



FPC News

First Presbyterian
Church

FPC News

February 1, 2007

Pastor's Corner

The following is taken from an announcement made Sunday, January 14th: As we reflect on last year, one of the areas in which we can see some promise is the financial picture, as the year ended in "the black." Certainly this was not accomplished without some revision of the budget, and the congregation stepping forward to meet the challenge. In the end, however, the finances of the church did end on a positive note. For that we all are grateful! The Lord has been so good to us, and THROUGH us - for through this congregation, through those financial gifts, innumerable lives are touched and helped daily. The hungry receive food, the sick receive care, abused spouses and children find shelter and safety, the lonely are befriended, the lost receive guidance, the hopeless are encouraged, children and adults are being educated, the homeless gain a place to stay, and the good news of Jesus Christ is shared. As God's Word says it, "we are blessed to BE a blessing." And so we are.

A significant part of the blessing we have been given is the Harper Center, in which we receive and offer opportunities for worship, fellowship, education, physical and spiritual nurture, alongside a wide variety of ways in which this community enjoys its beautiful facilities.

Even so, every blessing is also a responsibility. We currently have the responsibility of servicing the debt on the Harper Center. As of December 31, 2006, we owed \$1.287 million on the Harper Center. Presently, the cost for servicing that debt is \$100,000 a year, which, for now is only paying the interest on that loan from our general fund. This three-year interest-only loan is intended to be a stop gap measure, and will conclude at the end of 2008. Knowing this, the stewardship & budget committee has been considering ways of paying off the remaining balance. A few of those options have included: extending the loan for another 3 years, if possible; getting a long-term mortgage; or having another capital campaign.

God's goodness has come through to us in yet another way. Several weeks ago, ANOTHER option was revealed. A member of First Presbyterian Church came to me with this generous and serendipitous proposal: Certain anonymous members of the church are willing to offer a challenge gift. That is, if the congregation will pledge to help pay the debt on the Harper Center, these anonymous donors will match those gifts, as much as \$300,000 perhaps even \$500,000. The reason I am informing you of this now, is the fact that YOU MAY have already heard this from someone else. Although the stewardship committee has tried to maintain discretion in discussing this idea, it seems that the cat got out of the proverbial bag, and members of the congregation have been heard talking about this proposal throughout the church hallways. It seems that such exciting news is just too good to be kept a secret for long! So, I come to you via the stewardship committee, with the news that this is in fact, a reality.

It truly is an answer to prayer, and it presents us with a terrific opportunity to possibly retire this tremendous debt. That, in turn, has the potential to free us to accomplish so much more in terms of mission and ministry, out from under the burden of such a debt.

Further information and updates about the details of this campaign will be forthcoming, as they are worked out through the stewardship committee and the session. We all eagerly look forward in anticipation of beginning this program as soon as plans are set in place.

May the Lord bless you and keep you all,

Philip

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 4, 2007

This year FPC will participate in "Souper Bowl of Caring." Sunday School children as well as church members are encouraged to participate by bringing cans of soup and/or giving money on Sunday, February 4th. All money and the soup will stay within the Sanford community. Our church is only asked to register our participation with the national program.

Background: Late in the '80's a Presbyterian Intern, Brad Smith, in South Carolina started this program to fight hunger and poverty. Youth were encouraged to sponsor "Souper Bowl Sunday" asking persons in worship to contribute \$1 each to help feed the hungry. This has grown into a national program, "Souper Bowl of Caring," in which churches from many denominations in the US and throughout the world participate. Youth are also encouraged to participate on Saturday, the previous day, by working in a soup kitchen, food pantry, etc.

In 2006, 11,928 churches, schools and other groups raised \$5 million in all 50 states. That total was up from \$4 million in 2005.

Congregational Luncheon

The Sr. High Youth will be serving lunch for the congregation on Sun., Feb. 4th. The menu will be ham, green beans, rolls & dessert. Take the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with your family and your church family during this time after worship on Feb. 4th.

The Sr. High Youth group went skiing in Snowshoe WV Jan. 19th - 22nd. Carson Cameron, Olivia Foushee, Tyler James, Ashley Jones, Rhonda Lemon, Shannon Lemon, Michael Moore and Stuart Shields participated with Julie & Ronnie Lemon and Paul Shields leading the group. Fun, fellowship, sharing meals and devotions were just a part of the retreat.

