

The Bulletin Board

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

May 2008

MARTI ESTES 5K A "GOD SIZED" SUCCESS!

With God's help, the 1st Annual Marti Estes 5K -Mooresville Community Walk of Faith was an amazing success! With over 500 participants we raised \$13,000.00 for the Mooresville Soup Kitchen.

Such a God-sized project could not have been achieved without His direct blessing and guidance. So many people were led by Him to add their time, talents and donations and the Organizing Committee would like to give a heartfelt THANK-YOU to all who helped in making the Marti Estes 5K such a blessing to our community.

We would like to thank all of the Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors who gave so generously to this outreach project. Special thanks are given also to the following individuals whose participation made the Marti Estes 5K Race a reality: the Estes and Readling families for their support; Bruce Telford who was the moderator of the 2006 Diaconate and served on the planning committee through 2007 and the early part of this year; Gretchen Little, JD Donelson, Neil Falkenberry, Eric Estes and Bob Campbell who began planning the Race in February 2007; Becky Deal and Patrick Stutts who both joined the Committee upon becoming Deacons this year; Frank Rader who got the word out to the community and helped us navigate through City Hall; Chris Ahearn who advised us now and again on our marketing and advertising efforts; Stacey Falkenberry who designed the race program that became a tribute in pictures to Marti, her husband Eric and the boys; and Stacey Campbell whose Run/Walk logo design became a symbol of an event that came to mean so much to all of us.

Special thanks to Chris Montgomery for his music at the start location and to Tommy Bowles for the use of his traveling ministry sound

stage at the Finish Line. Thanks as well, to BJ Dillon and the volunteers at First Baptist Church for all their hard work in setting up and managing the Finish Line.

Thanks also to Dr. Clay Brown for both emceeding the event and for challenging the Diaconate in 2006 to take on a project that could only be accomplished with God's help, a "God-Sized" project that became the Marti Estes 5K-Mooresville Community Walk of Faith.

And finally, we want to thank each and every member of the First Presbyterian Church family for your unfailing support in this special mission. Whether you participated as a volunteer, a runner or walker, a sponsor or contributor or you offered up your prayers.....the Marti Estes 5K could not have happened without YOU.

All of us are looking forward to next year's Race and to glorifying God and His Son, Jesus Christ through this extraordinary endeavor.



*Board of Deacons
Marti Estes 5K Organizing Committee*



From the Pastor

“HOW MANY PRESBYTERIANS CAN YOU FIT IN A PEW?”

A Sunday Schedule Shift for Growth

One of the joys of ministry here is interacting with prospective members of First Presbyterian. Cathy and I are blessed to welcome these wonderful folks with “Coffee and More with Clay and Cathy: Discover First Pres.” Periodically, we host a reception in their honor at the manse. Then I take them on a tour of the church before a brief informational time that concludes with Q & A about anything they want to ask.

One of the first places we visit is the sanctuary. As you know, it’s a lovely example of traditional southern Presbyterian church architecture. When I ask for questions, usually the first one posed is “How many people can this sanctuary seat?” There are a lot of questions I don’t know the answers to, but I’m ready for this one. I know by empirical research. Several of us sat in the pews one weekday morning and together determined the real seating capacity, not an architect’s calculated one. Why did we need to do this? Because—how else shall I say it?—most Presbyterians are a little “broader around the beam” than most architects allow.

So I respond, “409 people, not counting the choir in the chancel.” Yes, 409 Presbyterians can sit in our sanctuary with a reasonable degree of comfort. We can squeeze in more on special occasions like Easter and Christmas, when people expect it to be really crowded. But on a typical Sunday morning, 409 people fill up our sanctuary to capacity.

You’re probably wondering why I’m mentioning this. Here’s why: our seating capacity is a key factor in a shift that will take place in our Sunday morning schedule beginning June 15. Here’s the new schedule:

BEGINNING JUNE 15, 2008:
Worship 9:00-9:50 a.m.
Church School 10:00-10:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Three motivations are behind in this schedule shift.

