

The PRESSbyterian

March 2010

Dates to Remember

March 7: Faith Promise
Dedication Sunday
March 19-20: Church Retreat
April 1: Maundy Thursday
Community Service
April 2: Good Friday Lunch
Good Friday
Community Service

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

For the past year and a half, I have had the opportunity to watch Amanda, our Youth and Children's Director, wrestle with and accept the call of Christ to ministry. This discernment did not begin with but most assuredly became evident during our July 2009 Peru mission trip. I watched the excitement and joy she received in the mission field and believe that this is where God is calling her for His service. As a result, she has been accepted and will attend Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a seminary that has a special emphasis on mission. I am excited for her and know that God is going to use her in a mighty way.

Amanda's last day with us will be March 31, 2010. Prior to her leaving, there will be an opportunity to express our thanks for and our congratulations to her. She has been a joy to work with and we will certainly miss her. Let us wish her the best as she transitions into a new season of life, the place where God will use her gifts and skills for furthering His Kingdom.

In Christ,
Jud

From Our Director of Youth and Children

Friends,

I know that words alone cannot convey my level of gratitude for my time spent with you - but I will try anyway. I have so enjoyed my time serving as your Director of Youth and Children. I will always cherish the lessons learned and memories made among you. You welcomed me with open arms, took care of me when I was sick, supported me when I needed it most, challenged me to grow immensely in my faith, helped me learn from my mistakes (and allowed me to make them), prayed for me, and gave me the privilege to be with your youth and children. All for which I am eternally grateful. I will always look back on my time spent in Orangeburg with joy in knowing I may not be the person I am today without having known each of you.

With a last name like Maguire and being proud of my Irish heritage, I'll leave you with an old Irish blessing.

"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

Love in Christ,
Amanda

www.1stpresbyterian.org

Church Office
534-0088

Church/Fellowship Hall
533-1235

Congregational Care
534-0041

Presbyterian Centre
534-1353

FAX
534-1242

*Faith Promise
Dedication Sunday
March 7, 2010*

Information about this "over and above" mission opportunity was mailed in February.

*Sharing The Light
Orangeburg Community Mission Trip*

The Evangelism Unit is planning a unique opportunity for a short term local mission trip this spring. We will partner with other churches of different ethnicities to go into the local community to work with nonprofit organizations. This will provide us a time to get out of our regular routine and our normal comfort zone to experience being the hands and heart of Christ to the community.

We are called to take the light of Christ out to the dark world. In doing so we will participate just as if we were on a foreign mission trip. This experience will provide an opportunity to be transformed into the likeness of Christ while transforming the community by helping people to advance themselves.

Becky Smith
Evangelism Unit

Prime Time Lunch

Tuesday, March 16
12:00 noon - Centre



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

Sanctuary Flowers

April 11 is an open date on the 2010 flower calendar. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary on that Sunday, please call Katherine Patterson (536-5340).



**Church
Retreat**

March 19-21, 2010
Buckridge Plantation and
Presbyterian Centre
Activities for all ages.

Guests: Olin and Ruth Ann Whitener

Registration is due March 1.

G.T.F.

Elective classes detailed in the January 2010 newsletter continue through April, except for selected Wednesday nights when everyone comes together for fellowship and celebration of important events.

- March 3, 10, and 17** Choose between NOOMA, ALPHA, or Faith Lessons Courses
- March 24** Children's Choirs Perform
- March 31** Holy Week - No GTF
-

Sacrament of Baptism

Montgomery Walker Richardson
son of
Robert Lee Richardson
and
Erin Barnwell Richardson

January 31, 2010

Presbyterian Women

Dear Readers,

On January 25th, twenty-eight of us met for salads and desserts (all yummy) with our guest speakers, Judy Fletcher and Jill Hebert. Judy is our PW Presbytery Representative for Cluster A, and Jill is likewise for Cluster D. D includes the Moncks Corner area and Summerville while Cluster A (ours) is us, Saint Luke, Santee, Williston, Allendale, and Barnwell. Us "old-timers" called the Reps "enablers" but the term has been changed.

Anyway, we had a fine time with Margie Cantley presiding and me popping up to introduce our speakers. Judy and Jill told us of happenings in some other PW groups and also the Presbytery CT, reminisced a bit about the Churchwide Gathering last July, and encouraged us to plan to attend the upcoming Synod Gathering at Epworth-By-The-Sea in October 2010. Brochures should be out before too long. PW'ers will be there from South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (our Synod).

Judy and Jill were happy to visit us and will return anytime. Judy lives in Eutawville and is a member of the Santee church where Jill also attends and she lives in Santee. It was good to hear about other groups but also kind of special to have their greetings to us from the Presbytery PW group and to hear them affirm our importance to the Presbytery CT. It is easy to feel a bit isolated at times but Judy and Jill both emphasized for us that as we join together and pool our efforts, we all together do make a meaningful impact both at home and abroad.

