

South Plains Reflector

South Plains Presbyterian Church
Corner of Black Cat & Louisa Roads
P.O. Box 277
Keswick, VA 22947-0277
(434) 293-4112
southplainspc.org



March 2010
Vol. XX, No. 3

DR. DAVID K. GARTH, PASTOR

Sunday Worship

1st Service 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
2nd Service 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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Christian Education  
Classes for all ages meet from  
9:45 AM to 10:30 AM each Sunday  
September through May

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Childcare for infants through 2nd grade

CALENDAR

3 Pastor's Class, 6pm
Choir, 7pm
8 Presbyterian Women, 9:15am
10 Pastor's Class, 6pm
Choir, 7pm
16 Session, 7pm
17 Pastor's Class, 6pm
Choir, 7pm
21 Reflector deadline
24 Pastor's Class, 6pm
Choir, 7pm
31 Choir, 7pm

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

When some pastors got together in February, the speaker was Tony Lin, pastor of the Gum Springs Church and well-known to many of us. Tony is finishing his dissertation at UVa this spring, a study of four "word of faith" Hispanic congregations. "Word of faith" is a phrase some churches use instead of the more pejorative "prosperity gospel," a version of Christianity that believes that God will bless faithfulness with wealth and health.

Tony's presentation was superb, at once scholarly, informal, challenging and entertaining. He began by noting that "word of faith" churches minister to poor people in a way that most mainline churches, including Presbyterians, do not. He wondered, what are they doing right?. A faith that believes we are entitled to God's blessing seems to ignore grace. Moreover, these churches continue to attract and hold members even when the members do not get rich or stay healthy. We mainline churches often dismiss this part of Christianity as overly simplistic theology, or worse.

What Tony discovered challenges my prejudices. First, he believes that immigrants stay in "word of faith" churches, not to get rich, but in order to become Americanized. He bases this conclusion on a second

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PRAYER MATTERS

Family of Lee Goldman	Bev Turner's son-in-law
Beverly Little	Severe back pain
Dreama Travis	Lucille Campbell's friend, cancer
Willie Claus	Hospice Residence House
Julie Keplinger	Recovering at home
Nick Creamer	Recovering at home
Ann Young	Grenada missionary, recovering
Jim Kettrick	Friend of Higginbothams
Oscar Keplinger	Recovering from treatment
People of Haiti	Earthquake
Dan Hudak	Cain's friend with cancer
Juanita Pugh's Family	Lucille Campbell's sister-in-law
Garland West	Illness
Barbara Ann Rehrig	Kuhn's cousin with cancer
Brendan Skipper family	Keplinger's nephew, at his death
Lisa Lucas	Friend of Drakes
George Wells	Lyn Johnson's father, heart
Anne Millstead	Friend of Keatons with myeloma
Caitlyn Halligan	Schumann's granddaughter, home
Dale Smith	Cousin of the Days, cancer
Greg Koontz	Ramirez' friend with cancer
Gordon Smyth	Broken elbow
Becky Silver	Hyder's friend, at home
Marge Riley	Prayers for good health
Marge Hampton	Prayers for good health
Carol Brown	Friend of Kellee Goldmann
John Burton	Friend of Garths, cancer
Gail Bowers	Friend of Hordykes, chemo
Josie Blackburn	Anorexia
Jonathan Moore	Peace Corps, home
Erika Stuart	Mother of Andrea P. and Laura
Janice DeGree	Friend of Kellee Goldmann
Doris Richards	Marge Hampton's sister
Peggy McCormick	Bettie Mohler's sister
Alf Dane	Lyn Johnson's uncle
Jean Thurston	Friend of Jim Higginbotham
Beverly Cibbarelli	Friend of the Chronisters
David Drucker	Friend of the Chronisters
Robert James	UVA Hospital, cancer treatment

Military and Government Service

Ralph Pruitt	Deployed to Iraq
Charles Jones	USN, Pensacola, FL
Eric Bergquist	Kristen's brother
Josh Sobotincic	Gil and Carole Milks' grandson
Hannah Skinner	Deployed to Afghanistan
James Webb	Georgia, automobile accident
Chris Niemann	Deployed to Iraq
Bradley Smith	Alaska
Marshall Baughman	Mosul, Iraq
Michael Kolton	Addotta's grandson in U.S.
Mark Little	Recovering well with prosthesis
Doug Fenton	PCUSA chaplain-PTS
Rudy Mukendi	Iraq
Andrew Scogna	Rehabilitation

