

TRADEWINDS

First Presbyterian Church

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 2011

Transformation through learning

Answering church members' desire for more education

By Kirk Hall

One of the greatest joys of this calling is the opportunity to see the many ways that God is working through the life of the community. When I joined the staff of First Presbyterian Church this past July, I quickly saw how many of you were passionate about education and excited to engage your faith in new ways. My task was (and always is) to explore with you the ways that God is calling us to live into our baptismal vows through both potential and realized educational opportunities around us. While there are already faithful spaces to learn and grow here at First Presbyterian Church, your hunger and excitement for new ideas is a wonderful gift. But how can we



develop a faithful educational ministry that connects these hungers with what God is calling us to be in 2011 and beyond?

On one level, this question is already being answered through the current educational ministry. The vibrancy of the Child Development Center, the Weekday School, the Children's Ministry,

the Middle School and High School Ministries and even the Adult Education Ministry reveal how God continues to nurture, challenge and encourage us through education. I have been graciously overwhelmed by not only the work of this faithful staff but also by the energy of the community with whom they

Continued on page 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Summer Camps

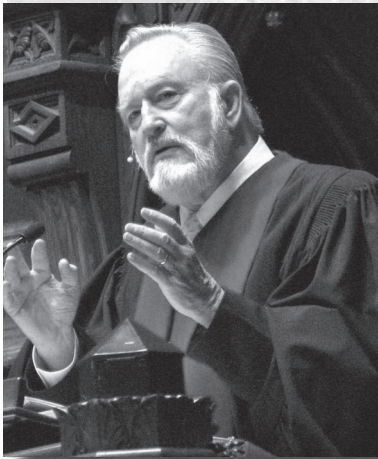
Freedom Schools needs your help getting its garden to grow

Virtual Mission Trip strengthens overseas ties

Thanks to First Presbyterian teen and teamwork, Loaves and Fishes pantry is once again bright, welcoming

An Interim's Impressions

A slap in the face. That was not all it took, of course. Behind and before the slap were long years of selling enough fruit to purchase barely enough food to feed his mother, uncle, five brothers and sisters. He was 26 years old. He dreamed of someday owning a van from which he could sell his product in a variety of locations around Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. His name was Mohamed Bouazizi.



A municipal inspector, charged with the power to fine vendors like Mr. Bouazizi, on December 19, 2010 tried to seize Mr. Bouazizi's fruit. As he tried, according to a report in The New York Times,

to take back his fruit, she slapped him. Embarrassed and humiliated, he walked to the municipal building and demanded that his property, which she also took, be returned. He was beaten by officials. Later on, kneeling in front of the governor's house, he drenched himself in paint thinner and set himself on fire.

Because of a humiliating slap he became the martyred hero of millions of people as protests against oppressive regimes ping-ponged across Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and the rest of the Arab world. The slap resonates further than the Arab world. If anyone doubted that we live in a global village, the scattering of revolutionary awakening and their impact upon the diplomacies and economies of the rest of the world should certainly serve to convince us otherwise.

A slap! An act humiliating to another child of God! Somewhere at the core of the world's religious and social impulse is "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." As trying and potentially dangerous as the situation is currently, somewhere in all of this is yet one more opportunity to discern Christ's Spirit at work for good, compassion and justice.

And in the meantime? Be careful what you do. You never know what you will set in motion. Acts always have consequences.

Roland

TRADEWINDS

A monthly publication of
First Presbyterian Church
200 West Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202-1623

Volume 27, Number 3, March 2011

Second Class Postage Paid, Charlotte, NC, USPS #751730
CHURCH TELEPHONE: 704.332.5123; FAX: 704.334.4135
HOME PAGE: www.firstpres-charlotte.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9 am and 11 am
OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 am to 5 pm

INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER:

Roland Perdue

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR SERVICE & MISSIONS:

Kathleen A. Crowe

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR PASTORAL CARE
& CONGREGATIONAL LIFE:

Katherine W. Cooke

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR EVANGELISM &
YOUNG ADULTS:

Wesley B. Barry

ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

J. Kirkland Hall, IV

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

Dan Woodall

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:

D. Edwin Huss, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:

Becky Puster

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

Lou Johnson

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR HIGH MINISTRIES:

Josh Herrin

DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES:

Jen Evans

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR YOUTH MINISTRY:

Jamille White

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER DIRECTOR:

Debbie Shirkey

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR:

Sarah Price

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:

Lisa Dillard

CHILD & FAMILY OUTREACH COORDINATOR:

Jessica Patchett

WEEKDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR:

Janis Rikard

FINANCIAL MANAGER:

