

The Spire

Volume 2009 Issue 8

September 2009

Sunday School

Just think – how mixed up, how confused we would be if you and I had never been to Sunday School! Our religious views might be more than just a little distorted, for we would have the stories all wrong, as if:

God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night. Samson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles. Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth Commandment is to humor thy father and mother. The Seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his on to stand still, and the boy still obeyed him. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. he fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. The people who followed the Lord were called the Twelve Decibels. The epistles were the wives of the apostles. One of the opossums was St. Matthew was by profession a taxi man. St Paul converted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage. A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony. – Roger Moberg

Please...don't get it wrong! Learn it right! Come to Sunday School! Come grow in depth! Stretch your faith!

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand.

- Proverbs 2:6-9

When you think about it, everything most of us ever needed to know, we learned in Sunday School. Want to learn more? It's here for you, each and every week.

God bless,

Jim

Sermons for September

"Tell me the old, old story, tell me the old, old story. Tell me the old, old story of Jesus and His love." - Katherine Hankey 1866

Sunday, September 6th **"Created for..."**
Genesis 2:4-7; 18-22
Ephesians 1:3-5

Sunday, September 13th **"Noah"**
Genesis 6:5-22, 8:13-22

Sunday, September 20th **"Jacob's Ladder"**
Genesis 28:10-17

Sunday, September 27th **"Joseph"**
Genesis 50:15-26

Sunday, October 4th **World Wide Communion**
"Fed!"
Mark 6:30-44

MINISTERS

The People

PASTORAL STAFF

Jim Ferry

PROGRAM STAFF

Rose Gurkin

Music Director

Gloria Oelke

Organist

SUPPORT STAFF

Sam Boldenow

Youth Director

Barbara Mayette

Financial Secretary

Debbie Dennison

Administrative Secretary



MUSIC NOTES

Our Ten Special Sundays are finished! Many of you have expressed how much you enjoyed learning more about our hymns and their stories. This has kept our summer energized and the usual 'slump' that the choir feels during the summer is just not there because we have continued to be challenged each week! A special thanks is due to Gloria for her contributions each Sunday and to the choir for their faithfulness. It has been a great summer!

The Sanctuary Choir is already back at work with regular Wednesday night rehearsals. I would like to invite everyone from 6th grade and older to participate in the choir! We need your contribution.

The Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday September 13 at 8:30 a.m. We have openings for new ringers. Again, we need your talent!

All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to Kids Choir. We meet on Wednesdays, 6:00-6:45, in the choir room. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop your child's music ability and to give them a chance to shine! We will begin work on our Christmas music very early this year so get on board from the start!

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School 2009 – Thank You – Thanks to all who contributed their time, talents and efforts to make this a successful VBS. We had lots of fun learning about the parables, fellowshiping together, laughing and making new friends. We had a large group, averaging 75 participants and volunteers each night. Thanks for coming out even when it rained. Thanks to the circles for providing the delicious meals. Thanks to those in charge of an activity, those who taught a class, led music, games, crafts, story time, cooked or volunteered to act in skits. We were able to collect a large box of peanut butter and jelly for Garner Area Ministries, a large box of school supplies for the Senior Center to distribute to schools, and a large box of clothing for HOPE. Thank you for your generosity. Take time to stop at the butterfly garden near the street and look at the flaming asters that we planted during closing ceremony Tuesday night. They should be blooming in a couple of weeks.

– Donna Gould

Marriage Seminar

Making marriage work isn't always so easy. Whether you are just pondering marriage or have been married for as long as you can remember it's good to hear the wise things that the Bible has to say about marriage. We will meet from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you would be interested in having free babysitting during the seminar and also for the evening let Sam know by Sept 20th.



Classic Film

Following a two-month hiatus, Classic Films will resume with what will perhaps be our final series, a trilogy that I'll call "Frank Capra's Quiet Heroes." We'll hear about Frank Capra, an uncommon movie director who glorified the common man. In each of our three films an honest, unassuming individual is thrust into the limelight by the force of overwhelming circumstances.

Our opening entry will be "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town," starring Gary Cooper and Jean Arthur. The plot: Longfellow Deeds is a simple fellow from a small town. He writes verse for greeting cards and plays the tuba for relaxation. That is...until he inherits a considerable fortune. At that point the forces of greed descend upon him making him bitter and cynical. When the one girl he had trusted fails him he loses all hope, until...If the plot sounds grave, know that this and the two films that follow are essentially comedies. But unlike the Screwball comedies which preceded them, they are comedies with a moral.

