

THE SHARON DISCIPLE

Sharon Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

www.sharonpcusa.org office@sharonpcusa.org

Mike Koch Leaving Sharon Church



We are sorry to report that our Associate Pastor Mike Koch will be leaving Sharon Presbyterian Church at the end of this month. His time among us was far too short. His devotion to Christ and the Church is exceptional. We have been blessed by his presence.

We congratulate Mike on his Call from the Lord to serve in a new position as Pastor of a congregation in

our Presbytery. He will be close enough to say hello from time to time. We send our love and prayers to Mike and Claudia, and their children, Nikolas and Carina, in the new pastorate. God bless you as you go.

Mike's last Sunday will be April 26. He will be moving out of the office and into his new church on May 1, 2009.

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Chapel Renovation Fund Moving On

At the recent Congregation Meeting our church membership approved the necessary renovation and repair to the old Chapel. The outside brick work, the ceiling and walls and carpeting inside all are in dire need of repair and updates. The whole electrical system has to be replaced for safety and contemporary use. In addition we have approved a rearrangement of the interior seating with some of the pews being retained for worship, as we look forward to a less formal Worship Services for the younger members and others. But weddings,

baptisms and of course smaller funeral and memorial services will once again be conducted there. We have also included sound and video possibilities in worship, as well as a new organ and other chancel improvements.



Chapel renovation,
continued on page 3

**Barbershop Octet at
Nine O'Clock
Youth Service at Eleven**

**Worship on
April 26, 2009**

As part of the Worship Ministry's attempt to move us forward to less formal worship services, we will have a wonderful Barbershop Octet at the Nine O'clock worship service on April 26. The time will include less formal prayers from the pew and a little hymn-sing with suggestions from the pew. Please come along.

Then at Eleven O'Clock we will feature our yearly Youth Service, planned and led by the young people of Sharon Church

Youth Worship,
continued on page 4

In Memoriam

Ann Crowell Boyle
April 21, 2009

We express our sympathy to her husband, Rock, their family and friends.

We express our sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to Roger Suiter in the death of his sister, Phyllis Harris, on March 19, 2009; to Rosemary Hill in the death of her mother, Avalo Hill, on March 30, 2009; to Wincy Sullivan in the death of her brothers, Reginald Cranford, on March 19, 2009, and Wilburn Cranford, on April 14, 2009; to Thelma Porter, Christine Smith, and Ray Shrum in the death of their brother, Weldon Shrum, on April 2, 2009

Gifts to Sharon Presbyterian Church

Gifts in Memory

Sara Little, by Sue Thrower
Phyllis Harris, by Nancy Tabor,
David and Kathleen Decherd
Weldon Shrum, by Linda and Tom Skinner
Ann Boyle, by FAITH Bridge Group

In Honor

David and Pam Beers, by Deb and Jack Jenkins
Jane Brawley, by Tyson and Lisa Brawley
Susan and Scott Milkey, by Myra and Buck Harris



Pray Without Ceasing

To actively encourage prayer within the life of the church, the Ministry of Congregational Nurturing is publishing a list of prayer concerns in each issue of the church newsletter. By being responsive to the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer, it is our hope that God's guidance, love, and healing power may be felt by the members of this congregation and beyond.

All prayer requests will be published for a period of one month. After that time, the request will need to be resubmitted for inclusion. Please respect the privacy of others by asking the person(s) involved for permission to publish their name(s). To submit a prayer request, please call or email Reta LeFeber (704-554-8297 or Rlefeber@bellsouth.net). Please give your name and phone number, the name of the person for whom you are asking prayer, and a brief description of the concern.

At home: George Ashley, Mary Jo Alley, Jim Foster, Sarah Hirschy

Family and Friends: Andrew Murray: Beth & Charles Murray's grandson; Dwight Wagoner: Beth Addis' father; Ruth Roudebush: Georgia Droppelman's mother; Todd Radenbaugh: a friend of Bev Johnson's; Sybil Johnson: Ann Cannon's mother; Frank and Nancy Dimmock: our missionaries in Africa; those in our church and beyond who have lost jobs and are seeking new opportunities.

Can you help in the church office?

The church office is in need of volunteers to answer the phones and greet visitors during the week. We have a good core group of folks who are of tremendous help, but if you are interested in providing this much-needed assistance, please contact Myra Rounds, 704-544-0775.



We welcome the newly-baptized

Welcome to Edward Smith Tennent, VI (Smith), son of Alison and Ed Tennent, who was baptized on April 19, 2009.

