

Windows

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

Love One Another as I Have Loved You



photo by Carol McCroskey

The last week of April, a merry band of BFPC folks gathered at the home of Scott and Bonnie Pulver and began the transformation of a basement garage into a sitting room, bedroom, and bathroom. Working were Carol and Stinson McCroskey, Jim Ludwig, Jim Steen, Laura Seelbach, Barron Brown, Rolf Homquist, and Pat Skinner.

continued on Page 5

Why I Am Running for Moderator of the PCUSA

On Tuesday (April 27), I was endorsed by the Western North Carolina Presbytery to stand for Moderator of our denomination.

You may be asking "What is a moderator"? Well, in the Presbyterian Church USA, we do not have a bishop - we are a priesthood of all believers, as Paul said. But we do have an official called the Moderator who moderates our General Assembly (our "congress") when it meets every two years. The General Assembly is made up about 800 elected commissioners from every presbytery in the country representing 10,000 churches. It meets every two years and this year in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Moderator moderates the GA, and then moderates meetings through the coming two years at national level, as well as travels to represent the denomination as well as encourage churches in their work.

Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer



Graphic by Art Anderson

continued on Page 3

RENEW

Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

THE GREEN VBS

Grounded in Jesus's Parable of the Sower, ReNew: The Green Vacation Bible School brings together the Bible and environmental stewardship. Kids grow in faith as they play, learn, sing, and work toward renewing their congregations and communities. By serving in the community and inviting the community into church, kids demonstrate that being green can be easy, faithful, and fun. Although current threats to our environment can seem scary, ReNew is about hope, opportunity, and service. Kids lead the way as stewards of the earth.

WHAT? Vacation Bible School!

WHO? Pre-school through 5th grade children

WHEN? Monday June 14 – Friday June 18, 2010 from 6:00 – 8:00pm

WHERE? Burnsville First Presbyterian Church

HOW? Led by Suzanne Gavenus, with the help of volunteers

**Please sign up
by May 22!**

Children's Carnival

Wednesday, May 26, 3-5pm

Final Wednesday School until Fall

Come Out to Martin Lawn &

Have a Ball!

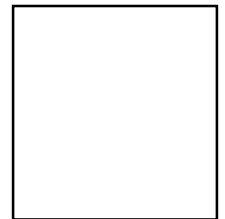


Burnsville First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 635

120 Church Street

Burnsville, NC 28714





photos by Barron Brown and Carol McCroskey

Our Pastor & Church Featured in National Media

Our pastor, Rev. Maggie Lauterer, was asked to speak in March at the PCUSA's annual Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference held this year in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Maggie was one of three speakers and the only pastor to speak. Her speech was the one featured by the Presbyterian News Service, the official news agency of the PCUSA. Her topic was "Stewardship at the Ground Level." She basically summarized our church's emphasis on mission and stewardship, that all ages are involved in mission, from the Kids' Store operated by the youngest of our congregation to Prayer Shawls crocheted by 89 year-old Mary Jane Walker and birthday greetings sent out by the ageless Geneva Rodgers.

"Exciting stewardship is possible — and it doesn't require a big church, contemporary bands or huge projection screens."

-Presbyterian News Service article

Maggie said "The 300 presbyters and Elders at the conference were excited to hear what we do here at Burnsville First, and they were taking notes! Maybe we don't realize how unique our community is, until we share what we do with folks from other parts of the country. We have been mightily blessed to become an example of what a church can do with the Spirit leading."

continued from Page 1 As you know, Scott, our Clerk of Session and beloved member of our church, suffered a serious stroke in November that left his right side paralyzed, and his speech skills impaired. Bonnie has faithfully been with him everyday as he has recuperated at Brookside while also holding her job at Cruz Chiropractic. But Medicare payments to Brookside will run out in mid-May. The main level of the house is elevated and not wheel chair accessible either inside or out. Work by our church members is making his ability to come home possible by renovating the basement, which is ground level. This week the garage door came down, donated French doors are going in, and walls are going up. This will enable Scott to come home for the first time since his stroke. If you'd like to help continue the work, please call Stinson at 675-4927. Thanks be to God for the church family that remembers Christ's words: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Homiletics:

The art of preaching



Our pastor, Rev. Maggie Lauterer, will design and lead worship at The Festival of Homiletics in Nashville, TN on May 17-21, 2010. For more information on this national ecumenical event, please see: www.goodpreacher.com.

We Appreciate Our May Christian Education Volunteers!

Wednesday Church School: Joe Haberthier; Britt Kaufmann, Amanda Martin, Anne Phillips, Amy Sheele, Laura Seelbach
Worship Preparation School: Margie Lang
Preschool Sunday School: Elizabeth & Chad Ayers
Noon Bible Study: Rev. Maggie Lauterer
Youth Group: Lanny & Allyson Heidenfelder

Why I Am Running for Moderator:

continued from Page 1

Now you're asking why am I running for Moderator? Why would you take on more work?

I admit, it does seem like a crazy thing - and yet there is that mysterious element in our lives defined as "call" to do God's work. Many of us feel those calls very strongly. Some less. I felt called to explore these possibilities several years ago and had moved forward last year to see what was possible. But alas, there were barriers of work, weather, and health that made me give it up this winter. But this spring, when I spoke in Indianapolis, several people I truly admire in the PCUSA family strongly urged me to reconsider. So I went back to prayer - and through the efforts of our presbytery, I have been made a commissioner to the GA, AND I was endorsed to stand for Moderator.

