

THE Disciple

'If you hold to my teaching, you

are really my disciples.' John 8:31



Volume XV, Number 8
September 21, 2009

Consider how God is working in your life

by Rich Barefoot, Moderator of Ministry of Stewardship

Can you just imagine how God would move in our church and our community if every one of us made an increase in our stewardship giving? The impact on our ministry would be phenomenal.

Generosity



A HABIT OF HEART™

**Commitment Sunday
October 4, 2009**

We are challenged to grow in our faith through prayer, our attendance, our giving and our service. As a part of this church family, I am also responsible and called to support God through my

giving. God continues to bless me in so many ways. Like many of you, I have been richly blessed in my life. I have a wonderful family, a nice livelihood and am able to support my church. Sharon Presbyterian has truly had a positive impact on my entire family and I know we are not alone. We love this church and feel so blessed to be a part of its mission and ministry. Consider how God is working through Sharon Presbyterian and in your own life.

God is working in your life, continued on page 3

Congregational Meetings called

- The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, September 27**, at the close of the 11:00 worship service for the purpose of electing Elders for the class of 2012.
- The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, October 4**, at 10:45 a.m. for the purpose of acting on a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee.



Thank you, Dr. Cromie

On September 20, 2009, we said good-bye to Dr. Cromie, who has served as Interim Pastor since January of 2008. On behalf of the Session, the members, and the staff of Sharon Presbyterian Church, we thank Dr. Cromie for his devoted service to God, his commitment to Sharon Presbyterian, and his very important work during this interim period.



We express our sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to Joseph Gill in the death of his brothers, David Howard Gill, on June 3, 2009, and William R. Gill, on August 18, 2009; to Mike Terry in the death of his father, James Mason Terry, Sr.; to Henry Cooper in the death of his mother, Virginia Maddox Cooper, on August 30, 2009.

Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

Gifts in Memory

Bea Stroupe, by William and Isabelle Stanford, Thelma Porter, J.C. and Carolyn Davidson, Eleanor and Charles Lockwood, Jean and Nelson Whipple, Lula Ashley, Fred and Glenna Eargle, Herbert and Mable Lockwood

Pam McClure, by William and Isabelle Stanford, Peggy Crowder

Gifts in Honor

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Cromie, by Courtney Cromie

Dr. Richard Cromie, by Jane Crutchfield

Update on Bob and Pat Richardson

Former Sharon Church pastor Bob Richardson and his wife Pat have moved recently due to some health issues. Their new address is
 Bob and Pat Richardson
 The Cumberland at Green Hills
 15 Burton Hills Blvd #404
 Nashville, TN 37215

Church Retreat planned

Church Family Ministry is making plans for the Church Fellowship Retreat in January at Bethelwoods. Families of all sizes and ages are invited to attend for a wonderful weekend of fun and fellowship. More details will be available soon.

We remember in our prayers

Please remember *those in the hospitals*: Mary Davis, Mecklenburg Health Care; Larry Auten's twin brother Laurie Auten, Hendersonville, NC; *those discharged from the hospitals*: Linda Bruning; those at home: Don Presson (www.caringbridge.com/visit/donpresson); 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; *serving in the military overseas*: Andrew Clark, nephew of Pat and Jim White; Josh DuMond, grandson of Kaye DuMond; Bert Puckett, nephew of Trish and Pete Bleyнат.



We welcome the new baby

Welcome to Stella James Queen, daughter of Nathan and Mary Queen, who was born on August 30, 2009.

We congratulate the newlyweds

Congratulations to Beth Cronon and A.J. Jarnecke who were married in the Sanctuary on September 5, 2009, by Rev. Michael Koch.

Happy 100th Birthday!



Nell Petersen was honored by Circle 4 for her 100th birthday. Congratulations, Nell!

Attendance Statistics

August 23, 2009

10:00 a.m. Worship	338
Church School	113

August 30

10:00 a.m. Worship	373
Church School	87

September 6

10:00 a.m. Worship	253
Church School	74

September 13

9:00 a.m. Worship	130
11:00 a.m. Worship	186
Church School	240

September 20

9:00 a.m. Worship	138
11:00 a.m. Worship	167
Church School	231



God is working in your life, *continued from page 1*

The stewardship campaign is very important in the life of our church. Through it, our church receives pledges of financial support for Sharon Presbyterian's ministry and programs in the coming year. The

pledges we make today determine the level of programs to be funded in next year's operating budget.

On Commitment Sunday, October 4th, we will receive pledge cards

following the regular offering time at both services. I ask that you join me in making a "habit" of supporting the ministries of Sharon Presbyterian by making a very personal offering to God.

Welcome to Sharon, Sharon!



