

THE Disciple

'If you hold to my teaching, you

are really my disciples.' John 8:31

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Funding sought for Chapel renovation project

by Andrew Kromer

On November 1, 2009, there will be a congregational meeting to consider a motion from the Chapel Campaign Committee. This motion, unanimously approved by Session, authorizes Sharon to set up a \$300,000 line of credit (LOC) with our current bank.

The Chapel continues to deteriorate and the Committee concluded that our fundraising milestone was reached, so several months ago it began exploring Sharon's financing options. It believes this LOC is the best option for Sharon. Funds from the LOC, along with \$60,000 in hand from pledges (out of \$170,000 total pledges made

Chapel renovation, continued on page 3

**Spaghetti Lunch sponsored by
Sr. High SPY
Sunday, October 25, following 11:00 service**



Our youth will give a presentation from the summer mission trip to New Jersey, sharing photos and stories of their experience. Reservations are not necessary and everyone is invited.

Settling in, by Dr. Rob Blumer



Welcome, Dr. Blumer!

My wife, Pat, and I have been overwhelmed with the support of Sharon Church during our time of settling in to this new place we now call "home." Thank you.

As I write, just two weeks have passed since we began our ministry, seeking the future God will begin to reveal. None of us knows with certainty what tomorrow holds, save this: our future together, though rooted in Sharon Presbyterian's past (and mine), by God's grace will be different than our dreams, and with God's help, our ministry in this community will exceed our noblest efforts.

God's plan is always greater than our own and never quite what we expect. I am thankful for our future and for what God will reveal as God's plan for our ministry.



We express our sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to our Secretary/Receptionist Karen Haynes in the death of her sister-in-law, Margie Haynes, on October 18, 2009.

We remember in our prayers

Please remember *those in the hospitals*: Mary Davis, Mecklenburg Health Care; *those at home*: Ray Polhill, Kemp Wall, Edna Trull, Bill Chiles, Helen Taylor, Don Presson (www.caringbridge/visit/donpresson); all of our homebound members and their families; Joan Blalock, mother of Jenna Brown; 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; Bert Puckett, nephew of Trish and Pete Bleynat; Mike Kamin, brother-in-law of Mike Young.

Have you picked up your OCC shoebox yet?

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are still available through the church office or in the narthex on Sunday mornings. Boxes are due back at the church on November 15. There is room for volunteers to work at the distribution center for

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child the Friday after Thanksgiving. For more information, contact Roz Walker, 704-540-7797.



Congregational Meeting called for November 1

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting followed by a meeting of Sharon Presbyterian Church, Inc., for Sunday, November 1, 2009, in the Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m. for the purposes of acting on a motion to secure a Line of Credit to allow work to proceed on the Chapel Renovation Project (see related article on page 1); electing two additional elders for the Class of 2012; electing officers of the Corporation for 2010.



We welcome the newborn

Welcome to Erik Michael Christensen, son of Tara and Mike Christensen, who was born on October 5, 2009; to Ashleigh Rae Murray, daughter of Ryan and Madeleine Murray and granddaughter of Charles and Beth Murray, who was born on October 12, 2009.

Attention Devoted Dads!

Are you wondering what to do with your kids next Sunday while Mom goes on the women's retreat? We want to recognize your Herculean efforts in caring for your children, so come on to church with your kids and we'll treat them to dessert after your Sunday lunch!

Book notes from the church library

Thank you to the generous people who donated the children's books to the library, including *Winnie the Pooh* and *Clifford* stories. Also, please look through your children's books for materials that need to be returned to the children's library.

Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

Gifts in Memory

Bea Stroupe, by Roddey and Caroline Brown

Gifts in Honor

Bob and Rochelle Utsman, by John and Ryan Tutwiler
Eloise Rushforth, by her family
Dr. Richard Cromie, by Carol Howie
Peggy Crowder, by P.D. and Iris Ostwalt



We welcome a new employee

Welcome to Karen Haynes, our secretary/receptionist. She will be in the office Monday-Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Karen has worked at several churches in the area and also teaches at UNCC. We're delighted to have her!



Chapel renovation project, *continued from page 1*

to date), will allow us to begin immediately to renovate the Chapel according to the plan approved by the congregation in March.

