



First Press

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

FEBRUARY 2009

“On the Road to the Cross”

Lent in the Living Room Small Groups

Sign-up Begins Feb. 8; Groups Start the Week of Feb. 22-28

Registration for this year’s “Lent in the Living Room” will start on Sunday, Feb. 8, in the Parlor and will continue through Sunday, February 22. But you may be asking, “What is ‘Lent in the Living Room’?”

“Lent in the Living Room” is our annual Lenten small group and sermon series that connects small group discussions and studies held in homes and at the church with the sermons preached on Sundays in a very powerful and transformational way. Groups of 8-14 people (on average—some have more, some less) meet once a week during Lent for study, discussion, and fellowship. We provide discussion questions for every participant in booklets.

Our weekly method is this: We will meet first in our small groups once during the week to discuss the passage, and then we’ll hear a sermon on the following Sunday about that passage. The chart below may help you follow this pattern:

Groups Will Meet to Discuss...

- Week of Feb. 22-28
- Week of March 1-7
- Week of March 8-14
- Week of March 15-21
- Week of March 22-28
- Week of March 29-April 4

Date Sermon Preached on Scripture Passage...

- March 1 (1st Sunday in Lent)
- March 8 (2nd Sunday in Lent)
- March 15 (3rd Sunday in Lent)
- March 22 (4th Sunday in Lent)
- March 29 (5th Sunday in Lent)
- April 5 (Palm Sunday)

The reason for this method is two-fold: 1) it breaks us out of the rut of thinking that all we need to do in our discussion is somehow echo what the sermon said, and 2) it allows us to have Holy Week without any small groups meeting, freeing up our calendars for events like our annual Maundy Thursday service. *(Continued on page 3)*



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

Come one and come all, it’s talent show time again. Our ninth annual Talent Show is Sunday evening, February 15, 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 15 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. 3, assisted by members of the Christian Education Committee. 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

I am a new member of Facebook. What's Facebook, you ask? It is an online community of people from all over the world. I joined in late December 2008 with the help of my tech-savvy daughter, as did Cathy. Woohoo! There are a lot of old people like myself on it these days! Facebook is not a youth phenomenon any more. I've touched base with old church friends, old college buddies, and even a few high school classmates. It's been fun. Some of you I've already talked to, and we've become "friends".

I've had to do a little defending of pastoral honor, though. You know, the old jokes about pastors working only one day a week, and only a couple of hours at that. After a while, it got a little old, so I shot back what I hoped to be an "apologia" for the real pastoral work loads and responsibilities. I'm sure I came across as a little reactionary and mean. That was not my intent, but it occasionally happens. The sum total of my response was a listing of pastoral duties in no certain order: administrator, counselor, public speaker, HR officer, vision-caster, caregiver, PR officer, recruiter, and leader of a non-profit corporation. "And that's just on Mondays," I wrote.

It's quite true that today's pastors have a lot of irons in the fire, so to speak. Much has changed over the years in expectations and duties, just as they have in a number of fields. But do you know what the #1 responsibility of the pastor still is today? A duty that has not changed from the very beginning? The Apostle Paul mentions it in his advice to his protégé Timothy:

¹I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.
(2 Tim. 4:1-4, ESV)

Did you catch that? What's the priority for the pastor? "Preach the Word," says Paul. Be ready to preach God's Word whenever the opportunity strikes, in seasons of favor and of disfavor. Be sure to give the people the "whole counsel" (to quote an old saying) of the Word. Why? Because the time is coming (and perhaps is already here) when people will forego the preaching of God's Word in favor of messages that tickle their fancies, keep them in their comfort zones, and lead them away from God rather than toward him. Pastors can be wonderful at all kinds of duties, but if they fail to preach the Word and to give this preaching the priority it deserves, then we are not fulfilling our calling.

You want to know why your pastoral staff decided that preaching through Romans was the thing to do during worship for 2009? For this very reason: we want to give you God's Word on such things as what he's like, how to have a relationship with him, and why we need grace and the gospel so desperately. Romans may be the best place to find out the answers to these issues and more.