We are pleased to welcome our new Director of Christian Education, Sharon Vanpelt. Sharon has over 19 years of experience in Christian Education and church music. She is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College with a degree in Religious Studies/ Parish Educator. She also has a Master of Christian Education degree from Pfeiffer University and is a Certified Christian Educator in PCUSA. Sharon will be coordinating

all of the Christian Education ministries of the church, including children's and adult programming. She will help with planning, curriculum selection, volunteer development, and communication. She will work approximately twenty hours per week. Initially she will be in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Wednesday afternoons. We are excited to welcome Sharon to our church family. As she becomes acquainted with our congregation, we hope that you will take an opportunity to introduce yourself to her and get to know her.

Library Committee seeking volunteers

by Mary Ellen Kennedy

We need help on the Library Committee the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We are a congenial group who would like you to join us. We need to cull out books that need to be replaced and bring the library up to date. If you are interested, please call the church office.



Operation Christmas Child

Community Witness Ministry will begin handing out shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child beginning October 18 and continuing until the boxes run out or the collection day on November 15. Sharon Church has the opportunity to work at the distribution center on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27. We have 20 openings and last year we had a full house of volunteers representing Sharon. For questions or to sign up to volunteer, please contact the church office.

'Getting First Things First and Keeping Them There' is the topic for our Women's Fall Retreat

It's not too late to register for the annual Sharon Presbyterian Church Women's Retreat, October 23-25, 2009, at William Black Lodge in Montreat. Lane Ducker of Salisbury First Presbyterian Church will lead our group with the focus on "Getting First Things First – and Keeping Them There" Forms are available in

the church office and should be returned with payment by October 11 to the church. For more information, contact the church office.



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Enjoy potato chips?

Empty Pringles cans are needed for Rotation Sunday School. Please place them in the designated box in the church office. For more information, contact the church office.



Shepherds tend the Sharon Church flock

by Susan Cline

If you see something attached to the name tags of some of our members, chances are it is a shepherd's crook. These "shepherds" are visitors to the homebound and special friends and to those who need an extra hug. The original name "visitors" was confused with people visiting our church or other groups in the church that are designated as visitors. We thought "shepherd" was a fitting name for this ministry.

This concept has its roots in the biblical passage John 21:16 *Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."* It is because of Christ's teaching and our love for him that we reach out to others to share Christian love. If you know of someone who could use a little TLC, tell one of the Shepherds. We depend on you to let us know.



Session Notes

Actions taken at the September 13, 2009, Stated Session Meeting include the following:

- Welcomed Sharon Vanpelt as Director of Christian Education
- Received new members, Sage and Dan McArthur and children Hatley and Lawson, transferring from Matthews United Methodist Church; Trey Baker by Reaffirmation of Faith and Trish Baker by transfer from 1st Presbyterian of Virginia Beach, VA
- Approved baptisms of McKenzie Akbari and Andrew and Killian Dries
- Approved the hiring of Karen Hayes as part-time Secretary/ Receptionist on a trial basis
- Approved youth advisors: Robin Shealy, Lisa Mason, Doug and Terry Dawson, Skip Schramm, Tim Brown, Todd Pickens, Josh Auten, Megan Talley, Randy Butler, and Katie Lee
- Called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 27, 2009, following the 11:00 service to act on the recommendations from the Elder Nominating Committee
- Called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, October 4, 2009, at 10:45 a.m. to act on the recommendation from the Pastor Nominating Committee
- With both sadness and great anticipation, accepted the resignation of Interim Pastor, Dr. Richard M. Cromie, effective September 30

Boys' Basketball starting up

Sharon Presbyterian will again have a boys' basketball team in the B-division, ages 9-10 as of October 15. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact the church office.

Step by Step Ministries of Clyde, NC, provides much needed home repair assistance

by Phyllis Acton



Mabel with Sharon Church members who rebuilt her porch and steps

Fourteen Sharon Presbyterian Church members and friends worked on several different work sites the weekend of September 10, 2009. One group put a new roof on a one story house and repaired some of the internal damage caused by water leaks. Another group cut and installed underpinning around the base of a trailer. Another one removed a bathtub and installed a new shower, toilet, and flooring of a bathroom which was in disrepair.

The fourth group built steps and a deck for a lady named Mabel who has cancer and whose kind and giving manner inspired them all. She told the crew many stories about how she and her deceased husband raised fourteen children, eight of whom were adopted. She said one year she put seven of her children on the school bus early every morning!

The Step by Step Ministries provides assistance to low income, elderly and disabled people. What a joy it is to work with and get to know them!



Volunteering at Loaves and Fishes is an eye-opener for the Shrums, by Terry Dawson

Lee and Ray Shrum have been volunteering for the Loaves and Fishes project for about two years. Well, Lee said, that is until about June when Ray hurt his back. Ray is getting better now, and eager to get back to work at Loaves and Fishes.

