

The Bulletin Board

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

February 2007

Lent in the Living Room

Small Group Program Launches in February

- **Registration Starts Feb. 4**
- **Groups Begin the Week of the First Sunday of Lent, Feb. 25**

You will have the opportunity to participate in something new and exciting for First Presbyterian Church this Lent—a small group program called *Lent in the Living Room*.

During *Lent in the Living Room*, small groups of between 8-14 people will meet once a week for six sessions in a host family's home in locations throughout the Mooresville area during the six weeks of Lent. When they meet, they do the following: 1) study the Scriptures together, using the sermon passage preached the previous Sunday as the text; 2) discuss with the help of a trained small group facilitator and discussion questions provided; 3) share with one another and get to know each other; and 4) pray together.

The sermons preached during Lent will connect with the Scriptures the groups will be discussing and will follow a specific theme throughout the season. This year's theme is "Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter." What is your growing edge? It is that place in life where God is working with you most to shape and mold your character more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Here are the sermons and Scripture passages our pastors will preach during Lent.

"Living on Your Growing Edge: Discipleship with the Apostle Peter" Preaching Schedule

- 1st Sunday of Lent, February 25: "When You're Out of Your Comfort Zone," Luke 5:1-11.
- 2nd Sunday of Lent, March 4: "When You Step Out in Faith," Matthew 14:22-33.
- 3rd Sunday of Lent, March 11: "When You-Know-Who Shows Up," Luke 9:28-36.
- 4th Sunday of Lent, March 18: "When You Finally Get It Right," Matthew 16:13-17.
- 5th Sunday of Lent, March 25: "When You Have Nowhere Else to Turn," John 6:60-69.
- 6th Sunday of Lent, April 1 (Palm Sunday): "When You've Blown It," Matthew 26:30-35, 69-75.

(continued on page 12)

It's Time for the Annual Talent Show & Church Supper

Come one and come all, it's talent show time again. Our seventh annual Talent Show is Sunday evening, February 11, following a covered dish supper at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The show is open to anyone and, yes, you can still sign up by simply seeing Alan Sledge anytime before Sunday evening. Do you know someone who has a talent to share? Give them a call and encourage them to be a part of this fun evening.

What can you expect to see on stage? Well, just about anything. There will be singers, dancers, instrumentalists, and even a few things that defy labeling. The purpose of the event is to share some fun, some laughs and fellowship with the church family. As usual, childcare will be provided during the show. Make plans to join us Sunday evening, February 11 on stage or in the audience. You will not want to miss this!

The meal will be a covered dish supper coordinated by church hostess Jerilyn Fair and volunteers from Circle No. 2, assisted by members of the Diaconate. The church will provide meat and drinks; you will bring the sides and desserts. There will be donation baskets on the tables to cover the cost of the meat. Come out for a night of family fun!





From the Pastor...

On Preaching as the Word of God

It isn't often that the professional development or continuing education conferences one attends are both worth the money and worth the time. On many occasions I've been disappointed and discouraged, asking myself afterward why I bothered to go.

But the preaching conference I attended January 16-18, "Preaching with Passion," was not only well worth the expense and the time. It also was simply one of the best, most practical, and most theologically grounded conferences in which I've ever participated. The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, former chaplain of the U. S. Senate, former pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, CA, and one of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s best preachers, shared with a small group of 50 pastors and church staff members gathered at Fuller Theological Seminary his wisdom and insight on preaching.

One of the first things Dr. Ogilvie said grabbed me by the scruff of my neck and hasn't let me go yet. He didn't originate it, but instead it has been part of the Presbyterian understanding of preaching since the beginning. He quoted from one of the official statements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions, the *Second Helvetic Confession*, one of the most arresting, amazing, exciting sentences ever penned. I highlight it for you below, with a key word underlined, so you won't miss it:

"The preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God."

In other words, when we hear a sermon that is faithfully prepared and presented, we are hearing God's Word to us for that day. The preaching of God's Word is directly equated to God's Word itself. We are not hearing a mere secondary, inconsequential human lecture of uncertain origin or importance. God is speaking to us through all his Word's truth and transformational power. The *Second Helvetic Confession* goes on to say that not even a wicked, sinful minister can derail God's communication and transformation of us if the Word preached is authentic, for "even if he be evil and a sinner, nevertheless the Word of God remains still true and good" (5.004).

