

THE Disciple

'If you hold to my teaching, you

are really my disciples.' John 8:31



Volume XVI, Number 1
January 11, 2010

The Parson's Page, by Dr. Rob Blumer

Some Random Thoughts from a Disorganized Mind

First (and foremost!), Pat and I are deeply appreciative for your many kindnesses to us since our arrival here. You have made us feel at home. Thanks. Your Christmas kindnesses included party invitations, countless cards and high calorie goodies. (Note to self: be careful what you say on Sunday morning.) Some mystery person of our congregation took me at my word about wishing for a bag of carrots and placed a bunch of those rabbit favorites on my car with the note reading "Happy New Year."

Second, I'm very excited about the tweaking being done to "Sharon on Wednesday." While I'd love to take credit for the fresh sense of fun, the wider selection of fellowship and study choices, and the larger crowd, I can't. Thanks to Sharon Van Pelt (whose name is only coincidentally connected with "Sharon on Wednesday"), Christian Education, and Church Family for their efforts and clever scheduling adjustments.

Third, I'm certain the tweaking isn't finished. Everything in life is fluid, always changing. So, if you have thoughts and ideas, speak up.

Fourth, speaking of the constancy of change: our Session will have its annual retreat on Saturday, January 23. It is my hope that in stepping away for a day (that's what retreating is, isn't it?), our Session will gather a new sense of direction, discover new issues to address, or new ways to address old ones.

Fifth, to all humanity we can extend Christian love...in concept; to all persons who set foot on our campus we can extend Christian love...in person. Next Sunday (and any other day you are at Sharon) make a new acquaintance or renew an old friendship.

Sharon Presbyterian Youth (SPY) Silent Auction and BBQ is February 21

Be thinking of items to donate to benefit their summer mission trip

- 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.



We remember in our prayers

Those in the hospital: Mary Edith Massey, rehab in Greensboro; Mary Davis, Mecklenburg Healthcare; Dot Deck, Carrington Place; Mo Ehen, Aldersgate Care Center; *those at home:* David Stanford, Beth Parker, Doug Allen, Bill Chiles; 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; Bert Puckett, nephew of Trish and Pete Bleynat; Mike Kamin, brother-in-law of Mike Young; Jason Pearce, son of J.D. Pearce.

We express our sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family of Sadie McKinnon, who died December 25, 2009. Mrs. McKinnon was the director of the Sharon Presbyterian Kindergarten in the 1960s.



We welcome the new baby

Welcome to William Preston Kiser, son of Andy and Beth Kiser, who was born on December 20, 2009.

Come to the Congregational Forum

The Ministry of Sharon's Vision will host a congregational forum on Sunday, February 7, following the 11:00 a.m. service. There is no set agenda, so this is the time for questions and comments by members to church leaders.

Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

Gifts in Memory

U.S. Allee, by Dot Deck, Norman and Rena Whitley, Anna and Quin Aldous, Mary Ellen Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Craven, Fred and Christine Smith, Mary Frances Zedaker, Bernice Hamrick, Tom and Nancy Kirkpatrick, Scotty McElhaney, Dwight and Margaret Thomas, Cathy Bailey and family, Bill and Reta LeFeber, Antoniella Stein, Jane and Noble Dillard, Margaret Armstrong, Elizabeth Wicker, Circle 4, William and Isabelle Stanford
Bill Deck, Dianne Deck, by Dorothy Deck

Peggy Cook, by Dorothy Deck
Bea Stroupe, by Forest Manning, Caleb, Merica, and Olivia Broome
Robin Kirby, by Dwight and Margaret Thomas
Edna Trull, by Dwight and Margaret Thomas
Billie Russell Thompson, by Jane and Noble Dillard
Sadie McKinnon, by William and Isabelle Stanford

Gifts in Honor

Elgerine Elliott, Mary Edith Massey, Ron and Lisa Nelson, Mittie Black, Bob and Peggy Winfrey, the Blanchard family, Lula Ashley, Ken and Frankie Beaty, Mary Ruth Gibson, Randall and Barbara Bumpious, by Dot Deck
Merwyn Johnson family, by Iris Kimble
David Beers, by Carolyn Tutwiler



Thank You

A sincere thank you for all the many cards, expressions of concern and various acts of kindness received upon the recent death of U.S. Allee. *Marguerite and Cheryl Allee*

I want to thank everyone for the many prayers, cards and food while I was recuperating from my eye surgery. Things went better than expected and now I am volunteering with the Christian Appalachian Project in eastern Kentucky for the next nine months. Please keep us in your prayers, as the folks in the Appalachian mountains have such great needs. *Nancy Tabor*

On behalf of my family, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for all of the cards, phone calls, and in particular the delicious dinner that was provided to our family during my recent back surgery and recovery. Sharon Presbyterian Church is such a true blessing to its members and your love and support expressed during this time have clearly demonstrated the depth of love we have for one another and our savior Jesus Christ. *David Stanford*



Thank you from the pastors and staff for all of the delicious goodies, thoughtful gifts, and kind wishes you shared with us over the Christmas holidays!

