

# THE Disciple

*'If you hold to my teaching,*

*you are really my disciples.'*



Volume XV, Number 8  
August 17, 2009

## Good Habits Matter

Fall marks the start of Sharon Presbyterian Church's annual stewardship campaign. This year's theme is *Generosity: A Habit of Heart*.

Stewardship includes more than just money. It is an act of sharing God's love. We begin with God's generosity toward us and then reflect on the impact we have on others. It is also when members celebrate their faith through pledging financial support for next year's operating budget. Unlike some churches, Sharon Church sets the budget based on the amount pledged so every commitment is crucial for continuing ministry.

Please take time this season to reflect on the people and ministries of our church. Pray for them and their continued success. Then on October 4, 2009, Commitment Sunday, return your pledge commitment card as we celebrate God's love together.

*Generosity*



**A HABIT  
OF HEART™**

## Rally Day is a good time to find a Sunday School Class

The beginning of a new school year is the perfect time for you and your family to find a Sunday School class or reconnect with your class. Please come to the Rally Day information fair to be held around the fountain before and after the worship service on August 23. Volunteers from the Ministry of Christian Education and the various children's and adult classes will be available to answer questions or help direct you to a class. Children's Summer Sunday School will continue on August 30 in the Children's Library and all Sunday School classes will begin meeting on September 13.

## Join your church family for Sharon On Wednesday

When you come to Sharon On Wednesday for dinner, who is one of the first persons you see? Usually it is Bill Johnson, who has collected the dinner money for several years. Dressed in wild and colorful pants – his favorite pair has chili peppers on it – Bill greets everyone with a smile and a joke or funny comment. Who can help but laugh as they are engulfed in the fellowship of the evening!

see **Sharon On Wednesday**, page 6



## We express our sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to John Thompson in the death of his mother, Billie Russell Thompson, on July 22, 2009.

## We remember in our prayers

Please remember in prayer *those home from the hospital*: John Sullivan; *those at home*: Don Presson ([www.caringbridge.com/visit/donpresson](http://www.caringbridge.com/visit/donpresson)); Sally Godehn, Susie Ellis's mother; all of our homebound members and their families; Frank and Nancy Dimmock, our missionaries in Africa; the people of the Presbytery of Huanta, Peru; those in our church and beyond who have lost jobs and are seeking new opportunities; *servicing in the military overseas*: Andrew Clark, nephew of Pat and Jim White; Josh DuMond, grandson of Kaye DuMond.

## Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

### Gifts in Memory

*Ann Boyle*, by Charlotte Woodcarvers Club

*George Ashley*, by Noble and Jane Dillard, John and Trish Thompson

*Pam McClure*, by Bruce and Delbra Davis, Kaye DuMond, David and Cynthia Blocksom, Phyllis and Bill Acton, John and Sheryl Beyersdorfer, Herbert and Mable Lockwood, Ray and AnnCannon, Noble and Jane Dillard, Parker Hannifin Corp., John and Trish Thompson, Barbara and Russ Ferguson, Hines Family Trust, Bill and Jackie Moorefield, William and Raye Womack, Candy and Katie Lee, Jim and Robin Harrill, William and Vickie Lyons

## A prayer for our children as they begin a new school year...

Loving God, bless our children and their teachers as they begin a new school year. Grant them strength and courage for the challenges of this new journey. Encourage them as they meet new people and get used to a new place. Walk beside them to keep them free from anxiety and fear, and guide them to learn, teach, and grow in Your name today and always. Amen.



## We welcome the newborn

Welcome to Audrey Caroline James, daughter of Melissa and Derek James and granddaughter of Dennis and Susan Grills, who was born on July 21, 2009.

## Telling Sharon's Story

Are you interested in serving as a "reporter" to help tell the story of Sharon Church? If you enjoy writing and are interested in preparing articles about the happenings at Sharon Presbyterian, please contact JaneCrutchfield, 704-553-0869, [jane@sharonpcusa.org](mailto:jane@sharonpcusa.org).

