



THE SHARON DISCIPLE

Sharon Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

www.sharonpcusa.org office@sharonpcusa.org

A Note From Your Interim Pastor

Sharon Church is on the move!

The Session meeting last Sunday night, January 11, 2009, lasted longer than it might have, had it not been for the steady stream of activity and plans which have been circling around the Church campus in recent weeks.

For one thing, the Mission Study which has been proceeding for several months under the Leadership of Randy Pusser and his committee brought its final report to the meeting. The chairman and the committee members were enthusiastically thanked by the Session. They have prepared a marvelous report on Sharon Church and its ministries and members: where it has been, where it is now, and where it hopes to go. The results of the Study will soon be made available to the entire membership.



Mission Study

Our Vision Ministry is working on the best possible way to make sure everyone receives it and has a chance for feedback. In short it says that we have come a long, long way in our history since a group of pioneers marched into the Piedmont wilderness to lay the foundation of a church in 1831. It also notes that we

have a long, long way to go to respond to the Lord God Almighty for the future. Congratulations on the Study and to all who participated among the membership.

Secondly, the Church Budget was approved for 2009. Unfortunately our congregation seems stuck on the idea that we should give only enough to get by. We know this is a difficult year for many with the collapse of the economy and the loss of jobs and the like. While nothing of great consequence was eliminated from the requests, some of the special things various ministries wanted to do to expand their work will not be done this year. And, most everyone feels that we fall short of what we should be doing in our contributions to the various missions and missionaries of the congregation. Some pledges have not yet been received. If you have not returned yours, please do so one day soon.



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Earlier the same day a Forum was held in the Sanctuary following the second service. Under the leadership of Andrew Kromer, the new Moderator of Vision Ministry, along with Charlie Ellis, Bill Acton, Jenny Pusser and some others, the congregation looked over some detail of the proposed renovation of the Chapel and the construction of the New Christian Education Center. There were many questions and comments which were and are a great help to the committee. The



purpose of the meeting was to give the membership a chance to comment and question. All of that was fulfilled. As it is, the plans for the renovation of the Chapel are in place now, even if they await formal approval at a later date in a Congregational Meeting. The New Christian Education Center will be a blessing to all of our educational programs. The current CE Building, while having served us well, is a wreck and needs to be replaced. There will be more later on about details and plans.

The Pastoral Nominating Committee is in place and will begin its work following a meeting to receive their instructions from the Committee of Ministry representative, John Baber, our liaison with the Presbytery and



for a time recently the Moderator of our Session. We will soon begin the actual search for a new minister. If you have suggestions of possible candidates, or other comments you would like to make to the Committee (the names are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter) please send them to the church office and we will see that they are passed along.

It was noted that Church attendance has leveled off so that the average number of parishioners present in worship is almost exactly the same as it was ten years ago. With all the changes and difficulties some might say that is a plus for Sharon Church. However, the Lord is not pleased that we have made no progress in membership for a decade; in fact, the actual membership roll has decreased. Please pray for

the work of our beloved church. We need and want to have new



and younger members to carry on the work. The members we do have are enthusiastic and committed, but many of us are growing on in years and we need to count on others to carry on.

A thank you was issued to the outgoing class of elders who are listed elsewhere in the news, and the Session welcomed the new class. All in all, it was a grand if overly-long Session Meeting. Please pray for the elders in their important work. And, do not hesitate to send along your likes and dislikes for the Church and its outreach. I hope all is well with you, please let us know if it is not. I hope to see you soon in Church...

Meanwhile, God bless you and keep you in his care.

Cordially,

Welcome to our seminary intern!

We welcome seminary intern, Dee Osbourne-Smart, who is in her 4th year at Union PSCE, Charlotte. Dee is married with 2 children, and is a Doctor of Orthodontics. The position is a requirement of her seminary studies, and she will be with us approximately 6 months. Mike Koch will serve as Dee's staff liaison during her time at Sharon.

Elders ordained and installed

On Sunday, January 11, 2009, the following were ordained as elders: Rich Barefoot, Chris Buchanan, Chris Moffat, Beth Osowski, Ray Shrum, Stephanie Spivey, and Cary Young.

