



First Press

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

August 2009



First Pres PYF Goes to Washington....

Our youth took their annual summer mission trip to our nation's capital this year. The PYF, along with their chaperones, spent a week in July ministering to folks in the inner city of the District of Columbia. In addition to lots of hard work, they were able to spend some time viewing a few of the many historic sights. Go PYFers - we're proud of you!



From the Pastor...

THOUGHTS ON GRIEF AND THANKFULNESS...

Many of you know that my wife Cathy's father, Curtis Blake, passed away July 13 after a long struggle with Parkinson's and a related dementia (how related is a matter of great debate in the medical community) called Lewy Body Dementia. The funeral service was July 17 at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church outside Troy, NC. Both Curtis and his widow Sue grew up in Montgomery County and maintained strong ties there even when they were living out of state while he was in the U. S. Air Force for 20+ years and then a Southern Baptist pastor serving in Texas and Washington state. They had moved back to Montgomery County more than 20 years ago where he served several congregations before his second retirement, but his illness necessitated a move last fall to a retirement community in Garland, TX (a suburb of Dallas) not far from where their other daughter, Georgie, lives.

Curtis became a Christian as a young Air Force enlisted man sitting in the barracks of an Ardmore, OK, USAF base and listening to Billy Graham on the radio. He then followed Christ joyfully and consistently not only as an airplane mechanic and crew chief, but also as a second-career minister who went to seminary at the age of 38. His focus was on smaller congregations that often couldn't afford a full-time pastor. But Curtis' military retirement pension made it feasible for these congregations to have the pastoral leadership they sorely needed.

Curtis practiced the faith he preached. For example, when Cathy and I were a young married couple, they told us that they were moving from east Texas to western Washington state. That in itself was an act of faith, but then the other shoe dropped: they didn't have a church call at the time. In other words, they were moving there without a job. We of course pressed them on this, and Curtis' response was typically his. He stated that there were many small Southern Baptist congregations in the Seattle area without pastors, so there would be opportunities to serve. Furthermore he knew that they were being called to go there. God would open doors and provide guidance if they would take a few steps of faith, just as God did with Abram and Sarai's (Abraham and Sarah) steps of faith in Genesis 12. So they sold most of what they owned, loaded the rest in a U-Haul, and drove to Washington. When they arrived, they stayed for a few weeks with a pastor friend. But before too long, a church contacted them and called Curtis as pastor. With that congregation, he had one of his most fruitful periods of ministry. At the start of his tenure there, only a handful of people came on Sunday mornings. By the time he left, the church had grown to such an extent that an associate pastor had been called. He returned to North Carolina only because of his mother's health.

I mention the above to you because I think the nature of my experience in preaching his funeral on July 17 is instructive to many of us. I experienced (and still experience) a significant amount of grief at Curtis' passing. The quality of his life in the last few years was often not pleasant. The diseases afflicting his body took their toll on him physically and mentally. To see what Curtis used to be, and then to observe him at the end, was quite painful to the soul. While his relatively quick passing in the last stages is a relief to me in some respects, I mourn his departure from us. His death happened far too soon. He was only 74 years old.

Yet at the same time, my grief is colored with an incredible thankfulness for Curtis' life. He was an example to his flocks, his communities, his friends, and his loved ones. No, he wasn't perfect by any stretch (for example, he cheated like a bandit at every single kind of game he played, from golf to cards, and loved every minute of it!). But his was a life well lived for the Kingdom. People were touched in a positive way for the gospel of Christ through Curtis. And thus I am so grateful to God for Curtis' time with us even as I grieve.

Ministers sometimes talk about funerals that are "easy to do." By this we don't mean that we don't feel the grief any less than at other times. But the grief we feel is leavened with a significant portion of hope, comfort, and peace. We know that this person is with Jesus. That he/she was saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. That his/her life was lived well as one of Christ's disciples. That he/she heard upon entering God's presence the marvelous affirmation, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into your rest."

