



First Press

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

February 2010

Lent In The Living Room 2010

Registration Begins February 7 in the Parlor

Our annual small group series “Lent in the Living Room” will register for groups in the Parlor on the Sundays of February 7 and 14. You may also register by contacting Nellie in the church office during normal business hours (nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org, 704-664-5275).

What is “Lent in the Living Room”? The heart of the program is small groups that meet in homes or at the church to study and discuss the Scripture passages that the pastors will be preaching on during Lent. Each group will begin sometime during the week of February 14 (the week of Ash Wednesday), so you can meet and discuss the passage and then hear the sermon on it the next Sunday. Groups will meet for a total of six sessions, finishing up the week of March 21 (the week before Holy Week).

This year’s theme is “Words from the Cross.” We’ll explore some of the last words of Jesus as he hangs on the Cross, atoning for sin and showing the grace and love of God for a hurting world. Here are the sermon titles and Scripture passages for the upcoming Sundays of Lent:

DATE	TITLE	TEXT
2/21 Lent 1	“Father, Forgive Them”	Luke 23:32-38
2/28 Lent 2	“Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise”	Luke 23:39-43
3/7 Lent 3	“Here Is Your Son”...“Here Is Your Mother”	John 19:25-27
3/14 Lent 4	“My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”	Matthew 27:45-49
3/21 Lent 5	“I Am Thirsty”	John 19:28-29
3/28 Lent 6	“It Is Finished”	John 19:30

We still have opportunities for additional groups to be formed. If you’re interested in hosting a group, facilitating a group, or doing both, please let the church office know what you specifically would like to do, and what day of the week and time is best for you (2-3 options if possible).

Interested In FPC?

“Membership Matters” Course Starts February 7

Beginning Sunday, February 7, and concluding Sunday, March 14, 10:00-10:45 a.m., in Room 222, you are invited to learn more about the Christian faith and First Presbyterian Church in a short six-week course called “Membership Matters.” The double meaning of the title is purposeful: this is a course about matters regarding membership at FPC, and we think that membership in our church matters a great deal!

This course is geared especially for those thinking about membership
(Continued on page 3...)

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

Come one and come all, its talent show time again. Our tenth annual Talent Show is Sunday evening, February 21, 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 show time on the 21st. 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 21, 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. 4, assisted by members of the Fellowship 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...

On Natural Evil and the Grace of God...

As I write this column, the images coming from Haiti in the wake of January 12th's 7.0 earthquake are horrific and terrifying. Many thousands are dead or dying. Buildings, roads, and homes are in rubble. People sit in open lots or fields out of fear for another earthquake to come. The Haitian government has ceased to exist in any meaningful way for all practical purposes. Aid delivered from around the world sits on the airport tarmac or in staging areas, waiting to be delivered, as a systems bottleneck with complex causes stops most deliveries in their tracks. The videos and still photos show suffering people in great pain, grief, and despair as they try to figure out what to do next.

It is during calamities like this that we often are compelled to address the question of natural evil. "What's that?" you ask. It is the question of why natural disasters and calamities happen.

Human evil we can understand at least in part. People make choices, and sometimes these choices are poor ones. Indeed, often these choices are evil ones, and many innocents pay the consequences for the malicious choices of others. You can argue that if God is a God of love, then surely he would stop people from making evil decisions, but then you get into issues of divine sovereignty and human agency that are very thorny indeed. Yet however you come out on the divine sovereignty versus human free will debate, hardly anyone argues that human beings have no ability to choose and instead are robotically following the dictates of God, natural selection, economic predetermination, or some other power.

But natural evil is a different kettle of fish, as they say. Why do natural disasters occur? Not just earthquakes, but tsunamis, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning strikes, floods, blizzards, droughts, and more? Surely God is in charge of the planet he himself made? Surely he could save the planet and its ecosystems from devastating catastrophes?

Again, partial answers are the best we can pose. Some ultimate answers we are not privy to as we, finite beings, try to understand the infinite. But one response mentioned in Scripture gives me somewhat of an answer, and some consolation as well. Maybe it will help you too.

In Romans 8, the Apostle Paul is talking about human suffering and how God works through it. In fact, we are told by Paul that if we are Christ's, then it makes sense that we will share in some way in suffering for the sake of Christ (v. 17). And then Paul writes the following in verses 18-23 (NLT):

¹⁸Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²²For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Verses 19-21 are the key: just as human beings were marred and tainted by sin at the beginning (remember Adam and Eve?), so all creation experiences the effects of the Fall. Just as human beings are fallen, the created order is fallen too. Earthquakes, like the one in Haiti, along with hurricanes and all the rest are part of the systemic sin that has infected the world. Sin is so much larger and more powerful than the misdeeds we do to one another and to ourselves, isn't it? Sin is global in its reach and global in its impact on life as we know it. Sin is alienation and separation from God in all its forms.

