

# FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

## The MorningStar

### Sermons

**February 7**

5th Sunday in Epiphany  
Isaiah 6.1-8; Luke 5.1-11

**February 14**

Transfiguration of the Lord  
Exodus 34.29-35;  
Luke 9.28-36

**February 21**

First Sunday in Lent  
Deuteronomy 26.1-11  
Luke 4.1-13

**February 28**

2nd Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 15.1-18  
Luke 13.31-35

### We Did It!

The roof will be going up, as the weather turns a little better, fully subscribed by your gifts both larger and smaller...all important parts of the effort. And with the fulfillment of pledges for the roof fund over the next few months, our congregation will be able to cover any little surprises that might take place during the construction. The Session had faith that we could do it without borrowing... and you responded to their call with gusto. Perhaps your faith didn't move a mountain (yet), but it raised the roof. What other amazing efforts of faith can we do to spread the conviction that God has great things in store for us?



### Pastor's Corner

The sign said: "GPS UNRELIABLE"

It really said that. It was a sign that appeared along the side of the road as our family headed to the Smoky mountains for a little R and R over the New Year's holiday. Knowing that I-40, the shortest route through the mountains, was partly closed due to a well-documented rockslide, we looked for the detour signs that were bound to assist travelers like us, in our attempt to get on the other side of the blockage.

The sign was put there to discourage people from relying on their own devices, and instead, pay attention to the detour signs that would give reliable directions. It was wise advice. Nevertheless, you can be sure that some people will want to follow their own directions.

It has long been an understanding of the Reformation, that the disciple is better off following the lead of scripture than their own opinion. Scripture

is that solid rock of time and divine honored guidance that is not enslaved to the moving sands of fad and public opinion. We find that the longer we are around this life, the accumulated wisdom of the centuries eventually comes back to the disciplines and insights of scripture, no matter how flashy the technology is. Indeed, when the power goes out, we have to go back to those things that seem out-of-date: maps, books, candles, and such.

This coming month, we have the opportunity to note the arrival of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Although camping seems to have faded from view, the principles of scouting...be it for boys or girls...have not gone out of style: character, courage and integrity. In a culture of twitter, facebook, reality shows and all kinds of electronic communication, those virtues are not irrelevant at all.

We know what is reliable. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of the Lord stands forever.

## Youth Sunday

### FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

PLEASE BE SURE TO WORSHIP WITH US ON

**YOUTH SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 28TH!**

THE INTERMEDIATE YOUTH GROUP WILL LEAD US IN ALL PARTS OF WORSHIP AT BOTH EARLY (8:30AM) AND LATE (11:00AM) SERVICES.

They have worked very hard on this service—practicing music, designing bulletin covers, writing prayers and dialogue for sermon time. Please show your support of their hard work and be with us on the 28th.!

## Presbyterian Women

Make plans to join us on Saturday, February 6th at 10:00 at the church for fellowship, Bible study and great food ! Mary Parker and Deb Smith will be our hostess and Joan Davidson will lead the study. All women are invited, so bring a friend !



## Fellowship

There will be no dinners in February due to the Madrigal Dinner. Purchase your tickets now and enjoy a great meal and entertainment. "Cherries Jubilee!" Do I need to say more? Come see if it flames!

## Thanks

A note of Thanks to the following Middle School Youth who have assisted with Children's Church this year: Madison Woodall, Haesi Pak, Minsi Pak, Jessica Parker, Clara Pianka, Jordan Berry, Hannah Berry, Paul Nestor, Jared Reninger, Jake Reeve, Gabriel Russell and Ben Thompson. Their positive attitudes and support have been an example of God's work in our church.

## Minute For Mission and Evangelism

The Morningstar congregation is very generous as evidenced by your contributions to the Christmas Joy offering, your donations of Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, your donations and support of Room In The Inn and Samaritan House. As this article was being written, the news arrived about the terrible earthquake in Haiti. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is already in motion. The Presbytery of Charlotte has set up a web page ([www.presbyofcharlotte.org/Haiti](http://www.presbyofcharlotte.org/Haiti)) which is reprinted below to provide information and some possible responses for you to consider. You can keep up with the latest news there and link from there to the PCUSA/PDA site and others. Please offer your prayers and support for the relief efforts as you are led. As noted, "financial contributions are the primary need at this point" early in the relief and recovery effort.

