

June 2011



Network News

Monthly Newsletter of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Jacksonville, North Carolina

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.” Psalm 145: 3-4

“We come at the age’s most uncertain hour and sing an American tune.” Paul Simon, American Tune

When you write something, it takes on a life of its own. I doubt that Paul Simon intended his lyric to be a hopeful one, but that is what it is for me—a little bit of hope. He is quite right about the uncertainty of our times, but then, uncertainty has never been an obstacle for us. It is not an obstacle for us as Americans, and it is not an obstacle for us as Christians. We have always faced uncertainty, and we have faced it with faith in the God who calls us. Why should that change now?

I write this because our church is celebrating one hundred years of service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have served our Lord through times of plenty and of prosperity, when the sky was the limit and we knew that we could do almost anything that God set before us. We have served in times of want, when the economy was in tatters, times were hard, and limitations were there at every turn. We have seen everything in between, including a world at war that brought us our Marine installations, a Cold War, a space race, a time of unprecedented growth in technology, medicine and other fields, and a social revolution that is still with us. At times it must have seemed as if things would always be good, that growth and blessing would always be our portion. Then there are the times when you might even doubt that we could survive as a congregation. Again, uncertainty rears its head and we are left to wonder if God is still with us. If we are wise (and many of you are), these times of uncertainty drive us to our knees in prayer—and that is our greatest strength.

If you read through the Psalms, you will be struck by how human those ancient Hebrew songs really are. The most amazing thing about them, to me, is that the words of humans addressed to God are a part of the writings that we

PUT THESE CHURCH EVENTS ON YOUR JUNE CALENDAR



- June 2 Ascension of the Lord
- June 5 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, including *Holy Communion*
- June 6 Men of Church Dinner
Brad's Barbecue Chicken--everyone invited!
- June 7 at 10:00 am. Circle 4
- June 11, 9:30-noon . . Church Finance & Music Exchange
- June 12 PENTECOST
5:00 Circle 1
- June 12-16. Vacation Bible School
- June 14 at 1:00 Circle 3
2:00. Circle 4
- June 16 Meeting of Coastal Carolina Presbytery
- June 19 Trinity Sunday
. Scholarship Sunday
. Father's Day
- June 20-24 1st Preschool Summer Camp
- June 21 Newsletter Deadline
- June 22 First day of summer
- June 26 Church Picnic and Dessert Auction
- June 28 Session Meeting

call the Word of God! You will discover the same uncertainty and the same doubts that we all know expressed in bold language even in the English (“Answer me quickly, O God! My spirit fails!” -143:7). You will hear the anguish of the hearts that have known hurt. You will learn of the trials of human living. Yet you will also hear the counterpoint of hope—that God is still sovereign, that God is still the dwelling place of his people, and that God will still bless his people. No child of God need ever doubt that God will come to his or her aid. God will still forgive sin; God will put enemies to flight. When times are uncertain, God never is—for he has a plan and a purpose for all things.

Jeff Story, our Director of Music, has taken the verses of Psalm 90 for an anthem to celebrate our Centennial: “O Lord, you have been our dwelling place from one generation to another” (90: 1). That is our story, and it is the foundation upon which we have served our Lord for 100 years. We have even founded four other churches so that God’s Word and Spirit can reach far beyond our walls! But we hasten to add, in one voice, that we could have

(continued on p.4)



NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL WING

- from Barbara Krause, Director

May was a very busy month, filled with all our end-of-year activities. Our highlight was our last field trip, our May 18 trip to Lynwood Zoo. The children had a great time seeing and especially touching all the different animals. We also shared a wonderful picnic lunch that day.

This summer we are offering a new four week program for children ages 3 to 6½. It will run for four weeks, and will offer wonderful experiences for children. Each week will have a different theme, so they will learn many different things and will certainly not be bored. The hours will be from 9:00-2:00--parents will send a bag lunch, and we will provide snacks. The cost is \$125 per week. The schedule follows:

June 20-24 (Cooking); **July 11-15** (Farm week); **July 25-29** (Gross-ology--insects and worms), and **August 8-12** (Water--oceans). Our teachers have many plans for

lessons and a variety of fun/learning activities. If you need more information and/or wish to register, please contact Gloria in the church office at 455-2434. She has registration forms available.

Have you noticed the "new" blue door at our entrance at the back of the church? Just you wait! It will soon have a mural of a school bus on it--it will be beautiful!