Through coordination with the Ministries of Stewardship and Facilities, the initial phases of the renovation will be paid using various reserve funds the church has set aside for major repairs. If the project stays on budget, it is anticipated that we actually will borrow between one hundred and two hundred thousand dollars on the LOC.

The LOC is at prime rate, with a floor of 4.75% and a cap of 8.0%. It is renewed annually as long as we provide our financial statements.

This is not a mortgage (our property is not collateral) and none of our investment accounts are security. The bank will require a minimum balance in our checking account, which we typically keep anyway.

The Chapel Campaign Committee is thrilled to be finally able to offer this motion. Many members worked hard to get us to this point, and it is exciting that we are in a position to get this done. Please consider supporting the motion. It is time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Moffat or Andrew Kromer of Sharon's Vision.

Congratulations!



Audrey and Allie

At the recent South Mecklenburg High School Homecoming, Allie B was on the Homecoming Court for the junior class, and Audrey Y was named the Homecoming Queen. Congratulations, ladies!



Our next Quarterly Blood Drive is Sunday, November 1, 2009, in the Charles Little Activity Building from 8:30 – 2:00 p.m. Donors are needed as well as volunteers to help in the canteen. Please contact the church office, 704-553-0869, to sign up or for more information.

Attendance Statistics

September 27, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship	83
11:00 a.m. Worship	184
Church School	197

October 4

9:00 a.m. Worship	98
11:00 a.m. Worship	289
Church School	220

October 11

9:00 a.m. Worship	198
11:00 a.m. Worship	250
Church School	197

October 18

9:00 a.m. Worship	97
11:00 a.m. Worship	178
Church School	186



Is there a college student in your family?

If you have a college student, the Sharon Presbyterian Women would like to have their college address so our Circles can remember them on their birthdays, at holidays, and at exam time. We want our college students to know their congregation at home is thinking of them. Please provide current college addresses to Joffice@sharonpcusa.org.

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.



Support the Girl Scouts on October 31

Girl Scout Troop 1460, sponsored by Sharon Presbyterian, is having an Attic and Bake Sale in the Charles Little Activity Building on Saturday, October 31, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please drop by the CLAB that day to shop and support the girls as they continue fund-raising efforts toward their upcoming trip to the Juliette Gordon Low birthplace in Savannah.

Camp Bethelwoods creates memories that last a lifetime

by John Tutwiler

During 2009 many of our youth have taken advantage of all that Camp Bethelwoods has to offer—we held two retreats for Middle School SPY, 8 of our kids attended summer camp together in July, and Bethelwood’s “Camp in a Van” visited with us during Vacation Bible School last June. We have already set a date for next year’s Middle School retreat. Sharon has also held family retreats at Bethelwoods



SPC Middle Schoolers enjoyed the high ropes course during their visit to Bethelwoods this summer

in the past. Bethelwoods had its best year ever in 2009 as previous attendance records were shattered (a 50% increase over 2008!) for its summer programs. Here are some of the major highlights: Over 1,000

campers explored, sang, swam, canoed, and worshipped at Bethelwoods during summer 2009. Campers from 6 states attended programs last summer, including West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. Campers flew down the zip line, hiked the Appalachian Trail, took canoe trips on the Catawba River, did mission work in Canada, and mastered the high ropes course. The result? A dynamic and diverse group of people who came together

to get to know Jesus Christ in a way that was fun, exciting, and relevant. There is true magic in this place...despite the economic hardship of 2009, a record number of participants came together to enjoy Christian fellowship and grow in their faith. Bethelwoods is a special place for me. My sons Ryan and Nicholas participate in summer programs there as did I. My parents

and siblings were counselors, lifeguards and volunteers there over the years, dating back to the camp’s founding in the 60s. The camp was a cornerstone in my church life as a youth and our annual family retreat weekend held each Labor

day created memories for me that have lasted a lifetime. Seeing Bethelwoods become a bigger part of Sharon’s life is a great joy for me. Think of Bethelwoods next summer when you are making plans for your children and for small group meetings or retreats. If you have questions, please contact Camp Bethelwoods on the web at <http://www.bethelwoods.org>.