I think this experience is at the heart of what the Apostle Paul describes in 1 Thessalonians 4 when he instructs the Thessalonians so "they may not grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Thess. 4:13 ESV). Please note grieving is not prohibited. In fact, grieving is accepted as a natural and appropriate emotion. Jesus, after all, wept upon seeing Lazarus in the tomb, even as Jesus knew that Lazarus would be out of the tomb by the afternoon's end. So it is not the grieving that is discouraged. What's discouraged is grieving as a hopeless person would grieve, the sort of grief expressed by a person who does not believe that Christ rose from the dead, and therefore does not believe all who trust in Christ will experience this same sort of resurrection power as promised in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (ESV).

(Continued on next page)

From the Pastor - continued

It is my prayer that we may all grieve, as we have occasion to grieve, as people who hold fast to the grandest, greatest hope possible—the life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ.

It is also my prayer that we may so live as Christ's disciples that when our own departure comes, those we leave behind will have their grief infused with an equal portion of thankfulness for a life well lived, a life centered by trusting in and being devoted to Jesus.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown

The First Presbyterian Church Family:

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, food, and support during our time of loss and bereavement.

We appreciate your encouragement more than you can know. God bless.

In Christ,

The Family of Curtis Blake

Sue Blake, Cathy and Clay Brown, Georgie and J. E. Lancaster, Taylor Brown, Lauren Lancaster, Blake Brown, and Collin Brown



Annual Labor Day Retreat

At Camp Grier

The beginning of a new school year is just around the bend, along with Labor Day and our congregation's annual Labor Day retreat at Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC. The entire congregation is welcome to attend the retreat for all or part of the Labor Day weekend. Come for the entire weekend, or just come for the day! This year's dates are Friday, September 4, through Sunday, September 6.

The beautiful, rustic setting of Camp Grier is an ideal place to enjoy the gift of God's creation, as well as a great place to get to know some of your church family in the relaxed, pleasant surroundings of the NC mountains. You'll discover things about yourself and others as you enjoy swimming, boating, campfires, singing, Bible study, rock sliding, creek walking, rope bridges, rock skipping, hiking, ring swinging, rock collecting, wildlife observations, napping, eating, talking, and playing games together.



Brochures are available in the church office and at the rear of the sanctuary. **Please note Camp Grier's registration policy:** We are required to make a firm reservation one week prior to our retreat weekend. Please help all involved in the registration process by turning in your reservation form with payment prior to Friday, August 28. All reservations require pre-payment, and all reservations must be made by August 28.

Church School Promotion

Promotion Sunday/Christian Education Sunday scheduled for August 23

Church School Promotion Sunday will be held on Sunday, August 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All church school classes are invited to attend the special activity, which should last approximately fifteen minutes. Bojangle's biscuits and breakfast refreshments will be served, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Come enjoy fellowship together as we begin a new church school year, and make a mid-year "New Year's Resolution" to attend church school regularly with your church family.

Second graders will also receive a new Bible during Promotion Sunday activities.

In addition, Christian Education programs and volunteers will be recognized during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services on August 23.



PROMOTION SUNDAY

Presbyterian Men

We will be having our monthly breakfast on August 9 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be our own Chris Ahearn, who will enlighten us about the Lowes organization. All men are encouraged to join us for some great fellowship and a wonderful "home-cooked" breakfast. We look forward to seeing you then!



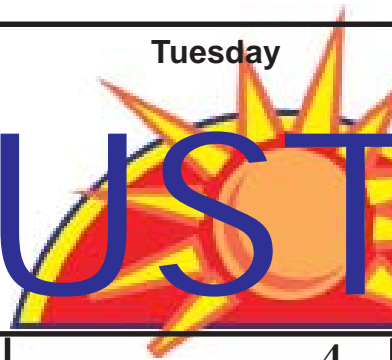


Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

AUGUST



2		3		4	
9:00am	Worship				
10:00am	Combined Church School				
11:00am	Worship				
		7:00pm	Boy Scouts		
9		10		11	
8:00am	Presbyterian Men's Breakfast				
9:00am	Worship				
10:00am	Church School				
11:00am	Worship				
5:00pm	Deacon's Meeting				
7:00pm	Committee Meetings	7:00pm	Boy Scouts		
Communion 16		17		18	
9:00am	Worship				
10:00am	Church School	Preschool Orientation 9:00 a.m.			
10:00am	Worship Orientation for 1st Graders				
11:00am	Worship				
		7:00pm	Boy Scouts	7:00pm	Executive Committee
Christian Education Sunday 23		24		25	
9:00am	Worship				
10:00am	Church School				
10:15am	Worship Orientation for 1st Graders				
10:15am	Logos/MSM Parent Meeting				
11:00am	Worship with Baptism				
7:00pm	Session Meeting				
7:00pm	Logos/MSM Parent Meeting	7:00pm	Boy Scouts		
30		31			
9:00am	Worship				
10:00am	Church School				
11:00am	Worship				
4:00pm	Alpha PYF				
5:00pm	Omega PYF	7:00pm	Boy Scouts		