## Haiti Relief

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti just before 5pm on Tuesday, January 12th, approximately 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince. As we watch the images of suffering, we are overwhelmed in knowing how to respond.

### PRAY

Pray for the people of Haiti. Pray for the mission teams currently in Haiti and the many that will be arriving in the days ahead. Pray for all of the people throughout God's world that feel led respond in so many ways.

### DONATE SUPPLIES

#### Disaster Kits

Disaster Kits are a tangible way for youth and other church groups to provide response long-term.

#### Kit Collection Sites:

\*Disaster kits will be distributed through Church World Service.

#### Medical & Other Supplies

In addition to monetary donations, medical and some other supplies are needed.

### **Haiti Relief Brunch - January 31, 2010 - 12:30-2:00pm**

Hickory Grove Presbyterian Church, 5735 East WT Harris

Tickets are \$10, with all proceeds going to Haiti relief.

Churches may request tickets to sell by contacting [Debbie Wilkinson](mailto:Debbie.Wilkinson@presbyofcharlotte.org), 704-535-9999, ext. 213. Unused tickets need to be returned to the Presbytery Office. Proceeds payable to

"Presbytery of Charlotte" - note "Haiti Relief" in memo line.

### **\*SEND FUNDS**

The Presbytery of Charlotte has begun an emergency relief fund for Haiti, working with the Presbytery's Global National Missions/Disaster Relief Team, Charlotte First and South Mecklenburg and Huntersville Presbyterian Churches, as well as our other congregations who have connections with ministries in Haiti.

*Financial contributions are the primary need at this point in time. Make checks payable to "Presbytery of Charlotte" and indicate "Haiti Relief" on all checks submitted. Drop financial donations off at the Presbytery Office, or mail to: Haiti Relief Effort, Presbytery of Charlotte, 5700 Executive Center Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212.*

### **VOLUNTEER & GO TO HAITI**

\*There are special needs for *medical personnel* to travel to Haiti through ISOH, Medical Benevolence Foundation, and missions related to our churches. Please contact Debbie Wilkinson at 704-535-9999, ext. 213.

Intermediate Youth Group—Babysitting Day and Kabuto's Dinner in December



## Summary of actions of Regular Meeting of the MSPC Session – January 11, 2009

Thank-you letters were read from USO of NC (Joy Offering) and Heifer International (2009 contribution); M/S/P to elect Elder Rory Drake as Commissioner to Stated Presbytery Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church.

Report of the Treasurer (Pastor Steve for Donna Little)

2009 Profit/Loss report distributed. Actual Income \$168,616.24 – 3.3% less than budgeted; Actual Expenses \$166,616.59 – .7% less than budgeted; Net Operating Income of \$1,999.65. 2009 Capital Campaign payments – \$6,043.62. Current checkbook balance ~ \$7,300. Current Pershing Money Market balance \$43,232.37.

Administration and Stewardship (Tom Clifford)

Pastoral Relations Committee met in December. Finance committee proposed no change to 2010 General Funds Budget; will be presented to Congregation at Annual Meeting on 1/24.

Facilities (Tom Clifford)

Roof. We are now in position to completely pay for the re-roof project. Tom to see if we can negotiate any additional discount from Crown and then modify our contract with terms of project. The moderator will work up a report to present at the Annual Meeting to communicate our work and plans. Workday planned for 1/16 – outdoor and indoor projects planned

Christian Education (Heather Newgreen)

Teacher Appreciation 12/20 received lots of positive feedback so will continue to provide events once a quarter. Motion from MG to approve no communion to be served at early service on Youth Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>; carried unanimously.

Fellowship (Nancy Hamilton) No written report

Mission and Evangelism (John Owen)

\$481 received from Joy Offering. Adding Brownie parents to newsletter distribution list.

Congregational Care (Randy Jones)

No meals provided. Request made to look into instituting an annual remembrance on All Saints Day of members who have passed away during the year.

Worship (David Allen)

Christmas Eve services well attended; 85 at 7:00 and 30 at 10:00. New Advent wreath stand probably needed by next season. Need to get Pre-school Sunday on the calendar. Motion from MG to approve Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> to be recognized as Boy Scout Sunday; carried unanimously.

