

Windows

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

Missionary Dr. Barbara Nagy Comes to Burnsville

On Sunday, November 1, Dr. Barbara Nagy will lead our congregation in worship. Barbara was appointed in January 2004 to serve in Malawi. A specialist in internal medicine and pediatrics, Barbara is assigned to serve as a physician at Nkhoma Hospital, an institution of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Nkhoma Synod.

This isn't Barbara's first appointment to serve as a physician in Africa. She was a mission co-worker in the Democratic Republic of Congo (then known as Zaire) from 1989 to 1993. "Soon after becoming a Christian," Barbara writes, "I felt God calling me to mission. It's both an expression of my faith in Christ's salvation and an expression of God's love for all. I feel privileged to be a Presbyterian because of the church's rich heritage of mission and also because of the many missionaries I have known who have nurtured and inspired me in my faith."



To get an idea of the work Dr. Nagy is doing, please read the excerpt of her July 2009 letter printed below.

When a pumpkin is more than a pumpkin?

Meet Mr. F, a grey-haired gentleman too old to know his actual age, who limped into the outpatient clinic several years ago with complaints of not being able to urinate, a frequent complaint of older men in Malawi. He was so wasted it was hard to find him inside his clothes. He had a severe urinary tract infection that resisted all conventional medicines available to treat him. Finally, we were able to determine that he had tuberculosis, and he improved with anti-tuberculosis meds. It took months more of iron supplementation and soy porridge provided by the Nickel-a-Meal program before he was healthy enough for a prostatectomy, but by then our operating rooms were closed for elective surgeries due to construction. As is often the case in Malawi, the waiting list at other institutions was over six months long, so Mr. F waited and waited, with a tube bypassing his blocked prostate, producing numerous problems.



The long-anticipated day of surgery finally arrived and was missed because Mr. F couldn't find a blood donor, which is required before prostate surgery can take place. By this time Mr. F and I were becoming good friends! A blood donor was arranged from within the hospital staff, and then Mr. F had an uneventful prostatectomy and was sent home. I didn't see him for about six months so I was surprised to find him sitting in the outpatient department several weeks ago with a big smile on his now full face. In his arms was the most beautiful pumpkin I have ever seen, which was a present to thank us for caring for him. This was an especially wonderful gift because, grown by Mr. F himself, it showed that he had recovered his health sufficiently to be able to till his fields again and provide food for his family.

Mission Trip to Help WV Flood Victims

From November 1 - 7, five members of our church will travel to Kopperston, West Virginia to help rebuild houses lost as a result of the November 2008 flood. Thanks to money raised from the Celtic Harp concert last month, Stinson and Carol McCroskey, Laura Seelbach, Randy Hembree, and Michele Rehfield are able to lend their hands in this disaster relief.



REFLECTIONS ON THE WOMEN'S RETREAT



Women's Retreat took place on October 9-10, 2009. It was a very special time for women to get away, revive spiritually, enjoy getting to know one another better and reconnect. Grace Boyer spoke of "Holy Listening", a way to experience God's love in everyday life.

Thanksgiving Service 2009

This year, the Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Wednesday, November 25 (before Thanksgiving on Thursday) at 7 p.m. Our pastor will be part of the leadership clergy for the worship service.

It is our annual opportunity for the faith community of Burnsville to worship together.

St. Thomas is located on Reservoir Road - that is the road between Burger King and CVS.

The service is followed by a time of fellowship.



Thank You Summer Office Volunteers!

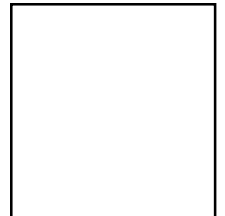
A Note from Aimee: I appreciated the opportunity this summer to work in my field of study, as a naturalist at Mountain Air.

This would not have been possible without the help of dedicated office volunteers to take over my duties while I was away. Special thanks to Randy Hembree, Mary Charbonnet and Hollie Phillips, Christine Purdy, and Carolyn Snelling.