SESSION RECAP

- Opened with a time of sharing concerns and prayer.
- Got a glimpse of David's study leave experience with 10 questions Christians are asking.
- Elected Linda Harrison as clerk and Doug Valentine as treasurer for 2010.
- Approved a wedding for April 10.
- Approved financing for Kirk Hall and called a congregational meeting for Feb. 28 to approve the loan structure. An informational meeting will also be held after the 8:30 worship on Feb. 28.
- Heard plans for the Easter program during Sunday School, a memorial book for gifts and bequests, and a press release and sign when construction starts.
- Approved the search for a buyer for the corner of the Grissinger property, and reviewed the work done by the Trustees to make the property marketable.
- Evangelism will lead a study of our mission as Kirk Hall is completed using "Raising The Roof" by Alice Mann. This is an eight month process with Blue Ridge Church. We're looking for 6 more people to participate. If you are interested, contact Travis Taylor or David Garth.

Meeting closed with prayer

HAITIAN RELIEF

In addition to \$1,225, South Plains has sent 88 hygiene kits for the relief of Haiti. Thanks to all who are participating in this effort. Pray that economic and spiritual recovery continues.

REFLECTIONS

(continued from page 1)

discovery. He learned that independent surveys demonstrate that about half of all American Christians also believe that if we are faithful, God will cause us to prosper and protect our health. In other words, the beliefs of many Presbyterians may not be so different from the prosperity gospel. A lot of us live out of a deep-seated faith that we are entitled to our blessings because we practice the Christian faith.

I came away from the experience with a mixture of worry and gratitude. I worry about how vulnerable I am to the notion that my blessings do not come as a gracious gift from God, but come because I deserve to be a rich American. Mostly, I am grateful for the blessing South Plains enjoyed in the years Tony and Bee-ca were among us. And, I am confident that this congregation contributed in some small way to one immigrant's experience of Christian faith.

David

South Plains Financial	Year to	
January 2010	Date	Budget
Income		
Offering	14,192.00	174,080.00
Interest/Dividends	0.66	10.00
Other		
Total Income	14,192.66	174,090.00
Expense		
Ministerial	6,164.08	81,425.00
Administrative	770.01	14,340.00
Utilities	479.51	7,070.00
Buildings and Grounds	23.00	13,150.00
Worship and Music	800.00	14,210.00
Christian Education		3,100.00
Congregational Care	44.00	1,000.00
Fellowship	14.00	1,500.00
Long Range Planning		50.00
Finance		1,220.00
Evangelism		1,450.00
Benevolence and Mission	1,950.94	16,600.00
Trustees	70.00	2,650.00
Other		
Total Expense	10,315.54	157,765.00
Net Gain/(Loss)	3,877.12	16,325.00

DIRECTORY CHANGES & ADDITIONS

Kristen Bergquist
Cell—724-396-3086

Myron and Jill Borsdam
32 Out of Bounds Road
Palmyra 22963
434-591-1361

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4 MARION THOMPSON
- 9 MYRON BORS DAM
- 11 STUART LITTLE
- 14 HEIDE SCHUMANN
- 15 BOB TRACINSKI
- 18 GORDON SMYTH
- 20 MARY BETH SMYTH
- MARGUERITE MATICS
- 21 RACHEL SMITH
- 22 RILEY PHILLIPS
- 23 TRAVIS TAYLOR
- 29 RUTHANNA FOARD



**Deadline for the
APRIL
issue of *The
Reflector* is
MARCH 21**

CONGRATULATIONS to RILEY PHILLIPS

for placing 7th in butterfly in the Nationals
swimming competition on February 20th.
Your church family shares your joy!

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, January 17th **Jill and Myron Borsdam** became members of South Plains by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville. Jill and Myron live at Lake Monticello where they moved to be near their daughter Kara and her family who live in Charlottesville. The Borsdams both grew up in Honesdale, Pennsylvania and met in high school. They have been married for 44 years. Jill attended the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising in NYC and had a career in retail. Myron's career was with Bell Atlantic. They are both retired now and like spending time with their two grandsons, Cooper, age 4 and Davis, 17 months. Jill also enjoys kayaking, reading, and growing and arranging flowers. Myron likes yard work and reading. He is particularly interested in studying WWII and the Civil War and enjoys visiting historic cemeteries. Jill and Myron say that they were attracted to South Plains because of our friendliness and because of our pastor. We are happy to have them join our church family!



E-mail Information

If you would like the church to have your e-mail address, please send it to Dana: southplainspc@gmail.com. (If we're already in touch by e-mail, you don't need to respond).

The *Reflector* is now being sent by e-mail, and we are always looking for ways to keep everyone connected and better informed. This e-mail address will not be printed in the telephone directory, unless that is your wish.

