



First Press

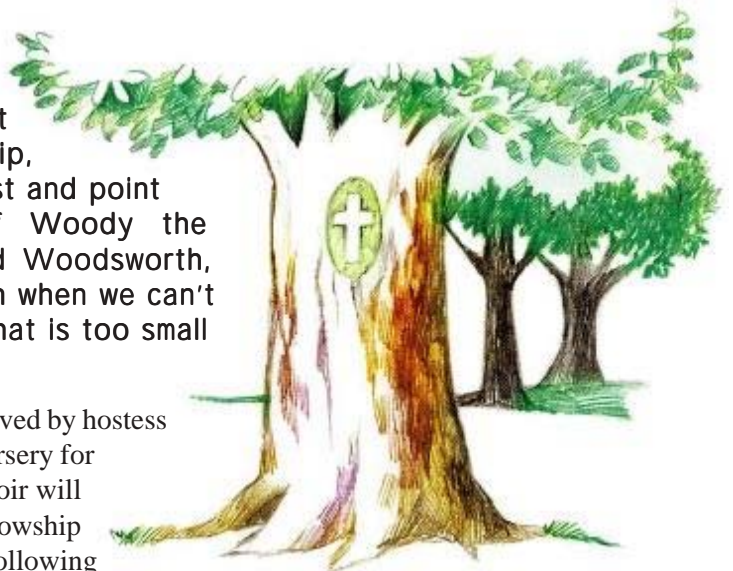
A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

MARCH 2009

The 2009 Logos Choir presents... The Tale of Three Trees

The entire congregation is invited to a special evening of theatre, on Sunday, March 15, in the fellowship hall. The Logos Choir will present the musical, *The Tale of Three Trees*.

This delightful musical brings to life the traditional story of some trees with a dream and a God with a plan. Follow the adventures of Annabelle, who dreams of holding great treasure, Bud, who longs to become a mighty ship, and Gabrielle, who just wants to stay in the forest and point people toward God. Through the eyes of Woody the woodcutter, Stump, who is rooted in puns, and Woodsworth, the tree of knowledge, we are reminded that even when we can't see the forest for the trees, there is no prayer that is too small for God.



Immediately after the performance, desserts will be served by hostess Jerilyn Fair and members of the Personnel Committee. A nursery for small children will be provided during the musical. The choir will rehearse Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The choir will then take the "show on the road" the following Saturday evening. They will travel to Statesville for an adventurous night at FunStation 2000 and then perform the musical at Forest Park Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning.



The First Family Plan

Board of Deacons is emphasizing a renewed congregational care plan

"The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ" (PCUSA, *Book of Order*, G-6.0401). In partial fulfillment of that task, our Board of Deacons has

recently implemented a renewed "First Family" plan to facilitate congregational care and contact. The primary purpose of the plan is to promote meaningful, ongoing contacts and connections between the leadership of the church and the membership.

It's really a simple concept. The total membership of the church has been divided into 20 (roughly equal) groups (broken down by household last name) with each group having one deacon assigned to it. Those deacons will each be (or have already been) contacting the members of their groups, on at least a quarterly basis, in order to "connect" with those First Family group members. Whether by telephone call, "snail mail" letter, personal visit or via email, the plan is intended to "connect" with you! It offers a wonderful opportunity for you personally to share your concerns and joys

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From the Pastor...

Presbyterians, Lent, and Spiritual Growth

Growing up Southern Baptist, I didn't observe Lent as a young man. Lent was something those unusual creatures called Catholics did. I knew Lent had something to do with eating fish instead of meat, and that was the sum total of my knowledge.

As I gravitated toward being Presbyterian, I noticed that most Presbyterian churches observed Lent. So I began to practice a spiritual discipline most associated with the season: I would give up something of value. So one Lent I gave up carbonated soft drinks, which left me in the awkward position of having to drink beer at a minor league baseball game I attended with members of Cathy's family if I wanted something to drink with my peanuts. My sister-in-law,

Georgie, still ribs me about drinking a beer instead of a Coke for religious reasons! During another Lent I abstained from caffeine. May I say this was the grumpiest Lent ever, and my family daily urged me to break this vow? But I held firm... and then I drank an entire two-liter bottle of Mountain Dew on Easter Sunday.

Then I discovered that John Calvin, who is credited with starting up all things Presbyterian, thought Lent was spiritualized superstition, with people thinking their sacrifices for the season somehow earned them merit or favor before God. Now Calvin was not opposed to spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, and the like, but he thought Lent wrongly led people into assuming their acts of devotion secured them points with God.