Two developments from the Gathering:

- ◆ Margie called for a Nominating Committee to develop a slate for the coming year to be voted on at our Spring Gathering. We have yours truly from Circle Two, Lyn Byrd from Circle One, Susan Smoak from Circle Three, and Shirley Westbrook from Circle Four.
- ◆ Jill introduced us to the concept of the Fellowship of the Least Coin which project we adopted with Becky Smith volunteering to head up this project. Way to go, Becky! Details below (in "Feature of the Month").

Two dates to remember:

- ◆ April 17, 2010 - **The Presbytery PW Spring Gathering** to be held at Palmetto Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant, starting at 9:30 a.m., I think. Will give more details next month. Hold the date and plan to go. We already have several volunteers so some more of you plan to join us, OK?
- ◆ April 27, 2010 - Our own **Spring Gathering/Birthday Offering** to be at 6:00 p.m. in the Centre. Again details next month. Hold the date!

FYI FEATURE OF THE MONTH

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) began with an idea from Shanti Solomon in 1956. Ms. Solomon was a member of an International Goodwill Mission to Korea sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the U.S. She, a native of India, was denied entrance to Korea because India and Korea did not have diplomatic relations. The other women in the group went on at her urging but Shanti stayed in the Philippines and while there, she reflected on the war-torn countries in Asia and all of the economic and national barriers that kept women apart. How could women unite and be a part of a mission for peace?

As she thought about this, she recalled the Biblical widow and her mite, and she imagined women in every country and of all economic levels joining in a mission for peace through prayer and the contribution of the least coin in their possession at that time.

The idea caught on and now Christian women from over 80 countries contribute. The amount from each country is kept secret (it's not a contest) and is disbursed by the International Committee of the Least Coin to selected Project Grants (example: the East Timor Women Project) and/or Ecumenical Organizations (example: All Africa Conference of Churches).

For more detail, turn to pp 16 and 17 of the November/December 2009 issue of Horizons magazine.

MISSION PROJECT FOR MARCH / APRIL

Consider contributing to a fund which Circle Four will use to buy materials for "goodie bags" for Presbyterian students from Claflin and State. Circle Four will assemble and distribute the bags of goodies in time for hungry students to nibble on while studying for finals. Remember, all students are always hungry! Thanks Circle Four!

More later,
Dina



March Circle Meetings - Tuesday, March 9

Circle 1:	11:30 a.m.	Presbyterian Centre
Circle 2:	10:00 a.m.	Conference Room Presbyterian Centre
Circle 3:	6:00 p.m.	Kathy Johnson 3054 Bragg Blvd.
Circle 4:	7:00 p.m.	"M. C." Evans 2266 Griffith Dr.

March Birthdays

3/01 Laura Garick	3/16 Sherrill Newnam
3/02 Campbell Delaney	Jimmy Smoak
3/05 Mike Strong	3/18 Becky Smith
Gregg Frierson	Karen Montgomery
Brisan Ardis	Kelley Mims
3/06 Zenith Purcell	3/19 Sara Turner
"M. C." Evans	Kathy Wilkes
Amber Tourville	Rebecca Covington
3/07 Mark Hutto	3/20 JoAnn Kelley
Michael Clayton	3/21 Betty Cruise
3/08 Rocco Cassone	3/22 Jane Holladay
Rachel Lorick	Lisa Banish
3/09 Jason Paul	3/23 Julie Bruner
Sheila Gregory	3/24 Jeb Brailsford
Eliza Laux	Ty Haigler
3/10 Renn Guthrie	3/25 Amanda Maguire
3/11 Rebecca Bryant	3/26 Robert McCully
3/12 Bonnie Keeney	3/27 Katherine Campbell
Anna Sanders	Karen Schweizer-Nagle
3/13 Jennifer Welsh	Eric Laux
3/14 Helen Quetti	Will Berry
3/15 Ginger Weigle	3/28 Davis Turner
	3/29 Charlotte Dixon
	3/30 Mary Delaney

Special Touches

One time when I was in the hospital, a sweet lady brought me a bottle of lotion with a card from her circle. I wasn't a member of that circle, but they had sent a little gift to me. Not only that, she had driven to Columbia to bring it to me! That was over two years ago, and I still remember it because it made me feel so good. What a special touch!

Once when my husband was really sick, and we were sticking close to home for a while, a nice lady brought some muffins by with a card from her circle. I wasn't a member of that circle, but they had thought of us anyway. It made us feel special. What a special touch!

There are so many ways our church reaches out to our church family when we have needs. The Circles of First Pres participate in a ministry called *Special Touch*. Each circle takes turns reaching out to those of us who are in the hospital or undergoing treatments or the like. They take turns doing a little something extra nice for our church family members who need a little special touch! What a blessing to be a part of the *Special Touches* of First Presbyterian Church, both as a helper, and as a recipient.



