

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, North Carolina

~ A Stephen Ministry Congregation ~

Volume 15 Issue 10

5/16/10-5/30/10

FROM THE PASTOR

The Session met last Wednesday night and heard some good financial news, and also heard some bad financial news. I want to share both with you.



The good news came in reports from Ken Crumrine who chaired the Masonry Task Force which oversaw our recent repairs and renovations, and also from Terry Coffey who co-chaired, along with Lillian Smith, the campaign committee which raised the funds for the work.

Ken reported that the repairs are all finished. The Seager's Construction Company out of Greensboro did a great job. The work was done on time and under budget, even with our adding a number of things that were not in the original scope. Ken said it was a little like painting one room in your house. That room looks great, but you realize how much the other rooms need painting too. And so we not only added steel support beams to the inside of our steeple, repaired and restored all the concrete masonry and mortar, but also added repairs to the education wing and the front wall and the wrought iron fences.

Even more good news came from Terry and Lillian, that we have exceeded our \$3.1 million campaign goal. You as a congregation gave generously during the worst financial times in memory, pledging \$1.9 million for the repairs. The Bruce Barclay Cameron Foundation followed that effort with a challenge pledge of \$1 million, asking us to raise

another \$200,000 to get to our goal. You as a congregation dug deeper in response to that challenge, and pledged another \$150,000, getting us to just \$50,000 short of our goal.

At our final meeting with the Seager's Construction Company, they surprised us with a gift of \$65,000 towards the campaign. Ken says that we asked the company at the beginning of the process to treat this church as if it was their own, and they did. They did great work, came in under budget, and then gave us an unexpected gift to the campaign.

Then there was one last piece of good news. Early on we had approached the Kenan Foundation, recognizing the Kenan family's deep ties with our church and their history of generous giving. They were aware of the challenge gift. And so the Kenan Foundation has recently given us \$200,000 towards our Pointing the Way Campaign.

Given all this good news, the Session made what I think was a wise move. We voted to set aside \$200,000 in a dedicated account for scheduled maintenance of the repair work. Seager's has already given us this schedule, with an inspection and repairs every 7 years. The first two, at years 7 and 14, are fairly small. But 21 years from now, in 2031, we'll face a major expense to reapply all of the sealant and make any needed repairs. By setting aside money in a scheduled maintenance fund now, and adding a relatively small amount to this fund each year, we will insure that our sanctuary and building stay strong and beautiful for generations to come. Even more than that, we'll avoid having to have another campaign and free up support for mission and other things in the life of the church.

The Session also voted to put any

additional funds generated by the campaign towards the second half of the organ repair. You may know that we have a real treasure in the Skinner Organ that was built specifically for our sanctuary in the 1920s. Skinner has now become one of the most famous organ makers of his generation, and our organ is considered one of his finest accomplishments. But like most old and beautiful things, it requires upkeep and repairs. Half of those repairs have been done, but the other half of the organ still needs to be taken apart, sent to a workshop at Yale, repaired and rebuilt and put back in our sanctuary. This work was a part of the original Pointing the Way goal, but was taken out when the economy crashed. So to be able to get a head start on raising the money for the repair will be a great blessing.

So much for the good news – now here is the bad. Like every other church and business and homeowner who lives east of I-95 we have seen a dramatic increase in our wind insurance deductible. We knew it was coming, we just didn't know that it would be quite this large. The new law says that the wind deductible is set at 2% of a building's value. That is significant for a homeowner, but it is even more significant for a church like ours, since our property is valued at \$28,000,000. That means our wind insurance deductible has risen overnight from \$25,000 per incident to \$560,000 per incident. We would now have to pay ourselves for the first half million dollars of damage for every incident of wind damage.

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Sunday, May 16: Jim Holderness
"Like Trees Planted by Streams of Water"
Ephesians 1:17-23

Sunday, May 23: Pentecost & Mission Teams Commissioning
Ernie Thompson
"All of Them Were Filled" Acts 2:1-21

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES-9:45

Chapel: Chapel, *Present Word*

Discovery: R203, study on *the book of Romans*.