**Daylight Savings
Ends
November 1**

Burnsville First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 635
120 Church Street
Burnsville, NC 28714



Back to San Felipe

It was four and a half years ago that Zack, Eli Rabek, Pat Skinner and I traveled to meet the folks at the Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church in San Felipe, Guatemala.

It was April. It was hot. We were strangers in a strange land. But we weren't there an hour before we were "connected" as Presbyterians say. (Connectionalism is one of the things that we emphasize in our denomination.) It was quickly evident they were "our kind of people." They were concerned about their brothers and sisters in need, about the children in their community, about the open armed understanding of Jesus Christ. We had truly met our sister church.

In the years we have been in a partnership relationship, they've sent members to visit us twice and we've visited them every year. This will be our fifth visit. In the years past, Wanda Woodby has made the journey with Zack and me. Two years ago, Randy Hembree and Jim Ludwig visited Nueva Esperanza. Everyone who goes says "This church needs our prayers and our support."

On November 10, Zack and I will leave for an eight day trip with other sister church partnerships in our presbytery. There will be 22 of us traveling. Zack

Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie
Lauterer



Graphic by Art Anderson

will be co-leader of sister church visitors. I will be in San Felipe with other pastors of the sister church program at a conference centering around Juan Calvino (John Calvin).

Zack and I will visit Nueva Esperanza for the weekend of the 15th. We will take your scholarship money for the children and we'll get photos of the children receiving your scholarships. Also, we will deliver our gift from our Growing in Faith tithe to aid in the purchase of the piece of property (to build a church) which they have financed. In Guatemala, the interest rate is 21%, so it is imperative that land mortgage is paid down as quickly as possible. They still owe about \$18,000.

I am excited to see our Spanish speaking sisters and brothers again - Please pray for us as we travel and be in communion with this progressive Christian community, so much like us.

Thank you for sending the promise of "nueva esperanza", translated: "new hope" for their dreams as a church as they follow Jesus Christ.

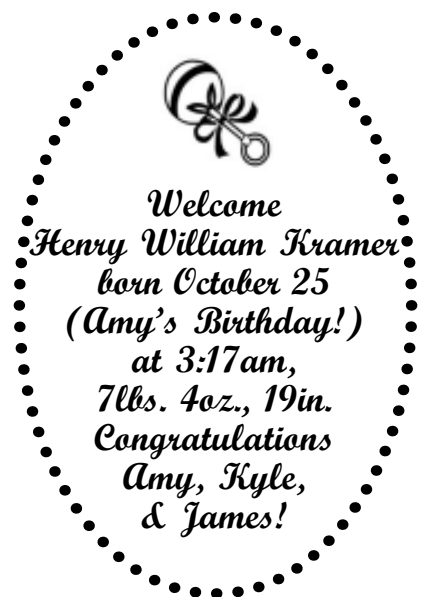


Annual Congregational Meeting is December 6

We have two Congregational Meetings scheduled before the end of the year. The first will be a brief meeting to elect the Nominating Committee for Elders directly after worship on November 22. Louise Hembree was appointed by the Session to serve as Chairperson.

Two of our Elders are eligible for re-election: Jim Ludwig and Saskia Etheridge.

The end of year Congregational Meeting is scheduled for the first Sunday of December, Dec. 6. At this meeting the Congregation will receive reports from committees, the Treasurer, elect and/or re-elect two Elders, and to approve the Pastor's package for 2010. All members that can attend are asked to be present.



Madrigal Dinner

The Junior-Senior high youth group is presenting a madrigal dinner the 4th and 5th of December. The church doors will open at 5:30PM. Our Fellowship hall will be bedecked with garlands and magically turned into a castle. Our hosts, Lord and Lady Zack and Margaret will have a dancing fire ready to ensure warmth and ambiance. The Lord and Lady will oversee dialogue and the short skits that will escort you through out the dinner. All guests are invited to join in with the singing of selected carols.

