



From the Pastor

Dear Friends,
Happy New Year!

In this article, instead of one thought, I have several.

Item# 1: I am more than embarrassed to be writing this “Thank You” but am unsure of another way to let you know how appreciative Mona and I are of the many kind and specials gifts you gave to us this Christmas. I pride myself on writing individual “Thank You’s,” but somehow the list of gifts was misplaced. We received so much, and well...I just can’t remember who gave us what. I guess I’m reaching that age. We do want you to know that we appreciate all the gifts! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Item # 2: Over the course of the last year we began asking for each church member to pay a Per Capita Tax. Unfortunately we never explained what that meant and it wasn’t until I overheard someone asking why we were paying the US Government taxes on church membership that I realized that more explanation was needed.

Let me first assure you that the Per Capita Taxes aren’t

government taxes upon the church. Actually, this tax has been in place for many years and most churches have taken it from their budget. In recent years, as more and more churches are struggling in the midst of financial difficulties, they have begun asking members to cover the cost of the per capita tax. While the tax is only \$13.00 per person this year, it really adds up when the church pays for the entire membership.

The monies for per capita are divided in unequal portions

between General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery and

used on these levels to maintain the important ministries that we do together. In recognizing this we have many things to be proud of in context of our global ministries, in the work of Synod as it provides ministry to college students and the presbytery as it serves churches and provides for the care of enquirers and candidates. You can now begin to see

the value of the per capita tax.

If you would like to cover your portion, simply put your donation in a pew envelope and include your name and “per capita” on it.

Item # 3: Some of you have noticed that the choir is sitting down after the closing response in worship. This came about because of the desire to allow the “Postlude” to be a formal part of the worship service. Frank has always prepared for this part but with all the

movement and noise it’s not always heard. The worship and music conference at Montreat always encourages people to

stay for the Postlude. The choir would like to invite you to sit and listen, as well, **if you have the time.** If not, we fully understand and invite you to go ahead to the fellowship hour.

Please know that Mona and I are praying for you and for our church — that 2010 might be a year of spiritual ministerial and numerical growth for FPC.

“...that 2010 might be a year of spiritual, ministerial and numerical growth...”

Inside this issue:

Kids Say the Funniest Things 2, Thank You, Flower Calendar, Presbyterian Women, The Nursery, Souper Bowl of Caring, Adult Handbells, Souper Supper, Fellowship Dinner	2
Notes from the Music Director, From the Director of Children and Youth, Lord, when was it we saw You?	3
Session Notes	4

Special points of interest:

- *LifeLine Health Screening will be held at the church on Thursday, February 11th from 9AM-5PM. Additional details are available on the Pond Street bulletin board.*
- *Prayer With Pastor will meet on Thursdays, February 4 and 18 at 11:00 AM.*
- *The Session will meet on Thursday, February 18 at 6:30 pm.*

Kids Say the Funniest Things 2

from <http://godslittleacre.net>

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE? Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE? The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK? Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10

Thank You

Thank you to Lynn Newsom and Jenny Bell for providing lunch for the Women of the Church after their regular January meeting. The taco soup, cornbread, and dessert were delicious. After the meal the Women of the Church members stayed to take down the Christmas decorations inside and outside of the church. The "many hands" made the task go quickly. Your service to the church is greatly appreciated.

The Worship Committee

The Goding family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and love during Ruth's recent surgery.

Flower Calendar

Many dates are available during 2010 to provide flowers for the sanctuary. First, sign up on the flower calendar near the stairs at the



Pond Street entrance. Second, order your flowers. Third, email Janet notifying her of your special announcement for the bulletin. And, lastly, following the service take the flowers for your enjoyment or deliver them to someone else who'll enjoy them the following week..

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's morning circle will meet in the home of Barbara Matheson on February 2nd at 10:30 AM. Brunch will be served. Mary Sue Thompson will co-host the meeting.

