

# THE Disciple

*'If you hold to my teaching, you*

*are really my disciples.'* John 8:31



Volume XV, Number 10  
November 16, 2009

## **The Parson's Page,** *by Dr. Rob Blumer*

When most of us think of November we think of Thanksgiving: that wondrous holiday of choked highways all leading to a turkey dinner at Grandma's house with hostile relatives, watching football and napping.

Although that day for our family isn't so much different, each year I find myself meditating on one of three documents pertaining to this American holiday: William Bradford's Thanksgiving decree to the Mayflower gang, George Washington's call for a day of Thanksgiving, or Abraham Lincoln's document of similar intention. Although each summons to giving thanks is unique, the common thread seems to be a confident sense of God's glory revealing itself both in present struggles and in the unfolding future.

As I write, we are just beginning our journey together, looking out on a 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.

## **Chapel Renovation work beginning,** *by Jenny Pusser*

There is a new anticipation, a new excitement, a new feeling of hope at SPC. After several long years in the planning, it is finally happening - the Chapel Renovation is beginning! The church has hired Foard Construction Company to do the work. They have been working with us for over a year providing us with quotes for the purpose of establishing a budget and now they are busy finalizing them to begin the project. Foard Construction is a family owned business and Gary Foard and his family are long time members of Sharon. We are enjoying working with Gary and his brother, Dick.

This week Foard Construction will meet with the Renovation Committee to bring the church up to date on the status of their quotes. Gary is now working with an electrical engineer to start work on the sanctuary and the annex. The actual work on the interior will begin in early December - the point and tuck on the outside will hopefully start sooner. Gary has had a restoration expert look at the exterior of the building and it was pronounced structurally safe.

As plans are made and the work begins, the Renovation Committee will keep the congregation informed with a progress report in the Weekly eBlast and the bulletin on Sundays.



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## In Memoriam

**Edna Trull**  
**October 21, 2009**

**Robin Smith Kirby**  
**November 10, 2009**

We express our sympathy  
to Edna's family  
and to Robin's wife, Betty.

### We remember in our prayers

Please remember *those in the hospitals*: Doug Allen, CMC Main; Mary Davis, Presbyterian; *those at home*: Bill Chiles, Helen Taylor, Jane Brawley, Jessica Earnhart, Eloise Rushforth; our homebound members and their families; Ronnie Dalcher, son-in-law of Isabelle and William Stanford; 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.

### Thank you

Thank you all so much for your words of comfort, cards, and prayers in response to the recent passing of my sister-in-law Margie. Your kindness has helped make a difficult time a bit easier.

*Karen Haynes,*  
*SPC Secretary/Receptionist*

### Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

#### Gifts in Memory

*Edna Trull*, by Merwyn and Beverly Johnson, the Hipp and Burkhart families, Christopher Nickell, Kaye Dumond, Jeff and Rebekkah Bravo, Eloise Rushforth, Mr. and Mrs. William Harris, Bradley and Freed, Martha Lewis, Debbie Knoth, Circle 7, Dorothy Marshall, Diane Benson, Linda and Tom Skinner  
*Bea Stroupe*, by Ray and Blanche Hunt  
*Dale Miller*, by the Louise Cook family  
*George Ashley*, by Kim Talleur



### We welcome the new babies

Welcome to Lawson Julia Bell, daughter of Jimmie and Suzy Bell, who was born on October 9, 2009; to Evelyn Judith Baker, daughter of Trey and Tricia Baker, who was born on November 3, 2009.

### We welcome the newly baptized

Killian Cooke Dries and Andrew Harold Dries, twins of Taylor and Andrew Dries, received the Sacrament of Baptism on November 8, 2009.



### Waiting for the Messiah

Looking for a great way to kick-start your Advent-Christmas season? The Children’s Christmas Pageant, “Waiting for the Messiah,” will be Sunday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served following the program. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate. Invite a friend to attend this simply heart-warming presentation as we continue on our Advent journey.

Each child is asked to bring a wrapped gift for the children at Alexander Youth Network, such as stuffed animals, baby dolls & accessories (all ethnicities), trucks and cars, train sets, stove/kitchen play set, tea sets, Disney character toys, PBS character toys, toy dishes and play food, Nick Jr. character toys, Sponge Bob toys, board games, scientific games/microscopes, play house items, action figures (non-violent), travel games, puzzles, card games.