Now there is one caveat we must note. We are not saying that all sermons are the Word of God. No, not by a long shot. I've heard (and sometimes have preached) sermons that approached Scripture as something tangential to what the preacher was really about, or as a mere launching point for what the preacher really wanted to say, never to be returned to again. Worse, I've heard sermons that even deconstructed the Scripture passage they were supposedly connected to, twisting the Scripture like a wax nose that can be molded into almost any shape and making the Bible say whatever the preacher desired. These sermons are not the Word of God because they are not grounded in the Word of God.

But—sermons that explain and apply the Biblical text in responsible, faithful, and engaging ways—now these sermons are indeed the Word of God for us today!

Dr. Ogilvie elaborated, "It is this realization that the exposition of Scripture is the Word of God that gives excitement to your preaching." No kidding! It gives me excitement, along with a great deal of fear and awe, in the preparation and delivery of my preaching. Going through the motions simply isn't in the cards if you believe preaching is this significant! I have to prepare well, to pray, and present my sermon with my very best energy and ability, and then to trust in the supernatural power and presence of God to speak through it.

But it should give you excitement too! When you hear sermons thus prepared and presented, you're hearing God's voice. Who wants to miss what God is saying to you? From now on, no sermon should be commonplace or perfunctory. When you least expect it, God's voice will come leaping out of the sermon, addressing your deepest and truest needs.

New Member Recognition Sunday February 11

The Lord continues to lead men, women, boys, and girls to First Pres by professions of faith, transfers of membership, and reaffirmations of faith, and we rejoice in those who respond to the Holy Spirit's leading.

We will introduce those persons who have become members of First Presbyterian Church in November, December, and January during worship on Sunday, February 11. Afterward, you'll have the opportunity to greet our new members during the refreshment time following worship in the Parlor and welcome them to the First Family. Make these folks feel welcome!



Thursdays with Clay

Continue on February 15 and 22,
1:00-3:00 and 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The popular study series “Thursdays with Clay” continues on two Thursdays in February with two “Understanding and Answering...” short courses on differing topics of interest.

“**Understanding and Answering the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**”—February 15 attempts to offer a basic understanding of what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, popularly called the Mormons, believe and how these beliefs compare with traditional Christianity.

“**Understanding and Answering the Crisis in the Presbyterian Church USA**”—February 22 is a change from the previously listed offering, “Understanding and Answering Common Objections to Christianity,” which will be offered at a later date. This new course will focus on the issues of theology, community, and polity that concern many within the Presbyterian Church USA, such as the ordination of self-affirming, practicing gays and lesbians as church officers, salvation through Jesus Christ alone, the role of the Bible in the church, and the connections of congregations with larger governing bodies such as presbytery and the General Assembly.

Both courses are concentrated and self-contained in a two-hour time period, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and

from 7:00-9:00 p.m., to help you use your time wisely and to provide the optimal introduction to the topic at hand. The material presented from 1:00-3:00 p.m. is

repeated at 7:00-9:00 p.m.,

so you may choose which ever time period fits your schedule best. There are no fees for any of the courses.

Your teacher is our pastor/head of staff, Clay Brown. Clay earned his Ph.D. in philosophy and apologetics from Trinity Theological Seminary (with endorsement from the University of Liverpool) and has successfully taught courses on these topics.

Textbooks are not required for these courses, although helpful resources will be suggested for further reading and study.

Registration is strongly encouraged so we can prepare enough resources for participants. You can contact the church office by calling 704-664-5275, or by emailing us at secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org. Free child care will be provided upon advance notice given to the church office at registration.

Discover First Pres Class

Sunday, March 4, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Considering becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church family? A new member? Want to know more about this community of faith? An excellent opportunity is coming your way!

A one-time class, *Discover First Pres*, is scheduled for Sunday, March 4, 6:00-9:00 p.m. We'll begin with a dessert reception at the manse next to the church, hosted by our pastor/head of staff and his wife, Clay and Cathy Brown. Then we'll move to the church for a tour and a brief introduction to all things Presbyterian led by Dr. Brown, as well as the chance to meet some of the staff and lay leaders of the congregation. Meeting people, sharing information, orienting you to the First Pres family, and having a good time are the watchwords of the evening. It should be great fun!

