

Good News

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

First Baptist Church
P. O. Box 1287
Tryon, North Carolina 28782

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ISSUE 12

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...



I am Thankful.....

This is my favorite time of the year! As the fall leaves paint the mountains that I love with brilliance and the wind chill tells of winter's arrival, I get ready for a season of drawing close to God in a world of reflection. I start "Counting My Blessings" as the Hymn writer says!

I love walks in the woods, hearing the leaves crunch beneath my feet, gathering them for our tables, and Rena loves me for it. I begin reading familiar scriptures from Psalm 90, 100, and 103, and I think about what it means to "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, Bless His Holy name!" There will be a whole lot more "within me" come the last Thursday of the month! Did I mention that Pumpkin Pie also comes to mind? And cranberries, and dressing, and giblet gravy, and..... And sheltering people that I had never noticed before, people who aren't happy about leaves

and colors and cold nights of moonlight and stars, because they are hungry and frightened.

I have seen the lovely signs that you are seeing what I see.....20 men of the Brotherhood delivering 100 fruit baskets saying, "We love you!" 20 young adults gathering on a Sunday night to plan activities. They want the children to experience the deeper, joyful meanings of the Christ-Mass that they had the privilege to grow up with.....Boxes of warm coats to share with families in need.....Children and youth bringing cans of food as offerings to the Lord, that others may celebrate with a good feast of THANKS, too.....27 youth gathering to play and worship in their own style at Sunday night REFUGE, then saying they want to come to the Community Thanksgiving Service!.....Dozens of cards of remembrance floating around to be signed for our families in health crises.....Bright smiling faces of 8 fresh new Christians coming up from the chilly Baptismal waters..... 20 children across the front of church in worship as Kay Greene explained the meaning of the Baptismal waters (2

four year olds saying, "I want to go!")....families asking to dedicate their babies to the Lord...a new family telling of their faith, asking to serve the Lord here with us.....a growing number joining in for Wednesday Bible Study at the Activity Building..... Several of our very sick folks, struggling, but coming to worship because they just don't want to miss!..... 5 rooms full of faithful folks on various ministry teams spread around the church on Monday or Tuesday nights giving heart and soul to the work of the church.....And in it all I hear the Lord saying.....

"By SIGNS and WONDERS you will see Me and know that I am with you!!!" As I reflect at Thanksgiving, I am thankful that I can invite someone I love to come here and meet The Lord, the giver of all good and perfect gifts, right here. You are a wonderful people, and I am thankful for all of you.

Your Pastor in Christ
(in the Interim)



Bereavement Committee

Shirley Edwards

The Bereavement Committee has had a very busy year. We have served approximately sixteen deceased church members' families with meals, memorials and flowers. We would like to take this time to thank the church family for preparing food ready for the table, serving, and/or volunteering for set-up and clean-up duty.

Adella Ballew, one of our most dedicated committee members passed away on October 24, 2008 and will be greatly missed. Even at age 89, she was always present to help serve and had a homemade dish in hand. Being on this committee is very rewarding, and we thank you for allowing us to serve.

Bereavement Committee: Shirley Edwards, Gwen Goodwin, Ruby Jones

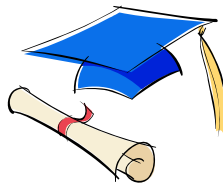


Christmas Cards for Soldiers

Sadie McKaig

Last year an email circulated asking that Christmas cards be sent to Walter Reed Hospital for wounded soldiers, and I like many thought this was a great idea! After having sent a card, I learned that WR cannot distribute cards or gifts to soldiers. This year the same email made the circuit! Just to be sure before letting my email friend know that WR cannot distribute cards I fortunately went to Snopes to confirm. Snopes gave a long explanation, of course, and the site also gave an address for the American Red Cross which is collecting and distributing cards.

Please take a moment very soon and send a card to: Holiday Mail for Heroes, PO Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. The drive began November 11, and they hope to distribute one million cards this holiday season. Just imagine the smile on the face of the soldier who receives your card.



