

The Bulletin Board

✝ A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

January 2006

1st Annual Chili Cook-off Followed by Talent Show Sponsored by the Missions Committee

Calling all cooks! Do you have a special recipe for chili? Now is your opportunity to see how it measures up to all of the other "special" chili recipes in our church. On January 29, at 6:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church will have its very first "Chili Cook-off" in combination with our January church supper. Make a crockpot of your favorite chili to share and to be judged. Categories will include hottest, most original, etc., and you may choose to make it with or without beans. You will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite chili and support the Mwandi Endowment at the same time. In addition, cornbread, drinks and desserts will be provided. The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. The maximum amount per family is \$15 (the Session recently approved a \$1 increase for the price of an adult ticket). This



event is being sponsored by the Missions Committee and all proceeds will go to support the Mwandi Endowment fund. If you have any questions, you may contact Mark Auten at 704-663-2494.

Following the chili supper, we will have our seventh annual Talent Show. As always, this fun-filled event is one you don't want to miss. Come out and enjoy a variety of talents displayed by members of our congregation. The show is open to anyone and you may sign-up by contacting Alan Sledge.

Be sure to mark your calendar because you will certainly want to share in the activities of this evening!



TALENT SHOW

A DECEMBER BLESSING, A CONTINUING CHALLENGE

The Congregation was challenged during the month of December to make a special stewardship effort to help our church end the year on a positive note. The good news is that many of you have responded and we are in a much improved financial condition compared to a year ago. Our sincere thanks to all who have responded to **A December Challenge**. As we celebrate God's great gift of Jesus Christ, it is important that we end the year positively as responsible stewards of his kingdom on earth.

The continuing challenge is for us to pay all of our benevolent commitments and to retire the deficit incurred at the end of last year. **We have two more Sundays left in the December Challenge effort.** If you would like to join in making 2005 a banner year in gratitude for God's blessings, please be sure your gift is dated no later than December 31.

Thanks and blessings,
Russell E. Mose

Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year



Today (December 15, 2005) is the anniversary of my becoming Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. One of my responsibilities is to submit an annual report to the Presbytery of Salem concerning what we have accomplished so far, and what remains to be done as we await the coming of a new pastor. I thought you might like to see a summary of what was submitted with regard to accomplishments:

- >Church roll has been brought up to date
- >Job descriptions of the 11 paid employees of the church updated
- >Upgraded the process for keeping worship attendance records
- >Worked to bring the Mwandu project into the mainstream of the church's mission work and budget
- >Major policy changes with regard to the use of the church properties and the loaning of church equipment
- >Accomplished a re-keying project for part of the church's facility
- >Worked on and accomplished the adoption of a Harassment Policy for the church
- >Formed a new committee to oversee the reception of new members
- >Made pastoral calls on several members of the church, and on prospective members, as well as hospital patients locally and in Charlotte
- >Established quarterly dates for the reception of members
- >Began study of the 11:00 worship service, with concern for flow and coherence of its various elements, the reading of the Word, preaching of the Word, music and sacraments
- >Began preparations for a strong stewardship program, including a mission fair and visitation teams, October 16 being Stewardship Sunday
- >Submitted the 17 category six-months' report of the Interim Pastor to Salem Presbytery
- >Participated in the revision of how church officer nominating committees should function to produce less controversy and more productive results
- >Held personnel reviews for all eleven employees of the church, using for the first time evaluation forms filled out by the pastor in each case, and a separate form by the employee in each case, with a face-to-face review process, the results then being written up and submitted along with all the forms to the Personnel Committee. These will be on file for future reference, with the intention that a similar process will be followed in future years
- >Took communion to shut-in members of the church following World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2005
- >Brought the three Mwandu special offerings (Mwandu Communications, Mwandu Endowments, Mwandu Orphans and Vulnerable Children) into the church budget as line items under Witness and Service
- >Established a committee to follow up on new member prospects
- >Called a retreat for the Executive Committee to discern God's will for the immediate future of the church, in terms of 1, 5 and 10 years out. It was determined to create a task force that would act promptly to bring results that could help the PNC in the final part of their process in finding a prospective pastor for the church
- >Task force created and presented its findings on December 4, 2005. These include goals for one year, 5 years, and 10 years
- >Completely redefined and aligned all the committees of the session, and completely redefined and aligned the duties of the board of deacons. This has brought greater clarity and eliminated overlap between committees of the session, and the deacons are no longer in charge of building and grounds, and can now concentrate on their historic and biblical ministry of congregational care and ministries within the community
- >Presented a December Challenge Offering to the congregation to fund the "faith line" put in the budget at the beginning of the year to close the gap between the amount pledged that the amount budgeted for 2005
- >Received 37 new members during the year, including several by adult baptism. The church will show a net gain for the year of about 15 members
- >Established a policy manual for the church, so that policies adopted in the past will be readily available instead of having to be found in past session minutes
- >Continued to empower laity whenever and wherever possible, bringing the church more into a systemic and programmatic entity

