

THE TABLET

A Newsletter from
First Presbyterian Church
302 E. Windsor Street
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Week of
Feb. 28 - March 7, 2010

From the Interim Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,

We had our Annual Congregational Meeting this past Sunday, and I trust that all who were present were as impressed and appreciative as I over all that was accomplished by FPC during 2009.

Ultimately, the glory goes to our Lord Jesus Christ, because we are his disciples and apart from him we can do nothing. But special thanks are in order for the contributions of time, abilities, and financial resources of church officers and members too numerous to mention by name.

In the reporting of the various committees and groups, I sensed a good spirit indicative of a readiness to move on to the next chapter in your congregational life. With that in mind, I encourage every member of First Presbyterian to become as focused as possible on the challenges of the present, and to prepare yourselves for whatever challenges you will encounter in the future.

We would all do well to follow the example of Paul, the Apostle, who wrote, ". . . this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,¹⁴ I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

I am looking forward to seeing you this coming Sunday.

Yours in Christ,

John

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

On Good Friday, April 2, a Procession of the Cross will begin at 10:45 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church and conclude at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Members of the congregation and community are invited to attend.

SERMON SCHEDULE

- March 7 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
"The Art of Self-Deception"
James 1:16-27
- March 14 - 4th Sunday in Lent
"The Journey of Salvation"
Luke 15:11-32
- March 21 - 5th Sunday in Lent
"Attitude Makes a Difference"
Philippians 2:1-11
- March 28 - Passion/Palm Sunday
Cantata by Chancel Choir
- April 1 - Maundy Thursday
(Communion/Tenebrae)
"It Is Finished!"
John 19:23-42
- April 4 - Easter Sunday
"The Incredible Good News!"
Luke 24:1-12, 36-43

MID-WEEK NOON LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten services are scheduled for noon on each of these Wednesdays. The worship will last approximately 30 minutes. A light lunch will be provided by the host church. The offerings collected will be given to Turning Point.

- March 10 - at St. Paul's Episcopal;
Dr. Julia Robinson-Harmon, Black's Memorial Presbyterian Church, preaching
- March 17 - at First Presbyterian Church;
Pastor Kenneth Fink, St. Luke's Lutheran, preaching
- March 24 - at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church;
Father Thomas Kessler preaching

GOOD TIMES GROUP OUTING

For all of you classical music lovers, come with the Good Times Group to the Charlotte Symphony Rehearsal of the March 26th performance of Tchaikovsky's Symphony Pathétique. The cost is \$15 per ticket purchased at the door. We will leave in the church bus from the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m., take the lite rail to Blumenthal, have lunch after the performance and return home. If you have any questions please contact Sonnie Scott at 704-291-2456.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF CHILE

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, an earthquake measuring 8.8 occurred off the coast of [Chile](#) in the Maule region approximately 115 kilometers north of the country's second largest city, Concepción. Early reports are that there were several hundred casualties. Our partner church in the region, the [Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Chile](#), reports no victims. The church in Talca has been destroyed. (Talca is located between Concepción and Santiago.) We currently have no PC(USA)-appointed mission personnel deployed in Chile. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is monitoring events and is ready to work together with our partners as they assess the situation. We will be informed as to how we can help. Meanwhile, please pray for the people of Chile.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to thank everyone for your concern, calls, and prayers for our daughter-in-law, Nikki Damon, during her open heart surgery. She is at home and doing well. Thanks be to God!

-Les & Diane Everett

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 9-17: FPC Pictorial Directory
March 17: Lenten Service and lunch at FPC
March 18: Good Times' St. Patrick's Day lunch
March 20: Easter baskets for DSS clients
March 26: Good Times' trip for symphony & lunch
March 28: Palm Sunday
April 1: Maundy Thursday
April 2: Procession of the Cross
April 4: Easter Worship & Children's Egg Hunt
April 13: Good Times' trip to Riverbanks Zoo
June 20-26: Youth/Adult mission trip to Kopperston, WV

STAFF:

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PLEDGE UPDATE FOR 2010

A few pledges continue to come in for the year 2010. The total now stands at **\$334,140.00**. This is very, very close to the total pledges for 2009. With the economic environment we are now in, we think the congregation is to be congratulated!

-Charles Norwood

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

WRAP-UP

On Tuesday, February 16, the elementary aged children of our church sponsored a pancake supper to benefit the Presbytery of Charlotte's Haiti Disaster Relief Fund. With the generous donations of items made by many of our children's parents and fellow church members, we will be able to give almost all the money raised to Presbytery. **Five hundred dollars** of the \$538 raised will be donated to the disaster relief fund! Only \$38 was needed to help purchase items for the meal.

