

# THE Disciple

*'If you hold to my teaching, you*

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

Volume XV, Number 11  
December 14, 2009

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

### **Christmas Joy in sparce times**

Shopping center Santas are reporting more children asking for basics this year: eye glasses, clothing, a job for Dad. In the article I read, one Santa at a suburban Chicago mall used to jokingly tell children they would get socks for Christmas if they were naughty. This year he stopped telling the joke; too many children were asking for socks.

With our national economy still teetering, this Christmas holiday season provides us an opportunity to reorient our sense of abundance.

The joys of the very first Christmas were first to people who had little, whose delight and sense of childlike wonder lacked expression in the giving or receiving of pricey goods. Yet joy filled their hearts.

Maybe your holiday season will be just as splashy this year as in previous years, or maybe, it will be a bit sparse. Either way, bask in the pleasure of God's providential care: in the sheer abundance of affection God has provided through the family members who love you and are loved by you, and in the lavish gift of God's self by sending his son to dwell among us.

May each of you be filled to overflowing by the true wealth of the Christmas Season.

## **Peeling back the layers of the Chapel,**

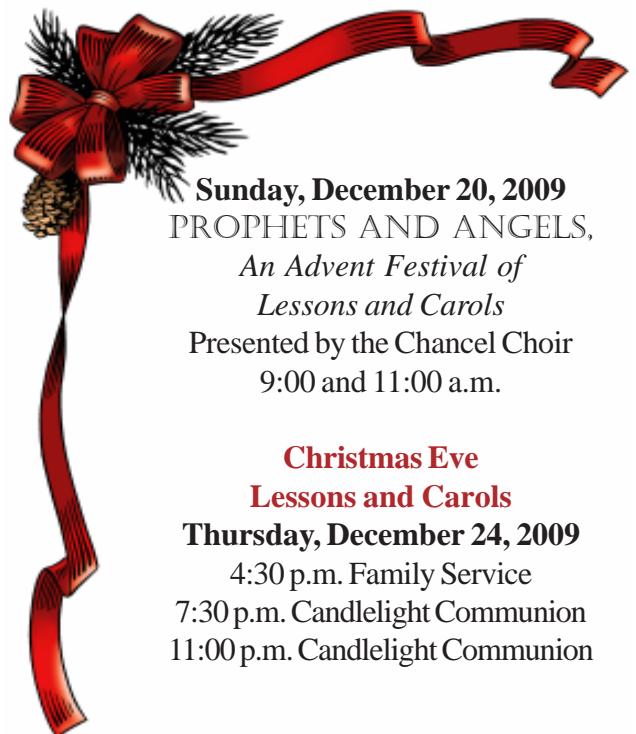
*by Jenny Pusser*

Progress is being made in our chapel renovation. The plans are in the city's hands and we should hear back at any time (maybe by the time you read this) with the permit to begin the electrical work.

Have you noticed the trailers in the corner of the parking lot? They are filled with the pews that have been removed. The organ was removed on Monday of last week and by now is in its new

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**Chapel Update**, *continued on page 3*



**Sunday, December 20, 2009**  
**PROPHETS AND ANGELS,**  
*An Advent Festival of*  
*Lessons and Carols*  
Presented by the Chancel Choir  
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**Christmas Eve**  
**Lessons and Carols**  
**Thursday, December 24, 2009**  
4:30 p.m. Family Service  
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion  
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion



Welcome, Dr. Blumer!

**In Memoriam**

**U.S. (Al) Allee  
December 13, 2009**

We express our sympathy to his wife, Marguerite, their family and friends.



*Rob gives the benediction following his Service of Installation*

**We express our sympathy**

Sympathy is expressed to Sylvia Burke in the death of her sister, Eleanor Updegrave, on November 20, 2009; to Billie Delaney and Jeannie Satterfield in the death of Billie's nephew and Jeannie's cousin, Charles Lawrence (Larry) Smith, on November 24, 2009; to Michelle Dougherty in the death of her father-in-law, Bruce Dougherty, on December 11, 2009.

**We remember in our prayers**

Please remember in prayer *those in the hospital*: Mary Edith Massey, rehab in Greensboro; Mary Davis, Presbyterian; *those at home*: Dot Deck, Lisa Moore, Jane Foard, Rich Barefoot, Maryde McGarity, Doug Allen, Bill Chiles, Helen Taylor, Jane Brawley; our homebound members and their families; Dorothy Lovejoy, mother of Ralph Lovejoy; 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 Bleynat; Mike Kamin, brother-in-law of Mike Young.

