

Windows

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

I believe...

This has been an eventful spring for me - first, the birth of a granddaughter on March 23, which has tossed my heart up in a blanket - the amazing joy of witnessing a new life slip out from her safe hideaway in my daughter's womb into a world filled with light and colors and sounds - her expression is one of wonder and our expression is one of wonder looking at her! These precious new lives in our lives is surely God's way of simultaneously grounding us and tossing us up!

So many of you have remembered our family with gifts and prayers and we have been mightily blessed and are grateful beyond words.

But you know, the wonder doesn't stop at birth, does it? Every Sunday when our children come forward to sing our worship song in their bright, clear voices, I am in wonder of their beauty and promise and faith.

This week, I ran down to Chapel Hill to take one of the days I worked during Holy Week to hold Baby Ruth and be with eight year Olive. On Monday morning, I took Olive to school - something she loves because she always says, as soon as we pull out of the driveway, "Tell me a Bible story."



Well, this time I told her about these being the days that Jesus walked the earth after the Resurrection and I told her the story of Easter night when Jesus went looking for the disciples who were hiding in darkened rooms behind locked doors. "What about the man who didn't believe?" she asked. "Thomas?" I responded? "Yes, tell me about him..."

Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer



Graphic by Art Anderson

We went through the second visit story as told by Gospel of John, and how Thomas may not have put his hand in Jesus' side, but he surely had the chance, and he knew that was indeed Jesus.

Then I told her that Jesus said 'You have seen, Thomas, but blessed are those who have not seen and believe...' And who is that, Olive?"

"Me?" she asked?

"Yes, Olive, and Baby Ruth..." at which point Olive began to name everyone in the family.

And then she confirmed the message by saying, "He was talking about me. I believe."

The clear eyes of the eight year old sitting snugly in her seat belt in the back seat reflected the purest moment of faith. I re-enforced her moment of affirmation with "Yes, Olive, I believe too."

And that's when I thanked God for the little children in our church who are coming to the same moment of faith - a moment they can build on and wrestle with and depend on for the rest of their lives. It's a moment that becomes the core of a faith that will give comfort and joy in days when those gifts seem unrealistic but are so welcomed in the darkest of days.

It is our privilege in our church to witness to the coming generation - and I thank God for each of you in this church family who take your turn to teach our children on Wednesdays or on Sunday mornings for that 30 minutes during worship. I believe that the children will remember you with love and appreciation as your nurture their core of faith that brings forth the simple statement, "I believe."

CDs of Sunday's Services

Have you ever wished you could listen once more to one of Maggie's wonderful sermons or just wanted to hear that solo one more time? Well now you can! The church is now offering CDs of each week's services along with a bulletin. If you know someone who is ill or out of town or just want one for yourself sign up on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall after the service.

DAY OF PENTECOST

May 31, 2009



by Thelma Hughes Cumbie

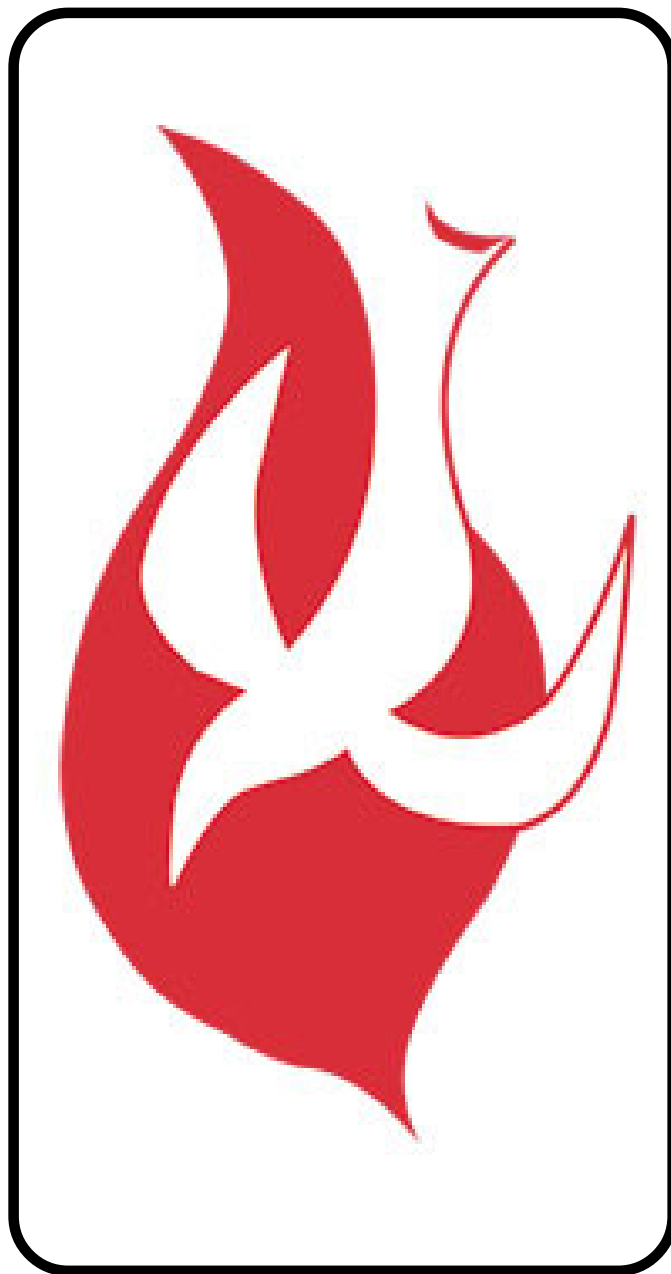
Pentecost Day is known as the day of the birthday of our Church. Scripture tells the story of this amazing day in Acts 2:1-4. “....The Day of Pentecost had now arrived..... suddenly there was the sound like the roar of mighty windstorm..... and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then