New elders ordained and installed

On Sunday, January 10, the service of Ordination and Installation was held for the elders in the class of 2012. Those serving on the session for 2010 are:

Class of 2010: Sarah Brown, Will Burch, Terry Dawson, Steve Ferber, Brooks Gearhart, Susan Grills, Carolyn Nowaczewski, Beth Osowski, J.D. Pearce, Nancy Walker

Class of 2011: Rich Barefoot, Chris Buchanan, Gene Manning, Joel McIntyre, Chris Moffat, Lisa Moore, Ray Shrum, Linda Skinner, Stephanie Spivey, Cary Young

Class of 2012: Doug Allen, Josh Auten, Bob Ballantyne, Ann Bryant, Gina Crocker, Brian Dillard, Brenda Fairbrother, Ralph McNatt, Marna Polhill, David Tibbals

Clerk of Session, David Stanford

Enjoy dinner and learn how to make dolls from yesteryear

Monday, January 18, all interested ladies and girls from about 9 years old and up are invited to a covered dish salad supper followed by a doll-making adventure beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Room 6 of the Charles Little Activity Building. Special guest will be Patty Proctor, who will teach participants how to make old-fashioned church dolls from ribbons and handkerchiefs like those that were used years ago to help silently amuse children during the long church services. Reservations are not necessary, but please contact Jeannie Satterfield if you are interested in attending and bringing your daughter, 704-525-8779 or 704-331-6189.

Women’s Bible study offered

Attention women of the church – a new Bible study for women of Sharon Church and their friends will begin mid-January. The study will be based on *Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed, a Study of David*. The group meets every other Wednesday at Sonya Stanford’s home at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Sonya at 704-541-9048, or Ann Cannon, 704-541-0039.

‘Taking care of yourself’ is topic for next 55 Alive

The January meeting for 55 Alive will be on Tuesday, January 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the Charles Little Activity Building. The speaker will be ‘our own’ Leigh Hawkins, who through his company Certified Fitness Systems, helps others take care of their physical well-being. Leigh has degrees in Exercise Physiology from Appalachian State and James Madison Universities. Lunch is at noon and cost is \$7.00, and Leigh will start at 12:30. For reservations or information, call Ray Shrum at 704-523-8049.



Experience God’s love through the next Peru mission trip

A meeting for those interested in participating in the 2010 Adult Mission Trip to Peru will be held Sunday, January 24, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. in the Parlor. The trip is scheduled to take place from Friday, July 30 to Sunday, August 8, 2010. Trip information and applications will be distributed at the meeting and will also be available from the Adult Mission Trip to Peru mailbox and the Sharon Church Mission Trip blog beginning January 24, 2010. The mailbox is located on the top row of mailboxes in the hallway just outside the church office. The website address of the blog is www.spctravels.blogspot.com. If you are unable to attend the meeting and are still interested in participating or learning more about the trip, please contact Randy Ross at 704-552-5573 (home) or at mrاندallross@aol.com. Photographs, reflections and other information about the 2008 and 2009 trips to Peru can also be found on the blog.



Sharon Presbyterian Weekday School registration is in February

Registration for new families to attend the Sharon Presbyterian Weekday School will be from February 4 - 19, 2010. For information contact Beth Merchant, the director of the Weekday School, at bethspws@carolina.rr.com, 704-554-0882, or go to this link on the church website: http://sharonpcusa.org/weekday_school.htm



Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 7, 2010, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter, and a warm meal. Please join our Senior High youth and others around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pots as you leave worship on February 7. Every penny collected will go to local agencies who provide food and shelter for those in need. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. Through example, our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

Sharon On Wednesday

The buzz about Sharon On Wednesday is catching! We had record attendance for the opening evening and are anticipating even more faith-filled fellowship for Wednesdays to come! If you haven't yet experienced the warmth and joy of Wednesdays at SPC, make plans to spend your Wednesday evenings with your church family.