On Sunday afternoon, December 6, 2009, a large congregation attended a Service of Installation for Dr. Robert J. Blumer as Pastor of Sharon Presbyterian Church. Joining with Sharon Church members in worship were pastors and elders from the Charlotte Presbytery and neighboring Presbyteries, as well as Rob's family and friends from other congregations. A lovely reception followed in the Charles Little Activity Building.



**We welcome the new babies**

Welcome to James Riley Cline, son of Alan and Michelle Cline, who was born on November 30, 2009.

**We welcome the newly-baptized**

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered on November 22, 2009, to Mary Ellis Brown, daughter of Jennifer and David Brown.

**Attendance Statistics**

**November 22, 2009**

9:00 a.m. Worship	151
11:00 a.m. Worship	291
Church School	190

**November 22, 2009**

9:00 a.m. Worship	150
11:00 a.m. Worship	224
Church School	205

**December 6**

9:00 a.m. Worship	125
11:00 a.m. Worship	246
Church School	202

**December 13**

9:00 a.m. Worship	135
11:00 a.m. Worship	247
Church School	221

**Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church**

**Gifts in Memory**

*Robin Kirby*, by Walter and Joy Cooper  
*Edna Trull*, by Gary and Carolyn Haddock, Debbie Knoth, Circle 7, Dorothy Marshall, Diane Benson, Linda and Tom Skinner

**Gifts in Honor**

*Helping Hands of Sharon Church*, by Betty Howell



### Chapel Update, *continued from page 1*

**The church office will be closed from Friday, December 25 through Tuesday, December 29, and on Friday, January 1, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.**

### Training completed for Elder Class of 2012

*by Bill McClure*

The elder class of 2012 has completed the six training sessions with Dr. Rob Blumer. With the help of Dr. Merwyn Johnson, the incoming class of elders studied the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order. There were many stimulating discussions on theological issues. The training began on Tuesday, October 13, and ended on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. Every training session began with a delicious home-cooked meal prepared by several groups within the church. Many thanks go to the following groups who fed the elders well: Chancel Choir, Circle 2, Circle 6, Circle 3, FAITH Group, and Horizons Sunday School Class. The incoming class was examined in December and ordination is planned for January 10, 2009, when we will have a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m. Elders commit to serve for a three-year term and we are thankful that God has called them to be our leaders.

**One worship service Sunday, January 10, 2010 10:30 a.m. Worship, with Ordination and Installation of Elders 9:30 a.m., Sunday School Chili cookoff covered dish luncheon to follow worship**



*storing the furniture*



*Chapel work in progress*



*removing the organ*

home. The carpet has been removed in the sanctuary and the old pine floors are now visible.

As we peel back the layers of the chapel we are finding that there will be more to our renovation than just paint and carpet. At this point in the renovation we have found three unexpected issues:

- 1) In the chapel narthex we have found underneath the old carpet a layer of asbestos tile and underneath the tile a layer of felt glued to the old pine floors with asbestos glue. We will weigh the cost of removing all the layers to see if it is possible that we can refinish the floor in the narthex.
- 2) While Foard Construction was looking at the narthex floor, they discovered that the duct tape (throughout the heating ducts underneath the floor) has asbestos in it and they are now deciding the best way to tackle that issue. We have every confidence in Foard as they go forward with a solution.
- 3) After a hard rain last week Foard also discovered two inches of water standing in the crawlspace underneath the right side of the sanctuary. Above that area the pine floors are completely rotten. We don't even have to mention the mildew as a result of the moisture.

As we go forward with our renovation, we know that we can expect the unexpected. This grand old building has stood the test of time. It will be restored to be used once again and in the future it is our hope that we, the members of Sharon, will be better stewards of what God has given us.



**Thinking of making year-end contributions to Sharon Church?**

End of year contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked by Thursday, December 31, in order to receive a tax deduction in 2009. As you are completing your 2009 pledge, please check to be sure you have turned in your pledge card for 2010. We are very close to having our 2010 budget completely pledged.