The Presbyterian Women's evening circle will meet on Thursday, February 11th at 7 PM.

The Nursery

Thank you to Lauren Kirkland who faithfully served as Nursery Attendant during 2009. After having only 2 children over the course of the entire year she has resigned from her position in an effort to save the church money. A sign up sheet is located near the Pond Street entrance for volunteers to stay in the nursery when needed. If no children have arrived by 11:05 AM you are invited to join the worship service.

Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 7, following morning worship the youth of the church will participate in collecting a youth-led nationwide offering, **Souper Bowl of Caring**. On this, Super Bowl Sunday, the congregation is asked to donate \$1 per person to help fill the soup bowls of the needy in our community. The money collected will go to our local soup kitchen. Thank you, in advance, for your donations.

Adult Handbells

Please take note! Our rehearsal schedule is different for the month of February.

On **February 10** there will be no handbell rehearsal due to the fellowship dinner.

On **February 17**, due to the 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service, we will rehearse from 6-6:45 PM.

On **February 24th** we will rehearse at our normal time.

Souper Supper

Souper Supper will be held on Sunday, February 7 at 6:00 PM. Please join us for an evening of fellowship. The soup will be provided, just bring a dish to share—salad, sandwiches, or a dessert. The meal will be followed by a Hymn Sing.

Fellowship Dinner

This month's Fellowship Dinner will be held on February 10 at 6:30 PM. (Please note: this is the 2nd Wednesday.) The Singing Saints under the direction of Ray Whiten, will join us for dinner and will present a program in the sanctuary following the meal. The meat will be provided for the dinner. You are asked to bring a double portion of salads, veggies and desserts so that everyone will be well fed including our guest singers, a group of approximately 15 members. Thank you.

Notes from the Music Director

Music—we all have our favorite pieces! Hopefully, that's also true of the hymns we sing in church. Do you have a favorite you'd like to sing? First, let me invite you to our Souper Suppers and hymn sings the first Sunday of each month. After some good food and fellowship, we all get to sing our favorite hymns in an informal setting. Second, I invite you to turn in the names of hymns you would like to have us sing on Sunday mornings. I will try to use these when they are appropriate to the theme of the service. You may put your requests in the offering plate or in the choir director mail box by the drinking fountain. If you include your name, I can check with you about tune choice or get other clarifications.

As has been noted in recent bulletins, we are planning to learn several new hymns

this year by singing each one for several weeks in a row. January's hymn was "I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art" which we sang for four Sundays and which we will sing on several future occasions, as well, so that it will become familiar to us. Our goal is to use already familiar hymns most of the rest of the time.

The text of "I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art" is attributed to John Calvin and the music is adapted from the Genevan Psalter. Both date from the mid-1500's. Singing songs that Christians before us have sung for over 450 years brings to me a sense of solidarity with them. Their expression of faith and commitment turn them into real people for me—people who loved, hurt, and struggled; who trusted, hoped, and prayed—just as we do today. Expressing my fears,

joys and faith using their words encourages me and gives me strength. I hope it does the same for you.

As a point of interest, you may find it meaningful to notice the dates of the composer (top right of the hymn) and the author of the text (top left of the hymn) when we sing in church. What do we know about the times in which the piece was written? The more knowledge we can bring to a piece of music, the richer our experience with it can be.

As always, your input is welcome. Feel free to contact any member of the music committee with your comments: Sharon Morden, Frank Johnston, Leah Snyder, Evan Hellenga. Thank you.

From the Director of Children's Ministries

God bless you!

P a s t o r

David

SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON

The congregation is invited to a Spaghetti Luncheon hosted by the Youth on Sunday, **February 14** following morning worship. While there is no charge for the



meal, donations are very much appreciated and will go into the children/youth fund.

SUNDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

During the month of February we will follow the regular schedule of: Beginner Handbells at 5 PM, light dinner at 6 PM, followed by children and youth activities.

