



# The Grapevine

The monthly newsletter of  
First Presbyterian Church, Mount Airy, NC

**February 2008**

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## **Ministry Staff**

### **Ministers**

Congregation

### **Pastor**

Dr. Steve Lindsley

### **Director of**

#### **Christian Education**

Shasta Bode-Brown

### **Director of Music**

Julius "Sandy" Beam

### **Office Administrator &**

#### **Financial Secretary**

Lynn Rigney

### **Mother's Morning Out**

#### **Director & Custodian**

Etta Arrington

### **Session Members**

#### **Class of 2008**

Bob Keck, Clerk  
Gloria King  
Pete Pequeno  
P. J. Snow  
Debbie Stoltz  
Cynthia Wood

#### **Class of 2009**

Gary Bowers  
Linda Gatchel  
Randy Keith  
John Merritt  
Diane Wood

#### **Class of 2010**

Tim East  
Valerie Parker  
Jim Robertson  
Jane Rountree  
Jim Younger

## **WHAT A WAY TO START THE CELEBRATION!**

A few Sundays ago we had the pleasure of welcoming the Rev. Tom Bagnol to our pulpit as part of our church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. As you may know, throughout the year the Long Range Planning Ministry Team will be inviting some former ministers to come join us in worship on various Sunday mornings. What a wonderful way to kick off things by having Tom! Tom was the called pastor at our church from 1966-1970. Years later he served as our church's interim minister in the late-90's. Like many of you, I am honored to call Tom a friend. He is also a wonderful colleague in ministry; and from time to time we find ourselves co-officiating a funeral together. While these occasions are hardly a time one looks forward to, I always enjoy the opportunity to join with Tom in leading God's people in worship.

In his sermon on Sunday, *The Church: What's In There*, Tom challenged us to consider what those outside the church see when they look at First Presbyterian. It is not always the same thing that we see, to be sure. Tom called us as a congregation to give some thought to who and what we are as a community of faith: to think seriously about our mission and vision and strive in everything we do to serve God. Prior to his Sunday with us, Tom had expressed to me some concerns about what kind of a sermon would be "appropriate" for a 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. I feel confident that you will join with me in not only thanking Tom for his message, but for letting him know that he hit the nail on the head!

One of my sincere hopes as we continue in this year-long celebration is that we encounter more moments like this: that as we look back and commemorate our church's past, we'll inevitably consider its present and future. Anniversaries have a way of enabling us to do that. Inside this Grapevine you will find a list of events and activities; many ways that our church is celebrating 150 years (please note, by the way, that other dates and events will be added as we get further into the year). This list will be in every Grapevine this year, and soon you'll be able to access it at our website, [www.fpcma.com](http://www.fpcma.com). Please take part in as many of these events as you can. I think you'll find that the more often you and I "celebrate," the more we get a sense of God's wonderful commitment to our church over these many years, and God's continued commitment in the years ahead.

When you see Tom out and about, please thank him for being with us and for his powerful words. Let's keep celebrating!

## Church Financial Update

<b>Total Contributions Received for January:</b>	\$ 33,355.36
<b>Total Contributions Received for 2008:</b>	\$ 33,355.36
<b>2008 Budgeted Pledged &amp; Non-pledged Giving:</b>	\$ 280,825.00

<p><b>Yokefellow Ministry</b></p> <p><b>February Food(s) of the Month:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Flour Rice</p>	<p><b>Session Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, February 17th</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall</p>	<p><b>Confirmation Meetings</b></p> <p>There will be two mandatory meetings for the confirmands and mentors. The first meeting will be <b>Sunday, February 3, at 4:00</b> in the sanctuary. An additional meeting will be held on <b>Sunday, February 24</b>. Time to be announced at a later date.</p>	<p><b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES</b></p> <p>Please submit your articles for the February newsletter no later than <b>Monday, February 18th</b>. Any items received after this date will be published at a later time.</p>
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### SESSION DIGEST

