

The PRESSbyterian

January 2010

Dates to Remember

Jan. 6: GTF resumes
Jan. 17: Wholeness and Healing
Jan. 19: Prime Time Lunch
Jan. 24: Community Unity
Service
Mar 19-20: Church Retreat

From the Pastor

Philippians 1:9 “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.”

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and look forward to 2010. As we look ahead, let me share with you something close to my heart - discipleship. I believe that part of the church's mission is to equip and encourage its members to become greater disciples, that is, help them conform into the likeness of Christ by growing in faith, or as Paul states it above, love. Paul tells us that growing our faith occurs primarily in two ways – through knowledge and depth of insight.

Knowledge is key to human growth. Everyone knows the value of education. It is the reason we send our kids to school. Learning more about who Jesus is, what he has done for us and how we live our lives in grateful response to Him, is Christian Education (C.E.). That said, I believe we have room for improvement when it comes to taking advantage of the church's C.E. opportunities. I base this on some observations. Sunday School attendance is markedly low, GTF attendance has decreased, some of the small groups that meet during the week are not increasing in their numbers and new studies that are launched are attended mostly by the same people. As a result, the Session is relooking our C.E. offerings and experimenting with some changes.

One of the first changes is with GTF. The spring GTF calendar will include times where everyone comes together to fellowship and celebrate important life events in the church but in between those events, there are three C.E. courses from which to choose. For more information, look in this edition of *The PRESSbyterian* or on our new website at www.1stpresbyterian.org. Take part in these opportunities for according to Paul, the first way for our faith to abound involves knowledge.

The second way faith grows is through experience. For faith to grow, the knowledge must descend from our head to our heart so it transforms our thinking and behavior. The knowledge we learn through C.E. must be put into action. When that happens, we receive the “depth of insight” Paul talks about. Let me give you an example from my life. While in Guyana, South America on a short-term mission trip, I read James 1:27. It declares, “*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*” I confess this scripture meant little to me – until the very next day, when our group leader took us to an orphanage. While there I interacted with a precious 6 year old girl. When I sat down at one point, she hopped into my lap, took my arm, put it around her shoulder and leaned into me. She just wanted to be hugged. I held her for an hour. In that moment the word of God came alive. I was doing what James talked about. I was looking after an orphan. This scripture and experience was burned into my being for I experienced God working through me. At that moment I realized I was the hands of Jesus to that girl. Depth of insight increased. My faith grew.

Church Office
534-0088

Church/Fellowship Hall
533-1235

Congregational Care
534-0041

Presbyterian Centre
534-1353

FAX
534-1242

From the Pastor (continued)

2010 will present opportunities to put your C.E. into action. Some opportunities will emerge through current church programs – programs like delivering Thanksgiving Day boxes or attending a local or foreign mission trip. Some opportunities will emerge in the community – opportunities like helping to serve a Thanksgiving Meal in conjunction with other churches. The opportunities are boundless. But whatever they are and whatever Jesus presents before us, this I know - part of the church's mission is to equip and encourage its members to become greater disciples. I believe this is accomplished in the way Paul says, through knowledge, putting that knowledge into practice and allowing it to become depth of insight.

So take advantage of what is offered and let us not handicap our own growth. I guarantee that if you seek to learn more and live it out, your faith will grow!

In Christ,
Jud

Holy Communion Be in Prayerful Preparation



We will celebrate the
Sacrament of Holy Communion
during worship on
Sunday, January 3.

From the Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team would like to THANK all of those who have returned their pledge cards. As of December 15th, we have had 121 cards returned totaling around \$454,000. We still have many cards outstanding and we would like to remind those who have not returned their cards to do so as soon as possible. The finance team needs to finalize our budget in early January. Preliminary indications are that our asking budget will be around \$650,000 for 2010.

Thanks for your attention to this very important participation in God's work.