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Interim Pastor for the past year.

Russell E. Mase

SESSION AND DIACONATE REORGANIZATION

The Session has approved a reorganization of its own committee structure, and a reorganization of the Diaconate and its committees as well. The purpose of these changes is to accomplish the work of the church in a more efficient and appropriate manner, at the same time maintaining a close working relationship among the committees of both Session and Diaconate. This plan will relieve the Deacons of building and grounds responsibilities so they may concentrate on their biblical calling as ministers to the congregation through a parish plan, and to the community's poor and needy.

The Session committee structure will look like this:

Executive	Budget & Finance	Christian Education
Membership & Evangelism	Missions Committee	Personnel & Administration
Property Committee	Weekday Preschool Committee	Worship & Music Committee

Changes to note: the **Executive Committee** will function much as in the past, coordinating the work of the Session's committees and the Deacons' committees, setting dates for church events, and assuring that the necessary congregational events are scheduled.

The **Budget & Finance Committee** will combine the work of the former Finance Committee and some of the duties of the former Commitment Committee. This will include a year round stewardship emphasis, budgeting, arranging for audits, etc.

The **Christian Education Committee** will remain unchanged and will provide for and oversee the educational ministry of the congregation.

The **Membership & Evangelism Committee** will provide for the proclamation of the gospel in the Mooresville area, and be the outreach arm of the church in bringing new members into the fellowship of First Presbyterian Church. It will arrange for evangelistic services for the congregation and the community.

The **Missions Committee** will continue the work of the former Witness and Service Committee. The new name may better describe its responsibilities.

The **Personnel & Administration Committee** will maintain a personnel policy, establish and maintain job descriptions, monitor need for staff, conduct annual reviews, and oversee all staff and their work.

The **Property Committee** represents perhaps the greatest change. By bringing the building and grounds and church van needs under a session committee, it's believed that the "lag time" between recommendations coming from the diaconate and session action can be reduced, and that emergency needs and long range planning for the plant and grounds can be facilitated.

The **Weekday Preschool Committee** will continue unchanged, as it maintains the high standards of our weekday preschool, and looks to future needs and opportunities.

The **Worship & Music Committee** will oversee essentially everything that happens in the sanctuary, or wherever music and worship occurs in the church. The name change more accurately describes what they do.

The Board of Deacons structure will look like this:

Congregational Ministries	Community Ministries
<i>Parish Plan Fellowship</i>	<i>Emergency Relief</i>
<i>Technical Services</i>	

The Deacons will have two major divisions, those concerned with ministry within the congregation, and those concerned with ministry to the community around us.

The **Parish Plan** is a generic term for any organized way of ministering to the church family. What is presently called the Neighborhood Groups will continue, or be modified, or restructured as time goes on, to better serve the needs of the congregation.

The **Fellowship Committee** will be in charge of all luncheons and suppers open to the entire congregation, and special events such as the all Saints' Eve Celebration, the Fourth of July picnic, and the annual Labor Day Retreat.

The **Technical Services Committee** working with the Property Committee of the Session will oversee the scheduling and use of all audio-visual/technical equipment owned by the church, including video projectors, sound systems, telephones, etc. This committee will recommend to the Session any equipment upgrades or replacements needed.