what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on their heads. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit..... “ (The Living Bible: Tyndale House Publishers) On that day Peter stepped out and preached his first sermon. As a result 3000 people became part of the Christian movement. This was a beginning for the Christian Church.

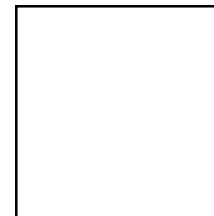
PENTECOST OFFERING

Pentecost Sunday, this year May 31,2009, is a life-giving day in the community of faith. For Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit that transformed the whole of creation. The Pentecost Offering gives us a part in transforming the love of God to children at risk and to celebrate God’s ministries in the lives of youth and young adults.

This Offering supports our efforts to nurture the faith of Presbyterian young people. It provides a direct way to meet the challenge for the future generation of leadership in our Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). This continues to be an important as well as rewarding effort.



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



Presbyterian Women Host "Tapas and Tea"

On the May 9 at 11am, our chapter of WNC Presbyterian Women will host a "Tapas and Tea" Luncheon. Please plan to bring a tapas, or finger food, and fellowship with the women of our church. Tea will be provided. Service groups will present progress and plans.



Group Spiritual Direction

Group Spiritual Direction is a practice that was developed by Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Bethesda, Maryland. I have been a member for some years and have experienced their training. Basically, it is a way of discernment and prayer offered to those who feel called to a deeper relationship with God in their daily lives. Groups are no larger than six or seven people at the most. I am working with a group of 5 who have been interested and have felt called to closer relationship with God for some time.

Any one who would like to gather together four or five people who have experienced a need for discernment and prayer in their daily lives, I would be happy to meet with you and help you get started in the process. It is a simple process but important to understand. Usually a group, after learning the process, would meet once a month.



by Beverly Bell

Anyone interested may want to purchase a book written by a member of the Shalem Institute entitled "Group Spiritual Direction" by Rose Mary Daugherty.

Please Note: This month's *Centering Prayer Group* will meet Saturday, May 23. Please see Beverly Bell before attending.

Young Adults Plan Hike for May 16



On May 16, a group will meet at 9am in the church parking lot for a hike in Celo. **Everyone is invited!** Sam Maren and Ann Maren-Hogan will also lead a discussion on the local community garden which they manage. Pack a lunch and plan to join us!



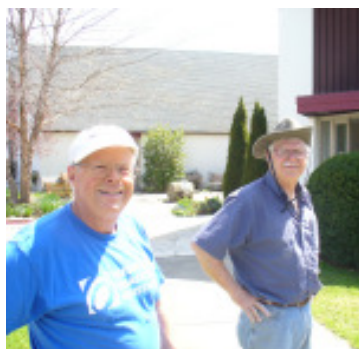
Annual Plant Sale Sunday, May 17

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. Funds received go to many of our mission projects.

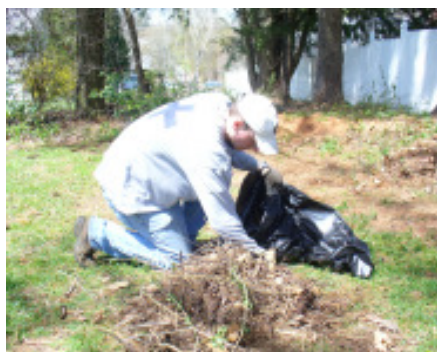
A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN A HUNDRED WAYS!



Laura Seelbach, Cliff Schoen,
Barbara Skinner



Stinson McCroskey and Pat Skinner



Kyle Kramer

Thanks to the help of those who came out on Saturday, April 18, a beautiful Saturday morning provided the accomplishment of at least a hundred projects around the church by 17 hard workers. Margie Lang, Bonnie and Scott Pulver washed windows and window casings on the main floor of the church. Led by Pat Skinner and Laura Seelbach, outdoor workers included Carol and Stinson McCroskey, Kyle Kramer, Cliff Schoen, Rolf Holmquist, Barbara Skinner and Amira and Zachariah Malas. They cut and hauled brush, painted the white fence at the Laughrun House, cleaned around the storage shed in the back yard, etc. Pat patched the loose rocks in front of the church's walkway and the missing bricks on the bell tower where countless children have learned to swing on the rope.