Jan Gaddis

ASSISTANT FOR FINANCE:

Dowling McConnell

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER:

Dartinia Hull

PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR:

Roger Blackwelder

PUBLICATIONS ASSISTANT:

Chris Bodmer

ASSISTANT TO THE ASSOCIATE MINISTERS:

Judy Ploch

ASSISTANT TO SENIOR MINISTER & TV MINISTRY:

Caren Loftin

ASSISTANT FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

Diane Baker

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION COORDINATOR:

Ben Treece

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER:

George Hamilton

OPERATIONS MANAGER:

Jim Tyndall

SUPERVISOR-SECURITY/CUSTODIANS:

Ron Williams

RECEPTIONISTS:

Donna Dendy

Doris Mataragas

TRADEWINDS EDITOR:

Dartinia Hull

Loaves & Fishes again is bright, beautiful, welcoming

First Presbyterian Girl Scout chooses pantry renovation as part of her Gold Project

By Dana Neidinger

When our church's Loaves and Fishes pantry was built as part of the "new" building ten years ago, it truly was bright and beautiful. But the constant wear and tear of the amazing mission work that takes place there every week had taken its toll. The black folding chairs were uncomfortable and unattractive, there were signs taped on every surface, the carpet was beyond cleanable, and the walls were scuffed and dirty. It just didn't look like a very welcoming place.

So I decided to fix that.

One Saturday morning in January, Kathryn Raby met my Girl Scout Troop and me to implement our plans. You can paint pretty fast when you have five girls helping!

I chose this for my Girl Scout Gold Project (an award comparable to the Boy Scout Eagle Scout) because I have volunteered there with my family for over eight years so was aware of the need.

With the help of many generous donations, we were able to recarpet, repaint, create a unique art piece, and install large upholstered tack boards, and we were able to replace the folding chairs with nicer wood ones. We also now have a Children's Corner with a small table and chair set with a bead maze!

Elizabeth Salisbury, another First Pres youth who volunteers there, is conducting a Children's Book



Drive, which will fill and re-fill up the bookshelf that is coming soon. A book collection bin is now located in the hall behind the sanctuary.

We hope to provide not just groceries but books for the children to take home and keep. That way we can help feed both body and mind.

Later this month, I will be painting the Loaves & Fishes logo on the freshly painted red wall behind the reception counter. I will also be addressing organizational needs in the pantry, the largest of 15 in the Charlotte area, by focusing on the racks and

Continued on page 5
TRADEWINDS 3

Presbyterian Women



Rest • Relaxation • Renewal RETREAT

By Mary Bennett Riddick and Gibbs Ives

Join us April 8-10 at Laurel Ridge Retreat Center in the beautiful, secluded paradise high in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Located in Laurel Springs, N.C., two hours north of Charlotte off I-77, the retreat center is surrounded by spectacular landscapes, towering mountains and gorgeous hardwood forests. This natural wonderland calls us to come and rest, relax and revive our souls. We hope you will join us for spiritual nourishment while enjoying the peace and serenity of this beautiful setting. The retreat is a great opportunity to spend time with old friends and make new friends.

The Reverend Kirk Hall, our Associate Minister for Christian Education, will lead our retreat. Kirk is a

Charlotte native and Davidson College graduate. In 1999, when Kirk was a member of First Presbyterian Church, he received a “Church in Vocation” scholarship that led him to Columbia Theological Seminary. In 2003, he received his Master of Divinity degree and then followed his passion for Contextual Theology, attending New College School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. It was there that he received his Master of Theology degree.



Kirk Hall

Before coming to First Presbyterian in July 2010, Kirk served as the Associate Pastor at the First

Continued on next page

From page 3

racks of metal shelves that hold the food.

The mission of Loaves and Fishes is to help people get back on their feet after finding themselves in unexpected situations by providing a week's worth of groceries.

I hope the improvements we made will make the Loaves & Fishes lobby as warm and welcoming as the volunteers who work there.



From previous page

Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Kirk and his wife, Amy, are the proud parents of two-year-old daughter Fae.

Kirk's theme for our weekend retreat will be "Strangers in a Strange Land." Kirk elaborates on his theme saying "when the Israelites were cast into exile, they lost the structured, reliable world they once knew. Patterns of life, symbols of meaning and even age-old relationships were radically renegotiated, if not torn from the fabric of their lives. The 'way it has always been' was no more. The 'way it will be' was uncertain. For the Mainline Church losing her cultural center in the United States, for our own church during a time of transition and even for those unwelcomed times in our own lives, the biblical experience of exile speaks to the volatility of those old patterns of faith and life."