The newly structured committees of both boards will begin in January, 2006. There will be a combined meeting of all committees (of both elders and deacons) at 7:00 p.m. on January 8. Following an orientation meeting, the various committees will then meet separately to being work under this new arrangement.

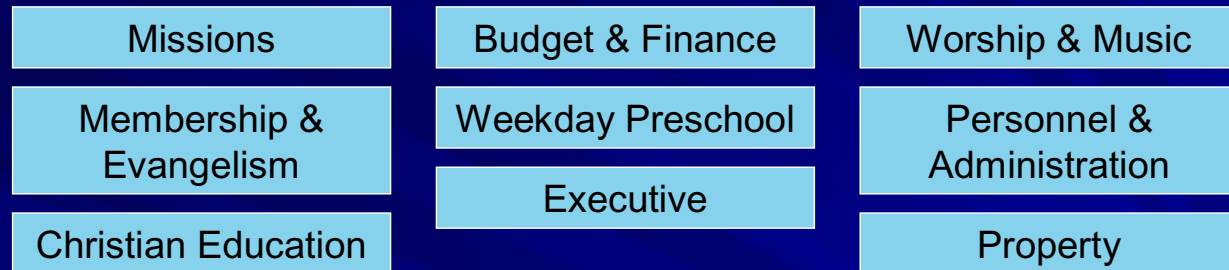
No doubt there will be some adjustments necessary as time goes on, but members of both the Session and the Diaconate have expressed support and enthusiasm for this new way of conducting business. Your support and prayers for your church officers will, as always, be greatly appreciated.

(See Structural Chart on following page)

New Organizational Structure

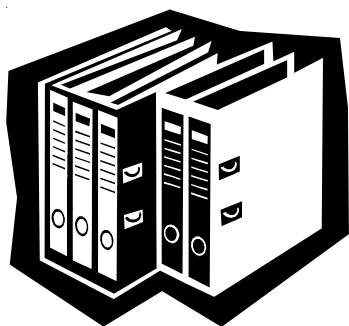
Session

21 Elders, 2 Ministers • Officers: Moderator (Pastor), Clerk
 Meets 4th Sunday + Called meetings
 Quorum: Moderator + 11 members (Moderator + 5 members to receive new members)



Board of Deacons

21 Deacons • Officers: Moderator, Asst. Moderator, Secretary
 Meets 3rd Sunday + Called meetings
 Quorum: Moderator + 11 members (including an officer)



Church archives are catalogued in binder

Thanks to Elaine Drye for compiling several binders with First Presbyterian history, including items such as old pictures, documents, pastor biographies, anniversary celebration information, along with assorted memorabilia. The notebooks may be found in the church office. Contact church staff for more information.

A page from the library

With the start of a new year, make New Year's promises that pay off over a lifetime. The library has some "healthy" reading for you:

Ten Essentials of Highly Healthy People, by Walt Larimore, MD, host of radio and television's Focus on the Family Health, will teach you what you can do to be not only healthy (or healthier) but highly healthy. You'll learn what will make your journey through life not only better but also more satisfying, richer and more meaningful!

Also available are Dr. Larimore's books, God's Design for the Highly Healthy Child, The Highly Healthy Child, and God's Design for the Highly Healthy Teenager.

These books will show you how to balance the physical, emotional, relational and spiritual parts of life to achieve maximum health.



Ellie Den Bleyker

Weekday Preschool

We could **not** have had a more joyous Christmas program, and thank you to all the parents and grandparents for coming to hear your child sing. What initially looked like a disaster with the closing of school turned out to be a blessing in disguise as we got to see and hear our entire preschool at once! We were all so very pleased with the terrific performances that the children gave during the programs, and we appreciate your enthusiasm for your child's accomplishments. If anyone was lucky enough to get a digital picture of the group, please email it to me at Preschool@moorevillefirstpres.org. I would appreciate it so much!!

We are looking ahead to the cold and snowy days of January, but this time we hope to only talk, sing and do art projects about the snow. If we experience the real thing (!), we have had some practice with closings and delays. Remember, we follow the Mooresville city schools.



