

Windows

Serving Burnsville First Presbyterian Church And Its Community Of Believers - March 2010

March Missions

Soup Supper March 15

Your Mission Committee has signed us up for March to help with the Higgins Soup Kitchen. Judy Lee will be our Top Chef. We need volunteers to come at 1:45pm to help with cooking and packing of meals. We will prepre a meal for approximately 170 folks.

We also need volunteers to make cupcakes for dessert. If eight of you who would make two dozen each and bring them on Sunday, March 14 would be great.

Any who can come and help clean up would be great. Word was that we left the kitchen the cleanest it had ever been. Yeah!

Workers are welcome to eat with us. A few people come to eat at the church. Many meals are delivered to the folks who can't get there.

West Virginia Mission Trip

The Mission Work Team will be leaving for WV on March 21. We will return on the 27th.

This team will be doing, as usual, whatever we are asked to do. There are more than 45 homes awaiting our help.

WV has been our ideal place: good beds, warm showers and potties, not to mention a great kitchen and dining area.

We have jobs for everyone. This team will take Jim Ludwig, Mary Sheldon, Pat Skinner, and Carol and Stinson McCroskey.

If you cannot go but would like to help, this trip costs each of us \$240.00. So any funds would be a help. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, as you can imagine, is very short of funds. The money we take is used to buy supplies to repair the homes. To quote one of our last team members, "I did not know any place in this country could be so poor". All help there is appreciated.



by Carol McCroskey



Every day, during what I call "the Winter that won't go away", I've caught myself looking up in the sky, expecting more dark menacing skies that might, just might bring yet another snow storm. Granted, we haven't got 80 inches like Baltimore or 50 like Washington D.C., but we've gotten just enough to make roads snowy/icy, thus traveling is dangerous and then we cancel in order to keep people home and safe. It seems to snow on Wednesday and weekends - have you noticed that? When we have plans for Ash Wednesday or Church School or worship on Sunday, it has snowed.

Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer



Graphic by Art Anderson

Aimee, in her ability to do about anything, figured out how to operate and program the phone master we inherited - so that we could call you about cancellations - but we've had to work out kinks in the system and it's not perfect yet. Like the Sunday the machine didn't call everyone, so the ones who didn't get the phone call came to church on an icy morning - 38 brave souls. There was no preacher but an Elder (Saskia Etheridge) and a Deacon (Carol McCroskey) led what I have heard was a very meaningful service. What spirit. What Spirit!

So we plod toward spring, trying to get back on schedule and back into a schedule we Christians have grown to expect and need - the season of Lent. It is that particular time when we remember the ashes on our foreheads everyday - the basic human frailty in which we are trapped - and our need for a God who loves us more than we will ever understand.

As I write this, the clouds have moved in and the temperature has dropped - and it looks like snow - again. May we remember, whether we are in the church building or on the couch watching the snow fall, these words from Psalms - so right for Lent: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgression...you desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lenten Wednesdays

A few years ago, our church helped organize a community tradition of Lenten Wednesdays - a time when churches from Yancey County churches come together on noon on Wednesdays during Lent to worship together with a short service, followed by a simple meal of soup and bread (and cookie). We have hosted in the past, and this year, our pastor Maggie Lauterer will preach one of the Wednesdays.

The schedule is:

- Feb. 24** - Micaville Presbyterian Church - CLP Bobby Justus, preacher
March 3 - Bald Creek United Methodist Church - CLP Pete Peterson
March 10 - Windom United Methodist Church - Rev. Jack Hancox
March 17 - Higgins United Methodist Church - Rev. Tony Griffin
March 24 - First Baptist Church of Burnsville - Rev. Maggie Lauterer



In the aftermath of the terrible earthquake in Haiti, your prayers, gifts and actions are making a difference. In a time when so many symbols of safety and security have been destroyed your support of the One Great Hour of Sharing and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) have been a tangible witness of God's presence and hope. Working in concert with Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance and Church World Service, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided assistance toward:

Food, water & 35,000 hygiene & baby kits at 15 distribution sites.

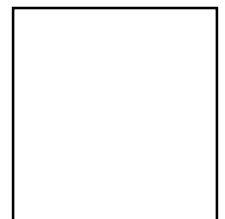
Temporary shelters for the many people left homeless.

