

# The South Plains Reflector



South Plains Presbyterian Church  
410 Black Cat Road  
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southplainspc.org

FEBRUARY 2008

Vol. XVIII, No. 02

## DR. DAVID K. GARTH, PASTOR

### Sunday Worship Service

1st Service 8:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.  
2nd Service 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

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### Christian Education

Classes for all ages meet from  
9:45 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. each Sunday  
September through May

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### Nursery

Childcare for infants through 2nd grade is  
available following the Time With Children  
portion of the Worship Service.

## EVENTS CALENDAR FEBRUARY, 2008

- 3 Worship Service with the Lord's Supper  
Souper Bowl of Caring Offering
- 6 Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Lenten Bible Study - 6:45 p.m. (See page 3)
- 11 Presbyterian Women - 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Mission Crafters 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. (See page 4)  
Lenten Bible Study - 6:45 p.m. (See page 3)
- 19 Session - 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Cents-ability Offering  
Lenten Bible Study - 6:45 p.m. (See page 3)
- 27 Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

National in scope, yet local in impact, the Souper Bowl of Caring works toward making the weekend of the big game an unprecedented time of giving and serving in this country. Local communities are affected both through youth involvement and money raised for charity. A national story is created by youth across the country simultaneously showing compassion and serving others.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is fundamentally a faith initiative, as the idea was born of a prayer. We seek to love God by loving our neighbors, and through this, young people will see that by God's grace, they can make a difference in the lives of others.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) supports the Souper Bowl of Caring and provides grants to programs addressing hunger and its causes in the United States and around the world in five program areas as described in the Common Affirmation on Global Hunger. To achieve our mission PHP also implements special educational, mission and action programs and campaigns.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations after both services on February 3rd. Please be generous.

## PRAYER MATTERS

Family of Anne Shires	Anne Shires died last week.
Debby Altschull	Neighbor of the Drake's, cancer
Donica Amirez	Our custodian, diagnosed with cancer
Kathy Willis	Willis' daughter-in-law in MD hospital
Stuart Little's sister and brother	Heart problem
Sam	Craig Brown's friend who died
Bob Muller	Now at home
Bruce Riley	Phil and Marge Riley's son, internal bleeding
Mason Covington	Friend of the Campbells and Phillips
Charlotte and Happy Durham	Medical issues
Sue Tallent	Marge Hampton's sister
Pete Gerard	Andrea Philips' neighbor
Marianne Josephson	Mother of Leah Wayner, cancer
Robert James	UVA Hospital, cancer treatment
Marge Riley	Spinal Stenosis
Kim Kelly	Laura Campbell's friend being treated for Lupus
Katie Rathbone	Fractured femur
Grenada Presbyterian Church	Our partner in Grenada
Mike Breeden	Give thanks for progress with brain tumor
Nicole Spencer	Friend of Jan Haire, cancer
Charles Smith	Brother of Carole Milks, treatment for leukemia
Reuben Swanson	Friend of Elsie Norford
Marge Hampton	Macular Degeneration
Georgia Grissinger	Macular Degeneration
Bruce Clabaugh	Lung cancer

### Military & government service overseas:

Marshall Baughman	Basic Training, U.S. Army
Michael Maddox	Grandson of Kip and Janet Riddle, deployed to Germany
Doug Fenton	PCUSA chaplain - Walter Reed Hospital
Mark Little	Friend of Cindy Eaton, injured in Iraq
Bradley Smith	Lucille Campbell's grandson, deployed to Alaska

*Dr. Garth is ordinarily in his study at the church from 9:00 a.m. – noon, Monday – Thursday. If he is called away during those hours, he will frequently check for voicemail. You may also reach him at home: (295-0584) or on his cell phone (465-5641).*

## MISSION CRAFTERS

REMINDER: The gathering of South Plains' Mission Crafters is held on the third Sunday afternoon of each month from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. All men, women, and children are invited to come and stay as long as your schedule allows. Join the fun of making hands-on items for missions....rolling bandages, cutting patterns, sewing, knitting, etc. etc.