We will reopen school on **Tuesday, January 3** and Lunch Bunch will begin on January 4. The teachers have some fun units planned for Foreign Languages, The Rainforest, Arctic Blast, Princes & Princesses and Year Round Weather. Please note that the Preschool will be **closed on Monday, January 16, and Monday and Tuesday, January 23 and 24**. We are in the process of registration for the 2006-2007 school year, so please tell your friends and neighbors to register their child. Church members not already enrolled are welcome and encouraged to call me and reserve a spot.

January Bible verse: "Jesus said, 'Love one another.'" John 15:17.

With Love,
Mrs. Nancy



Thank You

The Missions Committee (formerly Witness and Service) would like to thank the person who generously treated the committee to a meal at Jeffrey's. It was great!



Thank you, Jennifer

Jennifer Jordan, our church Hostess, will be resigning from her position effective December 31, 2005. She is accepting the Executive Director's position of the Mooresville Soup Kitchen. We sincerely thank Jennifer for the able service she has provided and extend our gratitude to her for the fine job she has done during the past two and a half years.

Thanks from Mwandi

39 OVC students sponsored for 2006

What a generous congregation and community this is! Once again a significant number of Zambian children who would not otherwise be able to attend school will be able to extend their education thanks to the contributions of their friends here in the Mooresville area. A total of \$6450 was contributed by 26 people to fund a whole year's education for 39 children. There are 29 children sponsored at the Sesheke High School (a year's room, board, uniforms, books, fees and transportation is \$200) and 10 sponsored at the Mwandi Night School (\$65 fee). The OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) Center Director, Fiona-Dixon Thompson, extends her sincere gratitude, along with that of the children, for all the sponsorships. What a great Christmas gift!



A personal word of thanks...

...to the officers and congregation

This past year has been filled with a lot of changes and "challenges." One thing has remained constant, however... your wonderful support and encouragement! Your many thoughtful expressions of love and support throughout the year, and especially during the Christmas holiday season, have been very much appreciated.

As we look forward together to the coming year, we pray that God will continue to bless you as you have blessed us! Thank you for all you do in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Him,
Fred and Jean Coates

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
<p align="center">1st Sunday after Christmas 1</p> <p>9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship</p> 	<p align="center">2</p> <p align="center">Office closed</p>	<p align="center">3</p> <p>2:00pm Library Committee</p>  <p>5:30pm PYF Supper Club</p>	<p>11:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm 5:30pm 5:30pm 6:45pm 7:30pm</p>
<p align="center">Baptism of the Lord 8</p> <p>8:30am Early Worship 8:30am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship with New Officer Ordination 12:00pm Congregational meeting to approve budget 3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in parlor 5:13pm PYF 7:00pm Committee Organizational Meeting and New Committee Meetings</p>	<p align="center">9</p> <p>2:00pm Circle No. 1 in the parlor 6:15pm Blessed in Christ (No. 3) in the Session room. 7:00pm Purpose Driven Life Study 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 166 7:30pm Bible Study at the home of Fred and Jean Coates</p> 	<p align="center">10</p> <p>10:00am Circle of Faith (No. 4) in the parlor 5:30pm PYF Supper Club 6:15pm Exaltation Ringers 7:30pm Women of the Word (No. 5)</p> 	<p>11:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm 5:30pm 5:30pm 7:30pm</p>
<p align="center">2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 15</p> <p>8:30am Early Worship 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Handmaidens of the Lord (No. 6) in the Parlor 7:30pm Deacon's meeting</p> 	<p align="center">16</p> <p>7:00pm Purpose Driven Life Study 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 166 7:30pm Bible Study at the home of Fred and Jean Coates</p>	<p align="center">17</p> <p>10:30am Smith Kirk's Bible Study in the Library 12:30pm Saints Alive Luncheon 5:30pm PYF Supper Club 6:15pm Exaltation Ringers</p>	<p>11:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm 5:30pm 5:30pm 7:30pm</p>
<p align="center">3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 22</p> <p>8:30a.m. PYF Ski Trip 8:30am Early Worship 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Session Meeting</p>	<p align="center">23</p> <p>7:00pm Purpose Driven Life Study 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 166 7:30pm Bible Study at the home of Fred and Jean Coates</p>	<p align="center">24</p> <p>5:30pm PYF Supper Club 6:15pm Exaltation Ringers</p>	<p>11:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm 5:30pm 5:30pm 7:30pm</p>
<p align="center">4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 29</p> <p>8:30am Early Worship 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship with MSM Handbells 5:13pm PYF 6:00pm Chili Cook-off Supper and Talent Show</p> 	<p align="center">30</p>	<p align="center">31</p> <p>10:30am Smith Kirk's Bible Study in the Library 5:30pm PYF Supper Club 6:15pm Exaltation Ringers</p>	 <p>.....</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>Logos/MSM - <i>Sports Night</i></p> <p>Kairos</p> <p>High School Bible Study at the home of the Beaver's</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Logos Parent's Meeting</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>7:00pm Mooresville User's Group</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>Logos/MSM - <i>Hilarious Hat Night</i></p> <p>Kairos</p> <p>High School Bible Study at the home of the Beaver's</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Fat Boy's</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am Women's Bible Study in the Parlor</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>Logos/MSM - <i>Flight Night</i></p> <p>Kairos</p> <p>High School Bible Study at the home of the Beaver's</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>7:00pm Sisters in Christ (No. 2) in the parlor</p> 	<p>Newsletter Deadline 20</p> <p>10:00am Women's Bible Study in the Parlor</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>Logos/MSM - <i>Super Bowl</i></p> <p>Kairos</p> <p>High School Bible Study at the home of the Beaver's</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00am Women's Bible Study in the Parlor</p>	<p>28</p>



