

# Windows

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

## Amanda Takes the Reins...



Last month, I was bold, in spite of my mother's advice, and asked you to think about your financial support of our church. Some of you took that message to heart and I thank God for your response.

This month, we're back to our annual Stewardship Month - which we begin on September 20 and end on October 11 - during these four weeks, we consider our pledge of time and resources to building up the body of Christ at 120 Church Street.

Stewardship in the climate we're in isn't an easy task. It's challenging. And who could the Session ask that would say "Yes" to be the stewardship chairperson this year?

Well, I'm happy to report that Amanda Martin said "Yes". Amanda, who is mother of Zachariah and Amira and was the lovely summer bride of Chad Robertson, is someone I have admired for a long time. In her work world, Amanda set up the office for Dr. Joe Antinori and has continued as office manager there. Here at the church, she has been active in Christian Education and Young Adults.

Though she is the age of my youngest child, Amanda treats me as a friend (which blesses me) and I think of her as my peer working in the fields of the Kingdom. She is incredibly bright and has wonderful energy for work here in our church. God has blessed us good to put Amanda in this role for us this year.

So thank God along with me for Amanda's leadership as we consider what we each have to offer to strengthen our church this year. And thank God for those who are saying yes to being on her committee as this is written.

Amanda is writing her own message in this newsletter. I know you'll be eager to follow her lead.

### Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer



Graphic by Art Anderson

## FOUR NEW MEMBERS JOIN ON AUGUST 23

Our church family was blessed to receive four new members on August 23. They are Chris and LeeAnn Friend, Beverly Chandler, and Laura Seelbach.

Beverly Chandler, a retired teacher, is the wife of Ron, mother of Leah and grandmother of Kadence who also attend our church. She has been a member of the Bell Choir during the last year.

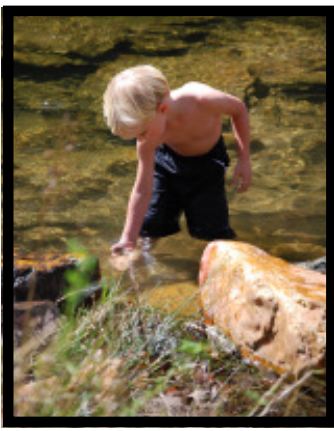
Laura Seelbach has been very active before joining. She has been involved in many mission projects beginning with a trip to build for hurricane victims with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on the Gulf Coast. She has helped organize the Prayer Shawl ministry and co-chaired the last two church buildings and grounds work days. She and Carol McCroskey have cared for the prayer garden the last year as well. Laura works for a moving business as well as her own business "Yes I Cane", caning chair bottoms and other caning projects.

Chris and Lee Ann Friend say "We looked around and realized this church was home". Leann was a founding member of Christ United Methodist Church in Hickory which has gone on to be a large, flourishing church. Lee Ann's parents' health has dominated much of her time as she has cared for her mother until her mother's death recently, and her father's deteriorating health. She is a dental hygienist who has started her own teeth whitening business. Chris (son of Mike and Linda Friend in our congregation) works in the stock trade. The couple say they're anxious to be active in our church.

We thank God for Beverly, Laura, Chris and Leann, and look forward to days ahead as we serve Christ together.

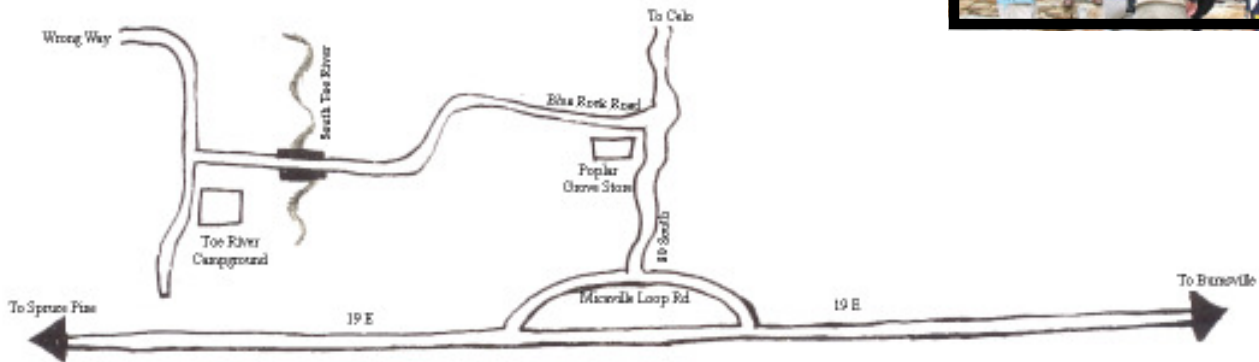
# Shall We Gather at the River

## Worship Service by the Toe River on September 13



One of the highlights of our year here at Burnsville First Presbyterian is our worship by the Toe River on September 13 at 10:30am. We dress comfortably and bring a covered dish to the Hootin Owl Hall at Patience Park on Blue Rock Road. This worship service is filled with favorite gospel songs of the past led by our own Ron and Minnie Powell. We read favorite Bible passages in the King James Version.