## Thank you

Dear Church Friends,  
Thank you so much for all the care, concern, and love you have shown us since George's death. We have been overwhelmed with all your cards, calls, visits, food, memorials, and hugs. These have been very difficult days for us but your love and sympathy have really helped. George loved the church and all the members  
Love,  
The Ashley family



Thank you for all the food, calls, cards, letters, and gifts during my hospitalization and recovery. A special thanks goes also to the preachers for their visits and attentiveness. I am home now and regaining more of my strength each day.  
Eunice Sanford



We would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to Sharon Presbyterian Church for everything you've done for us over the past month. We really appreciated the delicious and comforting food you delivered to the house after Pam passed away. Also, the effort of everyone involved in the memorial service was amazing. The staff and volunteers did a great job and the choir sang a beautiful anthem. Finally, the reception after the service was so special, with Congregational Nurturing Ministry doing a fabulous job. This past month has been very tough for us, but our church home has made it so much more bearable.  
Meghan and Bill McClure



**Worship Schedule**  
**10:00 Worship\***  
**9:00 Sunday School**

**August 23**  
**Dr. Cromie preaching**  
**“What To Ask For Next: King Solomon and His Prayer”**  
**I Kings 3:5-14**

**August 30**  
**Stewardship Kick-off Sunday**  
**Dr. Cromie preaching**  
**“Malachi, and the Generosity of God!”**  
**Malachi 3:10**

*\*Please remember that we return to two services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 13*

**Attendance Statistics**

**July 26, 2009**

10:00 a.m. Worship           234  
Church School               66

**August 2**

10:00 a.m. Worship           318  
Church School               100

**August 9**

10:00 a.m. Worship           293  
Church School               94

**August 16**

10:00 a.m. Worship           212  
Church School               93

**Celebrating a birthday!**

Presbyterian Women Circle 4 will meet Tuesday, September 1, at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor; lunch will follow, celebrating Nell Petersen’s 100th birthday.

**Update from the PNC**

Our Pastor Nominating Committee has been working very hard traveling to hear sermons and interviewing candidates for our Pastor position. We look forward to presenting to the congregation a new pastor in the near future. Please keep our committee in your prayers.

**SPY ready to roll out a new year**

Attention all SPY Youth and parents: Another exciting year of Sharon Presbyterian Youth (SPY) is about to begin! You are invited to attend a cookout and informational meeting on Sunday, August 30, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Charles Little Activity Building. Come find out about the ski trip, mission trip, and more fun things that are planned for the upcoming year.

We hope to see you there.



**Attention Middle School SPY**

If you want to re-connect with old friends, have some fun and fellowship, and get the school year off to a great start, plan on attending the Middle School SPY retreat at Bethelwoods September 18-20. The pool will be open (night swim, anyone?) in addition to all the other great activities Bethelwoods has to offer. More information about the retreat will be available at the SPY kick-off on August 30. See you there!

**The F.A.I.T.H. Program welcomes friends on Thursdays**

F.A.I.T.H. (“Fellowship, Activities, Inspiration Through Him”) will pick up again on Thursday, September 10. They meet in the Charles Little Activity Building every Thursday from September through May. The day begins at 10:00 a.m. with activities such as prayer group, service projects, crafts, etc. A light lunch is served at 12:00 and at 1:00, and a brief worship service is at 12:30. Bridge is available at 1:00 following F.A.I.T.H. and all these activities are open to everyone.

In addition, the ladies of FAITH have a tradition of making items for others, such as quilts, lap robes, Chrismons for the church tree, knitted caps and sweaters for babies, large hats for the homeless, and rolled bandages for overseas mission hospitals, sending cards to shut-ins, preparing lunch for the CROP walkers in October and during the Community Lenten Services. They have donated the ‘profits’ from the lunches for many worthwhile causes – Crisis Assistance Ministry, Sharon Church mission trips, Barium Springs Home for Children, Empty Stocking Fund, Pastor’s Contingency Fund, Hospice. Everyone is invited to become a part of this group.

**Sharon Church Financial Update**

July MTD Gifts	\$ 59,361.38
July MTD Needs	56,390.46
July MTD NET	\$ 3,070.92
2009 YTD Gifts	\$ 460,629.24
2009 YTD Needs	413,955.64
2009 YTD NET	\$ 46,955.64



## Session Notes

Actions taken at the August 9, 2009, Stated Session Meeting include the following:

- As of August 5, gifts received year-to-date are \$468,000 and expenses are \$419,000
- Approved use of classroom by the National Alliance on Mental Illness; Presbytery of Charlotte Community Disaster Response Team to park emergency response trailer on SPC property; use of Chapel by City of Charlotte for public meeting
- Tabled for a year discussion of fundraising campaign for new Christian Education building
- Approved starting a Service Guild through Worship and Music to provide ushering, communion preparation, and lockup needs of the church
- Approved Worship and Music's request for a recital to be given in the sanctuary by the Ballantyne Brass
- Approved next SPY mission trip for July 11-17, 2010, to Ontario, Canada, and an additional fundraiser
- Agreed to hire Sharon Vanpelt as Interim Christian Education Director to begin in September
- Approved PNC's recommendation that Church Administration Ministry with input from new head of staff perform staffing evaluation for all positions

## Prayer shawl and PAT ministries create very special handcrafted items

The **prayer shawl ministry** will be meeting on Wednesdays as part of the Sharon On Wednesdays programs. If you are interested in knitting, crocheting, or quilting prayer shawls, please come join us. We have materials and patient people to help you learn if you have a willing spirit. Some of the beautiful shawls were taken to the people of Huanta, Peru, by participants on this summer's mission trip.