Shorter schedule

- 5:30 – 5:45 Early-bird fellowship
- 5:45 – 6:15 Catered dinner
- 6:00 – 7:00 Childcare for ages 2-Kindergarten
- 6:00 – 6:30 Kids' Club educational activities for grades K-2, 3-5
- 6:15 – 7:00 Youth Bible study
- 6:15 – 7:00 Options for sr. high youth and adults:
 Pastor's Bible Study: *Scripture Study for Dummies*
 Special Topic Study: *The Bucket List - Make Sure Your Wishes Are Known*
 Service Ministry: *Prayer Shawls and PAT ministry*
 Social Time: *Games and Gab Fellowship*
- 6:30 – 7:00 Children's Choir for Grades 1-5
- 7:30 – 9:00 Chancel Choir

The Bucket List SOW Class

Thinking of one's death is not what most of us embrace heartily. However, with some prior planning, you can save your loved ones additional grief at this stressful time as well as make important decisions ahead of time. Sharon On Wednesday offers a workshop, The Bucket List, to guide us in thinking about those decisions. On Wednesday, January 20, using a form called "The Family Love Letter," a financial advisor will discuss gathering all the information our family will need to know. On January 27, Rev. Ron Nelson will discuss planning our own funeral – what are our favorite hymns, Bible passages, a special poem – decisions he often finds families unable to answer. This really is not a morbid issue but rather a wake-up call for planning ahead. You are invited to the discussions in Room 6 at 6:15 p.m. following the Sharon On Wednesday meal.

Lower dinner pricing; meals-to-go available

- With Reservations: \$6.00, Adults; \$3.00, Children; family maximum of \$30.25
- Without Reservations: \$6.50, Adults; \$3.50; Children; family maximum of \$37.75.

No charge for children under age 4. Reservation deadline is 11:00 a.m. each Tuesday; contact the church office, **704-553-0869**, by email at karen@sharonpcusa.org.



2010 Budget passed by Session

As of January 2, 2010, there were 242 pledges that totaled \$761,446 toward Sharon Presbyterian's 2010 Operating Budget. Based on these pledges, historical "loose" change, and non-pledged gifts, a formal budget of \$835,634 was presented to the Session and approved. We look forward to the new year with great hope and excitement as we seek to carry out the ministries God has called us to do.

A brief summary of the 2010 Operating Budget is included below. A much more detailed copy is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office, and printed copies are available from the church office for those who want to review the budget more closely. As always, any questions can be directed to the Stewardship Ministry or to our Financial Secretary, Scottie Trapp.

Christian Education	21,465.00
Church Administration	
Salary and Benefits	498,490.00
Office expenses; General Assembly	106,231.00
Church Family	10,725.00
Community Witness	2,300.00
Congregational Nurturing	2,550.00
Facilities and Environment	87,800.00
Sharon's Vision	9,950.00
Stewardship	52,702.00
World Service	34,775.00
Worship and Music	8,645.00
Total	\$ 835,634.00



Plans are in the works for Youth Sunday

Senior High youth are hard at work planning this year's Youth Sunday to be held at both worship services on February 14. You will experience new music, interesting messages, and inspiring prayers, as well as enjoy seeing our youth in action. Be sure to attend!

Explore the Young Adult Sunday School Class

The Young Adult Sunday School Class is meeting in the Rose Room of the Worship Building. The class has been gracious about moving around during the Chapel renovations. For more information about the Young Adult Class, contact Josh Auten, 704-554-7171.

Annual PW Soup Supper scheduled for February 15

On Monday, February 15, at 6:30 p.m., all ladies of Sharon are invited to the annual PW Soup Supper. We will enjoy vegetable beef soup, cornbread, and dessert, followed by an engaging speaker, the Rev. Pinky Bender.



**American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Sunday, February 7,
Charles Little
Activity Building
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Sign up to donate –
contact Ralph Lovejoy at
704-907-9575**

Attendance Statistics

December 20, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship	213
11:00 a.m. Worship	317
Church School	213
December 24, Christmas Eve	
4:30 p.m.	274
7:30 p.m.	n/a
11:00 p.m.	100

December 27

9:00 a.m. Worship	108
11:00 a.m. Worship	182
Church School	146

January 3, 2010

9:00 a.m. Worship	98
11:00 a.m. Worship	199
Church School	229

January 10

10:30 a.m. Worship	340
Church School	218



Scouting for Food

Loaves & Fishes is a non-profit emergency food pantry program which provides a week's worth of groceries to people in crisis in Charlotte Mecklenburg. The economy is negatively impacting many more families in the Charlotte area and they are in need of our help. As we are called to help folks in need, please help Loaves & Fishes by contributing canned goods during the "Scouting for Food." Boy Scout Troop 34, sponsored by Sharon Church, will distribute grocery bags for Loaves and Fishes in the church narthex on Sunday, January 30. Please take a bag or two home to bring back the following Sunday, February 7, filled with canned goods. Items particularly requested include canned fruit, 100% juice, pork and beans, peanut butter, canned meat, and soup (no glass containers). Troop 34 will collect the full bags and transport them to the local Loaves and Fishes collection point. Thank you for your generosity and support of those in need!