Wednesday



Thursday

Friday

Saturday 1

2009



<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>6:00pm Just Desserts 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>6:00pm Just Desserts @ Sonic 7:30pm No Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>9:00am Preschool Workshop - FH 9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers home</p> <p>6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at the Golden Corral</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>9:00am Preschool Starts 11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>6:00pm Just Desserts @ Brusters 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NewsLetter DEADLINE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>2:00pm "Friends & Family" Lake Party</p> 
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>7:00pm Logos/MSM Parent Meeting 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Camp Grier Retreat Deadline</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>



Logos/MSM

Begins its 31st year at First Presbyterian

Our congregation will begin its 31st year of continuous involvement in the Logos/Middle School Ministry (MSM) program on Wednesday, September 9. During those 31 years, we have seen many children in our church family, as well as in the Mooresville community, participate in the fun, learning, and service that is a part of the program. Just think of the lives that have been touched in our community through the ministry of the Logos/MSM program!

Our program also has several Logos “alums” who are active in leadership, and whose children are now Logos program participants. So we have become a second generation Logos church. How exciting!

The Logos/MSM program is for youth in first through eighth grades, and consists of Bible study, worship skills, recreation and dinner, and is held on Wednesdays from 4:00-7:15 p.m. Logos is for grades 1-6, while MSM is for grades 7-8. The primary goal of the program is to develop genuine and lasting relationships between young people and Jesus Christ, between young people and their ministers, parents, other adults in the congregation, and their peers.

An essential part of the Logos/MSM program is parent participation. All parents are required to volunteer in some capacity each semester their child is enrolled in the program, usually performing kitchen duties, although opportunities are available to assist in Bible classes, recreation, nursery and music. A fee is charged for participation in the program - a \$30 registration fee and a \$50 per semester tuition fee. Scholarship help is available upon request; please contact Ellen Auten or Gretchen Little to request scholarship assistance.

While September 9 may seem like a long way away, there is much to be accomplished in our Logos year that happens before the year actually begins. Most importantly are the parent meetings, registration, and staff training. All of these dates are listed in the next column - please add them to your calendars.

This year’s program director is Gretchen Little (704-528-9796); assistant director is Lisa Davidson (704-662-9393). Please feel free to call Gretchen or Lisa with questions.

Important Logos/MSM Dates

Required parent meetings (all parents must attend one parent meeting each year). Meetings will be held in the fellowship hall, unless otherwise noted:

Sunday, August 23 - 10:15 a.m. - Room 300

Sunday, August 23 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 5 - at Camp Grier

Wednesday, September 9 - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2 - First semester registration deadline

Wednesday, September 2 - Logos/MSM Staff training and supper - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9 - First day of Logos/MSM - 4:00 p.m.



Worship Orientation

For rising first graders and their parents

At First Presbyterian, children join their parents and our church family for the worship service once they are in first grade. The church offers a Worship Orientation for first graders and their parents as a way of preparation and introduction to worship. This class is a wonderful opportunity to introduce children to our church’s worship service, and to help parents explain various aspects of the service to their children.

The worship orientation class will be led by Ellen Auten, and will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 16 at 10:00 a.m. and August 23, immediately following Promotion Sunday activities. Parents may attend either date; rising first graders will have their church school class in the sanctuary on both of these dates.



Christian sympathy is expressed to Sue Stevens and family in the recent passing of her husband, Terry and to Carroll Teeter and family in the passing of their loving wife and mother, Anita. In addition, we express our sympathy to David Nelson, Nick Smith, Cathy Brown and Beth and Ted Mikels, whose fathers all passed away recently. Our prayers are with each of you.

