

Windows

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

Upcoming Mission Events

Black Bean Lunch- On Sunday, April 26, the Mission Committee will offer a wonderful Black Bean and Rice, Chicken, Salad, and Dessert Lunch for all of the Congregation. See no cooking on that day! They will be raising funds for the upcoming Mission trip to Guatemala. They will also be introducing you to some of our Guatemalan Scholarship Students through photos and messages from them. Any volunteers for making desserts would be greatly appreciated. Save the date!

Camp Grier Work Day, Old Fort- On Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, the Mission Committee will make their annual trip down to Old Fort to spruce up our kid's camp. There is lots of work to do from really simple to skilled. They need many hands from here and around Presbytery. this year we have been invited to go on Friday afternoon to have supper, go to a Bluegrass Music festival and spend the night. Breakfast will be provided also before the work begins and then we are served lunch. Spend a great day helping the kids. What a fun time! Want to go? Call Carol McCroskey at 675.4927 to reserve a spot for Friday/Saturday or just Saturday.

"Young Adults" Begin 2009 Meetings



The first meetings of the new year began for the young adults group with the successful study of the true story entitled Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. Future events are planned monthly for the duration of the year. If you are interested in participating in this group, please see the 2009 events calendar listed below.

April 26 (Sunday) 9:15-10:15am: Wearing Your Faith: The apostle Paul encourages followers of Christ to dress in the new wardrobe that God has picked for us. This lesson challenges us to think deeply about the current clothing we wear, old clothing we need to shed, and new clothes we need.

May 16 (Saturday): Hike for the Family. Location TBA.

June 17 (Wednesday) 6pm: Volleyball/Potluck. Laughrun House/Martin Lawn across from Church. Hamburgers/Hotdogs will be provided; please bring drinks, chips, dessert, etc...

No Meeting in July or December; Look for August - November events listed in future newsletters.

Note: The group is in search of a new and improved moniker. If you have an idea, please let Aimee know at 682.4789.



2009 Membership Directories Have Arrived in Time for Spring!

Warner Anthony and Carl Conrad were two of many who made our new membership directory a reality. There is one new directory for every family. The new format was done "in house" and includes elements that allow for yearly updates by adding pages to the versatile binding. Because we didn't budget for these new directories, we are asking for a \$10 contribution from everyone to help cover the costs of production.



HOLY WEEK CALENDAR OF EVENTS



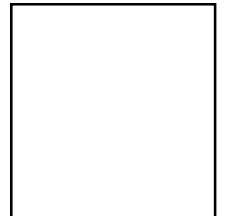
- April 5** Palm/Passion Sunday (Holy Week begins)
Mayland Fellowship services begin today at 7pm and continue through Thursday.
- April 8** Our church leads the Mayland Fellowship at Spruce Pine Presbyterian Church tonight (*music & preaching*)- Dinner: 6pm, worship: 7pm.
- April 9** Maundy Thursday- 5pm & 5:30pm services
- April 10** Good Friday- noon service
- April 12** Resurrection/Easter Sunday; Easter Egg Hunt after worship
Special Offering: *One Great Hour of Sharing*
- April 15** No Wednesday Church School



Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 17

Mark your calendars! Time to get that garden in shape. Your Mission Committee will again sponsor the plant sale. What a bargain this is! Any plants donated will be a huge help and any plants purchased will also be wonderful. The funds received for this go to many of our mission projects.

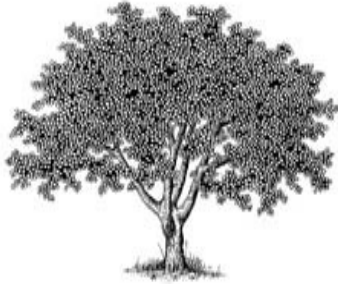
Burnsville First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 635
120 Church Street
Burnsville, NC 28714



When I'm sixty-four...

Caring for Creation

A note from CC (your Caring for Creation watchdog)



Want to help slow down the build-up of greenhouse gases? Believe it or not, one of the easiest ways to accomplish that is not to eat meat or cheese just one day a week. This will stop the clearing of forests for pasture. And producing a pound of grain-fed beef requires 1 gallon of fuel and 5,169 gallons of water. Try it. You'll like those veggies and beans. We all have to do our part!

Our pastor Maggie Lauterer has always liked the song by the Beatles "When I'm 64" and decided sometime back she wanted to celebrate her 64th birthday with a big party for everyone.

So she and husband Zack have made arrangements to have a birthday party at the Town Center on Friday, April 24 beginning with a covered dish supper followed by music by T-Bone - that's Scott Pulver's band. They'll play "When I'm 64" as well as lots of good dance music.