Pledge envelopes for 2010 are available in the hallway of the Worship Building. Please pick up your envelopes to avoid the expense of mailing them.

To donate securities to Sharon Church through your broker, please have the securities transferred electronically by noon on Tuesday, December 22, 2009, to be sure they will arrive in time. A transfer should be made to our account at Morgan Keegan DTC #780. If you are transferring securities which you hold personally, please mail or deliver them to Kate Hendrix at Morgan Keegan, 6805 Morrison Blvd., Suite 350 Charlotte NC, or deliver them to the church. Deadline for both is Noon on Tuesday, December 22, 2009. Please notify Kate Hendrix, 704-442-4750, and Scottie Trapp at the church, 704-553-0869, scottie@sharonpcusa.org.



**Brenda has arrived in Charlotte!**

Through the efforts of the Ministries of World Service, Christian Education, and Church Administration, we welcome **Brenda Paredes of Peru** to Sharon Presbyterian. This past summer, she accompanied participants on the Adult Mission Trip to Huanta, Peru, providing invaluable insights into the culture and customs of the Andean people of Peru. During the next 3 months she will spend time working with the Sharon youth and getting to know her Sharon Church family. Welcome, Brenda!

*Food news from Sharon Church*

**Bon Appetit 🍷 Buon Appetito 🍷 Buena Comida**

**Get out your best Chili recipe**

We will be holding a Chili cook-off and covered dish luncheon on January 10 for anyone daring enough to join in! We welcome any and all varieties of chili and cornbread, along with any other dishes folks may be interested in making if chili just isn't your thing. If you are making chili, please try to make a pot big enough that could serve about 10 people.

**Host a dinner**

Sharon Church Supper Swap is gearing up again for another round of fellowship, food, and fun. Please join your friends and a supper group at Sharon Church from January through April. We'll take turns hosting and share the cooking so that fun is had by all with no stress. Contact Gina Crocker at [crockerfour@yahoo.com](mailto:crockerfour@yahoo.com) or 704-752-7141 to join.

**Food for Friends**

Do you have a special casserole or side dish that's a hit at your neighborhood potluck? Maybe you make a mean salad, have a special family dessert, or bake a delicious bread. If so, Congregational Nurturing wants YOU to help! We are recruiting cooks for our "Food Teams", groups of volunteers who prepare a meal for families with newborns, or our members in need of a meal due to illness or surgery. If you're interested in helping, please contact Bonne Stukey, 704-553-0986, [bstu@mac.com](mailto:bstu@mac.com), or Lynne Koeniger, 704-553-0727, [heylynn@carolina.rr.com](mailto:heylynn@carolina.rr.com). This is an easy but great way to show fellow members that our church family cares!





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**Girl Scouts sponsoring book collection for Sharon Church**

The Junior Girl Scouts in Troop 1460, sponsored by Sharon Presbyterian Church, are currently working on their bronze award project. As a way to say thank you to Sharon Church for sponsoring the troop, the girls decided their project would be to make improvements in the children's library at the church. To kick off the project, the girls are requesting donations of new or gently used children's books to add to the books already in the library. Please look for the collection box located near the elder boxes in the hallway of the Worship Building.



*Prophets tell the story*

**Chapel pews available for purchase**

There are still 8 long pews available for \$150.00 each. The pews can be taken apart in the middle for ease in moving. The deadline date for purchasing is December 31, 2009. For further information and to schedule pickup, please contact Marvin Ward, 704-571-8602, or Pam Hawes, 704-366-8229.

**Christmas pageant helped us meet the Christ Child**

A great big THANK YOU to all those who participated in the Christmas pageant. For a few brief moments, children emerged as shepherds, angels, animals, prophets, and an expectant couple to illustrate the coming of the Christ Child. Hymns and words of scripture combined to show us that it is both a remembrance and an expectation that we celebrate during Advent. We remember that Jesus was born to be our Savior, and we anticipate anew his birth. We appreciate the many people who helped us to see and experience Scripture with new eyes in this time-honored tradition.