If you're interested or have any questions, please call or email the church office at 704-664-5275 or secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org. Space is limited, so make your reservations today.



Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

To Be Celebrated February 25

To mark the beginning of the season of Lent, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during both worship services on the First Sunday of Lent, February 25. “The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been



THE LORD'S SUPPER

baptized, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. . . . Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive. . . .” (Presbyterian Church U.S.A. *Book of Order*, W-2.4011 and W-2.4012)

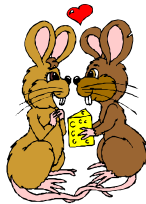
Fun & Fellowship Group

Everyone is invited to join us at Golden Corral restaurant on February 8 at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of great fellowship, good food and an evening of rich enjoyment with your church family. We meet the second Thursday at 6:00 p.m. every month. If you have questions, you may call Althea Nelson at 704-663-5998.



Churchmice

Thanks so much for being that special secret friend to our college students. February lends a hand in your decision on the kind of “care package” you might like to send to your student. Anything connected to “Valentines” would be perfect. Please don’t forget them. It will be nice for them to receive “love” from their church. Thanks so much.



Presbyterian Men

Every Valentine’s Day candy, flowers, cards (estimated at one billion), and gifts are exchanged between loved ones. On February 11 at 8:30 a.m., Presbyterian Men will hold their monthly breakfast. In addition to the fellowship, we will take special efforts to remind the men that they will have but three more days (February 14 is Valentine’s Day) to (at a very minimum) make sure that one of the billion cards sold is one they purchased...



The Presbyterian Men’s breakfast this month will feature a presentation by Mr. John Koppelmeyer- president of the Barium Springs Home for Children. As you may know, Barium Springs initially began as an orphanage and today it continues its wonderful outreach by providing residential care, educational services, childcare, and a campus ministry. Men are invited to bring their families to this breakfast and hear about a true valentine: the services that Barium Springs provides to North Carolina families and children. Please call the church office and let them know how many family members will be attending.

Gene Vaughan
President-Presbyterian Men

Introducing Our Newest Members

Trey and Susan Weir transferred their membership to FPC in November. Trey came from St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Charlotte and Susan from First Baptist Church in Summerfield, NC. They have two children, Sydney and Emily, and reside at 184 Bayberry Creek Circle, Mooresville, 28117. They can be reached at 704-660-3242.



Elizabeth Rafi also joined with First Pres in November, transferring from First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro, VA. She is a stay-at-home mom with two boys, William and Ethan. They live in Mooresville at 104 Laurel Glen Drive, 28115 and their phone number is 704-660-0746.



Jason and Susan Kendall and their son Harrison united with First Presbyterian December 17, 2006.

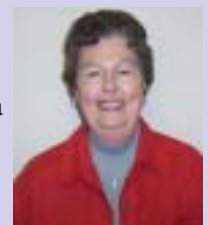
Jason transferred from Arden First Baptist Church of Arden, NC, and Susan from St. John’s the Beloved Catholic Church in Summerville, SC. They make their home at 125 Fontanelle Drive, Mooresville, NC 28117 and can be reached at 704-660-0458.



Mark Greene, husband of Julie Greene and father of Meghan and Jordan, transferred his membership from Central United Methodist Church here in Mooresville to FPC in November. Mark has attended First Pres for some time and resides at 122 Windchime Lane (P.O. Box 112), Mooresville, NC 28115. His phone number is 704-663-7989.



Libby Greene joined with First Pres as an affiliate member on January 7, 2007. Her primary membership is at Clemmons Moravian Church, but she has also attended FPC for a long time. Libby is a registered nurse who resides at 1238 Grace Meadow Drive, Mooresville, 28115 and can be reached at 704-663-5009.



Weekday Preschool

The month of January turned out to be lovely for the first 2 weeks with plenty of warm days for the children to play outside. Things changed in a hurry as the cold weather hit, but our units on *Snow Village* and *Arctic Blast* were a perfect tie-in! The children have had fun learning Spanish in our Fish class and wearing their pajamas to school and having pancakes in the Lambs and Ducks classes. Looking ahead we will be talking about *The Dentist's Office*, *The Candy Store*, *God's Loving Heart* and *Me and My Shadow*.