It's always bittersweet when a school year ends. We had a fabulous year, and we are very proud of the eleven children who graduated on May 26. We will miss them, at the same time looking forward to another year! We will sadly miss our four year old teacher, Ms. Shelley, whose husband has orders for Arizona. She has been a terrific part of our staff. Next year Ms. Kari will be the lead teacher for four year olds and Ms. Lisa Keller will be her assistant. Ms. Amy will continue her good work with the three year olds. We are grateful for being able to continue our program with such a professional and capable staff.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in helping us with preschool this year. We all hope you will have a wonderful summer.

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

- 2..... Carol Bodenhamer
- 3..... Peggy Mosser
- 10..... Bill Kuebler, Hannah Sartelle
- 14..... Libby Pelham
- 19..... Connie Kitchen, Midge Reed
- 21..... Claude Dupstadt
- 23..... Charles Summerlin
- 24..... Nathan Hawes, Phyllis Tonnacliff
- 26..... Jay Southerland
- 27..... Bill Cadwell
- 30..... Hailey Cadwell



FINANCES for April 2011

General Fund	\$17,311.53
Building Fund	1,115.00
Samaritan Fund.....	280.00
Youth	420.00
TOTAL.....	\$19,161.53



Network News of The First Presbyterian Church

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 910-455-2434 www.jacksonvillepresbyterian.com
 Coastal Carolina Presbytery website www.presbycc.org
 Presbyterian Church (USA) website www.pcusa.org

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church—its purpose is to inform members and friends of the meetings and programs of the church, to provide newsworthy articles, and to strengthen communications in our church family. Contributions are welcome—direct them to the editor.

- Ministers
- Pastor
- Choir Director
- Organist
- Pre-School Director
- Church Secretary
- Newsletter editor
- Deadline for July/August *Network News*



FOR YOUR INFORMATION: SESSION NOTES

- Sue Lowery, Clerk of Session

STATED SESSION MEETING – April 26, 2011

Members present: Opal Amos, Linda Hawes, Bob Krause, Sue Lowery, Downs Milner, John Phillips, and Jim Wayne. Also present was Dr. John Kerr. Pete Andrews, Charles Arnold, Anna Hamilton, Blanche Nichols, and Harry Woodard were excused. Hunter Hadley was absent.

Dr. Kerr opened the meeting with prayer. Session members discussed their rankings of each of the twelve keys listed in Kennon Callahan's book, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, and reviewed possibilities for building on strengths.

Dr. Kerr thanked the Session for allowing study leave for him to participate on a team during a recent North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage, attended by Anna Hamilton, Sue Lowery, Blanche Nichols, and Dorothy Swanson.

Discussion items included: continued planning for VBS and summer adventures; beginning discussion to establish a task force to develop a Sexual Misconduct Policy for the church; planning for LOV award on July 17; scheduling of a work day on May 14 in preparation for Centennial Sunday on June 6 (as well as normal maintenance items); need to replace HVAC in sanctuary and some exterior metal doors; increase in church's liability and worker's compensation insurance; report from *ad hoc* Centennial Steering Committee.

Action items included: acceptance, with regret, Hunter Hadley's resignation from Session; approval of request from Preschool Ministry Team to hold four one-week summer camps; approval of Linda Hawes as Chair of Nominating Committee.

Called "Cyber" Session Meeting - April 30, 2011

Members responding: Pete Andrews, Opal Amos, Anna Hamilton, Linda Hawes, Sue Lowery, Downs Milner, Blanche Nichols, John Phillips, Jim Wayne, and Harry Woodard.

Action item: approval for hosting North East Regional Leadership Council meeting/workshops on Saturday, June 11.

Called "Cyber" Session Meeting – May 10, 2011

Members responding: Opal Amos, Anna Hamilton, Linda Hawes, Sue Lowery, Downs Milner, Blanche Nichols, Jim Wayne, and Harry Woodard.

Action item: approval for Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 22, to elect a Nominating Committee to seek a replacement for Hunter Hadley and to serve for the remainder of 2011.

Congregational Meeting, May 22, 2011

A Congregational Meeting was held to elect a Nominating Committee for 2011; this Committee will recommend a replacement for Hunter Hadley, who has reigned from the Class of 2011 Elders, and to serve for the remainder of the year, recommending members to serve as the Class of 2014 Elders. Members elected: Linda Hawes, Chair and Session representative; Tony Amos and Gwen Duppstadt, congregation representatives; Donna Kuegel, Presbyterian Women representative; Harry Lord, Men of the Church representative; and John Kerr, Pastor/*ex officio* member.

