

the Epistle

First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170

October 2011

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There once was a kitten who began life in an abandoned car, where his mother gave birth to him and three other kittens. A woman who worked nearby noticed the little family, and she also noticed when the mama cat was no longer there. She rescued the kittens and found homes for three of them, leaving just one. That last kitten now lives at our house and goes by the name of Pete.

One day, I watched Pete sleep on my lap. He had gotten there by squeaking. It was soon after his rescue, and he was still tiny enough to sit in the palm of my hand, but he sure had a way of making his presence felt. If he needed food, if he needed rescuing from our dogs, if he just needed to be held, Pete let out a squeak that could be heard for miles. His squeak was plaintive and endearing, but it also was bold. There was no apology in Pete's squeak, no sense that a kitten from such humble beginnings should be grateful for anything he got and not dare to demand more.

Pete reminded me of a certain widow who demanded more:

[Jesus] said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" (Luke 18:2-5)

In Jesus' world, a woman's only legal status came from her relationship to a man. If a woman had no father, no husband, no brother, and no son, she lacked anyone to speak up for her and was completely at the mercy of society and the religious

establishment. The same was true of orphaned children and immigrants. Throughout the Old Testament, we find reminders of the dependency of such folks. We also find reminders of how the rest of us are supposed to respond.

Through the prophet Zechariah, God commands us to "show kindness and mercy to one another" and not make life difficult for widows, orphans, immigrants, or the poor.(7:9-10) In Deuteronomy, we are told to share what we have with widows, orphans, and immigrants, always leaving a part of what we have planted and cultivated for them to harvest.(24:17-22)

Through the prophet Malachi, God declared the penalty for failing to work for justice, provide rescue, and share what we have: "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness . . . against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the immigrant, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts."(3:5) Repeatedly, God equates doing right by widows, orphans, and immigrants with honoring him and giving him our obedience.

When he finished telling this parable, Jesus declared that God is going to grant justice to the widow, to the orphan, to the immigrant—to all who need relief. The question that remains, according to Jesus, is, will you and I? When the Son of Man comes, will he find us living our faith by seeking justice for the neediest of our world?

The Rev. Leslie Stacks

SESSION

The next stated meeting of Session will be Sunday, October 9, after Worship. This meeting will be held in the Bell Room. Minutes are posted on the bulletin board.

MEMBER CARE NOTES



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Next Men's Breakfast – November 6,
8:00 AM.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

We have finally received the Church Directories. Distribution will begin soon. Directories are limited to one per family.



FALL FUN NIGHT

Saturday, October 29th, 6:00 PM



We are looking forward to another fun-filled evening in October at the home of Brenda and Jim Morgan, as they plan to host another Fall Fun Night at their home on Saturday, October 29th, at 6:00PM. Stock up on candy now as we will once again fill our car trunks with treats for our little goblins! Festivities will also include a hot dog supper and the annual hayride.

Directions:

Hwy 52 South to Morven
Turn left at stoplight (Hwy 145N)
Travel 3 miles
Turn Rt. On Shiloh Church Rd
Travel 1 mile
1st Driveway on the left past Shiloh Methodist Church

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



ANNUAL FISH FRY

Sunday, October 30th
6:00 PM

The Session, under the leadership of Member Care, is looking forward to hosting the annual First Presbyterian Fish Fry on Sunday, October 30th. We extend thanks again this year to Emmett and Emily Patterson for their continued leadership and help with this event. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting event.

WORSHIP NOTES/ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SACRAMENT OF LORD'S SUPPER



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, October 2nd.

BIBLE STUDY

Some folks have said that they would like for me to lead a mid-week Bible study. I would enjoy doing that, and so I am seeking to determine what schedule would suit the most people.

Please let me know:

- Would you participate in a mid-week Bible study group?

If your answer is "yes":

- What days and times **Could** you attend?
- What days and times would you **Prefer** to attend?
- Do you prefer to meet **Weekly** or **Monthly**?

The Rev. Leslie Stacks

RALLY DAY

Rally Day was held on Sunday, August 28, following worship. A detailed presentation was given on each Sunday School Class being offered for the new school year as well as a commissioning service for all teachers conducted by Dr. Stacks.

We still have three openings for Sunday School Teachers:

- 3 and 4 year olds (4th Sunday)
- Children's Worship Center (2nd Sunday)
- Young Adults (2nd Sunday)

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sunday, November 6

Every autumn we set aside time to remember those who have gone before us. We will celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 6th, during Worship.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY/ PEACEMAKING OFFERING

October 2, 2011

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering supports the efforts of Presbyterians through their congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly to work for peace by tearing down walls that divide. World Communion Sunday is the Sunday chosen to receive this offering, because Christians around the world celebrate our unity in Christ on this day. As we receive bread and cup, we celebrate Christ, our peace, and are renewed to pass Christ's peace to those around us and across the world. The Peacemaking Offering supports a variety of peacemaking efforts at all levels of PC(USA) – 25% is retained by congregations, 25% is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50% is allocated to General Assembly ministries.



NOTES FROM JANICE



The Chancel choir has begun work on our Christmas Cantata entitled "Tapestry of Light" by Joseph Martin. We have openings for all voices! If you like to sing, come and join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00! Invite a friend!

Our handbell choir has also begun working on Advent/Christmas selections and other special music. We will be using "singing bell" and other special techniques. Come and try ringing bells! You'll love it!