Join us as we explore "exile" as a powerful lens through which we can discover and claim our own identity as "people of God."

Retreat brochures were mailed to all women members of First Presbyterian Church in late February. If you did not receive a brochure or you would like more information, please contact Mary Bennett Riddick at riddick@carolina.rr.com or 704 619-1900. You can mail your registration to the church, register at church on Sundays, or register online at www.firstpres-charlotte.org, Congregational Life, Presbyterian Women. Deadline to register is March 23.



Annual Presbyterian Women
Spring Retreat
April 8-10, 2011
Laurel Ridge Retreat Center
Laurel Springs, NC

Youth Ministries

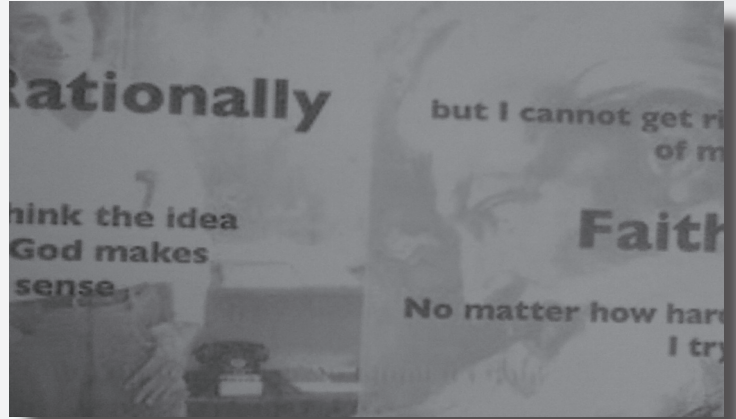
Prayer: a gift, no matter the form

Youth, church spend a day in myriad types of prayer

On Sunday, January 30, the entire second floor of First Presbyterian was transformed into a catacomb of prayer stations. Youth and adults meandered the hallways, dipping in and out of different rooms, as they learned about and engaged in many different styles of prayer. The stations were designed to engage the senses and introduce participants to new concepts of prayer that can be incorporated into our lives as Christians. One station, "The Lord's Prayer ... put in motion" provided an opportunity to incorporate movements of the body while repeating The Lord's Prayer. Another station, "The World," was a chance to view maps of the world, of Charlotte, of the United States, and place a pebble on the location of your choosing as you lifted that place and its people up in prayer. While there were many more stations, the focus and intent of each one was the same: Prayer is a gift from God, and we are blessed to be able to take part in prayer with God.

"I really enjoyed the Seeds of Hope prayer station and the Backpack Prayers station," said one participant. "I want to go home and dig into my book bag and so I can attach a prayer to the things in it."

Another said: "I really didn't like the prayer out loud station, it was weird for me to pray out loud, and the prayer in motion was different. I liked Post Secrets and the bead prayers."



Some of the youth participated in a form Post Secrets, which is based on a Web site that encourages anonymous confessions and musings.



Would you care for a burrito?

Burrito Bikers is a ministry that we as a high school group worked with in the last couple years. It is an organization that delivers burritos, a beverage, and other assorted goodies to folks on Sunday mornings. It is another great example of a ministry that reaches out because we are called to share the love of Christ with everyone. On January 16, the First Presbyterian High School Youth cooked up and wrapped about 100 burritos!

Children's Ministries

Save
these dates!

March 20: Remember that our fourth-grade Sunday school students have been studying the Children's Catechism and learning more about their faith.

This program emphasized a personal relationship with God, the Ten Commandments, the Sacraments, the Lord's Prayer, Salvation, Sin and Creation.

This is an 11-week study. The class will be presented to the Congregation at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on March 20th.

April 24: The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received at the 9 and 11 a.m. Easter Day services. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development, areas that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work to strengthen their families and their communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

June 20-24: Come be a part of our green vacation Bible School.

From page 1

learn. From the variety of opportunities for learning on Sunday mornings, to the various small group studies throughout the week, to an expanding Wednesday Connect program, even this "blind beggar" can see the places where God is working to transform us all through learning. However, on another level, God's future is still a mystery.

When I arrived, I recognized how the Christian Education Committee of the Session was trying to support and connect all of the various educational ministries of the church. While this body was doing a faithful job, the team needed more space to ask the larger questions that remain unanswered. The next step was to provide more time for the Christian Education Committee to discern how God is calling this ministry forward while (at the same time) continuing to support and enhance the current educational ministry. The response was to restructure the Christian Education Committee.