I can say with "heartfelt" sincerity that February is surely the sweetest and most loving of the months of the year. Be on the lookout for lots of pretty red paper and white doily hearts and of course instructions for your little one to send in their Valentines. Our parties will be Tuesday, February 13 and Wednesday, February 14, with the Preschool being **closed** on Monday, Feb. 19.

We have completed our registration for the upcoming year and thank you to all those who re-enrolled their child and younger siblings and to church members enrolling for the first time.



We are full for next year and it is thanks to your loyalty and recommendations to friends and family. That's the greatest gift of all.

With love,
Mrs. Nancy

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team would like to thank everyone for participating in the various giving opportunities of the holiday season. The Christmas family, the Dove House, and Warming Tree were all successes.

As we enter 2007, the flower calendar is rather empty. If you would like to place flowers in the church during worship in honor or in memory of someone, please call or stop by the church office. The flower calendar will be in the Parlor over the next several Sundays for your convenience. Please take a moment to see if there is a Sunday you would like to place flowers in the church.



Flower Calendar

Karen Brawley
Moderator

Logos/MSM/Kairos

Second semester is well under way! February gets going with *Camp Out/ Gone Fishin' Night*, February 7, followed by a very special *Valentine's Day/ Polite Night*, February 14, *Mexican Fiesta*, February 21, and *Hunger/ Homelessness Night*, February 28.

We would like to express our gratitude to Jerilyn Fair for all of the wonderful meals she has worked so hard to prepare for Logos/MSM/Kairos as church hostess. We are also very grateful and we feel very blessed to have so many new and returning table decorators for our Logos/MSM dinner hour this semester! Thanks to Janet Aultman, Gretchen Bridges, Stacey Faulkenberry, and Gretchen Little for lending us their creativity and making the dinner hour more fun and enjoyable for all with their beautifully arranged table decorations. We know they will continue to surprise and delight us with their fun and outrageous ideas.

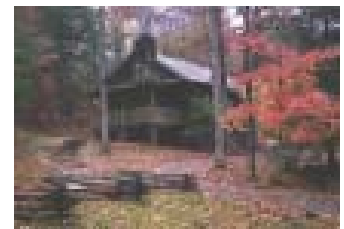
Please encourage your child to attend Logos, MSM, or Kairos every Wednesday. The benefits will be evident for eternity!

Learne DeCastro & Valerie Mauney

Camp Director to visit Logos on February 7

Camp Grier director, Dave Cohn, will visit the Logos dinner hour on Wednesday, February 7, to tell the group about summer camping opportunities. Dave will have information about the 2007 camping season, and is available to answer questions from potential campers and their parents. Parents are welcome to attend the program in the fellowship hall, at approximately 6:45 p.m.




Camp Grier is a Presbyterian camp, located in Old Fort, NC, in the beautiful North Carolina mountains. Summer camping programs are offered for children in rising second through twelfth grades, and adult volunteer opportunities are available as well. In addition, Camp Grier is looking for college-age young adults to serve on its summer staff. Visit their newly designed website at www.campgrier.org to find out more information, or contact Ellen Auten in the church office (704-664-5275).





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time 4 8:30am Early Worship 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship with MSM Handbells 3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:15pm PYF "Souper Bowl" Sunday Registration for Lent in the Living Room begins	5 9:30am Moms in Touch 7:30pm Bible Study at the home of Fred & Jean Coates	6 2:00pm Library Committee 5:30pm PYF Supper Club at Zaxby's 6:00pm Brownies - 219 7:00pm Exaltation Ringers
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11 New Member Recognition 8:30am Early Worship 8:30am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Talent Show and Church Supper 	12 9:30am Moms in Touch 2:00pm Circle No. 1 in parlor 6:15pm Circle No. 3 in the Session Room 7:30pm Bible Study at the home of Fred & Jean Coates	13 10:00am Circle No. 4 in the parlor 12:00pm Circle No. 5 at the home of Ellen Auten 5:30pm PYF Supper Club at Showmar's 6:00pm Brownies - 219 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Exaltation Ringers
Transformation of the Lord 18 8:30am PYF Ski Trip 8:30am Early Worship 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship with Baptism 3:00pm Handmaidens of the Lord (No. 6) at the home of Margaret Auten 4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF 7:00pm Committee Meetings 7:00pm Diaconate	President's Day 19 Preschool Closed 9:30am Moms in Touch 7:00pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Bible Study at the home of Fred & Jean Coates	20  10:30am Exploring our Reformed Faith group in library 12:30pm Saints Alive 5:30pm PYF Supper Club at Pie In The Sky 6:00pm Brownies - 219 7:00pm Exaltation Ringers
25	26 9:30am Moms in Touch 7:00pm VBS Meeting in room 300 7:30pm Bible Study at the home of Fred & Jean Coates	27 5:30pm PYF Supper Club at Salsalita's 6:00pm Brownies - 219 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Exaltation Ringers

