

# TRADEWINDS

First Presbyterian Church ■ Charlotte, North Carolina

March 2007

## LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2007

### Lent: February 25- March 25

#### Wednesday Worship at noon; lunch follows

*(lunch reservations are only necessary for Holy Week)*

#### Sanctuary Choir Sings *Requiem* by John Rutter

On Sunday, March 25, the Sanctuary Choir will sing Rutter's *Requiem* at both the 9 and 11 am worship services. The work will be accompanied by members of the Charlotte Symphony and will feature soloists Anne Lafferty and Donna Jenkins. *Requiem* was first performed on October 13, 1985, at Lovers' Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. The *Requiem* combines texts from both the *Requiem Mass* and the *Book of Common Prayer*, with sections being sung in both English and Latin. The piece is known for the cello solo that opens the setting of Psalm 130, "Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord," as well as the plaintive oboe solo in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm setting, "The Lord is My Shepherd."

#### *Elijah, God's Faithful Prophet*

On Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at 6:30 pm, the Carol and Kirk Choirs will present their annual musical. This year the children will be performing *Elijah, God's Faithful Prophet* by Mark Patterson. In this musical, the children will retell the familiar story found in I Kings 17-18. An old, familiar story will take on new life through songs like "Showdown" and "Send Your Fire Down!" Make plans to join the Carol and Kirk Choirs for this exciting evening.

### Holy Week Services

April 1, 2007

**PALMSUNDAY**

**9 & 11 a.m.**

*First@Five*

Dr. William P. Wood

The Reverend Gregory A.W. Green

**Monday, April 2**

**12 Noon**

The Reverend Kathleen A. Crowe

**Tuesday, April 3**

**12 Noon**

Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

**Wednesday, April 4**

**12 Noon**

Dr. William P. Wood

**Thursday, April 5**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**

**7:30 p.m.**

Dr. James F. Miller

*Lunch is available Monday through Wednesday with reservations. See the Lenten Booklet, FirstNEWS and bulletin inserts for reservation forms.*

### Easter Day

**Sunday, April 8**

**9 & 11 a.m.**

*First@Five*

Dr. William P. Wood

The Reverend Gregory A.W. Green

# From The Senior Minister



The season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday, marks the forty-day observance before Easter. The theme of the Lenten Season is one of self-denial, taking up the cross, and following Jesus. For many years Presbyterian Churches did not observe the Season of Lent. John Calvin and other reformers reacted strongly against the medieval church with its emphases on saints, holy days, and religious observations that Calvin felt obscured the real meaning of the faith.

In more recent times, Presbyterians have recovered a number of the liturgical practices of the church, including the observation of the Season of Lent and Holy Week. In a secular culture Lent reminds us of the cost of following Jesus and points us to his suffering and sacrifice as the source of our redemption.

During the Lenten Season there are several “means of grace” that all of us are called to observe. One is prayer. John Calvin once observed that each of us should pray at least five times a day: once upon rising in the morning; once at each meal; and lastly, before we retire at night. Our Lenten prayer should be directed toward asking God to show each of us the way to follow better the path that Jesus places before us.

Another means of grace is the reading of Scripture. Take time during each of these days before Easter to read a portion of Scripture- perhaps one of the Gospels or a letter of St. Paul’s. We cannot practice the faith, if we do not know the faith.

A third means of grace is worship. During this critical season all of us need to devote ourselves to a regular, consistent, and obedient worship.

These “means of grace” that are afforded to us offer us the opportunity to participate in God’s love for us. They are the ordinary means by which the gospel is given to us. Particularly in the Lenten Season we are called to observe these practices of our faith.

The goal of Lent is not death, but life. It prepares us for the glorious Easter message that “Christ has risen.” The discipline of Lent uncovers the joy of Easter. For that reason our lives are enriched by our faith and our faith gives us strength and hope for the living of these days.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William P. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

William P. Wood

## TRADEWINDS

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SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP (September-May): 12 noon

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

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**Kathleen A. Crowe**

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR EVANGELISM & YOUNG ADULTS:

**Gregory Green**

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

**James F. Miller**

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR

PASTORAL CARE AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:

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# Family & Neighborhood Health Fair—Saturday, April 28

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- Can you enjoy an event-filled Saturday afternoon with your family and spend very little money!?
- Is your hearing (or your spouse's) changing?
- Can osteoporosis be found in 30 or 40-year-old women?
- Do your kids enjoy Corky the Clown?
- Are there better ways for you or a loved one to deal with pain?
- Would free child care for your toddler or preschooler allow you to gather the health information you need?
- Are you curious if your family's history of diabetes, cholesterol or osteopenia is affecting you or your family today?

