



First Press

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

JANUARY 2009

Sermon Focus on Romans for 2009

“Let us look for a moment at some of the most valuable worship traditions at the heart of the heritage of Reformed Protestantism, liturgical traditions that commend themselves to us because they are, above all, according to Scripture.

*“1. At the head of the list should certainly be **expository preaching**. This has always been the glory of Protestant worship. At present it seems to have fallen on hard days, but it needs to be revived. The fifteen-and-twenty-minute homilies that have become the regular practice in most American Protestant churches today amount to not much more than a surrender of the tradition. Unfortunately, far too few ministers are equipped to do expository preaching. Even worse, few congregations are willing to give their ministers the time to do expository preaching. . .*

*“2. Very closely related to expository preaching is the use of **lectio continua [preaching through Scripture book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, without omitting sections]**. This was one of the most significant reforms of the sixteenth century, resting solidly on the practice of both the synagogue and the early church. Nothing could have a more salutary effect on preaching than the regular, systematic preaching through one book of the Bible after another. It gives a great opportunity for both the preacher and the congregation to study the Scriptures.” (Hughes Oliphant Old, *Worship: Reformed According to Scripture*, 172)*

Because your pastors believe in the crucial significance for our day of expository, lectio continua preaching, they have covenanted with pastors from other PCUSA churches across the country to preach together through the New Testament book of Romans from the first Sunday of January until the first Sunday of Advent. We will take one break during Lent and Easter Sunday to preach the Passion of Christ from Mark’s Gospel and thus conclude our previous preaching series. The passages for January are:

- January 4: Romans 1:1-13
- January 11: Romans 1:14-23
- January 18: Romans 1:24-32
- January 25: Romans 2:1-16

Please prepare for sermons by reading the passage in advance and praying that the Holy Spirit will speak to you and to his Church as God’s Word is read and proclaimed.

It’s Chili Cook-off Time Again

Attention all you aspiring chili chefs! Do you have a special recipe for some tasty chili? **January 25, 2008**, will be a great opportunity to see just how well your chili measures up!



To submit an entry in the contest, simply make a crockpot of your favorite chili to share and to be judged by popular vote. You may choose to make it with or without

beans. As you walk around and sample, there will plenty

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Discovering God’s Way of Handling Money:

A Weekend Workshop Jan. 30-31

Our country’s current economic crisis has turned our attention to financial matters. Many individuals and families are struggling with different aspects of personal finances, from budgeting to decision making to spending. Most of all, many of us are unsure of what God’s will may be for us in our attitudes and uses of money. We worry that our

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From the Pastor

Hope Springs Eternal

It's that time of year again. New Year's Resolution time.

We pledge to spend our money more wisely, to stop smoking, to quit spending so much time playing video games, and to eat more salads and fewer cheeseburgers.

In our annual quest for self-improvement, we are always hopeful. Sure we're a little cynical about our chances for success, given our previous track record. But if we were completely cynical about it, we wouldn't pledge any change in our behavior at all. I know I speak for many when I say that the new exercise program DVD I just ordered for the Total Gym (as in Chuck Norris and Christie Brinkley's infomercials) that's been gathering dust in the spare bedroom while serving as a lovely place on which to hang clothes can't get here soon enough. I'm raring to go!

There's something about hope that's tenacious, isn't there? Even in the face of long, long odds and slim probabilities of success, hope hangs on tight. I'm convinced that this year is the year for the new slim, toned, and tightened me. You're convinced that this year is the year you'll throw your cigarettes in the trash can for good, lose that unsightly tummy bulge, and drop your cholesterol to below 200. Hope has a way of persisting despite incredible opposition.

But hope without any sort of grounding in reality soon loses its appeal. Unless I begin to see tangible results from my sessions at the Total Gym, chances are I won't stick with it long. Unless you begin to observe some measure of objective success, some real basis for hope, then hope doesn't stick around long.