Forum: R101, *Worship in the Church*

Friends in Christ: R305 *Peter*

Journey: R303, *The Apostles' Creed*

Seekers: Through May 16,

Coffey Room, CC, *Five Secrets You Must Discover Before You Die*, by John Izzo

Homebuilders: Through May 16,

Boney Hall-CC, *Love and Respect*

May 23-Breakfast Social

Inquirers' Class: 4/18-5/16 (Skip 5/9), BR

Anyone is welcome in any class! No sign up or previous experience required!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Birth-2 Years: R206, *Crib Nursery*

3 Year Olds: R208, *I Am Rock Solid*

4 Year Olds: R208, *I Am Rock Solid*

K-Grade 5 Rotation Model: Cameron Center, *Spark Program*

Middle School: Cameron Center, *Claim the Life*

High School: Cameron Center, *Youth Specialties*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH CLASSES 11:00

Bumblebees (Babies): Crib Nursery

Bluebirds (15+ months): R206

Whales (3 Years by 8/31): R208

Lions (4 Years by 8/31): R207

BLOOD DRIVE, MAY 25



A Community Blood Drive is being held in the Cameron Center on Tuesday, May 25, from 2:00 - 6:30 p.m. Please bring a photo I.D. Call the church office at 762-6688 to schedule your appointment!

CARDS, CARDS, CARDS!

A card can express so much: joy, sympathy, congratulations, think of you, we care, etc. If you would like a card sent by the church to a family or individual please contact Sue Ives, 790-3120 or Laura Ford, 686-2671.

GARYNEWS

"GONE FISHIN'!"

Gary

MUSIC

MUSIC AT FIRST

Music at First presents pianist Domonique Launey this Sunday, May 16, at 5:00 p.m., in a concert commemorating the centennial of the birth of Frédéric Chopin. Domonique will be joined by conductor Steven Errante of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and a chamber orchestra in a performance of Chopin's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor." Domonique is a Music at First favorite, and we hope you will attend her annual concert on the MAF series.

~ Dong 🎵

VOLUNTEERS FOR VBS STILL NEEDED!

Ever wanted to set sail for a High Seas adventure? Imagine feeling the sea spray on your face as sails snap overhead. You and your Crew will plunge through rugged waves-and **experience** the deep, rolling waters of **God's love**. At High Seas Expedition, you'll give children the opportunity to jump into Bible stories and explore **Bible truths** through a cargo of **creative experiences**. If your interest is piqued, then contact the VBS team to sign on for this four-day adventure on the high seas for ages four (by Aug. 31) through rising fifth graders. We will set sail on **June 28** and want you to help lead our crew, so climb aboard for the voyage of a lifetime! Anne Matney (395-3958), Anna Martin (762-2066). See website to sign your child up for VBS.



OUTBACK DINNER, MAY 20



Family Night End-of-Year Celebration is Thursday, May 20, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. with a steak and chicken dinner sponsored by Outback Steakhouse in the Cameron Center parking lot and playground. Children will be served a chicken fingers meal. Prices are as follows: Adults - \$10.00, and Children - \$4.00, with a family maximum of \$28.00. Be sure to bring your dollars for "Dancing for a Dozen"! One dollar will give your child the chance to win a plate filled with a dozen treats! Proceeds will benefit the First Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten Scholarship Fund. To make reservations, please submit payment along with your name and number of adults and children to the preschool by May 18. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Preschool and Kindergarten. Call the Preschool Office at 762-2066 for more information. We look forward to seeing you all that evening!

SPIRITUAL NURTURE LIST

Bereaved

Nanci Welker, upon the death of her Mother, Annie Skinner, who died on 4/27/10.

Bunnie Turnbull, upon the death of her mother who died on 5/1/10.

Anne Boseman, upon the death of her brother, Chuck.

Ruth Williams, upon the death of her brother, Joseph Williams, who died on 5/3/10.

Bob Loweth, upon the death of his father on 5/5/10.