The youth will recreate all the delights of a Medieval/Renaissance feast. There will plenty of song and food to please both your ear and palate. A brass ensemble and “a cappella” singing will welcome you as you arrive; solo songs accompanied by harpsichord and cello, dancers and a concert of madrigal music will follow.

A three course meal of fresh greens and bread aplenty will begin the feast. This will be followed by a main course of boar (pork) with rice and a vegetable. All this will be topped by fine deserts and drinks.

The youth are requesting a 20\$ ticket price for each patron. Seating will be limited to 60 per night. Church members will be given early preference with tickets available beginning Sunday Nov 15. After Sunday Nov 22nd, it will be opened up to the general public. All monies will go to support our

growing program and their outreach needs. Aimee Tomcho, Allyson, Lanny and Willard will be happy to assist you. With out a doubt, this is sure to bring out the festiveness of the season in everyone.



Middle School Youth Retreat November 13-15
“Righteous Disobedience”

Financial Stewardship Report

We are blessed!

What an amazing outpouring of support for the Church from the Church Family! I am humbled to say that this congregation has exceeded all of my expectations for financial pledges to the Church.



by Amanda Martin
Stewardship Chair

When the Stewardship Committee sat down to start planning for this year's efforts, we were ... wary. It seems like now more than any time in the memorable past money is tight and nobody feels like they can stretch at all. We have all seen in the weekly bulletins that our bank account is shrinking. All budgets have been shrunk, all expenses trimmed dramatically. The dollars pledged for 2009 have not all come in... and we need to talk about 2010? A daunting task to say the least.

But then we started looking at what Stewardship **is**. We considered: what the Church does in our community, around the world and for us an individuals..how our portion of the blessings we receive can be multiplied when we combine them with each others'. Our congregation increases yearly... slowly but surely. That means the needs grow, but so do the shoulders on which the burden lays. Or, rather, God's blessings are spread among more people who all have something to share.

Let me jump ahead to the punch line and tell you that this has been a very successful Stewardship Campaign. Last year there were 60 pledge cards turned in. This year we already have 65, and we expect a few more cards to trickle in. Also, the total dollars pledged have increased. Amazing isn't it? In this time of economic hardship, our Church Family has come through with pledges of not just time and talent— but also treasure.

Let me say a special thank you to the members of the Stewardship Committee: Sarah Osborne, Frank Boka, Joe Haberthier, Bub & Serena Harley, and Maggie Lauterer. Plus a special Thanks to these folks who made the details work: Judy Lee, Alice Cottrell, Aimee Tomcho and Randy Hembree. And finally, a big thank you to all of you, the members of this Church Family who have made a commitment to share your Treasure with the Church in the coming year. May you feel God's blessings on your lives, and may we all see God's blessings in the work of our Church.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Youth: Allyson & Lanny Heidenfelder
- Preschool Sunday School: Britt Kaufmann
- Worship Prep Sunday School: Mary Horton
- Wednesday Church School: Willard & Alice Cottrell, Joe Habethier, Amanda Martin, Anne Phillips, Maggie Lauterer, Bonnie Risher



Gillian Gavenus practices good stewardship during Wednesday Church School with Fran McFerren.

Note to Parents: Due to county school holidays in November, Wednesday Church School will NOT meet on November 11 and November 25. Please plan accordingly to make sure your child arrives home safely!

New Member Dinner Nov. 6, 6pm



Meals Delivered!

Sarah Osborne, representing both "congregational care" and "Presbyterian Women", has been working hard to get meals out to congregation members in need. She coordinated a successful meal delivery for the Ayers when Baby Cate was born, and plans to do the same for Baby Henry. If you are interested in helping plan and deliver meals to those in need, please contact Congregational Coordinator Saskia Etheridge.