**If you can help provide cookies** for the reception following the Children’s Christmas Pageant on December 6, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869.

**You are cordially invited to the  
Service of Installation of  
The Rev. Dr. Robert J. Blumer  
as Pastor of  
Sharon Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday, December 6, 2009, 2:00 p.m.  
Sharon Presbyterian Church Sanctuary  
Reception to follow**

### Elder selection completed

At the Congregational Meeting on November 1, 2009, Marna Polhill and David Tibbals were elected to complete the Elder Class of 2012, joining Doug Allen, Josh Auten, Bob Ballantyne, Ann Bryant, Gina Crocker, Brian Dillard, Brenda Fairbrother, and Ralph McNatt. We thank them for their willingness to serve at Sharon Church.

### Attendance Statistics

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| <b>October 25, 2009</b> |     |
| 9:00 a.m. Worship       | 120 |
| 11:00 a.m. Worship      | 205 |
| Church School           | 183 |
| <b>November 1</b>       |     |
| 9:00 a.m. Worship       | 192 |
| 11:00 a.m. Worship      | 253 |
| Church School           | 226 |
| <b>November 8</b>       |     |
| 9:00 a.m. Worship       | 150 |
| 11:00 a.m. Worship      | 307 |
| Church School           | 200 |
| <b>November 15</b>      |     |
| 9:00 a.m. Worship       | 175 |
| 11:00 a.m. Worship      | 258 |
| Church School           | 198 |

### Congratulations to Rev. George Chapman

George W. (Bucky) Chapman, III, was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament on Sunday, November 15, 2009, at Sharon Presbyterian Church. The son of George and Mary Chapman, Bucky graduated from Union Theological Seminary at Richmond, and is a Candidate for Ordination in the Presbytery of Charlotte. He and his wife, Myra, live in Charlottesville, VA, where Myra is attending law school at UVA. We rejoice that Bucky has received a call to serve as the pastor of the Buena Vista Presbyterian Church in Buena Vista, Virginia.

### Read a good book from our church library

Many thanks to Ada Lee for her donation of the book, *Billy Graham, God’s Ambassador, a Lifelong Mission of Giving Hope to the World*. Also new to the library are two family-friendly devotional books with interesting trivia on Bible-based passages.



**December meeting of the Men of the Church to remember Pearl Harbor**

December 6 is the next Men of the Church meeting, which is a change in date due to the heavy December schedule at the church. The theme for the meeting is "Remembering Pearl Harbor," with Jack Lemonds, a WWII veteran, as the speaker. This is the meeting the men invite the ladies to attend; for information, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869..



**Welcome to new member**

Bob Young  
Bob joined by Reaffirmation of Faith



**Kids First to host party at Sharon Church**

It's almost time for the annual Kids First of the Carolinas Christmas Party which will once again be held at Sharon Presbyterian Church for over 300 homeless and underprivileged children. On Sunday afternoon, December 13, 2009, the Charles Little Activity Building will be transformed in to a Christmas wonderland where the children will be treated to a party with delicious food generously donated from area restaurants, music, entertainment, gifts, and of course, a visit from Santa himself! Kids First tries to give each and every child at least 2 clothing items, a pair of shoes, and 2 toy wishes, as these are the only gifts they will receive. *Volunteers are needed on Saturday afternoon and evening, December 12, to help set up the gym for the party.* For more information or to volunteer to help with the setup, contact Kids First Volunteer Directors Sharon Sanders or Wendy Tonetti at 704-995-5679.

**Want to stay up to date with what's going on?**

Sign up to receive the weekly email updates every Thursday afternoon. And, are you interested in receiving the Disciple by email? Let the office know by emailing [jane@sharonpcusa.org](mailto:jane@sharonpcusa.org) . Let's get connected!

**GS Troop 52 collecting winter items for homeless**

WSOC-TV is once again sponsoring the collection of new hats, socks, gloves, and backpacks for Room In the Inn. Donations will be collected, sorted, and wrapped by volunteers, and given as holiday gifts to Charlotte's homeless families. Girl Scout Troop 52, sponsored by Sharon Church, is collecting the items from Sharon Church and will deliver them to WSOC-TV. A box will be placed in the narthex November 15-30 for collection of these items.