While I affirm that Lent can be a useful time of spiritual growth, I hear Calvin's concern loud and clear. So I'm no longer convinced that Lent is best observed by giving up things like smoking, soft drinks, or caffeine. I'm more concerned about adding something of value to my spiritual growth during the Lenten season, something that the Holy Spirit will use to continue his transformational work within me. It may be as a special time of study, a focused time of prayer, a particular offering I can give to help others, or a renewed commitment to worshiping God "in spirit and truth".

What is something of value you will add to your spiritual life during this Lent?

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown

First Family Plan

(continued from page 1)

with the church leadership, a chance to update any personal or family contact information in the church database as well as a convenient way to keep open the lines of communication with the church. Please feel free to contact your First Family deacon at your convenience. Here's a list of the 20 congregational groupings:

FF	Last Name	Deacon	Telephone	Email
01	A-Baker (Nancy)	Horsman, Marshall	704-664-9765	cmarshallh@aol.com
02	Baker (Dot)-Brawley (P.)	Cole, Judy	704-896-1995	Judylamberthcole@aol.com
03	Brawley (Billie)-Brown	Brooks, Lynn	704-528-4198	lynntbrooks@gmail.com
04	C-Crouch	Cole, Bryan	704-992-2936	bryangcole@yahoo.com
05	Crowley-DenBleyker	Donelson, JD	704-664-9748	jdkcdon@mi-connection.com
06	Derby-Fite	Davidson, Jim	704-662-9393	jndavidson@hotmail.com
07	Fletcher-Giroux	McMillan, Thomas	704-500-0033	tbirdmcmillan@yahoo.com
08	Goad-Herring	Estes, Eric	704-663-1676	EstesE@welchallyn.com
09	Hill-Johnston	Ballard, Kathy	704-663-5861	Kat7Bl@aol.com
10	Johnston-Knutsen	Pluer, Eric	704-662-8363	jecpluer@windstream.net
11	Koger-Looney	Bates, Laura	704-663-8887	lebats@windstream.net
12	Lovett-McDonnell	Brawley, Dale	704-528-3638	dbrawley@coddlecreek.com
13	McFarland-Miller	Deal, Becky	704-662-3129	Tdeal42@aol.com
14	Mock-Owen	Sink, Beth	704-660-1076	bethsink@yahoo.com
15	Pankova-Powell	Pluer, Janice	704-663-1676	janice_pluer@airgas.com
16	Prochaska-Sands	Stutts, Mary Beth	704-799-8675	maknox@cisco.com
17	Schaen-Sloop	Vaughan, Gene	704-663-1733	gevaugha@duke-energy.com
18	Small-Swedenberg	Stutts, Patrick	704-799-8675	patrickstutts@jcmdlaw.com
19	Swindell-Watson	Morrow, Julie	704-664-7814	jmorrow@mgd.k12.nc.us
20	Weaver-Yohe	Weyer, Lucinda	704-799-0678	lucindaweyer@windstream.net

March PYF Events Calendar

- 1 PYF: Alphas, 4-6:15; Omegas, 5-7:15
- 4 Supper Club @ Arby's, 6:15-8:30
- 7 Mission & a Movie 9am until 3pm
- 8 PYF: Alphas, 4-6:15; Omegas, 5-7:15
- 11 Supper Club @ Five Guys, 6:15-8:30
- 15 PYF: All PYF, 5:30-8:00
(Logos Musical - NO MEAL)
- 18 Supper Club @ Salsaritas, 6:15-8:30
- 20 God Goes to the Movies - *I Am Legend*, 6:15-8:30
- 22 PYF: Alphas, 4-6:15; Omegas, 5-7:15
- 25 Supper Club @ Quiznos, 6:15-8:30
- 29 PYF: Alphas, 4-6:15; Omegas, 5-7:15



Organ Fund Established



Last fall the Session approved the establishment of an organ fund. This fund will be for the maintenance and repair of our fine pipe organ. The instrument was designed and built by Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas. After building the organ in the Kansas factory, it was shipped to Mooresville and installation began on Monday, April 27, 1970. The total cost was \$43,476.

Reuter Organ Company estimates the replacement cost today at \$365,000. With such a fine and expensive instrument, the need for proper care and maintenance is critical. The organ has served this congregation well for almost 39 years and with good care and long range planning, it will be here for many, many years ahead. If you would like to make gifts or memorials to this fund, simply include "Organ Fund" on your check memo.

