

# the Epistle

First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170

July/August 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)

## REFLECTIONS ON THE BAOBAB TREE

Genesis 2: 8-9. “And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Revelations 22: 1-2. “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

Like most of you, I spent last week enjoying our Bible School, the Baobab Blast. I shall always carry the vision of the “Baobab Tree” created in our fellowship hall, festooned with giant green paper leaves, with monkeys hanging from the branches, and stuffed animals, drums and children gathered on the “savannah” of artificial grass. For those of you who didn’t hear the story Heather shared of the Baobab tree, let me share a few facts I gathered from “googling” the internet.

The Baobab tree is found all over Africa on the savannahs. It can grow to 98’ in height, with a trunk 36’ across. It is a gathering place for the community, with many people building shacks around the trunk. It is called the “Tree of Life” by native Africans because it stores water during the season of drought. It can store up to 30,000 gallons of water that can be accessed with hollow grass reeds. The fruit of the Baobab is called monkey

bread because baboons are very fond of it. It contains as much vitamin C as 3 oranges, calcium equal to that in a glass of milk, vitamins B1 and B2, and is chock full of antioxidants. The tree contains tartaric acid and chewing the leaves can settle an upset stomach. The bark can be used to treat a fever, make ropes and clothes. Powdered Baobab fruit is being exported to Europe for use in making cream of tartar and as a healthy additive to other foods.

Shelter, food, water, and a place for community. These are the gifts of the Baobab tree and they, along with the animals of the savannah, provided the bases for sharing the Bible stories during the week. On Sunday after Bible School, we gathered at the Baobab again to enjoy the beautiful decorations and the musical offerings of our children one more time. Heather preached on the growth and vitality of the early Church community as recorded in Acts. As she preached, I was struck by what this church community is about, and how it was reflected in our Bible School experience. I thought of each of the children and how they are growing under the nurture of the Church. I thought of our young adults and how they continue to grow and how they are becoming leaders in our Church. I thought of our older adults whose job it is to pass on the wisdom, the stories, and the faith.

Where would these children, young and old, be without the Church—this church and the church we call the PCUSA? Isn’t the Church a Tree of Life itself, sharing the life giving water that Jesus promised, the feeding of His sheep not only with physical food but with the Bread of Heaven? Aren’t the leaves of this Tree of Life Church for the healing of all the people? In this post-modern, post-Christian 21<sup>st</sup> century, what would the world do if this Church, this Tree of Life, ceased to exist? If First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro ceased to exist,

what would our absence mean in this community? As we look, sometimes with anxiety, toward the future of our denomination, the PCUSA, and our Church here in Wadesboro, let us hold on to our sense of community, our sense of call to carry the Gospel to all people, to be the Tree of Life in God's Kingdom as we find it in the world today, and to beckon all of the unchurched to the shelter, the water, the food, the community that we are called to share in Christ's name.

--Submitted by Kaye Ratliff

### **Allow Me to Introduce My Friend and Your New Supply Minister**

On Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will welcome our new Temporary Supply Minister, The Rev. Dr. Leslie R. Stacks. I have known Leslie a very long time, as I was on the Transfers Committee of COM when she came into Charlotte Presbytery. That was about 1997 or 1998. We have served several terms on the Committee on Ministry together, and Leslie was the Nominating Committee member who called and asked if I would serve as the Moderator of Presbytery for 2005. Now retired, Leslie is the former Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. Prior to serving at Christ, she was the Associate Pastor of Paw Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Leslie has an impressive educational background. She earned a Bachelor of Arts cum laude in Sociology and Art from the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee, and earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and a Juris Doctor degree cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. She also has studied at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado; Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan; and Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee.

Prior to coming Charlotte Presbytery, Leslie served as Student-in-Ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia; Campus Minister for Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia; Chaplain of The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Connecticut; Chaplain of the Cranbrook-Kingswood Schools, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She has worked as associate attorney with Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice, PLLC, Charlotte, North

Carolina; and partner with Poyner & Spruill, LLP, Charlotte, North Carolina. Her skills as an attorney have been very valuable to Charlotte Presbytery as well.