Fortunately our hope for what this new year of 2009 will bring isn't ultimately grounded in results we can achieve, in my efforts and merit or yours. We have a much stronger and surer cause for hope than that. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior and Lord. It is through him we have hope for today, tomorrow, and the days to come. Our hope in Jesus is why I know we'll make it through the rough days of 2009, regardless of economic crises and whatever else befalls us. "And behold," says Jesus to his disciples and to us, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20 ESV).

I'm reminded of the words of a great and beloved hymn as I write this. May these words inspire and comfort you as you face 2009 unafraid and full of faith:

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

May God bless and keep you full of faith, hope, and love in 2009.

Grace and peace,
The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown



...Handling Money (from Front Page)

finances control us rather than we controlling our finances. We sense that we are trapped in a vicious circle with no good way out.

To help us, we're offering a short Friday-Saturday workshop, Jan. 30-31, on "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money." This video and application based workshop is from Crown Financial Ministries, a recognized leader in helping people to discover and apply Biblical principles for our personal finances.

We will meet on Fri. from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and on Sat. from 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for \$5 per person. Child care will be provided by advance reservation. Participants will need a course workbook available at the workshop for \$10 each. Please register by contacting the church office at 704-664-5275 or nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org. If you have questions, contact Clay Brown at 704-664-5275 or clay@moorevillefirstpres.org.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its December 14, 2008 stated meeting, the Session:

- Examined elders and deacons elect and sustained their examinations.
- Set a called session meeting for January 4, 10:30 a.m., to examine officers elect unable to attend the previous examination and to approve committee rosters for 2009.
- Instructed the Missions Committee to prioritize recipients for the church's benevolence giving for 2008 and to wait for final financial reports to be assessed before dispersing funds.
- Approved communication with Salem Presbytery's treasurer on budgeted giving to the presbytery for 2009.
- Approved the choir of Westminster College presenting a concert here on Wed., Jan. 7.
- Approved a personal finances workshop, "Discovering God's Way of Handling Money," for Jan. 30-31.
- Called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 4, 2009, following 11:00 a.m. worship, for the annual meeting of the congregation to receive information on the 2009 budget and to approve changes in the terms of call of the pastors.
- Received reports from its committees and responded to requests for transfer of membership.

...Chili (from front page)

of opportunity for you to vote your favorite. **Votes will be made by the depositing of checks or cash (one vote per dollar) in your favorite chili's voting pot.** All proceeds from the voting will be divided among local Mooresville charities. The highest vote count will be declared the winner. Non-sampling "special interest" contributions ("votes" secured in advance by the cooks) will be counted in the total, provided the "votes" are present at the time of the counting.

Admission is only \$4 for adults and \$2 for children (with a family maximum of \$15). What a deal! That will pay for your "sampling equipment," cornbread, drinks and dessert.



CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JAN. 4

As directed by the Book of Order, the Session calls a congregational meeting for Sun., Jan. 4, following 11:00 a.m. worship to receive information about the 2009 budget approved by the Session and to approve the changes in the terms of call for the pastors.

A Special Evening Planned Art Lecture and Dinner

A special evening is being planned for Thursday, January 22, and includes a catered dinner (\$8) and art lecture in the parlor. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Join Jeannette Cox, Docent Emeritus of the National Gallery of Art, on an "Italian Renaissance Art Tour." The program will include a slide presentation on Italian Renaissance art, particularly the transition that Renaissance art brings to the role of faith and the church.

As Jeannette relates, "Through the ages, art has been a reflection of cultural trends. Art in the Renaissance was no exception. During that period, significant movements away from church control toward individualism occurred in the areas of religion, philosophy, science, politics and commerce. In the Renaissance, art sponsorship migrated from the church to influential individuals. This lecture will focus on the reflection of this trend in paintings and sculpture of Italian Renaissance artists."