As of January, the Christian Education Committee of the Session is devoting much of its time to critically engaging the larger role of Christian Education in the life of faith. This includes constantly discerning what God is doing here at First Presbyterian Church while exploring new opportunities to learn and grow. While the Christian Education Committee looks at the "big picture," we have created Advisory Teams for each respective educational ministry area. These teams are made up of specific Committee members in addition to various church members with passions and gifts for a particular area. While the Christian Education Committee discerns the future of the educational ministry, the Advisory Teams are charged to support, facilitate and live out that overall vision through each respective ministry. Our hope is that this new structure will provide a space for faithful discernment, while supporting the execution of that vision, as we incorporate more voices in the educational ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

I am grateful for the trust and patience of the Christian Education Committee, the Advisory Teams and the tireless staff who continue to humbly serve Christ through this vital ministry. If you have ideas or suggestions for the Christian Education Committee, the Advisory Teams or the staff, please let us know. As we continue to discern the direction in which God is calling us, we also ask for your prayers for a faithful and fruitful ministry.



Help Freedom School grow gardens and lives

Church members can start now to assist the
summer literacy program and its garden

By Jessica Patchett

You can help make this summer the best Freedom School experience yet by planting seeds for the new Freedom School Summer Garden! Scholars will learn about gardening, gain confidence that they can grow their own foods, try new foods, and enjoy participating in a community-oriented project.

Here's the plan:

First Presbyterian Church families plant seeds indoors in **mid-March** and care for them through mid- to late April.

Mid- to late April, families will bring their young plants to the church and volunteers will transplant them on or around Service Saturday.

Early May – Late June, FPC volunteers will help tend the garden until Freedom School begins.

Late June – Mid-August, Freedom School scholars will have classes in the garden.

How you can help:

1. Plant vegetable and herb seeds indoors with your family. If you decide to participate, please e-mail

Continued on page 9

*“Bridges” class helps
you explore personal
assumptions about
poverty and wealth*

By Melissa Walker

I recently had the opportunity to take a class called *Bridges Out of Poverty*, led by Paul Hanneman, program director at the Urban Ministry Center, and Wanda Anderson, the faith community coordinator with Project Hope. Through statistics, research, and real life examples the class encourages you to examine your own mental assumptions about the people who live in poverty and the causes of it. It explores the challenges that are present in building relationships with these individuals and families. It will

Continued on page 9

Sanctuary Choir

On April 3, during our 9 am and 11 am worship services, our Sanctuary Choir and members of the Charlotte Symphony will present selections from George Frederick Handel's "Dettingen Te Deum," with members of the Charlotte Symphony. The text of the Te Deum is an early Christian hymn of praise and thanksgiving.

From page 8

Jessica as to what seeds you plant.

2. Volunteer to help prepare the garden and transplant herbs and vegetables in late April.
3. Sign up for dates to tend the garden from early May – late June.
4. Teach a lesson from our Garden curriculum to a group of 10 Freedom School scholars.

If you are interested in one of the above ways to support the Freedom School this summer, please contact Jessica at 704-927-0268 or jpatchett@firstpres-charlotte.org.

From page 8

open your eyes to the hidden rules that we all bring with us depending on the class (wealthy, middle or poor) of our childhood and how this affects our decision making. The class is much enriched by Paul and Wanda's varied experience working with individuals in poverty and their own life stories. I recommend this class for anyone who wishes to deepen their faith by looking at how we as Christians are called to build more meaningful and supportive relationships with those living in poverty. As Paul states in the class, "No significant learning takes place without significant relationships." Bridges Out of Poverty provides a strong framework for how to do this effectively and with hope. It will greatly enrich your understanding and ability to be more effective as you strive to build and strengthen these relationships.

Register now for the next Bridges out of Poverty training, Thursday, May 19, and Tuesday, May 24. 9-12 both days.
Email jpatchett@firstpres-charlotte.org

If Only We Always Had The Strength We Need All The Time



Unfortunately, we don't. Life happens, and in the midst of it come events and challenges that we struggle with on a daily basis. How comforting it is to think there can always be someone to listen, to care and to travel the journey with you. That is what Stephen Ministers do.

Our First Presbyterian Stephen Ministry program has joined with Myers Park Presbyterian to train seven new Stephen Ministers for our churches. The new class participated in a training retreat at Laurel Ridge Conference Center January 21 – 23. The class continues to prepare for this important ministry and will be commissioned at the 11 am service on Sunday March 27. Please continue to pray for these individuals as they get ready to serve their respective church congregations.

First Presbyterian's newest Stephen Minister trainees are (back row) Minor Hinson, Ingrid Johnson, Bryan Morris, and Lori Patton.