The following were installed as elders: Pete Bleynat, Joel McIntyre, Gene Manning, Lisa Moore, and Linda Skinner.

We are grateful to the outgoing class of elders who gave generously with their time and efforts: Rock Boyle, George Chapman, Doug Dawson, Kaye DuMond, Karen Earnhardt, Sharon Garfield, Malda Kenyon, Jim Knepp, Bill McClure, Charles Murray, Marna Polhill.

In Memoriam

**Betty Schachner
December 27, 2008**

We express our sympathy to her family and friends.

We express our sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to Beth Setser in the death of her father, Harrison Giles, on December 16, 2008; to E.C. Sullivan in the death of his sister, Grace Kephart, on December 17, 2008.

Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

Gifts in Memory

Patsy Ernest, by David and Miriam Wilson, Frank and Ann Shook, C.A. Sinquefield, Robert and Elizabeth Smith

Howard White, by Peggy Crowder
Grace Kephart, Marguerite

Lemons, Patsy Ernest, by Dwight and Margaret Thomas

Zana Payne, John Muse, Bill Starnes, by George Payne

Gifts in Honor

Charles Alley, by Beverly Alley
Dr. Cromie, Rev. Nelson, and Rev. Koch, by Tom and Nancy Kirkpatrick

Rev. Courtney Cromie, by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Cromie

Rock and Ann Boyle, George and Virginia Kenyon, Hall and Jenny Starnes, Bill and Betty Johnson, David and Pam Beers, David and Miriam Wilson, Marguerite Muse, Malda Kenyon, Susan Cline, Marvin Ward, by George Payne

We remember in our prayers ~ Pray Without Ceasing Church Members

Those home from the hospital: Elgerine Elliott; *those at home:* Notra McNatt, Jo Ann Kimball, Helen Sullivan, Buck Hopkins, George Payne, Jean Stewart, Chip Morgan, Al Allee, Marjorie Hefferon, Nell Petersen, Ed Ridgell, Betty McCorkle, Jim and Marion McClellan; our missionaries to Africa, Frank and Nancy Dimmock (fdimmock@TLMail.Co.LS); the people of the Presbytery of Huanta, Peru; those who have lost their jobs

Family and Friends

Andrew Murray, grandson of Charles and Beth Murray, UNC-CH; Dwight Wagoner, Beth Addis's father; Harvey Nettingham, Charlotte Patterson's father



The following were elected on December 28, 2008, to serve as the Pastor Nominating Committee for Sharon Presbyterian Church

- Bill Acton**
- Rick Addis**
- Andrew Kromer**
- Joel McIntyre**
- Ann Mallard**
- Jenny Pusser**
- Roz Walker**

We welcome the newly-baptized

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered on December 28, 2008, to Caroline Frances Smith and Audrey Elizabeth Smith, twins of Amy and Christopher Smith.

Thank you

To the friends and family of Sharon Church, thank you for your calls, food, rides, offers of help, and most of all your prayers while my wrist has been broken. It is great to have a church that cares for each other.
Freida Caldwell

The church office will be closed Monday, January 19, 2009, for the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.



Worship

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m.

January 18, 2009

Dr. Richard M. Cromie Preaching

"What Christ Might Say to Barak Obama On His Inauguration Day!"

January 25, 2009

Dr. Richard M. Cromie Preaching

"How to Pray for What You Get..."

February 1, 2009

Rev. Ron Nelson preaching

February Birthdays and Anniversaries



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Statements in the mail

Year-end giving statements have been mailed (bulk mail). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Scottie Trapp in the church office. Scottie's office hours are on Wednesday mornings and she can also be reached at scottie@sharonpcusa.org

Bill Moorefield to speak to Men of the Church

At the February 8, 2009, breakfast for the Men of the Church, Dr. Bill Moorefield will speak on "Living With the Cherokees," which promises to be an interesting program. The breakfast is at 8:00 a.m. in Room 6 of the Charles Little Activity Building. For reservations, contact the church office, 704-553-0869.