So we're going to give you in our sermons what Romans says. Sometimes you may not like it. Sometimes we may not like it either! But we will do it in season and out of season. We will be true to the text and to the message. God will move in and through all of us as we work through this book together. For February we'll look at the following passages from Romans before we start our Lenten series:

- February 1—Romans 2:17-29
- February 8—Romans 3:1-8
- February 15—Romans 3:9-20
- February 22—Romans 3:21-30.

God bless you all. Grace and peace to you.

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown
Pastor



Session Highlights

At a called meeting held on Sunday, January 4, 10:30 a.m., the Session acted upon the following:

- Completed its examination of elders and deacons elect in anticipation of their ordination and installation during the 11:00 a.m. service.
- Approved committee rosters for most of its standing committees for 2009, with the remainder to be approved during its January 25, 2009, stated meeting.

Highlights from the January stated meeting will be in the March newsletter, as it takes place after our publishing deadline for February's issue.

Marti Estes Race News

The Marti Estes 5k race committee is beginning to organize the volunteers for the second annual event scheduled for April 25th, 2009 at 8:30 am. Alyson Hill has agreed to head up the volunteer committee this year. Please let us know if you're willing to serve as a volunteer this year and in what area you would like to assist. There is a volunteer sign up sheet located in the parlor with other information and materials for the race. Please sign up on that sheet, or you can contact Alyson directly at 704-664-7980.

A few of the volunteer opportunities include; race packet preparation (a few days before the event), race packet pickup (Friday, April 24th), and event day opportunities include registration, race course marshal, race course volunteer, start line and finish line.

We will communicate more as the event draws closer. For more information regarding the race please visit the website at www.martiestes5k.com or you can contact Stacey Faulkenberry at staceyf41@yahoo.com, or 704-995-9156. We appreciate your continued prayers and support.

Marti Estes Race Committee



“Presbyterian Practices and Passions—P³”

A New Three-part Class on What It Means to Be Presbyterian Feb. 8, 15, and 22

Have you ever wondered why Presbyterians believe what they believe and do what they do? Why we worship in our particular style and format? Why we believe certain things about the sovereignty and majesty of God? Why we emphasize both human sinfulness and God's graceful provision? Why we call ourselves “Presbyterians” in the first place?



You'll soon have an opportunity to find out the answers to these questions and much more. Dr. Clay Brown will be teaching on three Sunday mornings in February—Feb. 8, 15, and 22—in the Fellowship Hall, 10:00-10:45 a.m., on what he describes as “Presbyterian Practices, Passions, and Procedures,” or “P³.”

He will cover a wide variety of topics related to why Presbyterians think and behave as they do, and you'll have the opportunity to ask questions all along the way.

Please indicate your interest in P³ by contacting the church office at 704-664-5275 or by emailing us at nellie@moorsvillefirstpres.org. No books are required and no homework will be given. Just come and be part of a community of learners on what makes Presbyterians tick.

...Lent in the LR (Continued from front page)



The theme of this year's “Lent in the Living Room” study and sermon series is “On the Road to the Cross,” describing the Passion of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Here are the dates, Scripture passages, and sermon/study titles:

- March 1, Mark 14:12-25, “On the Road to Denial”
- March 8, Mark 14:26-52, “On the Road to Suffering”
- March 15, Mark 14:53-72, “On the Road to Betrayal”
- March 22, Mark 15:1-15, “On the Road to Injustice”
- March 29, Mark 15:16-32, “On the Road to Crucifixion”
- April 5, Mark 15:33-47, “On the Road to Death”

For registration, we will have sign-up sheets in the Parlor arranged by days of the week for each group with the names and contact information for hosts and facilitators. You can register on Sundays before and after worship as well as contact the church during the week to sign up for the group of your choice.