January 2006

February 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				



New Year's Resolutions

As we begin a new calendar year, we often make resolutions to make a fresh start, to take on a new challenge, to break a bad habit, to add a good habit. As you consider goals and resolutions for 2006, consider adding regular attendance at church school to the top of your list! Consider these statistics as you consider your resolutions:

“Take the number of hours that your son or daughter spends in school each day - an average of six hours. Multiply that by the number of days per year that children attend school - 180 days. It comes to nearly 1100 hours each year that your children spend in a secular classroom.

Now add to that number the average number of hours that people watch television each day. It's over five hours each day! Multiply that by 365 days in the year. Over 1800 hours is spent in watching television each year. Add that to the 1100 hours in school and you have over 2900 hours each year that your child is being influenced by voices in our secular culture, many of which are unapologetically anti-Christian.

Compare that time with the amount of time that your child spends in church, learning the values and the truths of our faith. If your child attends worship services every single week, put down 52 hours. If your child attends worship once a month, put down 12 hours or whatever is accurate for your family.

Add to that number another 52 hours if your child attends Sunday School every single week of the year. If your child also sings in a choir and attends every single rehearsal, add another 30 to 40 hours. Even when you throw in Sunday evening youth fellowship activities, add in youth retreats and mission trips, you'll find that the total amount of time the average child or teenager spends learning about our Christian faith is about one to three percent of the amount of time spent in watching television and sitting in a secular classroom.

Consider: Are you taking advantage of every opportunity to train your children in the faith? Are you setting an example for your children by also attending?”

(Article found in *Presbyterian Weekly*, First Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia; contributed by Angie Toma)

Nursery volunteers needed

Many thanks to the faithful and dedicated nursery workers who help in our preschool nurseries on a regular basis, as well as all those wonderful nursery substitutes who lend a hand at a moment's notice. You are greatly appreciated for your hard work!



We still have a few nursery volunteer needs. Listed below are the times and nurseries that need loving, nurturing volunteers:

11:00 a.m. nursery

1st and 3rd Sundays - 2's and 3's

2nd Sunday - 4's and 5's

5th Sunday - Infants

Thanks for Christmas Eve nursery help

Special thanks to Becky McIntosh, Martha Peacock, and Shirley Whittington for volunteering to keep the preschool nursery on Christmas Eve. The nurseries were a lively place that evening, with much Christmas excitement and anticipation, and we express our appreciation to these volunteers for entertaining the preschoolers during the candlelight service. Thank you for your gift of time!