Supplies and vital infrastructure support including electrical, water, sanitation and security at Hôpital Sainte Croix (Holy Cross Hospital) in Leogane, one of the few operating medical facilities in the region, and the Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti (FSIL).

Initial assessments and ground work for community psycho-social recovery.

We cannot thank you enough for your compassion and generosity. The damage has been devastating, but as Presbyterian mission co-worker and PDA staff member, Carlos Cardenas, reports, despite the devastation, "Hope is alive." Thank you for bringing hope to the people of Haiti. Yes. Our God is up to the task. Pray that we will all be up to the task. As God's people we are called to stand in the "GAP" GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

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



World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 5, 11am
First Presbyterian Church
Burnsville

Christian Education Update

First of all, THANK YOU! Thank you to all of the volunteers that have enabled this year's education programs to take place. There has been a tremendous amount of volunteer support to make sure our children receive a quality Christian education.

Planning for this year's Vacation Bible School is currently underway. Thanks to Suzanne Gavenus who has agreed to chair this year's program. VBS will be the week after Yancey County schools let out for the summer. Once this date has been finalized, we will be sure to let you know. Suzanne will be in touch with volunteer needs over the next few months.

Parents met after the church service on Sunday, February 21st to discuss our current programs. It was agreed to keep the format the same for next year. Starting next year, Wednesday church school will continue throughout the school year from 3:30-5:00 and will include music (thanks to Britt Kaufmann who has agreed to coordinate this during Willard's much deserved year off), Bible lesson (thanks to Jodi Antinori who will again return to teaching this every week) and craft (we will rotate volunteers on a monthly basis for this one). If there are enough kids, we will continue to have both a Preschool and a Worship Prep class during the service on Sundays (if not, we will combine them). Finally, we will continue to have a Youth Group (led by our fearless leaders Lanny and Allyson Heidenfelder).

As always, we welcome your suggestions for improvement. Please feel free to email amysheele@yahoo.com or call 682-2648.

Thank you to our dedicated Christian Education Volunteers for the month of March. We appreciate your time, energy and commitment!

Youth Group: Lanny & Allyson Heidenfelder
Wednesday Church School: Joe Haberthier;
Britt Kaufmann, Amanda Martin, Anne Phillips, Laura Watrous, Aimee Tomcho
Worship Prep Sunday School: Laura Watrous
Preschool Sunday School: Suzanne Gavenus
Noon Bible Study: Rev. Maggie Lauterer



by Amy Sheele
Christian Education Chair

At the keyboard

As you have noticed, we have had a change in worship musician since the first of January. Our beloved and faithful organist/pianist/choir director Willard Cottrell, professor of music, has been absent from the keyboard. Willard planned to take a much deserved break during the month of January.

Meanwhile, Beverly Chandler stepped forward and volunteered to be our pianist during that period. What a blessing!

Willard, in this time off, took time to see a doctor about the lack of feeling in his left hand fingers - which resulted from surgery to move a nerve in his arm which was pinched in the funny bone area. That meant two more months - in a cast.

With this new schedule, Beverly has lovingly said "Yes! I'll play." So we have been mightily blessed by God to give us another wonderful musician.

We're now going forward one day at a time to see how things will progress, and we're praying for full recovery for Willard - and the continued blessing of Beverly's gift as well.

Get well, Willard - and thank you, Beverly.

Christian Education Day Retreat March 20, 2010, 9:00AM – 4:00PM



Dr. Frances Taylor Gench Located at First Presbyterian Church of Morganton (changed from Black Mountain), Dr. Gench will present "Practical Bible Study for Tough Times". Anyone is welcome to attend. Cost is \$10.00 (includes lunch and refreshments) if your registration is received in the Presbytery office by March 5th! Late registrations will be accepted until March 12th, and will cost an additional \$5.00 per person. Following the March 12th "late registration deadline" you are welcome to attend, but lunch will not be provided—you must bring your own "brown bag" lunch.

If we have enough interest, we'll take the church

Sacred Music Program with John Bell, March 6-7, Hickory, 9am-5pm

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.