We are looking not only for participants, but we are looking as well for more group “host homes,” people who will open their homes to a group meeting once a week, and for more “facilitators,” people who will lead in group discussion. We will not leave you out dangling by yourself! An orientation session to give you the materials (with the “cheat sheets” we've provided in the past, too!) and to review the program is scheduled for Thurs., Feb. 19, 7:00-8:00 p.m., at the church. If you're interested in serving, please contact Dr. Clay Brown at 704-664-5275 or clay@moorsvillefirstpres.org. When you respond with “yes, I want to help,” please include the following information:

1. The specific role you want to perform (host, facilitator, or both).
2. The dates/times you are available to serve (For example, “I can host on either Tuesdays or Thursdays at 7 p.m.” or “I can facilitate evening groups on Mondays & Thursdays.”).
3. Your availability for a Thurs., Feb. 19, 7:00-8:00 p.m. orientation session.
4. Any scheduling issues you may have (“I'll need to miss the third group meeting because I'll be out of town.”).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>9:00am Early Worship 1</p> <p>9:50am Church School Social</p> <p>10:00am Church School</p> <p>11:00am Worship with MSM No Catechism Club</p> <p>6:00pm PYF Souper Bowl Party</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166</p>
<p>8:00am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 8</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship</p> <p>10:00am Church School</p> <p>11:00am Worship with Logos choir</p> <p>2:00pm Presbyterian Women's Valentines Tea</p> <p>2:00pm Mwandu Mission Exploratory Meeting at Lake Norman Fellowship</p> <p>4:00pm Alpha PYF</p> <p>5:00pm Omega PYF</p> <p>5:00pm Diaconate</p> <p>5:30pm Catechism Club</p> <p>7:00pm Committee Meetings</p>	<p>9</p> <p>2:00pm Circle No. 1 in the Parlor</p> <p>6:15pm Circle No. 3 at the home of Kim Streb</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Circle No. 4</p> <p>12:00pm Circle No. 5 at Genesis</p> <p>2:00pm Circle No. 6 in the parlor</p> <p>6:00pm Circle No. 2 in the parlor</p> <p>7:00pm VBS meeting</p>
<p>9:00am Early Worship 15</p> <p>10:00am Church School</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm Catechism Club</p> <p>5:30pm All PYF</p> <p>6:00pm Pot Luck Supper & Talent Show</p> 	<p>16</p>  <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>7:30pm Executive Committee</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30am <i>Exploring Our Reformed Faith</i> group</p> <p>12:30pm Saints Alive Lunch</p> <p>7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship</p> <p>10:00am Church School</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p> <p>4:00pm Alpha PYF</p> <p>5:00pm Omega PYF</p> <p>5:30pm Catechism Club with mentors</p> <p>7:00pm Session</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p>

March 2009						
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				



FEBRU

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Disney Mania</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ 5 Guys</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>6:00pm Exaltation Ringers</p> <p>7:00pm PW Coordinating Team in the Session Room</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>6:00pm Cotillion</p> <p>6:15pm PYF God Goes to the Movies: <i>Groundhog Day</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Valentine's/Chocolate</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ Syd & Sam's</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Fun & Fellowship</p> <p>6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral</p> <p>6:00pm Exaltation Ringers</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>6:00pm Cotillion</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Nascar</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ 5 Guys</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>6:00pm Exaltation Ringers</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>9:00am Saints Alive to Schiele museum</p>  <p>6:00pm Cotillion</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Cartoon</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ Zaxby's</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>6:00pm Exaltation Ringers</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>  <p>6:00pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet</p>

JARY 2009



“We Love Church School” Social

Everyone is encouraged to attend the first Church School Social of 2009 on Sunday, February 1, from 9:50-10:10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This social will feature the February “Love” theme, emphasizing our LOVE for Church School.

Wonderful things happen each week at Church School as we learn more about loving and serving God, loving people and developing caring relationships, and challenging our classes to make disciples by teaching and inviting. What a great way to spend every Sunday morning of the year! Come to the Social on February 1 to find out more about all this LOVE! We’ll enjoy delicious, “love-ly” refreshments, and have an opportunity to learn more about Church School.



