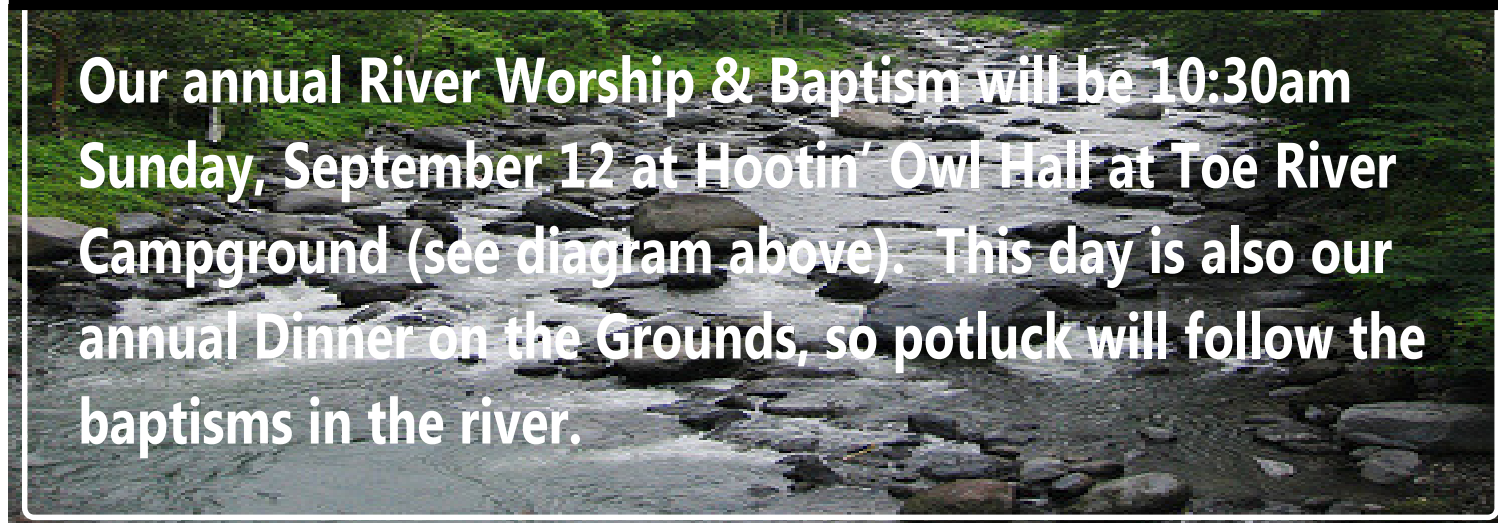
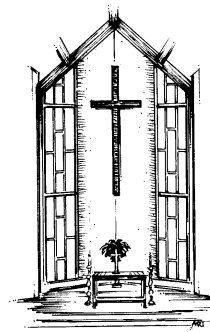


*Shall We
Gather at the
River...*



Our annual River Worship & Baptism will be 10:30am Sunday, September 12 at Hootin' Owl Hall at Toe River Campground (see diagram above). This day is also our annual Dinner on the Grounds, so potluck will follow the baptisms in the river.

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



Windows

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

Looking Outward

by Rev. Maggie Lauterer

Graphic by Art Anderson



I'm looking outward...

On Sunday morning, when I sit down after announcements in one of those tall blue upholstered chairs, I always wish you had a soft backed chair too - but you have the view out the tall, clear windows - the trees, the sky and its ever changing, moving clouds, the birds that come to sit on the phone lines, then lift their wings and rise into the wind. What a scene for worship!

So when I sit in the big chair, for a few minutes, in the silence, I get to see the crab apple tree - the one that brushes bare against the window in the winter, then blushes pink in the spring, and lovely purple-green leaves for summer before it bears its rusty red fruit, then goes bare again.

I've watched that tree grow for almost eleven years now - as this church has grown. The tree has changed as this church has changed. It's limbs expand as this church's wings have expanded.