- 1. THE PSYCHOLOGY:** 8:30 a.m. is simply too early for many people, especially younger folks with children. There is a psychological barrier about anything on Sunday that starts in the 8 o’clock hour that is real and true. Even 8:55 a.m. sounds much earlier than 9:00 a.m., even though the actual difference is small. 9:00 a.m. will be a more inviting time for many prospective and current members of First Pres.
- 2. THE RESEARCH:** The church growth experts state that 80 percent of your listed seating capacity is really your maximum “comfortably full” capacity, Sunday in and Sunday out. Once you get to this 80 percent figure, you start to feel “uncomfortably full” to members and especially to visitors. So for us, “comfortably full” is 327—80 percent of 409. On a typical Sunday now, we run somewhere in the neighborhood of 250-300 people for 11:00 a.m. worship. For 8:30 a.m. worship, we run 60-80 people typically. So our room for growth at 11:00 a.m. is present, but it’s very limited. However, the room for growth at our earlier service is significant. We need to attract and minister to many more people at our earlier service.
- 3. THE MISSION:** A number of people and groups have discussed this shift, such as your Worship and Music Committee, Christian Education Committee, Session, and Staff. We have come to believe that our mission of “Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples” moves us to make worship services as accessible as possible for families and individuals of all ages. This schedule shift is one way of working toward this accessibility.

There will be adjustments to be made, of course. No schedule shift would be possible without them. We will need to alter the 9:00 a.m. service to fit it in a 50-minute timeframe and be consistent with that. Fellowship time following that service will be reduced. Church School classes will be affected as well, although to be honest, few classes start at the listed time of 9:45 now. Almost all currently start at 10:00 a.m. But we’re convinced that such adjustments are worth making because of the potential for growth we have in our community and congregation.

(Continued on the back page.)

Session Highlights

MARCH 2008

During its March 30th stated meeting, the Session:

- Studied and discussed Rule #2 of the study on Exodus 14, *The Red Sea Rules*, “Be more concerned for God’s glory than for your own relief.”
- Prayed for the needs of the church.
- Approved the Senior High boys camping trip April 25-27.
- Discussed and endorsed a change in the Sunday schedule, upon the recommendations of the Worship and Music Committee and the Christian Education Committee, for 9:00-9:50 a.m. worship, 10:00-10:45 a.m. church school, and 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. worship to begin June 15, 2008.
- Authorized the use of the church facility for the wedding of the daughter of the Rev. Robert Jackson, pastor of Peninsula Baptist Church, on January 3, 2009 as a courtesy to local clergy.
- Called a congregational meeting for Sunday, April 13, 2008, following 11:00 a.m. worship, at the request of the Church Officer Nominating Committee.



Have you filled out your camp registration form? Found your sleeping bag and flashlight? Found a friend to take to camp? Bought some insect repellent and suntan lotion? Tried on your hiking boots? If not, it’s time to get busy and think about summer camp!!!

Camp Grier, located in Old Fort, NC, offers weekly summer camp sessions from June 15 through August 1 for children in rising second through twelfth grades.

In addition to the traditional Rising Sun, Cherokee and Pioneer camps, Camp Grier also offers some specialized camps: Music, Art & Drama Camp, Bring My Bike To Camp, along with several Adventure Camps for middle and senior high school youth.

Please contact Ellen Auten in the church office (704-664-5275) if you need additional information about camp; scholarship help is available. You may also find information at their website: www.campgrier.org.

Please be sure to let the church office know when your child is attending camp so that we may include them in the bulletin and remember them in our prayers.

Weekday Preschool

Where has the year gone? I cannot remember a year that went by this quickly, but as I stroll (or run, in my case) through the halls, that sentimental feeling in my heart is all too familiar. We’ll be saying “So long” soon, and the wonderful things that have happened here this year will become special memories for us. We can’t puddle up yet as we still have much to do and a fun-filled month of May ahead of us. More on that in just a minute, but first some highlights from April.

Although a little bit chilly in the beginning of the month, the days turned warmer and the children could be heard squealing with laughter on their new playground. Having the new turf has created open spaces for running and jumping and it certainly is a feast for the eyes; what a glorious expanse of green it is, and so clean! We truly treasure our time outside.



Please read May’s activity-filled calendar which has come home with your child. We’ll be celebrating Cinco de Mayo, ordering in pizza, having a hot dog cook-out, playing baseball, cooling off on water day, having a car wash to clean our Big Wheels, walking for ice cream, and for some classes, finishing up with a picnic at the park complete with a safari.



Our 4 and 5 year olds will graduate on **Friday, May 30th at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall** complete with caps and gowns. This patriotic program is a definite crowd-pleaser so you’ll want to invite all the special people in your child’s life to attend. It’s sure to be a sentimental time for parents, grandparents and teachers, but we are confident and proud of our little graduates, and we know they will do great things. Thank you, parents, for making this a wonderful year, and for allowing us to have this special time with your child. Truly, it has been our pleasure.