This event is open to the entire community, with advance reservations required. Please complete the following form and return it to the church office by **Tuesday, January 20.**

_____ I plan to attend the art lecture and dinner on January 22.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____



JANUARY

<p align="center">Communion 4</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship with Installation of New Officers 12:00pm Congregational meeting</p> <p>3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF</p>	<p align="right">5</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p align="right">6</p> <p>7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166</p>
<p align="right">11</p> <p>8:00am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship</p> <p>4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF 5:30pm Catechism Club 6:00pm Diaconate 7:00pm Committee Meetings</p>	<p align="right">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 align="right">13</p> <p>10:00am Circle No. 4 12:00pm Circle No. 5 at the home of 2:00pm Circle No. 6 in the parlor 6:00pm Circle No. 2 in the parlor</p>
<p align="right">18</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship</p> <p>1:30pm PYF Ski trip 5:30pm Catechism Club</p> 	<p align="right">19</p> <p>ML King Birthday Church Office & Preschool Closed</p> <p>7:00pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Bible Study at the Coates' home</p>	<p align="right">20</p>  <p>10:30am Exploring Our Reformed Faith Group 12:30pm Saints Alive Luncheon 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166</p>
<p align="right">25</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship 4:15pm Alpha PYF 5:15pm Omega PYF No Catechism Club 6:00pm Chili Cook-off TBA Session</p> 	<p align="right">26</p> <p align="center" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Preschool Closed</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study at the Coates' home</p>	<p align="right">27</p>

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2009

New Year's Day
Church Office Closed



Logos Registration Deadline 7

11:00am Bible Study at the home of F. Gardner
11:30am Logos Council meeting
4:00pm **No Logos/MSM**
6:15pm HS SupperClub at
7:00pm Westminster College Choir in Concert

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 8



6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral

9 6:00pm Cotillion in FH & room 300

10

14

11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00pm Logos/MSM *Wild, Wild West* Night
6:15pm HS SupperClub at
6:45pm Logos Parent meeting
7:30pm Chancel Choir

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 15

6:00pm Exaltation Ringers

16

9:45am Saints Alive to Billy Graham Library

6:00pm Cotillion in FH & room 300

17

21

11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00pm Logos/MSM *Hollywood Stars* Night
6:15pm HS SupperClub
7:30pm Chancel Choir

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 22

6:00pm Exaltation Ringers
6:30pm Art Lecture & Dinner in the parlor

23

6:00pm Cotillion in FH & room 300

24

28

11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00pm Logos/MSM *Super Bowl* Night
6:15pm HS SupperClub at
7:30pm Chancel Choir

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home 29

6:00pm Exaltation Ringers

30

6:00pm Cotillion in FH & room 300

31

Financial Planning Seminar



Logos/Middle School Ministry News

The second semester of our Logos/MSM program begins Wednesday, January 14.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, January 7, with a parent meeting for new parents only scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

We are looking forward to a wonderful semester of fun, learning, and relationship-building, all with the goal of developing a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We have such a wonderful group of children and youth, parents, volunteers, and staff, and Wednesdays at Logos/MSM are so much fun!

We will begin second semester with a “Wild, Wild West” night on January 14 (be sure to wear your cowboy gear), “Hollywood Stars” on January 21, and “Super Bowl” night on January 28.

Thanks to all WTB 2008 volunteers!

What a great experience this year’s WTB (Walk Thru Bethlehem) was for the almost 2300 visitors who attended our community’s re-creation of First Century Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth. It would simply not have been possible without the 90+ volunteers from FPC (more than 30 of our youth and children were a part of the cast!). Almost 1/3 of the total volunteers at the Camp Wesley event came from FPC!

The fellowship and comraderie enjoyed by all our “cast members” was exceptional. There was a wonderful spirit of cooperation and a genuine joy in sharing this annual Christmas season observance. It has fostered a lasting sense of Christian unity and purpose among all the individuals and churches who participated. A number of our visitors remarked, “This is the best Christmas event I’ve ever attended.”