Thank you for all the cards, calls, and emails during my recent hospitalization. They have meant the world to me.
Sarah Hirschy

Thank you so much for your gifts when I left Sharon Church. You were so kind to think of me.
Charlotte Patterson

It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a caring and loving church family. I know that your many prayers carried me through my recent surgery. The telephone calls, cards, and visits have sustained me during the recovery and the food has nurtured me and my family during this time. Thank you so very much for your love and support.
Your Sister in Christ,
Mary Jo Alley

Ron Nelson to be on Sabbatical

Every seven years a pastor in Charlotte Presbytery is given a Sabbatical leave to refresh and renew the strengths for ministry. Ron Nelson reports:

I am deeply grateful to God and to Sharon Presbyterian Church for the opportunity to serve here as an Associate Pastor. March 26, 2009, marked the 14th anniversary of my ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament, and July 1, 2009, will mark my 15th year of service here at Sharon Church. I am delighted and honored that the Session has granted me a time

of Sabbath Leave from June 8, 2009, through August 16, 2009.

I plan to travel with my family, study and read, exercise, celebrate John Calvin's 500th Birthday at a conference at Montreat, do a little gardening, and take some time to simply rest and relax. It is my hope that during this time away the Spirit of God may begin to move anew in my life. I look forward to a time of disengaging from my normal tasks and routines and drinking deeply from the Spirit's life-giving waters. I also look forward to the excitement of exploring new learning and new ideas and renewing creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment for ministry.

While I am away, you all will be in my prayers, and I trust that I will be in yours!



Worship Schedule

Worship 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m.

April 26

9:00, Informal Service:
Barbershop Octet

Meditation by Dr. Cromie
"This Little Light of Mine..."
Matthew 5:1-16

11:00 Youth Sunday Service

May 3

Dr. Cromie preaching

"The Race Is Not to the Swift..."
Ecclesiastes 9:11

May 10, Mother's Day

Dr. Cromie preaching

"The Women in Jesus' Life"
Luke 8:36-50

May 17

Rev. Ron Nelson preaching

May 24

Begin Summer Schedule
Worship at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Chapel renovations, *continued from page 1*

At this point Sharon Church is in need of the funds to complete these necessary changes. We do not envision a massive capital funds drive, but we are encouraging those of you who have historical interest and attachment to the old Church, and/or in the revisions which will make the whole space more useful in the future, to consider prayerfully a gift to the work.

We all are aware that things financially are uncertain for many, but this work has been postponed for a couple of years as the Session found a way to compromise the varied interests of the membership, and it is past time that we have to move ahead. Members of the Vision Ministry with Dr. Cromie as staff liaison would be pleased to talk with you.

Thanks and God bless you.

Red Cross Blood Drive Update *by Ralph Lovejoy*

The American Red Cross continues to be pleased with Sharon Presbyterian Church's efforts in saving lives through our regular blood drives. Our next blood drive is scheduled for May 31, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Charles Little Activity Building. It can never be over-emphasized how vital every pint of blood donated is to our community - particularly leading into the summer months.



With help from folks like Greg King, we'll reach our goal!

Prayerfully consider signing up and donating. Our last drive on February 15, 2009, just made our goal. Thanks to all who donated - especially our elder statesman, Ralph Jenkinson, and our newest and youngest first-time donor, Audrey Young.

And, as always, a special thanks to Letty and Dave Latta for dual contribution of their time and their blood. To sign up to donate, contact the church office, 704-553-0869.

Youth Sunday,
continued from page 1

and their leaders. We always look forward to this time of refreshing new ideas and sermons and music. Let's fill the Sanctuary in honor of our dedicated youth! We are proud of their commitment to Christ and to Sharon Church!

Supper Swap group starting

Are you interested in joining other couples at Sharon Church for dinner and fellowship? If so, please join us for the Sharon Couples Supper Swap. Get to know your fellow Sharon Church members by sharing your home and a meal together. Four couples per group will share hosting responsibilities for four gatherings, then rotate joining another set of couples. Please contact the church office for more information, 704-553-0869, office@sharonpcusa.org.

John Calvin to be subject of discussions

Reformed Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary invite you to join them in celebrating John Calvin's 500th Birthday with lectures by Dr. Merwyn Johnson and Dr. Douglas Kelly. Dr. Johnson will speak on "Calvin at the Crossroads of a Changing Church." Dr. Kelly will address "The Catholicity of the Theology of John Calvin." The lectures will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2009, and conclude with worship and communion at 5:30 p.m. The location is Carmel Presbyterian Church, 2048 Carmel Road, Charlotte.

Welcome to our new members!



Linda Bruning

Linda joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is a graduate of Kent State University and is a graphic artist.



Todd and Kelly Frankman and Brooke (Todd absent for photo)

Todd and Kelly joined by Reaffirmation of Faith; Todd is a realtor.