Come join us on September 12th and root on Mr. Deeds. As always, refreshments will be served and satisfaction is guaranteed. — **Jim Mack**

Your Session at Work – July 2009

- The final configuration for the new sound system will be determined so funds can be raised to purchase it.
- Tellers were assigned up through September 2009.
- The fascia boards at the front of the church have been repaired.
- The session voted to pay for the cost of Sam Boldenow's ordination exams coming up during the month of August.
- The session will hold a half day retreat Saturday, September 26th from 9AM to 1PM to pray about and considered our churches priorities for 2010.
- Sandy Lee gave a report on the Presbytery Meeting in July as well as the Faith and Environment Conference held in Montreat.

- A letter from the Ida Joy circle was read which encouraged us to minimize announcements prior to worship in order to have a more worshipful service.
- A new chair and vice-chair for the 2010 nominating committee were selected from the session. They are Sandy Lee and William Lee for chair and vice chair respectively. Once all members are selected from the deacons and other members at large the process of nominating our next group of elders will begin.
- Jim Ferry and Sam Boldenow's monthly activity reports were reviewed.
- Our next session meeting will be Sunday, August 30th at 7:00PM in the Ogburn Classroom.

Missions

Operation Restoration Celebration

Operation Restoration: Despite all the rain we had a wonderful time doing the difficult work of fixing up homes around Old Garner these past few days. What a joy to make such a difference. What a joy to see the love of God reflected on the beaming faces of those we were able to serve. And thanks - for all those who helped or who will help this coming weekend: Sam Boldenow, Christian Cavanaugh, Jim Ferry, Carrie Finch, Bob and Kathy Henderson, Carl Miller, Carol Oriel, Elizabeth Pittman, Molly Schoeman, and Sam Schellinger. A special thanks also to Andy Sims for providing the dumpsters needed for handling all our debris. May God richly bless each of you. **Jim**

Missions Committee Kickoff Meeting

In James 2:18 it says "You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith." The missions committee will have their first meeting for this year, Tuesday, September 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the library. If you would like to be a part of deciding how we can help others and planning missions projects for the church please join us. We would love to have some youth come and give input into what they think we should be doing. If interested, please let Sandy Lee know or just come and join us. See you there. **- Sandy Lee 522-3416**

Christina Ludema's Trip to Malawi

As many of you know, I took a six-week trip to Malawi this summer on a program related to my studies in epidemiology. For those of you less familiar with the geography of Africa, Malawi is located in the south eastern portion of the continent and is bordered by Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique. It is land-locked, but 1/3 of the country's land mass is taken up by a giant lake (Lake Malawi). English is the official language of Malawi, though there are many other languages spoken. Chichewa is the other main language used, and people generally spoke that unless they were in the classroom. Malawi is one of the poorest, most densely populated countries in the world and 85% of the people there live an agricultural lifestyle. This means that the two main cities: Lilongwe (the capital), and Blantyre (the business center) are really quite small. While there, I was living in Blantyre in a lovely guest house (with a housekeeper, Gloria, who cooked dinner and did laundry!).

How did I end up traveling to Malawi? UNC has a relationship with the College of Medicine in Blantyre and has provided lectures for their Masters of Public Health program there for many years. Additionally, some of the students, after getting their degree in Malawi, come to UNC for their doctoral work. As a result, a summer institute sprung up to further connect UNC students with Malawi. This year, there were six UNC students that participated in the institute. The first week we were there, we took a week-long intensive grant writing class taught by a UNC professor along with the Malawian students. This involved a lot of small group work, and I really enjoyed getting to know my fellow students. Many of the students

were hospital administrators and had a lot of lived experience to contribute to the discussions. After that, I was a teaching assistant for another course in epidemiology and biostatistics. The two other TAs and I split the lectures for the first week and a UNC professor taught the second week. After two weeks of five-days a week, eight-hours a day of teaching difficult material, we were ready for a break!

After those two classes, the original plan was for me to help get a study started that was measuring children's growth while they were taking a nutritional supplement. However, things don't always go as planned, and my proposal was bogged down in the rather slow ethical approval system. Happily, I was able to participate in getting another study started (and mostly completed!) that involved asking HIV positive mothers about their decisions surrounding breastfeeding. There is a risk of transmitting HIV from mother-to-child through breast milk, and over the years mothers have been told different things about when to stop breastfeeding. The current recommendation is to breastfeed your child until they are six months, especially if the mother has no access to clean water for formula. To start the study, a nurse at a health clinic outside Blantyre helped us to find two interviewers who would interview the women in Chichewa. We went over the survey with these two interviewers and made sure they understood what the questions were getting at and then started recruiting women to the study. It was interesting to sit in on the interviews; the general direction of conversation was understandable even through the language barrier.