So plan to bring a dish and your dancing shoes! Maggie says she hopes the whole family will come - kids are great dancers too.

Because Maggie and some of our women will attend the Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering early the next morning on the 25th (Maggie's official birthdate), some of us will leave by 10 p.m., but you're welcome to stay as long as the band will play.

If you'd like to help Maggie with set-up, give us a call at the church office - 682-4789.



Welcome New Members

Christine Purdy, John Daughtridge, and Neil Prime joined the church on February 22 and March 1. Christine lives in Red Hill, is a retired nurse, and has already become a Sunday School teacher for us. John Daughtridge is 15 years old from Rocky Mount, N.C. and is a student at Arthur Morgan School. John was also baptized the Sunday before he joined the church. He just returned from a service trip to several cities where he learned and worked with programs for the needy. Neil Prime lives in Buladean where he moved after retiring from the FBI. Neil's last assignments were in Iraq and Afghanistan. Neil is the father of Laura Jones who attends our church with her children Nicholas, Natalie, and Nathan.

Church Work Day April 18

As the weather warms and we feel a need for spring cleaning, our church grounds are in need of your TLC too. On Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., we'll have plenty of projects for helping hands - raking, cutting back, scraping and painting, window washing, deep cleaning downstairs, the kitchen, and the fellowship hall in particular.

If you want to work outside, please bring tools from home if possible. If you want to work inside, please bring rags. We'll try to have everything else on hand. Buildings and Grounds chairman Pat Skinner and Laura Seelbach of our Presbyterian Women will take leadership.

We'll serve sandwiches, chips, and cookies for lunch. So come help out! We'd like to know you're coming, so please sign up on the bulletin board. Thank you!



Happy Earth
Day
April 22,
2009

Important Reminder!
Please remember to check all doors are locked if you are the last to leave the church or office.

The Joy of Baptismal Waters for Amira Malas and Zachariah Malas

Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer



Graphic by Art Anderson

For weeks, Amira Malas would come to church on Sunday morning with her brother Zachariah Malas and mom Amanda Martin. In the midst of grown-ups and our little crowd of worshippers, Amira would find her way to me and wrap her arms around my legs and ask "I want to have the water on my head."

That was before Christmas. We decided that we could spend time together preparing for the word we used for "the water" - baptism - (which for a time was "babatized") the first of March.

Part of my great joy, as I've told you before, is spending time with those to be baptized - and this time was no different. We read the story of John the Baptist by the Jordan, dressed in animal skins and eating wild desert food - when Jesus comes to be baptized. We looked at pictures and paintings. Amira and Zachariah crawled into the keyhole of the Text and we stood by the Jordan to watch Jesus step into the waters, and then the gift of the Holy Spirit descend.

If there are those who question if children understand the Mystery and Sanctity of what happened that day, I would beg to disagree. That's why it was so appropriate for the children and congregation to sing "Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me..." That's exactly what Amira and Zachariah expected on that day - the gift of the Holy Spirit.

On March 15, when the two children were kneeling in our sanctuary, waiting for the water, then the surprise feel of water dripping down their heads onto their faces and leaving a perfect single drop resting on the end of their noses, it was a moment that called to Amira for a happy response. So Amira began to giggle and Zachariah was not far behind.

Is it a solemn moment? Indeed. But...is it a moment of sheer joy and wet delight? Ah, that we could live our baptized lives in such joy and delight. That we could be eternally caught up in a childlike wonder of a single drop of baptismal water hanging from the tip of our noses - and melt into childlike laughter.

We Presbyterians decided sometime back that we were called to baptize all ages who long for the waters of baptism - and we also decided to feed the bread and cup of Communion to all who come to the Lord's Table. Our decision is made from knowing that we feed children before they understand food - they just know they are hungry and we know they must be nourished.

I thank God for Amira and Zachariah and their day to receive "the water on our heads." In our private time together, the children asked Jesus to come into their hearts and the Holy Spirit into their lives. The water sealed their covenant.

May we all remember our baptisms with the same joy as these two young lives launching out with the waters of baptism dripping brightly down their foreheads and right out to the tip of their noses.



Rev. Maggie Lauterer, Zachariah and Amira Malas
photo by Britt Kaufmann

Presbyterian Women Gathering April 25



by Jennifer England

The annual Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering is to be held on April 25 at First Presbyterian, Marion. There will be several guest speakers (including our own Maggie), a delicious catered lunch, as well as an opportunity to meet and fellowship with other

women in our region. Registration forms are available and posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall and need to be received by the Presbytery by April 17th. The cost for lunch and the program is \$7.50. Plans include taking the church van full of Burnsville First women (just imagine that ride!). Child care will be provided. For details or additional information, refer to the registration form in the fellowship hall or call Jennifer England at 675-9271. Also, please contact Aimee in the church office if you plan to attend so we can make plans for transportation.