Attendance Statistics

March 22, 2009	
9:00 a.m. Worship	117
11:00 a.m. Worship	258
Church School	243
Visitors	25
March 29	
9:00 a.m. Worship	107
11:00 a.m. Worship	240
Church School	232
Visitors	32
Palm Sunday, April 5	
9:00 a.m. Worship	152
11:00 a.m. Worship	328
Church School	200
Visitors	40
Easter, April 12	
7:00 a.m. Sunrise	75
9:00 a.m. Worship	285
11:00 a.m. Worship	401
Church School	183
Visitors	123
April 19	
9:00 a.m. Worship	116
11:00 a.m. Worship	286
Church School	192
Visitors	42



Remember our missionaries in prayer

Our missionaries, Nancy and Frank Dimmock, have requested specific prayers for themselves and their eight children from our congregation. As PCUSA's new Africa Health Liaison, Frank is traveling all over the continent. Nancy is working to establish an adoption agency for Lesotho's orphans. On our bulletin boards across from the office and at the side entrance to the CLAB are copies of Nancy's entire letter and prayer requests for each family member. Please feel free to take copies and continue to support the Dimmocks in your prayers.

Clothing donations sought for Peru mission trip, by Randy Ross

Participants in the 2009 Adult Mission Trip to Huanta Peru are seeking donations of clothing to present to the members of the Presbytery of Huanta.

Seventeen (17) people have committed to participate in this year's trip. Last year, twelve (12) suitcases of children's clothing and Spanish Bibles and office supplies for the Presbytery's Biblical Institute and its students were donated by members of Sharon Presbyterian Church.



The children of Huanta are wonderful!

child received an outfit and was happy."

Donations of new or gently worn clothing for children will again be warmly received. Due to the variances in climate, clothing for all seasons can be used. Shoes are especially needed.

Given the increase in the number of participants in this year's trip, we are also seeking donations of men's and women's clothing.

Luggage to transport the donations to Peru is also needed. Due to weight restrictions on the Peruvian airline that participants will fly from Lima to Ayacucho, donations will be shipped to Huanta by bus.

Donated luggage will not be returned.

A collection bin has been placed in the Elder mailbox hallway. Or if you prefer, a participant on the trip would be happy to schedule a pick up.

Pictures and descriptions of the distribution of the clothing donated last year, provided by Samuel Montes, can be seen on the Sharon Presbyterian Church Mission Trip Blog, at www.spctravels.blogspot.com

If you have any questions, need additional information or would like to schedule a pick up of donated items, please contact Randy Ross via telephone at 704-552-5573 or via e-mail at mrandallross@aol.com

Thank you for your participation in Sharon Presbyterian Church's outreach to our brothers and sisters in the Presbytery of Huanta Peru!

Room In the Inn has ended until fall

Thank you to all who participated in making the Sharon Church Room In the Inn a welcoming experience for our 179 guests this winter. Much appreciated were all who helped out Friday nights and Saturday mornings; the lunch sandwiches for our guests provided by Rising Roll; clean sheets and blankets every week, thanks to Sharon Towers; and, all those who provided personal items (soap, shampoo, etc.) and bingo prizes during the past year. Please remember our homeless neighbors in your prayers – while Room In the Inn ends for us for a while, their struggles continue.



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.

Stewardship Report March 2009

MTD Gifts	\$ 143,274.99
MTD Needs	98,600.57
MTD Net	\$ 44,674.42

YTD Gifts	\$ 194,774.18
YTD Needs	155,834.36
YTD Net	\$ 38,939.82

Special Gifts Awarded by Session

Contingency Fund Reserve for Needy Families	\$ 10,000.00
Crisis Assistance Ministry	\$ 10,000.00



Each One Can Reach One

We are all one in Christ, one family in God's church, and one congregation in which "Each One Can Reach One." The Ministry of Congregational Nurturing wants to help – please let us know of any needs, prayer requests, or special assistance that may be needed for you or someone you know. We can't help if we don't know about it. On the other hand, *if you don't have a need but would like to help*, please contact the church office, 704-553-0869, office@sharonpcusa.org.

2009 Session of Sharon Presbyterian Church

At a Congregational Meeting on March 22, 2009, Robin Shealy and Terry Dawson were elected to fill open spots on the Session. *Class of 2009:* Pam Beers, Pete Bleynat, Gregory Lynn Clodfelter, Susie Ellis, Andrew Kromer, John Mallard, Scarlett Owens, Norris Parker, Randy Ross, Robin Shealy, Mike Spainhour
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
Clerk of Session, David Stanford

Have breakfast with the Presbyterian Men!

The Presbyterian Men have changed their next meeting from May 10 (Mother's Day) to Sunday, May 17. Please plan to join the group in Room 6 of the CLAB for breakfast and an interesting program. The group donated the proceeds from their breakfast on April 19 to the Dimmocks, our missionaries in Africa. For more information, contact the church office, 704-553-0869.