Men of the Church meet monthly for breakfast and program

The November breakfast meeting of the Men of the Church will be at 8:00 a.m.



November 8, with Jim St. Clair as the speaker. Jim will talk on “Essence of Truth”. He is a philosopher, educator, and currently does prison

ministry. For reservations or information, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869.

Do we have your email address?

Please send your email address to jane@sharonpcusa.org so that you can begin receiving the weekly email update with information about upcoming events. **Also, SPY parents**, please send us your email so that you will be included on the emails about the youth group activities.

Sharon On Wednesday to offer additional adult class

Beginning on October 28 during Sharon On Wednesday, Dennis Grills will lead a class on “Proclaiming the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind.” The class will meet for four sessions, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, and 11/18, at 6:30 p.m. in the CLAB. The resource is the book by the same name by Catherine Gonzales, one of a series initiated by the General Assembly on the Six Great Ends of the Church and is an engaging study that helps readers understand more clearly what it means to be an individual incorporated into the body of Christ.



Drivers needed

Needed: Drivers to carry food to the Uptown Men's Shelter the last Saturday of the month. If you have a mini-van or SUV and can help three or four times a year with this task, please contact the church office.

The Second Sunday of the month is our Loaves & Fishes collection; please bring non-perishable food items with you as you come to worship and they will be taken to the food pantry.



Room In The Inn ministry begins, *by David Beers*

Since 1996, the Urban Ministry Center has organized churches and colleges in the Charlotte area through the Room In The Inn program to open their facilities to host people who are homeless. Sharon Presbyterian Church will once again be a part of this program, hosting up to 12 guests in the CLAB every Friday starting December 4 through March 26. We offer our guests a warm, safe place to sleep, two meals (dinner and breakfast, plus a sandwich lunch to take with them), and bingo or TV in the evening. Twenty-four slots need

to be filled each weekend for this effort to be a success—setting-up the CLAB, picking up our guests at the Urban Ministry Center and returning them to the Transit Center the next morning, dinner preparation and serving, spending the night, preparing and serving breakfast, and cleaning up our facilities afterwards. Also needed are bingo prizes (socks, hats, T-shirts, fast-food coupons, etc.).

If you can assist with this ministry, please contact the church office at 704-553-0869.

How can we help with the Emergency Winter Shelter? *by George Chapman*

During the winter of 1981, three homeless men died of exposure on the streets of Charlotte. This tragedy sparked the development of an Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) for temporarily housing homeless men of Charlotte. There have been many changes over the past several years which have increased the ability to serve the homeless men of Charlotte including moving into a building on Statesville Ave. which is owned by the EWS non-profit, extending the months of operation from five to seven and this summer, affiliating with the Uptown Shelter to provide greater services to these homeless men. While the operation of the EWS increased from five to seven months, the number of nights of shelter has more

than doubled over the past several years. Use of the EWS has grown from 19,816 nights of shelter during the 2005/06 winter to 46,440 shelter nights provided to 1,736 individuals last 2008/09 winter. With the current economic crises, the need to house the homeless of Charlotte will continue to grow.



Helping at last year's Emergency Winter Shelter

How can we help?
(1). Tax deductible financial contributions: Donations can be made to Emergency Winter Shelter, Inc., PO Box 31125, Charlotte, NC 28231.
(2). Donations of needed basic clothing such as: underwear, tee shirts, men's winter shirts and coats, white socks, work boots, athletic shoes, work and winter gloves, and toiletries such as: disposable razors and motel sized

toothpaste, soap, shaving cream, shampoo and deodorant. Remember, these men typically only have what they can carry on their back, but their needs are great. A box marked EWS will be outside the Church office to receive your donations.
(3). Volunteer with other Sharon members to serve the second Tuesday of every month from October through April. Eight adult volunteers (including teenage children 15 years, or older, accompanied by a parent) are needed at the Emergency Winter Shelter from 6 to 8 PM (departing from the Church at 5 PM) on the second Tuesday of each month to serve food, assist with registration of guests and hand out blankets. Questions can be addressed to the church office, 704-553-0869.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this Ministry and your willingness to serve.