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Wednesday	Thursday 1	Friday 2	Saturday 3																																																	
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 4:00pm Logos/MSM - <i>Camp-out/Gone fishin' Night</i> 5:00pm Kairos 6:45pm Camp Grier program 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 7:00pm Mooresville Users Group 7:00pm Sisters in Christ (No.2) 9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home  Fun & Fellowship 6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral		Presbytery Meeting at Fieldstone Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC																																																	
 Valentine's Day 14 11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 4:00pm Logos/MSM - <i>Valentine's Day/ Polite Night</i> 5:00pm Kairos 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 1:00pm Thursdays with Clay Course #2 7:00pm Thursdays with Clay Course #2																																																			
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 4:00pm Logos/MSM - <i>Mexican Fiesta Night</i> 5:00pm Kairos 7:30pm Chancel Choir	Course #2 9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 1:00pm Thursdays with Clay Course #3 7:00pm Thursdays with Clay Course #3	10:00am Saints Alive to "Korner's Folly" 																																																		
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 4:00pm Logos/MSM - <i>HungerHomelessness Night</i> 5:00pm Kairos 7:30pm Chancel Choir	 <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">Remember your Valentine!</p>		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2007</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2007							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	29	30	31
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Habitat India

Every year Jimmy Carter sponsors a blitz build Habitat for Humanity Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) which is a concentrated effort to build simple and affordable homes in specific areas where they are needed. These projects can be either domestic or international. This last November, I participated in the JCWP in Mumbai, India where we built 100 homes in one week. India has probably the greatest need for simple housing of any country in the world. Unfortunately, millions live in incredible poverty with living conditions that we cannot imagine.

In all Habitat projects the prospective homeowners must invest “sweat equity”, which means that they help in the construction of the home and they also assume a mortgage for costs incurred by Habitat. This applies to projects overseas as well as in the US. The size and features of the homes are tailored to the needs of the local people. A “simple and affordable” home in India has no relationship to a “simple and affordable” home in the US. In India, the homes we built were about 400 square feet in size, all concrete block construction with red tile roofs. Utilities included a cold water sink in the kitchen and a toilet in the bathroom.

There were about 1000 volunteers involved in construction as well as an equal number handling security, food service, medical, transportation and other services. We ate 3 meals a day at the work site and were lodged 2 to a room in local hotels.

In these projects the hours are long and the work is demanding but it is very satisfying. It’s great to meet and work with the homeowners who will be living in the houses. They are wonderful people and really appreciate the volunteer work that is done for them and the opportunity to have their own home. The volunteers are required to pay their own transportation and pay a single up-front fee for food, lodging and local transportation. Volunteers were also asked to bring simple hand tools and donate them to the local Habitat affiliate at the end of the work week.

By Friday afternoon all 100 homes were complete and a formal dedication ceremony was led by Jimmy Carter. As in the past, this JCWP was a great experience.

Bob Dobbins

NC Behavioral Health Agency Wins Top Prize

Using Outcomes Measurement and Community-Based Programs

The 2006 Codman Award from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare organizations is going to Grandfather Home for Children in Banner Elk, North Carolina. The esteemed award was made in Chicago on November 16. Only two behavioral health care centers in the United States are receiving this honor—one in North Carolina and one in Illinois.

Named for the physician who is considered the “father of outcomes measurement,” the Ernest Amory Codman Award goes to agencies that have successfully used outcomes measurement to improve the quality of their programs. Grandfather Home’s initiative, a “continuum of care,” has expanded its work from a residential therapeutic center to include foster care, group homes, and adoptions.