**Enjoy the Thanksgiving holidays**

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be at SouthPark Christian Church on Tuesday, November 24, at 7:30 p.m. The offering from the service will go to the Dilworth Soup Kitchen.

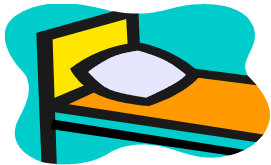
Everyone is invited to the Thanksgiving Day breakfast to be held in the Charles Little Activity Building on November 26, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Bring your out-of-town guests and enjoy visiting. If you would be willing to participate in the brief worship gathering by reading a scripture passage or leading a written responsive reading, please contact Ron Nelson at the church office, 704-553-0869 or [ron@sharonpcusa.org](mailto:ron@sharonpcusa.org).

The church office will be closed November 26 and 27, 2009, for the Thanksgiving holidays

**Our fall Stewardship Campaign is drawing to a close**

To date, 220 pledge cards have been returned for a total of \$713,234. Of the cards received, 45% were able to increase their commitment over the prior year Pledges for the current 2009 Operating Budget totaled \$775,940. 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.





## Room In the Inn takes lots of helpers

Needed for Room In the Inn, which begins at Sharon Church Friday December 4: Friday and Saturday drivers, Friday night food preparers and servers, folks to stay overnight with our guests (especially women so we can welcome female guests), and cleaning assistance. Also needed: Bingo prizes – socks, hats, underwear, T-shirts, fast food gift cards, wallets, etc. Special thanks to Sharon Towers, who will once again do the laundry, and to Rising Roll (Carolyn and John Nowaczewski) who will again provide the lunch sandwiches for our guests. Detailed instructions for each assignment listed below are available in the church office or can be sent to you (contact David Beers at 704-552-2201, or [dbeers22@bellsouth.net](mailto:dbeers22@bellsouth.net)). Please help our church extend Christian love to those less fortunate during the winter months by joining in this ministry.

### Girl Scout attic sale a success

In spite of the rain, Girl Scout Troop 1460, sponsored by Sharon Presbyterian Church, held a successful attic / bake sale in the Charles Little Activity Building on Saturday, October 31. The success brought the girls one step closer to their goal of traveling to Savannah, GA to visit the Juliette Gordon Low birthplace in February 2010. Following the sale, dozens of cupcakes were donated to those organizing meals for the homeless shelters Saturday evening and numerous donations were made to the National Kidney Foundation.

### Sharon Church again participated in the CROP Walk

Thanks to all who walked in the Charlotte CROP Walk in October. Sharon Church walkers raised \$3,238 – a big pat on the back to Ryan Tutwiler for raising \$390!

### What are you and your family doing the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 28?

Make plans to come to the church to help with Hanging of the Greens! It takes many hands to get the Sanctuary ready for Advent and Christmas and there's always lots of fun in the process, as well as coffee in the morning and pizza at lunch. If you can spare a few minutes or a couple of hours, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869.



### Order your Christmas tree from the Boy Scouts

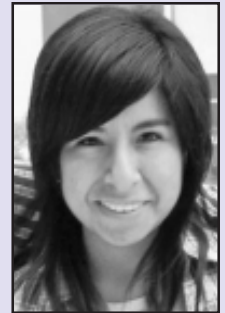
Support BS Troop 34 and order your Christmas tree and wreaths from them this year. Wreaths are \$18, tree prices range from \$48 to \$140, and they will be available for delivery or pickup at the church on Saturday, December 5. Order forms are available in the narthex, the church office, and on the church website; deadline for orders is Monday, November 30, 2009. For more information, contact Curtis Blaine, 704-576-0331.

### Cross-stitchers needed

We are looking for someone who likes to cross stitch to help with the sweet birth announcements given to the families of new babies at Sharon Church. If interested, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869.

### Let's welcome Brenda Paredes

On Sunday, December 20, 2009, we will welcome Brenda Paredes to Sharon Church. Brenda accompanied participants on the 2009 Sharon Church Adult Mission Trip to Huanta, Peru, where she worked alongside participants, translating for the group and providing invaluable insights into the culture and customs of the Andean people of Peru. She will spend approximately three months with Sharon Church's youth as an assistant youth advisor, and is sponsored jointly by the Ministries of World Service, Christian Education, and Church Administration.