Stated Session Meeting – May 24, 2011

Members present: Opal Amos, Pete Andrews, Anna Hamilton, Bob Krause, Sue Lowery, Downs Milner, Blanche Nichols, John Phillips, Jim Wayne, and Harry Woodard. Also present was Dr. John Kerr, Pastor/Moderator. Charles Arnold and Linda Hawes were excused.

Discussion items included: assignment for members to pray/ponder on one of the church's strengths upon which we can expand; review of summer activities for children/families to be coordinated by Christian Education and Fellowship Ministry Teams; annual picnic and dessert auction to be held on June 26; VBS plans and need for volunteers/equipment; continued discussion on need for Sexual Misconduct Policy for the church (Roger Moore has agreed to serve as legal representative) with prayerful consideration to be given by a current Session member as to chairing this Task Force; LOV awards on July 17; need for additional work days for painting and miscellaneous maintenance in preparation for the Centennial Celebration; ***need for volunteers on June 4 to make final preparations for Centennial Celebration***; contribution from a member to replace double wooden doors leading into the sanctuary from the narthex; estimate for replacing sanctuary HVAC system; update from *ad hoc* Centennial Steering Committee; Preschool enrollment for Fall 2011 of 16 in four-year old class and 11 in three-year old class; Preschool's assumption of responsibility for its portion of liability/worker's compensation insurance premiums.

Action item: by consensus, intergenerational Sunday School classes for children from June 12 through September 4.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Barbara Krause
2010 PW Moderator

On the evening of May 16, Presbyterian Women held its annual Spring Gathering, celebrating its 109th birthday. This tradition began in 1922, when the Woman's Auxiliary (the predecessor of PW) decided that an offering should be made for a definite cause. In the beginning women members were challenged to give one penny for each year of their lives. Over the years, that tradition has become known as the Birthday Offering. Presbyterian Women across the General Assembly have given more than \$29 million in support of mission projects throughout the world. It is collected in the spring of each year to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. The offering funds up to five projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support, such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns.

There are three recipients this year: ¹)an organization called *Across* which is an international, interdenominational organization working to improve the lives of Sudanese people by strengthening communities. In southern Sudan, intertribal violence has killed and displaced thousands of people. *Across* believes that education is the key to ending the cycle of violence and improving people's lives. ²)the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which provides an education for students who would otherwise have no access to excellent educational opportunities. ³)Anderson Interfaith Ministries in Anderson, South Carolina. This organization provides assistance to people in need while guiding them to function independently. The Women and Children Succeeding (WACS) program, within the ministries, offers support to parents so they can return to school. This comprehensive program transforms lives, not only by helping parents meet children and other basic needs so that school is possible for them, but by building their self-sufficiency and self-esteem.

These three recipients were chosen from the applications that were submitted to the Creative Ministries Team of Presbyterian Women. The applications come from many sources throughout the General Assembly. Grants range from \$200,000 to \$750,000--grantees must agree to standards which have been established by PW.

Adding to the enjoyable fellowship of our celebratory evening, our generous women contributed \$210 to our churchwide mission venture.



CENTERPOINT

- Susan Bell York, LCSW
Hampstead Office

During regular Sunday church services, many of us say a Prayer of Confession followed by silent confession and the minister then declares that we have been forgiven. Praise the Lord! But how much of an emotional burden do many of us carry around because we still feel angry and haven't forgiven someone for something they did to us?

It's healthy and natural to feel angry when someone has hurt us or our loved ones. We need to grieve our hurts and losses, but ideally we don't stay in a psychological position of grief and anger. Staying angry and not forgiving is hazardous to our emotional AND physical health.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that what someone did to us is okay. Forgiveness is a conscious effort not to dwell on negative thoughts about past events that can never be changed. It's up to each of us, through our relationship with God and our own sense of purpose, to decide how we want to respond. By staying angry we don't punish anyone else nearly as much as we punish ourselves. By going through the process of consciously letting go of anger-producing thoughts, we reclaim our power and free up positive energy to serve God fully in the present.

Many of those we see at the Presbyterian Counseling Center have been hurt and are dealing with feelings of anger. Working through anger and letting go leads to physically and emotionally healthier lives.

FROM OUR PASTOR (continued from p. 1)

done nothing without God's constant working in and through each one of us! We have come this far only because God has led us and has walked with us. Perhaps that is the most important thing that we can celebrate: that God has chosen us as the ones through whom he works, and that we can be a part of that as we give our hearts and our lives to him.

May the next hundred years be fruitful ones, and may we do everything for Jesus' sake and to his honor and glory!