Special thanks is extended to Holly Horsman, Jill Herring, Liz Rader and Jean Coates for their leadership in organizing our church’s participation. Make plans to be a part of it next year!

A Word of Thanks...

I would like to thank everyone that sent me cards, paid me a visit, or prayed for me to get well. This meant so much to me while I was in the hospital and at Huntersville Oaks getting over my accident.

Thank you so very much,

Gene Harris

Preschool News

We could **not** have had a more joyous Christmas program on our two days in December, and thank you to all the parents and grandparents for coming to hear your child sing. 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. We are grateful to all the wonderful volunteers who help us by serving punch and cookies, and of course to our terrific Sar who delights us all with his heartwarming conversations with the children.



We are looking ahead to the cold and snowy days of January, but as always 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 **Monday, January 5** and Lunch Bunch will begin that week on Jan. 7th. The teachers have some fun units planned for Foreign Languages, The Rainforest, Arctic Blast, The Department Store, Princes & Princesses, Pirates, Snow Village and Year Round Weather. Please note that the Preschool will be **closed on Monday, January 19 and Monday & Tuesday, January 26 & 27**. We are in the process of registration for the 2009-2010 school year, so please tell your friends and neighbors to register their child. Thank you to all of you who have re-enrolled your child and their younger siblings; what a wonderful vote of confidence for our program! 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



Catechism Club Begins second semester

Catechism Club participants will begin second semester classes on Sunday, January 11, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 322. The group is halfway through their memorization of the 150 questions of the *First Catechism*.



Presbyterian Women

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family have had a very joyous Christmas and New Year. The Presbyterian Women are deep in their study of the Word.

They are also very busy in many other areas as well.



Some of the things we have been doing include: participating in our quarterly rotation of supplying meals for the medical staff to the Mooresville's Free Medical/Dental Clinic. The staff there is most

appreciative of these meals. It is also reported that the monthly donations to the Christian Mission are generous. This is a great need in our community!

The Presbyterian Women are hosting a Valentine's Tea on Sunday, February 8 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring your daughters, mothers, sisters or anyone that is special to you.

There are several dates to mark on your calendar. The Salem PW Spiritual Enrichment Day is Saturday, March 21. It will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem. Rev. Deneise Deter Liss will be the speaker. On Saturday, April 18, the Annual Spring Gathering will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Eden. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Diane Givens-Moffett.

Please feel welcome to attend any circle that fits you and your schedule. We have six. They are: Circle #1 (meets second Monday at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor), Circle #2 (meets second Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor), Circle #3 (meets second Monday at 6:15 p.m. in the Parlor), Circle #4 (meets second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor), Circle #5 (meets second Tuesday at noon in the Parlor or someone's home), and Circle #6 (meets second Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor).

PYF News

The new year for PYF is starting with a bang this month! The church's chili cook-off, a ski trip, a lock in, and a new event – *God Goes to the Movies* Once a month, 9th-12th graders will gather together to watch a movie and have time to discuss ways in which we can see God in this movie. Ultimately, this will help students to gain a perspective of God's presence in the world around them, that God is speaking even through the culture that is all around them. This month's movie will be *The Dark Knight*. We hope to see you there (and bring a friend!).



January PYF Schedule

January 4	PYF
January 7	Supper Club @ Pueblo Grande
January 9	God Goes to the Movies – <i>The Dark Knight</i>
January 11	PYF
January 14	Supper Club @ Wendy's
January 18	PYF Ski Trip!
January 21	Supper Club @ Burger King
January 25	Church Chili Cook-Off!
January 26-27	Supper Club Lock-in!
January 28	Supper Club @ Steak & Hoagie

College Ministry

College students! Start off the New Year with an all you can eat meal with your FPC friends! Sunday, January 4th, after the 11am service, we will meet in the parlor and then head out as a group to go to Tokyo Buffet for all you can eat fun. All you need is your appetite because the meal is on us! RSVP to the church office are appreciated, but not required (just so we know who to wait for before heading out). See you there!