2009 Mission Trip to Zambia



Interested in heading to Zambia (passports required) to work at the mission in Mwandi? Tentative dates are **July 4-July 21**. There will be

opportunities to work at the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Center, in the local community, at the hospital, the church and the school. Cost of the trip including airline tickets and accommodations will be around **\$3500** per person. *A special informational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8, at 2:00 p.m. at Lake Norman Fellowship, 246 Blume Road.* Contact Fred Coates for more information about the meeting or the trip.



Saints Alive

February Meeting

The monthly SaintsAlive luncheon (\$4) will be held on Tuesday, February 17, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All “older” adults are encouraged to attend - the group enjoys a delicious lunch, devotions and prayer, and an interesting program, along with uplifting and encouraging fellowship.

This month’s program will be presented by Jeep Hunter, a former photographer with *The Charlotte Observer*. In talking with Jeep about his program, he says that he plans to tell a story about people with his photographs, as he is a “people person.” Jeep shared a letter from Charles Kuralt, in which Mr. Kuralt relates this about Jeep:

“One of the best things about my days on The News was working with Jeep and watching Jeep work, capturing moments. He did it so easily and unobtrusively, as if he weren’t there at all. That was a lesson to me: Stay out of the story. Just let the thing happen. But when it happens, don’t miss it. Because Jeep Hunter never misses it, Charlotte has his incomparable collection of moments. Here they are. Ecstasy and tenderness and laughter and pain. Because of Jeep, those politicians’ cigars will jab at each other perpetually, and one old man on a child’s swing will stare balefully out at us always, and a pretty high school graduate will be forever young.”

Be sure to put February 17 on your calendar as we enjoy the people whom Jeep has captured on film in his photography career.

Upcoming Trips Planned

The Saints Alive group is planning two trips in the near future. The first is a trip to the Schiele Museum of Natural History in Gastonia on Friday, February 20. The nature museum promotes an awareness and appreciation for nature, and collects, studies and preserves natural specimens and cultural artifacts. In addition, the museum also houses the James H. Lynn Planetarium, the Charlotte area’s only planetarium.

The group plans to leave at 9:00 a.m., tour the museum and planetarium, and have lunch at Chantilly’s in Gastonia. Admission cost is \$9.

The second trip is to the 49th annual Southern Spring Home & Garden Show in Charlotte on Thursday, March 5. At the show, you will find beautiful landscapes, inspiring designer rooms from the Interior Design Society, exquisite displays of bonsai, Ikebana, and orchids, and over 300 companies with the best and latest in building and home improvement, outdoor living, kitchen and bath, decorative arts and crafts, green building, and interior décor.

The group plans to leave at 9:00 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.50.

Please contact Ellen Auten to make reservations.



From the Presbyterian Women

The Coordinating Team would like to remind all the women of the church of the upcoming **Valentine's Tea on Sunday, February 8** in the Parlor from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. You are encouraged to bring your daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts or come by yourself and enjoy the company of the wonderful ladies of our church.



Our food collection for the Mooresville Christian Mission still continues to be generous. We will again collect powdered milk and baby food for February.

Please be reminded that 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. If you are interested in attending please let me know. I will be glad to forward you the registration information.

Karen Brawley
PW Moderator

Circle 5 will be meeting in the sunroom at Genesis Eldercare at 1pm on February 10. They will carpool from the Academy Street parking lot at 12:45pm. They plan to help Martha Gragg celebrate her birthday.

Congratulations!

We extend sincere congratulations to Joe and Jennifer London on the birth of their twin babies born January 14. There is much excitement at the London home with the arrival of Samuel and Olivia who joined siblings, Allison, Noah, Zachary and Avery. We are also pleased to announce that Tom and Carolyn Poteat are the proud grandparents of twin babies as well. Jimmy and his wife welcomed Samuel on January 21 and Margaret on January 22. May God bless each of these families.