Can all of these disparate issues, questions and activities really be found or answered in one location? Yes! The church's Health Ministry Committee invites you to the second annual Family and Neighborhood Health Fair. On Saturday, April 28, 2007, the church will offer exciting, informative and healthful activities for the congregation and our downtown neighbors. Come enjoy a day of fun with your family at First Presbyterian Church from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Inside the church, experts from more than 25 health organizations will offer education and health screening (blood sugar, cholesterol, bone density, hearing, posture, etc.). The organizations will be housed in different rooms throughout the church. (Please note that in some cases, the screening providers will require insurance or Medicare information so they may be properly reimbursed for the screening cost.)

Outside the church, find fun, food and fellowship for all ages. Do your sun dance because, weather permitting, there will be live music, inflatable jumpy houses, face painting by Corky the Clown and balloons. (If necessary, the activities will move indoors!) Food offerings available for purchase include popcorn, a Smoothie cart, hot-dogs from a well-known Charlotte eatery and some healthier lunch fare—truly something for everyone!

Special offerings for children's safety include picture i.d.'s and fingerprinting by the police department. Child care will be provided for toddlers and preschoolers.

For more information, call Roz Mazoway, Parish Nurse, at 704-927-0262, or Andrea Sappenfield.

Come to the Family and Neighborhood Health Fair—  
RAIN or SHINE! ♦

## PICTURES FROM THE FIRST FPC FAMILY & NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH FAIR IN 2006



# Update from the Gulf Coast: A Letter from Elizabeth Little

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In January 2006, congregant Elizabeth Little went on a First Presbyterian Church-sponsored mission trip to the Gulf Coast. As Elizabeth says, "I guess you can say my life was certainly changed by that trip." After 5 months of volunteering there, she accepted a yearlong position to be the Volunteer Village Coordinator for all of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance villages, beginning in August 2006. Below, please read some excerpts from Elizabeth's amazing spiritual journey:

When I took on this position, my first task was to make physical enhancements to the villages and also to establish a yearlong program for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s young adult volunteer program [on the Gulf Coast]. I call the Young Adult Program [YAV] the Presbyterian Peace Corps. It provides an opportunity for young adults, 20-30, to go out in the world to help. Many times the YAVs are assistants to missionaries in the world. We have 14 of them on the Gulf Coast and I manage 5. It is a yearlong program where they only make \$100.00 a month but get room, board and insurance.... They have never been placed in a disaster area [before Katrina] so work had to be done to establish a program on the Gulf Coast. It is great to see young adults give up a year of their lives to help and be a tremendous witness to so many volunteers coming down here.

I believe what gives me strength every day is the repeat groups and repeat long-term volunteers. Currently, I have 5 managers on their second or third term. It touches my heart when people are continuously called back. I would confirm that it is addictive down here when you see all of the devastation on a daily basis.

Because of this position I am much better at getting around New Orleans and the surrounding parishes. Wow, it is still in a total state of devastation. It has been a year-and-a-half since the storm, and there are full neighborhoods without anyone living there. Besides the lower Ninth Ward there are multiple neighborhoods which have not been touched. The storm certainly did not discriminate. You can drive through a middle-class street and also see no improvement. St. Bernard Parish did not get its first Winn Dixie until the year anniversary—so an entire county did not have a grocery store for a year.

... It is hard to believe that I have been here for 10 months. One thing I have learned is what an awesome church I attend in Charlotte. I am the only one down here who gets ministered by their home church. It is a wonderful feeling to receive support at such a distance. Between the gifts, calls, letters, and trips down here, I am truly blessed.

Elizabeth may be contacted at [eliz.little@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.little@gmail.com). The next mission trip from FPC will be this month. To participate or contribute in this important mission, please contact The Reverend Katie Crowe. ♦

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## A Report on the PW Annual Mission Program

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The Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Program was held on January 31, 2007. This was the kickoff program in the Winter/Spring **FOOD FOR THOUGHT** series and over 200 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall for dinner. The mission theme for the whole weekend was *A Life Worth Living*; the decorations on the tables, including huge balloons of the world, carried that theme out. Many thanks to Missy Giles, hospitality chair, for her hard work.

The dinner was followed by the service in the sanctuary. Susan Sutton, longtime missionary to Chad, Africa, was the guest speaker. She spoke eloquently about her years there with her husband, Louis, and their three children, delivering her message that despite the hardships of serving in such a remote part of the world, it was definitely "Worth the Cost." Cantey Brown, Missions Chairperson, was responsible for the planning of the evening.

