

Windows

Serving Burnsville First Presbyterian Church And Its Community Of Believers - October 2009



Laughrun House

Pat Skinner, chairman of Growing in Faith, came into my office looking like he should be floating rather than walking.

“Guess what I just did,” he said with a surprise smile.

“I don’t know...” I responded. He sat down and cocked his head a little to the side.

“I just made the last payment on the Laughrun House.” And he smiled broadly.

There was a surreal nature about the moment. We smiled and just stared at each other. Could it be? Three years ago, we had believed that God was calling us to expand the campus of our church, which had existed on its one

little acre for many years. But it was a stretch for us. To think about a campaign to buy the wonderful house and expansive lawn of the recently deceased Paul and Ruth Laughrun across the street was a giant leap of faith. And that meant - we would be “growing with faith” big time. Could God mean this was possible?

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Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie
Lauterer



Graphic by Art Anderson

WELCOME TO STEWARDSHIP MONTH!

by Amanda Martin, Stewardship Chair

It is not really a calendar month, rather four Sundays in the early fall when we take time to think about sharing our money, time & talent with the Church.

We started on September 20 with the exciting announcement that the loan for the Laughrun House has been paid in full! I am thrilled that we could include this milestone at this particular time. Here is why: Many Churches across the country are seeing their budgets shrink. Even with stable attendance, many of the people who give to their churches are experiencing personal financial crises or they fear future problems. It would be naïve of me to approach our congregation about their plans to support the church financially with out acknowledging the economy. So there, I have acknowledged it. Some people are out of work. Many nest eggs have shrunk. Which is why I find it absolutely amazing that our church family has been so faithful these three years, as the economy collapsed, yet the Growing In Faith campaign to purchase the Laughrun House has stayed right on track.

The next two Sundays of Stewardship Month will give those attending church a chance to hear briefly from two people in the congregation about their experiences. It’s not scripted, and they didn’t ask me what they should say! So we will all just have to be surprised by what they might be moved to share with us.

On October 4th, we will also have a “Time & Talent Fair” in the Fellowship Hall after the Service. If you have been looking for other opportunities to get involved around the Church, this is your chance. Everyone of us, young & old, member & frequent visitor, have talents and skills that could be shared with the Church Family. Take a few minutes to learn about the needs and how your skills and interests might match up!

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Your 2009-2010 Stewardship Committee



Frank Boka



Joe Haberthier



Sarah Osbourne



Serena & Bub Harley



Amanda Martin

PLEDGE CARDS

by Amanda Martin, Stewardship Chair

When you look at the Pledge Cards there are some questions that come to mind. Here are a few pointers to work from. If you have any questions, please ask any Committee Member, our Elders, or Maggie.

- We ask each household to submit a pledge card.
- There is no minimum. There is no maximum.
- This is not a bill. Everyone gives of their own free will. If something changes, your pledge can change.
- The Pledge Cards we work with during Stewardship Month are for “regular giving” to support the basic operations of our Church. There are also Missions included in this budget. Think about: supporting Reconciliation House, electric bills, our minister’s salary, Wednesday Church School.
- If you give regularly anyway, letting the Church know in advance lets us make the best use of funds through budgeting.
- If you have been making a Pledge faithfully for years, please consider increasing it. Maybe a few more dollars a week? Maybe a percentage point?
- The Pledge Cards will be handed out and collected at the service on October 11. Please plan to be there, but if you cannot, you can still submit a Pledge! Speak to Amanda, or stop by the Church Office.

WHAT IS TITHING, EXACTLY?

by Amanda Martin, Stewardship Chair

According to various passages in the Bible, a tithe is the first ten percent of what God blesses you with given back to Him. Generally, that scares people to death. It opens all sorts of questions about household budgets and how is that money going to be used, etc.