Featuring Student Maryanne Henderson

GNs Staff

Tryon First Baptist Interim Minister Dr. William Henderson and his wife, Rena, are the parents of featured student, Mary Ann Henderson.

A 2008 Furman University graduate with a degree in Sociology, Maryanne hopes to "eventually get a master's degree in early childhood development and work in or eventually create a nonprofit that assists low-income teen moms in continuing their education while being positive caregivers who promote learning and healthy living with their children".

Maryanne's high ideals are also evident in her community service of tutoring inner-city high school students, Urban Young Life in college. She was social chairperson-event planning for Kappa Delta Sorority and she enjoys volleyball, reading and theatre.

The most interesting thing Maryanne has done was spending seven weeks traveling in Italy on foreign study.

We wish Maryanne success in fulfilling her dreams.



"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."
Mother Teresa



STEPS TO HOPE SNACK PROJECT

Julie Miller

The church has been asked to help with a Steps to Hope project. Every Wednesday after school, a Steps to Hope youth counselor works with 15-20 boys who exhibit anger and/or behavior problems. Some of these boys are as young as sixth grade.

Local churches have been asked to provide a light meal/snack one Wednesday each month. Beginning in January, I would like to assign the next four months to different Sunday School groups and Sisterhood. Please find volunteers within your group to make and deliver the snack/meal to PCMS by 3:15 PM, or to Steps to Hope by 3:30 PM. If you have any questions, please see Julie Miller.

The specific Wednesday schedule will follow at a later time.

January: Dr. Henderson's SS Class

February: Cheryl Roach's SS Class

March: Phil Scoggins SS Class

April: Sisterhood

May: I would like a group of volunteers, please.

Thank you for your help with this important mission.



Music

Anne Shu

I was down to the wire in writing an article for the newsletter. I kept drawing blank after blank. I thought it might be a good idea to talk to the choir members at rehearsal, as they are always a source of good ideas. They realize, like everyone, this time of the year we have a lot of music to perfect and we seem to be running out of time. After talking with them I know I can settle down, enjoy the process and rely on the grace of God and their dedication and commitment. Enjoy the process, dear friends.



BIOGRAPHIES

TT Readiness Sub-Group
The Transition Team
Readiness sub-group is endeavoring to collect information from individuals and families as a source of reference for our new minister. Not only will these biographies serve as a source of information to introduce our minister to his new church family but will become an important TFB Historical Document.

The **History** sub-group is compiling a book using your submissions for our history celebration June 1, 2008. The **Readiness** sub-group (Phillip Edwards, Tim Jackson, Sadie McKaig) will send a form to church members who did not submit information for our history celebration. You may use the form as a guide in writing *your* history or simply answer the questions posed in the form.

Thank you so much for your help. We cannot complete this document without your participation.



Have You Won the "Big One"?
Ellis Fincher

We never know in life from where our next lesson will come. Such was the case for me several weeks ago as I was reading a motivational article from *Timber Processing* magazine. The article suggested that I click on *You Tube* and watch an inspirational clip from the movie "Facing the Giants". As I finished watching the clip a picture of Alex Kendrick producer and star of "Facing the Giants" and Mark Richt head football coach of the Georgia Bulldogs caught my eye.

I clicked on the image of Kendrick and Richt and listened to the interview. In the interview Coach Richt was discussing a scene in the film where he and Coach Grant Taylor were talking about winning the "big one" and the origin of this expression. Some years ago Coach Richt was an assistant coach to Bobby Bowden head football coach of the Florida State Seminoles. For many years Coach Bowden had come close to winning the national championship but had never done so. Football analysts began to say that Coach Bowden could not win the "big one". After many years of trying Coach Bowden and the Seminoles were finally successful. About a month after the championship game Coach Bowden was questioning his assistants as to what it meant to them to win the "big one". Without exception his assistants told

him that it was okay but it was not the big deal they thought it would be. Coach Bowden then told them that winning the national championship was not winning the "big one", but the day that they accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior was the day they won the "big one".