Adding community-based centers in five areas of western NC and northeast TN, the home’s new multi-service program is a system of care that collaborates with social services, mental health, and other providers to help seriously abused children and youth. As a private agency, Grandfather Home offers additional staffing and funding to the state’s programs. A key component in the continuum is the home’s umbrella organization that covers all stages of the children’s treatment, always working toward a permanent family solution.

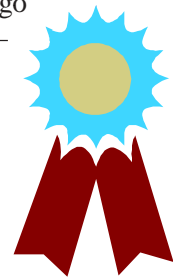
For its extended program, Grandfather Home’s staff set up a data system to realistically check its effectiveness. Notable results from 1999 to 2005 showed a 300 percent increase in children served and a reduction of 42 per cent in their time stayed at the institution. There was a 900 per cent increase in serving children closer to their home counties, and 100 per cent of the children placed in the agency’s foster care programs were moved fewer times than the national average.

To date, Grandfather Home’s community-based “clusters” are located around Asheville, Winston-Salem, Gaston, and Smoky in NC, as well as northeast Tennessee. Over 100 families in more than 25 North Carolina counties now do foster and therapeutic foster care through this agency.

In making the Codman Award, the Joint Commission stated that Grandfather Home’s continuum of care has significantly improved the quality of care and safety of abused children.

Jim Swinkola, CEO of the recipient agency said, “This national award is a great honor to our dedicated staff. Their concern about children who lost ground when they were transitioned from one program to another was the origin of our expansion. Today their hard work in building a continuum is affirmed.”

Submitted by: *Judith McLean*



SAINTS ALIVE

Saints enjoy trip to Monet exhibit in Raleigh

Eighteen Saints enjoyed a delightful day trip to Raleigh to see the “Monet in Normandy” exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of Art on Thursday, January 4. The group left bright and early, stopping for lunch at a Cracker Barrel near Raleigh. The exhibit included over



fifty original Monet paintings, ranging from some of his earliest paintings to some of his last. It was a treat to see this remarkable artist’s talent in person. In spite of the crowd, our group enjoyed a wonderful day at the museum, and were all grateful for the opportunity to attend the exhibit.

Participants included Ellen Auten, Betty Boyd, Chapman Cox, Shirley Crowley, Sharon and Al Culp, Judy Jordan, Bea Lieu, Greta and Roger McCrea, Althea Nelson, Ellen Patterson, Lynn Pierce, Liz Rader, Margaret and Sam Sanders, and Gwen and Don Sink.

January luncheon features “Birds in my Backyard”

Saints Alive met for its monthly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, January 16. The group enjoyed a delicious luncheon of meat loaf, baked potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, rolls, and lemon swirl cake, prepared by church hostess Jerilyn Fair. Thanks to Jerilyn for also providing painted birdhouses for the table decorations.



Smith Kirk introduced the group to a wonderful devotional resource, *Tabletalk*, and presented an inspiring devotional from this publication. Evelyn Weatherman, daughter of Bernice Melchor, presented the afternoon program, “Birds in my Backyard.” Evelyn related many helpful hints for attracting wild birds to feeders, as well as tips for enjoying and identifying birds. We all send our thanks to Evelyn for providing such an interesting and informative program.

Saints plan trip to Korner’s Folly in Kernersville

The Saints Alive group is planning a trip to visit a unique historic home, Korner’s Folly, in



Kernersville, NC, on Friday, February 23. The group plans to leave at 10:00 a.m., eat lunch in the Kernersville area, tour the home at

1:00 p.m., and return to Mooresville in the late afternoon. Cost of the tour is \$6, plus lunch and gas money.

Korner’s Folly was built in the 1800’s and has 22 rooms, three floors, and seven levels. It is said that none of its doorways are exactly alike, its fifteen fireplaces are all unique, and the house is known for its “nooks and crannies,” cubbyholes, murals and artwork.

Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) if you are interested in this trip. You can find information about the house at www.kornersfolly.org.

