

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, THOMASVILLE, NC



January 2010

EVERY SUNDAY A.M.: Church School for all ages 9:45; Choir Rehearsal 10:30;
Coffee Fellowship 10:45; WORSHIP 11:00 (Nursery Available)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Mike will be on vacation from December 28, 2009, until Monday, January 4, 2010.			1	2 Church Clean-up Day
3 LABYRINTH WALK Guest Minister Laurie Valentine	4 LABYRINTH WALK Circles #2 & #3	5 LABYRINTH WALK Afternoon Circle Al-Anon	6 LABYRINTH WALK Choir	7 LABYRINTH WALK Session	8 LABYRINTH WALK	9 LABYRINTH WALK Fellowship Group
10 <u>COMMUNION</u> Worship Committee <u>Companions in Christ</u>	11	12 Al-Anon	13 Choir	14	15	16
17 Christian Education Comm. <u>Companions in Christ</u>	18	19 Al-Anon	20 Choir	21	22	23
24 <u>Companions in Christ</u>	25	26 Al-Anon	27 Choir	28	29	30
31 <u>Companions in Christ</u>						

The Mustard Seed

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church
Thomasville, North Carolina

January
2010

Michael Lamm, Pastor



Thoughts on Communion

One of the topics that the Session discussed at their fall retreat was the Lord's Supper. More specifically, we discussed the use of wine and grape juice for Communion. We looked at a lot of scriptures that made reference to wine in both the Old and New Testaments. Wine was a required offering to God (Lev. 23:13), part of God's blessing to humankind (Deut. 7:13; Psalm 104:14-15), and recommended for medicinal use (1 Timothy 5:23). At the wedding in Cana, Jesus turned water into, not grape juice, but wine (John 2:10). At the same time, we need to remember that scripture is clearly against the abuse of wine by over indulgence.

For 1800 years, wine was used for Communion. If grapes are crushed, the yeast on the skins of the grapes will begin the fermentation process within days. In 1864, Louis Pasteur invented the process of pasteurization. Five years later, Thomas Bramwell Welch, a physician and dentist, and his son Charles applied the pasteurization process to grape juice. Fervent supporters of the temperance movement, they hoped that their pasteurized grape juice would be adopted by their Methodist congregation in Vineland, NJ. However, most of the congregation supported the continued use of wine at the Lord's Table. Charles continued to promote the use of grape juice and founded the Welch's corporation in the 1890s. Today, many churches use grape juice while others continue in the centuries-old tradition of using wine. For some, the use of wine provides a sensory connection with the saints through the ages.

Session is mulling over the use of both wine and grape juice in Communion. Many Presbyterian congregations do this as a way for some of the congregation to touch their New Testament roots more firmly while offering juice for those who prefer it. Our Book of Order (Constitution) strongly encourages the presence of both wine and juice if wine is used in Communion. The members of Session would like to hear your thoughts regarding also offering wine in Communion. Please speak to any of us about your thoughts on the matter.

Mike

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GUEST MINISTER JANUARY 3, 2010

Rev. Laurie Valentine will be our supply pastor on January 3, 2010, while Mike is on vacation. Laurie has been with us on several Sundays in the past and we are happy to welcome her back once again. She hopes to have her husband and twin girls with her.

January 10 is *Baptism of the Lord* Sunday, and we will observe the Lord's Supper that day.

Elders for the Class of 2012 will also be installed on January 10: *Phil Griffin, Sue Hunter, and Gene Moore.*

Our Elders are not elected to carry out ministry instead of you, or to direct you in ministry, but to work among and alongside as servant leaders.

Give them your support and remember to pray for them as we worship, serve, and bear witness together in Christ's name.

LABYRINTH— WALKING MEDITATION

A *labyrinth* will be laid on the floor of the Fellowship Hall from January 3 through January 9 and available to our congregation. On the afternoon of January 3, it will be open to the public.

See Page 2 of this issue for more information about this unique form of meditation made available by our Christian Education Committee.