On a recent Sunday our congregation watched as eight people who had accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior witnessed through baptism that they had won the "big one"! What a joyful day November 16, 2008 was in the life of our church.

Congratulations!

Polk County High School – **Heath Culbreth** – Soccer – Tryon Federal Bank **Player of the week** – *Tryon Daily Bulletin* October 29, 2008

Polk County High School – **Men's Soccer Team** – co-conference champions with Hendersonville – advanced to third round of state playoffs by beating Hendersonville
Polk County Middle School – **Honor Roll**, first six weeks – Grade 6, **Alex Miller**; Grade 7, **Jamie Greene, Mary Prince, Mary Smith, Wes Brady, Lyric Flood**; Grade 8, **Emily Miller, Emily Hardin, Brooke Scoggins**

Polk County Middle School – **Alex Miller** – One of two finalists for the **Patriot's Pen Essay**

Polk County Middle School – **Cheerleaders** – **Mary Prince, Mary Smith**

Polk County Middle School – **Volleyball Conference Champions** – **Lyric Flood, Jamie Greene** - Record 13 – 1

Polk County Middle School – Lady Wolverine **Basketball Team** – **Lyric Flood, Jamie Greene, Emily Miller; TJ Fincher** and **Wesley Brady** made the **Basketball Team**.

Polk Central School – **Honor Roll**, first six weeks – Grade 4, **Malik Miller**

Youth's Corner

"Opportunity dances with those on the dance floor."

Jim Van Es May 17, 2008 at
Darlington School Commencement



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Kay Greene

The children's choir has had a challenging fall with numerous conflicts, small numbers and a temporary change in meeting times. However, these youngsters have remained loyal and cooperative and plan to present their annual program at the Christmas dinner on December 7. We will be singing several songs from a short but meaningful mini-musical entitled "Tell the Good News, Jesus is Born." Please come and support our young singers!



Featuring John Snow

GNs Staff

John Snow is one of our military personnel. He is the son-in-law of Tryon First Baptist Minister of Music Anne Shu. John is married to Anne's daughter Stacy and they have an eight-year old daughter Shea. Brent who is 17 and Chase who is 15 are John's teenage sons. John, Stacy and Shea are at home in Clarksville, Tennessee. John's hometown is Waterford, MS

At this time John is serving as an Army Apache helicopter instructor pilot in Afghanistan near the Pakistani border. He has done two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Korea during his eighteen years of military service. Only last week John was awarded the Bronze star. Congratulations and thanks, John.

We pray for John to return from Pakistan safely.



Library – Christmas Reading

Susan Smith

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Brem, M. M.: **Mary's Story**
Burrow, Barbara: **The Very First Christmas**
Marxhausen, Evelyn: **Simeon and the Baby Jesus**
McClure, Gillian: **The Christmas Donkey**
Patty, Sandi: **Merry Christmas with Love**
Ryland, Cynthia: **Silver Packages**
Welser, Matthew: **God Promised Us a Savior**
Wojciechowski, Susan: **The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey**

ADULT BOOKS

Evans, Richard Paul: **The Christmas Box**
Graham, Billy and Ruth: **This Christmas Night**
Heartwarming Christmas Stories
Inspirational Christmas Almanac
Kinkade, Thomas: **A Christmas Promise**
Kinkade, Thomas: **A Christmas Visitor**
Palmer, Catherine: **A Victorian Christmas Quilt**
Roberts, Shelia: **On Strike for Christmas**
Tada, Joni Eareckson: **A Christmas Longing**
VanLiere, Donna: **The Christmas Blessing**
Wheeler, Joe L.: **Christmas in my Heart**, vols. 1 and 7

Welcome New Members

John Spinks

We welcome the Prince family into church membership, Marcus, Alice and their three daughters, Sarah, Emily and Mary Elizabeth. They reside at 1043 Hooper Creek Road.