But sin and its accompanying natural evil is not the last word. Hope through God's grace and faith in Jesus Christ is the last word. This indeed is the good news of the gospel. Just as we human beings who have been claimed by Christ look forward with hope to freedom and redemption, so the creation looks forward to its release from its bondage and decay. Or as Paul puts it in verse 21, "the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay."

There is a day coming when not only human suffering, pain, heartache, and loss shall cease, but also the suffering of the created order will cease too. As the Apostle John writes in Revelation 21 (NLT):

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." ⁵And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"

The suffering is real. So is the hope. Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,
Clay Brown, Pastor

Are You Being Called to the 2010 Mwandi Mission?

Meeting set for February 17

Here's your chance to participate in our Zambia (Africa) Mission! Once again we are partnering with Lake Norman Fellowship (our daughter church) to undertake a 2010 Mwandi Mission. The mission team will be assisting with work of the Mwandi Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Center, the Agricultural Project, the local church congregation and the Mwandi UCZ Mission Hospital.



No special skills are required other than a willingness to be of service in the name of our Lord Jesus. A **“sign up” meeting for those interested in participating will be held on Wednesday, February 17, at Lake Norman Fellowship (on Blume Road) at 7:30 p.m.** Details of the trip will be explained and any questions answered.

The trip is scheduled for August 3-20. The anticipated cost of the trip is approximately \$4,000 per person (includes all airfare, all lodging, Zambian visa, all meals in Mwandi, ground transport and sightseeing safari). A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is due by March 1.

Marti Estes 5k Race

The Marti Estes 5k race committee continues to be excited about this year's upcoming event. We have seen a number of runner registrations already signed up for the 5k. If you plan on entering this event, please register on line as soon as possible. You can access the registration site through the race website at www.martiestes5k.com. This is a family friendly race so kids and adults of all ages should plan to attend.



We are hoping to make this year's event as successful as in past years. In that regard we are still actively looking for sponsorships at all levels, especially our Primary level sponsor. If you know anyone who may be interested in sponsoring this event at any level, please forward that information to staceyf41@yahoo.com. Sponsorship packets and race registration forms are now available in the Fellowship Hall along with some information about the beneficiary, HEALTHREACH Community Clinic.

Volunteers are also needed to make this year's event a success. We have a sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary in the Fellowship Hall so please be sure to sign up there. Allyson Hill will be in touch with those of you who volunteered last year sometime this month.

Most importantly, please continue to keep this committee in your prayers. Thank you for your help and your continued support.



...Membership Matters (continued)

at First Presbyterian Church, yet it is open to anyone interested in learning about the Presbyterian Christian way. Pastor Clay Brown will be the course's teacher.




We'll cover a variety of topics over the six weeks, including:

- Presbyterian Beliefs.
- Presbyterian Worship.
- Presbyterian Structure.
- Presbyterian Stewardship.
- Presbyterian Service and Spiritual Gifts.
- Membership Process, Expectations, and Covenant.

We'll have a good time! Your advance registration is important to us so we can prepare enough materials. So please register by calling or emailing the church office at 704-664-5275 or nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org.

Mark Your Calendar...