Service of Wholeness and Healing

January 17, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Youth Corner

Happy New Year! December was fantastic for the youth at First Presbyterian. We started the month caroling to shut-ins and enjoyed spreading the Christmas spirit all around Orangeburg. I've decided that we have so many excellent singers in our youth group that we should go on tour. We enjoyed a Christmas party during Christmas break as well as a trip to see the Zoo lights in Columbia. In January we will focus on preparing for our annual Youth Sunday service and the Junior Highs will have a lock-in. Also, we are gearing up for our ski trip (February 26-28th). Youth will resume January 3, 2010 - hope to see you then!

Amanda

Peru Crew 15 July 31 - August 7, 2010

It is time to start planning our summer Peru Mission Trip. We will have a planning meeting on **Thursday, January 28**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Centre. Come and find out what makes missions at First Presbyterian Church fun and rewarding!!

We also will meet and "send-off" our February Peru Vision Team at this meeting.

Rob Miller

GTF Resumes January 6, 2010

Begin 2010 by pledging to come to G.T.F. Our first program for the year is for everyone - all ages. Come, enjoy fellowship and a good meal, and learn all about Epiphany. Let's set an attendance record while gaining knowledge in an enjoyable way.

Kaye Borgstedt

A Message of Gratitude from Francis Burriss

We recently received a check for \$6,500 from First Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg for the outreach of Medical Missions. Your generous gift will support ministries and projects in the Amazon and Costa Rica.

In the Amazon, we currently have three mission campuses which include schools for handicapped children. These facilities provide an environment for physical, mental and spiritual wholeness, giving these children the opportunities that they so richly deserve.

In Costa Rica, we are currently providing classes for underprivileged children to learn English, thereby giving them unprecedented opportunities for their future.

Thank you so much for making a profound difference in the quality of life for these young children. They are truly the "least of these our brethren" that the scriptures implore us to help as a way of spreading the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Words cannot adequately express the heartfelt appreciation that we have for your long and faithful support of our ministries together.

In His service,
Francis M. Burriss, President
Medical Missions

Thanksgiving Box Team

Once again, the caring spirit of our church family has brightened the holidays for many families in our community. This year our church distributed 77 Thanksgiving Boxes. Each year our adult and youth volunteers are truly inspired by this ministry. We are reminded that in our giving, we are the ones blessed. The families receiving these boxes were touched by our church's willingness to help those in need.

The Thanksgiving Box Team is grateful to all who participated in this outreach. Many thanks to the youth and volunteers who braved the cold and the rain to deliver the boxes that Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Michelle Arant

Contribution Envelopes

You should receive your new 2010 contribution envelopes the week before January 3rd. **Using your envelopes helps to keep your contribution record accurate.**

General Fund

(for the operating budget of the church)
use **white** envelopes or indicate on check

Building Fund/Renovations

use **pink** envelopes or indicate on check

Faith Promise

(for missions projects "over and above" those already supported in the General Fund budget)
use "Faith Promise" **gold** envelopes or indicate on check

Vision Continues

use **green** envelopes or indicate on check
(for capital campaign for Centre)

Memorial Fund

indicate on check and please include family acknowledgement information

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

indicate on check

All contributions received that are not otherwise designated are deposited to the General Fund for the operating budget of the church.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!

Please call the office if you have any questions concerning your contribution record.

Prime Time Lunch



Tuesday, January 19,
12:00 noon - Centre

Come join your friends for delicious food and great fellowship.
Reservations: 534-0088

Community of Character

January Trait: Sincerity

January — May 2010 GTF Calendar

The Wednesday GTF calendar will include periodic times where the church comes together to fellowship and celebrate important life events in the church. These events are noted with a (*). In between those events, there are three C.E. courses from which to choose. Dinner is from 6:00-6:30 p.m. and courses are from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. TBD means “to be determined.”

