

the Epistle

First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170

March 2011

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From the Pastor's Heart

Several weeks ago, as I began looking ahead at the lectionary readings for Lent and thinking about worship for March, I read these words from a past preaching journal:

"In an age of quick-fixes, fast food, instant gratification, and Internet communication, the Lenten tradition seems like an ancient practice that is out of step with the age. Lent promises no immediate result, no instant answer, no dazzling communication from on high. Rather, Lent is a call to disciplined inquiry and patient searching after the presence of God"

Lent is indeed an ancient practice but it is an observance and season loaded with opportunity and blessing in the midst of this fast paced, ever changing world in which we live. Lent is an opportunity for all of us to draw closer to God. Just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness preparing for his ministry, so Lent provides forty days for Christians to engage and listen to God as we prepare to experience the joy of Easter.

"Lent," from the English word meaning "spring"— is not just a reference to the bulbs pushing their way out of the ground in the season before Easter, but also to the greening of the human soul. It's a time when we focus on pruning with prayer, repentance, self-examination, and time set aside to listen for God's guiding words in scripture.

Just as the hard work of planting, pruning, watering, and weeding helps to keep a healthy garden, so the season of Lent invites us to walk with our Lord and engage in the challenging but fruitful work of reflection and prayer that leads to a more vibrant and healthy life of faith and service.

Friends, a new Lenten journey awaits. A new season to set aside time for God, is upon us. I invite you to begin with an honest prayer of preparation and to journey with the assurance of God's guiding presence with you in every step and every season.

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. So often we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and tempted to let our human hunger for control and comfort overshadow our hunger for seeking and doing your will. Life-giving God, strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season, that we may put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. Holy God, hear our prayers and guide us in this season of possibility and promise. Amen.

Blessings,

Heather

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 9, 2011

The Ash Wednesday Service will be March 9, 2011, at 7:00 PM here at First Presbyterian. We will share in this special service with our First United Methodist Church neighbors. Plan to be a part of this important service that sets us on the right path for our Lenten Journey to the cross and that empty tomb of Easter.

SESSION

The next stated meeting of Session will be Sunday, March 13, after Worship. Minutes are posted on the bulletin board for your information.

MEMBER CARE NOTES

MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

In Memory of Estelle Shelton by
Ashe & Kaye Ratliff
Jerry & Rachel Johnson
Angela Urquhart
Ken & Becky Goins
Tommy & Jan Taylor
Isabel B. Johnston
Penny Potter Quick
Mary Katherine Potter Smethie
George & Elizabeth Clark

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
Calvin & Sandra Catoe
Emmett & Emily Patterson

FELLOWSHIP TIME CELEBRATION

With the congregation's help, Member Care hosted a well-attended Fellowship Time honoring Boy Scout Troop 170 chartered by our church and also celebrating the commissioning of our Mission Team on Sunday, February 20th. The Mission Team, which includes Rev. Heather Koontz, Calvin Catoe, Ellen Huntley, Thomas Huntley, Alex McLeod, Brooke McLeod, Jeanne Price, and Pam Vernon will travel to New Orleans on February 27th and return on March 5th.

Please continue to keep the New Orleans Mission Team and Scout Troop 170 in your prayers.



SHROVE PANCAKE AND TALENT SHOW

March 8, 2011

Plans are underway for our annual Shrove Pancake and Talent Show on March 8th at 6:00 pm. We still need a few volunteers to cook the sausage and bring it in warm so we will be able to keep the pancakes warm in our ovens as they are cooked.

WORSHIP NOTES/ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you for your participation in The Souper Bowl of Caring on February 6th. First Presbyterian was one of 7,385 groups that collected money and cans in the fight against hunger. We collected more than 85 cans and \$141.00 for the WACOM Food Pantry and that total has been added to www.souperbowl.org and the total collection of \$3,385,352 and 3,426,025 pounds of food (as of 2-10-11). This is one shining example of how individuals and churches can come together to make a big difference in God's world.

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



Do this in Remembrance of Me.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, March 6th.

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Christian Ed team is exploring a joint youth conference week in Montreat with Morningstar Presbyterian Church in Matthews and First Presbyterian-Norwood. The dates are July 24-30, 2011. Please talk with Heather or Babbs for more information.



NOTES FROM JANICE



Choirs have already started working on music for Easter. The Chancel Choir is preparing a new cantata entitled "Who Do You Say That I Am?" by Lloyd Larson. Handbells are working on new music for the Lent/Easter season. Come and join us for this seasonal music!

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

April 15, 2011

The Mission Committee would like to remind you of the upcoming Salad Luncheon in April. The time is getting near to gather that special recipe to help with this fundraiser. Thanks for your support.

ANSON CRISIS MINISTRY NEEDS

March is the month that we are to provide Anson Crisis Ministry with soups (i.e., chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable). These items maybe left in the container provided at the entrance to the church.

FOOD PANTRY: WACOM



The Food Pantry has had a drastic cut in the amount of food available. We need for YOU to become more involved by bringing canned goods, meats, pasta, and cereals to the church to provide more food. We welcome volunteers of all ages.

March Food Pantry:

Set-Up – March 11th 4:00 PM

Distribution – March 12th 8:30-10:00 AM

TEN CENTS A MEAL

feeding mind, body and spirit...