From Budget and Finance

January - June

YTD Budget	\$385,161.00
Deficit	<\$1,192.00>

Weekday Preschool

Well, the summer just flew by again, and I thought about all of you and your little ones putting your toes in the sand, swimming, eating ice cream, playing T-Ball and relaxing these last 2 months. I hope it was a happy and memorable family time for everyone, and that you are anxiously anticipating the start of Preschool. Your teachers have been busy preparing the classrooms and all the fun activities for the coming year.

You should have received my letter indicating your child's class assignment and the dates of "Sneak-a-Peek". The orientation is as follows:

Monday, August 17 9:30

M,W,F 4 yr. old Bunnies and Bears
*M, T, TH 4 yr. old Bunnies and Bears
M,W,F 2 and 3 yr. old Fish, Ducks and Lambs

Tuesday, August 18 9:30

T, TH 2 and 3 yr. old Fish, Ducks and Lambs
T,W,TH 4 yr. old Bunnies and Bears

*M-F & M,T,TH 4 yr. old Bunnies and Bears and 5 yr. old Frogs **may attend either day.**

As I mentioned in my letter, this is an opportunity for your child to see his/her classroom, teachers and new friends. The parent meeting, which is mandatory, is a chance for us to go over the school policies and hopefully answer any questions you may have. I am, of course, available to you anytime either at the Preschool (704 664-2701) or at home (703 664-3069). The Preschool email address is: nancy@moorvillefirstpres.org.

Our first full day of school will begin **Wednesday, August 19** from **9:00-12:00**.

I do have a request for something you can do to help the Preschool. If you shop at Harris Teeter please register with the **Together in Education** program for First Presbyterian Preschool with the number **4317**. You only need to register once and then we automatically benefit each time you shop. Also, please save and bring in any used inkjet cartridges so that we may recycle them.

We look forward to seeing you and your little one(s), and we share your hopes and dreams and will work hard to make this a wonderful year.

With love,
Mrs. Nancy



Welcome Back



Catechism Club

Begins a new year

Catechism Club is scheduled to begin a new year in September, with classes held during fall 2009 and spring 2010. Children in third through sixth grades are encouraged to participate.

For those unfamiliar with catechism, it is a book which gives a brief summary of the basic principles of Christianity in question and answer form. Children will learn basic theological vocabulary and gain an understanding of the Christian faith that will lay a foundation for their belief and trust in God through Jesus Christ. Children in Catechism Club will be encouraged to memorize the 150 questions of the *First Catechism*, and will have weekly instruction in basic Bible truths.



Catechism

Parental participation and attendance at Sunday meetings is essential; if parents are unable to attend, an adult sponsor will be matched with the child wanting to attend.

The class will be held from 5:30-6:15 p.m. This fall's schedule is as follows:

Sundays, September 13, 20, 27
October 4, 11, 18, 25
November 1, 8, 15

Adult mentors are an integral part of Catechism Club. They will "sponsor" a child through the process of catechism memorization and instruction, meeting frequently with the child. Following successful completion of catechism instruction and memorization, the children will be recognized in a worship service.

Registration will be taking place in the church parlor on August 16 and 23, before and after the worship services, or you may call Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) in the church office to register.



Thank You, Thanks to all who have sent cards, prayers and well wishes to me after my car accident. And a special thanks to the Sisters

In Christ who have taken turns sending meals to my family. While Michael can cook if he has to, I believe we would get tired of Beanie Weenies after a while! I am getting better each day. I know the Lord was watching over me that day and He continues to lift me up. Prayers are truly powerful and heartfelt.

Sincerely,
Jan Hampton

Annual Lake Party & Picnic

Saturday August 22, 2009

2:00 PM until ...

The Herrings' Play Place

In Sherrill's Ford on Lake Norman

Come & Play... Everyone Is Welcome!



Bring... your friends & family, a side dish and snacks to share...swimsuits, towels, floats, wave runners, & boats (if you can!) We have a large lot with 2 piers, a swimming beach, & plenty of picnic tables.

This is a time to strengthen our bonds as a church family as we have some fun. Plan to recreate & that includes getting wet! We will plan on eating around 6 PM.

For more information & maps, contact:

MAC & JILL Herring

Home: 704 664 2704

Mac's Cell: 704 677 0919

Jill's Cell: 704 662 4134

macherring@mi-connection.com

jill@mi-connection.com



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Web: www.moorevillefirstpres.org

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

AUGUST 2009

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