Myers Park Presbyterian's newest trainees are Courtney Pender, Cynthia Scott, Laura Tritle.

To Russia, With Love: 2011 Virtual Mission Trip

With the goals of supporting our friends at Hope Baptist and strengthening the relationship between our congregation and theirs, we are taking a Virtual Mission Trip this year. You can learn about the people of Hope Baptist and the challenges they face in Ryazan, Russia, without buying an airplane ticket or coping with jet lag. Look for information about Russia and Hope Baptist each month in Tradewinds.



The original mission team members and their new Russian friends

Hope Baptist is a vibrant congregation whose members carefully and faithfully choose to worship at a Protestant church. Because the majority of Russian people identify with the Russian Orthodox Church, members of Hope Baptist are shunned by neighbors, passed over for better apartments, and regarded suspiciously because of their beliefs. In addition to worship services and Sunday school, Hope Baptist maintains a busy schedule full of prayer meetings, “hen parties,” and outreach programs for local children, people in need, and girls in the local prison.

We are looking for members of First Presbyterian Church who would enjoy having a Russian prayer partner. We will pair American and Russian friends and share basic information and pictures with each. Prayer partners may be able to communicate via email. Our 2012 mission team will take messages and small tokens from America and return with love from Russia.

Ryazan Facts:

- The first city of Ryazan, which was later destroyed and rebuilt, was founded in 1095
- About 120 miles southeast of Moscow
- Population of more than 510,000 people
- The city of Ryazan is the administrative center of the Ryazan Oblast (region)
- The region’s economy includes many engineering and metalworking industries

Preparing for a Mission Trip

"What do they need?"

So often we pack our duffle bags and head off to our First Presbyterian Church mission trips with one thought in mind....what do these people need. We rack our brains to solve the puzzle - homes were flooded, roofs blown off, families homeless - what do these people need.

Prior to each trip, we distribute a list of things to take and things not to take along. This list is normally used for people who are first-time participants. But each trip, our team members scan the list to make sure we have everything. Everything we need and, unable to resist the temptation, we consider everything they need. We want to take water, for the gulf coast's water is not clean enough for human consumption after a hurricane. Or we want to take toys because we saw a photo in the news of stuffed animals lodged in a tree after the flood waters receded. Often, we want to ship tools before our trip so that we will have just what we need to start rebuilding someone's home.

When we arrive in a disaster area, the residents we meet are often reserved, introspective and, occasionally, suspicious. Over time, after we arrive and work a few days with folks we have just met, we see them change. Slightly at first, with a quick smile at a joke about our muddy shoes, or eye contact for the first time when we shake their hand at the end of the day. By the end of our time in their lives, and their time in ours, we embrace in a genuine expression of gratitude.

We are grateful that they have accepted our hand in friendship and our prayers for their healing. They are grateful that someone else believes they can get their lives back on track and that their families will discover "normal" again. It had nothing to do with water or toys or tools.

What we have learned, over years of mission trips and many hours of subtle "standing in the halls" teaching by our own Katie Crowe, is that we need only pack our love of the brothers and sisters in Christ who find their lives in chaos. Through our mere presence, we bring the love of Christ...and hope.

Our relationship with HBC:

- 2003 – Christopher Edmonston and Rob and Jenni Grier made a weekend trip to Russia to meet with members of Hope Baptist and discuss mission opportunities
- 2004 – Eighteen FPC members spent a week in Ryazan
- 2005 – Three members of Hope Baptist (Pastor Pavel, Olga, and Lena) visited FPC
- 2006 – A group of seven traveled from Charlotte to Russia and spent a week in Ryazan
- 2008 – A group of nine traveled from FPC to Russia and spent a week in Ryazan
- 2009 – Three members of Hope Baptist (Pastor Pavel, Igor, and Natasha) visited FPC and our Congregational Retreat
- 2011 – Virtual Mission Trip
- Summer 2012 – Our next trip to Ryazan!



TRADEWINDS

Published monthly by
First Presbyterian Church
200 West Trade Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-1623

PERIODICALS
Postage Paid
CHARLOTTE NC
USPS #751730

*Postmaster, please send address changes to:
Tradewinds, First Presbyterian Church
200 West Trade Street, Charlotte, NC 28202-1623*

*First Presbyterian Women!
Please drop by and help us celebrate*

Katherine Cooke's engagement to Bill Kerr

*Thursday, April 14th
5:00-6:30 p.m.
No gifts please*

*At the home of Jane Hope
3811 Bonwood Drive
Come as you are*

*Questions? Martha Mallory
704 334-8490 or rtmallory@aol.com*