*With love,
Mrs. Nancy*



Discover Camp Grier Day

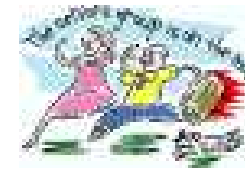
Camp Grier is hosting a “Discover Camp Grier Day” on Sunday, May 18, at 1:00 p.m. at Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC. Parents and potential campers (as well as any interested persons) are invited to meet director Dave Cohn, tour the facilities, and become familiar with the camp. Call the camp office at 828-668-7793 for further details.





May 20

<p>Confirmation Sunday 4</p> <p>8:30am Early Worship with Communion 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship with Communion & Confirmation 12:15pm Confirmation Luncheon in the FH 3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in the parlor 4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF 7:00pm Committee Meetings (moved due to Mother's Day)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study at the Coates' home</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am Moms in Touch 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166</p>
<p>Mother's Day 11</p> <p>8:30am Early Worship 8:30am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship 4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>2:00pm Circle No. 1 in parlor 6:15pm Circle No. 3 in the parlor 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study at the Coates' home</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am Moms in Touch 10:00am Circle No. 4 in the parlor 12:00pm Circle No. 5 at the home of Elaine Drye</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30am Early Worship 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship 4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF 6:00pm Diaconate</p> <p>MSM Beach Trip</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm Presbyterian Women's Birthday Party in FH 7:00pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Bible Study at the Coates' home</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter DEADLINE</p> <p>9:30am Moms in Touch 10:30am Exploring Our Reformed Faith Study 12:30pm Saints Alive Luncheon 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:30am Early Worship 9:45am Church School 11:00am Worship 4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF 7:00pm Session</p>	<p>Memorial Day Observed 26 Church office closed</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Moms in Touch</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <i>d will strengthen your frame. You</i>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> 9:00am Preschool <i>Spring Sing</i> 7:00pm Sisters in Christ (No.2) in the parlor	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> 9:00am Preschool <i>Spring Sing</i> 9:30am Saints Alive to Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden 	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> 10:30am Prayer Group with Lois Kirk in the library 11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 6:15pm HS Supper Club at Sonic	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> 9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home  <i>Fun & Fellowship</i> 6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral 6:00pm Exaltation Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> PYF Mission & a Movie  <i>PYF Mission Workers</i>
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> 11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 6:15pm HS Supper Club at Steak 'n Hoagie	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> 9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 6:00pm Exaltation Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> The Race City Festival 9am-3pm <i>(Look for the FPC booth!)</i>
Saints Alive to Hemlock Inn			
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> 11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 6:15pm HS Supper Club at Cheese Steakery	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> 9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 6:00pm Exaltation Ringers 7:00pm PW Coordinating Committee 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> 11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner 6:15pm HS Supper Club at McAllister's Deli	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> 9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 6:00pm Exaltation Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> 9:30am Preschool Graduation	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women have a very busy spring planned. The first event is the "Lake Norman Days" Festival. First Presbyterian Church will have a booth at the Festival this year. Anyone can be involved! Donations of bottled water will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping, please contact Nancy Omohundro or Angie Copeland.

Our next event is our Annual Birthday Dinner. Please mark Monday, May 19 on your calendar. We will begin with a social time at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Carole Crews will cater the meal. Tracy Stewart, DCE at Centre Presbyterian Church will be our speaker. The theme this year is "Celebrating 200 Years of Presbyterian Women."

As is our usual custom to install officers at our Birthday Dinner, we have some offices to fill. The offices of Vice Moderator, Spiritual Enrichment Communicator, and Social Concerns Communicator are open and need to be filled. If you would be interested in one of these positions, please contact me or any Coordinating Team member soon.

Karen Brawley, Moderator, Presbyterian Women

Happy Birthday Presbyterian Women!!

The organization known today as Presbyterian Women began 200 years ago at First Presbyterian Church in Newark, NJ. These women felt called to serve in roles outside their homes. We are celebrating their birthday during 2008.

In the last fifty years, women have participated in Operation Listen (to encourage dialog between white and black women) and Global Exchange Visits (a partnership to stay informed with women concerning issues in other parts of the world.) PW have collected Betty Crocker coupons for special causes.