Leslie is married to C. W. Stacks, who is Chair of the Science Department at Charlotte Latin School. They have two Vizsla dogs, Taylor and Lacey, and two cats, Pete and Molly. I'm sure we'll hear more about these members of the Stacks family!

Please join with the Session in welcoming Leslie into our pulpit and into our church family.

Kaye Ratliff

### **SESSION**

The next stated meeting of Session will be Sunday, July 10, after Worship and August meeting will be announced at a later date.

Minutes are posted on the bulletin board.

## **MEMBER CARE NOTES**

### **MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS**

To the Music Fund in Memory of Ann Beck by  
William S. Dunklin  
Jennie Beck Otersen  
Jenelle O. Samson & Family  
Mark H. Otersen & Family  
Lysaght & Associates

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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

#### **Contributions**

In Memory of Ann Beck by  
David & Peggy Trexler  
Henry & Shirley Harward

In honor of the talented, hardworking women of FPC and all who make this a place of welcome and love for others by  
Heather Koontz.



### **HOT DOG/ICE CREAM SUPPER**

**August 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM**



First Presbyterian will host our summer hot dog and ice cream social on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM. Please make plans to attend this gathering that is enjoyed by all!

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

The church directory is nearing completion and should be published soon.

## **WORSHIP NOTES/ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



**Thanks to so many for  
making VBS a  
BIG BLAST!**

It was a wonderful week of learning, fun, crafts, music, drums, worship, recreation, food and fellowship all under the beautiful African Baobab tree, surrounded by the animals and one another at God's Great Get-Together.

Thank you to our dedicated planning team, gifted teachers, rotation leaders, and nursery volunteers. Thank you to our committed young adult helpers, creative decorating team, great cooks and meal hosts, and our faithful parent and grandparent helpers each night. Much appreciation is also extended to our talented church staff, and our generous congregation for making the week a special one. And of course a big thank you to our energetic children and youth whose enthusiasm was contagious and a blessing to us all.

In addition to talking about COMMUNITY and important words like TRUST, LOVE, FOLLOWING JESUS, CARING AND SHARING, our young ones showed their love and shared some money for world neighbors in need. We collected \$257.41 for Onesimus, an organization that helps street children in Ethiopia by providing for their basic needs and finding them loving and caring homes.

In so many ways this week has been one of inspiration, growth, and blessing for the children and for our life together as Christ's church. No doubt this time spent with one another and the gifts shared by so many will continue to bear fruit as God's Spirit moves among us.

## SACRAMENT OF LORD'S SUPPER



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Montreat Youth Conference Fundraiser



Take a break from cooking **Sunday, July 17**, immediately following Worship! Come enjoy a delicious meal prepared and served by the youth (with a little help from their parents) from First Presbyterian and Morven Presbyterian who will be attending the Montreat Youth Conference July 23-30. Donations toward the cost of the trip and expenses will be appreciated. The menu consists of the following:

Chicken Parmesan  
Mashed Potato Casserole  
Green Beans  
Cole Slaw  
Yeast Rolls  
Homemade Cookies and Brownies

Please make every effort to support this very worthy cause!



## NOTES FROM JANICE



*Thanks* to all of our children and visitors who sang so well at VBS! It was a wonderful week of drumming, playing instruments and singing. Thanks to Thomas Huntley and all who assisted in the music classes!

The Chancel Choir will have a summer rehearsal on July 13 at 7:00 PM. Regular rehearsals will resume on September 7.

The Cherub Choir Rehearsals are at 9:45 AM on Sundays.

### Rehearsal Times:



**Handbell Choir:** June 1 at 6:00 PM  
**Chancel Choir:** June 1, July 13 at 7:00 PM  
**Cherub Choir:** Sundays at 9:45 AM



*Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>!*  
(Church Office will be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.)

## **MISSION**

### **FOOD LION MVP REWARDS**

We received a check from Food Lion for our first period earnings through April 30, 2011. The check was in the amount of \$102.61. Thank you to all who have registered your Food Lion MVP cards and shopping to support FPC.

### **ANSON CRISIS MINISTRY NEEDS**

July: Toilet tissue and paper towels.  
August: Canned meats (salmon, tuna, beef stew, Spam, Vienna sausages, etc.).

These items may be left in the provided container as you enter the church.