Operation Christmas Child ends another successful year

Thank you to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Of the 249 boxes distributed at Sharon Presbyterian, 168 were collected and taken to OCC, and 15 members from Sharon Church worked at OCC on November 28, 2008.

Attendance Statistics

December 21, 2008

9:00 a.m. Worship	134
11:00 a.m. Worship	309
Church School	177

December 28

9:00 a.m. Worship	101
11:00 a.m. Worship	245
Church School	139

January 4, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship	124
11:00 a.m. Worship	247
Church School	194

January 11

9:00 a.m. Worship	120
11:00 a.m. Worship	291
Church School	200

Associate Pastor Mike Koch on study leave

Rev. Michael Koch will be away on study leave from January 11-23, 2009, at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, pursuing the Doctor of Ministry degree. Mike will also be away from January 23-25 joining the SPY youth group for their annual ski trip at Winterplace Ski Resort in Flat Top, WV. As Mike will be away, please contact the office for any needs.



Pledges for 2009

We are pleased to tell you that so far we have had 246 pledges returned totaling \$737,266.

We still have a long way to go to reach our goal. If you have not sent your pledge card to the Church, please do so as soon as possible. Cards are available from the office, and they are also available on the Narthex table and each Sunday in the Friendship pads.

The 2009 Offering

Envelopes are available in the hallway leading from the narthex to the church office. So that we can be good stewards and save money on postage, please pick up your box today.

Sanctuary flowers calendar has dates available

There are still some dates available on the 2009 Flower Calendar for the opportunity to donate Sanctuary flowers in honor or memory of someone. The cost per arrangement is \$60 and we can accommodate two arrangements in the Sanctuary per Sunday. Flowers may be taken home or delivered to shut-ins after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sundays. The flower calendar is located in the hallway near the choir room. For questions, please call the church office, 704-553-0869.

Study of the book of Esther offered

The women of Sharon Church will have an opportunity for a Book Study entitled, "Esther – It Isn't Easy Being a Woman," by Beth Moore. The daytime group will meet at the home of Sonya Stanford every other Wednesday, with the first gathering on January 21 at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in the group, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869, so that books for the study can be ordered.

Sharon On Wednesday welcomes new caterer

Sharon Church members Agnew and Lee Ann Hopkins have taken over responsibilities for preparation of the Sharon On Wednesday dinners. Agnew is Assistant Professor within the Hospitality College at Johnson and Wales University and Lee Ann works in the food-service department of Myers Park United Methodist Church. Together they will be preparing the suppers each Wednesday with the help of some of the JWU students.

The deadline for Sharon On Wednesday reservations has been moved up to noon on Mondays; please complete the form in the Sunday bulletin, call the church office, or email charlotte@sharonpcusa.org.

Christmas greetings from the Dimmocks

World Service Ministry has posted a Christmas email with a picture from our missionaries, Frank and Nancy Dimmock, on the office area and CLAB gym bulletin boards for you to enjoy. Please continue to pray for our missionaries.



What are YOUR spiritual gifts?

The Ministry of Stewardship invites you to participate in an 8-week series designed to help you explore, identify, and use the spiritual gifts you have been blessed with by God. Join us for Sharon On Wednesdays beginning January 14. Our "Serving from the Heart" seminar will meet from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. here at the church in a location to be announced. Study guides are \$10 and are available in the church office from Ron Nelson.

YOU are gifted by God!

2009 Session of Sharon Presbyterian Church

Class of 2009: Pam Beers, Pete Bleyntat, Gregory Lynn Clodfelter, Susie Ellis, Andrew Kromer, John Mallard, Scarlett Owens, Norris Parker, Randy Ross, Mike Spainhour

Class of 2010: Sarah Brown, Will Burch, 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
Clerk of Session, David Stanford

The Women's Retreat the last weekend of October 2008 was a tremendous success, with almost 50 women participating! Be sure to watch for the announcement of the 2009 Women's Retreat.



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Sharon Presbyterian Church

Dr. Richard M. Cromie, *Interim Pastor*
Rev. Ron Nelson, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Mike Koch, *Associate Pastor*
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.*
Charlotte Patterson, *Secretary/Recept.*
Scottie Trapp, *Fin. Secretary*
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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