



First Press

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC

August 2010

Faith, Faith Promises and Change

Colossians 2:8-10:

⁸ Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ. ⁹ For in Him the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

Paul writes above about hanging onto tradition. Generally churches are very traditional in nature. We cherish the way we have done things in the past and are reluctant to change for the future. Does change benefits us? I believe Paul is warning us not to be held captive to the same way we have done things in the past, but to be open to new ways if they are based on the right reasons. Changing for valid reasons has merit.

The Stewardship Committee, with the blessings of the Session, is embarking in a new direction for stewardship this year. In the past, we have traditionally used monetary pledges to aid the Session in forming a budget. This has worked well for us for many years, but over the past several years the number of pledges that have been submitted have grown fewer and fewer. Members still contribute; but for whatever reasons, more members are reluctant to turn in a pledge card. We believe a change is needed.

Again Paul advocates breaking from tradition for the right Christ-based reasons is sound. We should not maintain the same traditional practices just because they are comfortable and we should not be scared of change just because it is new and different. Change is often good and needed. As our pledging and commitments are concerned, the stewardship committee definitely believes a change from the past is needed. We are advocating the use of 'faith promises' instead of pledges.

What is a faith promise? A faith promise is a prayerfully considered monetary covenant between you and the Lord. In the past, you wrote your monetary pledge (a promise between you and the church) on a card and placed it on the communion table on Stewardship Sunday. The pledges were opened by the treasurer, the dollar amount tallied and the results given to the Session so a budget could be formed. With faith promises, you write your faith promise on a card, seal it inside a self addressed envelope and place it on the communion table on Stewardship Sunday. The envelopes will not be opened by anyone and will be returned to you in October 2011. The Session will develop the budget based totally on faith. We have faith, belief and trust that the congregation will continue to support the church in the same generous manner as in the past. (Continued on page 3)

Vacation Bible School News

Our fellowship hall and educational building were transformed into a tropical Rainforest for a week this summer, where over 130 children came to hear about the parables of Jesus in the SonQuest Rainforest Adventure.

Many, many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who gave their time to make our 2010 VBS such a success! The teen helpers were awesome, and we appreciate their giving up part of their summer vacation to help out! We had a wonderful adventure!

We collected \$462.17 to send to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Haitian Earthquake Relief. In addition, the children brought in "kid-friendly" snacks in abundance, to donate to the Christian Mission. We are so proud of the children for their generosity and kindness. The elementary groups made fleece blankets and pillows, which were donated to Barium Springs Home for Children. So in addition to making fun crafts and participating in fun activities, the children were involved in mission in our community and around the world.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at VBS 2011!





From the Pastor...

“It’s All About God!”

It is so easy to become “me” centered even within the church and within our Christian journeys, isn’t it? Our culture so focuses on individual rights, preferences, and opportunities that it’s not hard for this way of thinking to slide over into our Christian understandings. The result is that we often become self-focused and self-oriented without even realizing it is happening.

But the Christian faith in general, and the Reformed/Presbyterian understanding of the Christian faith in particular, have never been very sympathetic with “me” centered Christianity. In Scripture’s eyes, human beings are indeed quite important. But there’s no doubt who is in charge. God is the One around whom all life revolves.

That’s why in September, we will start a six-week sermon series titled “It’s All About God!” The idea for the series comes not only from Scripture, but also the Presbyterian Book of Order. I know the Book of Order is not often noted for strong theological affirmations, as it is a book of polity and governance. But at its beginning, it contains a strong statement about God:

In its confessions, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) expresses the faith of the Reformed tradition. Central to this tradition is the affirmation of the majesty, holiness, and providence of God who creates, sustains, rules, and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love. (Book of Order G-2.0500)

So to highlight our beliefs about God’s person and work, we will be preaching on the following:

DATE	TITLE	SCRIPTURE
9/12	The Majestic God	Psalm 8:1-8
9/19	The Holy God	Isaiah 6:1-7
9/26	The Providential God	Luke 13:1-5
10/3	The Creator and Sustainer God	Colossians 1:15-20
10/10	The Ruler God	Ephesians 1:15-23
10/17	The Redeemer God	Matthew 20:28

I hope you will find this a stimulating and worshipful series on who God is and what he does. I include this information now so you can begin to read ahead and prepare with your devotions and reflections for this series.