February Birthdays

- Feb. 2 - David Vann
- Feb. 3 - Suzanne Mills, Christopher Dymond
- Feb. 4 - Margaret Gilliam Ellis
- Feb. 5 - Ray Patterson, Herb Hardisty, Cari Hobson
- Feb. 6 - Joan Wagoner
- Feb. 7 - Sidney Boaz, Susan Norris, Donna Goodwin
- Feb. 8 - Charles LaRue
- Feb. 9 - Mildred Johnson, Jordan Childress
- Feb. 10 - Billy McDonald, Wanda Wazenegger
- Feb. 11 - Nancy Watkins, Vicki Quick
- Feb. 13 - Maxine Auman
- Feb. 14 - John Kelly, Gladys Weaver, Margaret Poe, Belva Oelrich, Richard Ussery, Vann Gibson, Rhonda Woodell
- Feb. 16 - Russ Knight
- Feb. 17 - Larry Palmer, Caroline Wilson
- Feb. 18 - Pat Hickey
- Feb. 19 - Frank Mills
- Feb. 20 - Olivia Foushee
- Feb. 22 - Johnny Miller, Jr., Martha Simpson, Peggy Womble
- Feb. 24 - William Cooper III
- Feb. 25 - Marlene Miller
- Feb. 26 - Pamela Guest McCall
- Feb. 28 - Dean Wilkinson

After cooking for 110 patrons who ate at the Breadbasket, Martha McGee and I feel a lot better about cooking for a crowd. This was our first experience cooking for this many people. We had enough rice left to last for several meals! We had a lot of help from the Breadbasket manager, Susan, and our helpers Helen Ogburn, Joan Edson, Lou Van-

Breadbasket News

Bruggen, Rexine Lloyd, Mary Sue Riddle and Don Suddarth.

The menu for the day was vegetable soup, creamed chicken and potatoes, beef and gravy over rice, green beans, canned peaches, slaw, pickles, hot peppers, bread, cakes, pies and gatoraide to drink.

Compliments to our

good cooks at the Presbyterian church were appreciated and each of us feel blessed starting the new year volunteering for our community. (Consider volunteering one hour of your time one month this year.)

Joan Suddarth,
Breadbasket Volunteer

Choir News

The Children's Choir will resume Wednesday rehearsals on Feb. 7th after the dinner. They will rehearse from 5:55 - 6:30 in the choir room with Joanne and Vicki. Please make a special effort to have your child or children involved in the music of the church. They learn much more than just songs as music helps them to become more creative and bring out independence. The more children we have, the more activities we can offer such as puppetry, small dramatic skits, etc. Let's all try and build our children's programs not only in choir but also in Sunday School.

The month of February is Black History month. The choirs, both Contemporary and the Chancel Choir will be singing an additional anthem each Sunday during the month. This will be an arrangement of an African American Spiritual. Spirituals have played a major part in the development of American Church music and their text, though simple in syntax, carry a spiritual message that speaks to everyone. Let the choir know if you enjoy these spirituals and we'll try and include more in the services throughout the year.

The Chancel Choir will perform John Stainer's *Crucifixion* on Sunday, March 25th at the 11am worship service. This was the first performance the choir and I did together 6 years ago and we look forward to bringing it to the service again. Mark your calendars and invite your friends to come. Also, on Maundy Thursday evening, the choir will be joined by several readers in a presentation of the Passion Story. This will be a dramatic presentation, interspersed with chorales from the Passion of St. Matthew of J.S. Bach and a power point presentation showing scenes of the Passion. This will be the first of this kind of program for Maundy Thursday at FPC and will bring us closer to the understanding of the Passion. More information will be given in the March newsletter.

Susan's Workshop Times

I will be attending continuing education workshops in Philadelphia, PA from Tues., Jan. 30th - Sat., Feb. 3rd. I will be out of the office from Feb. 8th - 13th attending a Youth Workshop in Indiana. And March 23rd - 25th I will be attending a Children's Ministry Workshop in Atlanta. I am very excited to learn more from these workshops and the participants in the classes. I look forward to the experience and opportunity to bring new ideas for our congregation!

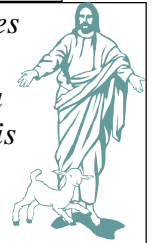
Session Report - January

- On Wednesday, Feb. 7th Bible Study and dinner will begin.
- During the Wed. series, the K-5th grade children will do a butterfly project.
- Twenty-one members joined in 2006.

Shepherd's Corner

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:1&2



February Door Greeters

- Charles Ingram
- Lucille Cameron
- Joan Wagoner
- Tommy Mann, Sr.

Singles' Luncheon

The Singles' Luncheon will be held Wed., Feb. 21st. This month's program is "Who gets grandma's yellow pie plate" presented by Susan Condlin from the NC Extension Agency. Do not miss this informative program on a subject that we do not want to think about but MUST. We want to prevent dissention in our families and this program will stop them before they can begin. Bring a friend.

Please call the church office no later than Monday, Feb. 19th to make your reservation.

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church breakfast will be held Sunday, February 18th at 8am in the Harper Center. Join us for a delicious breakfast and a great program!