Logos/MSM February dates

- Sun, Feb. 1** - MSM Handbells at 11:00a.m. worship service
- Wed, Feb. 4** - Disney Mania night
- Sun, Feb. 8** - Logos choir sings at 11:00 a.m. worship service
- Wed, Feb. 11** - Valentine's & Chocolate Night
- Wed, Feb. 18** - Nascar Night
- Wed, Feb. 25** - Cartoon Night

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, Mittens, Hibernation and Arctic Blast were a perfect tie-in, and our Bunnies enjoyed building their Igloo! The children loved wearing their pajamas to school and having pancakes in the Lambs class, and how wonderful to watch our little Fish class learn Spanish.

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 Thursday, February 12th and Friday, February 13th, with the Preschool being closed on Monday, Feb. 16th for parent/teacher conferences.

We are in the process of 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. Thank you also for your loyalty and recommendations to friends and family. That is the greatest gift of all.



Remember, if the winter weather should turn to ice or snow, we follow the Mooresville City Schools for closings or delays.

With love,
Mrs. Nancy

Budget and Finance News

Congratulations to all on how we finished the year of 2008 from a financial perspective. Thanks to well managed expenses we finished the year with our overall expenses below the budgeted amount by \$59,446. Because of this we were able to be in the black for the year on an actual expenditure basis by \$11,751. This is a testament first, to the response of all of you to supply the funds needed to do our work in this world as God's church, and second to the efficient financial management of our resources.

On another note, we were able to add over \$36,000 to our missions budget for the year, due to a charitable gift from the Pressley Brawley estate.

PYF Events Calendar

February

- 1 PYF Superbowl Party
Youth Room, 6pm until the game ends
- 4 Supper Club @ Five Guys, 6:15-8:30
- 6 God Goes to the Movies
Groundhog Day , 6:15-8:30
- 8 PYF: Alphas, 4-6:15
Omegas, 5-7:15
- 11 Supper Club @
Syd & Sam's BBQ, 6:15-8:30
- 15 PYF: Talent Show & Church Night Supper!
All PYF, 5:30-8
- 18 Supper Club @ Five Guys, 6:15-8:30
- 22 PYF: Alphas, 4-6:15
Omegas, 5-7:15
- 25 Supper Club @ Zaxby's, 6:15-8:30

"Souper Bowl" Party

The PYF will be having a Souperbowl Party on February 1, and will be bringing cans of food with them to donate to the local food mission. In an effort to collect as much as possible, the youth will also be collecting cans of food after the worship services that morning. So bring any non-perishable food items you wish to donate with you to the worship services on Sunday, February 1. Youth will be in the back at the end of each service to collect your donations. Thanks!



Refreshment Reminder

The **Men's Bible Class** is responsible for serving refreshments after the 11:00 services during the month of **February**.



New Bible Study for Parents (and interested "non-parents")

This month Tyler is going to start a bi-monthly Bible Study for parents (though it's open to all adults). The study is not a specific focus on parenting, but instead will be a version of the Bible study that we do with the youth on each week. Study after study has shown that parents have the most impact and influence on their child, and this will hopefully be a way for you not only to be involved in a Bible study, but also to have a way to discuss that with your child. So next week when you ask your student, "What did you talk about at youth group?" you can follow that up with "Really? That's an interesting thought! Here is what I thought about it..."

The study will meet in the youth room on the first and third Tuesday of the month (Feb 3 & 17) from 6:45-7:30, with a guarantee to end on time (you can walk out if it doesn't!). Contact Tyler at tyler@moorvillefirstpres.org for more details.



Christian sympathy is expressed to the Kortright family in the death of their oldest son, Brett, on January 23. Our prayers are with you.



First Presbyterian Church

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To be added to or subtracted from our mailing list, email:
secretary@moorvillefirstpres.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

FEBRUARY 2009

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