From Stated Session Meeting held on January 20, 2007

- Treasurer's report - 2008 revenues were 93% of budget. Budgeted expenditures were just over \$1,000 for the year. Session approved Treasurer's report.
- Stewardship reported that time and talent surveys would be introduced at the next meeting for the various ministry teams to review and revise as necessary, in preparation for a Spring Stewardship season focusing on time and talents of church members.
- Long Range Planning reported that four previous ministers are being contacted to come back to the church sometime in 2008 to preach in celebration of our 150th anniversary. The ministry team will also begin working on a historical room later this month, and continues to request any items for the room.
- Service & Outreach reported that, beginning in May, our church will switch to being responsible for the 1st Thursday of the month of "Friends Feeding Friends," instead of the 3rd Thursday.
- Session approved communion dates for 2008. They are: Feb. 3 (for confirmation), Feb. 17, March 20, March 23, May 11, Aug. 3, Oct. 5, Nov. 30, and Dec. 24.
- Session approved reimbursement for the Mills family out of the Mills Mission Fund in the amount of \$3,774.19.
- Youth Ministry team distributed a list of various youth fundraisers for the year. Session also approved two Youth Sunday dates, June 1st and November 23rd.
- Session approved the following individuals as Trustees of the church for 2008: President - John Merritt; Vice President - Debbie Stoltz; Secretary - Bob Keck; and Treasurer - Bob Moody.
- Our church will host a "Love Your Neighbor" covered dish dinner and fellowship event with members from Flat Rock Presbyterian Church and Edward Webb Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 17th at 4:00. All church members are encouraged to attend.
- Steve will be meeting with Joe Lampl, Dave Petri and Lorie Lindsley this month to discuss how the church can work to "go green" in its aging facility in the coming year, including changing to more energy-efficient lighting and instituting an "in-church" recycling program.

## February Ushers and Lockup

**Head Usher:** Bob Keck  
**Side Usher:** Diane Wood  
**At Large:** TBA

## Flowers for Sunday Worship

**February 3** Irene Green  
**February 10** Open  
**February 17** Open  
**February 24** Open

## Worship Nursery Volunteers

**February 3** Kelly Merritt  
**February 10** Gloria King  
**February 17** Elizabeth Merritt  
**February 24** Betty Street

## Little Church Volunteers

**February 3** Sandy and Nina Bowers  
**February 10** Heather and Mary Glen Hatcher  
**February 17** Carla and David Majure  
**February 24** Mark and Lisa Dodd

## FPC Inclement Weather Policy

It is our intention that all church activities take place as scheduled. However, there are times when the weather makes it difficult to do this. In an attempt to be proactive, FPC has adopted the following inclement weather policy:

- All decisions concerning the cancellation of Sunday morning and Sunday evening activities will be made by the Pastor and Clerk of Session with input from the Program Director.
- During the week, if the Mount Airy City Schools are closed due to inclement weather and/or hazardous road conditions, any church activities scheduled for that afternoon or evening will be cancelled.
- Closing of the Mother's Morning Out program will be at the discretion of the MMO director.

### Fellowship Meal Schedule

(Each team is responsible for set-up, serving and clean-up for each meal. Shasta will assist you in planning and order the food.)

**February 6** Long Range Planning (Ash Wednesday)  
**February 13** Personnel  
**February 20** Service and Outreach  
**February 27** Worship & Music, Endowment

### Bible in a Year Challenge Lunch

Bring your lunch and join us for our first monthly discussion meeting on **Sunday, February 3rd**, immediately following worship. Everyone is welcome.

### Lenten Bible Study & Fellowship Meals

**Children's Lenten Bible Study:** Teachers are needed for the Children's Lenten Bible Study, grades K-5. The Christian Education team is looking for someone to teach this wonderful group of kids. Won't you share your love of God with these children? See Shasta to volunteer.

**Bible Study Fellowship Meals:** We will be offering meals before each of our Lenten studies. Please sign up on the special board in the upstairs foyer if you plan to attend.

## Ash Wednesday service & meal



We will begin our season of Lent on **Wednesday, February 6th**, with dinner at 5:45 p.m. Following dinner, we will have an Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes. In addition, our children's choir will sing during the service. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the special board in the upstairs foyer.