### **RELAY FOR LIFE**

**June 17, 2011 – Anson High Stadium**

Thanks to all who participated and donated to Relay for Life. Our church raised \$1,831.00 toward the fight against cancer.

### **FOOD PANTRY: WACOM**

*July and August Food Pantry:*

*Set-Up – July 8<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM*

*Distribution – July 9<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30-10:00*

### **NEXT FUNDRAISER**

The next fundraiser sponsored by the Mission Committee will be the Yard Sale which is held in October.

### **OFFERINGS**

The \$2 offering per family for the **Mission Fund** will be taken on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>, during the worship service.

The **10¢-A-Meal** offering will be taken on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>, during the worship service.

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



## **PROPERTY/FINANCE/ ADMINISTRATION**

### **PROPERTY NOTES**

- The broken and defective windows in the Fellowship Hall have been replaced.
- The floors in the Fellowship Hall are scheduled to be refinished on July 15 and 16. A non-slip finish will be put on the floors this time so the floors will not be quite as slick and shiny as they previously have been.
- We need to all make a conscious effort not to drag tables and chairs across the Fellowship Hall floors to keep them in good condition.

### **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:

May 29	\$2,031.00
June 5	\$2,040.00
June 12	\$2,341.25
June 19	\$2,394.00
June 26	\$1,951.00

\$16,320.00 was needed for this period and we received \$10,757.25 – shortage of \$5,562.75. Shortage since January 1, 2011 is \$28,431.69.

## **COMMUNITY NOTES**

### **BACH'S LUNCH**

**July 13, 2011**

Anson County Arts Council's second Bach's Lunch of the season will be on Wednesday, July 13, at Noon in First Presbyterian's Fellowship Hall. Ticket purchase includes a box lunch, dessert, and local entertainment. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the Chamber, Lacy's, Fancy Crafts, or from any Arts Council Board member.

### **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**



Wednesday, July 20

1:30-6:00 PM

First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall



## **FLOWER CALENDAR**

July 3	Foyle & Pauline Hightower
July 10	OPEN
July 17	OPEN
July 24	OPEN
July 31	OPEN
August 7	OPEN
August 14	Dianne Deese
August 21	Vera Trexler
August 28	Henry Harward

(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**

July 3	Ellen & Eddie Huntley
July 10	Peggy & David Trexler
July 17	Gretchen & Bryan Trexler
July 24	Ross Huntley & Ginger Trexler
July 31	Anne & Luke Hyatt
August 7	Pam Vernon & Bob Stowe
August 14	Gretchen & Bryan Trexler
August 21	Ellen & Eddie Huntley
August 28	Peggy & David Trexler

## **ACOLYTE/GREETER SCHEDULE**

July 3	Mary Catherine Boylin
July 10	Luke Hyatt
July 17	Grace Morgan
July 24	Tripp Trexler
July 31	Dylan Trexler
August 7	Emma Trexler
August 14	Katie Paige Huntley
August 21	Mary Catherine Boylin
August 28	Luke Hyatt

## **USHER SCHEDULE**

### **July 3**

Jerry Ridenhour  
Foyle Hightower  
Hugh Wallace  
Jim Strayhorn

### **July 10**

Luke Hyatt  
Bryan Trexler  
Alex McLeod  
Calvin Catoe

### **July 17**

Ashe Ratliff  
John Edwards  
Danny Deese  
Eddie Huntley

### **July 31**

Hugh Wallace  
Jim Strayhorn  
Alex McLeod  
Bryan Trexler

### **August 7**

Luke Hyatt  
Calvin Catoe  
Ashe Ratliff  
John Edwards

### **August 21**

Jerry Ridenhour  
Foyle Hightower  
Hugh Wallace  
Jim Strayhorn

### **July 24**

Glenn Trexler  
Bob Stowe  
Jerry Ridenhour  
Foyle Hightower

### **August 14**

Danny Deese  
Eddie Huntley  
Glenn Trexler  
Bob Stowe

### **August 28**

Luke Hyatt  
Bryan Trexler  
Alex McLeod  
Calvin Catoe

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

### **First Presbyterian Church**

PO Box 351  
Wadesboro NC 28170

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
Paid  
Wadesboro NC 28170  
Permit 86