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION FOR MARCH

Celebration of the Lord's Supper Sunday, March 7

Communion elements preparation Heidi Schumann
Linda Makranczy

Elders serving communion

(1st service) Linda Makranczy, June Mueller
(2nd service) Julie Keplinger, Dana Lee
Vito Addotta, Frank Keplinger

Greeters / Ushers

March 7 (1st service) Linda Harrison, Don Ramirez
(2nd service) Phil and Bea Keaton
March 14 (1st service) Reitsma family
(2nd service) Carolyn and David Hordyke
March 21 (1st service) Warren and Barbara Cain
(2nd service) Carole Milks and Jean Wardell
March 28 (1st service) Lisa Climer
(2nd service) Chad, Leah and Sophia Wayner

Officer of the Week

March 7 Travis Taylor March 21 June Mueller
March 14 Jay Chronister March 28 Lyman Drake

What shall I do this Lent
Shall I forgo dainty foods?
Or will it be the television set?
No, says the Lord,
Neither of these is enough.

What then shall I do this Lent?
Shall I attend an extra service?
Or maybe a bible study class?
No, says the Lord,
These too are not enough.

Oh, Lord, what shall I do this Lent?
Shall I endeavour to pray more?
Or visit the sick or poor?
No, says the Lord,
These are still not enough.

Lord, I surrender!
Ah, child that is the word
I have been waiting to hear,
Longing to hear, From your heart.

Then go and keep your Lent
For good company you have,
Whatever you do this season,
Will be done in love for Me.
That is indeed enough.

Marianne Dorman

Interim Report from IMPACT on “Interpretive Services”

Over 25 members of the IMPACT research committee from many different member congregations gathered on Sunday, January 24, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The problem has been defined as the following: People with limited English proficiency (LEP) in our local area are encountering difficulties within the legal systems (police, jails, courts) because of their inability to effectively communicate. To date, the research committee has met with staff at the Legal Aid Justice Center, a representative of the ACPD, the CPD and the regional jail. Research is focused on the Department of Justice recommendations and how they are and are not being followed by the courts, police departments and jails, as well as on seeking concrete data on the number of LEPs served with these entities. Several committee members traveled to Fairfax to learn about the interpretive services provided there and examine best practices. Committee members are also in the process of gathering testimonies from individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) to better ascertain the gaps. The stories we have gathered from those directly affected by the problem have confirmed the presence of the problem as ongoing and systemic, not sporadic and occasional. The research committee will move forward by exploring what elements should be included into a comprehensive language access plan, as well as how such a plan could be implemented and maintained effectively.

Rhonda Miska and Kim Wilkens, IMPACT Interpretive Services Committee, Co-Facilitators

Interim Report from IMPACT on Pre-K education

Goal: provide ACCESS to Pre-K for all poor and disadvantaged 4-year-olds

Members of the Team held positive and productive meetings with the School Superintendents of Albemarle County and Charlottesville, the new Chair of the County School Board, a member of the City School Board, and the staff of Smart Beginnings—a local public/private partnership under United Way working to increase school readiness for area children.

Further meetings are planned with members of the Board of Supervisors and City Council, our state representatives, and Congressman Perriello’s office.

At this point we are considering the following recommendations in the current climate of major public budget reductions:

1. Maintenance of existing pre-K programs and numbers of youngsters enrolled;
2. increase access to pre-K Bright Stars programs in the County for low-income 4-year olds;
3. establish a system to evaluate the success of children in pre-K programs compared to their reading levels at the end of 3rd grade; and
4. commit to a phased expansion of pre-K programs for low-income children over the next two to five years.

Bob Gross and Dorothy Jordan, Co-Facilitators, Education Research Team

**GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL
APRIL 2, 2010
12 NOON
TO 3PM**

For quiet moments of contemplation, South Plains Church offers an opportunity for worshipers to spend time in prayer and inspirational reading. The three hours mark the time that Jesus hung on the cross at Golgotha (Calvary).

During this time, Scripture passages will be read aloud on the hour and half-hour. These words will help us remember the age-old story of God's love; foretold by the prophets, recalled by the poets, expressed by Jesus' life and death, preached by the apostles and proclaimed by Christians around the world.

Booklets with copies of the scheduled readings, and other inspirational works, will be available for personal use during the Vigil. Worshipers are invited to keep these for private devotional times. These booklets will be available throughout the rest of the day and evening for those who are unable to participate in the planned Vigil.

All are invited to spend as much time as possible, but are free to come and leave at any time, as personal schedules require.