Christmas pageant thanks

I was so proud of all the participants in the Christmas pageant, and the part they played in telling the beautiful story of Jesus' birth. Thank you to all the children who participated as one of the important characters in the story as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, cows, donkey, angels, wise men, prophets, narrators, and star holders! You were wonderful, and you touched our hearts as we were reminded again of the timeless story of Jesus coming to earth as a baby.



Thank you also to the following adults who helped behind the scenes: Billie Brawley, Janie Carpenter, Judy Cole, Sheryl and Stephanie Davis, Leeann DeCastro, the Moskel family, Becky Rader, Cindy Ray, Nancy Smith, and Susan Williams. We couldn't have done it without you!

Saints tour Darshana Hall

Twelve Saints went on an afternoon trip to tour historic Darshana Hall in Cleveland, NC, on Friday, December 2. Following a delicious lunch at Julia's Talley House in Troutman, the group enjoyed a holiday tour of Darshana Hall. The former plantation house was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season; the group also was treated to spiced cider and cookies as part of the tour. Participants included Geneva Adams, Kathleen and Larry Bates, Betty Brawley, Frankie Craig, Mary and Dick Fortanbary, Judy Jordan, Betsy Morgan, Estelle Mott, Althea Nelson, and Ellen Auten. Thanks to Mary Fortanbary for driving.



December Saints Alive luncheon

The December Saints Alive luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 20. The group enjoyed a delicious holiday luncheon of pork loins with apple chutney, sauteed spinach, rolls, and English trifle. Thanks to Jennifer Jordan and her talented kitchen crew for the delicious meal! And thanks also to Lynelle Owen for decorating the tables so beautifully. Smith Kirk presented an inspiring devotional and challenged the group to remember our shut-ins and friends with special needs during the holidays. The group enjoyed the video, "Christmas at Biltmore House" for the program, where we saw a behind-the-scenes look at the magnificent Biltmore Estate preparing for and celebrating Christmas in grand style.

Operation Christmas Child

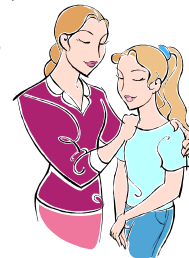
Six volunteers traveled to the new Charlotte Processing Center off of Nations Ford Road to work on processing Christmas shoe boxes for needy children on Thursday, December 8. The group worked diligently from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and accomplished a lot during the four hours. We were especially interested to learn that the boxes we worked on that day were being shipped to Zambia and Mexico. Perhaps we were processing some boxes that might go to the children in Mwandi, Zambia! Volunteers included Ellen Auten, Shirley Crowley, Mimi Dobbins, Elaine Drye, Helen Johnston, and Lucile McClure.

Start early looking for shoe box items for 2006! We hope to have another shoe box packing event and donate many boxes from our church family next year.

Women's Bible study to begin January 13

A Woman After God's Own Heart

A ten-week Bible study designed for women will begin Friday, January 13, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The study, "A Woman After God's Own Heart," written by Elizabeth George, features group study and discussion and a 30 minute video presentation. Ellen Auten will be leading the study, which will be held in the church parlor.



This topical ten-week study teaches women how to develop a heart for God and his Word, for prayer and personal discipline, plus how to develop a heart of love for your husband, your children, your friends, and others. You'll discover a new passion for living through the power of prayer and God's Word!

Child care will be available; pre-registration is essential so that adequate arrangements may be made. Please complete the registration form if you are interested in attending the study, and turn in to the church office.

"A Woman After God's Own Heart"

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Child care needed _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please tell name and age of child/children:

Child care workers needed

As mentioned in the above article, we will begin a women's Bible study on Friday, January 13, and we are offering child care for the entire 10-week study. Please contact Ellen Auten if you know of persons who may be interested in being hired for this important service to young mothers. Hours would be from 9:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Music Notes by Alan Sledge

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Psalm 95:1

Why Do We Sing Hymns?