People come and go - people we loved and lost - like Glenn, Peg, Joanna and Jean, Hank and Beverly.

And joyfully, people are born into this church home. I remember when Theo was born - and Derek and Jaden - Max and Vaughn - then James. And red-haired Cate celebrating her first birthday last month, then Henry, and most recently, baby Emma Ruth in August.

This late summer, as I watch the crab apple tree through the window on Sunday, I will enjoy its summer leaves, and then watch its leaves begin to fall - I will leave that chair about the time that tree's gray limbs show bare again.

I came to this church eleven years ago come October - and I will leave this pastorate in October.

The time has come. Time to retire from the post of pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Burnsville. Time to spend more time with my beloved Zack, and my children and grandchildren who bless me with their presence in my life. I believe, in a more limited capacity, I will serve again, but God willing, there will be some days of Sabbath first.

So for the next two months, I will surely love every minute of being with you wonderful people I call my church family.

Would you do a favor for me? Enjoy these two months with me - let's plan for the changes ahead: the launching of a stronger educational program that young and older deserve to happen here, support our new musician Derrick Everhart, and a new Christian Education co-ordinator to be hired in the days ahead.

Then you'll prepare to have new pastoral leadership. The process may begin with a stated supply for a little while, followed by an interim who will prepare you to discern who God is calling to be your new pastor. You now have chosen a Pastor Nominating Committee - I couldn't have done better myself. They'll be aided by associate presbyter Robert Garrison from our presbytery leadership. You're in good hands!

These will be a good couple of months. Meanwhile, the crab apple outside the window is already heavy with rusty red crabapples - I wonder when they'll begin to fall.

I thank God for looking outward these years through those tall clear windows. I'm looking outward to see - and watching for - along with you, what blessings God has in store.



Pastor Nominating Committee Selected

On August 29, the congregation voted to have a 10-member Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who will choose both the interim and permanent pastor to replace Rev. Lauterer. The elected members are: Saskia Etheridge, Lanny Heidenfelder, Vicki Aderman, Art Anderson, Joe Antinori, Margie Lang, Amanda Martin, Neil Prime, and Laura Seelbach. May God bless these our people in the important decision facing them in the upcoming year.



Seasonal Gift Store

Your Mission Committee is proud to announce the return of the Ten Thousand Villages Store, which features handmade goods from around the world. All of the goods are made by people who are being helped by the Ten Thousand Villages cooperative. These brothers and sisters of ours are able to pull themselves out of poverty by our purchase of these goods. Buying the beautiful items from the Ten Thousand Villages Store will give you special items to give to family and friends while helping someone other than the "big box" stores.

The Ten Thousand Villages Store will officially open on Sunday, October 10 from 11:30am-1:00pm. It will be open each Sunday thereafter until Sunday, November 7. The store will also be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am- 1:00pm during that time period.

We will need volunteers to run the store. Please call Jim Ludwig to sign up to volunteer.

Visit the Ten Thousand Villages Store for unique Christmas gifts or something special for yourself! Visit the Store as your way of giving to others twice!



Wool Tree of Life Tapestry
by a Peruvian artisan

Burnsville 1st Presbyterian mourns loss of Beverly Bell & Fletcher McCourry



August took two of our beloved members into the bosom of our Lord. We grieve for their loss and thank God for their witness among us.

Beverly~

Beverly Bell, age 83, gave more to our church community in her ten years of membership than we can ever know. She served as an elder for six years, served as Worship Chairperson all those years and more. This was a

big job since she instigated the worship stewardship positions.

Beverly also began the Centering Prayer group, which has thrived for many years under her care. She took leadership for the Wednesday Night Fellowship for years until her health did not allow. She served on the Personnel Committee for many years, using her abundant skills from her career of pastoral counseling, in which she had earned a doctorate. She was a faithful member of the Noon Bible Study. Beverly was in the bell choir, the balcony choir, and loved to sing. She sang two days before she died. We deeply miss her.

Fletcher~

Fletcher McCourry died August 11 at the age of 92. Fletcher was born in Yancey County and though he and his late wife Zula lived in Simpsonville, S.C., his heart remained here.