February Saints luncheon features BBB speaker

The monthly Saints Alive luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 20; cost is \$4. The program will be presented by Mary Ann Dailey, Executive Director of Charlotte Better Business Bureau. She will help the group understand how to prevent consumer fraud and financial exploitation, and discuss what consumers should do to avoid becoming victims, as well as how to be more educated consumers. Topics include elder fraud prevention, sweepstakes, lotteries, contests, identity theft, telemarketing and mail fraud. Come and bring a friend to this informative and educational luncheon and program!



Saints Alive Planning Committee

Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; dce@moorevillefirstpres.org) if you are interested in serving on a Saints Alive Planning Committee. This committee would meet 2-3 times each year to plan upcoming luncheons, day trips, as well as overnight trips. Saints Alive is our church’s Older Adult group, holding monthly luncheon meetings (third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m.), day trips, and overnight outings.

Mission Focus: 2007 Mission Opportunities

Mexico, Zambia and Florida

Have you felt the call to serve on the short term mission field? Here are some special opportunities to see first hand what God is doing in several places outside of Mooresville:

ADULTS: a Memorial Day “weekend” trip to Mexico is being planned in conjunction with Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas (Dr. Brown’s former church). Tentatively set for **May 25-29** (Thursday- Tuesday) the group will be working in the Playa del Carmen area (on the Yucatan Peninsula) with a mission partner church there. Details and costs are still being arranged by Grace Presbyterian. Contact Fred Coates for more information.

(Note: passports are now required to travel to Mexico!)

ADULTS & OLDER YOUTH: We’re heading back to Zambia (passports required) to work at the mission in Mwand. Tentative dates are **June 26-July 10**. There will be opportunities to work at the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Center, the local community, the hospital, the church and the school. Cost of the airline ticket will be around \$2000 plus daily costs in Mwand of approximately \$30 per person. Fred Coates has more information.

YOUTH: the PYF is heading to Daytona Beach, Florida, this year, **July 8-14**. Working with the Youthworks mission organization (as we have for a number of years, now), youth currently in grades 6-12 are eligible to participate. The group will be working with local community ministries in the Daytona area. Information is available at PYF and by contacting Alan Sledge or Fred Coates.



A Page From the Library



Have you ever read anything by Max Lucado? He preaches, teaches, writes, and is the voice of “Up Words,” a national daily radio program. *Christianity Today* lists him among the seven most admired Christian writers in America.

Many of his books are available in the library. In *A Love Worth Giving*, Lucado reminds readers that God loves you with an unfailing love and His love can fill you and leave you with a love worth giving. *The Applause of Heaven* is a story of the Beatitudes. Lucado believes that the Beatitudes provide what we need to discover the joy of God. One of his best-sellers is a trilogy, *In the Eye of the Storm*, *He Still Moves Mountains*, and *A Gentle Thunder*. These are three unique portraits of Jesus - His daily presence, His supernatural power and His persistent effort to reach us with His love.

Ellie Den Bleyker

Church School News

With the beginning of the new calendar year, we have added a few new teachers in church school. Thank you, Margaret Curtis, for leading our middle school kids to know God and all of his blessings. We always appreciate enthusiastic people who know God’s word, and are willing to teach our young people.

There are some new faces leading the Friends and Family class. Marshall Horsman and Clay Brown have decided to take this challenge and we thank them for their willingness. Many thanks to Rick Omohundro for his leadership the past few years.

In addition, the Pastor’s Class has resumed meeting every Sunday in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m.; the class is taught by either Clay Brown or Fred Coates. Currently, the class is studying *The Lord’s Prayer*.



We are in need of a church school greeter for February. Thanks to our January greeter, Eric Pluer, who has opened doors and offered assistance as people come to church school. It is a great help to have a friendly face and helping hand as you enter the church building!

We are still in need of two teachers for the kindergarten class, on an every other month basis. If you love children, enjoy teaching, and are a good listener, this volunteer opportunity would be perfect for you. Please contact Gretchen Little (704-663-8292), Leeann DeCastro (704-660-5248), or Ellen Auten in the church office to volunteer.

Since we are in need of a few volunteers, the scripture for the month comes from II Chronicles 4b when King Jehosephat of Judah told King Ahab of Israel to, “First seek the council of the Lord.”