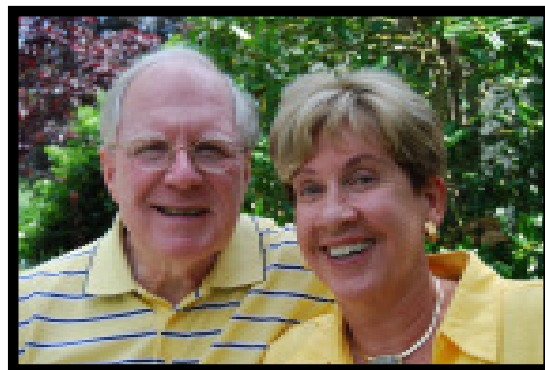
STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

An easy way to serve the church family is to serve as Worship or Offering Steward. This is usually a time that you are already at church. What is a Worship Steward? This is the person/couple/family that is responsible for arriving a little early each Sunday to turn on lights, open windows, and ask one of the children to the light candles. Ideally, you could commit to a month or more at a time – but we can certainly work out any schedule. Also needed are Greeters -to arrive a little early, speak to all coming in, pass out bulletins, meet visitors-, and Ushers -to simply help pass the collection plates. Greeters and Ushers can also commit to a month or more at a time. Please prayerfully consider if you can help. There will be a sheet in the Fellowship Hall where you can indicate your interest & availability. OR simply contact me directly – phone 682-3244 or email susan_martin17@yahoo.com or just catch me at Church!



by Susan Martin,
Worship Committee Chair

Linda & Mike Friend Faithfully Serve as Worship Stewards



Mike and Linda Friend volunteered more than a year ago to remain our worship stewards for a year - and they have done that faithfully. They have become the two friendly faces you could count on to be in the narthex when you arrived as they prepared things for worship: preparing acolytes, turning on lights in the sanctuary, bringing fresh water to the pulpits for thirsty liturgists and pastor, and lining up offering stewards.

Mike and Linda moved to Bear Wallow Road from Hickory and after joining our church, have become invaluable members every Sunday morning for a long stint as the worship stewards.

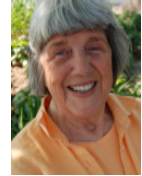
We thank you, dear Friends, for your service. And now we are moving on to find others who will volunteer as Worship Stewards for Sunday mornings. Susan Martin is now looking for those who will take the duties for a month at a time. If you can't take the responsibility for a whole month, a substitute for your week away is always in order.

Thank you Friends - for our church you have lived up to your name!

One Great Hour of Sharing: A PCUSA Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 2009 is coming! It is a denomination wide offering that is split between the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, and the Self-Development of People program. This offering is in its 60th year and started when American Christians recognized the need to respond to the worldwide devastation caused by World War II. Several other Christian denominations realize the importance to respond to world needs and participate in this offering.

Initiated in 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing needs. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugees assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.



by Thelma Hughes Cumbie

At Burnsville this Presbyterian (USA) denomination offering will be received on Easter or/and Palm Sunday . The information received this 2009 year indicates very clearly that this year's offering is seen as so very important and vital due to the fact that fewer people are giving, or giving less, and there is a greater need than usual because of the current difficult times.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts to our brothers and sisters around the world to help them find a glimmer of hope and a brighter future.

Notes From The Treasurer



In these difficult economic times many of you have asked, "How is the church doing with our finances? Is the current economic downturn affecting our giving?"

Thanks to your generosity and commitment to our church the blessings you have received are continuing to be shared with the church in wonderful ways. I'm pleased to report that our total giving is higher than the same period last year and our giving for missions is significantly higher than last year. For example, we are on track to contribute more to Reconciliation House this year than ever before. Thanks to our staff and committee chairs, we are also spending less than we were a year ago even with the increased costs of most everything the church uses.

Even yet, the winter months are difficult times for the church in meeting ongoing expenses. The operational costs of our ministry are pretty constant year round with some areas even higher during the winter - electricity and heating fuel for example. However, the winter months see our lowest offerings due to the smaller attendance and poor weather on some Sundays. Also, our regular summer visitors provide a significant source of revenue for the church, and we miss that during the chill of winter.



by Randy Hembree,
Treasurer

So, if you missed some Sundays this Winter, please make your offering anyway; or, if you are able, give a little extra during these months to help out; and, if you are a summer member or prone to wait until year end to make your contribution, please consider spreading your offerings out over the course of the year.

Thanks again for the gifts you have felt called to share with our church's ministry. If you ever have any questions concerning the church finances or would like to be involved with the finance or audit committees, please contact me.