Brenda Paredes

A native of Peru, Brenda is nineteen years old and is in the third year of a five year program at Cesar Vallejo University in Lima, where she is studying to become a translator in Spanish, English and French. She lives in Lima with her parents and a younger brother and sister. She is a member of Amen Presbyterian Church, where she also serves as a teacher and leader for pre-school and elementary school aged children.

Please extend a very warm Sharon Church welcome to Brenda. Take time to get to know this incredibly special young lady. Brenda is thrilled for the opportunity to meet and spend time with the rest of her Sharon Church family. Questions regarding Brenda's time at Sharon Church can be directed to the church office, 704-553-0869.

# The Joy of Caring and Sharing

**What better way** to remember special people at Christmas than by giving gifts in their honor! Below are some of the agencies in Charlotte that Sharon Church has worked with over the years. We know these groups direct their resources to helping people in need or promoting harmony in our community.

Each of these agencies will send a card and a brief description of their mission to the people you choose to honor in order to notify them that a donation in their name has been received from you. Donations should arrive at the agency by December 15 to assure that the cards are received before December 25.

*The Ministry of World Service will be setting up a table in the narthex after each worship service on November 29, December 6, and December 13 with information on a number of these agencies.*

## **Alexander Youth Network**

*(formerly Alexander Children's Center)*

6220 Thermal Road  
Charlotte, NC 28211  
704-366-8712

[www.alexanderyouthnetwork.org](http://www.alexanderyouthnetwork.org)  
Offers a residential home for children with special needs.

## **Barium Springs Home for Children**

PO Box 1  
Barium Springs, NC 28010  
800-320-4157

[www.bariumsprings.org](http://www.bariumsprings.org)  
Provides a residential facility for troubled youth; works closely to counsel the whole family.

## **Crisis Assistance Ministry**

500 A Spratt Street  
Charlotte, NC 28206  
704-371-3000

[www.crisisassistance.org](http://www.crisisassistance.org)  
Offers emergency help in paying bills; provides clothing, furnishings; counsels in money management.



## **Charlotte Rescue Mission**

907 W. First Street  
PO Box 33000  
Charlotte, NC 28233-3000  
704-375-6839

[www.charlotterescuemission.org](http://www.charlotterescuemission.org)  
Founded in 1938 by Billy Graham's father; operates residential centers for men and women who have succumbed to substance abuse; offers counseling, daily worship services.

## **Men's Shelter of Charlotte**

PO Box 36471  
Charlotte, NC 28236

[www.mensshelterofcharlotte.org](http://www.mensshelterofcharlotte.org)  
Assists unaccompanied adult men experiencing homelessness in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Area

## **Habitat Charlotte**

PO Box 34397  
Charlotte, NC 28234  
704-376-2054

[www.habitatcharlotte.org](http://www.habitatcharlotte.org)  
Builds affordable homes for low income people; future owners must contribute sweat equity before helping on their homes.

## **Loaves & Fishes**

PO Box 11234  
Charlotte, NC 28220  
704-523-4333

[www.loavesandfishes.org](http://www.loavesandfishes.org)  
Provides a week's worth of nutritious groceries to individuals and families in crisis.

## **MedAssist of Mecklenburg**

5516 Central Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28212  
704-536-1790

[www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org)  
Assists low-income Mecklenburg County residents by operating a licensed pharmacy that provides free medications, healthcare advocacy and related educational services.

## **Mecklenburg Ministries**

1510 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204  
702-347-2404

[www.meckmin.org](http://www.meckmin.org)  
Uses an ecumenical approach to work toward harmony and understanding among people of diverse faiths, races and economic backgrounds.





## Caring and Sharing, *continued from previous page*

### Presbyterian Samaritan Counseling Center

5203 Sharon Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210  
704-554-9900

[www.presbyteriansamaritan.org](http://www.presbyteriansamaritan.org)  
Provides pastoral counseling and psychotherapy with subsidized charges for those without insurance who cannot afford the full cost.

### RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network)

PO Box 37190  
Charlotte, NC 28237

[www.carolinarain.org](http://www.carolinarain.org)  
Engages the community to promote respect and dignity for people touched by the AIDS virus.