Presbyterian Women also have looked at ways to support their sisters in Christ within their respective churches. Thus, circles were formed. Circles provided women an opportunity to share Bible study and to be around those who have your best interest at heart. We have, and will continue, to respond to God's call for duty. As we look at the issues tackled by Presbyterian Women over the last 200 years, we prayerfully look forward to additional challenges and opportunities that God calls us to serve.



Churchmouse Tidbits

Students will be returning home from college by the middle of May. So, you may want to remember them one more time this year. We hope that you have enjoyed your student and that you will be hearing from them. We will be sending your student, and a copy to you, a letter informing them who that special "CHURCHMOUSE" friend has been this year. Thank you very much for participating in this program.



As we conclude another successful year at Logos/MSM, I would like to take the time to officially thank the many volunteers who served on the 2007-2008 Logos/MSM staff, as well as the parents who volunteer their time as kitchen helpers. It is a tremendous undertaking to "do" the Logos/MSM program each week, and we absolutely could not do it without all the great volunteers. Each week, approximately 60-70 volunteers work together to create a quality, mid-week program of Christian nurture for the children of our congregation, and I am so grateful for their hard work, gracious attitudes, commitment and dedication. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered as a playground supervisor, nursery worker, table parent, Bible teacher or assistant, shepherd, choir assistant, table setter, table decorator, table parent, kitchen helper, recreation leader, trip chaperone, record keeper, and general encourager of children! We could not do this without you - thank you!

The 2008-2009 Logos/MSM year is scheduled to begin Wednesday, September 10. We welcome volunteers in all areas, and will begin planning for next year in the next few weeks. Please contact me in the church office (704-664-5275) if you would like to volunteer your time in this important and vital ministry in our congregation.

Thank you to "retiring" Logos director

On behalf of the Logos/MSM program, I want to thank "retiring" director, Valerie Mauney, for the countless hours she has given as Logos/MSM Director for the past three years. In her responsibilities, she has prayed for the program, the children and volunteers, planned the yearly calendar, secured countless volunteers, encouraged us to build relationships, slept on the floor during the Logos trips, dressed up in numerous hilarious outfits, comforted children (and adults!), encouraged volunteers, led many Council meetings, shepherded the flock at Logos/MSM on Wednesdays, held many parent and staff meetings, and attended to the many duties that fall on the shoulders of the Logos/MSM director. When you see Valerie, please give her a big hug and a huge thank you for a job well done.

Thanks also go to Valerie's husband, Scott, and to Colton and Landon, for sharing their wife and mom. We appreciate your "loan" of Valerie as she served as Logos director!

Ellen Auten

From the Pastor (Continued)

We have a marvelous potential for growth as a congregation. By growth, I mean both the growth in spiritual maturity and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives and growth in tangible measurements such as attendance, financial support, and ministry programs to those in need of the transformational power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe you'll agree that shifting our Sunday morning schedule is one important way we can respond to the mission opportunities before us in a rapidly growing Mooresville.

God bless. As always, it is an honor to serve as your pastor.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown



Youth Corner

Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

Sunday & Wednesday evening schedule for May

Alphas: Middle school students (7th & 8th)
4:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Omegas: High school students (9th - 12th)
5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Sunday program incorporates a staggered start time for the two groups. This provides an opportunity for separate bible studies and recreation, as well as a combined time for the meal and music.

Special Events:

- Mission and a Movie on Saturday **May 10**

Senior High SupperClub: Each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. we meet at the church and travel out for a meal (dutch treat.) We return to the church for a bible study time.

May 7 Sonic **May 21** Cheese Steakery
May 14 Steak-n-Hoagie **May 28** McAllister's Deli

If you would like to receive the Youth Newsletter **PYF Happenings**, contact Alan Sledge, the church office or check it out on the web at:
www.mooresvillefirstpres.org/youthpage.html

Older Adult Month

May is designated as "Older Adult Month" on the church calendar. We honor and recognize the older adults in our church family, particularly our members in nursing home and retirement homes. You may wish to remember them with a card or a visit. Please notify us of any corrections or omissions.

Brian Center

Helen McCullough

Churchill Assisted Living

Pressley Brawley

Genesis Eldercare, Mooresville

Martha Andrews

Martha Gragg

Frances Hunter

Jeannette McDaniel

The Pines at Davidson

Genie Carns

Eliza Good

Anne Lowe

Margaret Mayhew

Caroline McLaughlin

Summit Place

Clayton Davidson

Taylor Glen, Concord

Carl and Doris Neal

Trinity Oaks, Salisbury

Dot Baker



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