God loves you and so do I,
John

At Home

Lei Ashley	Donna McIntyre
Carol Bodenhamer	Judy Roerman
Tom Elliott	Mary Southerland
James Hunter	Lib Taylor
Connie Kellum	Nicole Thornton
John Miller	

In a Nursing Home or Rehab Center

Claude Duppstadt—Hampstead
 Evelyn Gillenwater—Liberty Commons
 Peggy Mosser—Liberty Commons
 Billie Whitwell—Tarboro
 Betty Wiggins—Premiere

Special Address:

Allen Amos
 3514 Greenbrier Blvd.
 Apartment 481 B
 Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Deployed:

Charles Arnold
 LCpl Darrell DeKleuver
 Leo Hunnicutt
 Chuck Lamb



Extended Family

Lei Ashley's daughters, Debra & Sandra
 Carol Hayes Bodenhamer
 Iope Damerville, Michele Wurtzel's mom
 helma Hall's daughters, Sylvia Zarrias &
 Nita Rivenbark
 Keel's daughter, Lee Keel
 Bonnie Kitchen's mom, Frances Powell
 endora Quinn's daughter, Julie Heitkemper
 Midge Reed's grandson, Teddy Shuman,
 and his parents, Thom and Bonnie
 Les Thornton—Angela Thornton's father
 Dr. David Walker

Friends of the Church:

Mia Holland Sarah O'Berry
 Ken Lowe Noel Rogers

Warm and loving condolences to the family and many friends of Martha Shields on her recent loss. She served a long and fruitful life and her memory will live in our hearts. We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Sybil Griffin.



LEARNING ABOUT WHAT WE BELIEVE

SUMMER WILL BRING LOTS OF ACTIVITIES!

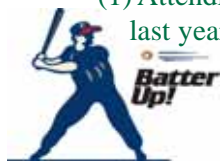
- from Jim Wayne,
 Christian Education Chairman

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held the week after the end of school, from Sunday, June 12, through Thursday, June 16. Our theme this year will be *HOME TOWN NAZARETH*. We will be teaching the children about life in the time of Jesus. Mitzi Marter is the VBS Director. She is working hard, and is still looking for anyone willing to help.

OUR CHURCH PICNIC AND DESSERT AUCTION to benefit youth programs has been moved so as not to conflict with the Centennial Celebration. It will be held on Sunday, June 26, after the morning service. All you cooks, get your recipes ready, and the rest of us will begin getting ready to bid!

SUMMER ADVENTURES return after the Fourth of July. This year we are tentatively planning five activities:

- (1) Attending a Kinston Indians game: this is the last year for the Indians!



- (2) The Papa's Farm outing was a lot of fun last year, so we are repeating it.
- (3) Fort Macon State Park on Emerald Isle (Bring your own picnic)
- (4) Bowling in Jacksonville
- (5) Moore's Creek Battlefield Park, just beyond Burgaw. (Bring your own picnic)

We have chosen activities that we think the whole family can enjoy. Be sure to plan to join us.

SUMMER CAMP season is coming! We have access to two camps in our Presbytery; Camp Kirkwood near Burgaw, and Camp Monroe between Laurinburg and Southern Pines. We will have camperships available to help defray the expenses of camp attendance. Contact Jim Wayne for more information.

**REMEMBER THE CHURCH'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
 SUNDAY, JUNE 5!**



* Assistants in Worship for Sundays in June



Date	Liturgist	Usher Team Leader	Treasurer Assistant
June 5	Jim Wayne	Pete Andrews	John Phillips
June 12	Sue Lowery	Bob Krause	Anna Hamilton
June 19	Opal Amos	Linda Hawes	Downs Milner
June 26	Jim Wayne	Harry Lord	John Phillips

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



** If your name appears above and you are unable to serve, please secure a replacement.*

Date	Provided by	to the Glory of God and
June 5	Bill Kuebler	in memory of Ann
June 12	Midge Reed	in memory of Harry
June 19	Claude & Gwen Dupstadt	to celebrate their 40th birthday on June 21st
June 26	Connie Kitchen	in memory of Tom and their 50th anniversary

HOMETOWN NAZARETH
Where Jesus was a kid



Join Us!

June 12 - 5:30 hotdog
kickoff

June 13-16 - 6:00-8:00

** Travel back to Jesus' hometown
and experience the sights and
sounds of Nazareth*

** Visit the Marketplace and play
the games*

*For more information
and to register, contact*

*First Presbyterian Church office 455-2434
400 Bayshore Blvd., Jacksonville 28540*

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Jacksonville, NC 28540

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