Fletcher served 33 years in the U.S. Air Force. On December 7, 1941, Fletcher was eating breakfast on base where he was stationed at Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese attacked the base.

In 2001, Fletcher returned to Pearl Harbor for the 60th anniversary of that terrible day and was honored as a soldier and survivor.

At the age of 83, Fletcher knelt in our sanctuary and was baptized, then rose to his feet to join our church, faithful to his childhood experience of attending an old Presbyterian Church on Jack's Creek. Though he could not be here often, he faithfully supported our church.

We thank God for Beverly and Fletcher. May God care for those who mourn their loss, but be assured they believed in the promise of Jesus - "I go to prepare a place for you."



Join together for fun, fellowship, and opportunity for spiritual growth. You may come and spend Friday night or just come on Saturday, October 16th when our guest speaker will be Rev. Bobbi White, General Presbyter, Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Cost for overnight is \$35, which includes breakfast. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

For information, contact Jennifer at jengland98@yahoo.com or (828) 301-1599.

*Dear Maggie & Church Family-
Words can't express our gratitude for all you have done over the past 8 months. If it were not for your love, we would not have been able to make it this far. There is no way we will ever be able to repay you for everything. Thank you again and keep us in your prayers.
Scott & Bonnie Pulver Thank you*

Living a life of stewardship

We are given the privilege of being the caregivers - the stewards - of God's people, God's creation, God's Church. We will celebrate our **Stewardship Month this September 19 - October 10**. Thank you in advance for loving this church and supporting its needs.



"Stop Hunger Now" Event Saturday, September 18th, 9am

FPC Burnsville will sponsor a "team" that will staff a table with 8-10 volunteers and buy the \$500 in materials to package 2,000 meals at The Bridge Church in Spruce Pine (former Pinebridge Coliseum). Both adults and children will participate. Dozens of tables are being sponsored by churches, civic & community organizations, and businesses in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey counties. Meals packaged during this event will go to Haiti. Will you help by joining our church's team, forming a team of your own, or donating to support a team? For more information contact Randy Hembree or check out www.stophungernow.org

Music Notes



Derrick Everhart
Music Director

I am very excited to be at First Presbyterian Burnsville as the Music Director. I am also excited to work with the Hand Bell, Adult, and Children's Choirs. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to sing in the Adult Choir- we are looking for new members. We will be singing a variety of music and we will begin rehearsals on Sunday September 19th at 9:15am. We will be starting to learn new music for Christmas so please plan on attending if you would like to participate in making a joyful noise unto the Lord for the Christmas season. If you are a singer or instrumentalist and would like to participate in weekly worship services, please let me know so that we can get you a time to perform at our worship hour. Thank you so much for making me feel welcome and I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you.

Handbells will meet on Wednesday's at 7:15 This will allow those who would like to join to attend bible study for adults and also be in the handbell choir. If you can count to 4 and you can ring a bell then there is a spot for you in the handbell choir. THERE IS NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED to join all you have to do is show up on Wednesday, Sept. 8th at 7:15pm! That is right- all you have to do is show up and we can teach you everything you need to know SEE YOU THERE WITH BELLS ON!!! For anyone who would be interested, Derrick will be starting a "new ringers" handbell session. The meeting time will be Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:15. You can come and learn the basics of ringing a handbell, then stay to ring with the handbell choir. If you are interested please see Derrick for details.

Each month I would like to put in our newsletter music events going on in and around our community. If there are any events going on that you or someone you know might be participating in, please let me know so that I can get them in our "Music Notes" column. Events this month:
-Sept 10th Asheville Symphony
-Sept 19th at 2:00pm Bright Hope Laurel United Methodist Church in Wolf Laurel, Concert to raise money for their Hand Bell Choir. Musicians, Andrea Bailey, soprano: Kaite Trani, soprano: Derrick Everhart, accompanist: Bright Hope Laurel Hand Bell Choir.