January 6, 2010 Epiphany Celebration*

January 13 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses
 January 20 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses
 January 27 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses

February 3 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses

February 10 Valentines Celebration* – Honoring 80 year old and plus members
February 17 Ash Wed Service* – Gathering of several churches in the community held at First Pres

February 24 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses

March 3 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses

March 10 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses

March 17 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses

March 24 Children’s Choir Spring performance*

March 31 No GTF, Holy Week

April 7 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or TBD

April 14 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or TBD

April 21 Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or TBD

April 28 Talent Show, Final GTF*

May 5 May Mester – Incoming Officer training and TBD

May 12 May Mester – Incoming Officer training and TBD

May 19 May Mester – Incoming Officer training and TBD

May 26 May Mester – Incoming Officer training and TBD

Course explanations:

NOOMA

What is it? NOOMA explores our world from the perspective of Jesus. Jesus encouraged his listeners to search, question and wrestle with the implications of what He was saying and doing. Wherever He went, whatever He did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most; because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join in the discussion.

What happens? The lessons begin with a 20 minute video as a “discussion starter.” The discussions focus on where and how our faith intersects our modern day living. Topics focus on marriage, family, love, parenting, prayer, and many others. The “NOOMA Group” will meet in the Salt Shaker classroom at 6:30 p.m. and will be facilitated by different people. The discussions and videos do not build on each other. For more information, please contact Kim Panitt at 531-3587.

ALPHA

What is it? Alpha is an opportunity to explore your Christian faith with others. Whether you are a "seeker," a new Christian, or an experienced Christian, the discussion will enrich your faith. There is an off-site, weekend retreat during the course. The topics do build upon one another.

What happens? Participants will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will eat dinner together and begin a video at 6:15 which looks at different aspects of the Christian faith. Following the video, participants will break into small groups for discussion. The topics are:

January 13	Introduction: Is there more to life than this?
January 20	Who is Jesus?
January 27	Why did Jesus die?
February 3	How can we have faith?
February 24	Why and how do I pray?
March 3	Why and how should I read the Bible?
March 10	How does God guide us?
March 17	How can I resist evil?
April 7	Why & how should we tell others?
April 14	Does God heal today?
April 21	What about the Church?
Weekend:	Who is the Holy Spirit?, What does the Holy Spirit do?, How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?, How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Faith Lessons:

"Faith Lessons" is a popular Christian DVD series produced by Focus on the Family. Come join Ray Vander Laan as he leads participants through historical locations of the Bible while explaining their importance and how the Jewish context affected the Scriptures. The upcoming study is entitled "On the Life & Ministry of the Messiah." This presentation takes viewers to archaeological sites few people ever see, where the geographical and historical contexts of the Bible take on powerful relevance for present-day believers. The discussions and videos do not build on each other. Faith Lessons will meet in the Centre and will be led by various leaders.

The Lessons are:

January 13	In the Shadow of Herod
January 20	My Rock and My Fortress
January 27	The Time Has Fully Come
February 3	No Greater Love
February 24	The Rabbi
March 3	Language of Culture
March 10	Misguided Faith
March 17	Living Water

Children's Church and Nursery Schedules

	Infant Nursery	Toddlers	Two-to-Four Nursery	Children's Church
January 3	Sandra Borgstedt	Cindy and Morgan Clark	Walt and Jennifer Turner	Bonnie and Craig Cook
January 10	Erin Buie	Sarah Frierson	Michelle and Lauren Arant	Margaret Frierson
January 17	Evelyn McCully	Virginia McCully	Craig and Bonnie Cook	Sarah Frierson
January 24	Lauren Bramblett	Theresa Bramblett	Harry and Wallace Mims	Jane Holladay
January 31	Margaret Frierson	Riley Frierson	Paul and Lisa Banish	Sallie Covington
				Bill and Cindy Clark
				Robbie and Tracy Myers
				Erin Buie
				Kate Edwards

Notes of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of my entire family let me thank you for your support, cards and visits during this time of sadness. The passing of my sister Cyndi was quite a shock to us all but your kind thoughts and especially your continued prayers help us as we deal with it every day. We know God is good – all the time and this knowledge gives us great comfort. I ask for a special prayer for Cyndi’s 19-year-old daughter Ashby, who must now transition to adulthood with all its responsibilities without a mother’s guidance. We know that with God’s help, she will continue to grow, not only into adulthood but also in her Christian faith.