I also had the opportunity while there to do a little traveling, especially when Sam came to visit. We went to the Zomba plateau, a beautiful mountain with a breathtaking view, and to Liwonde National Park where we saw elephants, hippos, warthogs, bushpigs, waterbuck, impala, kudu, and many other birds and small mammals. Additionally, I traveled with the other UNC students up to Lake Malawi, where the sand was white and the water clear blue. I also attended a few different churches while there and was surprised to hear a number of familiar Presbyterian hymns (though sung in very intricate harmonies). I always love to connect with Christians around the world; it is a good reminder of the worldwide nature of the church. One guy in particular was a joy to meet. His name is Chowanungwa (which means gift in Chichewa) and in addition to working at the hospital, he is a youth pastor at his church. It was great to be able to introduce Sam to Chowanungwa when he came to visit. All in all, my trip was quite a lot of fun and I really enjoyed seeing another part of the world. Thank you for supporting me in prayer while I was there!

- **Christina**

Alpha Class

The first letter of the Greek alphabet is Alpha (the ancient Greeks also counted using their letters so it is also the Greek number one). The idea of the Alpha class is to start at the beginning and learn the basics of Christianity. It's a great class for people not very familiar with Christianity. So bring any friends that you can think of who are not Christians but might be interested in learning more. But of course it's a really good thing for even the most mature Christians to go back and take a fresh look at the basics. We are starting another Alpha Class on Thursday September 17th. We will start at 6:30 p.m. and have a delicious dinner followed by a good video presentation and wrap it up by 8:30 p.m. with a discussion of the video. The class will run for ten weeks. We hope you can make it.

Youth Schedule

August 30th Youth Meeting 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

September 6th Hiking after church at Umstead Park.

September 13th Youth Meeting 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

September 20th Movie! 5:00 p.m.

September 27th Youth Meeting 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Our next book discussion will be on Piece Like A River by Leif Enger. We will have our discussion on October 15th at 7:00 p.m. From the back cover: Lief Enger's best-selling debut is at once a heroic quest, a tragedy, and a love story, in which 'what could be unbelievable becomes extraordinary.' Enger brings us eleven year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest who has reason to believe in miracles.

Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been controversially charged with murder. Their journey unfolds like a revelation and its conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates.

Announcements

Congratulations to our newly elected Deacons taking office in September: Kay Carroll, Bob Dennison, Martha Harris, Dee Powell, and Youth Deacon Will Pittman.

Many, many thanks also to Bonnie Callahan, Sandra Hodge, Gloria Oelke, Carol Oriel, and Caitlin Russell for their dedicated, faithful service as Shepherd Deacons to this church.

Deacon's Meeting

There will be a Deacon's meeting Sunday, September 20th following church service in the Ogburn classroom. – **Rick**

Brief Congregational Meeting Rally Day, August 30th. There will be a very brief congregational meeting immediately following worship August 30th to elect four at-large members to the church-wide nominating committee. The Book of Order (G-14.0223) requires that we have a representative nominating committee. It also requires that the number of at-large members to serve on this committee be greater than the number of church officers (chosen by our boards) to serve on this committee. Currently, the Session selects two members of this committee and the Deacon Board one member. Those nominated to fill the remaining four committee slots are: Leon Goodman – representing the Men of the Church; Carol Oriel – representing Older 'n Bolder; Martha Long – representing Presbyterian Women; Elizabeth Pittman – representing the Youth. As is our usual procedure, other nominations may be made from the floor provided that individual's permission has been obtained first.

Presbyterian Women

Due to the Labor Day weekend, the **Lillie Circle will meet Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Sandra Hodge's home.** We will begin meeting on our normal first Monday of the month in October.

A covered dish luncheon and baby shower will be held on Sunday, October 18th immediately after church to celebrate the approaching arrival of Sam and Christina's baby. Please bring yourself and a dish to pass. Sam and Christina are registered at Target and Amazon.com, but feel free to let your presence be your present. Also, for those looking to coordinate, green is the color of the baby's room. For more information or further details, please contact Sandra Hodge or Sarah Kramer.

I am putting together a proposal for a community garden for the session. The idea would be to have a place for people who don't have yards to grow their own vegetables and as well as to grow some fresh vegetables for Garner Area Ministries. If you are interested in such a project let me know. - Sam

<u>August 16, 2009 Financial Overview</u>	<u>BUDGET \$282,355.</u>
YTD Pledged Income	\$ 115,425.
Pledge/Stocks sold in Merrill Lynch Account	10,000.
YTD Non Pledged Income	\$ 23,669.
Living Stones/Mortgage Debt Account	\$- 409.
TOTAL YTD Income	\$148,685.
Weekly Budget Needs	
\$5,430. X 33	\$179,190.
0th Week = YTD Budget Needs	
Under	\$ 30,505.

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