Session Notes

At the Stated Session Meeting on October 4, 2009, the following actions were taken:

- approved an honorarium to Desert Ministries in honor of Dr. Cromie and his service as Interim Pastor to Sharon Presbyterian
- approved use of CLAB by Shrum family
- approved transfer of membership for Roddy and Lisa Akbari to Jamestown Presbyterian Church, Jamestown, NC; baptism approved last month will be held at Jamestown PC instead
- approved Middle School retreat at Camp Bethelwoods for September 18-20, 2010
- approved revisions to the wedding policy
- approved Kids First Christmas Party weekend of December 12-13, 2009
- approved for Facilities and Environment to proceed with tuck and pointing of the Chapel in preparation for renovation
- called a congregational meeting and meeting of SPC, Inc., for Sunday, November 1, 2009, at 10:45 a.m. for the purpose of securing a line of credit to proceed on Chapel renovation project; elect two additional elders for Class of 2012, and meeting of SPC, Inc., to elect officers for 2010.

Third quarter contribution statements are in the mail. If you have any questions, please contact Scottie Trapp in the Finance Office. Scottie is in the office on Wednesday mornings or she can be reached at scottie@sharonpcusa.org.

Financial Update

September 2009

Gifts Received	\$ 45,060
Outflow for Ministries	\$ 61,194
Shortfall for the Month	\$ 16,134

2009 Year-to-Date

Gifts Received	\$ 568,631
Outflow for Ministries	\$ 522,669
Net Financial Blessings	\$ 45,962

Making the spirit of Christ present in all that we do

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. –Psalm 24:1

Realizing that all we have and all we are is a gift from God, the Ministry of Stewardship wishes to thank you for your regular and generous support of the ministries of Sharon Presbyterian Church.

Through the open-hearted financial support of individuals and families, this church is able to provide the worship, outreach and mission programs that demonstrate the reign of God and the power of Christ in our own community, the nation and the world. The gospel is shared in word and deed. Children

Generosity



A HABIT OF HEART™

and adults are nurtured in faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ. The spirit of Christ is present in all that we do. Together we accomplish amazing things that no one person or small group of people can do on their own.

The fall Stewardship Campaign at Sharon Presbyterian Church is drawing to a close and our overall numbers are currently 15% (or \$117,166) below those from last year. So far 198 members have pledged \$658,774. Of the cards received to date, 46% were able to increase their commitment over the prior year!

If you have not yet returned a pledge card to the church, please prayerfully do so as soon as possible. Extra pledge cards are available in the narthex and in the church office. You are encouraged not to miss the joy of giving regularly to God's work through a pledge to your church.



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Fall Festival was terrific, by Pam Beers

The Ministry of Community Witness thanks all those who helped with the 2009 Fall Festival—God blessed us with a beautiful day! Everyone from the set-up helpers, cake bakers, game people, barbeque crew, to the clean-up group made this event possible. We especially thank Jocelyn Ferber who headed up this event for the second time. Her many hours of hard work made the Festival all come together. The Fall Festival is Sharon Church's annual gift to the community to share our many blessings with those in our midst.

Order your holiday ham now through the SPY fundraiser!

The Sharon Presbyterian Youth (SPY) will be selling hams from now until October 30. The proceeds will go to offset the costs of the youth mission trip to Ontario, Canada, next July. The hams are Hillshire Farms hardwood smoked, fully cooked, spiral sliced bone-in hams. The cost per pound will be \$6.00 and the average size of the hams is eight pounds. A deposit of \$20.00 is required and the hams will be available for pick up at the church after 5:00 p.m. on November 23.



If you would like to purchase a ham, please contact the church office, office@sharonpcusa.org, 704-553-0869.

THE Disciple

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Email: office@SharonPCUSA.org

Web-Site: www.SharonPCUSA.org

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



Dr. Rob Blumer, Pastor
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
Karen Haynes, Secretary/Receptionist
Bill VanDeBogart, Church Sexton

Carolyn Adams-Teal, Anna Finichenko, and Nataliya Timoshchenko,

Nursery Caregivers
Frank and Nancy Dimmock, fdimmock@TLMail.Co.LS

Missionaries supported in part by Sharon Presbyterian

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