NO SKILLS REQUIRED! All instructions and materials are provided. All we need is YOU!

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Kip Riddle
4	Bill Claus
	Fritz Dietz
	Karyn Warren
16	Addie Brown
17	Tom Smith
20	Sylvia Sheffield
21	Zada Hall
22	Marjorie Close
27	Asa Smith



## WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION DECEMBER, 2007

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sunday, February 3, 2008

### COMMUNION ELEMENTS PREPARATION

Frank and Julie Keplinger  
Mary Ward

### ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION

1st Service: Frank and Julie Keplinger  
2nd Service: Bev Turner, Bill Orr,  
Mary Howard and Bill Claus

### GREETERS / USHERS

Feb. 03 (1st service) Lyman and Joan Drake  
(2nd Service) Mary and Jason Reitsma  
Feb. 10 (1st service) Meg and Travis Taylor  
(2nd service) Lisa Climer and Craig Brown  
Feb. 17 (1st service) Don Ramirez and Linda Harrison  
(2nd service) Jean Wardell and Mary Ward  
Feb. 24 (1st service) Lisa Climer and Craig Brown  
(2nd service) Dave and Carolyn Hordyke

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### Officer of The Week

Feb. 03 - Feb. 09 Julie Keplinger  
Feb. 10 - Feb. 16 Lyn Johnson  
Feb. 17 - Feb. 23 Beverly Turner  
Feb. 24 - Mar. 01 Laura Campbell

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## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This year our six week Lenten Bible Study focuses on the Gospel of John and the theme of abundant life. "How To Get A Life" starts Sunday, February 10th. We'll gather in the Manse about 6:45 PM for coffee, etc and study from 7 – 8 PM. I hope you'll read the whole gospel.

The following is a schedule of what the focus will be.

**Feb 10** - John 1:1-51.  
**Feb 17** - 1:50; 2:1-22; 4:1-54; 5:21.  
**Feb 24** - 6:1-71.  
**Mar 2** - 11:45-57; 12:1-11; 12:44-50.  
**Mar 9** - 18:9; 19:16-25; 19:39.  
**Mar 16** - 20:19-23; 20:26-31; 21:4-22.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

I have in my possession an up to date "Official Kill Permit" from the State. We have incontrovertible evidence that the target, a herd of white tail deer, have done harm in the past and will do future harm. The conventions of society restrict us from some kinds of preemptive strike (never on Sunday), but we are pretty much free to defend our property any way we see fit. The spoils of this war will belong to us, as is only fair. Since we are peaceful people except when threatened, we have assembled a coalition of allies, hunters who share our values and concerns. By spring we intend to rid our property of these creatures that have terrorized our garden and yard.

While some will disagree with our reasoning, many can at least sympathize with the losses. As soon as the yellow permit was in my hands, I felt powerful. Until I thought of the war in Iraq. The big difference, of course, is the loss of human life on both sides of that real war.

Some similarities might be instructive, however. In our defense of our yard, we must be careful of neighbors who do not share our values. That's a calculation that has ensnared our U.S. government. The fact is that our garden can never be completely secure without destroying the entire deer population, a goal we could never want. Unfortunately, political rhetoric favors the myth of absolute victory. The best we can hope for at my house is an uneasy coexistence with nature. At least in the short term, that's also my prayer for our larger world.

Beyond tolerating our opponents, however, Christians are called to love them, even if they are enemies. Love begins with understanding, grows toward respect and always qualifies any competition with that rarest of virtues, sacrifice. As we move into the season of Lent, let's try the disciplines of understanding, respect and sacrifice, even toward enemies.