"We Love Church School"

We do love Church School at First Presbyterian, and some of the classes have recently shared their thoughts on *Why We love Church School*:

From Preschool classes:

- I like to color at church school.
- I like to play with my friends.
- I like to play with play dough.



From Elementary classes:

- Because of the fun activities.
- Because we get snacks.
- Because it's fun to learn about the Bible.
- Being with friends.
- Communicating with God.
- Because we learn about Jesus.

From Senior High class:

- Good time for Christian fellowship
- Learn more about the Bible
- Being with friends
- It's fun!

From an Adult class:

- I love to spend time studying God's word with others who love the Lord and desire to know Him more intimately.
- I love to learn from someone who knows more than I do – who's well-read and well-studied and an encourager.
- To study the word of God which is the most important thing. We share the same faith in Jesus and encourage each other and pray together.

Logos/MSM Dates

Sunday, March 1 – MSM Handbells play at 9:00 a.m. worship service

Wednesday, March 4 – "Cat in the Hat" Night

Wednesday, March 11 – "Stuffed Animal/PJ" Night

Saturday, March 14 – Logos Musical Dress Rehearsal - 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, March 15 – Logos choir sings at 11:00 worship service
Logos Musical, "The Tale of Three Trees" at 7:00 p.m.

**Choir comes at 4:30 p.m. for rehearsal and pizza supper*

Wednesday, March 18 - "Barnyard" Night

Saturday, March 20-Sunday, March 21 – Logos trip to Statesville

Wednesday, March 25 – "FPC Idol" Night






Wednesday, April 1 – Last day of Logos/MSM – Banquet at 6:15 p.m. for Logos/MSM participants and weekly Logos/MSM volunteers

Thank you!

The family of Martha Gragg would like to thank everyone, especially Circle 5, who helped make Martha's 95th birthday such a special occasion. She gets so much enjoyment out of all of the visits and cards because her church family means so much to her. Martha expresses her gratitude to everyone as well.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Communion 1	2	3
9:00am Early Worship with MSM Handbells 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship 3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00pm Alpha PYF 5:00pm Omega PYF 5:30pm Catechism Club 	6:30pm Fellowship Committee 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm LILR at the Coates' home	2:00pm Library Committee 6:45pm Underground Bible Study 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166
8	9	10
8:00am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Alpha PYF 5:00pm Omega PYF 5:00pm Diaconate 5:30pm Catechism Club with mentors 7:00pm Committee Meetings	2:00pm Circle No. 1 in the Parlor 6:15pm Circle No. 3 at the home of Kim Streb 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm LILR at the Coates' home	10:00am Circle No. 4 11:45am Carpool for Circle 5 12:00pm Circle No. 5 at the home of Dorothy Nelson 2:00pm Circle No. 6 in the parlor 6:00pm Circle No. 2 in the parlor 7:00pm VBS Meeting
15	16	17
9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship with Logos Choir 5:30pm All PYF - No Meal 7:00pm Logos Musical with Dessert 	7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm LILR at the Coates' home 7:00pm Executive Committee	10:30am <i>Exploring Our Reformed Faith</i> group 12:30pm Saints Alive Lunch 6:45pm Underground Bible Study 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 166
22	23	24
9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Alpha PYF 5:00pm Omega PYF 5:30pm Catechism Club 7:00pm Session <div style="background-color: #f8d7da; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Logos Trip</div>	7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm LILR at the Coates' home	
29	30	31
9:00am Early Worship 9:50am Church School Social 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship with Eagle Scout Award 4:00pm Alpha PYF 5:00pm Omega PYF 5:30pm Catechism Club  	7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm LILR at the Coates' home	

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>Cat in the Hat</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ Arby's</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9:00am Saints Alive to Spring⁵ Show</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>7:30pm Mooresville User's Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>9:00am "PYF Mission & a Movie"</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>Stuffed Animal/PJ</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ Five Guys</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</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>9:00am Logos Musical Dress Rehearsal</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Logos Musical DRESS REHEARSAL</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>Barnyard</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ Salsaritas</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>6:15pm PYF God Goes to the Movies - <i>I Am Legend</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <div style="background-color: #fce4ec; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Logos Trip</div>
<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>FPC Idol</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm SupperClub @ Quiznos</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>8:00am Church Clean-up Day until 12 noon</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Clean-up Day</p>



will continue meeting Monday through Friday until April 4. The groups meet at various homes. For more information, please call the church office.