Music program update: Initial discussions with Marti supports need for sub-committee to address any needs for change in current structure with division of responsibilities for youth, children and continuing adult choir. Rory will solicit non-Session member to serve and along with David and Cindy will work with Marti over next two months to establish new structure and come back for Session approval.

Ministry Group Night: Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 p.m.

Next Session Meeting: Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

## Intermediate Youth



The New Year rang in busy for our middle school youth. We began music practice during Sunday School for the upcoming Youth Service (see elsewhere in newsletter for more info) and also met at the church the afternoon of January 10<sup>th</sup> to work on parts of the service.

Then of course the very-much-looked-forward-to Lock In at the church Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The kids stayed up way late, ate lots of food, watched movies and had loads of fun. Cathy and Cindy apologize for any grumpy and sleepy kids coming home that Saturday morning... but we took full advantage of afternoon naps that day too!



Autobell final update: the youth sold all 102 coupons!! Our total profits were \$710.94. From this, the kids gave \$71 back to Morningstar, set aside \$71 for future Urban Ministry aid and contributed \$416.94 to the Massanetta Springs fund. The balance was used to offset Lock In expenses (these kids can EAT!). Thank you again to all who helped with this fundraiser. Our final fundraiser will be a Silent Auction in the spring, look for more details in March and April.

### Calendar reminders:

Sunday, 2/7 - Youth meeting 3:00-5:00pm at the church

Saturday, 2/27 - Youth Service Practice 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the church

Sunday, 2/28 - YOUTH SUNDAY - children need to be at the church by 7:30 a.m.



## Preschool



**Preschool registration for the 2010—2011 school year is here!**

Preschool registration begins on Monday, February 15 for those children who are currently enrolled in the program. The registration will be open to the public on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

For more information, please contact Mary Beth Brewer at 704-847-0864.

## February Birthdays

2/1 Erin Little	2/6 Chris Melvin
2/2 Diane Bradley	2/8 Jane Molnar
2/2 Joyce Dennis	2/10 Louisa Palker
2/4 Matthew Davis	2/11 Jana Reeve
2/4 Kathy Jones	2/13 Corey Little
2/4 Sofie Mascellino	2/14 Bob Crook
2/4 Joyce Parker	2/15 Skyler Harrington
2/4 Sarah Wakefield	2/15 Tiffany Mascellino
2/4 Stephanie Williams	2/29 Jett Russell
	2//23 Hannah Berry
2/5 David Guthrie	2/25 Mary Jo Wickert
2/5 Melissa Mitchell	2/28 Ellie Campbell

## Volunteer Schedule

### GREETERS

Don and Roberta Kesler

### COMMUNION STEWARDS

Bob and Pat Crook

### COMMUNION SERVERS

David Allen, Brenda McIntosh, Barbara Guthrie, Nancy Hamilton, Deb Smith, Bill McIntosh, Linda Lloyd

### LAY LITURGIST

Katrina Palker

### EVANGELISM TEAM

Feb 7 Mary Highsmith

Feb 14 Nancy Hamilton

Feb 21 John Owen

Feb 28 Rex Woodall

### COUNTER SCHEDULE

Feb 7 Pattie Woodall and Rick Loomer

Feb 14 Robert Hamilton and Joan Owen

Feb 21 Wayne Russell and Lynne Clifford

Feb 28 Lynne Cole and Walt Davidson

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Feb 7 Joe Nestor and Clara Hoeffler

Feb 14 Joe Nestor and Clara Hoeffler

Feb 21 Ed Thompson and Jessica Parker

Feb 28 Ed Thompson and Jessica Parker

## Calendar Reminders

February 6 PW Meets

February 7 Boy Scout Sunday

February 7 Intermediate Youth Meet at the church

February 8 Session Meets

February 10 Newsletter Deadline

February 13 Madrigal Dinner

February 17 Ash Wednesday

February 20 Madrigal Dinner

February 22 Ministry Groups Meet

February 27 Intermediate Youth Practice

February 28 Intermediate Youth Service



**MorningStar's  
Medieval Feast  
of Courtly Love**

*medieval bites    men in tights    ladies delights*

**February 13 & 20, 2010**

**7:00pm**

Featuring:

**The Merry Minstrels of MorningStar  
Hannibal the Magician**

**Tickets \$25**

All proceeds will benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Haiti

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