* * * * *

“General Assemblies and Our Congregation”

The 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) concluded in July after a week’s worth of committee meetings, worship services, special interest group meetings, and plenary sessions. General Assemblies tend to be times of significant discussion within the church. This just completed General Assembly is not different. The Assembly is referring several items to the presbyteries for voting “yea” or “nay” over the next year. Here’s a sampling:

1. The language in our Book of Order stating that ministers, elders, and deacons must be either faithful in a marital relationship between a man and a woman or chaste in singleness is being challenged. In an amendment, that language is removed. A simple majority vote from our 173 presbyteries will be required to make this amendment official.
2. The Book of Order itself is to be significantly revamped, at least in terms of its first section, the “Form of Government,” our church polity and governance. A new Form of Government, or “nFOG,” is being proposed. A simple majority vote from our 173 presbyteries is required as well.
3. The Belhar Confession is recommended as an addition to our Book of Confessions, our confessional and doctrinal basis for our denomination. This confession arose out of the experience of the South African church during apartheid. A two-thirds vote from our 173 presbyteries is required to make this change.

Other actions and discussions took place as well, from a huge debate over Middle East policy to study papers on marriage and civil unions to a call for re-translating of the Heidelberg Catechism with some other denominations to you-name-it. A lot happens at any General Assembly.

I want us to be informed. I also want us to take a collective deep breath. We need to remember that nothing is official until all presbyteries vote. Our presbytery, Salem, will probably vote next spring if tradition holds true. Other presbyteries have their own time tables, starting in the fall.

(Continued on page 3)

General Assemblies.....

(Continued from p. 2)

It is easy to become irritated at our denomination in light of a General Assembly's actions. The temptation is to become so focused on what is happening at the denominational level that we neglect what is happening at the congregational level. Here at First Pres, we are involved in a number of important and worthwhile activities: preaching the Gospel, teaching Scripture to young and old alike, providing care for those ill and grieving, giving support and help to the poor, going on mission trips locally, nationally, and internationally, and more. In short, our congregational ministries continue without interruption.

So my counsel to all of us, myself included, is this. Let us respond to what is happening in our denomination through the 2010 General Assembly with the response it deserves—no more, and no less. When it's time to vote, we will make our perspectives known in our presbytery and work through the connectional process that marks us as Presbyterians. But above all, let us remain focused on the Gospel ministry Christ has called us to do through our congregation. Let us not be distracted from what the late theologian John Leith described as "the Reformed imperative": what the church alone can say and do, and if we as the church do not say and do these things, then no one else will do them—proclaiming the Gospel, praying, and being present in human lives bearing witness to the grace of God through caring words and deeds. This is our calling, regardless of what any General Assembly may recommend.

Grace and peace,
Clay Brown, Pastor

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. The worship orientation class will be led by Ellen Auten, and will be held in the sanctuary on Sundays, August 8 and 15, at 10:00 a.m. It is only necessary to attend one of the classes.

Faith...

(Continued from front page)

The Session desires this to be more than writing a dollar figure on a card and placing it on the Communion table. The Session wants everyone to look within themselves and see how the Lord has blessed them and therefore let your faith promise be a tool to help you grow in your faith.

Developing a budget without known figures is a frightening thought; but if the old way is not working any longer, the Lord must be calling us in a new direction. The Stewardship Committee is heeding that call. It is a new approach and we fully realize that change is difficult, but in our case it is needed. Although the process is changing there are still many similarities to what we have done before. We still are committing our Time and Talents to Christ and we are still formally presenting our gifts to Him on Stewardship Sunday. What is different is that we are elevating our faith and trust in the Lord.

Moses said as he was leading the Israelites out of Egypt and they were confronted with their demise because the Nile River stood before them: "Don't be afraid. Stand firm and see the LORD's salvation He will provide for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again." ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you must be quiet." We're not implying that our demise is before us. We are implying that the need for change is upon us and we must allow the Lord the opportunity to do His work.