1st Quarter Statements mailed

Our first quarter contribution statements were mailed via bulk mail in mid-April. Please contact Scottie Trapp in the church office on Wednesday mornings if you should have any questions, or by email at scottie@sharonpcusa.org.

Volunteers needed to help with our Furniture and Appliance Drive

Sharon Presbyterian Church is holding a Furniture and Appliance Drive to support Crisis Assistance Ministry on Saturday, May 23. We will collect items at your home and then deliver them to Crisis Assistance Ministry. Receipts will be available.

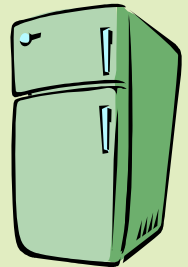
Crisis Assistance will distribute our donations free of charge to help formerly homeless families who cannot afford furniture, victims of domestic violence who have been forced to move, and other families in crisis. In the current economy, needs are staggering!

Please get involved by:

- **Volunteering for a few hours** to help with pickup and delivery on May 23. Those with pickup trucks are especially needed, but anyone willing to help is welcomed.
- **Donating** your items.

There is high demand for:

- Major appliances (refrigerators, stoves and washer/dryers). Age is not an issue, but items must be clean and in working order
- Kitchen/dining room tables and dinette sets, and chairs
- Mattresses and beds(critical need)
- Dressers and chests of drawers Sofas and loveseats (No large tears, rips or stains)
- Household items (kitchenware, linens, towels and blankets)



Crisis Assistance Ministry does not provide the following to its clients:

- Gas or built-in appliances (like dishwashers or cooktops)
- Freezers
- Lawn mowers
- Exercise equipment
- Pianos
- Computers/computer parts
- Car seats

Please contact the church office to volunteer or discuss donating items, 704-553-0869, office@sharonpcusa.org.



Thanks for helping with the SPY Mission Trip fundraiser

The SPY Silent Auction and Barbecue fundraiser was a resounding success! We were able to raise over \$4000 to help fund the Youth Mission Trip to NJ this July. Thanks to all who participated. We couldn't have done it without you!

Ladies, put on your best hat!

The ladies of Sharon Church will hold their annual May Day Tea Party next Sunday afternoon, April 26, at 2:30 p.m. in the Charles Little Activity Building. Ladies of all ages are invited to come and bring a friend – wear a hat!

Church Women United to meet at Sharon Church

Our Sharon Presbyterian Women will be 'hostessing' the Annual May Friendship Service for Church Women United on May 1, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. They will meet in the Charles Little Activity Building for worship service, followed by a catered lunch. With so many churches in this county it is good that we can extend our support for this annual event. For more information, contact the church office, 704-553-0869.

Did you know?

Did you know that the utility bill for Sharon Presbyterian Church is \$48,000 a year? That means for each person pledging funds, \$160 dollars went *just* toward keeping the lights on.

We need your continued support

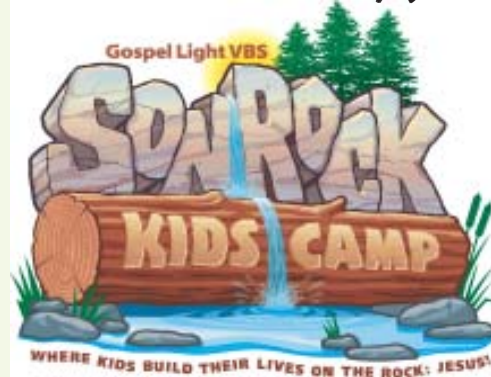




Mark your calendar!

After worship on Sunday, May 31, 2009, join us for the second backyard Church Family Picnic in the Grove! There will be fun entertainment and food for all. Feel free to wear comfortable attire to worship. Prior to worship, drop off your blanket and lawn chairs in the grove (the tree-filled area around the fountain) to reserve your spot! Rain date: June 7.

Time to register for Vacation Bible School, June 22-26



Vacation Bible School 2009 registration forms are available in the church office. This year's VBS theme is SonRock Kids Camp and will be June 22-26, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon daily, closing on Friday evening with a Pizza Dinner and Musical Presentation. All children ages three (by October 15, 2008)

through completed fifth grade are invited to participate. Friends and family members are invited to attend also. Class sizes will be limited, so be sure to turn in your form to the church office by May 3. The cost is \$15 per child, with a maximum of \$30 per family. Priority enrollment will be given to SPC members.



Sharon Presbyterian Church
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Charlotte, North Carolina 28210
**Office & after-hours emergency
phone: 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.

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.*
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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david@sharonpcusa.org

jane@sharonpcusa.org
scottie@sharonpcusa.org
bill@sharonpcusa.org

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