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, hymn singing is at the heart of worship practice. Early on, Christians were specifically identified as “those people who sang hymns.”

To understand why **Christians** sing hymns, a good place to start is to look at the biblical record for documentation of hymn singing. Here are but a few examples:



NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 26:29-31 And when they had sung a **hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Acts 16:24-26 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing **hymns** to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

Ephesians 5:19 addressing one another in psalms and **hymns** and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart,

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and **hymns** and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your heart.

SING(ING) TO THE LORD

Exodus 15:21 And Miriam sang to them: “**Sing to the LORD**, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

1 Chronicles 16:23 **Sing to the Lord**, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

Instances of singing in the Bible in general and hymn singing in particular can be summarized:

☪ as a “group activity” (individuals did not sing a hymn by themselves)

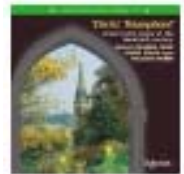
☪ to cheer each other up (Paul and Silas in prison).

☪ for edification (for moral & spiritual instruction. See Cor., 14: 25-27; Col., 3:16

“It is the voice of the church that is heard in singing together. It is not you that sings, it is the church that is singing, and you, as a member of the church, may share its song.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

If you’re looking to add something new to your music collection, try some recordings of great hymns. Here are a few suggestions.



Sing, Ye Heavens (21 familiar hymns, most arranged by John Rutter,) Cambridge Singers: Collegium Records, COLCD 126

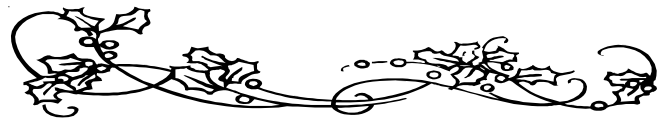
Christ Triumphant (Great hymn tunes of the 20th century,) Well Cathedral Choir: Hyperion CDP12101

Holy, Holy, Holy (Favorite hymns,) King’s College Choir: Music Heritage Society, 513403z

Fill the World with Loudest Praise (11 Concertatos,) St. Paul’s Chamber Choir, Houston, Texas: Selah Publishing, 520425

Amazing Grace (American hymns and spirituals,) Robert Shaw Festival Singers: Telarch, CD80325

Great Hymns of Faith, The St. Olaf Choir: St. Olaf Records E-2294



This past year has been a wonderful time spent in the life of this church. LuAnne and I are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church, and look forward to the coming year. Thank you so much for your prayers and kind words throughout this Christmas season.



HAPPY NEW YEAR.

YOUTH PAGE

Ski trip set for January 22

Let's hit the slopes again!

PYF will be leaving again on a *Sunday* morning, January 22, at 8:30 a.m. to travel to the Winterplace Ski Resort in Flat Top, West Virginia for an evening of skiing. As we did last year, we will stop to worship along the way in Hillsville, Virginia. After church and a quick lunch, we'll complete our trek to West Virginia and check in at the slopes around 4:00 p.m. for the 5-10 p.m. ski session.



We'll pack up for home at 10:00 p.m. and, of course, stop along the way for a "little snack" to hold us over while we journey home. We anticipate returning to Mooresville around 2:00 a.m. on Monday (don't worry, it's a school holiday!).

It's going to be a lot of fun! Information sheets will be mailed to you and will also be available of the PYF web page. You can check it all out online at:

www.mooresvillefirstpres.org/youth.htm

Special hunger relief offering set for February 5

"Souper" party also planned

Rumor has it that there's going to be some kind of big "Bowl" in February (something to do with football...?). Of course, the really BIG BOWL is the one PYF will be sponsoring.



For several years now, PYF has sponsored a special hunger relief offering that coincides with football's Super Bowl Sunday. The idea originated with the Senior High Fellowship of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. Since its inception in 1990, this unique ecumenical effort has grown to include more than 15,000 churches representing all 50 states and Canada. **Since its beginning, more than \$28,000,000 has been raised for hunger relief!**

We want to make this year's "Souper Sunday" offering total even bigger. The proceeds from our local offering will be used to help the Mooresville Christian Mission and the Mooresville Soup Kitchen meet the needs of the hungry in our community.