Feb. 14	Lent in the Living Room "Words from the Cross" - Runs through last week of March
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday Lent begins
Mar. 28	Palm Sunday Lay down your coats for Jesus
Apr. 1	Maundy Thursday Program and Communion
Apr. 2	Good Friday Worship in the Sanctuary with a light lunch in the FH
Apr. 3	Easter Egg Hunt Children's activity in FH
Apr. 4	Easter Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
Apr. 5	Church Office closed for holiday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>6:15pm Exaltation Ringers 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study at the Coates' home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>7:00pm Tuesday Focus</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Membership Matters 11:00am Worship with MSM Handbells</p> <p>3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry at the home of Thelma Vaughan 7:00pm PYF Super Bowl Party until 10:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>2:00pm Circle No. 1 in the parlor 6:15pm Circle No. 3 at the home of Kim Streb 6:15pm Exaltation Ringers 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study at the Coates' home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>10:00am Circle 4 at the home of Margaret Sanders 12:00pm Circle 5 2:00pm Circle 6 in the library 6:00pm Circle 2 in the library 7:00pm Tuesday Focus</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>8:00am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:00am Early Worship with Logos Choir 10:00am Church School 10:00am Membership Matters 11:00am Worship</p> <p>4:30pm Alpha PYF 5:00pm Omega PYF 7:00pm Committee Meetings</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>Lent in the Living Room begins</p> <p>6:15pm Exaltation Ringers 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm LILR at the Coates' home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>10:30am <i>Discovering Our Reformed Faith</i> 12:30pm Saints Alive Luncheon</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Communion</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Membership Matters 11:00am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm All PYF 6:00pm Potluck Supper and Talent Show 7:00pm Fellowship Committee</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>6:15pm Exaltation Ringers 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm LILR at the Coates' home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>7:00pm Executive Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Membership Matters 11:00am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm No PYF 7:00pm Session</p>		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study -home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Pirate</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm HS SupperClub @ Shiki</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p> <p>7:00pm VBS Meeting in library</p> <p>7:30pm Mooresville User's Group</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>6:30pm Cotillion</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>10</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study -home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Valentine</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm HS SupperClub @ Salsarita's</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p>  <p>6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>6:30pm Scrapbook Party begins</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:45am PYF Mission and a Movie</p> <p>9:00am Scrapbook Party resumes</p>
<p>Ash Wednesday 17</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study -home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Bible Character</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm HS SupperClub @ McDonalds</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Mwandu Mission Meeting @ LKN</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p> <p>7:30pm Mwandu Meeting at LKN Fellowship</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>6:30pm Cotillion</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>24</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study -home of Fronnie Gardner</p> <p>4:00pm Logos/MSM <i>Space Odyssey</i> Night</p> <p>6:15pm HS SupperClub @ Tony's Pizza</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Preschool Closed</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home</p> <p>10:00am GriefShare</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30pm Cotillion</p> <p>9:00pm PYF Lock-in</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>6:00pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet</p> 

February 2010

March 2010						
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			

Vacation Bible School

Put Monday, July 19 through Friday, July 23, on your summer calendar, for a fun, learning-filled week at Vacation Bible School. **Please note that we are moving VBS to**



July for this year. We will continue to have the daytime time frame where participants will come from 9:30 a.m. – noon.

Please contact Ellen Auten if you are interested in serving on the VBS Planning Committee. There are many opportunities for serve, and we'd love to have you join the planning team!

Camp Grier: The Place to Be!

Summer camp will be here before we turn around, and that means it's time to sign up for a week at Camp Grier! Camp Grier is a Presbyterian camp, located in Old Fort, NC, in the beautiful North Carolina mountains, less than two hours' drive from Mooresville. Summer camping programs are offered for children in rising second through twelfth grades, and adult volunteer opportunities are available as well. In addition, Camp Grier is looking for college-age young adults to serve on its summer staff. Visit their website at www.campgrier.org to find more information, or contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275).




Scrapbooking Group Pans Weekend "CROP"

Don't be  broken over all those photos you have lying around! Come and scrapbook your  out at a two-day "CROP." The scrapbook group will get together to work on scrapbooks and share ideas on Friday, February 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, February 13, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come for all or part of the weekend. The group will meet in the fellowship hall. Bring money for dutch treat meals (Friday night, Saturday lunch).



Call Martha McDonnell at 704-663-3835 to reserve a table for your scrapbook project!

We'd love to see you February 12-13! 

Men's Breakfast February 14, 2010

THE LOOP

The LOOP is a year long boat trip that covers the Atlantic waterway into New York state, over to the Great Lakes, to Chicago, down the water ways of Illinois, Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama. Then the LOOP includes the Gulf of Mexico, around Florida back to the Atlantic. The Lovett family, Muriel, Bud, and Shelley, completed the LOOP in May, 2009. We are fortunate to have them present a program of pictures and travel to our group.



Presbyterian Men invite our wives and girl friends to our February meetings. Come and experience this trip with the Lovetts.

Logos/MSM February Dates

Wednesday, February 3 – Pirate Night

Sunday, February 7 – MSM Handbells at 11:00 a.m.
worship service

Wednesday, February 10 – Valentine's Night

Sunday, February 14 – Logos sings at 9:00 a.m. worship
service

Wednesday, February 17 – Bible Character Night

Wednesday, February 24 – Space Odyssey Night



We express our sympathy to Paul Trimble and family in the death of his mother; to Jerry Massey and family in the death of his wife, Lottie; and to Muriel Lovett and family in the recent death of her father. May the peace of God comfort each of you.