Meanwhile Lee Shrum continues to volunteer twice a week filling orders. She fills grocery bags and gives them to the folks who need a serious break in luck. People who come to Loaves and Fishes are all referred through social workers, Mecklenburg Ministries, or Crisis Assistance. Lee said the people she sees are not the same as the homeless shelters – there are teachers, executives, and plenty of families. Lee said it was just heartbreaking to see them all. Everyone Loaves and Fishes helps are appreciative and they promise they will come back and help – and many of them do, Lee said.

Loaves and Fishes started in 1975 at the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church which now counts many of the churches here in Charlotte as a source for groceries for the Mecklenburg County needy. A large central warehouse holds the groceries until they are needed in the 16 distribution centers. Volunteers unload trucks, stock shelves, then stock grocery bags.

Lee said she had a family just come in and as she was loading peanut butter she wished she had at least some jelly so the kids could have PB&J sandwiches. Lee said it seemed like there was always something missing – spaghetti noodles but no sauce, peanut butter but no jelly. People never think of feminine products, toothpaste, toothbrushes Lee said. Sadly, she sees a larger demand for diapers now than she had seen in the past.

Sharon Presbyterian Church collects food for Loaves and Fishes every second Sunday of every month of every year. Ann and Ray Cannon take our donations to Loaves and Fishes where it does a lot of good. Lee asks that you please help out and remember to always bring something for this great Ministry – in September Sharon Church contributed almost 500 pounds of food.

Items particularly needed are dried beans, jelly, pancake mix, and syrup.



Lee Shrum at the Park Road Loaves and Fishes pantry

The Good Book review,

by Ron Nelson

Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith, by Diana Butler Bass. I had the opportunity to hear the author speak at an event in Montreat last summer. The book focuses on some mainline churches that are thriving. So often we hear about the decline of mainline churches, but we hear very little about those that have undergone transformation and are faithful and powerful witnesses to the gospel message. The book explores the characteristics these thriving mainline churches share, offering insight and challenges with each new chapter.

Grave Matters: A Journey Through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial by Mark Harris. This book addresses in detail the processes and options for burial, including the traditional embalming, cremation, burial at sea, home funerals, the emergence of natural cemeteries, and more. One caution: This book is not for the squeamish, but in the end, it is a helpful book to get us all thinking about and planning for how we wish to be buried when this earthly life God had blessed us with is over.

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.



Annual walk helps fight hunger

The CROP Walk to fight hunger is Sunday, October 4, at 2:30 p.m. One hundred percent of the money raised goes to work relieving hunger in Charlotte and around the world. The 2008 Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk raised \$230,000. To sign up to walk or to sponsor a walker, contact the church office; for more information, go to www.churchworldservice.org.



Welcome to our newest members!



Sage and Dan McArthur



Trish and Trey Baker

Greetings to Sharon Presbyterian Church from the Huanta (Peru) Presbytery

May the grace and peace of God our Father and of our Lord Jesus Christ abound in the personal life of every member, each family and all the ministries of Sharon Presbyterian Church. Brothers and sisters, through this letter we express our infinite thanks for the love and the presence of Jesus Christ in the delegation from your church. May they return to visit the Huanta Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Peru again.

We send many thanks for all of your gifts and for your accompaniment in our ministries. This year, you helped us with one hundred (100) church pews which have been distributed to the

churches according to their needs and eighteen (18) reference Bibles, likewise distributed to the churches. The Bibles will be kept in the church pulpits for the use of the pastors. There were also ten (10) sleeping bags for fraternal church workers, seventeen (17) prayer shawls, numerous items of clothing and shoes that will be distributed to children and adults according to their needs and a computer for the Biblical Institute of Huanta. This year there were thirty-two (32) students enrolled in the winter session of the Biblical Institute.

Thanks to God, we have been able to start eight (8) new small Presbyterian church groups this year, five (5) in the mountain region and

three (3) in the costal region of Peru. Thanks are due in part to Radio Amauta (Radio of the Master) which keeps company with the churches over the radio airwaves. For our part, we commit ourselves to keep working towards our mutual goals.

We give thanks for the sovereign will of God and we reiterate our gratitude and we ask blessings from on high for your ministries.

Yours fraternally,

Pastor Samuel Montes Sinforoso
Pastor Gaspar Huicho Ccente
President–Presbytery of Huanta
Director of Education–Presbytery of Huanta

Fall Festival

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2009
3:00 - 6:30 P.M.
CHURCH CAMPUS**



**JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, &
FELLOWSHIP!**

Petting zoo, pony rides, pie throwing booth, popcorn, cotton candy, cakewalk, face painting, games, magician, clown, spacewalk, kids' crafts, and more!

BBQ plates \$7.00
Hot dog plates \$4.00
Food served from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Seasonal flu shots \$30.00
Pneumonia shots \$45.00
(free with Medicare Part B)



THE Disciple

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



Rev. Ron Nelson, *Associate Pastor*
Sharon Vanpelt, *Director of Christian Education*
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,
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Missionaries supported in part by Sharon Presbyterian

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