On Sunday, February 4, Susan and her husband, Louis, continued their story of *A Life Worth Living* during the Sunday School hour. They focused on the Abeche Learning Center in Chad, where young men and women can come to learn about Jesus and have access to Christian study materials and Bibles. Our church has made significant contributions to the center in the past and continued that effort through the offering, which was received at the Wednesday and Sunday services. The total to date is \$15,248.

As part of the worship services on Sunday, Louis Sutton inspired the congregation further by continuing the theme of *A Life Worth Living*. Through relating his story of their family serving God and the people of Chad, Africa, it was clear that the sacrifices they made to share the news of God's love to these people was definitely "worth the risk." ♦

# PW Spring Retreat: What Nourishes You?

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- Swapping stories with peers into the early hours of the morning
- Enjoying inter-generational line dancing lessons
- Making a new friend
- Hiking in the mountains of NC
- Basking in the Spring sun by a mountain lake
- Playing games and enjoying munchies (until 2 a.m.!?)
- Shopping in quaint mountain boutiques
- Encountering lessons that rejuvenate your Christian walk
- Breathing the crisp mountain air
- Taking a break from your daily routine and responsibilities
- Starting your day singing songs of praise
- Going to bed early and sleeping through the night
- Learning about the life of that lovely lady who seems to always sit near you on Sundays, but that you “never have time” to really talk to...

Nourish yourself at the annual Presbyterian Women’s Spring Retreat from Friday, April 13, through Sunday, April 15, at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. Based on the wonderful turnout last year, this will be a time for spiritual renewal, being with old friends, making new ones and enjoying the peace and serenity of this beautiful setting.

Energetic campaigning by church member and theological student Catherine Monroe led retreat planners to invite a local professor, Dr. Pamela Mitchell-Legg, to be the retreat speaker. Known as a premier educator in her field, Dr. Mitchell-Legg is an extraordinary speaker who feels there should always be “Teaching in the Preaching.” In addition to Catherine Monroe, Dr. Mitchell-Legg served as an inspiration to church member Kim Stamey and our intern, Veronica Cannon. Come see why!

Dr. Mitchell-Legg is Professor of Christian Education at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education at Charlotte. She is a life-long Presbyterian and has a Masters Degree and a Doctorate in Christian Education from PSCE. She taught Christian Education and Communications at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, for 8 years before returning to Union-PSCE in Richmond where she taught for 8 years in the Masters and PhD programs. In January of 2003, she transferred to the new Charlotte campus of Union-PSCE to be the Christian Education professor on this campus, teaching in both the MACE and the Mdiv programs.

Kelli Mallory and Salina Millen, retreat planners, are visiting PW circles in February and March. Presbyterian Women invites all women to attend this fun-filled, rejuvenating weekend. ♦



**Dr. Pamela Mitchell-Legg,  
PW Retreat Speaker**

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**Brochures about the PW  
Retreat were mailed in Febru-  
ary to each woman in the  
church. For more informa-  
tion about the retreat, please  
contact Kelli Mallory:  
704-540-1276 or  
[rmallory@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rmallory@carolina.rr.com)**

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# New Outreach Opportunity: Family Promise

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Over 5,000 people in Charlotte are homeless each night. Almost half of the homeless people in Charlotte are families and a third are children. These families are struggling to make ends meet. About half of the homeless adults in Charlotte are employed, but do not make enough money to have permanent housing. It is challenging enough to raise children with permanent housing, imagine trying to care for young children without a place to call home. First Presbyterian Church has been participating in the *Room in the Inn* program for 10 years and will continue to do so. This new program, which our church has committed to support, will operate year-round with a focus on homeless families.

First Presbyterian Church has partnered with other local churches to form Family Promise—The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). Family Promise provides a way for religious

congregations to work together to help homeless families. Each congregation participating in the network provides overnight lodging and meals for three to five families (up to 14 people) for one week four times each year. The homeless families will stay at the church from about 6 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. daily. Each morning, after breakfast, the families will be taken to the day center where they meet with the Network Director, care for young children, look for housing or employment, or go to work or school.

Volunteers are the foundation of the Network. There are many ways that you can volunteer to help. We will host the families April 8-15 and again April 22-29. To help, contact Ellen Thomas at [ellenthomas@mac.com](mailto:ellenthomas@mac.com) or 704-364-0429. ♦

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