Weekday Preschool

The month of January was certainly frigid for the first 2 weeks and our units on Snow Village, Mittens, Hibernation and Arctic Blast were a perfect tie-in. Our Bunnies and Bears enjoyed building their Igloo, and thank you for all the donated milk jugs! 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 11th and Friday, February 12th, with the Preschool being **closed** on Monday, Feb. 15th for parent/teacher conferences. The Preschool will also be **closed** on Feb. 26th.

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. For a one hour delay we will receive the children at 9:40 and at 10:40 for a 2 hour delay.

With love,
Mrs. Nancy



Words of Thanks

You are a loving, caring and thoughtful congregation. Your cards and words of Christian love helped during the time of Frances’ brother’s death on December 18. Your words of love and concern for Don as he anticipates further treatment for his heart condition gives comfort at this anxious time. Thank you for all your flowers, words, thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
Frances and Don Howie

Saints Alive

February Luncheon

The monthly Saints Alive luncheon (\$4) will be held Tuesday, February 16, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The February program, presented by Sarah Weldy, will focus on important issues related to older adults. Sarah and her husband Brent, are owners of Synergy Home Care in Huntersville.

This is a wonderful opportunity for older adults to gather for a delicious meal, warm fellowship, uplifting devotions, and an informative program. No reservations are required – come and bring a friend!

Saints Alive Trip to Spring Show

Even though we’re still experiencing cold winter days, spring is on the way! To help us prepare for warmer temperatures when we can get out in our yards and gardens again, the Saints Alive group is planning a trip to the 50th annual Southern Spring Home & Garden Show in Charlotte on Thursday, March 4. At the show, you will find beautiful landscaped gardens, decorated designer rooms, displays of bonsai, Ikebana, orchids, professionals showcasing home improvement ideas, outdoor living, green living, and decorative arts and crafts. You can find more information at www.southernshows.com.

The group plans to leave at 9:15 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.50. Please contact Ellen Auten by Wednesday, March 3, to make a reservation.



New Babies

We are pleased to announce the birth of Caitlyn Elizabeth Riefner on January 4 to Scott and Beth Davidson Riefner. Christine Davidson is the proud grandma! Then, on January 15, Robert Weston Mauney was born to Valerie and Scott Mauney. Weston joins brothers, Colton and Landon in the home. Sincere congratulations go out to both of these families.





2011 Church Trip to Branson, Missouri

We are in the early planning stages for a spring 2011 trip to Branson, Missouri. The five or six day trip, under the driving duties of Bobby Hinson, would cost approximately \$500 per person. This would cover bus transportation, hotel rooms and two or three shows in Branson. If you are interested, contact the church office. The trip will need a minimum number of 30 -35 participants.

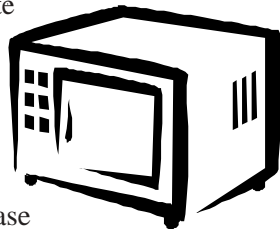
PYF Calendar

February 2010

- Feb. 2, Wed.** SupperClub at Shiki @ 6:15 p.m.
- Feb. 7, Sun.** Superbowl Party from 7-10 p.m.
- Feb. 10, Wed.** SupperClub at Salsaritas @ 6:15 p.m.
- Feb. 13, Sat.** Mission & a Movie 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14, Sun.** Alpha PYF @ 4:30 p.m.
Omega PYF @ 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 17, Wed.** SupperClub at McDonalds
- Feb. 21, Sun.** All PYF @ 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 24, Wed.** SupperClub at Tony's Pizza @ 6:15 p.m.
- Feb. 26, Sat.** PYF Lock-in @ 9p.m. until 7 a.m. Sat.
- Feb. 28, Sun.** No PYF

Youth Room in search of a Microwave...

2010 is a year of many anniversaries - It has been twenty years since the church started it's partnership with Mwandi, twenty-five years since the the release of the movie *Back to the Future*, and at least thirty years since the microwave in the youth room was manufactured! In honor of this last event, we are looking to celebrate by getting an updated microwave. If you have a microwave which you would be willing to donate (preferably one that was manufactured since the fall of the Soviet Union), please contact Tyler or the church office. Thanks!



For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and
only Son, that whoever
believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal
life. John 3:16

Happy Valentine's Day!

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

FEBRUARY 2010

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