Many people need to be recognized for making this event successful. Kristen Griffin, Sumner Dickerson, Trey Howey, Judd Isaacs, Ashley Milliken, Trevor Mullins, Chase Sweezy and Jenna Sweezy were the children who participated by taking up money, serving food, setting up the tables, and/ or helping clean up. They all did a fabulous job! It was inspiring to watch these young children give of their time and service to ultimately help others. Behind the scenes, parents Deanna Griffin and Ryan Mullins flipped pancakes for two solid hours, while Denise Milliken cooked more bacon and sausage than she probably ever hopes to see again in her lifetime. Lillian Dickerson patiently helped the children serve pancakes, sausage, bacon and fruit to the many patrons who shared the meal with us. Fran Mullins prepared some floral arrangements to brighten up our tables and a few women on their way to Bible study that night found time to help us prepare some center pieces for the tables. And finally, a special thank you to Penny and Chuck Lindblom for their help with various tasks that evening and for suggesting the idea of a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper to ring in the Lenten season.

OFFERING & ATTENDANCE

February 21, 2010

Offering	\$5,101.50
Needed per week	\$10,024.00

Attendance - 161

February 28, 2010

Offering	\$9,007.00
Needed per week	\$10,024.00

Attendance - 170

SUNDAY YOUTH CLUB

Sunday, March 7

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Youth Handbell Practice:

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

ELEMENTARY YOUTH CLUB

Wednesday, March 10

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Meal:

Susan Boggs, Deanna Griffin

LOST BOOK: NEEDS TO BE FOUND

Dear Church Family,

This past Sunday, February 28th, I left a paperback children's book titled, The Very First Easter by Paul Maier on the bench outside of the Session room for one of our LIHGT House Sunday school teachers to use during her lesson for that day and for a few weeks to come. It had her name on it so that she would know it was for her. If you by chance picked up this book, could you please return it either to me or to the bench? I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,
Alissa Isaacs

THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE HAITI RELIEF TRAILER

The Presbytery's trailer was picked up Tuesday so the Haiti Disaster Relief items could be consolidated with others from the Presbytery and taken to Miami, then shipped to Haiti. Thanks to everybody who donated items and who helped keep the trailer open.

LOAVES & FISHES request donations of sugar for the month of March. Please place your donations in the baskets provided.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

General Fund -

In Memory of Ann Holloway
by Ken & Janie Collins.

Heritage Circle -

In Memory of Chad Stewart
by Craig & Angela Levan.

In Memory of Bud Cole
by Craig & Angela Levan.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members of First Presbyterian Church:

Frances Ashcraft, Jean Benson, Houston Blair, Lis Braswell (Sonya Norwood's mother), Bill Brewer, Vella Bryant, Ron Griffin, **Mary Ann Hall*, Wilson Helms (Home), Mildred Helms (Monroe Square), Jo Hillegas, Jim Hinkel (Brian Center), Tonya Huggins, Joseph Komaravalli (missionary in India), **Judy Little*, Nancy Lomax (Woodridge), Libby Morrison, Bob Neill (Home), **Lane & Sally Ormand (two week medical mission in Africa)*, Marjorie Price (Lake Park), Evelyn Rains, Mary Ann Smith, Frances Tiddy, Herb Urbano.

Family & Friends:

Roland Anneus (friend of Gwen Benson), Mary Louise Chester (Mary Ann Hall's sister), Margaret Clegg (Holly McEachin's mother-in-law), Nikki Damon (Diane Everett's daughter-in-law), Phil Hargett (Kay Brewer's brother), Greg Holliman (Ron Griffin's brother-in-law), Nancy & Mike Lynn (friends of Cheryl Cole), Alex Morrison (Jack Morrison's brother), Doris Northcutt (Lee's mother), John Stryker (Norm Stryker's brother), Mike Thornton (Shan Griffin's father-in-law).

In Military:

Glenn Cahoon, Robert Fowler (Les Everett's son-in-law), Chris Greenwood (grandson of Wilson & Mildred Helms), Baker McKinney (Rebecca Bookholt's nephew). Chris Wilkerson (Dr. Wilkerson's grandson).

**names new to the prayer list*

We Express Our Deepest Sympathy to . . .

Nancy Lomax and family at the death of her husband, Rowland Lomax.

We Express Our Deepest Sympathy to . . .

Fred McCallum at the death of his son, Richard McCallum.