Yours in Christ
Billy Kelley

Dear First Presbyterian Members,

Thank you all so very much for donating Thanksgiving food boxes to three of our hospice families in need. All of the families were most appreciative and really enjoyed a nice meal together, several for the last time. Again, on behalf of our families, I thank you for your generosity. I also thank you for your continued support of our hospice program.

Very sincerely,
Debbie Hare, Administrator

United in Marriage

Lacey Victoria Howard
and
Michael Carlyle Borgstedt
December 5, 2009

Community Unity Service

January 24, 2010

Please join us for our next Community Unity Service at 6:00 p.m. on January 24, 2010, at St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church. The churches involved are St. Andrew’s UMC, St. Paul’s UMC, First Presbyterian, and First Baptist. Rev. Kristen Richardson-Frick of St. Paul’s UMC will preach. We will also commission the Peru Mission Trip participants from the various churches.

Printed Resources Team



CHRISTIANS
Caring for each other

One of the ministries of the Diaconate is to provide printed materials to help our church family in times of need, throughout the year.

Our CARE NOTES offer comfort and guidance for a wide range of care and concern topics. These notes are placed in racks located in the McLees Gallery, next to the sanctuary.

The PRAYER NOTES offer assistance in praying for individual and family needs, including parenting and marriage support. These can be found on the rack in the Centre lobby.

Booklets and cards are also provided for the *Bereavement Team* and the *Pastoral Care Team* to distribute to our church members as needed.

We hope our church members will find this printed information a source of support and encouragement.

Mike Keeney

January Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/03 Sarah Francis Coggins | 1/17 Laura Ray |
| Kaye Borgstedt | Lee Kuck |
| Sandra Heckle | 1/18 Bill Covington |
| Lawrence Thackston | 1/19 Jane Shuler |
| 1/04 Tamra Campbell | Craig Cook |
| Paige Hewitt | 1/21 Marion Moore |
| 1/05 Billy Heckle | Ken Daniels |
| Lacey Borgstedt | Amy Delaney |
| 1/06 Chance Boltin | Mary Grey Branan |
| 1/07 Keith Hewitt, Jr. | 1/22 Tom Westbrook |
| Sarah Porter Sanders | Dixie Bradshaw |
| 1/08 Omega Clinge | 1/23 Kathryn Hughes |
| Phyllis Ulmer | 1/25 Dione Hughes |
| Carol Ware | 1/26 Dawes Edwards |
| 1/09 McCullough Mims | 1/27 George Laing |
| 1/11 Frank Tourville | Evelyn McCully |
| Melissa Plummer | 1/28 Carol McCall |
| Katie Daniels | 1/29 Rita Hutto |
| Ben Bronson | Owen Kammerer |
| 1/12 Jewell Davis | 1/30 Blake Bruner |
| Preston Collins | Mitchell Mobley |
| 1/13 Jennifer Laux | 1/31 Mickey Stanton |
| 1/14 Mary Catherine Horger | Buddy Barnwell |
| Cheryl Smith | |
| Jennifer Turner | |
| Adison Walter | |

Presbyterian Women

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year!

Dates to mark off on your calendars and keep in mind for 2010:



- ◆ **Monday, January 25, 2010** - the Centre at 6:00 p.m. Plans are being made for a Gathering and we are hoping to have a guest speaker. You will be advised later in the month about what to bring, etc. But keep the date open, OK?
- ◆ **Saturday, March 13, 2010** - Palmetto Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant. The Charleston Atlantic Presbytery PW Spring Gathering is slated for that date. Usually consists of a worship service with recognition of those members who have died during the preceding year, short business meeting which includes elections of officers, then luncheon. I hope several of us can go for it's a nice affair with a chance to enlarge our circle of PW friends!

Several large bags of gifts were delivered to *The Village at Summerville* in December with much appreciation expressed to us. Thank you one and all for your contributions. Other gifts were also distributed from PW and as I hear of acknowledgments, I'll pass them along. Thanks again.

FYI FEATURE OF THE MONTH

There has been some curiosity expressed about PW gift giving from both budgeted and voluntary contributions at Circle meetings. I don't believe that everybody is aware of just what PW does along these lines so I thought it might be helpful to spend some print time on the matter.