Marriage

Sarah Catherine (Plummer) and John Zachary Everhart, 4/24/10

Birth

Selah Pearl Hage, 4/29/10

Parents: John & Anna Hage

Grandparents:

Marvin & Micki Hage

The next newsletter will be the first of three 4-week printed newsletters for the summer:

Newsletter Dates	Deadlines
June (May 30-June 27)	May 19
<i>E-mail June 9</i>	<i>June 7</i>
July (June 27-July 25)	June 16
<i>E-mail July 7</i>	<i>July 6</i>
August (July 25-Aug. 22)	July 14
<i>E-Mail Aug. 4</i>	<i>Aug. 2</i>

YOUTH

MISSION TRIP MEETINGS

The High School Mission Team is meeting on Wednesday, May 19, from 6:00-7:30 in Gilmour Hall. This is a potluck dinner so bring your best dish to share. Feel free to include a little New Orleans flair! Remember to bring the two copies of the medical form signed and notarized. I also need the legal name for each mission trip participant so that I can send them to the airline. Please send those to me ASAP if you have not already. The Middle School Mission Team is meeting on Sunday, May 23, at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary following our worship service. Remember to bring the D.O.O.R. forms that you received with your information packet. Both groups should join us for the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 23, where we will commission both youth teams for their mission trips. We will reserve pews in the front for us all to sit together and then we will call you up front just after the sermon. **This is also the date that your stock sales should be turned in.** Please send those into the office or you can give them to Charlie on that Sunday.

Senior Sunday is June 6, at the 11:00 service and anyone who would like to join us for that service and a celebration breakfast at 9:45 should contact me by June 1, with the graduates name as they would like it to appear in the bulletin and from what school they are graduating.

CURBSIDE CAFÉ

We're looking for help this summer to prepare and serve dinner to the homeless. Curbside Cafe is a ministry established to provide a meal every other Thursday night in the parking lot of Mercy House, a men's homeless shelter located on Red Cross Street. Individuals or groups welcomed. It's approximately a two hour time commitment (5:00 - 7:00). Dates available are June 24, July 8, July 22, August 5, August 19, and September 2. For more information contact Dayna Pray (daynapray@bellsouth.net) or Erik Stromberg (stromberg@ec.rr.com)

FROM THE PASTOR (CONTINUED)

We might just hope that we don't have any big winds. That is certainly tempting, but in Wilmington that is taking a risk. At the deacons meeting when this was being discussed, someone at my table said that her uncle had gotten fed up with his house insurance being so high that he cancelled it. I said that he must have saved a good bit of money. She said actually, no. The year after he cancelled his insurance his house burned down, and he had to pay the full cost of rebuilding. We could just take our chances, but that could be an expensive choice.

The other choice is also expensive. We can purchase as separate policy that "buys down" our deductible back to what it was - \$25,000. That "buy down" policy is expensive - \$38,000 per year. That means that our insurance costs have almost doubled overnight. Just the new buy down policy is almost 3% of our total church budget. The Session reluctantly decided to buy the policy. We Presbyterians have never liked gambling. I think that was a wise move. But it is also \$38,000 that can't be spent on church school curriculum or on the new eye clinic in Haiti or on restoring the Personnel budget to what it was before the crash.

All that means that the church budget is much like most of our home budgets - we are blessed, but we are also facing some tough challenges. Those challenges will continue for the foreseeable future as we seek to both be good stewards of this wonderful but expensive building, and also continue the mission and ministry that God has called us to do.

Please continue to keep the church in your prayers and in your giving.

Your pastor,



Ernie

May 16, 2010

SERVICE ATTENDANTS

May 16, 2010

8:30 Greeter: Cathy Bailey

8:30 Ushers: Barbara & Joe Jamison

11:00 Greeter: Lydia Stokes, Lill Van Order

11:00 Ushers: Bill Stokes, Bill Van Order, Jay Atkinson, Ken Crumrine, Tracy Robison, Cacki Taylor, Jan Wessell, Justine Lerch, Murphy Averitt, Debi Causey

11:00 Sound Board: David Nance

Crib Nursery: Sissy & Bill

Schoettelkotte, Elizabeth & Vin Wells

Whales: Carter & Ryan Benton

Lions: Sara & Bruce Burroughs

Roosters: Anna & Murphy Averitt

May 23, 2010

8:30 Greeters/Ushers: Bert Williams, Robert Waldkirch

11:00 Greeters: Gibb Combs, Hoke Flynt

11:00 Ushers: Frank Beatty, Gibb Combs, Hoke Flynt, John Monroe, Fran Hirt, Jan Wessell, Justine Lerch, Murphy Averitt, Debi Causey