Why do I think I've got something to offer? Because of you, my beloved congregation - because of the story you have written, through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, here in our church in Burnsville. We have good news for the denomination that has lost membership through the last forty years. In ten years, the Burnsville church has grown from a small dying church to a dynamic, growing church community with mission at the heart of who we are. We have done church a little differently than maybe most churches consider "normal" because we've followed the Spirit in learning to be the body of Christ. We've got good news to tell - thanks be to God!

The election of Moderator will be on July 4. Until then, there is much work to do for that day, and some traveling. There are four candidates - two men (from Minnesota and Wisconsin) and two women (Washington DC and Burnsville), and they are all strong candidates. So bear with me as I prepare.

Meanwhile, pray for me and for what we as the Burnsville church have to teach in the days ahead. And whatever the outcome, God is good - ALL the time.

Worship News



Susan Martin,
Worship
Committee Chair

Thank you to all those who have served as worship stewards this year. Your work has facilitated smooth services on Sunday, from turning on lights and greeting, to filling water glasses and taking up the offerings.

A Reminder to All:

Please visit the sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall. We continue to need volunteers for worship stewards, greeters, offering stewards, Sunday flowers, and coffee hour hosts. Share your time and talent with our church community!

A Note About Sunday Announcements:

We have recently changed our method of making announcements every Sunday morning prior to worship. We ask that anyone with announcements to share please come down to the front of the sanctuary so that you may be heard. If you will line up in the front of the church by the end of the greeting period, we will have quick and clear announcements. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

For Whom the Bell Tolls..? You!

Every Sunday morning, we have two bells that toll. The first bell is from the bell tower outside. This bell brings us into worship. The second bell that tolls a bit later is a handbell that tolls from the hall. This bell beckons you into the sanctuary so that we may begin worship promptly at 10:30am.

New Member Class a Great Class!

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer

One of the greatest privileges I've had this spring is to teach the New Member Class. We have packed into the Library downstairs early on Sunday morning - we've learned about each other, thus becoming community, and we've learned about the Church - our denomination and our own church family.

We have 15 people in the class who come from many different backgrounds - and through the grace of God, they have been led to our doors and become a part of our fabric.

On Mother's Day, many of them will be able to join our church and then we will have a second day when the rest can be present to join. Also, on Mother's Day, two of our new members will be baptized - Rhonda and Bob LeMarr. We are thankful that God has selected us to bring these two fine people into the waters of baptism.

A BIG Thank you from Maggie

Wow - what a wonderful birthday! God gave us the most beautiful day of the spring and you gave me a wonderful celebration along with other April birthdays! My son Jon came to play African drums for my birthday, and the Chandlers threw an over-the-top celebration after worship - balloons, flowers, a big cake, and a wonderful assortment of good things to eat. Yum. Thanks to Ron and Beverly for that gift of love to us all.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry gave me a beautiful purple shawl, knitted by Christine Purdy. I will treasure it always, and wore it to presbytery to keep me calm and prayed for.

And then there was your gift, my brothers and sisters in Christ - I'm beside myself with thanks and awe. I want to tell you that you've answered a prayer for me. Many of you know my son Jon has been accepted to the Master's Degree Program at the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University. School will be expensive, even with the assistantship he was granted. Nothing would make me happier than to take your gift and begin what I call the Jon Lauterer Education Fund. NOTHING in this world would make me happier than to help him work toward a Master's degree, and maybe a PhD someday. He and his wife Tammy are now looking for jobs in Boone, but he will not be able to work much since his degree and teaching will be demanding in time and effort.

So thank you thank you for everything, beloved community. I count myself the most blessed pastor in the whole world...because of you. - Maggie

New Cantors

This summer, be ready to follow new cantors. The next logical step in the musical development of our children and youth is to allow them the opportunity to sing individually and in smaller groups. While the kids' choir will continue to cantor the 2nd Sunday of each month, individual kids will begin to lead singing. In the next month, Britt will have a sign up for those interested.

Another great thing about having individual cantors is that now we can hear the voices of **middle-school and high-school students** (if they sign up)! Any adults are welcome to sign up too. Just keep your eyes and ears open in the next few months.

On the bulletin board in the fellowship hall you can find a packet that has the music for most of the songs we cantor— about 13 of them. Feel free to pick one up if you are interested or would like to review them with your children.



EXPERIENCE CAMP GRIER- Surrounded by the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, and bordering the Pisgah National Forest, Camp Grier boasts 643 acres of rustic splendor. We are a camping and retreat center that is ideal for meetings, conferences, and retreats. During the summer, we serve as a Christian camp open to children of all denominations. All ages enjoy canoeing and the rope bridge on our five-acre lake. There is also a natural rock slide into a cool-water mountain creek, miles of hiking trails, an outdoor pool, horseshoe pits, basketball, volleyball, and picnic/cookout areas. Accommodations include rustic lodges, cabins, both indoor and outdoor chapels, a dining hall and more. Discover the richness, beauty, and glory of God's world when you visit Camp Grier!

Camp Grier Day, May 16 Starting at 1 pm

Do you feel like you just can't get enough of Camp Grier? Or, are you a potentially new camper who is wondering what goes on during a week of camp at Camp Grier? Join us for an afternoon of fun at our Open House! This is an opportunity for both old and new campers and their parents, youth groups, and friends old and new to join us for an afternoon spent experiencing some of the summer camp activities.

You will have an opportunity to meet some of the staff, play games, hike to the fire tower, do some crafts, and go boating on the lake. We will be serving a hot dog luncheon and roasting marshmallows over the fire for S'mores. Camp Grier Day is a come-and-go event, so feel free to stop by anytime between 1 and 4 p.m. We hope to see you there!