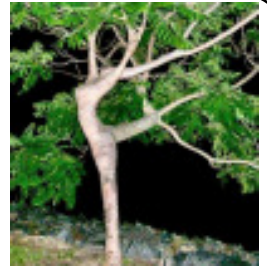
In my research I have learned that in the Bible money is mentioned in 2,350 verses. Jesus mentioned money in a third of His parables. The biggest theme repeated over and over is about taking care of the poor and needy. A few passages you might like:

Luke 12:48: From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

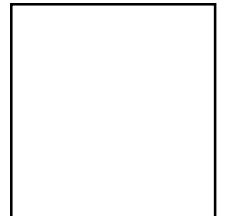
Luke 6:37-38: Jesus said: Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you get back.

There are lots of resources on the Presbyterian website pcusa.org – I read them all! If you have more questions, dive in!

Stewardship is the grateful response to God's grace and goodness.



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Looking Outward
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Apparently that is what God meant. God's grace worked through the hard work of a wonderful committee - Pat who took Jim Martin's position as chair when Jim died sadly and suddenly several weeks into the campaign, led the amazingly gifted committee: Britt Kauffman, Thom Koch, Beverly Bell, Willard and Alice Cottrell, Alex Campbell, Bob McFerren, and Gary Ray. Rolf Holmquist created the logo for "Growing with Faith" as well as the Laughrun House pledge box, which later became a bird house.

That was three years ago. And though we have come through some



hard times financially right along with the rest of this country, our campaign has stayed on schedule.

The generous funds were given and have

purchased the house. Now the task at hand is to continue the pledges through December that will make our tithe possible to aid our sisters and brothers outside our church doors - Reconciliation House, our sister church in Guatemala which is trying to buy a little piece of land so they can someday build a church, and equipment badly needed at the hospital in Malawi where our missionary Dr. Barbara Nagy serves. (By the way, Barbara will speak at our morning worship on November 1.)

The Session decided to make the announcement that the house was paid for in belief that those who have not finished their pledge will be faithful to complete their pledges for both themselves and for those whose pledges were used to pay off the house.

And you know what - I believe that too.

Stewardship Month
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Then finally, on October 11th, we will celebrate Consecration Sunday. Also known as "Turn In Your Pledge Card" Sunday. We will have an opportunity during the worship service to fill out our Pledge Cards and turn them in - after several weeks of thinking about it. Following the service will be a celebration of all the blessings God gives to us. After all, if God wasn't so good to us, how could we pass those blessings on? We decided on a Giving Thanks theme for this celebration so the Stewardship Committee will be roasting turkey! We ask everyone to plan to stay and to bring a dish to share - what goes well with turkey? Hmmmm..... let me think about it! I hope that every one of the people reading this newsletter will be as excited as I am about taking time to think about how good God is in our lives. I am happy to be able to reflect on the good times, the hard times, and then the good times again.

I hope that you will carefully and prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do in terms of financial support of the Church. There are so many good things that can happen through the organization of our church, but only with dollars, time and talent. Won't you share yours generously?

Empty Bowls

a grassroots
movement to help end
hunger



Rolf Holmquist, pictured above with a collection of local handmade pottery, and the Mission Committee are organizing an Empty Bowls fundraiser to be held in our Fellowship Hall on **Friday, October 16** (World Hunger Day). Empty Bowls is a project formed here in Burnsville that has grown to include participants nationally.

Plans began for our Empty Bowls soup dinner in May when our very own Vacation Bible School children, led by Britt Kaufmann, each designed a handmade clay bowl. Rolf has also recruited local potters to donate their wares.

The meal is \$20, which includes a handmade bowl, soup, bread, drink, and dessert. This benefits the Empty Bowls project to feed the hungry. Time of event to be announced.

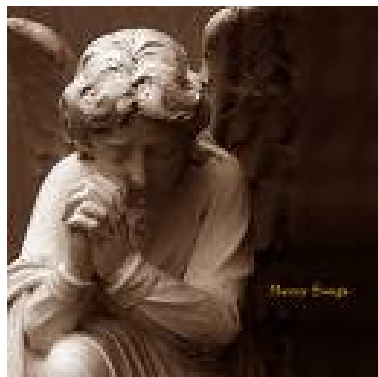


Congregational Care Update

Attention members! Are you aware that there are some wonderful cooks in our midst that are available to help you with a meal on the occasions when you are unable to cook? These folks have volunteered through the Presbyterian Women and other small groups to help new moms, people moving in or out, shut ins, or even if you have an illness that makes you too weak to cook for you or your family and need help. Sometimes we are not comfortable asking for help but I know God wants us to give and to receive, so reach out. This is a congregation with a lot of love and hospitality and God wants us to share these gifts.