If anyone has any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to call Gretchen Little or Leeann DeCastro, or you may email Leeann at leeanndecastro@windstream.net. **Leeann DeCastro & Gretchen Little**

Youth Page

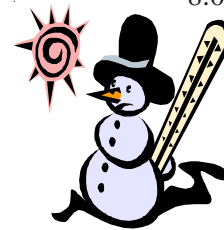
Where'd the snow go? Ski trip postponed til February 18

We'll try this again. Let's go to Winterplace for a great evening on the slopes. We will load up and leave the church by charter bus on Sunday, February 18, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. We plan to arrive back at church early Monday morning around 2:00 a.m. For those of you who don't enjoy getting out at that time of the morning, don't worry; we'll lock in (youth room and parlor) till 8:00 a.m.



Our schedule will be:

Depart the church	8:30 a.m.
Attend church in Hillsville, Va.	11:00 a.m.
Lunch in the Hillsville area	12:30 p.m.
Arrive at the slopes	3:30 p.m.
Night skiing at Winterplace	5 - 10:00 p.m.
Arrive home for optional lock-in	2:00 a.m.
Monday morning pick-up	8:00 a.m.



Permission forms are available in the youth room, church office and on the web at:
www.moorevillefirstpres.org/youth.htm

Special hunger relief offering set for February 4

"Souper" party also planned

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 4! We'll be asking a \$2.00 (or more!) donation.

Supper Club

Leave the church @ 5:30 p.m.

February 6:	Zaxby's
February 13:	Showmar's
February 20:	Pie in the Sky
February 27:	Salsarita's



Mission and a Movie

Your ticket to go and serve

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)
We have been called to go and serve. Starting next month, we'll do just that. One Saturday a month, PYF will meet for a small mission project followed by taking in a matinee at the local theatre. Our mission projects will be coordinated through our church and the Mooresville Christian Mission.

Save the Soup... Buy a Bowl

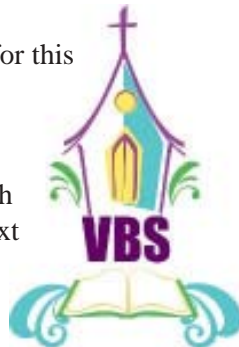
The Mooresville Soup Kitchen is hosting a soup supper to increase awareness about the community ministry and raise much-needed funds as the organization prepares to move to a new location.

The event is Friday, February 23 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Mooresville Soup Kitchen, 150 S. Church Street. The meal will consist of a variety of soups, bread, dessert and beverages. Tickets are \$5. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact MSK board members Chris Ahearn (704-662-8643) or Mac Herring (704) 664-2704. Thank you.



Vacation Bible School plans underway

This year's Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **June 24-27**, only a little more than four months away! We are hosting our friends from Prospect, Mooresville ARP, and Fieldstone Presbyterian churches for this summer's VBS. We have begun planning for this year's activities, with planning meetings scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 300. The next planning meeting will be held Monday, February 26. Please contact Ellen Auten if you are



Lent in the Living Room

(Continued from front page)

Groups will begin to meet the week of the First Sunday in Lent, February 25, and will end the week of the Sixth Sunday in Lent, April 1. Groups will be offered in different locations and on different days and times of the week, so you will be able to find a group on the day, at the time, and in the location best for you. Group meetings usually take approximately 70-90 minutes.

You will be able to register for the group of your choice beginning Sunday, February 4, in the parlor, as well as by contacting the church office by phone (704-664-5044) or email (secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org).

Budget & Finance Forum

We want to thank the members of our congregation for their gracious giving to the needs of our church for the year 2006. Many of you gave over and above what you pledged. This allowed the church to operate and pay for a lot of unexpected expenses during the year. Again we want to say thank you.



<i>Income for Budget 2006</i>	<i>\$823,467.00</i>
<i>Expenses for Budget 2006</i>	<i><u>812,206.00</u></i>
<i>Net</i>	<i>\$ 11,260.00</i>

<i>Non-Budgeted Income 2006</i>	<i>\$161,102.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted Expenses 2006</i>	<i><u>161,071.00</u></i>
<i>Net</i>	<i>\$ 31.00</i>

The pledges for 2007 continue to come in and we encourage those who have not made a pledge to do so. The year 2007 shows the opportunity for great works in God's kingdom in the life of our church. We hope all of our members will share in this ministry.

First Presbyterian Church
249 West McLelland Avenue
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