Notes of Thanks

◆ We want to thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, and food during my neck surgery and recovery. We are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful and caring church family. May God bless each of you as he has blessed us.

Love,
Debbie and Chris Gramling

◆ In a letter received from Raymond Murphy and his daughter Sheila, Sheila writes: Dad is getting much stronger and is now getting outpatient therapy. He is missing Orangeburg and his community. Thank you to all of you for your support and prayers. We will be back hopefully in the not so distant future to see all of you.

Love, Sheila and Raymond Murphy

◆ Dear Church Family,
Words cannot express our thanks to you for all your kindness while my dad was in the hospital and then upon his passing. All the calls, cards, food, visits and prayers have been overwhelming! My Daddy knew how special First Presbyterian is to us and you certainly showed it during this very difficult time. Again thanks for everything

Gaye, Ewart, Laura & Will

◆ The Angel Tree Team would like to thank all of the "Christmas Elves" who made Christmas very special for some local foster children and their families. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.



Community of Character

March Trait: Honesty

Youth Corner

What a great month February was for the youth at First Presbyterian! If you were unable to attend Youth Sunday this year I'm sorry to say that you missed out on a fantastic service. If you were there I hope you were as proud of all our youth that participated as I was. Special thanks to Shawn Boltin for cooking such delicious chili for our luncheon and all youth involved. We raised \$1,336 for *Meals on Wheels*. The youth celebrated as we cheered on either the Saints or Colts during our annual Super Bowl party. We also started talking about the life of David at GTF and continued our NOOMA series on Sunday nights. We finished the busy month of February by hitting the slopes at Winter Place in Beckley, WV. The youth had a great time enjoying fellowship, skiing, and the snow. The snow may have been enjoyed too much with plenty of snowball fights!

In addition to our normal Sunday and Wednesday night meetings, in March youth can look forward to our BBQ dinner and service project, a movie night, ice cream devotionals, the church-wide family retreat and more.

BBQ tickets for Haiti relief are still being sold. BBQ can be picked up 4:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. at Duke's BBQ. Tickets are \$8 and all proceeds will be split between *Water Missions* and the *American Red Cross*. See a youth for tickets today!

Amanda Maguire

Christian Education

- **Lent** - Our prayer is that the Lenten material you have received is a help to you on your 2010 Lenten journey.
- The children who attend **Children's Chapel** on Sunday mornings will be nurturing a butterfly garden during the Lenten season. The butterflies will be released on Easter Sunday morning at 10:30 on our patio. We invite each of you to join us and learn the symbolism of butterflies to Easter.
- **Home Bible Study** - The Murrays are hosting a six-week home Bible study which began on February 18. If you are interested in hosting or participating in a home study, please let us know and we will provide whatever assistance you may need.
- **Making Love Last a Lifetime** is the title of one of our Wednesday night series. The series will be eight-ten weeks and will begin on April 7. This is a video based series that is beneficial to anyone who is married - no matter how long - or about to be married. A nursery will be provided. Stay tuned for more information.
- **May mester** - Planning has begun for Wednesday nights in May. If you have a topic or topics in which you would like to participate or lead, please contact Jane Holladay (534-3975) or Kaye Borgstedt (CE office 534-0041 or 534-2585).
- **Vespers** will continue this summer with a different format.

These are exciting times in the life of our church. We welcome suggestions.

Kaye Borgstedt
CE Coordinator

Memorials

Given in memory of:

Mrs. Mary Williams
Mrs. Kent Wood
Mrs. Virginia McCormick

Given by:

Mr. and Mrs. Neal Branan
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Frierson
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith
Mrs. Harriet Gillespie
Mrs. Ruth McCormick

United in Marriage

Vivian Smathers Porter
and
Azel James Hutto, Jr.
February 8, 2010

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Return Service Requested

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U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit No. 401

"See what love the Father has given us,



that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1

March 2010

Children's Church and Nursery Schedules

	Nursery	Two-to-Four Year-Olds	Children's Church
March 7	Evelyn McCully	Keith and Laura Hewitt	Joni and Hillary Thackston
March 14	Sandra Borgstedt	Robbie and Tracy Myers	Kathryn and Maggie Hughes
March 21	Julie Bruner	Earl and Lillian Whalen	Robbie and Tracy Myers Erin Buie and Kate Edwards
March 28	Margaret Frierson	Andy and Tiffany Hunter	Jennifer and Walt Turner

Nursery News

The Nursery Team is asking for donations for the infant nursery. Some items needed are: bouncy seats, play gyms/play mats, age appropriate toys, and DVDs. If you have any of these items, that you are not currently using, please bring them to the nursery. Our youngest Presbyterians would appreciate having them. Thank you!

Jennifer Turner