If you need a meal or want to help with cooking or even just delivering the meal, as some of us are so spread out, please call Saskia Etheridge 675-9890.

Presbyterian Women Retreat



**October
9-10**

**High
Pastures,
Burnsville**

Have you registered?

Young Adults meet Oct. 14 with Questions

What you have always wanted to know about the church but were afraid to ask - that will be the theme of our gathering on that Wednesday night when our pastor, Maggie, will be with us. Maggie wants us to bring questions you have: for example, What do we mean when we say "holy catholic church" in the Apostle's Creed? Why do we have a confession every Sunday morning? What does "predestination" mean? Why do Presbyterian ordain women while some churches condemn the practice?

"I don't guarantee I'll have all the answers, but we can work on finding answers if humans have been given an answer," Maggie said. "I really look forward to being with this great group in our church and talking the nitty gritty of our faith traditions."

If you plan to come on Wednesday, October 14, please call and tell us if (a) you'll have children for babysitting and (b) you'll eat dinner at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall (\$5 for adults and kids eat free). Please call the office at 682-4789.

World Communion Sunday

Beginning in 1936, the first Sunday in October was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas as World Communion Sunday. It was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and, after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church.



Give to the Peacemaking Offering

Colorful artwork of people farming and dancing in the sunlight." This Year's Offering Theme and Art. The theme for 2009 is taken from Psalm 85:10, "Justice and peace shall kiss each other." The art is a serigraph by John August Swanson titled PSALM 85. The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly. Most churches receive the Offering on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, which this year is October 4.

In other news...

Thank You from the Ayers Family

"We are so grateful and blessed to have such a wonderful church family! The food and visits were wonderful and made our lives adjusting with Cate so much easier. Cate is growing and changing everyday. Chad and I can't wait to bring her to church. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness."

Oops!

Sarah Osborne works in Burnsville as a physical therapist at the Fitness Center. The article said that she works in Spruce Pine.

New Website Unveiling October 18

After months of hard work by Jim Ludwig, our church will have a new website available on Sunday, October 18. The new web address will be posted on that day.

The new website will have many features. Not only will there be information for newcomers and visitors, but features helpful to our church family which will include: newsletters, sermons, calendar, and events.

“We’ve come into the era of the website”, said Rev. Maggie Lauterer, and I’m thankful we will have a stronger presence on the web. I have heard from folks who listen to the sermons on the present website”.

We would be remiss if we did not thank the one who put us on the web in the first place. First to Zack Allen who designed the very first website (www.firstburnsville.org) almost ten years ago. And Carl Conrad who took the task over and has been faithful in keeping the web site current.

When the new site is up, Aimee Tomcho and Jim will maintain the site. Thank you for your hard work and upgrading of our site where folks will now be able to get much of the information on our church.



OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Group - Lanny & Allyson Heidenfelder
Preschool Sunday School - Britt Kaufmann
Worship Prep Sunday School - Anne Phillips
Wednesday Church School - Bob & Fran McFerren, Nancy Renfro, Amanda Martin, Anne Phillips, Willard & Alice Cottrell, Joe Habethier

Special thanks to Sarah Osborne for filling in as a sub!

Wednesday Church School in Full Swing!



Top Photo from bottom: Max & Vaughn Smoker, Sienna Osada, Luke & Polly Watrous, Sophia Phillips, Gillian Gavenus, Drew Smoker, Back row: Amira Malas, & Mikaela Phillips. Bottom Photo from left: Aleyna Phillips, Polly & Luke Watrous, Sienna Osada, Bonnie Risher (teacher), & Amira Malas.