And we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. You're welcome to bring friends to worship and then enjoy time afterward by or in the river. If your children want to swim, bring swimsuits and towels - it's always fun.

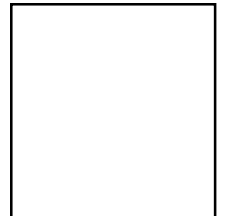


## *Congratulations to Sarah and Louise!*

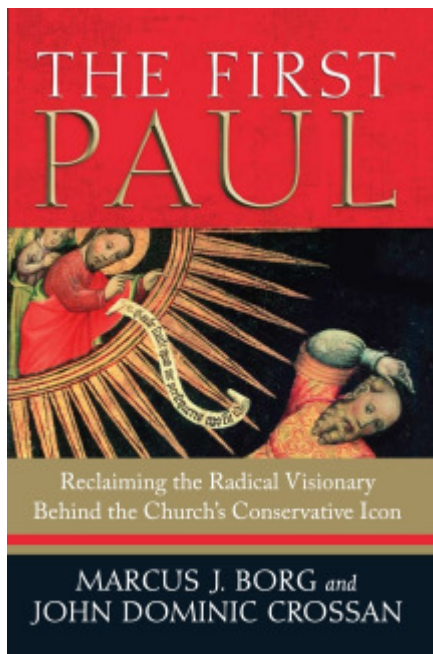
Sarah Osborne has recently earned her doctorate degree in physical therapy from the University of North Carolina. She is employed by the Blue Ridge Regional Hospital (Spruce Pine) in the Physical Therapy Department. Louise Hembree, one of our Elders, was honored on August 26 with a colorful event celebrating her retirement from Mayland Community College where she spearheaded the Basic Skills Department in 1971 and has lead the GED program for the past 38 years, retiring as its dean. Many thousands of students who did not finish high school have received their high school diploma through this valuable community resource through the leadership of Louise.

We thank God for your service to our community, Sarah and Louise, and we thank you.

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



# Wednesday Night Study: The First Paul



On September 23, Wednesday Night Fellowship will begin the study of the new book "The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary".

The review of the book on E-Books reads: "Paul is only second to Jesus as the person most important in the birth of Christianity, and yet he continues to be controversial, even among Christians. How could the letters of Paul be used to both inspire radical grace and endorse systems of oppression - condoning slavery, subordination of women, condemnation of homosexuals?" John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg use the best of Biblical and historical scholarship to examine what they call "The Three Pauls" we meet in the New Testament.

This new book study will be led by Elder Pat Skinner and Rev. Maggie Lauterer. The book charge (regularly \$24.99) will be \$15. Please sign up on the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board.

Supper is served at 5:30pm (\$5) followed by the discussion.

## Presbyterian Women Plan Retreat

Presbyterian Women have set the date for their first annual fall retreat at High Pastures Christian Conference Center here in Burnsville, for the evening of October 9 and morning of October 10. This special extended time together may include food, fun, and fellowship, hiking to the Prayer Tower, waterfall, and sharing prayers. Price will be \$35 per person, which includes lodging and meals. All welcome regardless of previous attendance. If you want to come but are unable to finance the retreat, arrangements can be made. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall by September 12 or call Jennifer England if you will attend.



**Don't Forget!**  
**Wednesday Church School begins**  
**September 16 from 3:30-5pm**

## Memorial Service for Rick Lang on September 12

The memorial service for Rick Lang, husband of Margie Lang, will be held on Saturday, September 12 at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of our church.

Rick died August 14 after a short illness.

When Rick retired, he and Margie moved from Michigan to their new home at Mt. Mitchell Golf Course community about ten years ago, Margie was anxious to find a church home. It was Rick who found our church for her and she joined shortly afterward and became a very active member. Margie served six years as the Clerk of Session and has been a stalwart in the Mission Committee and prepared Communion for the early worship service since we began that service. Rick supported her and her work both at the Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine and here.

Margie has asked that, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to our church (PO Box 635, Burnsville, NC, 28714) and/or Blue Ridge Regional Hospital Foundation, PO Box 247, Spruce Pine, NC, 28777.