11:00 Sound Board: Sam Markley

Crib Nursery: Stephanie & Brannon Walters, Cindy & Brad Southerland

Whales: Anne & David Matney

Lions: Stephanie & Ben David

Roosters: Julie & Dylan Dimock

GOLF TOURNAMENT, MAY 22

Please join us for the First Presbyterian Church's Annual Church Golf Tournament for the Men of the Church on Saturday, May 22, at Magnolia Greens Golf Plantation. A \$55 fee includes greens fees, cart, range balls, and lunch. Tee times start at 7:50 a.m. Sign up in the church office or online.



STEWARDSHIP		
Living the Way		
<u>Month of</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Budget</u>
April	104,939.79	104,268.84
YTD	376,189.22	417,075.36
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!		



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*First Presbyterian Church
125 South Third Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401*

Phone: 762-6688 Fax: 762-7471

www.firstonthird.org

Pastor On Call - 762-9622

Return Service Requested

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MAY 16 – 30

Sunday, May 16-New Members Join

8:30 AM Worship, Chapel
9:45 AM Church School
9:45 AM INQUIRERS CLASS TOUR (#4 of 4), BR
10:30 AM Chancel Choir
10:45 AM Session, SR
11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary
4:00 PM Youth Council Mtg., BH
5:00 PM MAF- Domonique Launey
5:30 PM Youth Mtgs, BH & Youth Rms

Monday, May 17

6:00 PM Cub Scouts Meeting, CC
7:00 PM Boy Scout Mtg, BH
7:00 PM Salvation Army Dinner, GH

Tuesday, May 18

11:00 AM Pastors Planning Mtg, R305
1:30 PM Staff Meeting, R305
5:30 PM Officer Retreat Committee, R202

Wednesday, May 19

10:00 AM Bread Ministry, Gray Kitchen
10:15 AM Preschool Chapel (AM)
10:30 AM Preschool (4yrs) Program, Sanctuary
3:30 PM CK Foundation Awards Dinner
6:00 PM HS Mission Trip Mtg, GH
7:30 PM Deacon's Meeting, BH

Thursday, May 20

12:30 PM Presbytery Luncheon, GH
5:00 PM Girls Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5:30 PM Officer Nominating Committee, R305
5:30 PM Outback Dinner in CC Parking Lot
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, May 21

Last Day of Preschool

Saturday, May 22

7:50 AM FPC Annual Golf Tourn., Magnolia Greens

Sunday, May 23-Pentecost

Youth Mission Teams Commissioning

8:30 AM Worship, Chapel
9:45 AM Church School
9:45 AM Homebuilder's Breakfast Social
10:30 AM Chancel Choir
10:45 AM Session, SR
11:00 AM Commissioning of Youth for Mission Trips
11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary
12:00 PM MS Mission Team, Sanctuary
5:00 PM Girls Choir Concert, Sanctuary
5:30 PM Youth Mtgs, BH & Youth Rms

Monday, May 24

6:00 PM Cub Scouts Meeting, CC
7:00 PM Boy Scout Mtg, BH

Tuesday, May 25

11:00 AM Pastors Planning Mtg, R305
1:30 PM Staff Meeting, R305
2:00 PM Blood Drive 2-6:30 pm Cameron Center
5:30 PM Volunteer Resources, R305

Wednesday, May 26-No Events Scheduled

Thursday, May 27

10:00 AM Companions In Christ, R305
5:00 PM Curbside Cooking, GH
5:00 PM Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5:30 PM Grandparents Program, BH
7:00 PM Grandparents Kids BB, Gym

Friday, May 28-No Events Scheduled

Saturday, May 29-No Events Scheduled

Sunday, May 30-Trinity Sunday

8:30 AM Worship, Chapel
9:45 AM Church School
10:30 AM Chancel Choir
10:45 AM Session, SR
11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary