenings)

**Where:** Our Church

**What:** Baobab Blast VBS, the Great Get-Together of the summer!

**Why:** Summer's coming and it will be a great week to gather around the Baobab tree where we'll learn from the animals, hear God's Word, have fun with games, crafts, storytelling, music, and much, much more.

**Who:** YOU and your friends! So share the news and save the date!

**ALL are invited and**

**ALL are needed to help make it happen**

Come celebrate Community.....Coming Together!

*"From east to west, the powerful Lord God has been calling together everyone on earth." Psalm 50:1*

## SACRAMENT OF LORD'S SUPPER



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

♪ NOTES FROM JANICE ♪

Special arrangements of familiar songs for the Easter season will be presented by our handbell choir on Sunday, April 10, at Morning Worship. We are hard at work in preparation but there is still a place for you if you would like to try ringing handbells!

The Chancel Choir will present a cantata on Easter Sunday entitled, "Who Do You Say That I Am?" by Lloyd Larson. As the story of grace and sacrificial love develops through this work, the message will encourage us to reaffirm our belief in and devotion to Christ. Come, join us at rehearsals!

Our Cherub Choir is also preparing new songs and activities for the Easter season and they will be singing on April 17 during Morning Worship.

Rehearsal Times:



- Handbell Choir:** Wednesdays at 6:00 PM
- Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
- Cherub Choir:** Sundays at 9:45 AM

**MISSION**



SALAD LUNCHEON

May 6, 2011

**\*\* Note the Change in Date\*\***

The Salad Luncheon date has been changed from April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>. Start planning what you will do to help with this fundraiser. Volunteer to bring a salad, ham biscuits, desserts, etc., and also consider volunteering to help serve. Thanks for your support.

11:00 AM-2:00 PM Tickets: \$7.00 each

All proceeds will go to fund local, state, national, and world mission outreach.

BE A SALAD LUNCHEON SPONSOR

We will also have sponsorships for this event and for a mere \$100.00 you can get two tickets and your name and a picture put on our table placemats. We really need your support for this event and we count on you to come forward and help. You can join together with someone else to do a sponsorship to help.

BELK CHARITY DAY SALE

Belk is having their Charity Day Sale on Saturday, April 16, 6:00-10:00AM, at any Belk store. Charity Sale is a private, four-hour sale dedicated to supporting local non-profit organizations. Participating charities will have the opportunity to raise money for their organization while private sale customers (ticket holders) receive 20%-70% off Belk purchases storewide, including special savings on rarely discounted brands. If you can't go on that date, you can reserve your merchandise between April 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and present your ticket to a Belk associate and ask them for details on reserving your purchase.

Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased on Sundays after church or from the Church Office. FPC keeps 100% of the \$5 ticket cost for the sale and it will go straight to the church's general fund. Also, tickets sold by Belk that morning will be divided up among charities participating. It seems to be a "no lose" project for us and you get your \$5 off your first item purchased. Please get your ticket in advance so we will get 100% of the proceeds of every ticket sold.

ANSON CRISIS MINISTRY NEEDS

April is the month that we are to provide Anson Crisis Ministry with Pork-n-Beans or baked beans. These items maybe left in the container provided at the entrance to the church.

RELAY FOR LIFE

June 17, 2011, 6:00 PM – Anson High Stadium

FOOD PANTRY: WACOM

We welcome volunteers of all ages.

April Food Pantry:

*Set-Up – April 8<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM*

*Distribution – April 9<sup>th</sup> 8:30-10:00 AM*

OFFERINGS

The \$2 offering per family for the **Mission Fund** will be taken on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, during the worship service.

The **10¢-A-Meal** offering will be taken on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, during the worship service.



**10¢ a Meal, 30¢ a day, \$2.10 a week, \$9.00 a month**

# PROPERTY/FINANCE/ ADMINISTRATION

## CLEAN-UP DAY

Thank you for the great response to volunteer for our Clean-Up Day on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.  
Finance/Admin/Property Committee

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Each week, we need \$3,264.00 to meet budget for the General Account. Below is a list of the amounts we have received in past weeks:

Feb. 27	\$1,308.50
March 6	\$2,513.75
March 13	\$3,790.00
March 20	\$1,619.55

\$13,056.00 was needed for this period and we received \$9,231.80 – shortage of \$3,824.20. Shortage since January 1, 2011 is \$12,152.70.

## FLOWER CALENDAR

April 3	Lent
April 10	Lent
April 17	Palms
April 24	Easter Lilies

**2011 Flower Calendar has been posted in the Copy Room.**

(You have the option of using the silk flower arrangement for a donation of \$25 to the Mission Fund or you can make arrangements to have fresh flowers delivered from a florist. Call the Church Office for details.)

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

April 3	Ellen & Eddie Huntley
April 10	Peggy & David Trexler
April 17	Kelly Morgan & Kayla Gregory
April 24	Gretchen & Bryan Trexler

**Note:** Please be at the church at 9:45 AM when you are scheduled to keep the Nursery.



## *Happy Easter!*

(Church Office will be closed Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>)



## ACOLYTE/GREETER SCHEDULE

April 3	Luke Trexler
April 10	Grace Morgan
April 17	Tripp Trexler
April 24	Dylan Trexler

## USHER SCHEDULE

### April 3

Hugh Wallace  
Bryan Trexler  
Jim Strayhorn  
Alex McLeod

### April 10

Calvin Catoe  
Ashe Ratliff  
John Edwards  
Danny Deese

### April 17

Glenn Trexler  
Bob Stowe  
Luke Hyatt  
Jerry Ridenhour

### April 24

Foyle Hightower  
Hugh Wallace  
Eddie Huntley  
Jim Strayhorn

**Note:** Ushers need to be at church by 10:45 AM. If you cannot usher, it is your responsibility to get a replacement.

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