**Prayer Shawls Group  
meets 2nd Saturdays  
monthly at 11am.**



## C.R.O.S.S. PRESENTATION

### SEPTEMBER 2 AT 5:30PM



Please join the Heidenfelders for an evening discussion about the Presbytery Youth Council Mission Trip to CROSS in Charlotte. This past summer our Presbytery Youth Council joined forces with the Youth Council of Holston Presbytery in East Tennessee to do a joint mission trip for Senior High students. They'll discuss what was experienced and talk about some general problems with homelessness and hunger.

The CROSS is a mission program sponsored by Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte aimed at helping agencies in Charlotte that battle homelessness and hunger, while giving mission participants a new view on those subjects. CROSS works with over 30 different agencies in Charlotte ranging from nursing homes to homeless shelters.

## SEPTEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

by Amanda Martin

We all have our strong suits and for me one of them is organizing information. I am excited to have the opportunity to use my particular skills for a needed project in the Church, which for the next few months, is heading up the Stewardship Committee. It may not be the most popular committee to serve with, but it is vital to our Church. It kind of makes me think of annual flu shots - not fun but very important!

We're gearing up to consider together our gifts for our beloved church September 20 - October 11. So be praying with me about what God would have us do in this very important pledge of support.



## Christian Education September Volunteers for our Youth

Preschool Sunday School: Chad Smoker  
Worship Prep Sunday School: Allyson Heidenfelder  
Wednesday Church School - Crafts: Amanda Martin  
Wednesday Church School - Lesson: Bonnie Risher

**Thank You!**



### Catherine Leigh Arrives!

Elizabeth and Chad Ayers thank God for the safe arrival of their much anticipated first baby, Catherine Leigh, who is called simply "Cate". Cate arrived at 2:05 a.m. on August 18 at Mission Hospital in Asheville. She weighed seven pounds, nine ounces. The family is happily at home on Upper Bailey Branch (between Burnsville and Mars Hill) in Madison County. Chad is an Elder and Elizabeth leads the Young Adults group at Burnsville First Presbyterian.

## Young Adults & Families Event This Month

The date for September's Young Adults and Families meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, September 27 at 4pm. Topic will center around a movie that the group will watch. Amanda Martin will lead a discussion following the showing. Look for more details as the date nears.

# Masters of the Celtic Harp Play for Mission in West Virginia

Our Mission Committee is proud to sponsor "The Masters of the Celtic Harp in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon **September 27 at 3pm**. Two of the foremost harp players from Ireland and Scotland, Gráinne Hambly from County Mayo and William Jackson from Glasgow, will present "Two Sides of Celtic", a multi-faceted concert featuring their dynamic blends of two

harp styles as well as their complimentary talents on concertina, tinwhistle and bouzouki.

Gráinne Hambly's light, and lightning quick, renditions of traditional Irish dance music have become hallmarks of this style. Mayo-born and now living in Galway, Ms. Hambly came to the fore after winning the senior All-Ireland harp and concertina titles in 1994 as well the prestigious Granard and Keadue international harp competitions. She was the lead harper in the renowned Belfast Harp Orchestra years ago when it recorded the Grammy award-winning album "Celtic Harp" with the Chieftains. If you saw the movie "The Water Horse" last summer you would have heard Ms. Hambly's playing in the soundtrack.

William Jackson has had an enormous influence on the sound of traditional Scottish music. He made the Scottish harp, or clarsach, one of the cornerstones of arrangements with bagpipes, strong rhythm guitar and fiddle. He recorded seven albums with the band Ossian and has subsequently released an astonishing ten solo CDs. Jackson has gained a substantial reputation as a composer, known for combining traditional and classical music. His "Land of Light" composition won the international Song for Scotland competition in 1999. Additionally he has done scores and performances for BBC programs, History Channel and films. In 2004, Jackson was recognized with a lifetime

achievement award by the Swannanoa Gathering, the folk arts programs at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina.

Proceeds will be used by our Mission work team traveling to West Virginia on November 1-8, where they will repair homes flooded in the fall of 2008.



Gráinne Hambly & William Jackson

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## Soup Kitchen Volunteers Will Prepare Meal on September 14

A dedicated group of volunteers led by Laura Seelbach will prepare a meal for the Soup Kitchen at Higgins this month. Started as a way to address hunger in our own community, the Soup Kitchen has been operating since early Spring. Today, about 150 meals are prepared and served at the church or distributed to elderly housing residents across town. We are responsible for planning the menu, buying the food and preparing the meal, as well as set up and clean up. The response from our church family has been wonderful, but there is still time to become involved if you feel moved. We plan to make this a regular mission project in the future. Please contact Laura Seelbach at 682.3733.