Saints Alive

St. Patrick's Day Saints Alive Luncheon

The monthly Saints Alive luncheon (\$4) will be held Tuesday, March 17, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This month we will enjoy a St. Patrick's Day luncheon, so wear some green and come join the fun! Ellen Hinson will be presenting a program relating to Scots-Irish heritage as she shows how the historic stone markers along a greenway in Fort Mill, as well as the Standing Stones in Scotland, represent our Scots-Irish heritage. All senior adults are encouraged to attend!



Southern Spring Home & Garden Show

Saints Alive is planning to attend the 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 to make reservations.

Outing to NC Mountains Planned

Once again the Saints Alive group plans to return to one of our favorite destinations – Hemlock Inn in Bryson City, NC. Reservations have been made for Tuesday, May 12 through Friday, May 15. The inn is informal and beautifully situated on fifty wooded acres on top of a small mountain and offers delicious home-cooked meals; breakfast and dinner are included in the room rate.

The surrounding area offers many recreational opportunities, including the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad, Cherokee Indian Reservation, Fontana Dam, Cades Cove, fishing, hiking, golf, and surrounding towns for shopping and exploring. In addition to off-site recreation, the inn offers wonderful opportunities for fellowship.

Room reservation rates are listed below. The rate includes three nights' lodging, three breakfasts and three dinners + tax. Please note the discount that applies to reservations made prior to March 15.

Before 3/15 - Double occupancy- \$450.07; Single- \$386.32

After 3/15 - Double occupancy- \$482.18; Single- \$399.96

To secure your reservation, first contact Ellen Auten, then call Mort White, innkeeper, at Hemlock Inn (828-488-2885). Payments may be made by credit card or check (payable to the Hemlock Inn). A \$166 per room deposit is due by Sunday, March 15.

You may find more information about Hemlock Inn at www.hemlockinn.com.

Vacation Bible School

Jungle Safari

It's a jungle out there! And it will be a jungle at church, June 22-26, when we enjoy a "Jungle Safari"



Vacation Bible School! Plans are well underway for this summer's VBS, and we're so excited about going on a jungle safari, as we learn about the Lord's Prayer, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the jungle in the process. VBS will be held June 22-26, from 9:30 a.m. – noon each day. The

VBS Planning Committee, led by VBS Director Susan Kendall, is busy preparing for a week of learning, discovery, fellowship and fun this summer!

Adult and teen volunteers are needed to help with crafts, music, nursery, snack, Bible classes, recreation, decorations, registration, skits, and lots more! Please contact Susan Kendall (704-660-0458; kendalls3@gmail.com) or Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; dce@moorvillefirstpres.org) to volunteer!

Camp Grier

The Place to be in 2009

It's time to make plans for summer camp at Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC, for children in rising second through twelfth grades, with weekly camping sessions offered from June 15 through July 31.

The camp will host an Open House at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, to give parents and potential campers an opportunity to meet with the Camp Director and staff. You'll also be able to go hiking, canoeing, make a craft project, and enjoy hot dogs and s'mores. Call the camp office for more information: 828-668-7793.

Camp Grier is also looking for college-age young adults to be part of the summer staff. Please contact Dave Cohn at the number listed above, or e-mail him at dave@campgrier.org. Dave will also be with us for the Logos dinner on Wednesday, March 18 to answer any questions.

Please contact Ellen Auten for more information, or go to the camp website: www.campgrier.org. Scholarship help is available.



Dear FPC friends,

Thank you for the cards, letters, prayers and visits during my recent surgery and recovery period. I appreciate them very much and your kindness will not be forgotten.

Jeff Stonestreet



Presbyterian Women

The Valentine's Tea was well attended and enjoyed by all. If you weren't able to attend, you missed a real treat. I hope you will make plans to attend next year.



The Presbyterian Women are looking forward to spring. March 6 is World Day of Prayer. This is a day set aside for the whole world to pray together. Isn't it a wonderful thought that the entire world is praying together at the same time? Please take a moment on this day to pray.

The Salem Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering is Saturday, April 18 at First Presbyterian Church, Eden. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Diane Givens-Moffett. If you are interested in attending, please see a Circle Moderator or myself for a registration form.

Karen Brawley
PW Moderator

Presbyterian Men

Mr. David Harris with NCDOT will have the program for the March Men's Breakfast. His will be speaking on *Wildflowers Across North Carolina*. David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harris and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brawley. All men are invited to the breakfast on Sunday, March 8, at 8:00 a.m.