Saints Alive

A "Cool" Luncheon Planned

The monthly Saints Alive luncheon (\$4) will be held Tuesday, January 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The program will be presented by Bob and Mimi Dobbins, who will share their experiences of a recent trip to Antarctica (that's the "cool" part!). Come find out about this remote and very cold area of the world. In spite of the "cool" topic, the group always enjoys warm fellowship and conversation, along with inspiring devotions. Start the new year right with a visit to a Saints Alive luncheon!

Tour the Billy Graham Library

Join Saints Alive on a tour of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte on Friday, January 16. The group plans to leave at 9:45 a.m., tour the library and eat lunch at the Graham Brothers Dairy Barn. The Library houses state-of-the-art exhibits, multimedia displays, and films, all showing events and milestones of Billy Graham's lifelong mission - to tell others about the love of Christ. The Library also includes a bookstore, "Ruth's Attic," with unique gifts and Christian literature. Please contact Ellen Auten to make a reservation.

Presbyterian Men

Our December meeting was very special. Bruce and Ann Telford presented a wonderful "Camera Safari" of their homeland, South Africa. The photography was beautiful and the animals were very interesting. We honored Gene Vaughan for 5 years of service to Presbyterian Men with an honorary diploma from Clemson University and a colorful jacket of orange and purple. The country ham and orange grits were delicious, thanks to Paul Beaver and his kitchen crew.

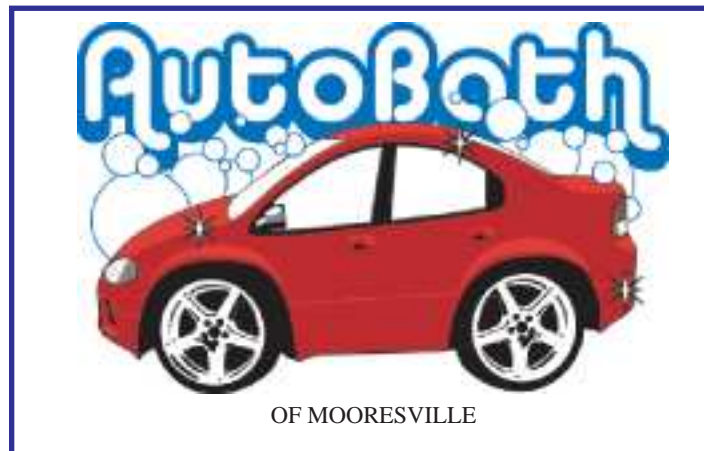
We move into 2009 with a new leadership team. Trent Newell has agreed to serve as president and Bill Brawley as vice president. They will be nominated at the January meeting. We look forward to their leadership.

The program for January 11 will be provided by Adrien Domske, wife of our Youth Minister. Adrien has trained dolphins before coming to Mooresville and will tell us about this interesting profession. Breakfast is at 8 a.m.

The Marti Estes 5k Race

The Marti Estes 5k race committee would like to announce that we have created a web site for the 2009 event. You can access the site at www.martiestes5k.com site will provide information about the 2009 event including a link to the on line registration site, course information, sponsorship details as well as pictures from the 2008 event and race results.

For those interested please consider registering early. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer this year please contact Stacey Faulkenberry at staceyf41@yahoo.com or by phone, 704-799-1344.



**FREE
CAR WASH**

**When you bring in your
church bulletin on Monday.**

We look forward to serving you and appreciate your business.

708 N. Broad St. Mooresville beside the old bowling alley

AutoBath is owned and operated by Brent Curtis



First Presbyterian Church

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*To be added to or subtracted from our mailing list, email:
secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org or phone: 704-664-5275.*

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. Early Worship
10:00 a.m. Church School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

JANUARY 2009

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