*David*

**SOUTH PLAINS  
INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT  
DECEMBER 2007**

**EXPENSES**

|                                 | <u>YTD Total</u>    | <u>Budget</u>       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ministerial                     | \$ 69,378.71        | \$ 69,487.00        |
| Administrative                  | 10,598.98           | 16,600.00           |
| Utilities                       | 6,705.63            | 5,650.00            |
| Building & Grounds              | 10,395.63           | 9,600.00            |
| Worship & Music                 | 9,492.82            | 8,950.00            |
| Christian Ed.                   | 1,792.59            | 1,700.00            |
| Congregational Care             | 913.44              | 1,700.00            |
| Fellowship                      | 782.45              | 1,200.00            |
| Evangelism                      | 1,815.94            | 900.00              |
| Benevolence & Mission           | 12,564.36           | 12,600.00           |
| Other Expenses                  | 1,011.40            | 4,309.00            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$125,451.95</b> | <b>\$132,696.00</b> |

**INCOME**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| General Offering     | \$159,052.73        |
| Interest & Dividends | 13.41               |
| Other Income         | <u>1,013.73</u>     |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>  | <b>\$160,079.87</b> |

Net Operating Surplus \$ 34,627.92

Note: The overall operating surplus for 2007 is projected to be \$34,627.92. After allowing for fund balance requirements and the 5 year capital budget amount for 2007, the net surplus is expected to be \$20,593.51.

**SUNDAY BRUNCH BEGINS!**

As many of you now know, we have changed our Fellowship schedule for the New Year. Each Sunday we are asking families or individuals to sign up as "Coffee Host" to prepare coffee for the members of South Plains. This is very simple and no food need be involved!! In lieu of weekly meals after services, we have planned a Sunday Brunch for the last Sunday of each upcoming month. This event is potluck style, and anyone wanting to join in only has to bring a little something to share!! Please join in at the Manse after the 11:00 a.m. service for good food and great fellowship!!

**OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM:  
2007 YEAR IN REVIEW**

Lisa Climer

Outreach and Evangelism is one of many Session teams at South Plains Presbyterian Church. Formerly, Outreach and Evangelism ("OE") was joined with Congregational Care, but in 2007 OE was split off as its own team. Outreach and Evangelism has many responsibilities, but its overarching purpose is to witness to Jesus Christ through welcoming visitors, to provide opportunities for all members to participate in evangelism, and to increase the visibility of South Plains in the larger community. The OE team is responsible for publicizing regular worship and Christian education, as well as special services, events and programs at South Plains.

So how did we go about these tasks in 2007? OE took the lead on updating and obtaining new signs to reflect the addition of a second service and enhance South Plains' visibility. OE is grateful to Larry Day for installing the new metal signs and to Carole and Gilbert Milks for stenciling, painting and repairing the wooden sign in the church yard.

Last spring OE developed the Friendship Connection tablets in hopes that they would make it easier for members and visitors to greet one another by name after worship. Taking the place of the visitor cards, the Friendship Connection is used to obtain contact information from visitors. Meg Taylor and David Garth have faithfully written notes to first-time visitors, letting them know that their presence was noticed and inviting them to worship at South Plains again. Name-tag Sundays, held once a month from late spring through early fall, are another effort toward meeting and getting to know each other as the congregation grows.

As part of our effort to spread the word about South Plains, OE has developed flyers about the church, purchased newspaper display advertising, pitched stories to local and denominational media, and taken advantage of free advertising whenever possible. Thanks go to Sandy Day for her dedication to submitting information about worship and other events at South Plains to the *Fluvanna Review*.

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## REMINDER

Over the next month or so, Session will be reviewing progress South Plains has been making on the Goals set forth in the Long Range Plan adopted last Spring. If members of the congregation have thoughts about progress on the goals they would like Session to consider, please let members of Session know your thoughts.

Reports in the Reflector for the past six months have made it clear that we are moving ahead with plans to build Kirk Hall. Pledges to support that facility and funding received to date make it clear that the congregation views this facility as an important means of expanding the ministry of South Plains. As of December 31 we have \$565,410 in hand toward our goal of \$750,000. We are confident that the pledges received that are to be paid weekly, monthly and quarterly over the next three years will allow us to reach the goal. If there are members who did not pledge but want to contribute as they are able, Kirk Hall envelopes are available in the church pews. The more contributions we receive the smaller will be the loan/mortgage we eventually acquire in building and equipping Kirk Hall.

