

The South Plains Reflector



South Plains Presbyterian Church
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NOVEMBER 2009

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DR. DAVID K. GARTH, PASTOR

Sunday Worship Service

1st Service 8:30 A.M. - 9:30 AM
 2nd Service 11:00 A.M. - 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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Nursery
 Childcare for infants through 2nd grade is
 available following the Time With Children
 portion of the Worship Service.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
- 4 CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7PM
- 8 CONSECRATION SUNDAY
- 11 CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7PM
- 15 MISSION CRAFTERS
 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 17 SESSION, 7PM
- 18 CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7PM
- 22 CENTS-ABILITY OFFERING FOR HUNGER
- 25 CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7PM

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY



Stewardship Season means so much more than collecting estimates of giving and making a budget for the coming year. It's time to reflect on the blessings of the past and to anticipate God's work among us in 2010. This year I'm reminded especially of the dedicated, hard work of so many people in South Plains Presbyterian Church. The approvals process with Albemarle County is legendary bureaucracy. Nonetheless, your construction committee has pressed on faithfully. Members and friends of the congregation have supported us with their presence and prayers at every step. The trustees have guided us through the Grissinger bequest with key help along the way from members. Our Kirk Hall finance committee, working with session's stewardship committee has tracked our gifts and pursued the necessary loan application.

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PRAYER MATTERS

Marge Hampton	Radiation therapy
Jack Cason	Third degree burns
Marty Mozelle	Broken arm
Carol Brown	Friend of Kellee Goldmann, treatment
John Burton	Receiving surgery and chemo for cancer
Audrey Lee	Fractured knees
John R. Lucas	Brain tumor - Hospice
Maryam and Marzieh	Iranian women imprisoned for their faith
Susan Carricciu	Friend of the Clapps, surgery
Richard Schwarz	Friend of the Drakes, heart surgery
Gail Bowers	Friend of the Hordykes, chemotherapy
Josie Blackburn	Anorexia
Dave Priddy	Back on his feet
Britt Horne	Sister of Lonnie Clapp, back surgery
Jonathan Moore	Peace Corps, Philippines
Erika Stuart	Mother of Andrea P. and Laura C.
Janice DeGree	Friend of Kellee Goldmann with cancer
Bob Norrum	Friend of the Drakes
Doris Richards	Marge Hampton's sister
Peggy McCormick	Bettie Mohler's sister
Alf Dane	Lyn Johnson's uncle
Oscar Keplinger	Successful surgery
Jean Thurston	Friend of Jim Higginbotham with cancer
Beverley Cibbarelli	Friend of the Chronisters with cancer
David Drucker	Friend of the Chronisters with cancer
Robert James	UVA Hospital, cancer treatment
Bruce Clabaugh	Lung cancer

MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Charles Jones	USN
Eric Bergquist	Kristen's brother
Josh Sobotnicic	Gil and Carole Milks' grandson, Iraq
Hannah Skinner	Deployed to Afghanistan
James Webb	Georgia, automobile accident
Chris Niemann	Deployed to Iraq
Bradley Smith	Kuwait
Marshall Baughman	Mosul, Iraq
Capt. 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

**REMEMBER OUR
VETERANS**

NOVEMBER 11



SESSION RECAP

Session opened Oct 20 with sharing congregational concerns and prayer:

- Approved a 7/24/10 wedding
- Received thanks for offerings at Christmas and Easter, and a prayer request from Camp Hanover
- Heard Jay Chronister's report on Presbytery including restructuring plans, the election of Pat Valentine to GA in 2010, a new church development in Massaponax, the Acts 16:5 evangelism program, two ordinations, and a candidate.
- Approved sending \$500 in disaster relief to Indonesia
- Heard an update from our trustees on marketing the Grissinger property
- Approved organ modifications
- Heard updates on Sunday School and 2010 VBS and the need for teachers
- Consecration Sunday Nov 8 preacher is the Rev Dale Dealtrey
- Ungroup celebrates Christmas Dec 4 at the home of Sandy and Larry Day
- Approved a collection of food for Happy Face families
- Adjourned with a prayer of thanks for the ARB's approval of Kirk Hall