Rehearsal Times:

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

MISSION

ANSON CRISIS MINISTRY NEEDS

October is the month that we are to provide Anson Crisis Ministry with dried beans and rice. These items may be left in the provided container as you enter the church.

We also need a volunteer to take the items to Anson Crisis Ministry at the end of each month. If you would be willing to volunteer, please call the Church Office. We give a word of "Thanks" to Thomas Huntley who has done this in the past. Since he is now in college out of town, we need a new volunteer.

YARD SALE FOR MISSIONS

**Saturday, October 1st
6:00 AM until Noon**

The Yard Sale to raise funds for Missions will be held on Saturday, October 1st. You may begin bringing items to the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 27th. Please have your items here by Friday. Items need to be in good condition.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up of the items to sell and as many trucks as possible to haul leftover items to the Anson Crisis Ministry.

FOOD PANTRY: WACOM

September Food Pantry:

Set-Up – October 8th 4:00 PM

Distribution – October 7th 8:30-10:00 AM

WACOM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We need volunteers to help unload the trucks when food is picked up from Second Harvest in Charlotte. A big truck is taken to pick up this food and we need some strong backs to help unload it after the truck returns to the church. This involves a large amount of food. These trips are usually on a Friday once a month. Help would be needed on Friday afternoon. Please let anyone on the Mission Ministry, any member of Session, or the Church Office know if you would be willing to help! Let them know how to contact you and you will be called letting you know the exact date each month that they will need your help.

We also need more help in distributing food for the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is on the second Saturday in each month.

OFFERINGS

\$2 Per Family Offering for the Mission Fund:
October 2nd

10¢-A-Meal Offering: October 30th
10¢ a Meal, 30¢ a day, \$2.10 a week, \$9.00 a month

Peacemaking Offering: October 2nd



CROPWALK

Sunday, October 16th, 2:00 PM

CROP means **C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty. Why walk? Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk because they walk! Money raised is used to provide food, medical care, disaster relief, and self-help development for needy people throughout the world (locally and globally). Up to 25% of the money raised in our CROP Hunger Walk is distributed to our local hunger-alleviating agencies in Anson County (Anson Crisis Ministry and Feed My Lambs).

The Anson County CROPWalk will be on Sunday, October 16th, at 2:00 PM. The route will begin at the Department of Social Services and continue to Wadesboro Park off of Morven Road/Gatewood Street. For those who are unable to walk long distances, they may just go directly to Wadesboro Park and walk there.

You can donate online at www.cropwalkonline.org or we will have collection envelopes and literature about CROPWalk available. Ask the Rev. Stacks, Frank Trexler, Kaye Ratliff, or Robin for more information.

BELK CHARITY DAY SALE



Belk is having their Charity day sale on Saturday, November 5th, 6:00-10:00AM, at any Belk store. The first 100 early birds get free gift cards valued at anywhere between \$5 to \$1,000. Tickets are \$5 each. Ticket holders will 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 October 30th and November 5th and present your

ticket to a Belk associate and ask them for details on reserving your purchase. You can also pre-shop and pick your purchase up beginning November 4th.

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. Support your church in any way you can. Please get your ticket in advance so we will get 100% of the proceeds of every ticket sold. Tickets will be available at church on Sundays or in the Church Office.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's almost that time of year again! Brochures and instructions to fill your shoebox are available and we will collect the boxes until Wednesday, November 9th.

PROPERTY/FINANCE/ ADMINISTRATION

PROPERTY NOTES

The Property Committee is working on quotes to improve the church entrance by replacing the tile, damaged railing, and eliminating basement leaks. This will be fairly expensive but must be done because of safety issues. More detailed information will follow. The main Property Committee consists of Calvin Catoe, Bob Stowe, and Ed Emory. If you have concerns, comments, or suggestions, please speak with someone on the 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:

Aug. 28	\$1,780.00	Sept. 18	\$ 605.00
Sept. 4	\$2,315.00	Sept. 25	\$2,222.00
Sept. 11	\$2,117.50		

\$16,320.00 was needed for this period and we received \$9,039.50 – shortage of \$7,280.50. Shortage since January 1, 2011 is \$45,322.29.



FLOWER CALENDAR

October 2	OPEN
October 9	OPEN
October 16	Ted Gardner
October 23	Dianne Deese
October 30	OPEN

(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

October 2	Anne & Luke Hyatt
October 9	Peggy & David Trexler
October 16	Gretchen & Bryan Trexler
October 23	Jeanne & James Price
October 30	Ellen & Eddie Huntley

ACOLYTE/GREETER SCHEDULE

October 2	Luke Hyatt
October 9	Tripp Trexler
October 16	Dylan Trexler
October 23	Emma Trexler
October 30	Trent Trexler



Autumn Poem

*In Autumn when the leaves turn brown
And red and gold, they all fall down.
To paint a picture, oh so rare!
I know that God is there...*

*To mastermind the ebb and flow;
To stage the wondrous Autumn show,
To brush the skies with molten gold;
I watch God's art unfold.*

(Author Unknown)

USHER SCHEDULE

October 2

Sarah Alice Harris
Foyle Hightower
Jerry Ridenhour
Glenn Trexler

October 16

Bob Stowe
Eddie Huntley
Jim Strayhorn
Bryan Trexler

October 30

Pam Vernon
Jim Boylin
Glenn Trexler
Jerry Ridenhour

October 9

Brenda Morgan
Hugh Wallace
Alex McLeod
Danny Deese

October 23

Calvin Catoe
Luke Hyatt
Ashe Ratliff
John Edwards

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

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Wadesboro NC 28170

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