Circles Meet on February 12th at:

- #1 - Layne Wright, 615 W. Chisholm Street
- # 2 - Katharine Taylor, 404 Hawkins Avenue
- # 3 - Church Parlor
- # 4 - Doris McPhaul, 1911 Wilkins Drive
- # 5 - Barbara McDermott, 1910 Sutphin Road
- # 6 - Mary Proctor, 4124 Chancellors Ridge Way
- # 7 - Helen Lynde, 312 Olde Towne Drive
- # 8 - Misty Gerstmyer, 329 Ribbon Oak Court, meet at the church at 6:30pm to carpool

- February Meals on Wheels**
- Circle # 5**
- Church Flowers**
- Circle # 3**



Emily Buchanan; Dorothy Foushee - Statesville; Margaret Foushee - Parkview; Charlotte Lutton; Toni Mackey; Merlee McDonald - Pinelake; Steve & Samantha Michael; Janelle & Savanna Phelps; Margaret Poe - Parkview; Joan Bland's stepfather - D.C. Holler; Jessica Brewer's mother - Linda Brewer and father - Winslow Brewer; Jerry Campbell's mother - Clarene Campbell; Carol Carlson; Joyce Mann's mother - Lorene Glasscock; Carole Petraglia's son - Philip Gregory Petraglia; Wanda Perry; Wilson Proctor's sister - Elizabeth LeCroy; Burton & Betty Sherrod's son - Marc Sherrod; Sally Suther's niece - Amanda Mager; Lucretia Sperry's grandmother - Mildred Frady; Karen Tatum's father - Wesley Spence; Jennifer Tyndall's brother - Brian Tucker; Raymond Womble's brother - Wayne Womble

First Presbyterian Church

203 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford NC 27330
919-775-5216
919-775-4465 fax
919-708-9502 prayer line

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fpcsanford.org

What's Happening in February???

Thurs., Feb. 1 - 6pm
Cardio./Sculpting

Sat., Feb. 3 - Lee County
Quiz Bowl - Mclver Hall

Sun., Feb. 4 - 9am Con-
temporary Service; 9:45am
Sunday School; 11am Wor-
ship/Children's Church;
12pm Congregational
Luncheon; 12pm Adminis-
trative Comm. Meets; 3pm
Bible Moderators

Mon., Feb. 5 - 5:30pm
Deacons Meet; 6:30pm Of-
ficers' Supper; 7pm Elders
Meet

Tues., Feb. 6 - 9am Staff
Meeting; 10am CDC
Chapel; 10:30am Seniors'
Choir; 6pm Cardio./
Sculpting

Wed., Feb. 7 - 5:30pm
Meal & Bible Study; 5:55pm
Children's Choir; 6:30pm
KICKS, Youth Club, Con-
temporary Choir; 7:30pm
Choir

Thurs., Feb. 8 - 6pm
Cardio./Sculpting

Sun., Feb. 11 - 9am Con-
temporary Service; 9:45am
Sunday School; 11am Wor-
ship/Children's Church;
12pm PW Coordinating
Team; 1pm Middle School
Youth - Rock Climbing;
6pm Sr. High Youth

Mon., Feb. 12 - Circles
Meet

Tues. Feb. 13 - 9am Staff
Meeting; 10am CDC
Chapel; 6pm Cardio./
Sculpting

Wed., Feb. 14 - 5:30pm
Meal & Bible Study; 5:55pm
Children's Choir; 6:30pm
KICKS, Youth Club, Con-
temporary Choir; 7:30pm
Choir

Thurs., Feb. 15 - 6pm
Cardio./Sculpting

Sun., Feb. 18 - 8am MOC
Breakfast; 9am Contempo-

rary Service; 9:45am Sunday
School; 11am Worship/
Children's Church; 5pm
Stephen Ministers/Leaders;
6pm Youth

Tues., Feb. 20 - 9am Staff
Meeting; 10am CDC
Chapel; 10:30am Seniors'
Choir; 6pm Cardio./
Sculpting; 6pm CDC Board
Meets

Wed., Feb. 21 - 12pm
Singles' Luncheon; 5:30pm
Meal & Bible Study; 5:55pm
Children's Choir; 6:30pm
KICKS, Youth Club, Con-
temporary Choir; 7:30pm
Choir

Thurs., Feb. 22 - 6pm
Cardio./Sculpting

Sun., Feb. 25 - 9am Con-
temporary Service; 9:45am
Sunday School; 11am Wor-
ship/Children's Church;
4pm Congregational Care
Comm.; 6pm Youth; 7pm
New Member Comm., Wit-
ness Comm.; 7:30pm Com-
mittees Meet

Mon., Feb. 26 - 10am Bi-
ble Study

Tues., Feb. 27 - 9am Staff
Meeting; 10am CDC
Chapel; 6pm Cardio./
Sculpting

Wed., Feb. 28 - 5:30pm
Meal & Bible Study; 5:55pm
Children's Choir; 6:30pm
KICKS, Youth Club, Con-
temporary Choir; 7:30pm
Choir

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



Mike and Shandalyn
Matson on the birth of
their son,
Chase Michael Matson.