*Prayer shawls knitted by Sharon members were presented to our friends in Huanta, Peru*

The **PAT ministry** will also be meeting on Wednesdays as part of the SOW programs. We need people who can cut out fabric, sew the gowns and blankets, sew on buttons, or add ribbons to bonnets and gowns. We will be having a special speaker to share her personal story about

receiving one of these treasures during her time of loss of her newborn child.

For more information on either of these ministries, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869 or [office@sharonpcusa.org](mailto:office@sharonpcusa.org).

## Spend a weekend reaching out and helping others

Join us on our next Annual Western North Carolina Mission Trip. We will leave Thursday afternoon, September 10, and return early Sunday afternoon, September 13. While there we will be working with the "Step by Step Ministries" in Clyde, NC, assisting low income, elderly, and disabled people with home repairs. In the past we have painted, built two decks, installed insulation, prepared sheetrock for priming, etc. Any level of skill is helpful! An organizational meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 6 of the Charles Little Activity Building. For more information or to sign up,

call the church office, 704-553-0869. So far 13 people have signed up to go – we hope you will also.

*The Mission of Sharon Presbyterian Church is to celebrate God's love and His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and to proclaim these truths to each other and the world through the worship of God, the teaching and nurture of our congregation, and the outreach of our church to the community and to the world.*



## Sharon Church looking forward to visit from our missionary

Frank Dimmock, our missionary to Lesotho and the PCUSA's Africa Health Liaison, will speak at our Adult and Youth Sunday School class time on Sunday, August 30. During worship he will present a "Minute For Mission," telling us of our denomination's latest health programs through Africa and of Nancy's mission work in Lesotho.



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## Men - come and enjoy a Sunday morning breakfast

The first fall meeting of the Men of the Church will be on Sunday, September 13, 2009. We have a great line up of speakers coming this fall, including Mr. Thomas J. Burgess on September 13. Mr. Burgess retired after 39 years with Boy Scouts of America, and he is a WWII Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, serving with the 87th Infantry Division. Come hungry and join us for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in Room 6 of the Charles Little Activity Building. For reservations or information, contact the church office, 704-553-0869.



## Save those toys!

The Fall Festival will be October 3. Please begin saving "happy meal" type small toys to donate for the prizes for the carnival games and BINGO prizes. There is a box for the toys in the hallway near the church office.



**It's Center City for the  
Peppergrinders this time**

Peppergrinders dinner group kicks off Friday, August 28, at Howl at the Moon at the Epicenter downtown with FREE admission from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. There will be free pizza from 5-7 p.m. All Sharon Church members are invited to participate with the Peppergrinders; for more information or to RSVP, contact the church office, 704-553-0869, office@sharonpcusa.org.

**Sharon On Wednesday**, *continued from page 1*

Sharon On Wednesday will begin again on September 9 with dinner only, which is available from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Charles Little Activity Building. Classes for all ages begin the following Wednesday, September 16, following dinner. Children's Choirs will start on September 16 also.

Make plans to join your church family for a time of food, faith, and fellowship on Wednesday evenings this fall. Be watching for class schedules and reservation information for the dinner.

And when you come, be ready to trade jokes with Bill Johnson!

**2009 Women's retreat focusing on getting first things first**

Join us for a fun filled weekend of friends, fellowship and faith at the annual Sharon Presbyterian Church Women's Retreat, October 23-25, 2009, at the William Black Lodge, Montreat Conference Center. We are very pleased to have **Lane Ducker**, of Salisbury First Presbyterian Church, leading us. Our focus will be **"Getting First Things First—and Keeping them There!!** One of the hardest things about life today is the busy-ness in

which we all are caught. At this year's retreat we will focus on helping women simplify their daily lives as they learn how to put what is truly important first in their lives. Participants will explore habits and healthy balance that will help them to keep God first in their lives.