The Construction Oversight Committee, chaired by Frank Keplinger, is charged with working on final design issues with the architect to present to Session so that we may move ahead toward the goal of seeking the necessary approvals to break ground for the facility and to finalize financing plans. As Frank mentioned at the congregational meeting, if you have thoughts and suggestions about final design let his committee know so they may be considered. Much remains to be done but progress is well underway.

In Christ,  
Jay Chronister

**The deadline for the March issue of  
The Reflector is February 17th.**

## CAPS, CAPS, CAPS

Thanks to the generosity of mission-minded knitters, 400 baby caps will be traveling to the hospital in St. George's, Grenada, in early February. Having caps on hand is enormously helpful; we can respond immediately when a need arises. Thank you to all who have knit and crocheted caps for newborns!

We have many friends from other churches and other denominations that have also been contributing caps to the South Plains project. Shipments of caps have recently arrived from Roanoke, VA, and Wilmington, DE. Others come to us from local friends and family and members of nearby churches. Hundreds of hats are contributed several times a year by a woman in Virginia Beach.

A knitter from Williamsburg recently wrote,

"It is I who should be sending thanks for the wonderful work your church is doing. I take a lot of teasing because I always have the needles in my hand. You'd be surprised how much I get done going back and forth to doctors and waiting to see them. About the only place I am not knitting is in church.

Your group is in some way fulfilling a dream I had as a young child - to go to Africa as a missionary. Thank you for letting me share in your project. God Bless!"

## THE GRENADA PARTNERSHIP CRAFTS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIFTS FROM SOUTH PLAINS

South Plains' Mission and Christian Education Committees are providing a huge collection of craft supplies and Sunday School materials for the Presbyterian churches of Grenada (three churches on the island). Thanks to the two committees for generously providing funds to purchase needed items to share with our partner churches on Grenada.

The supplies include Sunday School curriculum, construction paper, crayons, markers, scissors,

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM:**

*(Continued from page 4)*

In December OE undertook perhaps its most ambitious outreach effort by distributing South Plains' Advent, Christmas and Epiphany program to every home within the main gates of Lake Monticello. With the help of Lyman and Joan Drake, OE was able to find a reliable and affordable delivery service to get this job accomplished. We hope that this effort will result in many more local residents becoming aware of South Plains and its programs. A similar (though smaller scale) targeted neighborhood effort is planned for Glenmore in early March.

OE facilitated some Christmas Cheer by organizing church-wide caroling on December 23. After fueling up on cookies, hot cocoa and coffee, a group of 18 carolers set out for about a dozen homes. The singers were assisted and inspired by the musical and organizational talents of Pat Valentine. Thank you Pat, and heartfelt thanks to all who participated in this fun event. Though this event technically took place in 2008, it is fitting to mention the Epiphany celebration held on January 6. This event, now in its second successful year, included mission workshops, crafts, informal worship and dinner. A big thank you to Pat Valentine for organizing this event again this year.

Outreach and Evangelism hopes to continue these activities and develop new ones in 2008. Would you like to work with us? Or maybe you have an idea to share? Please see Lisa Climer or any of the wonderful OE team members (Sandy Day, Joan Drake, Lyman Drake, Meg Taylor and Pat Valentine).

## **THE GRENADA PARTNERSHIP...**

*(Continued from page 5)*

tape, glue, yarn, pipe cleaners, string, and over 70 other items on the inventory list. All these items have been packed in three very heavy suitcases. On February 10, Pat and Doug Valentine and their traveling friends, Jonne and Ben Clemmer, from the Vienna (PA) Presbyterian Church, will deliver the supplies and lead teacher training workshops with members of the Grenada churches.

Children of South Plains have traced their hands on construction paper. Their "hands" will be delivered to Grenada, along with pictures of South Plains Sunday School classes, worship, and other activities. Children in Grenada are also tracing their hands and will send them back with the Valentine's – we'll soon have a "hands across the ocean" display on the bulletin board in the Old Manse.