Financial gifts sent to agencies

We received donations of \$1,840 for Love Lights this past Christmas which will be divided between the Emergency Winter Shelter and our missionaries, the Dimmocks. Also, the Joy Gift offering collected \$1,914, which is forwarded to the Charlotte Presbytery. Thank you for your donations to both ministries.

Thank you for your help,

from the Ministry of World Service
Sharon Church served over 3700 meals at the Uptown Men's Shelter and the Salvation Army Women's Shelter in 2009, a record high for one year. To all who participated, thank you very much. As you know from the media, these two shelters operated at capacity during much of last year because of the recession. You made a difference by reaching out the last Saturday of every month. Please know that your efforts were most appreciated.

Guest speaker coming to Covenant Westminster Class

Woody Brown, Director of HIV/AIDS Case Management and Medical Adherence for RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) will be guest speaker at the Covenant Westminster Sunday School Class in Room 6 of the Charles Little Activity Building on Sunday, January 30. All interested in learning about this excellent program are invited to attend. Sharon Church has an active RAIN team.

One of our students going on Guatemala mission trip

Sharon Church member Joanna Price, a senior at Vanderbilt University, will be traveling to Guatemala during her 2010 Spring Break, March 6 – 14, 2010. Joanna, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Vanderbilt, will travel with ten other students and four adult leaders to the village of Santiago Atitlan. The village was declared a mass grave in October 2005 after rains from Tropical Storm Stan caused massive mudslides. Over 550 deaths were reported and a large portion of the village was covered under twenty-five feet of mud.



to raise \$1,400.00, the cost of the trip. Any excess funds raised will be donated to the hospital for much needed equipment and supplies.

Sharon Church has made a donation towards the cost of Joanna's trip from the Eloise Rushforth Missions Fund. Sharon Church members are invited to join Joanna on her trip with an individual donation.

Tax-deductible gifts can be mailed to Presbyterian Campus Ministry, 2417 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37240. Please indicate "Joanna Price-Guatemala Mission Trip" in the memo section of your check.

The purpose of the trip is to work alongside Guatemalans and others to reopen the village hospital. The trip is being sponsored by the Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America. Joanna is seeking

Please keep Joanna and the other mission team members in your *thoughts and prayers as they embark on their journey of faith and service in Guatemala.*



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Position open with church member's company

“Employment opportunity for qualified person in an emerging company. We are relocating the operating offices to Charlotte. Skill requirements include excellent knowledge of Excel, experience in customer service and planning. Day travel to plants in the Carolinas may be required.” For further information contact Larry Wright at larrimore.wright@gmail.com.

Alzheimer's Association offering program

Sharon Towers is sponsoring a free informative program, “Now what was I saying?” in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association on Tuesday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m. 5100 Sharon Road. Learn how your brain and memory work. Contact Celia Furr, 704-553-3712, for more information about the program.

Update on Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Sharon Church distributed 218 shoeboxes and 184 were returned filled to the brim with items. Additionally, 16 people volunteered at the Samaritan's Purse distribution center on November 27. Because of this, we have been able to share God's love with children around the world and to let them know we care.

Thanking a leader,

by Mary Ellen Kennedy

As the church librarian I have worked with several elder-leaders on the Christian Education Ministry. All have worked diligently and with commitment. This year I have had occasion to watch Robin Shealy in the position, and how much paper work for insurance purposes and planning ahead to send our youth group on their mission trip, how much work is involved in Sharon On Wednesday, and how she spent her Sunday mornings for Summer Sunday School. I have much respect for Robin as I saw how much her job meant to her. Thank you, Robin, for your time and energy you have given as one of our leaders.

Drawing and watercolor class to be offered at Sharon Church

Hands and Mind will be offering a drawing and watercolor class at Sharon Church on Wednesday mornings from February 3 - March 24. The class will meet in the basement of the annex from 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. For information on the cost and registration, contact Bettina Wirz at 704-366-1489, or handsandmind@live.com.

Argh, mateys - save the date!



Vacation Bible School

THE Disciple

Sharon Presbyterian Church
5201 Sharon Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210
704-553-0869

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.



Dr. Rob Blumer, Pastor
Rev. Ron Nelson, Associate Pastor
Sharon Vanpelt, Director of Christian Education
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

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Missionaries supported in part by Sharon Presbyterian

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