We have a number of benevolences listed in our budget (see page 3 of your 2008-2009 Handbook still in use) and you will note two areas of Missions. One is Local Missions which we decide on as a group and the other pertains to Missions as identified by our PW Organization (Churchwide/Synod/Presbytery levels).

You pledge/give funds through your Circle. OK, that money constitutes our local PW budget. You can see from the "page 3 budget" the amounts that are granted to each of the listed Benevolences.

- ❖ For example, \$300 is sent yearly to the PW Presbytery Treasurer for use in the larger PW Mission Projects. In the past we have sent money or used the money for baby blankets and/or mosquito netting to go to developing countries.
- ❖ We send \$50 each year to the Columbia Friendship Circle for Columbia Seminary student needs.
- ❖ We also support Mission Haven which is a haven for returning/departing missionaries.
- ❖ Funds go to the South Carolina Home at Montreat to maintain and/or refurbish the room that our church has accepted as a responsibility.
- ❖ We also support our PW Scholarship Fund.
- ❖ And you are aware of our supportive assistance to a child at Thornwell. We help there in two ways; our budgeted money is used to provide birthday and Christmas gifts and our voluntary (through Circle contributions) cash money is sent to the Home which carries an account in her name to be used for special needs and/or her monthly allowance.

Next time we'll add more info about other contributions, OK? We'd like to be sure you know about the causes that PW supports and besides, it's just reassuring to know how your money is being spent.

MISSION PROJECT FOR JAN/FEB 2010

For these two months, consider bringing school supplies and craft supplies for Child Evangelism Fellowship and Three Crosses Outreach. Thanks. "The box" is under the table in the Centre Lobby as usual.

More later,
Dina



January Circle Schedule

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Circle 1: | Tues., January 12
11:30 a.m. | Presbyterian Centre |
| Circle 2: | Tues., January 12
10:00 a.m. | Conference Room
Presbyterian Centre |
| Circle 3: | Thurs., January 14
6:00 p.m. | Edde Journey
1040 Huntington Dr. |
| Circle 4: | Tues., January 12
7:00 p.m. | Jewell Booth
4425 Ramsgate Dr. |

First Presbyterian Church

650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Orangeburg, SC

Permit No. 401



January 2010

Memorials

Given in memory of:

Mr. Joseph Nagle

Capt. J. C. Pace

Mrs. Mary Williams

Mr. Grady Patterson

Mrs. Fran Willard

Given by:

Mrs. Karen Schweizer-Nagle
Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Ragsdale
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Webber
Mrs. Jane F. Agnew
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whitaker
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Miller
Ms. Ann Kirby
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Maxwell
Dr. and Mrs. David Gillespie
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Nickel
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dominick
John Knox Sunday School Class
Ms. Billie Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Horger
Mrs. Sara Sims and Sara Barrier Sims
Mrs. Ann R. Prince
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Huddleston
Dr. Henry F. Frierson
Mr. and Mrs. David Biswell
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whitaker

Dink L. McCormick
Rev. and Mrs. Chris Kratzer
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Higginbotham, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Clinge
Mr. Willie Scoville Hayden
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Nixon
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Milton, Jr.
Mrs. Frances Lytch
Mr. and Mrs. Geb Runager
Miss Florie Brailsford
Mrs. Kay Stroman
Ms. Julie Wardlaw
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Axson
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hinson
Rev. and Mrs. Robert Williams
Jason, David, Jamie and Reese Prince
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Jennings, III
Mrs. Margie Wannamaker
Ms. Mary Plyler
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keeney

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill Newnam
Mr. and Mrs. Ron S. Ware
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Frierson
Ms. Mary McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Walsh
Dr. and Mrs. L. P. Thackston, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Patterson
Mrs. Nancy Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Langford
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kay
Mr. James Townsend, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Flansburg
Mrs. Freddie Williamson
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fogle
Johnny and Janet Brailsford
Rev. and Mrs. Don Frampton
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barnwell
Mr. and Mrs. Harris Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wilkes
Mr. and Mrs. William Tyler