HIGHLIGHTS OF DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

The Pastor made his report and reminded the Session of a second Retreat on Saturday, February 13. Mike has been elected Vice President of the Shepherd's Inn Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education: Gene Moore explained the use of a labyrinth, and the Session approved the project. Also, a new *Companions in Christ* study will begin on January 10.

Worship: Several dates for December events were noted. *Rev. Laurie Valentine* will be our supply pastor on January 3 while Mike is on vacation.

Stewardship Campaign: After discussion, the Session asked the Chair of the Finance Committee, Lib Cloniger, to inform the congregation of the shortfall in pledges for 2010.

Elder-elect, Gene Moore, was examined and she, Sue Hunter, and Phil Griffin will be installed on January 10 for the Class of 2012.

Next Session Meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2010.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A *labyrinth* will be laid on the floor of the Fellowship Hall from January 3 through January 9 and will be available to the congregation. On the afternoon of January 3, it will be open to the public.

Walking a *labyrinth* has been described as "walking meditation." It is an ancient spiritual practice which has been around for thousands of years in various cultures and religions. The earliest known Christian *labyrinth* is in Algiers and dates back to 325 CE. The most famous one is laid in the floor of the Chartres Cathedral.

The *labyrinth* is a circular path that leads to the center and back out. It replicates a spiritual journey. The walk to the center is a time for letting go the details of life, shedding thoughts and emotions, emptying and quieting the mind. The center is a place for meditation and prayer. The walk out is a time for integrating any insight gained and for empowering the walker to go out into the world, replenished.

Approaches to the walk may be praying, reading a Psalm, quietly being attentive to the presence of God, or focusing on a question about where one is in life.

The *labyrinth* has been rented from the Presbyterian Church (USA).

FINANCE REPORT	MONTH OF NOVEMBE4R			YEAR TO DATE		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Pledges, Offerings & Gifts	\$ 11,109	\$ 10,445	\$ 664	\$ 120,530	\$ 116,655	\$ 3,875
Special Offerings & Income	—	—	—	1,049	—	1,049
Property/Other Income	1,160	1,160	—	12,880	12,760	120
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 12,269	\$ 11,605	\$ 664	\$134,459	\$ 129,415	\$ 5,044
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 12,811	\$ 12,389	\$ (422)	\$132,896	\$ 133,443	\$ 547
Special Offerings	—	—	—	1,260	—	(1,260)
Loflin Property Reimbursement	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (542)	\$ (784)	\$ 242	\$ 303	\$ (4,028)	\$ 4,331

Pledges and offerings remain above budget for the year. Thank you for your continued support of the missions of the church. Operating expenses are below budget for the year.

Earl Hackman, Treasurer



January

- 7 Tyler Tyson
- 13 Bob Hill
- 19 Bill McColl
- 20 Karen Rubish
- 21 Karen Barber

COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2010

- January 10—Baptism of the Lord
- February 14—Transfiguration of the Lord
- April 1—Maundy Thursday
- April 4—Easter Sunday
- May 23—Pentecost
- June 20
- July 25
- August 22—Rally Day
- October 3—World Communion
- November 21—Christ the King
- December 24—Christmas Eve

FOOD FOR CCM

- JANUARY CANNED SOUP**
- February *Canned Vegetables*
- March *Canned Ravioli & Spaghetti's*

PLACE DONATIONS IN THE RED WAGON IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CHOIR ROOM DOOR.

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS OF ANY KIND ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT ANY TIME.

PRAYER LISTS

(Church members and close relatives)

- Bob and Mary Hill
- James Family
- June Camper
(Gene Moore's sister)
- Louise Whitaker
- Phil Oehler
- Tyler Tyson
- Garnet Rice
- Aulene Henderson

Remember others not listed here but may have been named on Sunday morning or who prefer not to be named publicly.