So, let's talk it up and encourage everyone to be prepared to "tackle hunger" on "Souper Bowl" Sunday, February 5! We'll be asking a \$2.00 (or more!)

contribution and one canned food item from every person at worship on February 5. We want everyone to help us score big against hunger!

Souper Bowl Party - Everyone is invited!

PYF will be hosting a "souper" party on Sunday, February 5, in the Youth Room. As has been our custom for several years, we will gather to watch the football Super Bowl on the big screen television and then report in with our Souper Bowl of Caring offering total. Everyone is invited to enjoy the festivities starting at 5:00 p.m. "Admission" is one (or more) family-sized pantry item to be taken to the Mooresville Christian Mission). Bring a friend!



PYF Mission Ball

Mark your calendar for Feb. 11

Last year the "Second Chance Prom" was a big hit with all who came! So, we are planning a reprise this year as the PYF "Mission Ball." The format will basically be the same, with the funds raised helping to offset the PYF Summer Mission trip expenses. More information will be available soon, but mark your calendars now to bring your "sweetie" for a great night of fun on February 11!

A Look Ahead: January

It's the start of a year, so resolve to start it off by joining us on Sundays at PYF. It's a great way to spend your time... and to consider some of God's Timeless Truths! Here's this month's timetable:



Jan 1 - Happy New Year!

3 - Supper Club, 5:30 p.m.

8 - PYF SALTeens, 5:13 p.m.

10 - Supper Club, 5:30 p.m.

15 - PYF SALTeens, 5:13 p.m.

17 - Supper Club, 5:30 p.m.

22 - Ski Trip to Winterplace, 8:30 a.m.

24 - Supper Club, 5:30 p.m.

29 - Chili Cook-off & Talent Show, 6:00 p.m.

Feb 5 - "Souper Bowl" offering

- "Souper Bowl" Game Party, 5:00 p.m. until

LOGOS January Update

January 4 will be the beginning of the spring semester of Logos/MSM. We will begin with “Sports Night” on January 4, followed by “Hilarious Hat” night (Jan. 11), “Flight Night” (Jan. 18), and “Super Bowl” (Jan. 25).

On January 29, the MSM Hand bells will help lead our service at the 11:00 a.m. service. The Logos choir will be helping lead our service on February 5 at the 8:30 a.m. service.

The Confirmation Class has been very busy during the fall, and they will continue their hard work during the spring semester. Be sure to keep them in your prayers and show them your support as they work toward a closer relationship with their savior. This group will be meeting with the Session on Sunday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m.

We cannot express how much volunteers mean to this program or how much we appreciate congregational involvement and support. Without them this program would not be possible. We are blessed to have adults who are so generous with their time and so willing to share their talents. One area has been particularly blessed with talented volunteers this semester. That area is Recreation. We would like to thank the following very talented and giving volunteers: Jennifer Robinson for teaching the children all about the importance of fitness and exercise (all while wearing a “super” flattering costume), Rick and Judith McLean and Darrin Bridges for so kindly sharing their horses and making sure each child had an exciting ride, Lisa Davidson and Jen McNeely for teaching the children cake decorating, Frank Rader for supplying a super fun hayride, June and Emmy Tyson and Jerilyn Fair for spending not one, but TWO, weeks teaching the

children to knit, and Scott Vaughn for sharing his equipment and talent as a d.j. with us on “Disco Night”. We are so grateful to each of you! Thank you as well to Jill Herring for inviting all of these volunteers and for planning and organizing such fun activities for the children. You are a blessing!

If you have a talent to share with the Logos/MSM participants, please contact Jill Herring or Valerie Mauney. We would love to extend to you the honor of serving our Lord through his children.

I look forward to serving you all during this very exciting new semester.

May God Bless You,
Valerie Mauney



We would like to thank all for the thoughtfulness, care and prayers everyone has shown to us while Maria had surgery. We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family that makes the surgery and recovery much easier.

Phil and Maria Heilman



Visit us on the web at:

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