Next Session meeting:
November 17

**Deadline for the
December
issue of *The
Reflector* is
November 15**

REFLECTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

While these activities have gobbled up time and energy, the congregation has maintained programs and reached out to the larger community in significant witness. Outside my study window, the brilliant maples and subtle dogwoods are coloring God's creation once more. As the leaves turn, South Plains Church will turn our attention from dreaming about expansion to implementing expansion. Isaiah 54:2 says, "Lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." Over the coming year we will lengthen our witness in Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa and Charlottesville. We will also strengthen our stake in the gospel.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your encouragement and your willing work as we move into a new chapter of our life in Christ together.



South Plains Financial September 2009	Year to Date	2009
		Budget
Income		
Offering	138,382.12	178,270.00
Interest/Dividends	7.84	20.00
Other	1,111.00	
Total Income	139,500.96	178,290.00
Expense		
Ministerial	56,214.65	77,714.00
Administrative	10,884.55	20,160.00
Utilities	4,957.81	9,550.00
Buildings and Grounds	8,308.12	11,680.00
Worship and Music	8,845.15	13,910.00
Christian Education	1,511.76	2,500.00
Congregational Care	170.00	1,000.00
Fellowship	1,160.12	1,400.00
Long Range Planning		50.00
Finance	395.65	1,000.00
Evangelism	276.17	1,450.00
Benevolence and Mission	11,243.64	16,090.00
Trustees	95.00	4,370.00
Other	7,340.00	10,060.00
Total Expense	111,402.62	170,934.00
Net Gain/(Loss)	28,098.34	7,356.00

The recent benefit concert for the **Alliance for Interfaith Ministries**

was a great success! There's another opportunity to support AIM: **pancake and sausage breakfast, Sat. Nov. 21** at the Applebee's on 29N from **7:30-9:30 a.m.** Cost is \$5 and all the money goes to AIM.

With the difficult state of the current economy, AIM continues to serve family after family struggling to keep up with their rent and utilities when their income has been reduced or lost. Your support is appreciated for this outreach to the local community.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Bonnie Bikos
- 4 Chris Campbell
Lonne Clapp
Mary Ward
- 9 Dick Schneider
- 11 John Thompson
- 17 Ed Sheffield
- 21 Charlotte Durham
- 23 Kendal Poleykett
- 25 Bethany Reitsma
- 26 Jean Wardell
- 28 Annette Behnke
Zeke Hampton
Ron Smith
- 30 Emerson Smith



A letter from Alex Smith

This fall I am spending a semester at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden. Uppsala is about 40 miles north of Stockholm and is an absolutely gorgeous town. For most of Sweden's history, Uppsala was the religious capital; so the Domkyrka is easily the most apparent building in the town. The Domkyrka is the largest cathedral in Scandinavia and dates back to the thirteenth century. It truly is one of the most awe-inspiring buildings I have ever seen. Easily towering above everything else, the cathedral can be seen from any point in Uppsala and the surrounding area (Very useful when trying to find my way around the first few weeks).

One of the most rewarding aspects of studying abroad has been meeting people from all around the world. Other fellow exchange students hail from Germany, Austria, Greece, Italy, France, China, Australia, and yes, California (where practically all the other American students are from). It's been such a fun and entertaining experience to see how people from a wide array of cultures interact. As for Swedes, though a bit reserved, most are extremely nice and helpful. Thankfully, the entire population under the age of 60 is basically fluent in English and very eager to use it.

Swedish food is interesting, to say the least. Besides the widely known and loved Swedish meatballs, Swedish food takes some getting use to. However, one Swedish classic that I will never get used to or enjoy is Surströmming, essentially herring that's caught and almost immediately put into a can to ferment for a year. Just imagine how that would smell and taste. Well what you just imagined is not anywhere close to how awfully foul it is in reality.