The Hunger Action Work Group of the Presbytery of Charlotte began conversation in 2010 about the possibility of increasing Five Cents a Meal to Ten Cents a Meal to continue to provide funding for food for families within our Presbytery bounds BUT to also enhance the opportunity for outreach to include hunger related and “at-risk” youth programming. The committee feels that the time has come to **reach out beyond** just providing food and to feed the mind, body and spirit of people in our communities.

Presbytery invites congregations to promote this “*same BUT different*” **TEN CENTS A MEAL** offering – thru Sunday School, youth groups, worship time.... (be creative)... With help from all congregations of the Presbytery, we have the potential to raise millions – can you only imagine the difference that could be made in the lives of so many that are struggling due to economic constraints. We can help our churches and agencies that are overwhelmed by requests. By striving to reach our youth thru programming that can change their attitudes and their lives – we will build a foundation that can make a long term difference in families. We can allow more outreach within our churches for hunger and at-risk youth programming.

Let’s begin the year with a renewed outlook that this fund – can double and even triple the number of people that are served by including this new program initiative. Please go back into your congregation with a sense of excitement and let’s work together to make an even bigger difference than we have in the past – *feeding mind, body and spirit of those who need us the most.*

In 2010 – 72 % (95 out of 132) of the POC congregations gave to Five Cents a Meal – IMAGINE if the same congregations participated and the other 37 congregations come on board – the huge difference we can make in the communities of our Presbytery of Charlotte churches. Let us not just meet and talk about it – let our communities of faith be the model of what Christ would have us to be...

Using the same passage – Two and Five Cents a Meal has used since 1982...

“Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of my brothers, you have done it unto me.” - Matthew 25:40

FOOD LION MVP REWARDS

Thank you to all who are participating in the Food Lion MVP Rewards Program! Once we finally got enough shoppers enrolled and could start benefiting from the Rewards Program, we received our first check for \$64.12. Now, we need to maximize our rewards. **Did you know that all Food Lion Private Brand product purchases receive double credit on the 10th of each month?**

What are Food Lion Private Brand products?

Food Lion label	Smart Option
Healthy Accents	Taste of Inspirations
Home 360	Butchers Brand Beef
Nature's Place	Holly Farms Chicken
On the Go Bistro	

If you haven't already done so, register your Food Lion MVP card at foodlionmvpwards.com. The number of our charity is 250468. Look under shopper registration and they will ask you to enter your MVP number. You need to give them the twelve numbers on the back of your card. This includes the two small numbers on each side of your 10 digit number. Then all you have to do is shop Food Lion, use your card, and the church will receive a percentage of what you spend. Sign your friends and family up. They don't even need to live in the state – just have a Food Lion to shop at and an MVP card. If you don't have access to a computer, call the church office and give us your information and we will make sure you get enrolled.

PROPERTY/FINANCE/ ADMINISTRATION

CUSTODIAL CONCERNS

Just a reminder to everyone that our Custodian normally comes to clean only one day per week (usually on Saturday). Please remove items such as trash, dirty diapers, etc., and any other items that might spoil (and smell) in a week's time from the Church building and the Fellowship Hall and put them in the trash cans outside before leaving. There are trash cans outside the Fellowship Hall kitchen door and also in the alley between the Church building and Garden.

Thanks!

Finance/Admin/Property Committee

NEED A LESS THAN PERFECT COPIER?

The old copier (duplicator) is still in the Copy Room. We replaced it in the Fall of last year. It does not make a perfect copy, but it is readable. One of the major components inside the machine is not performing as it should and that is why there is a small problem with the copy. This component is no longer available and cannot be found in any of the company's warehouses. This copier is technically known as a duplicator. That means that a master is made inside the machine and then copies are inked from that master. (Ink and masters can still be purchased for this machine.) The duplicator is very fast and copies up to 130 pages per minute. The duplicator's technical name is a Risograph TR1510.

If anyone would be interested in this copier or know of anyone or any church who would be interested, please call the Church Office. *If you need more information, call the Church Office (704-694-3818).* If we do not receive a response in the next couple of weeks, we will call a nearby office supply company for disposal.

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:

Jan. 30	\$1,304.00
Feb. 6	\$2,231.00
Feb. 13	\$2,030.00
Feb. 20	\$2,028.00

\$13,056.00 was needed for this period and we received \$7,593.00 – shortage of \$5,463.00. Shortage since January 1, 2011 is \$8,328.50.

COMMUNITY NOTES

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Wednesday, March 23rd

1:30-6:00 PM

First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall



FLOWER CALENDAR

March 6 Robin Trexler
March 13 Lent
March 20 Lent
March 27 Lent

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

March 6 Gretchen & Bryan Trexler
March 13 Kelly Morgan & Kayla Gregory
March 20 Ross Huntley & Ginger Trexler
March 27 Pam Vernon & Bob Stowe

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

ACOLYTE/GREETER SCHEDULE

March 6 Dylan Trexler
March 13 Emma Trexler
March 20 Katie Paige Huntley
March 27 Mary Catherine Boylin

USHER SCHEDULE

March 6

Jerry Ridenhour
Foyle Hightower
Hugh Wallace
Eddie Huntley

March 13

Bryan Trexler
Jim Strayhorn
Alex McLeod
Calvin Catoe

March 20

Ashe Ratliff
John Edwards
Danny Deese
Glenn Trexler

March 27

Bob Stowe
Luke Hyatt
Jerry Ridenhour
Foyle Hightower

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



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 13th
Turn your clock forward one hour!

First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 351
Wadesboro NC 28170

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