JANUARY PRAYER FAMILIES

- 3 Bob Greeson III
Mark Warner
- 10 Phil & Anice Griffin
Catharine Smith
- 17 Annette Grissett
Jan Williams
- 24 Earl & Pam Hackman
Joann Mitchell
- 31 Peggy Harrison
Mitch & Julie Tyson

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR JANUARY

- 3 Gene Moore
- 10 Virginia Lambeth
- 17 Jane Hasty
- 24 Carolyn Bennett
- 31 Sue Langfitt

JANUARY USHER CHAIR

Phil Griffin

Honorariums

For Sue Hunter
from
Bobby and Betty Almond

For Dr. & Mrs. Joe Hedgpeth
Sue & Butch Langfitt
from
Camille Dacus

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

If you would like to put flowers in the sanctuary on any given Sunday in 2010, please sign your name at the desired date on the 2010 FLOWER CALENDAR, located on the bulletin board in the entry hallway. If you have any questions, you may call Gladys Alexander at 475-7307.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

On November 1, 2009, Elliot Flower Shoppe increased the cost of Sanctuary flowers to \$53.50.

STEWARDSHIP / FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee met on December 10 to discuss the financial situation of our Church, and to bring the Committee up to date on current pledge information.

The congregation will be made aware of this significant concern for next year. The Session will be asked to review the preliminary 2010 Budget for any possible changes.

Lib Cloniger, Chair

NOW THIS IS THE LIVING BIBLE

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college.

He is brilliant. Kind of profound and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat.

The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything.

Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet.

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick.

About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a Deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Now the Deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly; he walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor. He takes a long time to reach the boy.

The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the Deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion.

When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read!

Contributed by Mike Lamm

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First Presbyterian Church
Thomasville, North Carolina

January 2010

First Presbyterian Church
21 Randolph Street
Thomasville, NC 27360

THE SESSION

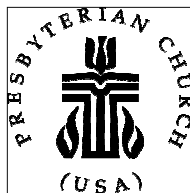
The Rev. Michael Lamm, Moderator

Class of 2010
Carolyn Bennett
Bill McColl
Karen Rubish

Class of 2011
Lib Cloniger
Sue Langfitt
Julie Tyson

Class of 2012
Phil Griffin
Sue Hunter
Gene Moore

Curtis Patterson, Pastor Emeritus
Carole Skinner, Office Manager
Dorothy Klass, Director of Music
Phil Griffin, Moderator, Men of the Church
Shirley Byrnes & Pam Hackman,
Co-Moderators, Presbyterian Women



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Newsletter deadline: January 24, by noon, or 7 p. m. by email for the February 2010 issue.

**Editor: Jane Hasty - email: dsjthasty@northstate.net
Assistant Editor and Proof Reader: Don Hasty**

SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Red Cross will offer breakfast and lunch-hour tours in 2010. The schedule has been set as follows: Breakfast tours—Thursday, February 11, at the High Point—Thomasville facility, and Thursday, February 18 at the Lexington Service Center. Lunch tours—Thursday, January 14, at High Point—Thomasville Center, and Thursday, January 21, at the Lexington Service Center.

Julie Tyson, Chair



For **Sam McColl**
Who won FOUR 1st Places,
TWO 2nd places, and BEST
ALL AROUND in a recent
gymnastics event in Virginia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Marian Greeson has written a book: *Pioneers—From 1629 to 2009*. It is the story of Marian's family and her ancestors who came to this country on the Mayflower.

It is a most interesting story, uniquely written, all the more interesting because one of our own has written it. There is a Glossary of terms, and a list of "Duties of Men, Women, and Children." It is obvious that Marian comes from a rich and intriguing background.

The book was published by Xlibris Corporation and is available from www.Xlibris.com.

A little girl asked her minister grandfather why he bowed his head for a few moments each Sunday before he preached.

He answered, "I'm asking God to help me."

To which she quickly replied, "Then why doesn't He?"

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Twenty-four Christmas gift shoe boxes for teenage boys and girls were delivered from our church to CCM. Circle #3 adopted five children through CCM to make their Christmas bright. Good job!

The Committee to determine a policy for receptions and funerals met, and is planning to publish a tri-fold pamphlet to be given to grieving families for their use. Thank you to those who served on the Committee and for Mike's guidance.

All three Circles are helping Barium Springs with money for their heating. Keep up the good work, ladies.

Pam Hackman, Co-Moderator