Many details will be forthcoming in the months ahead of us. Some important dates upcoming are:

October 25: 2011 Budget mailed to the congregation

November 7: Stewardship Luncheon

November 14: Stewardship Sunday

Please seek out a member of the Stewardship Committee if you have any questions or concerns.

Phil Heilman; Chair

Eddie Nelson

Tony Ervin

Tim Malinovsky



Bill Harris – Finance Comm. Chair

2010 Budget Update

The Finance Committee would like to offer a new simpler perspective on how we view the 2010 budget. Contributions – money and/or pledges received each week from the offering plate or via mail – are a good indicator of the health of the budget. This simpler view disregards programs that may have another money source related to them. LOGOS is a good example since they have fees to help balance their expenses. There are committees that have yet to spend even half of their budget even though we are halfway through the year. It is the Finance Committee's goal to keep everyone informed of our progress as we proceed towards the end of the year. Please review the information below.

As of 6/30/2010:

- * Budgeted Contributions: **\$350,700.00**
- * Received Contributions: **\$313,022.00**
- * We are currently running a **\$37,678.00 deficit** as dictated by our budget.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1 9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 11:00am Worship	2 7:00pm Camp Grier Retreat Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 9:30am CIA to Discovery Place 
8 8:00am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast 9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Worship Orientation 11:00am Worship 5:30pm Diaconate 7:00pm Committee Meetings	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10
Communion 15 9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Worship Orientation 10:00am Logos Parent meeting in Session Room 11:00am Worship	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">9:30 a.m Preschool Sneak-a-Peek</div>
Christian Education Sunday 22 9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School, Promotion Sunday, NWMC Report 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Session 	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24
29 9:00am Early Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Logos Parent meeting 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Logos Parent meeting	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

4

5

6

7

11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home

7:30pm Chancel Choir

11

12

13

14

10:00am PYF to Carowinds
11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home



Fun & Fellowship

6:00pm Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral



6:30pm Scrapbook Group

No Choir practice

18

19

20

21

11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

7:30pm Chancel Choir

25

26

Camp Grier
Registration Deadline

28

11:00am Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner

9:30am Bible Study at the Rogers' home



7:30pm Chancel Choir

4:00pm Lake Party at the Herrings



AUGUST 2010

Church School Promotion/ Christian Education Sunday

Scheduled for August 22

Church School Promotion Sunday will be held on Sunday, August 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All church school classes are invited to attend the special activity. 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 receive a new Bible during Promotion Sunday activities.

As part of the Promotion Sunday activities, Rev. Tyler Domske will give an overview of the recent New Wilmington Mission Conference, which was attended by approximately 17 of our congregation. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to learn about the missions conference.

Christian Education programs and volunteers will be recognized during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. worship services on August 22.

Catechism Club

Begins a new year

Catechism Club is scheduled to begin a new year in September, with classes held during fall 2010 and spring 2011. 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.

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 12, 19, 26

October 3, 10, 17, 24

November 7, 14, 21

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 beginning on August 8, before and after the worship services, or you may call Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to register.

Logos/Middle School Ministry

The Logos/Middle School Ministry (MSM) program is set to begin its 32nd year at First Presbyterian on Wednesday, September 15.

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.

A fee is charged for participation in the program - a \$35 registration fee and a \$55 per semester tuition fee. An "early bird" payment option is available for the first time - if all fees are paid by the registration deadline, you will receive \$5 off the registration fee and \$5 off the tuition fee. A further "early bird" option is to pay the entire year's fees by the deadline, and receive an additional \$5 off of fees.

Scholarship help is available upon request; please contact Ellen Auten or Gretchen Little to request scholarship assistance. Feel free to contact program director Gretchen Little (704-528-9796) or assistant director Lisa Davidson (704-662-9393) with questions.