Palm Sunday

Lay down your coat for Jesus

You are encouraged to bring your used or outgrown winter coats to church on Palm Sunday, April 5, symbolically "laying down your coat for Jesus," just as the people of Jerusalem lined his path with their cloaks and palm branches for the triumphal entry. The coats will be donated to Mooresville Christian Mission. As we begin to enjoy warmer temperatures and you pack your winter coats away, consider donating a coat as a visible symbol of outreach to others. Bring your coats to the parlor on Palm Sunday, April 5, and they will be used as part of the Palm Procession.



We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the tremendous out-pouring of love and support for our family during these last few weeks. We truly were overwhelmed by the lovely cards, flowers and food sent to us during our time of grief for Brett. We hope in time to get to each one of you personally, but for now please know that you are a most kind and caring congregation, and we continue to feel lifted by your compassion and prayers.

With love and thanks,

Mark, Nancy, Keegan and Kevin Kortright

Weekday Preschool

What a wonderful time we had at our Valentine parties and in making our decorated bags, boxes and empty milk jugs to hold our

Valentines. Thank you to all our wonderful Moms who sent treats and came in to help. Other units in February included *Candy Shop, Dads Are Special, My Five Senses, Nursery Rhymes, Noah's Ark, Kings & Queens, Feelings, and The Dentist's Office.*



March promises to be busy as we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day, and other fun units on *Jonah and the Whale, Dr. Suess, Pirates, Going Green, Construction, Flowershop, Eric Carle Books, Ocean and Space.* We will be **closed on Friday, March 6.**

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the parents, grandparents and children that sent cards and notes of sympathy to me and my family during these last weeks. Your love and prayers have lifted me up and filled my heart with gratitude. All children are treasures, and we pray God's blessing on each and every one of them, and truly seeing your children's smiling faces has strengthened me more than you can imagine.

We love your children and are grateful that you have chosen to send them here. We continue to ask for your prayers as we care for them.

With love,
Mrs. Nancy

Church School Social

Everyone is invited to a Church School Social on Sunday, March 29, from 9:50-10:10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Light breakfast refreshments will be served, and everyone will have an opportunity for fellowship before attending church school classes. Come join the fun and fellowship!



Spring Clean-Up Day!

The Property Committee is holding a Spring Clean-up Day on March 28 from 8:00 - 12:00. We have developed a list of things that could use "sprucing up" around the church to help things look A+ for the upcoming



Easter services. We want to challenge the different groups within the church, (Men, Women, Scouts, PYF, Church School classes, etc.) to a competition to see who can do the best job. Please contact Tom Kirkland, Amy Williams, or Joyce Johnson to sign your group up for the event. We'll get things clean, better

organized, and have good fellowship while doing it. Mark your calendars.

Scholarship News

Applications are available in the church office or from your school's guidance counselor for the Cora Freeze Scholarship, the Agnes Preston Neel Scholarship and the James Michael Drye Scholarship. All interested students should submit an application by April 1 for consideration by the review committee. The annual award for each of these scholarships is based upon proceeds from investments. This year's award will be approximately \$1,000.00 for the Cora Freeze and the Agnes Neel Scholarships and \$2,000.00 for the James Drye Scholarship.



Marti Estes 5k race

The Marti Estes 5k race committee is thrilled to announce that First Baptist Church will serve as the primary sponsor for our race this year. The goal for this event has always been to encourage the entire community to come together and do something that praises God as well as helps the needy of our area. First Baptist becoming the primary sponsor for the 2009 race shows that we are meeting the goal of getting our community involved in doing this event for the good of us all. There is still time to become a



sponsor of the race. Sponsorship levels are available from one hundred dollars up to five hundred dollars with all proceeds going to the Mooresville Christian Mission. There is information in the parlor regarding sponsorship levels and benefits, or you

can contact Stacey Faulkenberry at staceyf41@yahoo.com for more details.

Please also consider volunteering on event day. We have several volunteer opportunities so let us know what you are able to help with. The race is Saturday, April 25th, but there are many things that you can help do prior to the race if you are interested.

Thank you for your continued prayers of support as we prepare for this Walk of Faith!

The Marti Estes Race Committee

First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, NC 28115-3132

Tel: 704-664-5275 **Fax:** 704-664-7526

Email: secretary@mooresvillefirstpres.org

Web: www.mooresvillefirstpres.org

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

MARCH 2009

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Change service requested