We hope to see you there. Registration forms are available in the church office and the narthex or they can be downloaded from our

website, [www.sharonpcusa.org](http://www.sharonpcusa.org); please return your form with payment to the church office.

Please contact the church office for more information, 704-553-0869, office@sharonpcusa.org.

*Participants at last year's retreat enjoyed a wonderful weekend!*





**Free family education class on mental illness starts Thursday, September 3**

The Charlotte Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) is sponsoring a free Mental Illness Family Education Class which is open to the families of persons with mental disorders. The class will meet once a week at Sharon Presbyterian Church at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings and will begin September 3, 2009. For more information on NAMI, please see their website: [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org). To register for the class or to learn more, please call Betty Cobb at 704-583-0845.

**Interested in helping?**

Let's do it...let's plan a Sharon Church Fellowship Retreat. Interested in helping? Got ideas or suggestions? Please contact Gregory Lynn Clodfelter, 704-553-0869.

**Inspiring installation service held by Presbyterian Women**

The Sharon Presbyterian Women held their annual meeting August 17, with an inspiring installation service for incoming officers which was led by Dee Smart using a theme from Joshua, our new Bible study for this year. Just as Joshua gave each of the twelve tribes a rock to carry into the promised land, each PW officer was given a rock inscribed with a desired virtue (strength, honesty, fidelity) and the year, to remind us of our calling and our connection God's covenant people

Sharon Presbyterian Women now have two new Honorary Life Members, which were awarded at the PW annual meeting on August 17. Since you hardly see one without the other, and they so often work together in service in many areas of our church, the Sharon PW has bestowed honorary Life Memberships on Caroline and Roddey Brown. Congratulations to Caroline and Roddey for a well-deserved recognition!

**Dinner group enjoys meeting in each other's homes**

Anyone interested in continuing or joining the Sharon Couples Supper Swap should contact Gina Crocker at 704-553-0869. The supper swap has been a huge success over the summer with four couples per group sharing hosting and cooking duties in fellowship. Please consider joining for the fall shuffle that begins early September.

**Special care provided by Samaritan House**

Samaritan House is a recuperative care facility for people who are homeless and in need of short-term care following a hospital or emergency room stay. It is supported in part by Sharon Church and receives no government funding. In addition, guests obtain services they need to get off the streets and out of the shelters. Since it opened its doors in 2005, it has served over 450 homeless men and women in our community. Through your gifts to the Sharon Church budget, you have helped make this possible. Thank you.



**He's baaaaack...!**

After a wonderful two-month sabbatical, Ron Nelson returned to the church office on Monday, August 18, refreshed and ready to go. During his time away, he attended a conference at Montreat on the Jubilee Celebration of John Calvin's 500th Birthday, did some reading and writing, and spent a lot of time with his family. They were able to get away to the Outer Banks, Hershey, PA, and Stone Mountain, GA. Back at his desk, Ron is still going through a mountain of emails and catching up with what's happening at Sharon Church. Welcome back, Ron!

# Calling all Choristers

## Children's choir begins September 16

All children from 1st - 5th grades are invited to come and be a part of our wonderful children's choir program. There's a space every child. They won't want to miss this exciting year in making music!

**1st - 2nd Grade Choir** – Alleluia Choir - meets at 6:00 p.m. during Sharon On Wednesday.

**3rd - 5th Grade Choir** – Jubilate Choir – meets at 6:45 p.m. during Sharon On Wednesday.

Both choirs meet in the Choir Room of the Worship Building, and are directed by Mrs. Linda Mayo, Associate Director for Children's Music

For more information, please contact Linda Mayo, 704-553-0869, or [lmayo@ballantynesort.com](mailto:lmayo@ballantynesort.com).



## THE Disciple

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**Web-Site:** [www.SharonPCUSA.org](http://www.SharonPCUSA.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Dr. Richard M. Cromie, Interim Pastor**

**Rev. Ron Nelson, Associate Pastor**

**Rev. Brant Piper, Temporary Part-Time Associate**

**Dr. Dee Osbourne-Smart, Seminary Intern**

**David Mayo, Director of Music**

**Linda Mayo, Assoc. Dir. for Children's Music**

**Sandy Breaux, Organist**

**Jane Crutchfield, Admin. Assist.**

**Scottie Trapp, Fin. Secretary**

**Bill VanDeBogart, Church Sexton**

**Carolyn Adams-Teal, Anna Finichenko, and Nataliya Timoshchenko,  
Nursery Caregivers**



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*Missionaries supported in part by Sharon Presbyterian*

**Weekday School: Beth Merchant, Director, 704-554-0882**