Amanda Martin and her mom, Susan Martin scrubbed the kitchen, and Margaret Zellmer polished Communion silver for hours! Maggie Lauterer painted the last door downstairs that needed a second coat and aided work in the kitchen.

Many thanks to Pat and Laura for their planning and leadership. They assure us that there's still plenty more that needs to be done and hope to have another work day soon - and know you're welcome to participate!



Margaret Zellmer



Amira and Zachariah

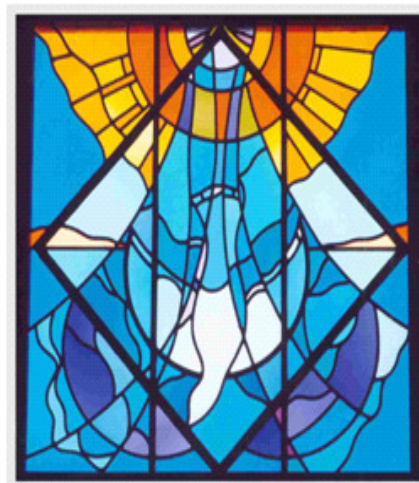


Rolf Holmquist

Three Wednesday Fellowship Nights Planned

We're trying something a little different for Wednesday Fellowship study in May. The first night, May 6, we will have a one night study on Baptism. We Protestants have only two sacraments - Baptism and the Lord's Supper. This one night study of **Baptism**, led by Rev. Maggie Lauterer, reminds/teaches us why this sacrament is so important to us as Christians.

The following two Wednesdays, taught by Pat Skinner, is based on a study entitled "**Why Go to Church?**" - a question surely asked even by faithful Christians more often than we'd like to



admit. This study examines the questions "If this is God's house, is He home?"; "Is the Holy Scripture the only work of God?"; "I would like to know _____ about church"; and "Do we have modern prophets?" Come May 13 and 20 to seek answers to these and other questions.

You may sign up for all or separate studies. Copies of the student's study guide will be available at the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board the Sunday before the study when you sign up there. Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. followed by the study about 6:15 p.m. Please join us...

Upcoming Events for Kids

“Wise Guys” Musical: Sunday, May 10 (Mother’s Day)

The combined Wednesday and Sunday children/young people’s groups will be performing the musical “Wise Guys” on Mother’s Day. The musical is based on Proverbs.

The story revolves around Bobby (Noah Gavenus), a typical boy from a typical family. He is confronted with an opportunity to take a misstep in his life by his friend Brad (Tony Phillips). But before this can happen he is confronted by Wisdom (Sarah Ludwig). She, along with his Mom (Shonda Presnell), Dad (Luke Antinori), and sister Jenny (Emily Penland) help Bobby to come to a right decision.

In addition to the story presented in dialogue, there are a number of songs in a variety of musical styles. An army of ants (Wednesday Church School) and a sluggard (Alex Ludwig) help Bobby in this decision.

Please be sure to make it on Mother’s Day to hear God’s word in this exciting form.

Kids Karnival: Wednesday, May 20 (3-5pm)

This summer kick-off party marks the end of Wednesday Church School until August. Be sure and mark the date on your calendar so not to miss what always is a fun time! Fun and games will take place on Martin Lawn. A raindate is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27. Volunteers are needed; please call Aimee.



Kids Karnival 2008

Vacation Bible School: June 8-12 “Step Up to the Plate”

VBS Coordinator Britt Kaufmann is developing a service theme this year using a baseball metaphor entitled “Step up to the plate”. It will explore service in church and community and include pottery making for Mission’s Empty Bowls Project this summer. 2009 VBS will be held Monday through Friday from 6:30-8pm on our church campus. Look for more details soon.

Generosity Abounds... Thank You for Your Support

One Great Hour of Sharing

It is important to report the generosity of our congregation. As one of the yearly PCUSA special offerings, we participate in “One Great Hour of Sharing” which provides wide-reaching aid to those suffering from hunger and disasters. This year alone, we offered \$1102. Two hundred dollars of that sum was collected by our children in their “fish banks” over the course of Lent. Thanks be to God for the ability to share our treasures with those in need.

Guatemalan Dinner and Scholarship Program



Dear Congregation,

I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU from the Mission Committee for your overwhelming support of our Guatemalan Dinner and our Scholarship Program. We raised over \$1100 on the dinner alone. Many people gave the full scholarship amount or more. We will be keeping you updated on reaching our goal for the full program.

The pictures and information on the children I have been receiving from Jorge, Elder at Nueva Esperanza, is available online at the Google Picasa website. He just added scanned letters from the kids as well as pictures from the service they recently held at the property they purchased and photos of their town. Here is the

link: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ne.sanfelipe>. I am amazed at how God works through each and every one of you. Thank you for caring and acting to improve others’ lives.



Jim Ludwig, Chair
FPCB Mission Committee