**Make a note on your 2010 calendar that the Church Fellowship Retreat to Camp Bethelwoods has been scheduled for May. Be watching for details.**



**SPY Middle School kids just loaf around!**

*by Terry Dawson*

**‘Meat’-loaf, that is!** On November 22, the Middle School youth got together and made 12 beautiful meatloafs for the Men and Women’s shelter programs. Oddly enough the most popular activity was donning gloves and squishing the mixture before cooking! The most hated part of the job? Cutting up the onions, of course! The SPY (Sharon Presbyterian Youth) Middle School program meets in the Charles Little



Activity Building on Sunday nights from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us call Terry Dawson, 704-365-6310, for more information.

**Sarah Kromer enrolled as Candidate**

At the 104th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, Sarah Kromer of Sharon Presbyterian was examined and approved to be enrolled as a Candidate for Ministry. We are asked to continue to support and pray for Sarah as she moves forward in the process of becoming a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

**Thank you, Elders**

On behalf of the congregation of Sharon Presbyterian, we extend our thanks to the outgoing elders who are completing their 3-year term on the Session: Pam Beers, Pete Bleyntat, Gregory Lynn Clodfelter, Susie Ellis, Andrew Kromer, John Mallard, Norris Parker, Randy Ross, Robin Shealy, Mike Spainhour.

**Thank you for helping**

*by Jenny Pusser and Jeannie Satterfield*

Thank you to all the people who helped with the food, set-up, and clean-up for the reception which followed Dr. Blumer’s installation service. There were far too many people to name, but whether you provided food, helping hands, or both, you are greatly appreciated. We also wish to thank the folks involved with the children’s program for their consideration in stacking the rental equipment ready for pick-up. That was a huge help. It was a busy day at the church and the success of the day’s activities involved the help and cooperation of a great many people and we want to thank all who had a part.



*Kids First of the Carolinas provided a Christmas party for approximately 300 underprivileged Charlotte children. The party was held in the Charles Little Activity Building of Sharon Church on Sunday, December 13, 2009.*



**Remember the homeless we serve through Room In the Inn**

Room In the Inn is off to a good start. Thank you to all who have signed up to help and who have contributed items for the personal bags and bingo prizes. Please keep our guests in your prayers.



## Sharon On Wednesdays: SOWing seeds of faith and fellowship

Everyone, mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 6, 2010, when our midweek program, Sharon On Wednesday, begins anew. What a great time to meet and greet others as church family, share a meal together, and grow closer in faith and fellowship with each other. This semester will bring some familiar opportunities, as well as some changes, and more choices for adults.



Feel free to order a take-out box supper to fit your schedule. The price for adults with reservations has been reduced to \$6, and children are \$3; without reservations the price is \$7 for adults, and \$3.50 for children. And, be on the lookout for "March Madness" for new excitement. Come and be a part of this interesting time!



### Congregational Nurturing Ministry celebrates those who help others

On December 2, the Congregational Nurturing Ministry enjoyed a dinner to celebrate and thank all those who work on the sub-committees: the PAT Ministry – those who knit and sew; Shepherds – who visit our homebound; Helping Hands – who fix things for the elderly; the food teams, transportation, card ministry, bereavement, prayer requests, Sharon Towers bus transportation, newborn recognition, and tape ministry. Entertainment was provided by J.D. Pearce, a member of the Sharon Church Chancel Choir. If helping on one of these ministries sounds like something you'd enjoy

doing, please contact Carolyn Nowaczewski at 704-341-9626.

### Are you looking for a Sunday School class and are you in your 20s or 30s?

Then come join the Young Adults in Action as we continue to go through Rob Bell's Nooma Video Series. The class meets in the Library in the Chapel Annex. For more information, contact Josh Auten at 704-488-1166 or jsauten@gmail.com, or Megan Talley at 919-349-6275 or mrtalley@novanthealth.org.

Be thinking of items for the SPY Silent Auction in February to benefit their summer mission trip in the summer.

Donation suggestions:

- Gently-used sports equipment, furniture, toys, games, etc. for Kids' Corner
- Weekend getaways

- Event tickets
- Services (house-cleaning, tax preparation, photography, etc.)
- Gift certificates



- Homemade wares
- Books, Movies, Music for Media Corner
- Baked goods for the Bakery Corner

We need your stuff!  
Contact Sarah and Tim Brown, 704-554-1740, about donating any of the above items.

**Join our Bloodmobile Wall of Fame by donating at the next American Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, February 7, 2010, from 8:30 - 1:30 in the gym. To sign up, contact Ralph Lovejoy, 704-442-1166**



## THE Disciple

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