The weather here is beginning to be as expected... cold. When I first arrived at the end of July and throughout August, the weather was sunny with temperatures in the 70s. If anyone is planning to visit Scandinavia at all, I would definitely recommend the summer months. The unbelievably pleasant weather offers a nice contrast to the heat and humidity of Virginia in summertime. Now, the weather is cold with rain/snow. Despite the Surströmming and the weather, I am thoroughly enjoying my time here in Uppsala. I am very thankful to be able to participate in such an experience. However, I do miss home and look forward very much to seeing my friends and family when I return in December.

Sincerely, Alex

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER

Celebration of the Lord's Supper Sunday, November 1

Communion elements preparation Linda Makrancy
Phil and Bea Keaton

Elders serving communion
(1st Service) Travis Taylor, Linda Makrancy
(2nd Service) Bill Claus, Jay Chronister
Janet and Kip Riddle

Greeters / Ushers

November 1	(1st service)	Ed and Betsy Douglas
	(2nd service)	Phil and Bea Keaton
November 8	(1st service)	Julie and Frank Keplinger
	(2nd service)	Warren and Barbara Cain
November 15	(1st service)	Aimee and Devin Creamer
	(2nd service)	Dana and Mike Lee
November 22	(1st service)	Brenda Bikos
	(2nd service)	Kellee Goldmann, Mary Howard
November 29	(1st service)	Linda Harrison and Don Ramirez
	(2nd service)	Jean Wardell, Linda Makrancy

Officer of the Week

November 1-7	Linda Makrancy
November 8-14	Jay Chronister
November 15-21	Lisa Climer
November 22-28	Lyman Drake
November 29-Dec 5	Linda Makrancy

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW is collecting food for the Fluvanna Christian Service Society. Please contribute November 15 or November 22.

Suggestions: stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned corn, peas, green beans, sweet potatoes, instant white potatoes, jello, macaroni and cheese, soup, or boxed cake mix

If you prefer to give cash, there will be envelopes available.



Consecration Sunday

November 8, 2009

Yes, its coming. What is coming? Consecration Sunday; the day we turn in our pledges to support the various functions that South Plains' Stewardship supports. We will gather at the manse for a catered celebration luncheon after the 11 AM service.

Stewardship Nuggets copyright 1999 by Herb Miller

Why Should We Pledge?

After we make the major discipleship decision of committing ourselves to give money to help accomplish God's causes, we arrive at another question: to pledge or not to pledge. we know we want to give, but we aren't sure we want to pledge.

The answer, of course, is that you don't have to pledge. We would have trouble citing a chapter and verse in the Bible that makes pledging mandatory. But in addition to helping us live up to the high standards of spiritual maturity we set for ourselves, making a pledge is quite natural, just as we want to pledge ourselves at other important moments in our lives.

Many years ago, I stood at a church altar and said, "Yes, I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and accept him as my personal Savior." Did I have to do that? Not really, I suppose. Perhaps I could have made that decision quietly and silently in my own heart, right there in the pew. But I wanted to and needed to make my commitment concrete by pledging my faith with words.

Later in life I came to another church altar and made a pledge to a beautiful young lady that I would commit my love and my life to her. Did I have to do that? Some would say these days that you don't have to do that. But I wanted to make that commitment concrete by pledging my love in words.

When people say that they want to commit their lives to the work of Jesus Christ this year but they do not want to make a pledge and a concrete promise about that commitment, I have a little trouble with the logic of that. Why would we feel comfortable pledging at other important moments in life, then say that our spiritual commitment is such a private thing - so much between us and God - that we do not want to write it on a piece of paper?

Making a financial pledge to support God's causes is not mandatory. But it is definitely practical. It is definitely helpful. And it is definitely beneficial to building and maintaining a strong spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ. (Herb Miller, "Stewardship Nuggets")

We look forward to seeing you on November 8th for both the worship service (8:30 AM or 11:00 AM) and the luncheon afterward.