Important Logos/MSM Dates

Required parent meetings (all parents must attend one parent meeting each year). Meeting locations are listed:

Sun., Aug. 15 - 10:00 a.m. - Session Room

Sun., Aug. 29 - 10:00 a.m. - Session Room, 5:00 p.m. -FH

Wed., Sept. 1 - 7:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Wed., Sept. 1 - **First semester registration deadline**

Wed., Sept. 8 - 6:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM Staff training and supper

Wed., Sept. 15 - 4:00 p.m. - First day of Logos/MSM

"GriefShare"

Groups begin Thursday, August 26

If you are grieving the death of someone close, then a GriefShare group may be helpful. A GriefShare group meets weekly as a seminar/support group where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss and learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. Two groups are forming at FPC for 13 sessions on Thursdays starting Aug. 26, one from 10:00-11:45 a.m. and the other from 7:15-9:00 p.m. Clay Brown will be the facilitator. You will need a workbook, available at the first session, at a cost of \$15. Advance registration is requested, so please contact the church office at 704-664-5275 or nellie@moorevillefirstpres.org.

Weekday Preschool News

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

Monday, August 16th	9:30	MWF	4 yr. old Bunnies and Bears
		*MTTH	4 yr. old Bunnies and Bears
		MWF	2 and 3 yr. old Fish, Ducks and Lambs
Tuesday, August 17th	9:30	TTH	2 and 3 yr. old Fish, Ducks and Lambs
		TWTH	4 yr. old Bunnies and Bears

***M-F & MTTH** 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 (704 664-3069). The Preschool email address is: preschool@moorevillefirstpres.org.

Our first full day of school will begin **Wednesday, August 18th** 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



Congregational Labor Day Retreat

It's time to find your sleeping bag, flashlight, bug spray, and hiking boots, and make reservations for the annual Labor Day weekend retreat at Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC. The retreat will be held Friday, September 3 – Sunday, September 5. Come for the entire weekend, or just come for the day!

The entire congregation is invited to participate, for all or part of the weekend. And there is something for everyone. For the "young at heart," there are all kinds of recreational activities – swimming, hiking, boating, rock sliding, rope bridges, creek walking... to name a few. For the slightly less adventurous, there are also numerous activities to keep you busy – games in the pavilion (cards, board games, etc.), ring swinging, rocking, talking, napping, eating... to name a few.

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.

Brochures are available in the church office and in the parlor. **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 27. **All reservations require pre-payment, and all reservations must be made by August 27.**

Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; ellen@moorevillefirstpres.org) to make a reservation, or if you have questions.

Lake Party at the Herrings'

Saturday August 28th, 2010

4:00 PM until ...

**The Herring's 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, & even boats - if you can! We have a large lot with 2 piers, a swimming beach, & plenty of picnic tables. This is a time to renew our bonds. Plan to recreate & that includes getting wet! We will plan on eating around 6 p.m.

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

Presbyterian Men

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on August 8 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church. In addition to a great breakfast, Mr. Andy Poore, Curator of Special Collections for the Mooresville Library, will give us an update on what is going on at our library. Andy, in addition to being a storehouse of local information, is the grandson of Frank Poore and a long time member of the church. We would like for all men and women to come for a great time of good food and warm fellowship. Children are also welcome.



Slidell, LA Mission Trip

Scheduled for Labor Day Weekend

Thursday, September 2 - Monday, September 6

Presbyterian Community Outreach - PCO is an organization based out of Slidell, La, currently working to rebuild the New Orleans area. They accept and house volunteer groups free of charge to do home repair and other types of assistance to low income families and elderly persons in the area hit by recent storms. They provide housing, some tools and materials. Contact **Fred Coates** to reserve your spot now: fred@mooresvillefirstpres.org, 704-664-5275 office, 704-574-1781 mobile.



Congratulations are expressed to Laura and Matt Christman who were married in our sanctuary on June 26. Laura is the daughter of Mark and Ellen Auten and the granddaughter of Gene and Margaret Auten. The couple is living in Cornelius.

We are pleased to announce the Christian Baptism on July 18 of Caitlin Elizabeth Riefner, daughter of Beth and Scott Riefner and granddaughter of Christine Davidson.

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

AUGUST 2010

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 74
MOORESVILLE, NC

Address Service Requested