Marcus is originally from Charlotte, NC and Alice is from Summerville, SC. They met while both were attending Presbyterian College and married in 1987.

Marcus was formerly the National Sales Manager with the textile industry of Spartanburg and came to Tryon to be close to family. They came to us by statement from another local church.

Alice, the daughter of Martha "Doby" Murphy, is a teacher at East Henderson High School and holds a Masters in Education from NC State. Marcus works at Larkins and will soon begin work to become a Substance Abuse Counselor. He has a Psychology Degree from Presbyterian College. Daughter Sarah, 20, is a sophomore at PC where she is a cheerleader. She works at The Brick during her school breaks. Emily, 17, is a senior at Polk County High School where she is a cheerleader. She works part-time at Tryon Estates on the wait staff. Mary Elizabeth, 12, an eighth grader at Polk Middle School, is a competitive dancer and also a cheerleader. Mary Elizabeth most recently made her profession of faith and was baptized in our church Sunday, November 16.

We welcome the Prince family into our fold and look forward to their becoming involved, active members.





Featuring Student Anna Feagan

GNs Staff

Anna Feagan is the younger sister of Charles and daughter of Pat and Mary Feagan. She is a graduate of Polk County High School where her mother is an assistant principal. The family resides in Columbus where her father owns and operates Columbus Hardware.

During the summer Anna worked at Orchard Inn in Saluda and now finds that being a student majoring in journalism and history at UNC-Chapel Hill is a full time job, however she does find time for community service as a writer for the Blue and White Magazine, a school reading partner for Chapel Hill/Carrboro Schools, a participant in the UNC-CH Dance Marathon, a YMCA Basketball Coach, a Rainbow Soccer Coach, a member of UNC Young Democrats, a volunteer for the Kay Hagan campaign and a member of Heels for Obama. She enjoys intramural flag football, volleyball, basketball and soccer; reading, aerobics, running, writing and yoga.

Anna said that the question asking for the most interesting thing you have ever done or that has happened to you was 'way too broad' but she *has survived* a hurricane, a tornado and an earthquake. Wow!

Plans after college include being happy, but her ultimate job goal is to be a Sports Journalist with a close second being to travel the world and teach in exotic places.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Don & Jan Ponder
- 6 Darnell & Kathy Ashley
- 16 Bennie & Gwen Goodwin



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Shirley Edwards
- 5 T. J. Fincher
- 12 Georgia S. Pack
- 13 Linda Fincher
- 13 Mike Greene
- 13 Beth McCallister
- 13 Andrew McKaig
- 14 Dee Huneycutt
- 16 Scott Harding
- 16 Georgie Hawkins
- 17 Johnna Jackson Searcy
- 18 Julie Miller
- 19 Joey Whiteside
- 22 Ella Waldman
- 25 Renae Waldman
- 29 Archie Pearson
- 30 Jacob Covil
- 31 Haley Dusenbury



BROTHERHOOD

John Spinks

In our last meeting of 2008 the Brotherhood of Baptist Men reflected on the past year and discussed plans and mission projects for 2009. Over the years a main focus of Brotherhood has been the distribution of fruit baskets to many of our members. This year we prepared 31 baskets and delivered them the week before Thanksgiving.

The Brotherhood will not meet during the month of December and will resume the third Monday evening of January, 2009.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Q: Which bird can lift the heaviest weight?

A: The crane!

Q: Why can't the leopard hide?

A: Because he's always spotted!



F Y I

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which includes an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover provision. If you are 70 ½ years of age or older at the time of distribution, this provision allows individuals to make distributions from their IRA accounts directly to a charity without recognizing the distribution as income and allows you to count the distribution toward your required minimum distribution. However, to qualify for a tax-free transfer, it must be sent directly from your IRA custodian to the charity (church, etc.). Your IRA custodian should have the forms necessary to affect the transfer.

"Weekly Voice," FBC Charlotte