### The Salvation Army

Charlotte Area Command  
PO Box 31128  
Charlotte, NC 28231  
704-334-4731

[www.salvationarmycharlotte.org](http://www.salvationarmycharlotte.org)  
Operates homeless shelter, low income housing for elderly and disabled, boys and girls clubs, rehabilitation program for substance-dependent men, rural camp for inner city children.

### Samaritan House

3424 Park Road  
Charlotte, NC 28209  
704- 527-1130

[www.thesamaritanhouse.org](http://www.thesamaritanhouse.org)  
Provides recuperative care for homeless following a hospital or emergency room stay.

### Sharon Weekday School Scholarship Fund

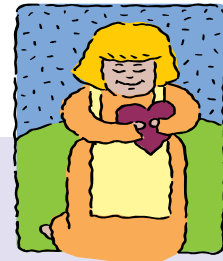
Sharon Presbyterian Church  
5201 Sharon Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210  
704-554-0882

[www.sharonpcusa.org](http://www.sharonpcusa.org)  
(Checks should be written to Sharon Presbyterian Church and marked for the Scholarship Fund)  
Provides partial or full scholarships to our preschool program.

### Urban Ministries Center

945 North College St.  
Charlotte, NC 28206  
704-347-0278

[www.urbanministrycenter.org](http://www.urbanministrycenter.org)  
Operates a soup kitchen for low income and homeless people, provides showers, laundry facilities, mail box address, counseling.



### 5¢ a Meal can teach children about giving

*by Terry Dawson*

You've been teaching them everything you can to prepare them for a life full of promise but don't forget teaching them about giving too! The 5 cents a meal program is a great way to teach children the importance of supporting programs that feed our neighbors who live in poverty.

The Hunger Action Work Group of the Presbytery of Charlotte has supported local hunger relief programs since 1982. In 2007 the 5 cents a meal program distributed \$252,100. In 2008 \$252,141 was distributed – and every cent goes to agencies/ministries for the purchase of food exclusively within the bounds of the Charlotte Presbytery. It's simple: 5 cents a meal, 15 cents a day, \$1.05 a week, or \$4.50 a month. Bring your children's offering and have them drop their offering in the white baskets with the big red 5cents written on them. The baskets are located right inside the Sanctuary off of the Narthex. Sharon Presbyterian collects our 5 cents a day offering the second Sunday of every month (the same Sunday as the Loaves and Fishes collection). A detailed report of the 5 cents a meal program can be found at [www.presbyofcharlotte.org](http://www.presbyofcharlotte.org).



### Use your knitting, crocheting, or sewing skills to help others

Our Prayer Shawl and P.A.T. Ministries, which meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Charles Little Activity Building, always welcome people willing to knit, crochet, or sew. Their wish lists include gift cards and store coupons to Walmart, Hancock Fabrics, AC Moore and Michaels, knitting worsted weight yarn and/or Lion Brand homespun yarn (at least 20 oz. of the same yarn) white thread, white batiste and/or white cotton flannel fabric (5 yds minimum), ¼ inch white buttons, white single-fold bias tape, delicate lace trim ½ inch wide or less. If you can donate any of these items, please place them in the church office. For information, contact the church office, 704-553-0869.

## Honor loved ones with Love Lights

Love Lights are the lights on the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas and are given in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The cost per Love Light is \$5.00 and checks should be made payable to Sharon Presbyterian. The proceeds of the Love Lights will be divided evenly between our missionaries, Frank and Nancy Dimmock, and the Emergency Winter Shelter. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Sunday, November 22, 2009. The Love Light booklet will be available on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of Lights \_\_\_\_\_

Love Lights in Honor of:

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



### Preparing our Hearts for Advent

The 2009 Advent season begins November 29. Several members of Sharon Presbyterian Church and staff will once again present an Advent Devotion Booklet as an offering of their individual gifts of hope, peace, love, and joy to you. Booklets will be available in the narthex beginning November 29.

## THE Disciple

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 5201 Sharon Road  
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28210  
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Fax: 704- 553-0471

Email: office@SharonPCUSA.org

Web-Site: www.SharonPCUSA.org

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



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*Missionaries supported in part by Sharon Presbyterian*

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