MYSTERY TRIP

On **February 15** a special "Mystery Trip" has been scheduled for the kids who work the Spaghetti Luncheon. Details will be given to parents.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Please mark **February 21st** on your calendar and make plans to attend the 11 o'clock worship service to see what the kids of the church have been learning while attending Sunday Night Activities.

Lord, when was it that we saw you? Matthew 25:37

On January 12, a powerful earthquake hit near the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. An earthquake of this magnitude would be devastating to any city, but in one of the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere it's effects were catastrophic. Millions of people have been affected by this disaster and tens of thousands—possibly hundreds of thousands—are feared dead. With many of the established sources of safety and security de-

molished—churches, schools, hospitals, and government buildings—survivors are searching for signs of hope and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with ecumenical partners on the ground to provide food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Financial gifts are urgently needed to bring relief and continued hope for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. If you'd like

to give, please designate your gifts for Haiti—**DR000064**

In addition to your monetary gifts prayer is greatly needed. Join with others in lifting up the people of Haiti and those seeking to provide aid in this critical time.

This article was adapted from www.pcusa.org/pda.

From the Clerk of Session

Session met on Saturday, January 9 for a Planning Meeting, on Thursday, January 21 for the regular monthly meeting and on Sunday, January 24 for a called meeting. In all of these meetings the following things happened:

Session approved:

- Elders to contact Care List and encourage members to be active in the life of our church.
- Fellowship Supper assignments;
- Session meeting to be 3rd Thursday each month at 6:30 PM;
- Communion to be held 1st Sunday each month. Exception on Jan 10 & July 4;
- Quarterly Homebound Communion on 1/10, 4/4, 7/11, 10/3;
- Special Services of 2/17 Ash Wednesday, 4/1 Maundy Thursday, 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight;
- Clary & Wilkinson Center Worship every 4th Sunday with Communion held quarterly;
- Prayer with the Pastor will be each 1st & 3rd Thursday at 11:00 AM;
- Souper Suppers to be held 1st Sunday each month except June, July August;
- Jane Ann Quartel to develop a strong stewardship campaign for Fall;
- Annual review of insurance coverage and annual elevator inspection;
- Membership will be encouraged to reimburse their Per Capita Tax at \$13 per active member;
- Beth McDonald as Clerk for Session for 2010;
- Bill Newsom as Treasurer for 2010;
- 2009 Audit Committee of Donna Robb and Jeanette Bagnol ,Sarah Pannell to assist;
- Maryville College Mountain Challenge Group of bicyclists to spend the night in our facility on Sat., Mar. 13;
- Confirmation Class each Tuesday at 4:00 and attendance by group at a Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, 2/27 with Elders Evan Hellenga and Ray Cornell and culmination on Easter Sunday with affirmation and baptism;
- 2009 Statistical Report pending Clerk McDonald review before sent via email to Presbytery;
- Free Valentine's Day luncheon for congregation by Youth. Donations accepted;
- LifeLine Health Screening held Thurs., Feb. 11, 8 AM-5:30PM;
- Reaffirmation of Faith for membership by Cindy Smith;
- Membership encouraged to give monetary donations for Haiti relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.

Session Learned That:

- Elders were assigned to 2010 Ministries as follows:

Christian Education:	Francis Buchanan, Donna Good
Congregational Care:	Lynn Newsom
Mission and Evangelism:	Erik Bolstad, Evan Hellenga
Property:	Ken Robb, Wiley Winters
Stewardship:	Bob Buchanan, Keith Cheek, Jane Ann Quartel
Worship:	Ray Cornell, Hiram McDonald
- Mission and Evangelism are to review all special offerings and make a recommendation of which to continue;
- Gary Lance has concerns about our aging congregation and how we can solicit new members and activate members we have now;
- Six people will attend the Winter Leadership on Sat., 1/23, and,
- Congregational Care in charge of Wed., February 10 Fellowship Dinner.